

1 June 2011

Welcome to Week 5 - 2011

Principal's Diary...

Weeks are rushing by and we are nearly half way through term 2. This term we have been talking about "Care and Concern" as our leading value. Our main focus has been manners. Syndicate 1 & 2 – *I always use good manners* Syndicate 3 & 4 - *I am well-mannered and I always treat others politely.*

With the winter months approaching, we would like to remind you of the importance of keeping ourselves healthy. We have had a number of children away due to colds and flus. With the temperature rising and dropping it is no surprise that colds have struck some of us. Vitamin C is a good natural defence against such ailments. Washing hands thoroughly will help prevent the spread of bugs. Clean tissues or hankys will also help when coughing or sneezing. If your child is unwell and will be absent from school, please either phone or text with your children's name and room number as soon as possible.

Home-school partnerships are one of the best ways to ensure that your child gets the most out of their early years at school. Here are some ideas from Team-Up of ways you can support your child's learning:

- * get to know your child's teacher and principal. Share any concerns and ideas and get feedback on your child's progress
- * attend parent-teacher interviews
- * read school newsletters and attend school events if possible
- * talk to your child regularly about how what they've learned at school and what they're finding easy or hard
- * ask about homework set by the teacher and what you can do to help
- * have your say on any school consultation issues/topics
- * get to know who is on your school's board of trustees (they have regular meetings and must listen to what parents want)
- * participate by voting in the three-yearly elections of the board of trustees
- * consider attending a board meeting if you are interested in standing for election on the board of trustees
- * let the school know if you are able to volunteer or be a parent help
- * find out if the school has a parent group such as a Parent Teacher Association (PTA) that you can join
- * check with your school to see how else you might be involved

Yours in learning

Gareth Duncan

Principal

Check out our web site:

www.taps.school.nz

Congratulations to Gareth, Maureen, Javiel and Rhys on the arrival of their new baby girl, Raine Mary Duncan, born last Saturday evening. From all staff and students at TAPS.

Late Students

The school day starts at 8.55am and students must be settled in class by 9am when teachers take the roll. Should any students arrive after this time, they must sign in at the office.

School Times

If you need to drop your child/ren at school early, we have a before school care programme known as the Breakfast Club, at a minimal cost. Please see Laille in the hall at after school or before school care for enrolment forms and enquires. Please note the expectation is that children arrive to school no earlier than 8.15am and teachers do not open their classroom doors to children until 8.30am. In the coming winter months this is really important for our children's health.



Hangi Fundraiser

Friday 24th June 2011

5pm pick-up at TAPS hall

\$10 each

Order on form provided with this newsletter, send money and form in envelope to school.

Tickets will be sent home with your child on Thursdays and Fridays.

Thanks for supporting the Te Reo and Tikanga Maori whanau!

Bake Sale

Syndicate 1 and 2 are fundraising to go to the Gruffalo stage show in September. As part of our fundraising efforts will be having a Bake Sale **this Thursday (tomorrow) starting at 3pm at the front of the school.** We have some delicious baking to sell which has been kindly made and donated by parents and caregivers of our syndicates. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank those who have helped with baking and/or pricing. Bring any spare coins to fill up your pantry with delicious goodies and to help support Syndicate 1 and 2!



Disco Update

The PTA would like to thank all parents, caregivers for helping at our recent discos. Syndicate 1, 2 & 3 would like to especially thank Deni from Te Awamutu Glass for being the DJ and "Markquee" Marguee Hire for the lighting.

Sports Photos

All Te Awamutu Primary School sports teams will have photos taken on Tuesday 5th July. A notice with more information will go home closer to the time.

School Fees:

Statements for the outstanding compulsory consumables fee and the school donations were sent home recently. These are due and payable now. If payment in full is difficult, part payments will be accepted over time to clear the debt. Eftpos is available at the main office.

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

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, is for staff and trade vehicles only. For child safety, please use the footpath alongside the driveway when entering and leaving the school grounds. Please note: 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.**

Milo Monday

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

Uniform...

As you prepare for the winter terms can I please remind you the shoes stipulated in the school uniform Policy are: **Black shoes, laces and or Velcro** are acceptable – this does not mean sneakers with other colours on them. Your support of this policy will be appreciated.

PTA Support:

We would like to remind families that the PTA is a very small, but active group in our school and they need you to join and support their 2011 fundraising efforts. Please call the school to find out more information if you are able to support in anyway. PTA will be hosting a coffee and cake afternoon on Thursday 16th June at 3.15pm in Room 17. Children will be catered for.

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.

Head lice Treatment

As children often work closely together, head lice can easily jump from head to head. There are a few ways to help prevent head lice. Using a shampoo and conditioner with no waxes or silicone residues can help. 2 in 1 shampoos are not recommended. After treating head lice, wash bedding such as sheets and pillowcases and follow directions carefully on the packet. Any Pharmacy can help with head lice treatment and can offer further advice. Marshalls Unichem Pharmacy is offering a 10% discount on head lice treatment requirements, cut out the coupon on the back of this newsletter.

GEMS OF THE WEEK

Throughout our school, we have been concentrating on our literacy programme and the work that is coming from the students is exceptional. Some of the language features the children are learning are: Onomatopoeias (words that sound like the things they describe e.g. **roar, bang, smash, pop**), similes (similes say something is like something else e.g. **he ran as quick as lightning**) and personification (this is when we give human characteristics to animals, abstract concepts or inanimate objects e.g. **The sun smiled down, wrapping me in her warm embrace**). I would like you all to take the time to read the gems of the week from

Syndicate 1 – Well done, fantastic writing.

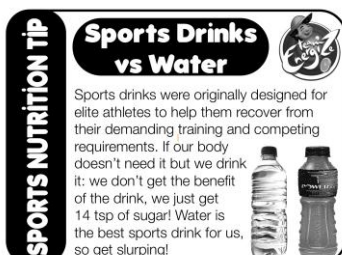
Mr Duncan

Gems this week brought to you from Room 2

The wind sings like a humming bird.
The leaves fall down like a glitter box.
Kya-Melody Rm 2

The wind sings and rustles and hums and twangs.
Alex Rm 2

The chestnut tree looks like a BIG SCARY monster.
The leaves are shimmering.
Ellie Rm 2



SPORTS NUTRITION TIP

Sports Drinks vs Water

Sports drinks were originally designed for elite athletes to help them recover from their demanding training and competing requirements. If our body doesn't need it but we drink it: we don't get the benefit of the drink, we just get 14 tsp of sugar! Water is the best sports drink for us, so get slurping!

