



ANZ Proudly supports Te Awamutu Primary

## TE AWAMUTU PRIMARY SCHOOL

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24 July 2008

Kia ora Te Awamutu Learning Family/Whanau

I would like to welcome all of you back to Term 3 and especially all our new families, "A big warm TAPS Welcome". Our school virtue for the next 3 weeks is 'Duty' and the goal that all classes will be focusing on will be: "A willingness to do what is right". We will be talking about how to show concern for the well being of others in our school and outside of our school environment and also;

- Serving others
- Anticipate the needs of others

We know that service helps build community, so all children will be encouraged to find ways over the coming weeks to exercise duty.

**Our quote for the week:** "Never look down on anyone unless you are helping them up".

This term is an exciting term for learning because our learning theme for the whole school is, "Enterprise @ TAPS". This inquiry theme will see all children at their learning levels explore the constructed world and the part they have to play in designing exciting futures. Our goal is for each class is to enquire into and partake in the process of producing products to sell at the School Gala in Term 4.

### **TAPS Inquiry Model**

Inquiry is about providing children with an authentic opportunity to explore new learnings and make a difference to their school environment, town or country. This learning is what we do everyday when we, as adults, have to find out about something. We are giving your children the tools and a process to ask questions, think critically, inference and discern what is true or not. Our children are in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century knowledge era and it is our responsibility to ensure children can think critically about the world and all the information around them.

### **TAPS six steps of Inquiry Learning are:**

#### **Getting Hooked**

- We ask questions as teachers
- Displays set up in the Room
- Scenario for learning is presented

#### **Knowledge Bomb**

- Listen and use past knowledge or activities. Learn as much about our subject as we can.

#### **Discovering**

- Think about the new learning
- Think about thinking
- Work with others

#### **Exploring**

- Try new ideas and think flexibly and persist
- Put learning to the test – compare

#### **Reflecting**

- Stop, think and be clear about new learning. What else do we need to know. Go back to knowledge bomb if we need to.

#### **Taking Action**

- Create and innovate
- Produce and sell
- Being informed for life

I would personally like to invite you all into your child's room at anytime to explore the process of Enterprise in action. What is important in our learning programmes is Reading, Writing and Mathematics and you would have seen your child's work presented in his or her Learning Journal last term. I would like to thank parents for your feedback through the Micro Survey and feel free, if you did not get a chance to drop me a note, phone call or visit me at school to share your thoughts. The Learning Journals are a powerful way for teachers and children to know where each other are at with learning and the next step. The next Learning Journey circulation to parents is Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September and Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September when you and your child will be able to talk to the teacher about the Learning Journey.

Lastly, I would like to welcome all our teachers back to the new learning term, especially Mrs Mazza-Davies who has started our 4<sup>th</sup> New Entrant Room, Mrs Daryl Mills in Room 5 (who replaces retired Mrs Christine Gaudin) and our student teacher for this term Mr Airy Dimitrov in Room 16.

Have a fantastic week.  
Yours in learning.

Gareth Duncan

Principal

*"Happiness and Moral duty are inseparably connected". George Washington*

## **SCHOOL NOTICES...**

### **School Photos**

School photos will be taken by Friis Photo on 6 August. More information will follow closer to the time.

Look out for your photo order forms, They will be coming home soon. This year our House Leaders and School Council members will be invited to have their photos taken. Please tick "Team" for these photos.

### **Art Workshop**

We are again privileged to have Graham Braddock visit our school to take a workshop on "Fun with Portraits". The cost will be \$3.00 per child. Please send money to the classroom teacher in a named envelope as soon as possible? Children from Room 5-20 will be included in this workshop.

### **Hearing and Vision Checks**

There will be routine hearing and vision checks for **new entrants** who have started school since the last visit earlier this year. They will be tested Friday 25<sup>th</sup> July at 9am. Please advise your teacher if you do NOT wish your child to be tested.

### **Research Study Opportunity**

In my role as the Resource Teacher of Literacy for Te Awamutu Primary Schools cluster I am currently undertaking a research study on Home School Partnerships. This is part of my training with Auckland and Canterbury Universities. Your school is one of eight schools supporting the study by having randomly selected parents across the whole school receive a survey in the post. I appreciate this opportunity to be involved in your school and look forward to your participation. Thank you very much, Tonia Eckhoff.

### **Agricultural Day**

It's that time of the year when calves, lambs and kid goats are arriving, along with the mud and rain. If your child is keen on having an animal to train for our Agricultural Day which will be October 15, now is the time to start looking. If you want any notes, CDs or have questions about training and care, please feel free to visit Jessie Monk in Room 10.

## **TEAM NOTICES**

### **Syndicate One News**

The children were excited to share their holiday experiences with us. *Thank you* for remembering to send back reading books, book bags, poem folders and homework books. Please note there will be no Syndicate One Assembly this week. Look out for our **Syndicate One Term 3 newsletter**... it should be in your child's book bag this week.

### **Syndicate 2 News**

We are all fully immersed in Tikanga and Te Reo Maori this week in Syndicate 2. Please take advantage of Maori language week and learn something new with your child. Friendly quiz: Do you know how to say today's day and date using Te Reo Maori? Did you see our Syndicate 2 Team notice today? There is a lot of useful information in there. If your child did not bring one home please see the classroom teacher.

### **Syndicate 3 News**

Our cross country is going to be held in Week 5 this term. We have begun training for this as it is part of our compulsory curriculum. We do expect that the children participate in practices. Should there be a medical reason that your child is unable to participate, a note is required to be handed into the teacher.

We have begun our Enterprise Inquiry and hope to encourage the children to become entrepreneurs. Please encourage your children in their class activities.

***(Due to a technical hitch, this newsletter is not in its normal format. This should be back to normal next week)***