

Welcome to Week 9 - 2011

Principal's Diary...

Kia Ora Te Awamutu Learning Family/Whanau,

On behalf of staff I would like thank all of you who contributed toward making our hangi such a great success, whether it was digging the hangi pit, feeding the workers, potato & kumara peelers, ticket buyers, etc. Also a very special THANK YOU to Jeff King for sourcing food donations. We would like to acknowledge the amazing generosity from Fresh Choice, Magills Meats, Pak n' Save and Countdown Te Awamutu for their contributions toward the hangi.

I would like to remind all our families to diary the **Wednesday 6th July**. This is the opening of our school library, Radio Station and new classrooms. Our Mayor: Mr Alan Livingston and the Board of Trustees will be cutting the ribbon at 1:30pm with a formal presentation on the deck outside Room 5 & 6. This will be chance for all our community to come and look around our school and be entertained by our children. The whole school will be involved in the day and more information will come out from each syndicate about what will be happening for your children on that day.

The days schedule will look like:

1:45pm - The whole school will gather on the front lawn in front of the Room 5 and 6 deck. Weather permitting children will be seated on the lawn and adults on chairs.

1:50pm – Welcome speeches and children's entertainment

2:40pm – Cutting of the ribbon and Mayor Alan Livingston speech

2:45pm – Guests and parents can wander around the new classrooms, library and radio station

3:00pm – Home time

Yours in learning

Gareth Duncan

Principal

Check out our web site:

www.taps.school.nz

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO PARENTS/CAREGIVERS OF TAPS STUDENTS From the beginning of Term 3, all students arriving before 8:30am will be required to be pre-booked and attend the Breakfast Club. This is to allow our teachers to prepare lessons, attend meetings etc before the 8:30 bell. Currently most teachers are tied up in their classes with students who are arriving before 8:30am. In recent terms, we have responded to a need for many parents to have their children supervised before school by developing our Breakfast Club (7:00am – 8:30am). This has been a successful addition to the facilities offered at TAPS. Our programmes are OSCAR approved which means we have met the strict standards required by Child, Youth & Family to provide and care for children. For you as parents and caregivers, OSCAR accreditation means that you can apply to WINZ for the relevant subsidies to help pay for this service. Children are served breakfast and afternoon tea each day. This consists of choice of cereals and toast and a drink. Enrolment forms and further information is available at the school office or downloaded from www.taps.school.nz

Gill Gibbs

Deputy Principal

SCHOOL NOTICES

Uniform clarification:

We would like to clarify that during the winter months children are able to wear thermals under their school shirt. The colours that are allowed are: Black, blue and white only. Please do not send your child in any other colour or stripy type thermal under their school uniform, as they will be asked to take them off. Thank you for helping with consistency.

Student Safety

We continually have a number of children in the park after school, waiting to be picked up. Please remember that the children are unsupervised during this time and they need to be picked up as close to 3pm as possible. We understand the parking issue at the front of the school, however, to have children waiting as late as 3.20pm is a concern. Also, it has been noticed that some children from Syndicate 1 & 2 have been walking to and from school on their own. Once again this is a safety issue as 5 & 6 year olds have not yet established secure skills to cross roads and to monitor driveways by themselves. We thank you for your anticipated support around these issues as the care and safety of our children is paramount.

Sports, Kapa Haka, School Leaders & Councillor Photos

All Te Awamutu Primary School sports teams will have photos taken next Tuesday (5th July). All sports teams must be in uniform for photos. This includes netball, basketball and rippa rugby. Te Reo & Tikanga Maori Class – boys bring black shorts and girls bring black singlets & tights. All other Kapa Haka groups (e.g. Syndicate 1, 2 & 3 will be in school uniform). Leaders & councillors will also be in full school uniform.

Pekerau School Sports exchange:

Pekerau School will be visiting next Thursday (7th July) to play: soccer, netball and rugby. Please feel free to come down to school and support the teams at a 1:30pm kick off until approx 2:30pm.

Syndicate 4 School Disco: Thursday 14th July - 6pm-8pm

Tickets go on sale Monday 11th July from 8.30 – 9am and are available from Ms Woulfe in Room 20. Tickets are \$5 each which includes 2 free glowsticks on entry. This is for Syndicate 4 students only.

Hot Dogs:

Monday 4th July (American Independence Day). Order forms went out Wednesday 22nd June and were due back with money by Wednesday 29th June (today). Orders are now closed, thank you for your support.

Second Hand Uniform Sale

This will be held on Wednesday 13th July from 8am to 9am in the hall. If you have any uniform items for sale, bring items into school with your name, mobile number and price pinned to the uniform. No staples please. Cash only.

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.

Early Education Transition

A reminder for those families wanting to take part in the Syndicate 1 transition project, forms are due back to Room 1 or if you have misplaced them, there are a small number of forms available from Mrs Parkes.

Library

On a weekly basis, all students are able to have one library book issued toward their name (two for years 5 & 6). The books, if not returned within a two-week period, are considered overdue. Students are notified via overdue letter from the library to each classroom once a week. Currently we have a number of VERY overdue books throughout the school. We would appreciate these being returned as soon as possible. Students are not able to have any other books issued to their name until the overdue books are returned. Please support our library by encouraging your children to return any library books they may have at home, to ensure the continued smooth operation of our library. Your cooperation is much 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.

NEXT PTA MEETING – THURSDAY 30TH JUNE 7PM IN THE SCHOOL STAFFROOM – ALL WELCOME.

Children's Absences

It is school policy that you notify the office, before 9am daily if your child is going to be absent. All unexplained absences are marked as truant. PROVIDING SATISFACTORY REASONS FOR ABSENCES IS A LEGAL REQUIREMENT

Please phone **on 871 5378** (ext 702) with an explanation as to why students are absent or Txt on the school mobile on **0212760505**, with a brief reason of absence, please remember to include the child's name and room number or provide a note to the teacher on the first day back to school. THIS IS THEN NOTED IN OUR SYSTEM FOR THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION.

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.

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.

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.

Week 10 is Maori Language Week and the theme is MANAAKITANGA - looking after one another.

What is Matariki?

Matariki is the Maori name for the group of stars also known as the Pleiades star cluster or The Seven Sisters; and what is referred to as the traditional Maori New Year. **When is the Maori New Year?** The Maori New Year is marked by the rise of Matariki and the sighting of the next new moon. The pre-dawn rise of Matariki can be seen in the last few days of May every year and the New Year is marked at the sighting of the next new moon which occurs during June. **What does Matariki mean?** Matariki has two meanings, both referring to a tiny constellation of stars; Mata Riki (Tiny Eyes) and Mata Ariki (Eyes of God). **Why is Matariki important?** Traditionally, depending on the visibility of Matariki, the coming seasons crop was thought to be determined. The brighter the stars indicated the warmer the season would be and thus a more productive crop. It was also seen as an important time for family to gather and reflect on the past and the future. **Why do we celebrate Matariki today?** Today Matariki means celebrating the unique place in which we live and giving respect to the land we live on.

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**). All our classes have been learning and writing about Matariki. I would like you all to

take the time to read the gem of the week from

Syndicate 3 – Well done, fantastic writing.

Mr Duncan

Matariki by Dante Howell Room 12

Souls lost being a part of heaven,
Souls crushed, pieces exiled into the dark sky,
Hope coming to Aotearoa,
Celebrating the joy of Matariki,
The seven sisters shining forth,
Growing crops, harvesting plants and flowers,
The seven stars arriving as frost smoothly lies on the ground,
New life appearing for people to grow crops,
The past remembered from the seven souls that were lost.



