



Whāia te mātauranga hei oranga mō koutou
Learning for Life and Making it Count

Welcome Back!

2023

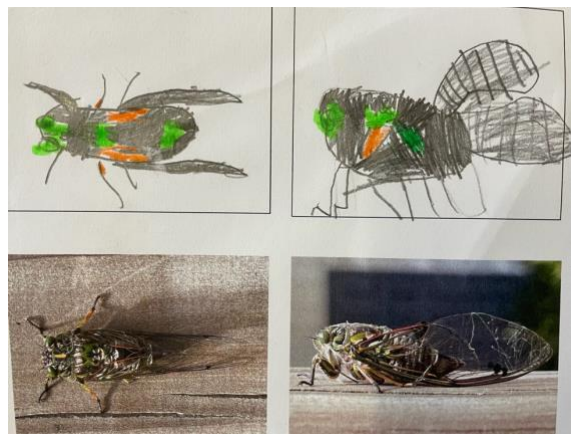
The new school year is well underway, and it's been so good to see everybody again after the summer break. We hope you have had good quality time with whānau and friends over the holiday season.

We started the year with a Welcome Back assembly and a mihi to all of our new pupils: Asher, Jett, and Freddy, and talked about the road ahead with new goals and choices. We sang our school song, reaffirming our **school values**, and had a sneak preview of some of the things to look forward to this term.

With **PB4L** (Positive Behaviour For Learning) we are emphasising **being the best** young person we can be, and a start-of-year focus on being **ready for learning**, having a **Can-Do** Attitude, and showing **Independence** and **self-management**. We ask our children to...

- *Be **organised** and **prepared***
- *Be **responsible** for own belongings*
- *Show **initiative** and don't wait to be told*
- *Give **BEST effort** (**Better Every Single Time**)*
- *Have a **goal**... each week, and by the end of term... and make sure you take **action** towards it*
- *Celebrate success...of others and yourself.*

Already this year our curious tamariki have found cicada shells in the playground, discovered the adults, wondered and asked questions, been noticing details, looking closely and being observant. That is real world learning!!





We want Ouruhia to be fun, memorable, and relevant. One of our mottos is ***“Learning for Life and Making it Count.”*** We want kids to **love learning**, be **curious**, and having lots of **“Wow!”** moments.



We are continuing our **Local Curriculum** focus this year, keeping our eyes open for amazing things in the **Living World** around us, and getting to know more about our mountain and river (**Maukatere/Mount Grey and Pūharakekenui/Styx**), and **early settlers** in Canterbury. There is a school trip to **Maukatere** on **Friday 10th March**, and **Ferrymead** on **Wednesday 22nd March**... more details to come soon.

Our Science focus is on **Geology** (earthquakes and volcanoes) and **Material World** (recycling, kitchen science and properties of matter).

What a delight our production **“Jesus’ Christmas Party”** and prize-giving was at Kaiapoi High School at the end of last year! Music and performance are things we value strongly here at Ouruhia, and we will be continuing to have these areas as a focus.



Help! Unfortunately we had a camera disc problem and lost all of our photos from the concert night. If you have any still or video pictures from the night, please see Mark, as we like to keep archives of such events.



Every year we celebrate and thank our **Year 8s** with a night out at **The Court Theatre**. Last year's "class of 2022" went to see "Home Alonesome" with pizzas and refreshments beforehand. What a great group of young people... we wish them well on their next stage of education.



And now we have a new group of fabulous Year 8s in 2023, a new group of budding leaders, tuākana, big brothers and sisters for the rest of the school to look up to.

And while we are enjoying smaller class sizes than most schools, we look forward to welcoming **6 new enrolments** by the start of Term 2.



Swimming

Our pool is back in action and we are enjoying daily swimming lessons for all classes.

Our aim at Ouruhia is for **all children** to be confident in, under and on the water, and be able to swim **200m** by the time they get to high school. Having our school pool and our Mainpower lessons in Kaiapoi in Term 4 are certainly helping us toward this goal.

If your child is approaching their teenage years and is unable to swim 200m, we would strongly recommend extra swimming lessons with a private swimming instructor to develop these fundamental life skills...contact Kaiapoi Aquatic Centre for more information.

To celebrate our **swimming** season, we are holding a **demonstration afternoon** in the school pool on **Thursday 23rd February from 1:30pm**. For many of our children who are still learning to swim, this is not about racing; rather we want to show parents what their child can do... there will be something for everyone! For those who have developed basic freestyle, backstroke and breaststroke skills, there will be multiple length events. (Years 5-8 who can swim 50m will be considered for selection for the Pegasus zone swimming sports with a special time trial at *Kaiapoi Aquatic Centre on Thursday 2nd March at 10:30 am*). We hope you will be impressed with your child's progress.

“Meet & Greet” Community picnic – Thursday 23rd February

On Thursday, 23rd February, we invite you to a school picnic, starting at 5.30 p.m. and finishing around 7.00 p.m. Come along and meet our new families and staff, chat informally, and swap stories about the holidays.

Bring a picnic or takeaway dinner. The pool will be open (hopefully!!), and some sports gear available.

We look forward to seeing you all.



Bell times



A reminder that classes at Ouruhia start at 8:50 a.m. (not 9.00 a.m.), and so we expect children to **be at school between 8:30 and 8:45** in order to be unpacked and ready to go. Please talk with your child:

- *What time do we need to leave home to be at school by 8.45?*
- *And to be ready to leave home at that time, when do you need...*
 - *to get up? ...*
 - *to get breakfast? ...*
 - *to do your jobs (make bed, tidy up, feed animals, pack your bag etc)?*

Remember, school doesn't start at 9:00; aim to leave home at 8:30 to be on time.

Communication, School information and the Website

Many of you will already know that messages and information about our school can be found on our school website <http://www.ouruhia.school.nz/> and Facebook page <http://www.facebook.com/ouruhiaschool>. (We hope you got the Facebook message about the school picnic).

We also try to communicate with you in a number of ways...newsletters, phone calls, texts and emails, so please ensure that we have your up-to-date phone numbers and email addresses. **(An Emergency Contact notice has been sent home).**

We would prefer that you did not use teachers' individual phone numbers to contact them (unless it is an emergency, or in cases where they have asked you to ring), so please use emails, or school phone numbers. (Teachers' email addresses are usually firstname.lastname@ouruhia.school.nz - but check with them as there are a few exceptions – and you can use the school landline 323 8855 to leave messages, or Raewyn's cell phone 027 294 6464, or my cell phone 027 303 9670 if urgent, or email office@ouruhia.school.nz or principal@ouruhia.school.nz)



Skool Loop is an app we use to communicate with you. Make sure you download Skool Loop to your smart phone. It is **FREE** and available in both the Google Play Store and the [App Store](#). Skool Loop is the quickest method of communicating with our school community. In an emergency situation, all updates will be posted to the app, therefore it is important you have this downloaded to your phone.



What can the App do?

- **Absentee Messaging:** A quick, simple and convenient way for school parents and caregivers to report absences to the school. Options included direct dial, email or text.

- **Notices** - Push Notifications: Our entire school community or groups within our school community can receive notices directly from us. Once you have downloaded the app and chosen Ouruhia School, go into to Notices and click on the icon on the top right of the screen to select the groups you wish to receive communications from e.g. Team Tipu; Room 4; Room 5; General; (At times there could also be choir and sports groups). You will need to update this section whenever your child/ren change rooms and interests. *Please make sure you have the 'General' group selected, and your child/ren's 'Room'.*
- **Permissions:** Respond to permission requests for events/activities
- **The School Calendar:** The school calendar shows information by syncing with the school google calendar.
- **Newsletters:** Updated whenever the newsletter is published and available for our school community to read anytime.
- **Interviews:** We will be using this method for booking interviews/**Learning Conferences** with teachers in **March (Week 6)** and at the end of Term 2. Select the teacher and date to book available times.
- **Contact:** Parents can contact their child/ren's teacher direct via email.

NB Paper Notices requiring something to be **sent back to school** are on **yellow paper**. **School newsletters** will be **emailed** to you from now on about twice a term, with **paper copies displayed around the school**, and a **copy on our website** <http://www.ouruhia.school.nz/>

If you would like a paper copy of school newsletters, please see Raewyn, email office@ouruhia.school.nz or return the slip at the end of this newsletter.

Other notices:

- The **Life Ed** mobile classroom will be visiting Ouruhia on 8th March (Week 6)
- **Learning Conferences** and goal-setting will be held in Week 6, 8th & 9th March – bookings on Skool Loop
- **Sun Safety:** Remember to bring (named) sunhats, and leave them at school for the first term. No hat...we'll ask you to stay in the shade.
- **Ohoka Netball Club** – see Mark if you are interested in finding out more about playing netball this season. We welcome primary (Future Ferns) and high school students, as well as adults with all levels of experience.
For information about trials, go to <https://www.sporty.co.nz/ohokanetball/Registration-Trial-Dates/Registration-Form>



- **Burwood Football Club** Burwood AFC Clubrooms, Clare Park at 153 Burwood Road. Note that Registration Day Sunday 26 Feb 10-12:00, or register Online. For more details see our website www.burwoodafc.co.nz Junior coaches required – please contact the Secretary Mark Tolchard 385-0098



- **Drama Classes** – The Canvas Bag Drama School South Brighton is now taking enrolments for term 1 2023. Ask about a free trial class. Spaces available in: the 5 to 7 year old group, limited spaces in 8 to 9 year old and 10 to 11 year old group. Plus, spaces available in our teen group.
Drama gives children a chance to develop imagination and confidence in a playful social environment.
Experience leadership, comedy, improvisation, costumes, laughter, friends, and wrap it all up with a fabulous performance in term four.
All of our tutors are qualified teachers.
Classes run on Thursdays: 5 to 7 year olds 3.30; 8 to 9 year olds 4.30; 10 to 11 year olds 4.30; 12 to 16 year olds 5.30
For more information: please email info@canvasbag.nz or contact Gina Fowler 022 351 2519 or visit our website www.canvasbag.nz

*Ka kite ano,
Mark and the team at Ouruhia*

2023 Term Dates:

Term 1: Wed 1st Feb – Thur 6th April

6 Feb - Waitangi Day
23 Feb – Swimming demo at school; and family picnic
2 Mar – Y5-8 50m swim time trials at KAC
8-9 Mar – Learning Conferences/goal setting
10 Mar – Maukatere trip
22 Mar – Ferrymead trip
7 Apr – Good Friday/Easter
In term break: Easter Monday 10 April

Term 2: Mon 24th April – Fri 30th June

Mon 24 April – Teacher Only Day, Curriculum PLD
Tues 25 April - ANZAC
Mon 5 June - King's Birthday
In term break: Matariki Fri 14th July

Term 3: Mon 17th July – Fri 22nd Sept

Term 4: Mon 9th Oct – Fri 15th Dec

Mon 23 October - Labour Day
Fri 17 November - Canterbury Show Day

Getting back into routines after the holidays...

It's a good idea to think about and set up some week-day routines again after the summer break. Here are some ideas that people have found helpful...

Core aspects of structure and routine to work on:



SLEEP Get back into a set sleep routine everyday e.g. teeth, book, bed. The main thing is ensuring the **wake up time is the same every day** (this anchors the sleep/wake cycle). Also, **no** devices in bedroom from an hour prior bedtime, and no naps during the day.

MEALS Having consistent meal times is helpful. Start to return to original school day meal times for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Eat as a family at the table.



EXERCISE AND OUTDOOR ACTIVITY. Exercise is brilliant at reducing stress and anxiety, especially in green spaces. Try to get them (and you) outdoors for more than 30min every day. It will reduce stress and improve sleep as well.

FAMILY TIME / SOCIAL TIME Try to go back to, or start some new social routines e.g. regular game nights, walks, baking together, eating dinner at the table together, 'daddy-daughter time', 'mum-son time', and so on.



SCREENS (!) Negotiate clear limits and times (e.g. none in bedroom after dinner) and agree on rules to monitor what your child is doing (e.g. agree to occasionally look at browsing history or texts) .

ROUTINE 'TO DO' LISTS Create a morning routine list, or things to check off when home from school or tidying their room. Use other privileges as incentives, e.g.



"When you have done your morning to do list, you can have your phone/TV time." ... or better still, no screens... read a book or make something.

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Return Slip: (email to office@ouruhia.school.nz , or print and send paper copy to office)

School newsletters – please tick the option that best suits

- ☐ Please send home school newsletters on paper as well as emailing them
- ☐ Please just email the newsletters

Name: _____