



NEWSLETTER

Week 5, Term One, 2026

(03) 433 1366 email: office@ardgowan.school.nz

Principal's Message

Kia ora koutou e te Whānau,

With only 5 weeks of school left in the term and so much to fit in, it is really important to keep an eye on the calendar. Please refer to the 'important Dates' section below and read over your child's teachers weekly newsletter on a Sunday evening or Monday morning. If you have any questions please just reach out. You can also refer to the calendar on our school website.

As many of you are aware following the Board of Trustees' announcement last week, I have shared my decision to resign from my position as Principal at the end of this term.

This decision was an incredibly hard decision and one I arrived at only after a great deal of reflection. Being part of this school community has been a big part of my career and life, and the memories I have will be something I hold very dear. While I am looking forward to the next challenge in my professional journey, I will miss the daily energy of our classrooms, the Ardgowan community, and, most importantly, the smiles of our students. Thank you to you all for the support and kindness over my time at this wonderful school.

Ngā mihi nui,

Ryan Fraser



We are off to a flying start to the year, Term one is progressing well with a lot of learning packed in already, and plenty of work for the children to present at school assemblies.



School Notices

Ardgowan School Sunhats are mandatory for ALL children to wear during Terms 1 and 4. Hats are available for purchase at the school office in 4 different sizes for \$23 per hat. Please make sure your child's hat is clearly named as they are easily misplaced.

Drink bottles - these are a must for all children to have every day while at school. Please ensure their drink bottle is full of water, and is in their bag every morning.

Signing out - If your child is leaving school early, or you are collecting your child during school time for any reason, please ensure you come to the office to sign them out. Should we have an emergency, it is vitally important that we know whether your son / daughter is on / off the school grounds.

POLICE VETTING for parents and caregivers.

If you would like to accompany the children on school trips and camps it is a requirement by law that all parents /

caregivers be police vetted, and that the vet be current with our school. If you would like to be police vetted to enable you to join in these activities, please contact the school office. We have forms available on paper, or can email out to you if you prefer. Vetting lasts 3 years and there is no cost to you. A primary and Secondary form of ID must be provided on application.

A couple of reminders for families around drop off and pick up times.

The Drop and Drive area is to be used for Drop and Drive only - NO PARKING.

The car park is for parking to drop off and pick up your child only - NO DROP AND DRIVE.

Please help to keep the children safe by using both areas for their intended purpose only as it creates frustration for other users when they are used inappropriately.

Please drive carefully when in and around our school.

Our school event calendar for the year is on our website:

ardgowan.school.nz/pages/calendar

under the **News and Events Tab** at the top. It is regularly updated with as many dates as possible but please be aware some dates - especially those further on in the year, may change.

SCHEDULE OF LUNCHES TERM ONE 2026

MONDAY Hot Eaties in the pie warmer. (Kowhai, Manuka, Kauri). Items to be securely wrapped in tin foil and named with a vivid. No Bowls as they take up too much room. Items can be taken to class on the morning and put in the class tray to be transferred to the pie warmer. Please have items defrosted.

TUESDAY - OWN LUNCH

WEDNESDAY - OWN LUNCH

THURSDAY Subway orders every week. Please have orders into the school office by Wednesday mornings. Order envelopes are available at the school office. Correct cash please.

FRIDAY Hot Eaties in the pie warmer. (Rimu, Pohutukawa).

Please ensure that your child has a drink bottle at all times of the year. Our school promotes healthy eating whenever possible, a piece of fruit each day, and choosing healthy snack options for your child's lunchbox is a great way to ensure they get the best out of their day. It also greatly helps to cut down on the amount of plastic packaging we have to send to the tip each week.

UNIFORM PRICES

Polo top Size 6 - 16 \$32.50

Polo top Size S, M, L \$37.00

Polar Fleece Size 4 - 14 \$45.00

Polar Fleece Size S, M, L \$54.00

Sunhats \$23.00

Uniform is available to purchase at the office.

A full range of sizes are now in stock in the office

Changed your address or phone number? Please let the office know.

Important Term 1 Dates for the Diary

School website calendar: ardgowan.school.nz/pages/calendar

March 2026

Tuesday 3rd - Zone swimming sports

Thursday 5th - Friday 6th - Year 3 & 4 camp - Dunedin.

Tuesday 10th - Friday 13th - Year 7 & 8 Technology - OIS

Wednesday 11th - North Otago Swimming Sports

Friday 20th - NOPPA conference - Teacher Only Day. School closed.

Monday 23rd - Otago Anniversary Day - School closed.

Tuesday 24th - Thursday 26th - Year 5 & 6 camp - Tirohanga.

Thursday 26th - Friday 27th - Year 8 WRSN camp - Camp Iona.

Monday 30th - Thursday 2nd April - Year 7 & 8 camp - Waihola.

Tuesday 31st - BOT Meeting.

Friday 3rd April - Good Friday - School closed. School holidays start.

Joke / Riddle of the week: I am a protector who sits on a bridge. Only one person can see through me, while others cannot. What am I?

The answer is hidden somewhere in this newsletter.

ARDGOWAN HOME AND SCHOOL

If you wish to be a part of any of our events or know of a way we can help within our school community please don't hesitate to reach out, we'd love to hear from you.

homeandschool@ardgowan.school.nz
Tina Gosney - 0272709293

Tina Gosney / Anna Waite - President
Lauren Hewett - Secretary
Tina Gosney - Treasurer

Absentees. Please inform the school via email, phone or Skool Loop if your child is going to be absent or late to school for any reason. Please expect a phone call or email from our school office if you have not contacted us - this is to ensure all children are safe, and is a Ministry of Education requirement which all schools must follow.

Please keep your child home if they are showing signs of sickness and let the office know.

School and Community Feedback Our Board of Trustees really values feedback from our school families and community. If you have any comments or feedback please feel free to email feedback@ardgowan.school.nz all communication is treated confidentially

BUS FAMILIES. If your child is getting off at a different stop in the afternoon to what they would normally, please give Pearsons a call or inform the school office so we can let the bus driver know. For safety reasons they are unable to drop children off at alternative stops unless prior parental permission is given

PLEASE DON'T PARK ON THE BERM! Our neighbours across the road have a lovely area of grass in front of their house, but vehicles parked there cause a considerable safety hazard to the residents and other road users. Tyre marks on their lawn are not appreciated. Your cooperation with this is greatly appreciated.



Women's BOXFIT
Wednesdays 5:20pm
@ St Luke's Church Hall
Age 15 +

Direct message via FB or text
Tasha -0273030873 for more info
Gloves & Pads available to use

Kids BOXFIT
WEDNESDAY 4:30 PM

Train in a fun, supportive and safe environment

- ☑ Boxing techniques
- ☑ Cardio exercises
- ☑ Strength building
- ☑ Paired, group environment, great for making new friends
- ☑ 45 min session time
- ☑ Age 9 - 14

Boxing gloves & pads available to use!

Term 1 now open for registration

Sign Up Now
☎ Tasha - 0273030873
📍 Saint Lukes Church hall

mtnz juniors
13 - 15 MARCH, 2026
ŌAMARU, NZ

RUNNING ALONGSIDE CONNECTING COMMUNITIES CREATIVELY - KA HUI TAHI, WE'RE EXCITED TO OFFER A DEDICATED JUNIORS MUSICAL THEATRE PROGRAMME IN ŌAMARU FOR PERFORMERS AGED 18 AND UNDER.

JUNIORS WILL EXPERIENCE A WEEKEND FULL OF SINGING, DANCING, ACTING AND TEAMWORK, GUIDED BY INDUSTRY RECOGNISED TUTORS FROM JUNIOR THEATRE FESTIVAL NEW ZEALAND. PARTICIPANTS WILL BUILD CONFIDENCE, DEVELOP NEW SKILLS, AND WORK TOWARDS A SPECIAL PERFORMANCE AT OUR KA HUI TAHI GALA EVENING.

THIS INITIATIVE IS PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL AUSTRAL-ASIA (MTIA).

MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL

SPACES ARE LIMITED - REGISTER TODAY AND BE PART OF THE MTNZ JUNIORS EXPERIENCE IN ŌAMARU IN MARCH 2026! VISIT MTNZ.ORG.NZ TO REGISTER!

Luzette.co.nz

ART CLASS

Join an art class to explore creativity in a supportive environment for all skill levels.

PAINTING • DRAWING • CLAY MODELING

**TUESDAY OR WEDNESDAY
3:30PM-5PM**

4 Harbour street, Oamaru

Only

\$220

8 weeks

OPEN REGISTRATION UNTIL MONDAY 2 FEB

More Information:

www.luzette.co.nz

Luzette's Skills & Tech class

SKILLS & TECHNIQUES
STARTING 3 FEB 2026, 8 WEEKS

8 weeks - \$350
EVERY TUESDAY 6PM-7:30PM
Book now! www.luzette.co.nz

All Materials included

AFTER SCHOOL ART CLASSES TERM 1

After school art classes are back for 2026!

We are so excited to have all the art loving, creative looping, crazy craving, colour blocking, exploring mischiefs, mistake makers Adventurers BACK!

Starting on 3 February 2026, and running for 8 weeks. You can choose to come on Tuesdays or Wednesdays 3:30-5pm.

These classes are best suited for ages 5-10 or those looking to have fun while learning the basics about art elements, all while strengthening fine motor muscles and creating muscle memory, key later on in artists life.

More than art classes, our classes are a great way to build your child's confidence, giving them freedom to make mistakes and explore materials and formulas in a safe loving environment

Lessons are based on an EPIC curriculum (Elements and Principles Intergration Curriculum) All Materials are included!

Luzette

www.luzette.co.nz
[@luzette_art](https://www.instagram.com/luzette_art)
luzetteart@gmail.com



SKILLS AND TECHNIQUES CLASS

**TERM 1
BEST SUITED AGES
11-17**

If your child has a good understanding of art & art elements, this is the class for them!

We have had so much feedback on this class! Artistic kids at school need the extra time, space and discipline to be free to create and learn and explore art techniques and that is exactly what we provide. Looking back at my schooling I had art as a subject and had at least 2 to 3 days a week devoted to art at school. These days the school system or just not allowing that.

That is why we have created this class, my students and their parents have given me feedback from school, letting them now that they are at least 2-3 years ahead. This is amazing feedback and the reason we need to continue investing in our children's artistic futures!

We take in depth looks at different mediums and how they are best applied and executed.

We focus on each individual's skills and how to use them alongside different mediums to their full advantage.



“

"Also I really want to say a huge thank you!! Brooke is usually very shy and she came out of your class super happy and excited to go back! We have been working towards building her confidence and I really feel like your class gave her a wee boost!"

”

INTERSCHOOLS EQUESTRIAN EVENT

PALMERSTON-WAIHEMO



DATE: SATURDAY 21st MARCH 2026
TIME: 9:00AM
VENUE: PALMERSTON SHOW GROUNDS,
 31 GILLIGAN ST, PALMERSTON
ENTRY FEE: \$30.00 PER RIDER, PAYABLE TO PALMERSTON & WAIHEMO A&P ASSN
BANK ACC.: 06 0942 0371593 01
ENTRIES CLOSE: FRIDAY 13th MARCH 2026 AT 5:00PM

Section 1: Years 7 – 13

1 DRESSAGE TEST Dressage NZ
 NZPC 1– 11 (2018)
 (1 point penalty if Dressage Test is read)
 1 ROUND SHOW JUMPING (TAM5 IJO)
 TEAM FANCY DRESS (points towards trophy)

Years 7 – 13 CLASSES	JUMP HEIGHT
1	50cm
2	60cm
3	70cm
4	80cm

Section 2: Years 8 & under

1 DRESSAGE U.S. Lead Rein Test
 (This test can be read on and on or off lead
 at any break in movements)
 PONY CLUB GAMES OR JUMPING
 TEAM FANCY DRESS (points towards trophy)

YEARS 8 & under CLASSES	JUMP HEIGHT
5	poles
6	40cm
7	50cm
8	60cm

Information about the interschools Equestrian event and entry forms are available in the school office.

Registrations for the 2026 football season with Awamoia Football Club are now open. Below is a link to the registration form
<https://www.sporty.co.nz/viewform/469661>



Riddle Answer: Sunglasses

Back to School 2026 School Update
Oamaru Area

Kia ora koutou! Wishing everyone a smooth start to Term One and the school year!
 The Community Oral Health Service provides free dental care until age 18 and our team is here to support your school community - below are some key updates for the year ahead.

Local Community Clinic:

- Oamaru**
 43 Exe Street;
 Ph: 434 6170

Mobile Dental Unit:

- Waitaki Valley (Kurow)**
 1 Settlement Road; Ph: 027 479 1733
 *From 2 November – 4 December

Keep an eye out for the two handy oral health tips we'll send out each term, for your school to share via newsletters or social media

*Dates subject to change
 For appointments outside these dates please call
0800 672 543

Health New Zealand Te Whatu Ora | Community Oral Health Service | Talkteeth Southern

FIL PAPA KAI O 8 HOUR SCHOOL COMP

7-12 YRS KIDS TRACK / 13 YRS - MAIN TRACK 4/8 HRS
 1 & 2 HOUR LOOPS | RIDE SOLD ON IN A COMPETITIVE OR SOCIAL TEAM

14TH MARCH 2026
WILLOW PARK, OAMARU

WIN A BIKE! *Trials to Winner through Cycle & Gift

WHO WILL TAKE HOME THE SHIELD & GLORY?
 Register Now at www.papakai8hour.nz

ENTRY FEE \$10 7-12YRS / \$80 13YRS+ / RIDER

Follow us on social media: Facebook @papakai8, Instagram @papakai8, Twitter @papakai8, YouTube PAPA KAI O PAPA KAI O

FUNDRAISER FOR PAPA KAI O SCHOOL

PAPA KAI O 8 HOUR MOUNTAIN BIKE CHALLENGE

Join Our **SUNDAY PRE-RIDE**

Come and try out the track before race day!

08 03 20 26

Willow Park
 666 Georgetown-Pukeuri Road, Oamaru

10AM - 1PM

REGISTER NOW

WWW.PAPAKAI8HOUR.COM

3 tips to support your tamariki in the early weeks back at school

The early weeks of term can be tiring as tamariki adjust back into learning, routines and friendships. These small ideas can help afternoons feel calmer.

- 1 Prepare for an after-school reset!**
 Tamariki use lots of emotional energy at school. Reducing your questions, providing some kai and quiet downtime can help them recharge... and answer your questions!
- 2 Reconnect before routines begin**
 A few minutes of connection after school - chatting, sitting together, or listening to how the day went - helps tamariki feel settled after managing a busy learning environment. Connection first often leads to smoother afternoons and evenings.
- 3 Keep afternoons predictable**
 Consistent after-school routines help tamariki feel secure while they adjust back into the rhythm of the school term. Knowing what happens next can reduce stress and make evenings calmer for everyone.

real parents

2026 OUT OF HOURS MUSIC AND ART CLASSES



ALL NORTH OTAGO CHILDREN
(AGED 8 -12 YEARS)
ATTENDING PRIMARY SCHOOL.
HOSTED BY WESTON SCHOOL.



MUSIC CLASSES
UKULELE/GUITAR/DRUMS
CHANTER/BAGPIPES/VIOLIN
AND ART CLASSES



SIGN UP TODAY!

To enrol copy this link to your browser:
<https://forms.gle/YvWMAXIDScz5V7848>

LIMITED SPACES. CLASSES ARE MADE ON A FIRST IN FIRST SERVED BASIS

ENROLMENTS CLOSE ON FRIDAY 20TH OF FEB.

Questions to kruddenklau@weston.school.nz

EXCELLENT TUTORS, SMALL CLASS SIZES.
MUSIC CLASSES JUST A \$20 DONATION ANNUALLY!
ART CLASSES APPROX. \$60 PER HALF YEAR, FOR MATERIALS.

COLOURING COMPETITION

WESTON CHURCH FAIR

- THEME:** EASTER
(All Age Groups can choose one of two pictures to colour)
- CATEGORIES:**
- 0 - 5 Years Old
 - 6 - 8 Years Old
 - 9 -10+ years
- PRIZES:**
- Category 1)- 1st Prize \$20 paper Plus Voucher
2nd Prize - Lollies
- Category 2)- 1st Prize \$20 paper Plus Voucher
2nd Prize - Lollies
- Category 3)- 1st Prize \$20 paper Plus Voucher
2nd Prize - Lollies
- JUDGE:** Sharon Walsh-Grieve
- DELIVER TO:**
- Weston Church Office - Wednes. 10am-4pm
Friday 10am-4pm
- OR
- Post to: Weston Church
48 Main Street
WESTON 9401
- OR
- Come to the Fair and Drop it off before 12 noon
WESTON CHURCH FAIR
28th March 2026
10.30-1.30pm

The prizes will be given out at the Fair at 1.15pm
The Judge is Sharon Walsh-Grieve

Colouring competition posters are available at the school office.

Ōamaru to Palmerston Community shuttle

Runs Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday

Tuesday and Saturday morning

Ōamaru - Palmerston - Dunedin

Shuttle leaves Ōamaru 9.30am
Shuttle arrives Palmerston (Bond St) 10.55am
Connects with Orbus Route 1 bus,
which leaves Palmerston 11am
Bus arrives Dunedin Bus Hub 12 noon

Palmerston - Ōamaru

Shuttle leaves Palmerston 11am
Shuttle arrives Ōamaru approx. 12.10pm

Tuesday and Saturday afternoon

Ōamaru - Palmerston

Shuttle leaves Ōamaru 5.45pm
Shuttle arrives Palmerston... approx. 7pm

Dunedin - Palmerston - Ōamaru

Bus leaves Dunedin Bus Hub 6pm
Bus arrives Palmerston (Bond St) ... 7pm
Transfers to shuttle

Shuttle leaves Palmerston 7.05pm
Shuttle arrives Ōamaru 7.45-8pm

Thursday morning and afternoon

Ōamaru - Dunedin and return (shuttle)

Morning: leaves Ōamaru at 9am and departs
Dunedin for return trip approximately 11am
Afternoon: leaves Ōamaru around 1.30-2pm
and departs Dunedin for return trip at 3.30pm

All times will be confirmed on booking

PICK-UP LOCATIONS

Ōamaru:

- North End car park (Frome Street)
- Eden Street bus stop
- Awamoa Park bus stop (just beyond NPD)

Other locations:

- Maheno (SH1 just past Maheno Tavern)
- Herbert (opposite the old shop)
- Hampden (police station)
- Moeraki (pub)

FARES Ōamaru - Palmerston - Dunedin

Shuttle van - one way Koha \$5, cash only.

Orbus fares - one way

Bee Cards are available for purchase from your Orbus driver (\$5 plus minimum \$5 top-up credit, cash only).

Concession	Registered Bee Card	Cash
Under 5	Free (no Bee Card required)	Free
Child (5-18)	\$1.50	\$3
Adult (19+)	\$2.50	\$3
Community Connect	\$1.25 - register and load your Community Connect concession onto your Bee Card for this to apply.	\$3
SuperGold (65+) Peak hours	\$2.50	\$3
SuperGold (65+) Off-peak hours	Free - register and load your SuperGold concession onto your Bee Card for this to apply.	\$3

Bus and Bee Card info: orc.govt.nz/OamaruShuttle

This service is a six-month trial run by Ōamaru-Palmerston Community Shuttle Group volunteers, supported by Otago Regional Council, and is not a hospital shuttle. The trial ends in April 2026 - the schedule may change during this period.

To book the shuttle, call 027 214 4131

Proudly supported by



Otago
Regional
Council

OAMARU Athletic MARIST R.F.C.

JUNIOR RUGBY

2026 Season

Register your child for our Junior Rugby Season on Rugby Xplorer Now

Need Help Signing up? Contact Mike using the details below.

CONTACT US

Mike - 02041861980
Athleticmaristjab@gmail.com

Rugby Xplorer Our Facebook





Fundraising Gala for Endometriosis NZ

Saturday 28 March 2026
Loan & Merc – Oamaru

Doors open 6pm

Join us for great food, great music, a night to remember for a great cause.

In partnership with **Endometriosis New Zealand**. ENZ is the recipient of funds from this Event

Did you know?

Endometriosis affects **1 in 10 girls and women** and can have a significant impact on quality of life.

Tickets \$100

Purchase online <https://sending-you-happiness.raiselysite.com/>

QR Code



Proudly supported by local Oamaru businesses.

OAMARU SWIM CLUB

Oamaru Swim Club invites you to Fast and Furious

Come and experience swim racing in a fun and supportive environment!
Open to all swimmers 8+ years who can swim 25m+

Friday 6th March
Warm up 5.30pm
Racing 6.00pm - 7.00pm

Enter using the google form link on the Oamaru Swim Club Facebook event page or pick up an entry form from the pool reception. Email your entry form to oamaruswim@gmail.com or drop back to the pool reception.

**** Entries close Wednesday 4/3/26 ****

OSCAR @ Fenwick
Out of School Care and Recreation

YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR A WINZ SUBSIDY

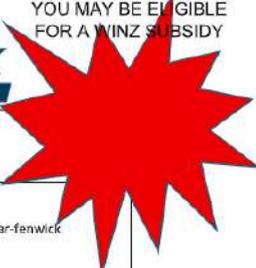
BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE AND HOLIDAY PROGRAMME FOR CHILDREN AGED 5-13.

During term time we offer -

- BREAKFAST
- AFTERNOON TEA
- ASSISTANCE WITH HOMEWORK
- DROP OFF/PICK UP FROM SCHOOL
- A VARIETY OF DAILY ACTIVITIES.

BOOK VIA-
Enrolmy.com/oscar-fenwick

ENQUIRIES -
021 156 5871
oamaruoscar@gmail.com



MAHENO JUNIOR RUGBY

Register now for 2026!

Visit: <https://xplorer.rugby/>
OR Download the 'Rugby Xplorer' app

Find us on Facebook: 'Maheno JAB Rugby'

Once registered please pay subs to: 'Maheno Rugby Club' 03-0937-0024650-00

2026 Subs: \$30 per child

Contact: Marcus & Jen Balchin
0274238430 (Jen)
maheniorrugby@gmail.com




Health Star Rating

A good choice for teeth?

may be a better choice... but still have ADDED SUGAR!

A higher Star rating...

5 HEALTH STAR RATING

Did you know?

Some foods, like flavoured milks, cereals or juice, may have a high star rating but still contain **added sugar**. Higher amounts of positive nutrients, like fibre or protein, can increase the star rating of a food with added sugar. A high star rating guides you towards a healthier food but doesn't mean it's a good choice for our teeth if we **have it too often!**

Health New Zealand Te Whatu Ora | Community Oral Health Service | Talkteeth Southern