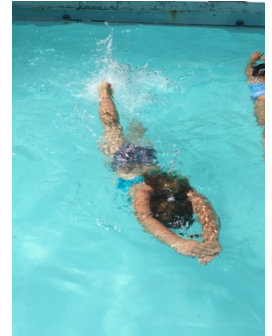




## Term 1 update...

### Swimming

Once again we are very pleased with the progress and attitude of our swimmers. Increasing numbers of swimmers are able to swim 25 and 50m in two or three strokes, and very few of our juniors lack confidence in the water. I am particularly impressed with the excellent style (head down, long streamlined body position) shown by most of our juniors. Having our own pool, the Wai-Swim lessons in November, and many parents taking up extra swimming lessons after school for their children is certainly paying off...and in NZ our water safety statistics show that we need to take swimming seriously. Well done Ouruhia!



Tracey Hickman and her team (Swim-Safe NZ) again worked with teachers poolside in Week 2 this term, and talked to staff after school about resources. Did you know that there is an excellent website to give you information about any beach you visit...weather conditions, suitability for families, fishing, surfing, safety...check "Spencer Park" out at [www.findabeach.co.nz](http://www.findabeach.co.nz)

Once again 3 of our senior students qualified for the Pegasus zone finals in Rangiora, held last week. Zoe Maguire (breaststroke), Brooklyn (freestyle and breaststroke) and Walter (breaststroke), represented us proudly, and achieved good results:

- Zoe was placed 3<sup>rd</sup> (11 yr breaststroke) and beat her Ouruhia Swimming Sports time by 5 seconds;
- Brooklyn was placed 5<sup>th</sup> in both of her events (freestyle and breaststroke) and beat her times by 1-3 seconds.
- Walter (breaststroke) was placed 3<sup>rd</sup>
- See <http://www.ncschoolsports.org.nz/> and go to Events & Results for full results and times.



Zoe and Walter have been chosen to swim in the North Canterbury finals on 23<sup>rd</sup> March against the top 3 swimmers from other zones. Good luck, and go hard!

### Cycle Safe

Year 5 & 6s completed their Cycle Safe lessons in Week 4. This excellent (free) programme had four instructors working with the children on their bikes all day on Tuesday, and the Year 6s put those skills into practice on the roads with a supervised ride to Spencerville on Wednesday. We are very grateful to the City Council for providing this programme.



(For more information see <http://www.ccc.govt.nz/transport/cycling/skills-programme/cycle-safe-programme/> )





## Voluntary help

We are very grateful to all the super-hero parents and grandparents who help at Ouruhia School.

In the last few weeks we have had someone water-blasting the swimming pool surrounds, helpers with junior reading, supervisors on the Yr 7&8 bus to Technology, and offers of transport and help on school trips and sports days.

We also have a team on roster to supervise the road crossing before school (rain and shine), people looking after the school vege garden, and a wonderful PTA and Board of Trustees who keep things chugging along in the background to support our teachers and learners...thank you all. If there is anything at all that **you** feel you can help with (...and remember nominations are open for the Board of Trustees ☺), please see Mark, Raewyn, one of the teachers, or Angela McDonald (PTA).



## Safety at the school gate

We are pleased to have new "School Zone" safety signs installed by the council. We want to encourage children to practise safe pedestrian behaviour outside the school gate. To this end could we please remind you:

- All parents are to **use the crossing** by the school gate to cross the road, even if you are parked further up the road. This way, all the children will see adults modelling safe behaviour.
- **U-turns** in cars in front of the school **block vision** for the traffic wardens, so if you have to do a u-turn, please do so further up the road.
- When parking, please keep clear of the **yellow lines** near the crossing so people using the crossing can see up and down the road.
- Children with **scooters and bikes** must **wheel these** (not ride or scoot) down the drive and on the footpath, so they and other pedestrians can remain safe from collisions.



Thank you.



## Teacher Only Day – no classes for children

On **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> April** we are having a Teacher Only Day to focus on Writing...this is the day before Good Friday and the end of Term 1, so some families may want to take advantage of the holiday weekend and have an extended break. We are very keen to look in detail at our Writing results and work out how we can motivate and extend our writers even further. Boys writing will be a particular focus, as we can see room for improvement in getting boys to love language, love books, and be skilled at thinking and recording ideas on paper. We look forward to celebrating and sharing our successes in Writing with you this year.

## Make & Create (MAC) Clubs

Once again this year we are running **MAC** (Make And Create) **clubs** on Friday afternoons... Last year we had...Recycling; Sewing; Science; Crafts & Jewellery-Making; Scooters; Electric Lighthouse/Rocket-Making; Maintenance Crew; Board Games; and Dancing/Jump Jam; Music; and Art groups. The first round will start on **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March and go until 7<sup>th</sup> April**. So far we have clubs offered for Ukulele Beginners, Technology Challenge, Cooking, and Board Games. (Term 2's clubs will have a Technology and construction challenge theme, where there will be a focus on planning the design, and how to join things and make things strong.)

Maybe you would like to share your time and skills with us for the next three weeks? We would love for you to come along and join the fun! The groups will be small and you can choose to either work with our younger children or a group from Rooms 4 and 5.

Painting? Outdoor games? Sewing? Pottery? Cross Country biking? Easter Egg making? Exercise to music? Board games? Lego construction? Orienteering? Calligraphy? Gardening? Chess?

Skateboarding? Line Dancing? Kite making? Photography?

Talk to either a classroom teacher or Raewyn in the school office if you would like to be part of this programme.

## Student learning conferences and goal setting

At the start of next term, **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May**, we have student learning conferences...a chance for parents, teachers and (particularly for Rooms 2, 4 & 5) students to talk about how things are going at school, and where we want to be by mid-year. This is an opportunity for teachers to hear from you about how your child has settled in this year and any difficulties, successes or attitude changes you have noticed at home. Teachers (and students) can also share any observations they have made during the first term at school. Two or three individual academic and social **goals (or “next steps”)** will be discussed, and these will be reported back on at mid-year. Children should also accompany their parents and participate in the goal setting and information sharing. (Research shows that when children reflect on their learning and talk about what they would like to do better, helping set goals for improved learning, they are more likely to do something about it.)

School closes at the normal time of 3.00 p.m. on these days, but we ask that parents collect their children promptly after school as teachers will be involved with meetings and not able to supervise children. The meetings run from 3.30 p.m. on both days. Please send in the attached appointment slip as soon as possible. Raewyn will send out confirmed appointment times.

## Welcome to...

- Liam Barrett, who started recently in Room 4, and
- Miss Gina Morris, student teacher from the University of Canterbury, working in Room 1

## Other Notices

**Room 1 & 2 alterations:** We are grateful to the Ministry of Education for funding an upgrade of Rooms 1 & 2...this work will take place primarily in the coming Easter holidays (although Rooms 1 & 2 will need to temporarily relocate to the Library and Room 3 on Monday to Wednesday of the last week of term to enable the builders to get started). The upgrade will cover conversion of the cloakroom space to a more open and multi-purpose learning space (by removing the adjoining walls to the classrooms); making the Boys' toilet into a unisex toilet with new basins, taps and hand driers; making the Girls' toilet into a teaching & learning/resource space; installing hot water mixers in the classrooms; and moving the bag hooks out under the walkway.

### Special programmes:

- We are pleased to have ASB Get-Wise financial literacy lessons happening at school on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March, and the Kia Kaha Police programme about relationships and anti-bullying from Week 9.

### News from the PTA:

- The PTA have paid this term for the **TV brackets** in Rooms 1, 4 & 5.
- **Special PTA events:**
  - Easter Mufti Day - Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April (bring egg in lieu of gold coin)
  - Easter Raffle Draw - Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> April (kids selling tickets at \$2)
  - Term 2 Disco - Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May
  - Term 3 Disco - Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September
- We are working on running a **Quiz Night** this winter – keep an eye out for further details.
- **Swimming Pool** project: We are currently filling out forms for charity funding for the new pool. We have contacted a builder (school Dad) to quote for covering the changing sheds and pergola area so that area is completely under cover (with skylight in places to allow for light). We are planning on holding a Pool Working Bee to get some help to tidy up the area.

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

### 2017 Term Dates:

**Term 1: Wed 1<sup>st</sup> Feb – Wed 12<sup>th</sup> April**

**Term 2: Mon 1<sup>st</sup> May – Fri 7<sup>th</sup> July**

**Term 3: Mon 24<sup>th</sup> July – Fri 29<sup>th</sup> Sept**

**Term 4: Mon 16<sup>th</sup> Oct – Wed 20<sup>th</sup> Dec**

### Important Dates:

- ❖ Thur 13<sup>th</sup> Apr: Teacher Only Day
- ❖ 14-17 Apr: Easter break (start of term break)
- ❖ Tues 2<sup>nd</sup> & Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> May: Learning conferences
- ❖ Fri 2 June: Teacher Only Day TBC (Queen's Birthday Mon 5 June)

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

**Student Learning Conferences & goal setting – Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May**

**I would like to meet my child's teacher on:**

- Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 3.30pm - 5.30pm ( )
- Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 3.30pm - 7.00pm ( )

Name(s) and Room(s) of child(ren):

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Name(s) of parent(s) and child(ren) attending:

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Priority areas and ideas for setting goals for mid-year:

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