



Phone: (06) 3858384

OHAKUNE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newsletter

Email: principal@ohakune.school.nz



www.ohakuneprimaryschool.co.nz

May 6 2026 #7

Kia ora koutou/Greetings

Upcoming events

Wednesday 13 May-20 May: Bookfair
Monday 25 May: Tough Gal/Gay Year 8
Tuesday 2 June: Ruapehu College Open Evening 5:30- 7:30
Monday 7 June: King's Birthday. School closed
Wednesday 3 June: NYLD. Palmerston North
Monday 8 June: Board meeting
Wednesday 10 June: Dance off
Friday 12 June: Teacher Only Day. School closed
Wednesday June 17: Inter School Spelling Bee. Waiouru
Monday 29 June: Celebration Assembly
Wednesday 1st July: School photos
Friday 3 July: End of Term Two
Monday 20 July: Term Three begins. Powhiri. 9.15am



Principal's Message

As we head into the third week of school, there are many exciting events happening across our school. It has been wonderful to see such a positive and energetic start to the term—and even some sunshine making an appearance. Winter sports have also begun, with many of our tamariki involved in school teams and local competitions. Let's hope for many sunny Saturdays ahead!

Our Middle School learners recently enjoyed an outstanding week exploring and learning about their local area. A massive thank you to our Middle Team for creating such meaningful and memorable experiences for our students, and to all whānau who supported through transporting, joining in, and helping out along the way. Highlights included a visit to the Army Museum, where the ration packs were a clear favourite, time spent at Taylor Lodge in Pokaka—thanks to Ben and Kylie Tuck—plenty of walking and biking, and simply exploring our beautiful environment. The week concluded with the Tough Kid event. To top it all off, our school proudly took out the 2026 title of Toughest School—an incredible achievement and a reflection of the determination, resilience, and spirit of our Year 3–8 learners.

The Giant Pumpkin Competition was also a huge success, with plenty of fabulous pumpkins on display! A big thank you to Miss Liva for organising this fantastic event, and to Rita Hammond from Sustaina Grow for generously sponsoring the prizes.

We also acknowledge the significance of our recent ANZAC Day Service. A heartfelt thank you to Emmy Mott, Harper Evans, and Zephaniah Paynter for laying the wreath on behalf of our school with respect and pride.

Get excited—Book Fair arrives next week! The theme this year is “Catch the Reading Bug”! There will be plenty of fun activities happening as we celebrate the joy and importance of reading. This is always a highlight on our school calendar and a wonderful opportunity to inspire and grow a love of books across all year levels. This year we will have a range of competitions and opportunities for learners to get involved and the popular Dress as a Book Character Day returns this year! (Thursday 14 May) Remember that all book sales at bookfair support our library as a percentage of sales goes straight back into new books!

We also want to let you know that SMART testing for Year 3–8 students will begin over the next two weeks. This important assessment will assist in understanding student progress and will support teacher judgements for mid-year reporting.

Our reporting is also evolving in line with updates to the New Zealand Curriculum.



While we already have strong reporting practices in place, our mid-year report will reflect the required changes to ensure clarity and consistency.

Year 0–2 students will continue with Phonics Checks at 20 and 40 weeks of schooling. You will also see updated achievement descriptors for Reading, Writing, and Mathematics.

These are:

- Emerging
- Developing
- Consolidating
- Proficient
- Exceeding

These descriptors will help provide a clearer picture of each learner’s progress and achievement. Our learners with additional learning needs will also receive reports that reflect progress towards their specific goals and learning plans in a slightly different format.

A key focus for our school moving forward will be strengthening our school value of Respect. We have, unfortunately, noticed a theme of inappropriate language emerging in some student interactions, and this is something we are addressing directly. Respectful communication is a cornerstone of a positive learning environment, and we will be working closely with students to reinforce expectations around the words we use, how we speak to others, and the impact our language has on those around us. We appreciate the support of whānau in continuing these conversations at home so that together we can maintain a culture of kindness, respect, and care across our fabulous school.

On Friday 15 May, we will wear pink to stand together against bullying and to strengthen one of our core values—respect. Pink Shirt Day reminds us that respect is more than just a word; it is shown through our actions, our language, and how we treat others every day. By choosing kindness, including others, and speaking up when something isn’t right, we help create a culture where everyone feels safe, valued, and respected. Pink Shirt Day is about standing together as a community and showing that there is no place for bullying in our school.

We are looking forward to another fantastic few weeks ahead as we continue to learn, grow, and celebrate success across our kura.

Celebrating Children's Achievements Principals' Award





Middle School Activity Week



Middle School 's Activity Week

The Te Hangaruru Trail was an amazing opportunity for many learners to experience a walk rich in history, ecology and cultural significance. The trail weaved through native forest and historic sites which will eventually form part of the Mountains to Sea-Nga Ara Tuhono network.

The children also visited the Waiouru Army Museum. They made meals from army ration packs, learnt about ANZAC, observed soldiers medals, played dress ups and engaged themselves in all the educational experiences available. Through hands-on learning, guided tours, and curriculum-aligned programmes, the students were able explore New Zealand's military and social history in a meaningful way.

Morning Tea with the Principal

Kereru: Mikaere Wills-Mareikura	Piwakawaka: Leo Senekal Thomas Berry	Room 12: Chase Haitana	Room 1: Turtle Kumeroa-Ruri
Kiwi:	Ruru: Amaia Lorimer-Awa	Room 14: Kaia Hansen	S Block: Mackenzie Phillips, Calum Coutts
Tui: Louie Eves	Kokako: Chelsea McLauchlan	Heke Taumata: Indica-Belle Christensen	



Reminder!!!! Entries due by 8th May!!!!

2026 Great Kiwi English, Mathematics and Science Competitions

The University of Canterbury's Great KIWI English, Mathematics and Science competitions are on again this year! These competitions take place annually and are designed by New Zealand teachers for New Zealand students based on the New Zealand Curriculum.

The competitions are open to all Year 5-8 students in English, Mathematics and Science. Students can enter in one or more subjects.

The supervised online tests will take place in the last 3 weeks of Term 2. All participating students will receive a certificate and prizes will be awarded to top students.

Each exam costs \$9.90 to enter.

Entries need to be returned with the entry fee by Friday 8 May. (Week 3, Term 2)

No late entries can be accepted.

Please talk to your child's classroom teacher if this is something you'd like your child to do or alternately contact me to discuss!

rmartin@ohakune.school.nz / 063838384

Please note: Kiwi Exams for Spelling run later in the year



Pumpkin Competition

The finalists:

- Alexander Bell- the most unusual pumpkin
- Florence Stuckey- judges award
- Hetty Stuckey- judges award
- Hendrix Hooper - the cutest pumpkin
- Diego Chapman-Mora the perfectly shaped pumpkin
- Chase Haitana - the 2nd largest pumpkin
- Van Gary - the 2nd largest pumpkin
- Maeve Taylor - Larsen the 2nd largest pumpkin
- Rosie Donald - the largest pumpkin (296cm, 24.2kg)
- Ziggy Van- the giant pumpkin (323cm, 30.4kg)



Cool school message

Building positive relationships with others creates a responsible, global citizen.

Term 2, 2026
KIDS CREATIVE COLLECTIVE
 With *Kathryn Forster*
 Art extension for 8-12yrs
 Limited numbers, booking essential
 Bookings now open
Wednesdays 4-6pm
 Starting 30 April 2025
 \$80 per child per term
 includes all materials*
 Contact Barbara
 027 829 8973
 If unaffordable, speak to us

Ruapehu District
 creative nz
 COMMUNITIES

VOLCANO VIC
 COMMUNITY
 ARTS CENTRE



The Maru Trust and The Lines Company Home Energy Workshops



Value of the Week Respect

Everyone wants to be treated well and with kindness.

Ngā mihi
 Lisa Clark
 Principal and the OPS team

the lines MARU Ngāti Rangī

SAVE MONEY STAY WARM

HOME ENERGY WORKSHOP

11 May 2026	Afternoon: 1 PM - 2:30 PM
43a Ruapehu Road, Ohakune 4925	Evening: 5:30 PM - 7 PM
12 May 2026	Morning: 10:30 AM - 12 PM
43a Ruapehu Road, Ohakune 4925	

What You'll Learn:

- What makes up your power bill and what you're paying for
- Simple ways to keep your home warmer and healthier
- Ways to save money on hot water and lighting
- How to check if you're on the best power plan
- Eligibility for heat pumps or insulation

Maru Trust support is available only to residents connected to The Lines Company

FREE ENTRY + GIFT PACK

To register or for more info please scan the QR code or visit our website

0800 367 546 www.thelinescompany.co.nz