

*Whāia te mātauranga hei orange mō koutou*



Learning for Life and Making it Count

9th June 2025

## Celebrating Success...



### Certificates:

Congratulations to our certificate winners over the last couple of weeks: Jayda Hall, Danica Busch, Tristan Bennett, Isabella Fraser, Reon Rosel, Malisea Hickey, Laylah Riddell and Evie Purcell.



### School closed:

**Friday 20th June - Matariki Public Holiday**

**Monday 23rd June - Staff only day**

There are lots of ways to celebrate Matariki with your family. Here are some fun ways to mark the occasion together:

- **Stargazing** - Matariki is the Māori name for the Pleiades star cluster, which reappears in the mid-winter sky and signals the Māori New Year. Wake up early and find a dark spot with a clear view of the eastern horizon before dawn.
- **Share a Whānau Feast** (Hākari) - Feasting is a traditional way to bring people together and celebrate abundance and new beginnings.
- **Storytelling and Whakapapa** - Matariki is a time to reflect on your ancestors and share whakapapa (genealogy).
- **Arts and Crafts** - Creative expression is a beautiful way to engage tamariki and teach them about culture.
- **Sing, Dance, and Play Music** - Music and kapa haka are essential parts of Māori celebration.
- **Plant Something Together** - Matariki marks a time of renewal and preparation for the coming year.
- **Light a Candle for Remembrance** - Remembering those who have passed is a core part of Matariki.
- **Reflect and set some new goals** - Matariki is a time to reset and focus on goals for the new year.
- **Join in with a Community Event** - Matariki is about community and connection.

# School News...

## Community Celebration of Learning & Matariki

On Thursday 19th June we invite you to not only parent-teacher conferences but to share a sausage sizzle with us (donated by our wonderful hardworking PTA) and enjoy viewing some of the tamariki learning to mark Matariki. Inside the library there will be a display of learning created by your tamariki for you to enjoy. There will be some descriptive writing, some artwork, some Matariki artwork and hopefully some of the completed badges and podcasts.

Parent-teacher conferences are a valuable opportunity for us to connect and work together to support your tamaiti (child's) learning and wellbeing. During our kōrero (conversation), we'll not only talk about academic progress — such as literacy, numeracy, and classroom engagement — but also how your child is feeling socially and emotionally at school.

We'll share observations about their confidence, friendships, resilience, and overall sense of belonging in the classroom. Just as importantly, we welcome your insights about how things are going at home — what motivates your child, any worries they may have, and the support you feel they might need.

Together, we can set shared goals and strategies to help your child thrive. These conversations are most powerful when they're open, honest, and focused on the whole child — and we truly value your voice in that partnership.

Parent - teacher conferences can be booked through Skool Loop. Go to bookings and select the date. The top date is for Mrs Newey's and Mrs Thom's appointment times, the 2nd date is Mrs Busch's appointment times. Select the teacher, select the date again and it will bring up all the times available. Press the time you want and fill in the form to book your interview. You will receive an email confirming your booking time.

## Road Patrol

Thank you to everyone who uses the supervised school crossing in the afternoons. As you know Turners Road has a speed limit of 60km, which makes it very dangerous for children crossing the road or biking to school. As we do not supervise the morning crossing the parents need to ensure that their child/ren cross safely in the morning.

**We ask that parents *USE THE CROSSING* at all times.**

Please remember to drive away from the front of the school to turn around and to park legally in the spaces available when waiting. Getting your child in and out of the car should be on the pavement side for their safety.

The Police have also asked that drivers do not stop at the crossing to let pedestrians cross. As this crossing is not marked with zebra lines, cars following could try to pass the stopped car, not realising why the car has stopped.

For the safety of everyone children with scooters and skateboards ***must walk their wheels out of the school gate***. If crossing the road; they ***must*** also be walked across the road.

## Upcoming important dates

**Monday 16th June** - Mid year reports available

**Thursday 19th June** - Community celebration of learning afternoon/evening with parent teacher conferences, Matariki sausage sizzle and learning display in library. 3.20pm - 7pm

**Friday 20th June** - School closed for Matariki public holiday

**Monday 23rd June** - School closed for Staff only day

# A word from:

## Lisa Hewitt - Ōuruhia School Acting Principal

Kia ora koutou

As a school, we're proud of the strong, supportive environment we offer our tamariki — and one of our greatest strengths is our small class sizes. This allows us to provide more personalised teaching, build strong relationships with each learner, and offer targeted learning support that truly makes a difference.

We know our current roll is small, and we acknowledge the challenges that can come with that. But we also see it as an opportunity — a time to rebuild, to grow, and to share the unique strengths of our school with others. With your support, we're confident in the direction we're heading.

One of the most powerful ways you can help is by sharing about our school with friends, whānau, and people in the wider community. Word of mouth is incredibly valuable — when others hear about the care, quality teaching, and close-knit environment we provide, it can inspire them to come and see for themselves.

Together, we can grow our kura and continue to provide an outstanding place for our tamariki to learn, belong, and thrive. We are open to out of zone enquiries so please send families our way and we can share details for enrolments with them.

Ngā mihi nui

Lisa

## News from Pūharakekenui & Kā Putahi - Years 0-4

Kia ora whānau,

This term we've been exploring the theme of *local community heroes*- the people who help keep us safe and make our community a better place to live. We've had rich discussions about the important roles these heroes play and how we can be heroes in our own way by showing kindness, helping others, and making positive choices.

We are now transitioning into learning about the **Matariki celebration**, a special time in Aotearoa New Zealand that honours the Māori New Year. As part of our learning, we'll be engaging in exciting art projects and songs that help us explore the meaning and traditions of Matariki.

A big thank you to all the parents and whānau who have taken the time to support your child's learning at home. It's been encouraging to see the positive progress in areas like handwriting and sound recognition—your involvement truly makes a difference. To continue building confidence, we encourage you to involve your child in everyday Maths activities such as telling the time, using money, or measuring ingredients while cooking. These real-life experiences help strengthen their understanding in fun and meaningful ways.

Ngā mihi nui,  
Sarah and Leann

## **Waimakariri - Year 5 - 8 Mrs Busch**

Kia ora whānau

This term, we have welcomed a visit from the community police (and their flash car), discussed essential workers in our community and we are now in the process of completing descriptive writing pieces about our heroes 'who don't wear capes'. Our learning during the term has also covered a broad range of topics including: Number Knowledge and Skills, Statistics, Spelling, Reading, 3D Art, Matariki Topic and showing our School Values.

I am grateful for the continued partnership with my colleagues, parents/caregivers and students. Thank you for your support with setting up homework routines and teaching important life skills, such as: attending school every day (unless sick), time management, pride in presentation, and revision of knowledge and skills.

Waimakariri are counting down until the disco - how many sleeps now? The P.T.A. are generously opening up the disco to others outside our school, so please encourage your child to invite a friend. All students who intend to bring a guest must be a good host by including him/her and modelling their best Ōruhia Model School values.

Thank you in advance for your ongoing support and I hope to chat with all of you soon at Parent / Teacher Interviews. Please note, if you can't make the times available, please contact me for an alternative time and I will do my best to accommodate you.

Ngā mihi nui

Michelle Busch

## **Gabrielle Wall - Ōruhia Model School Commissioner**

Kia ora Ōruhia School community,

I wanted to share a brief update following my visit to the school on Tuesday. It was fantastic to see all our students so engaged and working hard on their literacy - the energy and focus in the classroom was inspiring!

I am also pleased to let you know that applications for the Principal position have now closed. We have received a number of strong applications and look forward to keeping you updated as we move through the selection process.

A heartfelt thank you to the staff and parents who have agreed to be part of this important process and provide their advice and input. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Ngā mihi nui

Gabrielle Wall, Commissioner



# *Fun times for our tamariki.*

***A big thank you to Elaine and Rachel from Christchurch City Libraries who have been on site teaching the tamariki about badge making and podcasting. The children have been super engaged and are thrilled with the results they have achieved. These will be on display to see and listen to at our Community Celebration of Learning on Thursday 18th June during parent - teacher conferences and shared kai for Matariki.***

