



Phone: (06) 3858384

OHAKUNE PRIMARY SCHOOL

# Newsletter

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[www.ohakuneprimaryschool.co.nz](http://www.ohakuneprimaryschool.co.nz)

March 24 2026 #5

Kia ora koutou/Greetings

## Upcoming events

Monday 30 March: Celebration Assembly.  
Monday 30 March: William Pike Visit  
Thursday 2 April: End of term One  
Monday 20 April: Term Two begins. Powhiri 9.30am  
Monday 27 April: Anzac Day observed. School closed  
Tuesday 28 April- 1st May: Middle school activity week  
Friday 1st May: Tough Kids  
Monday 11 May: BoT meeting.  
Tuesday 12 May: Year 4-6 Netball. Whanganui  
Wednesday 13-19 May: Book fair  
Monday 25 May: Tough Guys/Gals Year 8  
Monday 1st June: Kings Birthday. School closed  
Wednesday 3rd June: NYLD. Palmerston North  
Monday 8 June: BoT meeting  
Wednesday 10 June: Dance Off  
Wednesday 17 June: Interschool Spelling Bee. Waiouru  
Monday 29 June: Celebration Assembly  
Wednesday 1st July: School Photos

## Pictured right: Celebration Assembly Room 8- Tui

### Kia ora koutou

With only a few days left in the school term, we have so much to celebrate. There has been incredible mahi in our classrooms, led by a dedicated staff who are truly appreciated.

We congratulate our swimming team who represented our school so well at the interschool event hosted by St Joseph's. We are incredibly proud of their effort, sportsmanship, and the way they carried themselves throughout the day. We also had a Year 4–6 Ripa Rugby team travel to Whanganui, where they played with great determination and spirit.

We are looking forward to our upcoming Celebration Assembly, where we are excited to welcome William Pike, who will be joining us to share his inspiring story.

A big thank you to our Ambassador group for their recent ice cream fundraiser. While treats are not something we often have at school, this was a special initiative and a huge success. All proceeds are going towards a friendship chair in memory of Mrs Whale — a meaningful way to honour her contribution to our school.

Attendance continues to be a strong focus for us. Currently, 73% of our students are attending regularly (**regularly** means 90% or more over the term). While this is a solid base, we remain concerned about those not yet attending consistently. Being at school every day makes a significant difference to learning, and we need all of our tamariki here and engaged. Please note that students on individual attendance plans are not included in this data.

Our team is working incredibly hard to support every learner, and with your continued support, we can meet the needs of all our tamariki.

A reminder that school will be closed on Good Friday as part of the holiday period. We look forward to welcoming everyone back for Term 2 on Monday 20 April, beginning with our pōwhiri at 9:30am.



[School docs link](#)

User Name- ohakune Password- Arawa

## Morning Tea with the Principal

<b>Ruru:</b> Holly Turner, Lincoln Hammond	<b>Tui:</b> Santiago Chamorro Kayleigh Eltherington	<b>Rua:</b> Joaquin Buan, Ngairoa Wallace-McLeod	<b>Room 1:</b> Nakisha O' Neil, Ethan Buchanan
<b>Kereru:</b> Isabella Buan, Indiana Jackson	<b>Room 9:</b> Astrid Paynter Harper Turner	<b>Room 12:</b> Eva Petrikova, Hannah Nation	<b>S. Block:</b> Troy Rhodes, Maiterangi Wihare-Gray
<b>Kiwi:</b> Tatum Trow, Telhorangi Paul-TeHuia <b>Piwakawaka:</b> Grace Collett, Zairus Ratu-Bellamy	<b>Kotahi:</b> Aropeta Bates, Baeley Trow	<b>Room 14:</b> Mila Berry, Charlotte Williamson	

## Celebrating Children's Achievements

### Junior Awards

### Middle school Awards

### Senior Awards



### Principals Award

### Enviro Award

### Ambassador's Award



## Interschool Swimming-Taihape

## Our Weet bix Kids. Tryathlon Palmerston North



The TRYathlon event kicks off with the swimming leg, followed by cycling and running. Kids are grouped by age and gender, ensuring everyone can participate at their own pace in a supportive, non-competitive environment. After crossing the finish line, participants are awarded TRY medals by sporting heroes, a huge highlight for many. Families can relax and enjoy activities, food stalls, and sponsor giveaways. The day wraps up with prize-giving and closing ceremonies, where there's plenty of celebration and encouragement for every participant's efforts.

**From start to finish, the day is focused on fun, fitness, and personal achievement!**

Term 2, 2026  
**KIDS CREATIVE COLLECTIVE**  
With *Kathy 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  
Ruapehu District  
**creative nz**  
COMMUNITIES  
\*If unaffordable, speak to us  
VOLCANO VEE  
COMMUNITY  
ARTS CENTRE



### **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! [martin@ohakune.school.nz](mailto:martin@ohakune.school.nz) / 063838384

**Cool School's Message : When you listen to others, they will listen to you**



## Big Challenge for Ohakune School's William Pike Challenge Students

**Special Assembly:** Monday 30th March, 9.00am with William Pike

We warmly welcome whanau and our community to come along to our special Celebration Assembly next Monday!

Ohakune School is once again participating in this innovative youth development programme, the William Pike Challenge, which inspires youth to step outside of

their comfort zone and develop crucial 21st-century skills.

William Pike, survivor of the 2007 Mt Ruapehu volcanic eruption, motivational speaker, and director of the William Pike Challenge, will be visiting Ohakune School to speak on Monday 30th March at 9.00am. Pike will be sharing his remarkable story of survival and messages of inspiration to students. William will relive defining moments in his life, such as relearning to walk, climbing in Antarctica, and establishing the William Pike Challenge. These stories will all be centred around one theme: **the importance of stepping outside of your comfort zone.**

The William Pike Challenge is a well-being programme that is run in 141 schools around Aotearoa. To complete the challenge, students are required to participate in five Outdoor Activities, 20 hours of Community Service, and 20 hours of Passion Projects over a school year. In doing so, students are given opportunities to step outside of their comfort zone, develop and strengthen 21st-century skills, and have extraordinary experiences.

Pike knows firsthand the importance of being able to step outside your comfort zone to face and overcome big challenges. Pike was one of two young climbers caught in a volcanic eruption on the slopes of Mount Ruapehu in 2007. He suffered numerous life-threatening injuries, and his right leg was amputated below the knee. William is passionate about passing on his life experiences to ensure the next generation develop essential life skills and are prepared to thrive in the future.

“This is our sixth year running the William Pike Challenge at Ohakune School. We are really keen for our students to develop 21st-century skills and attributes such as confidence, leadership, resilience, connectedness, critical thinking, problem-solving, leadership and positive self-esteem. To have William join us to inspire our young people and community is the icing on the cake” says Tash Carley - Teacher and William Pike Challenge Leader at Ohakune School.

“I am thrilled to have 22 students take part in the programme this year. I'm really excited about the impact that these students will have on their community as well as their own personal development by taking part in the WPC” says Pike.

We look forward to seeing you all come to hear this inspirational speaker as he motivates our learners with his story and tips for making the most of opportunities.



## Giant Pumpkin Competition 2026!

Hi all you amazing pumpkin growers!

As the nights get a bit cooler we are beginning to think about the **BIG WEIGH-IN** for our Pumpkins!

We have set a date for **Thursday 21 April in the first week of next term!**

There will be loads of prizes in loads of categories!

All you need to do is, keep growing your pumpkin! And, if there is a frost pop your pumpkin somewhere dry and warm so it is ready to come in on the judging day! This is Miss Liva's pumpkin!! So far...!!!!

## 2026 Tūroa Season Pass Information

In 2026, free Season Passes will once again be available to enrolled students at Ohakune Primary School. This is the third season that Tūroa has generously offered this opportunity to our local tamariki.

Tūroa continues to support and subsidise skiing and snowboarding across the rohe, encouraging a pathway for students throughout their education, including at Ruapehu College.



From mid-May, Tūroa will make available Local Workers Season Pass (LWSP) to purchase for \$569. This pass is available later, by application to [Ali@pureturoa.com](mailto:Ali@pureturoa.com)

This season pass is intended for those who are part of the core community workforce in the Ohakune, Raetihi, and Waiouru districts and for those new workers coming to enjoy Winter.

**Please note** - Ohakune Primary School will organise season pass collection for tamariki. A date for pass allocation and pickup will be confirmed prior to the Tūroa opening date and the school holidays

- *Students must be enrolled and on the school roll to receive a pass through the school.*
- *Families enrolling, after passes have been allocated, will need to enquire at the school office.*
- *If you are not on the school roll, passes cannot be allocated through the school, and a \$5 Snowcard fee will apply.*

Tūroa Youth Programmes offered this winter for Snowsports Athletes are the following -  
A 7-week programme for intermediate to advanced riders ready to build skills and confidence across the mountain. This Youth programme is ideal if you want to improve technique, grow your range & capabilities in new terrain, love for the maunga in a safe, mentoring environment. Cost is \$469.00

- ✓ *Consistent weekly coaching.*
- ✓ *Age & Ability-based group placement.*
- ✓ *Focus on progression and confidence.*
- ✓ *Fun, social environment.*

**Starting Saturday 8 August** - 19 September for Intermediate - Advanced skiers & snowboarders aged 7–14 years, running from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

**Starting Sunday 9 August** - 20 September for Advanced skiers & snowboarders aged 7–14 years, running from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Booking available online at [turoa.com/Youth](https://turoa.com/Youth) Programmes

Terms and Conditions/Minimum participant numbers apply for all Programmes, in the case these are not met, we will contact you. For any questions, contact Ali.

[ali@pureturoa.nz](mailto:ali@pureturoa.nz)



# Celebrating Children's Writing

## Room 12's Magic Boxes



### The Magic Box

I will put in my box...  
the crashing waves of a  
stormy beach,  
the woof of a dog,  
a zap from an electric fence  
at max power.

I will put in my box...  
the smell of a brand new book  
never opened,  
the petal of a dancing flower,  
a school with no students.

I will put in my box...  
an elephant with eighteen legs,  
a funny bone from my elbow,  
a snowman's rumbling belly.

My box is fashioned with  
white board markers, stanley  
cups with ice on the lid and  
secrets in the corners.  
Its hinges are the legs of a  
chair.

I shall play netball in my box  
on top of Mount Ruapehu,  
eating brussel sprouts while  
tacos fall out of the sky.  
I see the purple sky with a  
beach around it.

**By Luca Mickleson**

### Magic Box

I will put in the box....  
the fur from a fluffy kitten,  
the petal of a dancing flower,  
the smell from a beautiful  
rose.

I will put in the box  
a bunny riding a brown horse,  
a dog with a unicorn horn,  
a cat purring on my lap.

I will put in the box  
a giraffe on a surfboard,  
the taste of a fresh donut  
covered in sugar,  
a tiger wearing a birthday hat.

My box is fashioned from  
fluffy kittens and cookies  
with a little sparkle, with a big  
heart on the lid and cats in  
the corners.

Its hinges are fresh leaves  
bursting in springtime.

I shall pat kittens in my box  
in beautiful gardens filled  
with flowers and sunshine,  
then take them all home and  
get cozy.

**By Berlyn Edwards**

### The Magic Box

I will put in my box....  
the beautiful crashing waves  
of a sunny beach  
the beautiful blue reminds me  
of the sunny sky  
the beautiful sea creatures  
under the sea.

I will put in my box  
the smell of the sea reminds  
me of the seashells beautiful  
pink petals on the water  
When the waves came I  
imagine myself surfing

My box is fashioned with  
seashells, with sand on the lid  
and waves in the corners  
Its hinge are smooth seashells

I shall play in the waves in my  
box, hunting for seashells and  
playing with the beautiful  
creatures in the deep sea on a  
hot sunny blue day.

**By Taiwiri Bishop**

### The Magic Box

I will put in the box  
a chair that takes you back in  
time,  
the eye of an ant,  
a bottle of liquid luck.



I will put in the box  
the sound of rain on a winters day,  
a pen that only works on human skin,  
a book that never runs out of pages.

I will put in the box  
a cloud that can hold anything,  
an 8th day in a week,  
a 2nd moon which appears at twilight.

My box is fashioned from snow and lily pads  
with flowers on the lid and stars in the corners.

Its hinges are made from goblins claws.

I shall relax in my box  
in a comfy room with a fire and a winter storm,  
Relaxing with fluffy blankets and cushions.

**By Eva Petrikova**



### Value of the Week - **Determination**

This value is based around persevering in new learning, new relationships and taking on new experiences. We support our learners by giving them the opportunity to develop the skills through targeted experiences and classroom learning and they are amazing!

Ngā mihi

Lisa Clark  
**Principal and the OPS team**

### Whanganui Contributing Schools Rippa Rugby - Hot off the press

Congratulations to our Warriors team, coached by Ropata and Wayne, who were the winners at the Whanganui Contributing Schools Rippa Rugby tournament. What a fantastic day of rippa rugby! The team showed great skill, determination, and sportsmanship, supporting one another throughout the day and representing our school with pride. It was wonderful to see the encouragement and teamwork shown across both of our teams.



Congratulations to Reale Richards who was named MVP in the final (pictured left).

A huge thank you to our staff and supporters who travelled with the teams, cheered loudly from the sideline, and helped transport our players. Your support makes these opportunities possible. Well done everyone — we are very proud of you!  
Pictured below: Winning team

