

WEEK 9 2010

Principal's Diary...

Kia Ora Te Awamutu Learning Family/Whanau

Welcome to Week 9 – one week to go

I would like to thank everyone for their commitment to the children of Te Awamutu Primary School over the 2010 school year. I thank you all – parents, community members, old pupils, current pupils, teachers, support staff, cleaners and our caretaker, PTA, Whanau and BOT members. This term has been a busy term for everyone and I trust you will all get a well deserved break during these holidays to spend time with your children and enjoy the summer break.

To help share our learning for the year, teachers will send home your child's report and Learning Journal next Monday 13th December and class placements for next year will go home Tuesday 14th December. Please enjoy your child's successes and see the opportunity to talk and discuss the busy year of learning growth. The Learning Journals are a treasure that you will no doubt keep for many years to come. Well done to our students and their teachers for the many hours of work that goes into each and every one of these.

Check out the website for up to date news about school happenings over the holidays <http://www.taps.school.nz>

Class placement for 2011:

Thank you to those parents who took the opportunity to share with staff about your child's needs for 2011. As noted above, everyone will be notified of their child's class placement on Tuesday 14th December via an individual slip that will come home with your child/children.

Year 6 Graduation:

On Monday 13th December the students will have their Graduation Ceremony starting at 6:00pm in the school hall. Please make sure that you have your two adult family tickets as room in the hall is always at a premium.

Take care everyone and have a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.

Gareth Duncan

Principal

BOT (Board of Trustees) Community update:

The Board of Trustees would like to acknowledge the hard work of all our staff and the fabulous work of our children here at TAPS. We wish those staff leaving our school the very best on their new ventures and see these opportunities as exciting moments for all of you. Go well.

What does the BOT do here at TAPS?

The board of trustees is the Crown entity responsible for the governance and the control of the management of the school. The board is the employer of all staff in the school, is also responsible for setting the school's strategic direction in consultation with parents, staff and students, and ensuring that our school provides a safe environment and quality education for all its students. Our Board is also responsible for overseeing the management of personnel, curriculum, property, finance and administration.

As a Board we would like to have your feedback on TAPS as we prepare to write our next Strategic Plan. Please find enclosed a form to include any comments or anything you wish to share with the board. Please return to school over the next few days.

Bruce Airey
BOT Chairperson

Computers looking for new homes (FREE)

As you will be aware, we have recently upgraded classroom PC's throughout the school, our old ones are therefore looking for new homes. We are offering these free to whoever wishes to take them off our hands but please be aware they are supplied "as is", no software included, once taken they become your property with no responsibility or liability to the school.

They can be collected from the caretakers shed (up past the top block) between 2.00 & 3.00pm Friday & Monday. If you are interested but cannot collect during these times please call Sunil on 021 276 1208 to arrange – please do not call the office.

Numeracy at TAPS for 2010

Targets for numeracy were set for 2010 from Strategic Plan Goal 2b: Improve numeracy outcomes for all students, with a specific focus on achievement for Māori and Pasifika students, through developing highly effective teaching practices. Staff changes, along with a review of teacher knowledge and skills with mathematics in 2009 led to involvement in the Numeracy Project through Waikato University in 2010.

Assessment tool used - NUMPA Individual Diagnostic Survey or GLOSS/IKAN in Feb/March. Data was updated in June and in Oct/November NUMPA Individual Diagnostic Survey or GLOSS/IKAN were redone. The results are the highest strategy stage glimpse over the dimensions of the test as per advice from our Ministry of Education Numeracy Advisor. Our goal overall is to have at least 80% of our students achieving at or above expected achievement levels. We are very close to that target with 79% of students achieving at or above expected achievement levels. This is testament to the hard working teachers and students. Well done!

Māori and Pasifika students remain important target groups, as is expected in all schools nation-wide. Results for those groups are as follows:

75.6% of Māori students are achieving at or above expected achievement levels. 87% of Pasifika students are achieving at or above expected achievement levels. Next year our learning targets are being realigned with new level expectations that have been recently published. For two year levels these will be raised a level and the rest will remain the same. We have identified our current year four group as a target group as well as ongoing focus on Māori and Pasifika.

We look forward to next year and are thrilled that we have been able to secure time with our mathematics advisor for continued professional development support.

Gill Gibbs
Deputy Principal

SCHOOL NOTICES

2nd Hand Uniform Sale and Mufti Day:

Next Wednesday morning from 8am to 9am in the school hall we will be having a second hand uniform sale. Please note that second hand items are cash only. Mufti can be worn on this day and remember, school finishes at 2pm (Buses will be running at this earlier time).

Syndicate 3 Assembly

We will be handing out Inter-school athletics certificates for Syndicate 3 children this Friday 10th December starting at 12.45pm in the hall.

'Worm Wee' for sale

Syndicate 3 have 'Worm Wee' for sale from our own TAPS Worm Farm. This is a great concentrated mixture for the garden. Only \$3 for a 2 litre bottle (dilute 1:10). All proceeds will go toward buying new plants for our Syndicate garden. Please see Mrs Gillespie in Room 14 if you would like to buy some now. Don't miss out – be in quick

Office Hours & Uniform Sales for 2011

Our office will be open on Wednesday 2nd, Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th February 2011 during the hours of 11am until 2pm. The uniform room will be open at these times also; we have a wide range of sizes available on hand. School will resume for all students on Monday 7th February.

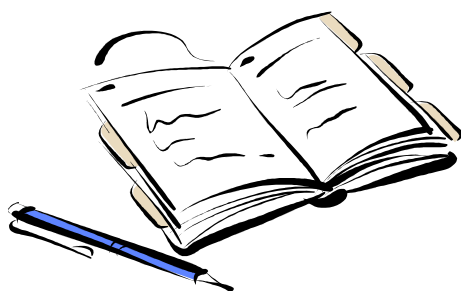
COMMUNITY NOTICES

Te Awamutu Intermediate 2010/2011 Uniform Sale dates

Monday 6th December to Thursday 9th December 9.30am to 4 pm Monday 13th December 9.30am – 4 pm. Wednesday 26th January 11.30 am – 6 pm. Thursday 27th January 2011 10.00 am – 4 pm. Payment by cash, cheque & eftpos. Credit Cards welcome but 4% surcharge will apply

Dolphinz Swim School

Half of all 10 year old kiwi kidz can not swim, and a quarter can't even keep afloat. Dolphinz Swim School can teach your child to stay alive in the water. We are now booking our holiday courses. Pre Xmas lessons December 20th -22nd. Five day intensive courses are January 17th – 21st and January 24th – 28th. All enquires please call Lisa 07 843 3380.



SCHOOL CALENDAR

Term 4

December 2010

TODAY – Syndicate 2 showcase 5.30pm*

10th Friday – Syndicate 3 Assembly – all welcome 12.45pm in the hall

11th Saturday – Te Awamutu Christmas Parade

*our song squad has a float again this year.

13th Monday – Year 6 Graduation

15th Wednesday – Second hand uniform sale 8-9am in the hall

15th Wednesday – last day of term 4 2010 2pm finish

***Mufti Day ***