



Ormond School Newsletter

24th October 2025
Week 3 Term 4

Kia ora Ormond School Whānau,

One of our goals this year was to develop our inquiry learning model to have a positive impact on our students' learning. Our teachers have worked incredibly hard on this kaupapa – and we have made significant progress – an exciting space as we move forward into 2026. Examples of inquiry learning this year have been our Health and Hauora focus in T1, our environmental focus in T2 & T3, and our community focus this term. Please note that our inquiry learning sits alongside our focus on building and delivering effective and rigorous literacy and numeracy programs.

At its heart, inquiry-based learning is about asking questions, exploring ideas, and constructing knowledge through active investigation. It's a dynamic cycle that encourages students to become detectives in their own learning journey, moving beyond rote memorisation.

Here is the powerful cycle of inquiry we use with our students:

- **IGNITE:** It begins when we become excited and curious about the big ideas in an inquiry.
- **EXPLORE:** We ask questions and research different ideas and perspectives.
- **SORT:** We pull ideas together and think critically to organize our findings.
- **USE:** We apply our knowledge to answer our questions, deciding if we need to find out more information.
- **CREATE:** We work with others to take action and/or make or create something.
- **CELEBRATE:** We share our learning and hear how other people have answered the question.
- **REFLECTION:** We think about how we are growing as inquirers through consistent reflection across all the stages.

The benefits of this approach are well documented. Inquiry learning leads to a deepened understanding and retention of concepts because students actively pursue answers to their own questions, making the learning truly "stick." This process intrinsically cultivates critical thinking skills such as analysis, evaluation, and problem-solving, abilities crucial for lifelong success. Furthermore, when learning is driven by curiosity and choice, it fosters intrinsic motivation, transforming education from a task into an exciting exploration and encouraging students to be self-directed and passionate. Through the investigation process, students naturally build strong research and communication skills as they gather reliable information, organize their thoughts, and effectively share their findings with others.

Leading educational research consistently highlights the efficacy of inquiry-based methods, emphasizing the importance of active experience in learning. Research continues to demonstrate that inquiry approaches lead to significant gains in conceptual understanding, problem-solving abilities, and student engagement compared to isolated instruction. When students are empowered to ask "why?" and "how?", their brains are actively building connections, leading to deeper cognitive processing and deep learning.

We are looking forward to sharing our T4 learning with all of you as we progress towards the end of the school year.

Have a great long weekend!

Shane Hooks
(Tumuaki / Principal)

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Growing Great People – Te Whakatipu Tangata



Ormond School F.L.A.X Awards



KOWHAI

With Koka Sophie being away today.... we will catch up on Kowhai's certificate next week!



SAM

Sam, we have seen your confidence in our swimming lessons grow so much this week. At the start of the week, you weren't sure about hopping in, but by Wednesday's lesson, you felt confident to duck under and you were practising the freestyle skills. It was so lovely to see how proud you were of your success. Keep up your positive attitude Sam, you are a Powerful Learner Superhero, tino pai rawa atu!



BELLA

Bella you have grown in confidence and it was so good to see you come back from your Aurora Day with such great artwork that you had completed. This was just another time where you shine with the presentation of your learning. You take time to make sure your writing is neat and tidy so that it is easy for others to read. You have high standards and this is what Powerful Ormond School learners have. Keep up the great standards you have Bella. Ka mau te wehi, AWESOME work!



NINA

Nina, this week you have demonstrated outstanding focus and determination. You show great maturity by jumping straight back into your learning after being out of class for different activities. You also have a fantastic growth mindset, always willing to dive into the 'learning pit' to tackle difficult things. I've been especially impressed with the huge effort you've put in during swimming lessons, even on those chilly days! I am also very proud of the hard work you have put into developing your poetry writing and presentation skills. Mauri mahi, mauri ora!

TIDY KIWI – WEEK 3

RIMU

HOUSE POINTS:

1st: **Horouta & Takitimu**

2nd: **Ahititi**

3rd: **Waipaoa**



Te Ako Mahi

Learning in Action

SWIMMING LESSONS

We are very fortunate to have Toni Durston, an experienced swimming coach with many years of teaching under her belt, join us for five weeks. Toni is working with our tamariki, helping them build confidence in the water while teaching essential swimming skills and basic water safety. Her passion and expertise are already making a splash, and our students are loving the opportunity to learn from her. Ka pai, Toni we're so lucky to have you with us!



Growing Great People – Te Whakatipu Tangata



Marautanga Taapiri

Extra-Curricular

Inter School Touch Tournament & Aurora Art Workshop

Our Year 5 & 6 Touch team had a fantastic day out on the field, showing great perseverance, teamwork, and sportsmanship throughout the day. Whether they were making strong plays or cheering each other on, every student gave it their all. It was a wonderful day filled with determination, growth, and lots of fun. Well done, team we're proud of you!

Meanwhile, we also had our young artists attending the Arts Aurora workshop a creative and inspiring experience for our students. Molly and Bella represented our school wonderfully, getting involved in hands-on activities and having a great time exploring their artistic talents.





Ngā Panui Nui

Notices & Updates

KEY DATES TERM 4

- 29th October: Ormond School Athletics
- 30th October: Halloween Disco
- 4th November: Inter School Athletics
- 5th November: School Photos
- 11th November – Kapa Haka Festival – Ormond 1:15pm start.
- 18th November: Year 6 Intermediate Visits
- 27th November: Music Performance
- 1st–5th December: Year 5 & 6 Home Camp
- 8th December: BOT Meeting
- 11th December: Year 6 Leavers Dinner
- 12th December: Prize Giving
- 15th December Kiwa Pools Day
- 16th December: Last Day / Water Fun day

Note: Depending on circumstances we may not attend all events. Dates are subject to change.

STARTING AT ORMOND

If you have a child ready to start school, or know someone that does – we would love the opportunity to sit down and have a chat about what our amazing kura has to offer and how we dedicated to achieving our vision of "Growing Great People".

Please contact our office to make an appointment, or pop in when you can.

IMPORTANT NOTICES / EVENTS

Measles

Please see the information below from the National Public Health Service | Tairāwhiti

We now have confirmed cases of measles in NZ with no known link travel, telling us that there is undetected spread of the virus, so let's be prepared for it if it comes here so we can keep our community, especially our most vulnerable whānau, protected.

Tairāwhiti has low immunisation rates, which puts our community, especially young pēpi and hapū māmā who can't yet be vaccinated, at serious risk.

This information isn't about making families immunise their children, that choice is each individual's families to make – and that choice must be respected. This information is simply to provide insight, so that our Tairāwhiti community is aware.

If you wish to explore immunisation, MMR vaccinations are available locally:

Kowhai House (295 Palmerston Rd) – Well Child nurses provide MMR and other vaccines, Mon–Fri 9am–4pm, late night Wed until 6pm. Walk-ins welcome.

Sean Shivnan Pharmacy – Offers MMR for those aged 3 years and over. Book online at bookmyvaccine.health.nz.

Growing Great People – Te Whakatipu Tangata



Ngā Panui Nui

Notices & Updates

IMPORTANT NOTICES / EVENTS

SWIMMING TOGS & TOWEL AND SUN HATS

Swimming Togs, Towel & School Hat Every Day!

A quick reminder to please make sure tamariki bring their swimming togs and towel every day this term, Also, with the warmer weather, it's important that every child brings their wide-brimmed hat each day to stay sun safe. they can bring their own or there are School Hats available at the office for \$25 each. please make sure hats are named
Ngā mihi!

SCHOOL LUNCHES

We've noticed that some students are eating most or all of their lunch during morning tea, leaving them with little or nothing for lunchtime. This can make it harder for them to stay focused and energised throughout the afternoon.

Please take a moment to chat with your child about saving part of their lunch for lunchtime, and consider packing a little extra if they're coming home hungry or seem to need more during the day. Thank you for your support in helping keep our tamariki fuelled and ready to learn!

MIDWAY SLSC NIPPERS 2025 AGES 4-13

SUNDAY 2 NOV 10AM

CLUB OPEN DAY
COME & CHECK OUT
BEING A MIDWAY
SLSC MEMBER

EVERYONE
WELCOME

<https://midwaysurf.org.nz/nippers-junior-surf>

Surf Life Saving New Zealand logo and Midway SLSC logo (EST. 1982)



Ngā Panui Nui

Notices & Updates





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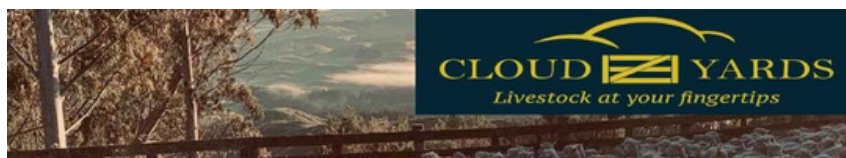
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