

## TE AWAMUTU PRIMARY SCHOOL

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25 March 2009

### Principal's Diary

Kia ora Te Awamutu Primary School Learning Family/Whanau

Welcome back to Week 8 everyone.



### Mission Statement

Every learner will have the opportunity, support and guidance to achieve and celebrate their personal best.

### Vision

Together Achieving Personal Success  
@  
Te Awamutu Primary School

Filming for "Maori TV" at TAPS

I would like to acknowledge the fabulous work that many of our community put into constructing our school Charter and Vision for the next 3 years. To ensure that here at TAPS all our children reach their full potential we (the community, children, BOT, PTA and teachers) developed a plan for learning that will assist us in leading our children's learning. In the Courier Newspaper yesterday was a double page spread titled: '**Shift Happens**' <http://www.teawamutu.co.nz/courier/> informing us all about current education shifts. I would encourage all of us to read this article to get a sense of the future learning opportunities for our children here in Te Awamutu.

To understand our TAPS learning curriculum go onto the school web site: <http://www.taps.school.nz/page/6-inquiry-learning-at-taps> and look at our TAPS Inquiry model. I invite you all to visit your child's Show Case events coming up and witness how your child is putting the principles of learning into action. Our TAPS curriculum is consistent with these seven statements: High expectations, Treaty of Waitangi, Cultural diversity, Inclusion, Learning to learn, Community engagement and Future focus.

Over the last two years we have been using data to guide our understanding of our learners and also their needs for the future. Here are the priorities we see, that have also been confirmed by our community during our Strategic review process.

### 2009 School Priorities

1. To finalise and implement teaching and learning programmes based on revised curriculum.
2. To extend students;
  - a. Literacy (with a focus on Writing, Spelling and Reading) through effective teaching practices with a focus on target groups (Maori, Male and Pasifika students).
  - b. Numeracy (with a focus on Knowledge and Strategies) through effective teaching practices.
3. To extend children's opportunities in Physical Education and Health through effective teaching practices.
4. Strengthen the participation of Māori whānau in their children's learning at Te Awamutu Primary School.

Over the coming weeks I would like to take the time to share with you our curriculum success and educational milestone. We will be sharing with you our testing data. I would encourage all our families to have a look at the online parent resource titled: Team-Up - <http://www.teamup.co.nz/home.aspx>

### Reminders:

- **PTA meeting, tonight at 7.00pm**
- **Lucky Book Club, last day for orders tomorrow, there will be no late orders accepted.**
- **Dads and Boys breakfast, tomorrow 7.15am**

*Gareth Duncan*

Gareth Duncan  
Principal

[www.taps.school.nz](http://www.taps.school.nz)

## **DP's Corner:**

### **Show Case Week.**

Children at Te Awamutu Primary are excited about the opportunity to share their 'Show Case' which has involved pupils in learning processing skills and attitudes that helps them to construct their own understanding of their world and themselves. Each syndicate has designed a specially crafted programme to share with you.

#### **Syndicate 1** Tuesday April 7<sup>th</sup> 5.45pm – 6.30 pm

The purpose is to share children's learning about themselves in relation to "Who Am I at TAPS?". Children will be able to show you an example of how they are responsible at school and children will be performing a play 'Tane and the 3 baskets of knowledge' depicting how we have established ourselves as a group of learners in Syndicate 1.

The evening will commence in the hall.

#### **Syndicate 2** Thursday March 26<sup>th</sup> 5.30 – 6.30 pm

The children have been looking closely with Harold and Nikki (Life Education) in evaluating their own lunch boxes and the importance of healthy eating. Children in syndicate two have gained an understanding of what a balanced lunch box looks like and how healthy eating can affect their performance at school, linking with our focus on taking responsibility for ourselves in our world.

Please meet at the hall at 5.30.

#### **Syndicate 3** Tuesday April 7<sup>th</sup> 1pm -3pm

The children have been learning all about themselves and what makes each of them unique. They have been researching about their family to help understand their links to the world around them. The children appreciate that this helps them in shaping them into the person they are. The children have planned to share their cultural experience at a festival, sharing some traditional music, food samples, costumes and art displays.

'He iwi tahi tatou'

'We are all one people'

#### **Syndicate 4** Wednesday April 8<sup>th</sup> 6pm – 7pm.

Some key ideas explored throughout the term have focused on exploring the unique wildlife of New Zealand, The Treaty of Waitangi as a founding document and how the principles of the treaty are woven into our every day life, and have created relationships that support learning and teamwork.

The presentation will commence in the hall, then proceed to the classrooms.

## **SCHOOL NOTICES**

### **Claiming back your donation**

If you made a donation or paid school fees to a state or state-integrated school or a school approved as a donee organisation, you may be able to claim part of it back as a tax credit (rebate).

If you pay your fees before 1 April, 2009, you can claim the donation part of it back this year.

You are unable to claim money back for activities such as school camps, exam fees and extracurricular activities. The maximum donation threshold of \$1,890 has been removed. You can now claim a third of the total donations you make to donee organisations, up to the level of your taxable income. To claim the tax credit you need to fill out a tax credit claim form (IR526), attach your donation receipt/s and send it to Inland Revenue. To find out more, or to download a tax credit claim form, visit - [www.ird.govt.nz](http://www.ird.govt.nz)

### **PTA Meeting**

Tonight at 7.00 pm in the staffroom. Everyone is welcome to attend this meeting to help put together the fundraising calendar for this year. Please come along and support our children and their learning opportunities.

### **Term 2 dates**

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April to Friday 3rd July.

### **Uniform Room News**

The Uniform Room is open every Wednesday morning in the Hall from 8.15 – 9.00 am. EFTPOS Available. On Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April we are holding a Second Hand Uniform Sale from 8.15 – 9.00 am in the Hall. CASH ONLY! We have lots of Sweatshirts for Sale and Uniform in the larger sizes. If you have any items for Sale, please hand into the Office before the sale with each item of clothing named, priced and contact phone number attached. Please don't use staples, pins are a good idea.

### **Wanted – Fabric for costumes**

If anyone has clean off cuts of fabric suitable for making butterfly wings, for the Syndicate One Show Case, please drop them off to Jane Coles in Room 2. We would like as many pieces of fabric as possible please.

## **COMMUNITY NOTICES**

### **Balloons over Te Awamutu**

Balloons Over Waikato visit Te Awamutu's Selwyn Park this Friday from about 6.30am, with inflation expected to begin about 7am. Organisers are expecting three balloons from the annual festival to be in Te Awamutu and the public is welcome to come and get a close look at the balloons

### **Kihikihi Junior Rugby Muster/Registration**

All junior grades, Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March, 4.30pm at Kihikihi clubrooms. New players please bring a copy of your birth certificate. Inquires please contact Brendan on 0211 629734

