

O.V.S Newsletter

“
'Ka Tupu Kotahi Ai Tātou
...Together we Grow
”

ŌTAIKA VALLEY SCHOOL TERM 3 WEEK 6 2026 Issue #09

Kia ora OVSwhānau

What a glorious burst of sunshine we've had! It has been great seeing our tamariki out enjoying the warm weather, burning off energy, and making the most of a few unexpected bright, sunny days.

While the sunshine has been a very welcome guest, winter illnesses have also tried to stick around. We've had a fair bit of sickness across the school recently, so as a gentle reminder, we've re-included the influenza information from our last newsletter further down. Thank you so much for your support in keeping our unwell learners home to rest and recharge!

On a super exciting note, our Student Council has a major announcement! Starting this term, OVS is officially launching our brand new Whānau / House groups! Make sure to check out the Student Council's section below for some of the initial fun details.

Finally, a quick date for your diary: if you have a child moving into Year 7 or 8 next year, our Intermediate Years Open Evening for 2027 students will be held on Wednesday, 9th September. We'd love to see you there to share all the fantastic opportunities coming up for your senior tamariki!

Have a fantastic weekend ahead, stay warm, and take care!

Ngā mihi nui,
Rick Sayer
Tumuaki/Principal

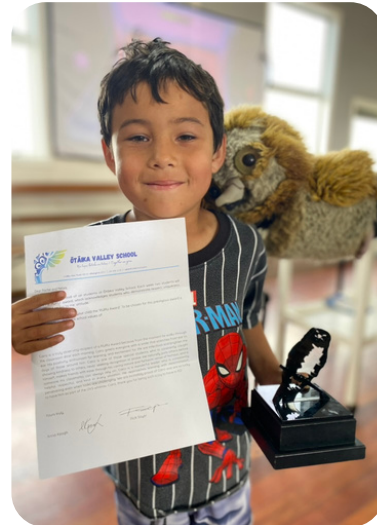
R.U.R.U AWARDS

Every fortnight at assembly we celebrate our super OVS students, and this week's 'shout out' is to say a huge congratulations to our R.U.R.U award winners over the last 2 weeks.

Senior RURU: Annabelle



Junior RURU: Jamie & Cairo



If you need any help feel free to contact us.



admin@otaika.school.nz



09 432 2731



Ruru RockStar!

Class Attendance Award

Each fortnight at assembly we are acknowledging the class with the best attendance for the week...and they win the 'Ruru Rockstar' Award.

The last 2 weeks' winner is (drum roll please...)



Year 7 OVS Netball Finals

A huge shout out to our **OVS Velocity** netball team. First year playing in the year 7&8 comp and they made the finals. Message from the couch..."and that's a wrap for the season, we tied 14-14 & had to go into overtime **for over 10minutes** till Otamatea finally got the required 2 above score, but not without a massive, massive back & forth fight . What an amazing team these kids are, they should all be so proud to claim 2nd and to make such a significant improvement on their last score when they first played this team, just under 2 months ago. A special thank you so so much to all of our extra supporters today, it meant so much to have you all there cheering us on, hope you enjoyed the show! **We are proud of you all!**



OVS Intermediate Years Year 7 & 8 2027 Open Evening

This evening will be held on **Thursday the 9th of September @ 5.30 pm.**

It is for all year 6 students and whanau who are interested in our year 7 & 8 programme here at OVS for 2027. ..and the amazing Academic, Leadership and Sporting opportunities on offer...Don't miss it!

Student Council Spot

OVS whānau /Houses

Get ready, because something huge and super exciting is coming to our school!

Aligned with our OVS vision—**Ka Tupu Kotahi ai Tātou – Together We Grow**—the student council are officially introducing our brand-new OVS Whānau Houses!

Just like the mighty trees of Aotearoa, each of our four Whānau Houses represents a different way we can grow together as a school community. Students will be sorted into your new Whānau House soon, so let's meet the leafy team lineup:

Kauri – Blue

- Motto: Together we grow stronger.
- What it means: Kauri represents strength, endurance, and standing tall through any challenge. Just as the Kauri grows slowly and steadily over time, students in Kauri show resilience by persevering, learning from their mistakes, and supporting others when the going gets tough.

Kōwhai – Yellow

- Motto: Together we grow by valuing who we are.
- What it means: Kōwhai celebrates individuality and bright new beginnings. Its vibrant yellow flowers remind us that every single learner brings something special to our kura. Kōwhai students embrace who they are, celebrate differences, and let their unique strengths shine.

Rimu – Red

- Motto: Together we grow through respect.
- What it means: The Rimu thrives deep in diverse forest communities, growing happily alongside others. This house reflects respect for people, place, and learning. Rimu students show respect through kindness, cooperation, listening to others, and taking care of our environment and school.

Tōtara – Green

- Motto: Together we grow when we take responsibility.
- What it means: Tōtara symbolises leadership, responsibility, and kaitiakitanga (guardianship). Students in Tōtara are encouraged to take ownership of their learning and actions, show initiative, and lead by example—knowing that their everyday choices truly matter.

Keep your eyes and ears open for more details on our whanau house event planned for this term and our Whanau House Logo art competition.

Which Whānau House will you be in? Which house will win at the end of the year? Let's get ready to grow together!

The Blossom Bunch Garden Club

Winter might be a quiet time for the garden, but the Blossom Bunch have still been busy! After our mahi with **Te Wao Puawai** was complete, we turned our attention back to our attempts to grow some native plants from seed. For the past few months, our seedlings have been slowly sprouting in our plastic-box green houses. We have grown manuka, harakeke, and pohutukawa! It's now time to plant them out into individual cells, so they have room to grow without their roots being tangled.



The Bookworms Book Club



We are having so much fun in our book club! Our book for the term is '**Wonder**', by **R J Palacio**. I've been so impressed by the thoughtful, insightful discussions our bookworms have been having, and the way in which they are able to respectfully disagree and discuss different points of view.
(Whaea Nat)



Ag Day Update!

Date Reminder: Friday 23 October

Ag Day is closing in fast and the lambs are arriving at school!



Ōtaika Valley School Ag Day
- SAVE THE DATE -
23 October 2026



CHICKENS



LAMBS



CALVES

Break out your aprons and prepare the piping bags, the Great OVS Bake Off is back and the coveted Ceremonial Spoon is up for grabs!

Please bring your cake creation to the Tui Room between 8 and 9am on Ag Day morning for judging. A 'taster' slice should be provided so your cake can be judged on all its merits!

Please include a note that states what kind of cake you've made, and any key nutrition information (e.g. GF/vegan). You may like to include a story if your cake has an elaborate theme to share! All cakes will be auctioned at the end of the day, with proceeds going to the PTA.

Ag Day info...

Ag day animals must be born on or after the 1st of July. This year, in addition to the traditional lambs, calves, and goats, students will be able to raise and show chickens! For all the details, please visit our school Ag Day site.

**Ag Day Site - CLICK
HERE**



Valley View Road Reinstatement – Mill and Fill

We have been advised that road reinstatement will be carried out on Valley View Rd. It will commence on Tuesday 15th of September and should be completed by 5am the following morning. Road lanes will be under stop and go during this time.



Influenza A – is doing the rounds at OVS ...what you need to know!

Influenza A is a contagious viral infection that attacks your respiratory system, including your nose, throat, and lungs. It is the most common and aggressive type of seasonal flu, capable of infecting both humans and animals, and is the only flu type known to cause global pandemics.

Symptoms and Spread

- Common signs: Sudden high fever, chills, cough, sore throat, muscle aches, and extreme tiredness.
- Transmission: Spreads easily through tiny droplets in the air when sick people cough, sneeze, or talk.
- Impact: Can range from mild illness to severe, life-threatening complications, especially in older adults, young children, and people with health issues.

Why It Is Unique

- Rapid changes: The virus changes its surface proteins quickly, which means a new flu shot is needed every year.

Rest and hydration are the most important steps to recover from Influenza A. Because it is a viral infection, antibiotics will not work against it.

Essential At-Home Care

- Prioritise sleep: Stay home from work or school to let your body channel energy into fighting the virus.
- Drink constantly: Sip water, clear broths, or electrolyte drinks to replace fluids lost from sweating and fever. Avoid alcohol and caffeine.
- Relieve aches: Take paracetamol or ibuprofen to lower your temperature and soothe body aches. Always read the labels carefully.
- Soothe your throat: Gargle with warm salt water or drink warm water mixed with honey and lemon.
- Clear your airways: Use a cool-mist humidifier, take a steamy shower, or use saline nasal sprays to relieve chest and sinus congestion.
- Eat lightly: Stick to simple, easy-to-digest foods like soup, toast, or crackers when you feel hungry.

Safety Warnings

- Avoid aspirin for youth: Never give aspirin to children or teenagers recovering from flu symptoms due to the risk of Reye's syndrome, a rare but fatal condition.
- Check combined medicines: Many over-the-counter cold and flu remedies contain paracetamol. Check labels closely so you do not accidentally take a double dose.
- Limit nasal sprays: Do not use medicated decongestant nasal sprays for more than three to four days to avoid worsening your congestion.

Year 7 Creative Design

Our year 7 students are now doing **CREATIVE DESIGN** at Manaia Tech Centre. Check out some of the great projects from ideations - to design to PMI's and of course the awesome results!

CREATIVE DESIGN IDEATION

BRAINSTORM: Create a mindmap with lots of ideas for your project

STUDENT NAME: Sophia

STAKEHOLDER: little sister

	Plus	Minus	Interesting
DESIGN 1	She likes butterflies	I've already done a butterfly on a smaller one	
DESIGN 2	That's her name - she likes butterflies that big - out of it	there are butterflies coming out of it	
DESIGN 3	she likes hearts - they are cool	there's a big one & a small one -	

DESIGN IDEATION: Create three different design sketches and list their PMI's (Plus, Minus, Interesting)

DESIGN 1

DESIGN 2



PHYSICAL & FUNCTIONAL ATTRIBUTES

WHAT MAKES A PRODUCT GREAT?

PHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES

These are the things you can SEE or FEEL about a product.

- Shape
- Size
- Colour
- Texture
- Materials
- Weight

Think: What does it look like? What is it made from?

FUNCTIONAL ATTRIBUTES

These describe what the product DOES and how well it works.

- Strong
- Waterproof
- Comfortable
- Safe
- Easy to use
- Durable

Think: What job does it do?

2 INVESTIGATE A PRODUCT!

Choose a product you use everyday at school.

My product is: tape cutter

PHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES

List at least 5.

1. black
2. spiky
3. big
4. length
5. plastic

FUNCTIONAL ATTRIBUTES

List at least 5.

1. holds tape
2. makes tape easier
3. cuts tape
4. so it can roll
5. can stand

IMPROVE THE DESIGN!

Choose one thing you would improve about your product.

What would you change?
make it black & spiky

Explain why your change would make the product better.
it would be easier to use

Would it improve in:
☐ Physical attribute
☐ Functional attribute

REFLECTION - TICK THE BOX

I can:

- ☐ Identify physical attributes
- ☐ Identify functional attributes
- ☐ Explain the difference
- ☐ Apply this to my own designs

EXIT TICKET

In one sentence, explain the difference between a physical attribute and a functional attribute.
physical is what it looks like & functional is what it does



PTA Update

Kia ora All,

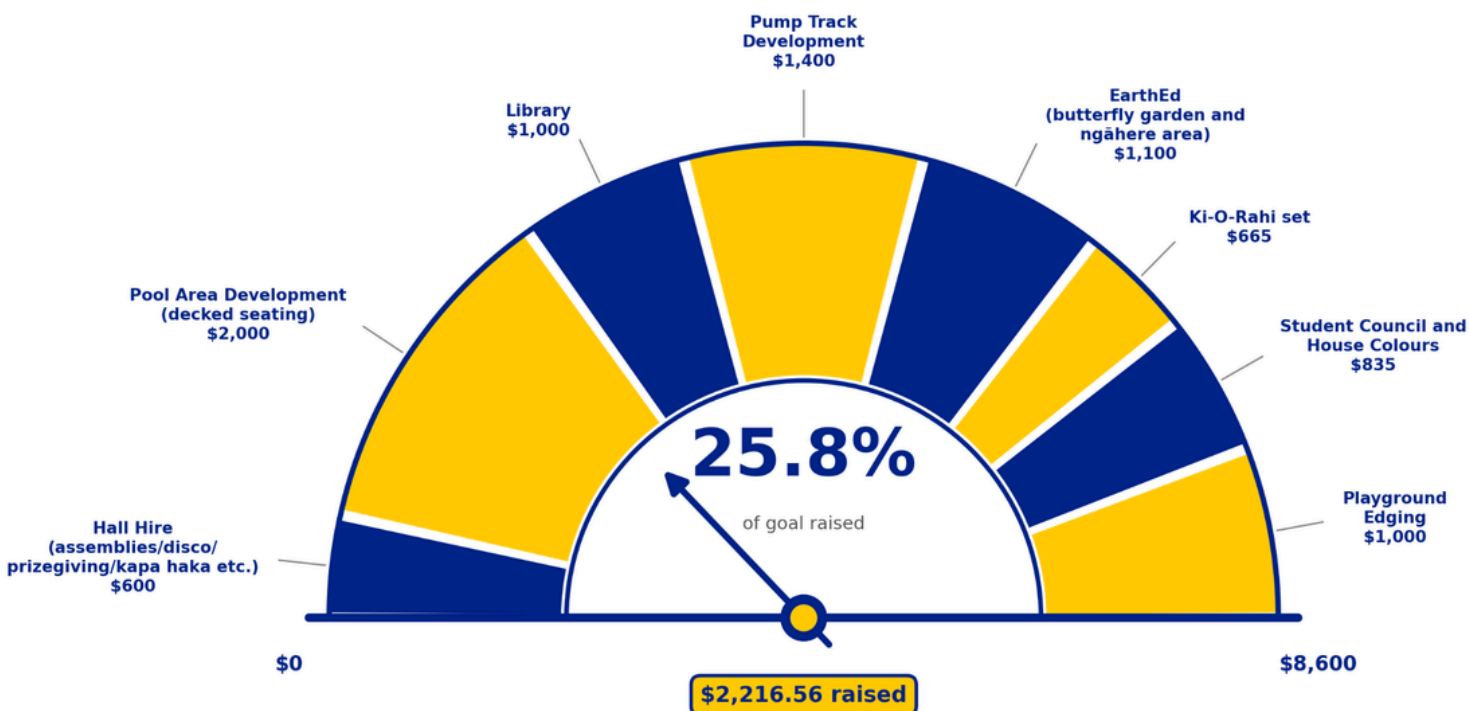
We have two big events coming up - a rock themed disco on the 17th of September and Ag Day on the 23rd October. Keep an eye out for more info coming soon!

We will be needing volunteers for both events, as well as baking for disco and baking and other ingredients for Ag Day. Please get in touch if you can help. pta@otaika.school.nz

We'd like to give a big thank you to Country Taste who have donated 50 sausages for our Ag Day.

PTA Fundraising Target

Help us reach our \$8,600 goal — every dollar counts!



OVS Term Dates

Terms	Start	Finish
Term 1:	Wed, 4 Feb	Thurs, 2 April
Term 2:	Mon, 20 April	Fri, 3 July
Term 3:	Mon, 20 July	Fri, 25 Sept
term 4:	Mon, 12 Oct	Thurs, 17 Dec

Whats on this term?

- 24 Aug - Year 7 Puberty Programme
- 27 Aug - Year 5&6 Puberty Programme
- 2 Sept - Barge Park X-Country
- 9 Sept - Year 7&8 Open Evening 2027
- 11 Sept - Waiata Wānanga Day
- 17 Sept - School Disco
- 14-18 Sept - Māori Language Week
- 21-25 Sept - Multicultural Week
- 25 Sept - Term 3 finishes

If you need any help feel free to contact us.



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