



Newsletter

Waitomo Caves
RD 7 Otorohanga

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Te Whakatipu i to Uira - Growing Your Glow

Term Two 2025

Week Nine - 27 June

Dear Parents, Caregivers, Whānau and Friends of the School

Tena Koutou Katoa

This week brings the end of a nine week term and the start of a well deserved holiday break for everyone. Next term starts on Monday 14 July with a number of new enrolments.

Welcome Carter Wanden, who returns to the Kauri Class. Welcome to the parent community Sean Wanden and partner Emma Hyslop. KickStarter Karlyn Mateara turns five in the holidays and she starts as a Year 1 in Kowhai Class. Thank you for your continued support Mum, Becky and Dad, Cory. Special welcome to the new owners of the Waitomo Guest Lodge, Mancie and Kunal, extended family and daughters Valeshka Gandhi and Kiara Gandhi. Valeshka and Kiara will be in the Kowhai Class.

Attendance

Congratulations to all the students with regular attendance so far this year. Regular attendance is present 90% of the time or more. Well done to Willow Wilson, Robyn Moetu, Thomas McLennan, Uru Taane-Edwards, Nichole Taane-Edwards and Whitu Moetu.

Student Support Role – Update

We have had some awesome interest in our student support role receiving several really good applicants. It's great to see such enthusiasm for supporting our tamariki, and we look forward to progressing with the next steps in the process soon.

School Accounts

Please clear outstanding school accounts by the start of Term 3. Updated invoices are sent home regularly. If there are any concerns contact Mrs Dimond or Miss Groube to discuss payment options. We do not ask for a school donation however we do ask you to pay for your child's sports subs, stationery, school trips and manual fees. Thank you.



Matariki Celebrations

With a wonderful turn out of family and friends we celebrated Matariki with a whānau breakfast on Thursday 19 June. Thank you to all who were able to attend. We all enjoyed pancakes with delicious toppings, cream and bacon. Weetbix, oranges, apples, bananas, lemons, watermelon and peaches also complimented our kai.

We are very grateful to Jess and Te Huia from The General Store who kindly donated eggs for the pancakes, bacon, watermelon and maple syrup.



Reach Awards

The Lions Reach Award is an incentive award that has been developed for all schools within the Ōtorohanga District. This award is funded and supported by the Ōtorohanga Lions Club, the Thrive Ōtorohanga Youth Trust and the Harvest Rock Centre. We acknowledge those students who are striving to reach their goals and do their best; be it academically, socially, demonstrating good behaviour and/or school values, giving their all or being a good role model to their peers.

Congratulations to our most recent recipients of the Reach Awards, Kyler Mateara, Kelani Wright, Lexi Green, Taku Paul, Whitu Moetu and Samantha McLennan.



Hockey

Well played to the Junior B grade school hockey team. These Year 2 to 4 students played in Te Kūiti on Monday's after school. Thank you to coach Victoria Davis for doing a great job supporting these tamariki with their hockey skills. Hōkioi Paul, Lizzy Wright, Nichole Taane-Edwards, Azarhn Khan, Kelani Wright, Uru Taane-Edwards and Whitu Moetu have all been awarded Player of the Day certificates and a drink voucher sponsored by Te Kūiti New World. Robyn Moetu has also been involved in the hockey funsticks skills and drills programme. Well done Robyn.

Individual Progress Reports

Student reports were sent home on Wednesday 25 June. These reports and self assessment student voice summarises the past two terms. As you recall swimming was a large part of Term 1 and has also been reported on. After the holiday break staff are also available by appointment if further conversations are needed.

What Now

We have received some exciting news from the children's television show What Now team. The wētā story with Lexi Green and Thomas McLennan will play out this coming Sunday. That's Sunday 29 June from 8.30am on TVNZ 2.

Here is the promo and the end tease that played out on last Sunday's show:

<https://f.io/GRos3fge>

<https://f.io/kKEdR6p6>

And here is the video of Devin and Nichole exploring the Ruakuri Caves:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bIXlqFsjH90>

We will share these on our Skool Loop app as well so they are easier to access.

Cross Country Training

Please ensure your child/children have a spare change of clothes available at school over the first five weeks of Term 3. During the cross country training sessions children are likely to get wet and muddy, and therefore need to change into warm, clean clothes to comfortably continue their day.

Waitomo Discovery Centre

Thank you to the Waitomo Caves Museum and Discovery Centre for the free family pass to the museum for all our students and their whānau. These vouchers were distributed at our Community Assembly today.

Ōtorohanga Lions Club

Thank you to the Ōtorohanga Lions Club who have donated \$2,000 towards our outdoor furniture project. Over time we will look forward to sharing the finished products.

Community News

Ōtorohanga Lions Club started in September 1964 and celebrated its 60th birthday in 2024 with one charter member in attendance plus one current member (now aged 102). Currently Ōtorohanga Lions has 30 members. Of these, two are in Beattie Home and one is in a care facility in Ohaupo. This leaves a group of about 20 'active' members who raise funds and attend working bees.

We are a mens only club though our wives/partners do a lot of work especially in the shop. New, younger members would be welcomed, contact any current Lion member for details.

[Lions Shop, Maniapoto Street, Ōtorohanga](#)

Our main fundraiser:

Manned by Lions members and partners who put in over 300 man-hours per month in the shop. Many extra hours are spent with 'homework'; cleaning and repairing items to get them shop ready, delivering

and collecting goods and removing broken or unusable items to landfill or the fire pit.

Open Fridays 10am - 3:30pm and Saturdays 9.00am - 12:30pm.

All items sold are donated goods from around the district and we collect and deliver within a reasonable distance free of charge. We welcome donations of any household items except clothing.

Other Activities:

- Maintaining and repairing Pureora Lions Club Lodge, available for school group bookings.
- Christmas raffle. Christmas gifts to aged/lonely people in town.
- Climbing wall in Ōtorohanga: Lions pay the entrance fee for all school students booked in, as well as manning the ropes.
- Daffodil Golf Tournament at Waitomo Golf club raises about \$8,000 for Cancer Society.
- Firewood collected, chopped and delivered free of charge to needy people.
- Working bees around town clearing gardens, removing rubbish etc etc.

Donations

During the last seven years Ōtorohanga Lions Club has donated \$541,000. Of this \$72K has gone to local schools, \$633K to Ōtorohanga District needs, \$41K to other Waikato appeals and \$82K to National appeals. Just last year the donations were \$107,000 with \$14K to local schools, \$66K to local needs, \$17K to other Waikato appeals and \$2K to National appeals.

Board of Trustees News

Keen to Make a Difference? Join Our Board of Trustees!

This September, Waitomo Caves School will be holding Board of Trustees elections – and we would love to see more whānau get involved! Watch this space as more information becomes available.

Our Tamariki



What's Coming Up

14 July	Start of Term 3
21 July	KickStart to School Resumes
29 July	Board of Trustees Meeting
4 August	Teachers Only Day - Professional Development
6 August	Small Schools Cross Country Race

Mrs Tamae Dimond, Tumuaki ☺