

6 April 2011

Principal's Diary...

Kia Ora Te Awamutu Learning Family/Whanau,

Welcome back to Week 9 everyone.

A reminder to check you have your appointment for your child's student-led conference time for next week – notices with your time(s) were sent home with your children earlier this week.

The purpose of our student-led conference time is for your child to take the time along with their teacher to share with you their personal learning achievements and “where to” next in their learning. There will be an earlier finishing time of 2pm on both days (12th and 13th April). If you haven't already done so, please send in a written note if you wish for your child/children to be released at that time. All children without written permission will remain at school until 3pm.

With winter fast approaching it is the time to work together to ensure we all stay as healthy as possible, especially in our school environment. Your support with this is greatly appreciated. An excellent resource to share with your children is www.sneezesafe.co.nz. On this site there are animations that show how sneezes travel etc, it is well worth a visit. At TAPS we will continue to be vigilante with hand washing, safe sneezing and coughing practices etc.

Throughout our school, we have been concentrating on our literacy programme and the work that is coming from the students is exceptional. I would like you all to take the time to read the gems of the week from two young boys in Syndicate 3 – Well done boys, fantastic writing. Mr Duncan

GEMS of the week:

NO, do I really have to take the rubbish out! I slowly pull the yucky sack of banana and tomato juice. Just looking at it seriously makes me want to throw up freakishly. It's like a bag of disgusting gore and hot toxic waste. I slowly trudge outside on the ground and suddenly I realise its dark (I don't like the dark) I hate it, every time I look carefully at the dark white moon there's trees as shadows that look like monsters. I start to agitate on the freezing cement floor, creeping slowly and carefully to the blue bin “ewww”.

By Liam Room 6

City Sounds

Rustle, rustle as the gigantic green leaves shook like jelly and prepared to gently fly. The shiny cars, the foot prints, it was all confusing. All the birds were tweeting as I woke up. I stalked to the window and I peeped out. I was in a high building. All of the reflective cars madly careered down the road. The leaves quickly fell to the window. Mum quietly tiptoed across the hall way as she came to wake me up. I had an exciting day ahead as it was my first morning in the land of bouncing kangaroos.

By Dylan Room 12

Yours in learning

Gareth Duncan ☺

Principal

Check out our web site:

www.taps.school.nz

Terms Dates

Term 1 – Monday 7th February – Friday 15th April

Term 2 – Monday 2nd May – Friday 15th July

Term 3 – Monday 1st August - Friday 7th October

Term 4 – Tuesday 25th Oct – Friday 20th December

Trial of new bell times next term

Next term we will be altering the morning tea and lunchtime bells. Morning tea (playtime) will move from the current time of 10.35am - 11.00am to the new time slot of 11.00am - 11.20am lunch will start at 12.45pm rather than 12.30pm. Children will have a snack break in class between 9-11.00am, to keep them well fuelled. The time change allows us a two hour block of learning first thing in the morning. Research clearly shows that this is the optimum learning time for children. The school day will remain the same – 8.55am bell - make your way to class if you are not already there, 9.00am school commences. School concludes at 3pm.

BOT (Board of Trustees) Community update:

It is time for us to review the school's Strategic Plan once again. We will be having our first community consultation meeting next term, Wednesday 18th May at 6pm. Please come along and have your say – What would you like to “Keep, Stop, Start”? Where, Kelly & Bryant offices, Taylors Hill, Wednesday 18th May (Term 2). Light refreshments will be provided.

Syndicate 4 Disco

This disco is for our Syndicate 4 students and will be held on Thursday 14th April from 6.30pm – 8pm. Tickets are \$5 each, which includes entry and 2 glow-sticks and are available to purchase from Mrs Mackey in room 17 from Monday 11th April. Drinks & snacks are available to purchase on the night and all proceeds will go towards the end-of-year camp for years 5 & 6.

Netball

The competition level netball started last Saturday. Amongst lots of loud and enthusiastic cheering our girls represented our school with pride. Each team had two short games as we are grading for 2 weeks. A big thank you to all the wonderful parents and friends of the school who are coaching, managing and referring our teams, also a big thank you to all of our supporters. ☺ Draws for each week can be found in the Te Awamutu Courier or at www.sportsground.co.nz/teawamutunetball/.

School Fees:

Statements for the compulsory consumables fee and the school donations were sent home earlier this term. These are due now. Part payments will be accepted over time to clear the debt.

Children's Absences

It is school policy that you notify the office (8715378), before 9am daily if your child is going to be absent. Our school mobile phone (0212760505) can be text with a message regarding absentees. We thank you all for your support in keeping children safe. All unexplained absences are marked as truant.

Uniform

Next term, we head into our winter uniform season. All children are expected to be in full school uniform. Uniforms, correctly worn, contribute to the tone and atmosphere of the school. They encourage a sense of belonging and confidence in children, and enable parents to ensure equity in dress. We realise that occasional one-off situations will occur when a child cannot wear the uniform. Parents are requested to provide the classroom teacher with a note in these instances

The uniform room will be open every Wednesday morning from 8.15am till 9am in the hall, eftpos is available. We have a number of good quality second-hand school polar fleece available; (payment for these second hand items is cash only). Please remember to name ALL items of clothing, especially sunhats. We have had a number of hats missing, could we please ask that all uniforms and hats be checked for the correct name, if your child/ren has brought home a piece of clothing that is not theirs, please return it to the office, no questions will be asked.

Pedestrian Crossings and School Driveways

We have noticed a number of parents crossing their children on either side of the school crossing on Teasdale Street. As we like to instil good road sense, we ask that all parents/caregivers and especially children, use the pedestrian crossings only. The Bank Street driveway has been used as a walkway, this entrance is for staff and trade vehicles. For child safety, please use the footpath alongside the driveway when entering and leaving the school grounds. Vehicles are not permitted to park (whether picking up or dropping off) in the bus bay on Teasdale Street. **This is a bus park only.**

Lost Property

Can be found adjacent to Room 14 (Mrs Gillespie's Room)

Milk Monday

Every Monday at morning tea children, can purchase a flavoured milk & cookie for \$2 from the tuck shop located in the foyer of the hall.

Wednesday Wonderland Early Childhood Programme 2011

I would like to extend an invite to all our pre-school community (all children 4.5 years and older) to take up the free offer of coming to our preparation for school programme run every Wednesday afternoon at 1.30pm till 3pm with Maree Parkes (trained teacher and TAPS Community Connector) Please come to the main foyer of the school for directions as to where this is being held.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Te Awamutu Association Football Club (Inc)

Registrations are open for the 2011 season. All enquires to David Hall 870 1613 or 021 253 7979 or check the website www.teawamutuafc.co.nz. Registrations forms are available from the school office and are to be forwarded onto Te Awamutu AFC, P O Box 110, Te Awamutu.

A Day to Play!

Get together with your family and friends, make a kite that shows off the Waipa District, and win prizes! Join the Waipa community in a free, fun event to celebrate what it is that makes Waipa, the home of champions, a great place to live, work and play. There will be prizes for the best kites in different categories. Saturday April 30th at Albert Park, Te Awamutu from 12 noon to 4pm. Check out the local Waipa Library for more information.

Pony Tales Riding School

You are invited to Pony Tales Riding School 5th Birthday on Sunday 10th April from 1-5pm. As part of the birthday celebrations the riding school is hosting an Open Day with displays, pony rides, a sausage sizzle, birthday cake, a raffle, and plenty of children's activities to keep the whole family entertained. We hope you will come celebrate with us at 1715 SH1, Cambridge (opposite St Peters School).

Pokuru School World Cup Ripa Rugby Tournament

Sunday 8th May. Registration at 9.30am. Mixed gender, Years 4,5 & 6 students. Spot prizes. \$5 per player, held at Pokuru School. Contact Pokuru School for more information 871 2844.

Te Awamutu Junior Hockey Muster

Primary age students only. Held at the Te Awamutu Tennis Club on Thursday 14th April from 3.30pm to 4.15pm. Enquires to Belinda Wilson – 871 2929 or Rachel Falconer 870 1641.

Kiwisport Touch After School Programme

The Kiwisport Touch after school programme is aimed at years 5 – 8 students of all abilities. Whether you have played touch before, or are looking to get involved in a sport, then come along and have a go! Don't miss your chance to be coached by one of Waikato's Open Womens's Touch players and New Zealand Womens 7's representative Rachel Wikeepa. Starting in Term 2 on May 12th, 19th and 26th, from 3.30pm – 4.30pm at the Leamington Domain on Wordsworth Street. There is no cost but do remember to bring along your shoes, hat and a drink. To register email or text your name, age & school to touch@kiwisportwaikato.org.nz or 021 618 309.

