



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

End of year notices...

Kia ora e te whānau!

The school year is rapidly coming to a close. The past two weeks have been a wonderful preparation for the school holidays with our subsidised **Wai-Swim swimming lessons**.

The instructors have been superb, working with the beginners to improve their confidence in the water, with float, glide, kick skills, and the more advanced swimmers perfecting their float line and head position, straight legged and efficient kick, breathing, smooth arm action and endurance.



Some other term highlights...

Young running champs at our Athletics Sports, Ouruhia Domain...



Our Belfast Speech Competition champs...Lily, Tarn & Charlotte. (Charlotte 2nd out of the Yr 6s)

Farewells and thanks ...

At the end of this term we will be farewelling some of our staff: some are retiring, some following new paths, some winning promotion. After many years of fairly stable staffing (teachers love it here!), we now need to say a huge thank you and best wishes to these amazing teachers:

- Teri Aylward (14 years at Ouruhia), has taught middle school and senior classes. Teri has a real gift for holistic teaching, seeing the whole individual with its interwoven threads of emotional, social and academic needs. She has a real passion for literature, poetry, character education, pastoral care and support, and kapa haka, to name but some. She has been a valued member of the Board of Trustees and also held management portfolios for Health, Digital Technology and Liaison Teacher for our Kātote Kahui Ako (Kaiapoi cluster of schools).
- Prue Harris (12 Years at Ouruhia), has taught Reading Recovery and supported our special needs children, as well as, at times, leading Literacy initiatives, relief teaching in junior and middle classes, assessing and writing student reports, being NZEI rep and assisting the whole school with playground supervision and sports days. Prue is absolutely passionate and very skilled at teaching skills for early reading.
- Judy West (2 ½ years), has taught in Team Tipu, and come to love (and excel at) this very junior level after teaching in other schools at a range of levels. She has been a wonderful leader of our PB4L (Positive Behaviour) programme, and a great support for other staff in Maths and Literacy, as well as leading our senior choir.
- Colleen Gallagher (23 years), has taught juniors and middle school classes both full-time and part-time, as the sole teacher, as a job-share, and more recently in a collaborative arrangement with a partner teacher in Team Tipu. Colleen has many strengths, not the least of which is her lovely calm, warm and kind demeanour, and ability to support and get the best from people around her. She tirelessly supports and co-ordinates our special needs programmes as SENCO, and more recently has been able to pursue professional learning in te reo Māori at Te Wānanga o Aotearoa, and completing her Masters degree at Canterbury University last year on study leave.



It is very sad for us, and a bit of a shock, to say good-bye to four of our valued colleagues all at once. They have been more than co-workers and teachers, they have been, and are, friends who have shared big chunks of our lives, including births, bereavements and marriages. Sincere thanks for all you have done for us both professionally and personally.

Tēnā rā koutou i roto i ngā mihi me te aroha nui.

So a new chapter will be starting next year for our wonderful school, our *taonga*. We will be appointing (before Christmas) a new senior class teacher with special strengths and interests in teaching the Year 6-8 level. We have found a new teacher, Julie Winton, to train in Reading Recovery next year. We have Mrs Lynne Heywood, who has taught in Team Tipu and knows the children well, teaching in Team Tipu in Term 1, and we will have a new permanent teacher with amazing skills starting there in Term 2.

2022 will look a little different from what we have been used to, but be assured, we will keep doing what we do well, and be the best we can be for our children, parents, staff and community.

End of Term ...

We are struggling to work out how we can manage our traditional end of year celebration and prize-giving under the current Covid Framework. It is just too hard with restrictions on numbers for gatherings to do what we normally do, so this is the plan for next week:

Tuesday 14th Dec 1:30pm – 3:00pm: PTA water sports afternoon. A big thank you to our wonderful PTA for organising this for our children. Helpers are all vaccinated. Any parents may attend to watch their children, but must wear masks and observe distancing protocols.

Thursday 16th Dec 2:00pm – 3:00pm: Class and individual items, Christmas songs, performances from some of our children. A musical celebration, because music makes us happy! All parents welcome...to be held outdoors at school. There is no requirement to show vaccination passports for school events like this, but we ask you to...

- scan the QR code on entry to the school grounds
- wear a mask until seated
- maintain 1-2m distance from those not in your normal bubble
- if possible, bring a fold-up chair/camp chair or similar so seating can be spaced. (We will have some school seating available.)
- enjoy the efforts by the children.

NB: *There has **not** been a lot of rehearsal for this... we are just showing some of the fun things we do at school.*

For parents who cannot attend at this time, we will be filming or live streaming the event.

Friday 17th Dec 11:00am-12:00 noon: Class awards and special cup presentations – our final assembly. This will also be held outdoors on our last day of school. Again, if parents cannot be there at that time, we will be filming the event or livestreaming it.

Following this prize-giving (around noon), we farewell our school leavers, and wish you all a safe and happy holiday. Please collect your children by 12:30 as the staff and Board will be meeting for lunch at that time and will not be available to supervise children.

Monday 20th December 6:30 pm: Yr8 night out to Court Theatre, celebrating the end of their primary schooling, and the beginning of the next stage of their education.

2022:

Thursday 3rd Feb: Children's first day back. Bring your swimming togs and a smile! Raewyn will contact you about buying stationery provisions for your child - probably on the Monday or Tuesday prior.

Thank you all for your kind wishes and support.
Stay safe, be happy, have a lovely time with friends and loved ones,
Ka kite ano,

Mark and the team at Ouruhia

**Warmest wishes
for Christmas and
the New Year
Ngā mihi o te wā
me te Tau Hou**

2022 Term Dates:

Term 1: Thur 3rd Feb – Thur 14th April

Public holidays: Waitangi Day: Mon 7 Feb
Good Friday 15 April

In term break: Easter Monday 18 April
ANZAC – Mon 25th April

Term 2: Mon 2nd May – Fri 8th July

Teacher Only Day?: Fri 3rd June TBC
Queen's Birthday Monday 6th June
Matariki Friday 24th June

Term 3: Mon 25th July – Fri 30th Sept

Term 4: Mon 17th Oct – Fri 16th Dec

Labour Day Monday 24th October
Canterbury Show Day Friday 11th November