

Welcome to Week 10, Term 3 - 2011

Principal's Diary...

Kia ora Te Awamutu Learning Family/Whānau,

Welcome to the last week of the term and what an amazing term it has been.

Last week TAPS hosted the New Zealand Schools Rugby Team. This included their Management, Coaching team, Physiotherapist, Head-space coach etc. It was a very special morning where they spent time with our students in their classrooms. We all came together for a send-off for the team, who responded with a *spine tingling* haka. TAPS was presented with a special plaque engraved as a way to thank our school. It was also a chance for the school to wish Gareth Duncan all the best as he heads across to Australia as the manager for this New Zealand representative team.

This week we have had a number of celebrations of excellence. This included a large group of students who went through to Hamilton in the weekend to participate in the final of the Waikato marathon run. Te Awamutu Primary School took out many of the top 20 placings including 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. A special thanks to Wendy James who has organised this and to her team of committed teachers who regularly gave up their lunch times to take the students on their runs.

Joan MacManus from Altrusa presented two of our students, Bert and Oksana with commendations for their writing at a regional level, and spoke of the high overall calibre of writing from the school. Well done.

We celebrated four of our students who received Distinction in the I.C.A.S exams. Congratulations to Chloe, Lachlan, Joey and Saxon. These students placed in the top 10% of all students in Australasia who sat the exams. Added to this were a number of students who gained credits (65% - 89%). These were stunning results and we could not have been prouder of this large contingent of students. We also acknowledged and thanked all of the students who received participation.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank those involved in the 2011 Kapa Haka festival. Whaea Erin and Mrs Tautari-Scott were most impressed with all of our children. Whānau support on the day, and leading up to the day, was superb. Our students performed brilliantly both on and off the stage. The next day, we received a call from a local principal to tell us how proud he was of our students, their abilities and their conduct. Fantastic work Whaea Erin and tamariki. Next year Te Awamutu Primary school is the organiser for the Celebration of Youth Kapa Haka Festival. This is an honour and it will be an exciting time for all involved next year.

We all wish everyone a safe, relaxing and happy holiday and look forward to returning after the holidays for what will be a shortened term, full of continued learning and fun.

Gill Gibbs & Tracy Findlay

Deputy Principals

Check out our web site:

www.taps.school.nz

Term dates:

- The last day of Term 3 is Friday 7th October
- Term 4 commences Tuesday 25th October (after Labour weekend).
- The last day of school for 2011 is Tuesday 20th December and
- We return for the 2012 year on Tuesday 31st January

SCHOOL NOTICES

Year 5 & 6 Camp

Fees for this year's camp are now overdue. Fees MUST be paid by Friday. As this camp is pre-booked, any students that have not paid by this time they may be unable to attend.

2012 Classroom placements

Now is the time for you as parents & caregivers to put thoughts into writing to the Principal and the management team regarding the requirements you believe your child has in regards to their placement for the 2012 academic school year. This is not a time to request a particular teacher or to ask for your child to remain with their best friend but it is for you to share what you feel are the learning, personal and social needs of your child. We then compare your thoughts with those of their current teacher and the syndicate leader. The management team and teaching staff will make the best choice for your child based on the data and knowledge we have. Any thoughts need to be in writing and sent to the office by the end of **Week 2, Term 4 – Friday 4th November**. Classrooms for next year do not have the teacher assigned to them until mid-December when we will notify everyone via the school newsletter.

BP Technology Challenge

Thursday 6th October 6.30-8pm in the school hall. This challenge is for syndicate 4 students only.

Uniform Room News

The Uniform Room is open every Wednesday morning in the hall from 8.15 - 9.00 am. We have stock on hand and EFTPOS available.

"Ra Whakanui Rangatahi" Festival & Kawhia Moana trip

A huge thank you to the many parents who attended the Ra Whakanui Rangatahi (the Kapa Haka festival) last Tuesday, your support is appreciated. Our tamariki performed really well, their behaviour was exemplary and we are extremely proud of them. Kawhia Moana 2011 - Te Reo and Tikanga Maori whanau who wish to attend must get their forms back before the end of term please.

Thanks again

Whaea Erin

Agricultural Group Day

Group Day is being held on Saturday 8th October at the Kihikihi Domain. Best of luck to our TAPS students *and animals*. ☺

PTA Update

We would like to remind families that the PTA is a very small, but active group in our school, they need your help. Why not join and support the 2011 fundraising efforts. Please call the school to find out more information if you are able to help in anyway.

NEXT PTA MEETING – WEDNESDAY 26th OCTOBER IN THE STAFF ROOM STARTING AT 7PM.

Enrolment Scheme:

(This applies to any future enrolments NOT existing students)

The board invites applications from parents who wish to enrol their sons and daughters at Te Awamutu Primary School for Term 4 2011 & Term 1 2012. Applications for OUT OF ZONE** places are now being invited for those students who will become eligible for enrolment during the following periods; 25 October 2011 - 20 December 2011 (Term 4) and 31 January 2012 – 5 April 2012 (Term 1 next year)

The deadline for out of zone applications for Term 4 2011 is Friday 30 September & for Term 1 2012, applications close Friday 18 November 2011. If a ballot for out of zone places is required it will be held the following Wednesday. Parents will be informed of the outcome within three school days of the ballot being held.

** If you live in the home zone and have not yet signalled your intention to enrol your child later this year or next year please advise the school immediately to assist us to plan appropriately. If you have friends or family intending to enrol children in the future, please share this information with them. A copy of the home zone map can be found on our website or at the school office.



Lost Property

We have a large number of school jerseys, shirts, shoes and socks in our lost property room which is beside Room 14. Students recently went through these and found homes for a number of items. We ask that you be extremely vigilant when naming school clothing especially during the summer months when school hats are compulsory. We also have a collection of watches, sunglasses, necklaces and even car keys at the office.

Book Fair Update

Thank you to the many families who supported our recent Book Fair and the kind volunteers who gave their time so generously to make sure the Fair was successful. Your efforts are much appreciated by our school. We earned \$740.00 in commission which enabled us to select 50 exciting new books. Sincere thanks from the Inquiry Centre team.

Bus Tags

Term 4 bus tags must be purchased no later than Friday 4th November. No current tag - no ride. Tags are \$30 per term and are payable to the school office.

Milo & Milk Monday

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



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. **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.**

All the students and staff at TAPS wish you a safe & relaxing holiday.

An Important Reminder for all parents & caregivers.

The Bank Street entrance to the school grounds is for staff and trade vehicles only. The gate will be closed during these busy times (8.30 – 9.05am and 2.30 – 3.15pm) for child safety.

Wednesday Wonderland Early Childhood Programme 2011

We would like to extend an invite to all our pre-school community (children 4.5 years and older) to take up the invitation to attend our preparation for school programme run every Wednesday afternoon 1.30pm - 3pm with Maree Parkes, one of our talented new entrant teachers. Please come to the main foyer of the school for directions as to where this is being held. This programme is funded by the school and therefore free of charge.

School fees & donations:

Thank you to those families who have already paid their fees, we appreciate your support. If you have not paid your school donation & fees we ask that you do so as soon as possible. We rely on this income to help us provide up to date resources for your children. Unfortunately the funding we receive from Ministry is simply not enough to cover every need. Eftpos is available at the office and part-payments are most welcome.

The Maunga Challenge promotes the Waikato, the Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust Education Facility and Provides a challenge of riding around the majestic Maungatautari Mountain. There are events for all ages and abilities. The date for this year's challenge is November 13th 2011. Get training now! More information can be found at www.maungachallenge.co.nz

TERM 3 & 4 DIARY

- Term 3 - Week 10**
- Thursday 6th Oct - MUFTI
- Thursday 6th Oct - BP Technology Challenge (Syndicate 4 only)
- Friday 7th Oct - last day of term
- Term 4 - Week 1**
- Wed 26th Oct - PTA Meeting
- Week 2**
- Oct 31st - Camp Rooms 19 & 22 - Nov 2nd - Camp Rooms 17, 18 & 20
- Nov 4th - Last day for class placement letters
- Week 3**
- Nov 10th - Sydicate 3 & 4 Athletics - Nov 11th - Kawhia Moana
- Week 5**
- Nov 24th Interschool Athletics - Nov 25th - Syndicate 2 Athletics
- Week 6**
- Dec 1st - Syndicate 1 Athletics
- Week 8**
- Dec 13th - Year 6 Graduation
- Week 9**
- Dec 20th - last day of 2011
- *all dates are subject to change

**MUFTI DAY
THURSDAY 6TH OCTOBER
(TOMORROW)
GOLD COIN DONATION**

