O.V.S Newsletter

Ka Tupu Kotahi Ai Tātou
...Together we Grow

ŌTAIKA VALLEY SCHOOL TERM 4 - WEEK 7 2026 Issue #13

Kia ora OVSwhānau,

Welcome to our second-to-last newsletter for the year...and wow where has 2026 gone?
As we head into the last 3 weeks, we still have a very busy finish to our term Please note the reminder that next week's beach day has been cancelled (with our Splash Clash fun day taking its place instead). Please also check out page 2 for some important staff announcements.
With the weather warming up, next week we will also be putting out a Hero post about school **pool use for whānau** over the summer break. We also look forward to seeing you all at our Whiria ngā Tangata evening on the 10th.

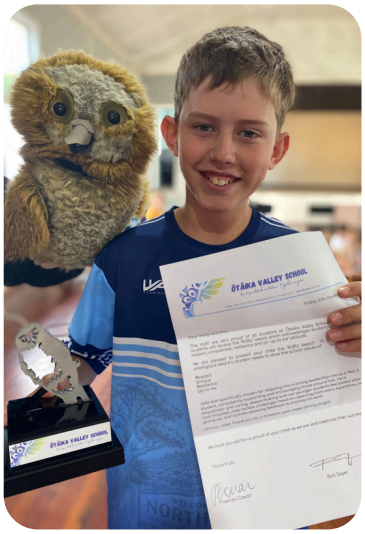
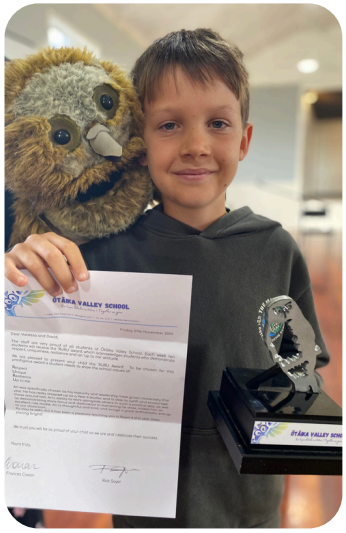
Ngā mihi nui,

The OVS Team

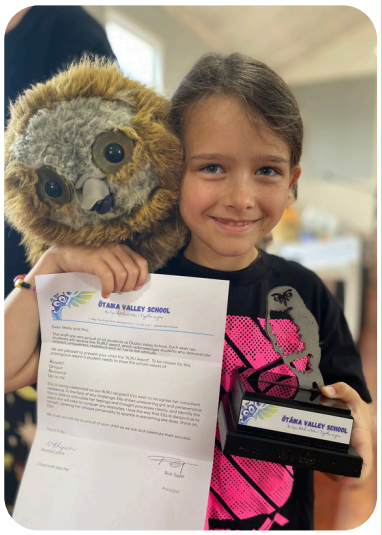
R.U.R.U AWARDS

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 .

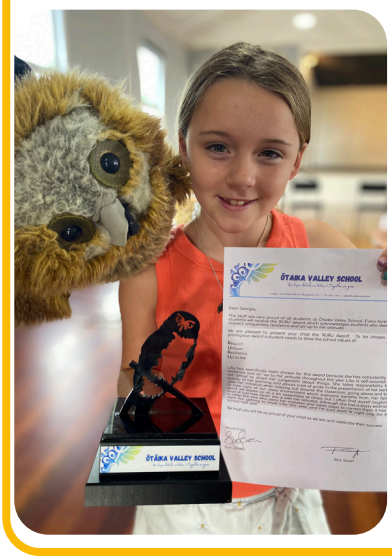
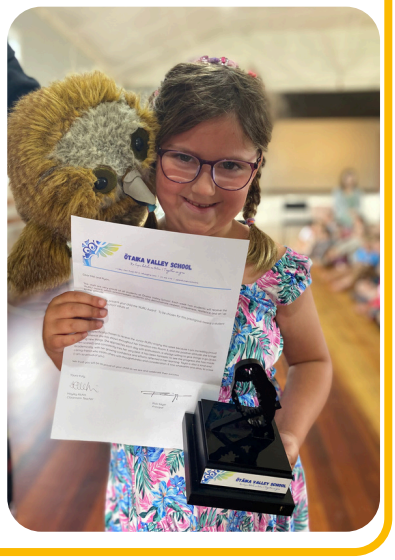
Senior RURU: Jake & Ari

Senior RURU: Amalia & Ella

Junior RURU: Liby & Tayla &

Whiria Ngā Tangata

Join us to see out the school year with a celebration of culture and creativity! Ngā Kahukura Kōwhai, Tau Fiti Hula and our school band will take the stage, and students will strut their stuff to show off their amazing wearable arts creations inspired by ngā atua Māori. We will also farewell Darcie. Bring a blanket, a picnic, and sing along with us!

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.

ROOM 3

Drum roll please , this weeks winner ...

STAFF SPOT...

Farewell Darcie...



It is with heavy hearts that we share that our librarian, te reo Māori teacher, Kapa Haka legend, and Hula hero, Darcie, will be leaving OVS at the end of the year. While she will be sorely missed, we are extremely grateful for all of the magic she has gifted to our tamariki over her years here.

We will farewell Darcie as part of our **Whiria Ngā Tangata Event** on the **10th of December.** If you wish to, whānau are invited to bring along a note, card, or picture to be collected during the event and gifted to Darcie to treasure.

New OVS Staff 2027

OVS is pleased to inform our community of the appointment of two new teachers to our team for 2027.

Whaea Tania will be joining us and teaching in the senior team, and Wahea Alisha will be joining us in the junior team. We extend them a very warm OVS welcome to them both.

BEACH DAY CANCELLED - SPLASH CLASH INSTEAD!

Sadly we have had to cancel our upcoming beach day. Unfortunately we were well short of meeting the adult-to-student ratios required to keep our tamariki safe around the water—and with bus payments needing to be confirmed —going ahead was simply not possible. We are all disappointed at missing out on this end-of-year trip to the beach however we are excited to pivot to something awesome!

To make sure our tamariki still have a memorable day (and still get very wet) we are running a fun Splash Clash day next Friday right here at OVS instead. Replacing the scheduled beach day, it will feature a rotation of fun water-based activities, plus a free sausage sizzle and iceblocks for all students at no cost to whānau.

We are grateful to the parents who were able to offer their time and help. We also completely understand the squeeze of petrol costs and busy end-of-year commitments, and we thank you for your ongoing support of our kura and tamariki.

Watch this space early next week for the Splash Clash schedule and what your child should bring along for the fun.

OVS Enrolment Scheme

Kia ora OVS school whānau,
The BOT would like to of remind everyone that the Ministry of Education consultation for whānau feedback is still open - **2 November to 12 December**.
Please find the ' LINK' below. This link is live.
Otaika Valley School proposed enrolment scheme - Ministry of Education
All relevant information should be included through this link .
In the interim, if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the school.

SPOOKY CAR SHOW – Thank you!

A huge thank you to everyone who attended our Spooky Car Show! We were able to raise around $3000 for our kapa haka and hula groups. A special thanks must go to the following sponsors and supporters, who helped to make this event such as success:

- Otaika Valley Eggs
- Natures Ki
- Guyco
- Trent & Carrie Ashurst, SMW Limited
- The Dhamaraj family
- Coastal Grind
- Parent helpers who handled the bake sale, barbecue, marshalling, face painting
- Frances and Darcie for their organisational expertise

An extra special thanks to Vanessa and David Graham, who made this event happen with all their car show knowledge and connections.







Student Librarian Celebration

Our student librarians handle lots of the day-to-day admin for the library, such as scanning and shelving books, and keeping things tidy- and they do this all in their breaks! For all their efforts throughout the year, we wanted to celebrate them with a special event. Bella, Isla, Bree, Ruby, Kate, Jake and Liam headed into town with Darcie and Whaea Nat to complete the World Children's Day Treasure Hunt, organised by the Whangārei Library and Hundertwasser Art Centre. We wound our way from the town basin to the library, spotting different features throughout the journey. When we got to the library, we spent some time exploring. The history and genealogy sections were our favourites, especially finding origins and meanings of our last names. From the library, we meandered back to Bocky Boo for a sweet treat to conclude our adventure.

P.S. The World Children's Day Treasure Hunt is on until the 30th of November, and is free to do. A great weekend activity!









Student Writing spot

Room 7 have been working on their recount writing and have shared some great writing with us this week.The first two pieces are about our recent Whanau House Competition - **The Great OVS Long-ball Comp**! and the last a **complete change of perspective!**

The long-ball comp - by ANABELLE Rm 7

It was Totara vs Kauri. As someone who was in Kauri, I was pretty scared! Totara won against Rimu. From what I knew, Rimu was a very strong team. If Totara beat Rimu that must have meant Totara was even a stronger team! Me and River made our way to the sports field. Mr. Sayer was standing kinda proudly in front of the goal posts.

"Now, River and Ella paper scissors rock! Whoever wins their team starts batting first." His voice ECHOING through the field. River was on Kauri's team and Ella was on Totara's team. It was all up to PAPER SCISSORS ROCK. A children's game that determines who is batting. Batting is like the key to winning long ball; whoever ended up winning paper scissors rock was likely going to win.

"Paper scissors rock!" They both cheered.
Ella picked scissors and River picked rock. To my surprise, River won!
"YES, River!" Someone called out.
I highfived River and both of the teams got into position.
Jake was up first. He grabbed the bat and hit the ball to the ground as the bowler threw it to him.
"To the ground!" I reminded him.
Perfectly, he hit it to the ground and took the risk to make a homerun. With speed, Jake ran to the end of the field without getting hit.
"Come on!"
"YOU got this!"
Everyone cheered for him as he made his way back.
"Make it a home run!" River called.

I sighed with relief as he made it back. A perfect home run. A few other people batted. Some made a home run and some only made it to the other side of the field. Adrenaline rushed though me each and every step I got closer to batting. Fast forward, it was my turn to bat. We were already winning so if I made just a LITTLE mistake it would not matter.

I grabbed the bat and braced myself.
"To the GROUND-"
"Shush, I KNOW" I called out as I heard that stupid phrase.
I hit it to the ground and took the risk to make a homerun...
"GET HERRRRR"
Just please be quiet, I thought to myself. On the bright side, I heard my team giving me all types of support. Showing sportsmanship and having a supportive team was all that I cared about. Somehow but with pride, I came back with a homerun. YAYYYY! Good job Ananbelle! Self love is the best!

EVERYTHING was going great! UNTIL..... River got hit by the ball.
"NO! NO! NOOOO!" Leo shouted.
We all ran to the field and tried our best to hit someone before they all vanished!

The long-ball comp - by SOPHIA Rm 7

On Thursday, there was a great long ball competition. It was originally supposed to be on Tuesday, but due to the weather it got postponed. Then the next day after that it was way too rainy so it got postponed again. By the time it got to Thursday I had no hope , I was expecting it to be postponed but it went along. So when the bell rang I popped on my tutu and headed to the field. I knew this was going to be intense given that everyone is so competitive. Mr Sayer said that it was kowai vs kauri first.
I was very nervous because I had only played long ball once before this so I didn't really know the game that well.

Mr Sayer asked one of the house captains from each team to come and pick a hand. It depended on if you started with fielding or batting. Personally, I like batting way more! Sadly, we chose the side that meant we were fielding first. Mr Sayer had stated that we could only have 12 people playing the game. Luckily, we had just the right amount of players. We headed off to the field. Mr Sayer blew the whistle and the game started. The aim of the game was to get as many homeruns as possible. To get homeruns you line up to bat, then once it's your turn you hit the ball and run to either side of the field.(the field was lined with cones). Then you choose when you want to run. Once you decide to run you have to run to the other end of the field to be safe. Meanwhile the opposing team's job is to try and hit you while you are running. Here is the catch, you cannot run with the ball. But to get a homerun you have to run there and back without getting hit. If you get hit you immediately grab the ball and try to hit the opposing team while they run and line up. Once they get past the cones they are safe and you cannot hit them.

Since we were playing in our break times, we only had thirty minutes to play. My team was doing pretty well, but it was no match for kauri. Kauri were so good and fast that we spent most of our time fielding. Which meant we had barely any homeruns. Because you can't get any homeruns when you're fielding. My hands were shaking. We had been playing for quite a while so I knew we didn't have much time. I started going all out. Pushing myself to try harder. "Ring,ring" The bell rang. Mr Sayer called everyone in. Me and my team all huddled. We put our hands in and cheered. Once we had finished cheering we lined up to high five the other team. Then we went back to our spots to find out the final score. Kauri had won. Even though my team lost I was still happy for my friends.

The Barrel Race- by IVY Rm 7

I jolted into a canter in a matter of milliseconds, it seemed not even my pet human could comprehend how fast I could be when I WANTED to be; her subtle cues making me eagerly edge closer to the weirdly generic blue barrel. 50 feet, 45 feet, 30 feet. My pet was starting to breathe heavily–clearly stunned by my speedy gaits–her tension rising as we reached the first barrel; 10 feet, 5 feet, 0 feet; suddenly we drifted around ...the barrel, muscle memory kicking, and I KNEW what we were doing...

Pricking my ears, I elegantly flew past the first barrel; 60 feet, 55 feet, 50 feet. My pet human, Ivy, loosened her tension and let me take all control, my flaxen mane whipping her face as I edged into a gallop. 30 feet, 25 feet, 20 feet. My pet's tension starting rising noticeably; 10 feet, 5 feet, 0 feet; Suddenly we were at it again, flying anti–clockwise around a different, slightly more weathered barrel, as it had a decently large hole with orangy–red accents, and I gathered it was rust, and suddenly, I started to stare at the barrel too intensely, and knocked it with my nose...

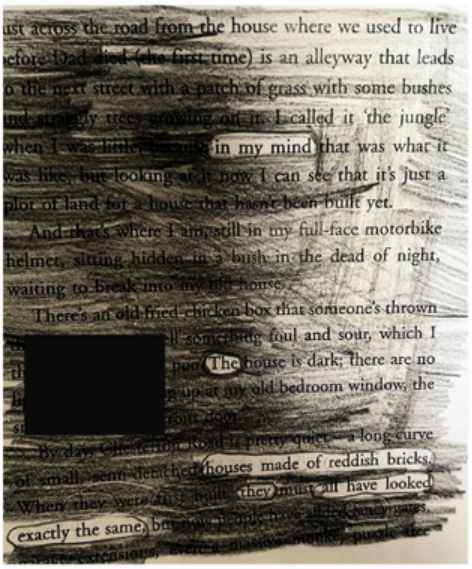
Ivy let out a sudden grunt of pure anger and frustration; the barrel whirling around in my head as well as the dry, sandy arena, my tension finally on par with Ivy's, and I closed my eyes expecting the worst...
Opening my eyes, expecting the sting of the classic kids whip– pink, sparkly and star shaped– to be penetrating my chestnut coat, but what I really saw deceived me... The same generic blue barrel, standing straighter than and sturdier than a chair.
By the time I had finished my lingering and repetitive thoughts, it was time for the third, and the last, barrel... This time it was a metal, red, and VERY rusty barrel with multiple large, jagged holes. We circled around the barrel in what felt like milliseconds, hooves pounding rhythmically against the sand to reach the final stretch...

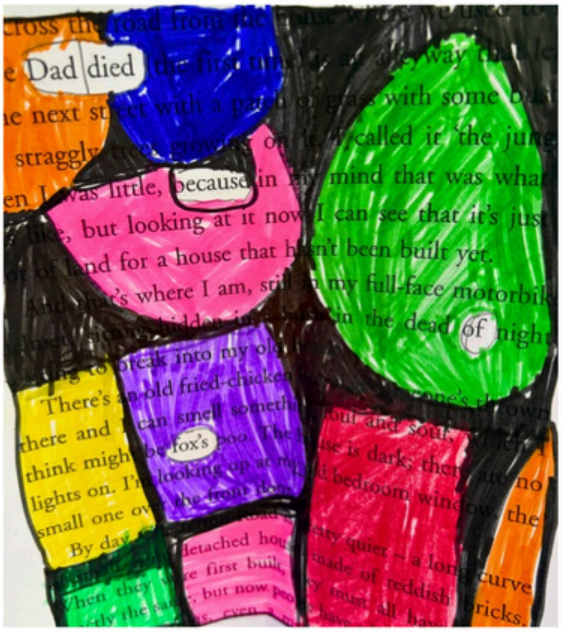
What's on in Room 5?

Room 5 have been busy bees, taking on the challenge of becoming 'draft' members of Club Toitoi! We are exploring the intersection of language and art, making poems, creating galleries, and looking for the interesting amongst the every day things that get overlooked!



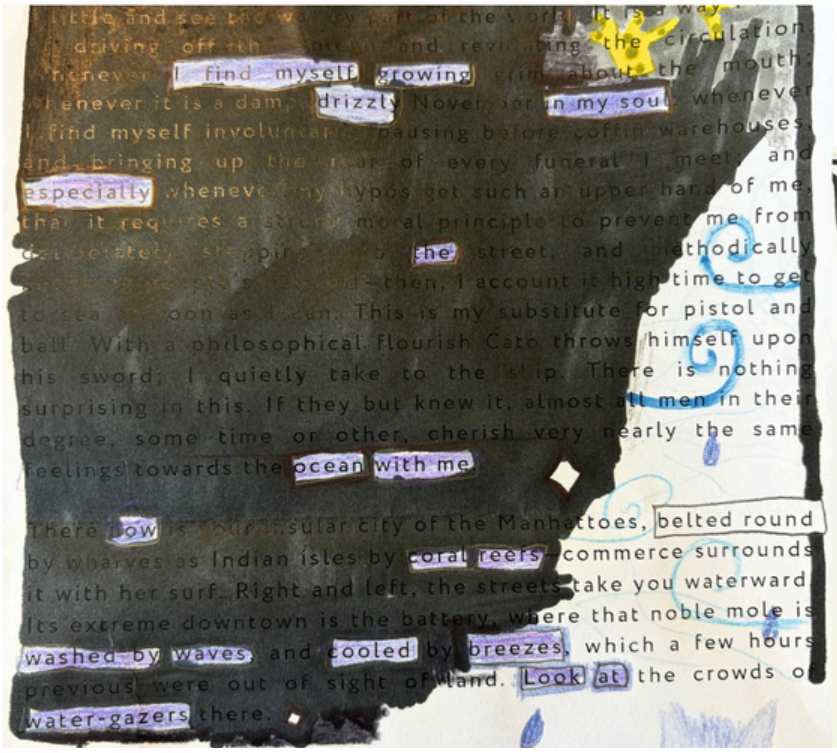


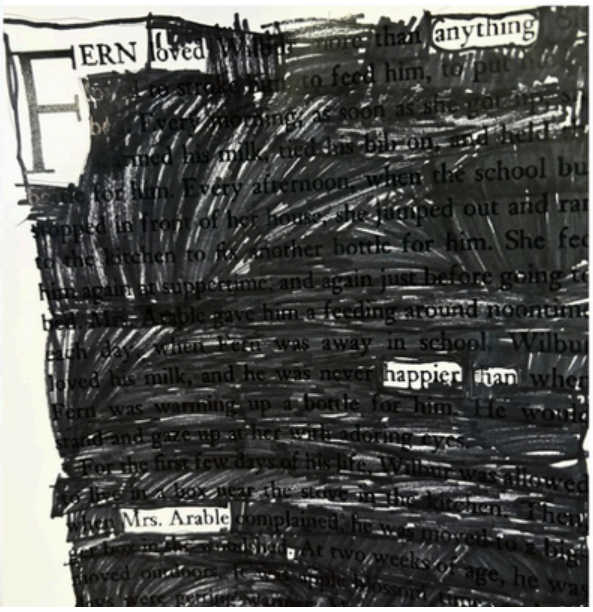












WHIRIA NGĀ TANGATA

10 DECEMBER 2026 | 5PM

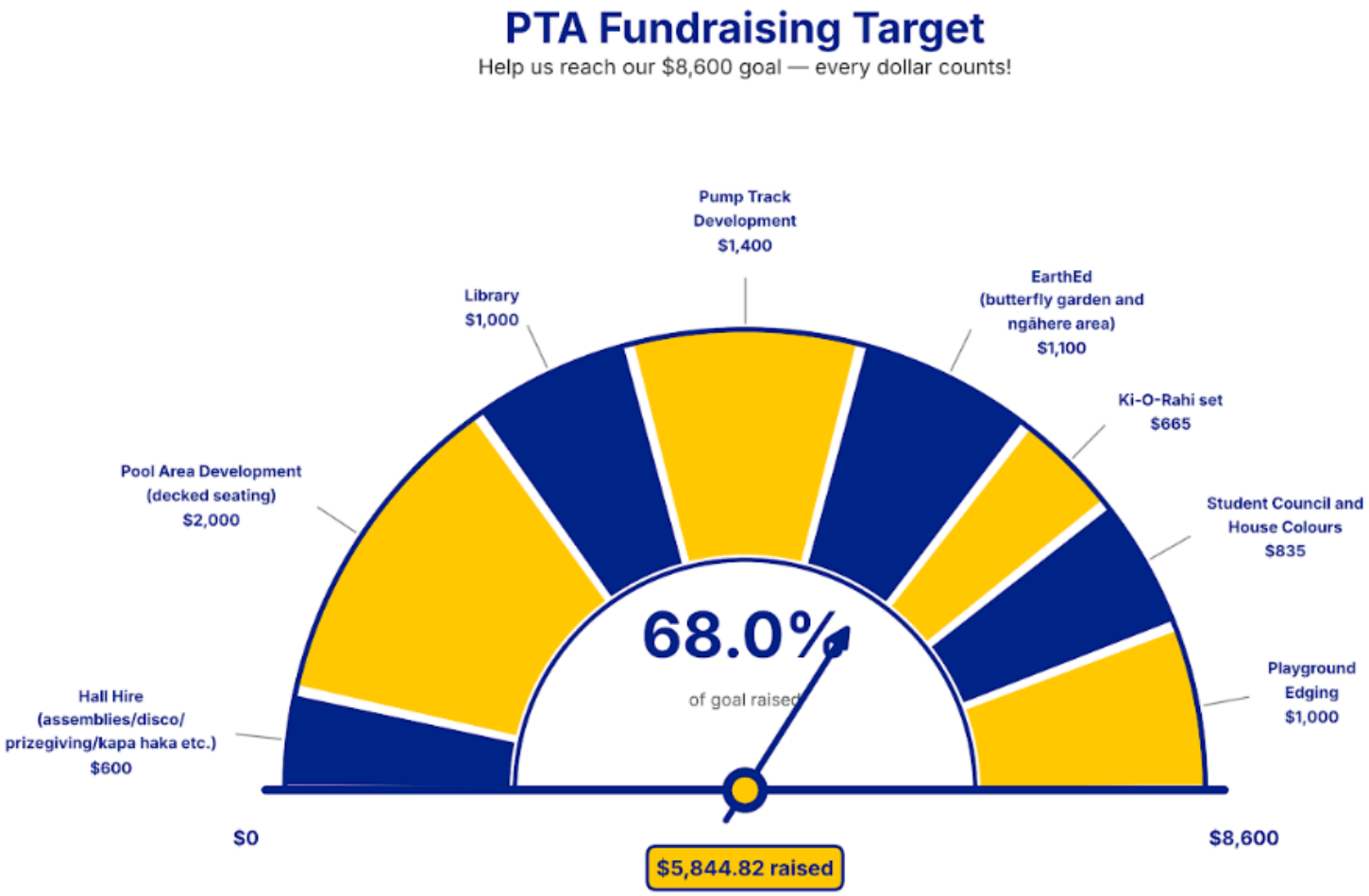
Join us for to see out the school year
with a celebration of culture and creativity

Sun Smart and Togs Reminders



Hats - Term 4 is a sunsmart term. Please ensure your child has a broad brimmed (named) hat. Studnets without hat must Play in the Shade.
Togs - Please ensure your child has togs and a towel **every day** as our swimming programme is in full swing!

PTA Update



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

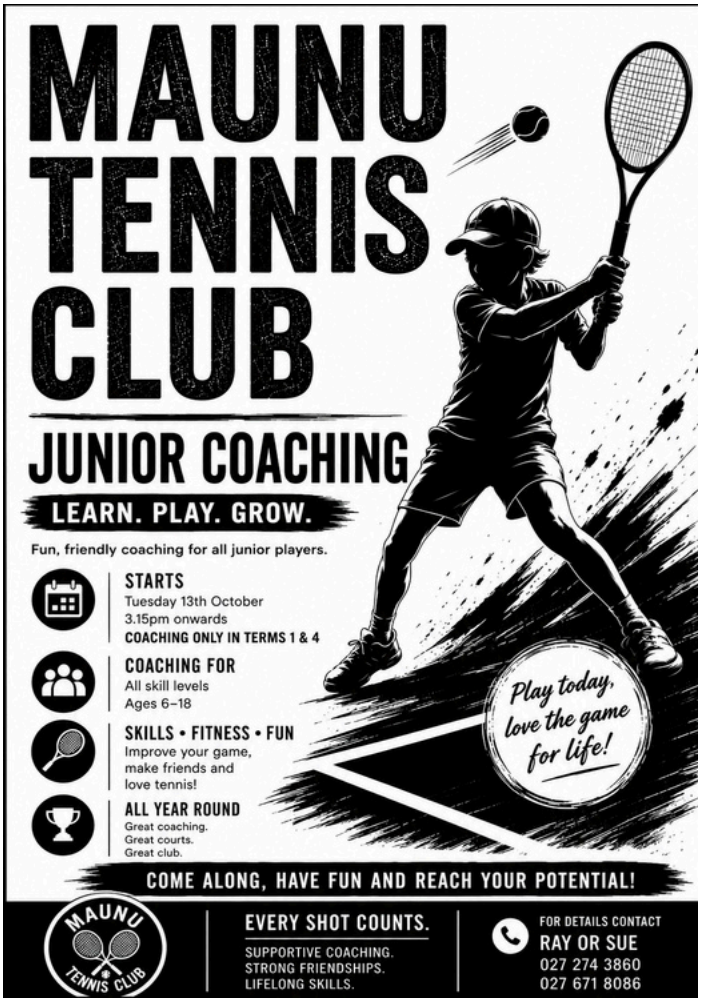
Whats on this term?

- 16th Nov - Teacher only Day (school closed)
- 18th Nov - Board of Trustees meeting
- 23rd Nov - PTA Meeting
- 25th Nov - WPSSA Yr 7&8 Athletics
- 2nd Dec - WPSSA Yr 5&6 Athletics
- 4th Dec - Whole School 'Beach Fun Day'
- 10th Dec Whiria Ngā Tangata -community evening
- **17th Dec - Term 4 finishes 12:30pm (half day)**

If you need any help feel free to contact us.

admin@otaika.school.nz 09 432 2731





Library Announcement:

WE NEED YOU!

There are 196 books missing, some of these from March!

(please return any books as soon as possible

