

TE AWAMUTU PRIMARY SCHOOL

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29 October 2008

Principal's Diary.....

Kia Ora Te Awamutu Learning Family/Whanau,

I would like to thank all our children and staff for their fabulous gala efforts last week and especially all our parents and our tremendously hard working PTA for their amazing efforts. Our gala was a success making - \$9500.00 – WELL DONE everyone. Children, teachers and families can I remind you of term 3's learning focus,

'Enterprise @TAPS' Our learning Goal:

- **Exploring the constructed world and the part we can play in designing exciting futures.**
Each class to inquire into and partake in the process of producing products to sell at the School Fair in Term 4...and then term 4's focus is:

Term 4 – Serving Others

- **Discovering the joy of serving others and exploring how we can weave that into our school and wider community. All classes will be involved in a school fair selling the products produced in Term 3.**

I invite you and your family to debrief tonight around the dinner table and listen to your child/ren's feedback about their personal journey last term and their personal excitement as the gala got closer. What changes has it made to your child's connection to his or her school?

I am extremely proud of the efforts and hard work from everyone to make sure that this Enterprise focus was successful...a first to have children truly involved in the planning, designing and making of the products to sell. Thank you everyone for making our learning richer for your positive involvement.

To our new families, "A big warm TAPS Welcome".

Our school virtue for the next 3 weeks - Making Good Choices

Goal:

To help children make good choices. Children need to understand that each choice they make has an impact on their lives. We have to help them with their decision making and teach them how to make good choices. By encouraging the children to make positive choices we can help them live a full, happy and interesting and satisfying life.

Indicators of success:

Children will be happy with the outcomes of their choices.

Everyone feels welcome in the classroom and playground.

Children will be observed demonstrating the school values.

People will be observed having fun together.

High quality work will be produced

Children will be observed controlling their feelings...

Pupils will be seen to be acting responsibly

Display the Making Good Choices sentence:

- i. **I will always try to do my best. (Syndicate 1 and 2)**
- ii. **I am responsible and I always do my best. (Syndicate 2 and 3)**

ICAS Exams:

Over the past few months thirty-one Y5 and 6 students at TAPS sat a total of fifty-four ICAS exams. We are proud to tell you that nearly one third of those results (28%) were higher than the national average. Two of our students achieved distinction which places them in the top 10% nation wide. Well done Jessica Hohepa and Amber Kelso.

Some great news to share in the following areas; English and Computer Skills with over-all results higher than the national average. Mathematics results were at the national average. At TAPS we continue to use data to help us to improve learning programmes for all students. The results of the ICAS tests have given us a focus on spelling and writing.

Certificates will be presented at our Values assembly on the 10th November.

Gareth Duncan

Principal

School Notices...

School Banking

Deposits can be dropped off at the office in a sealed envelope by Thursday each week. Forms to open an account at Westpac can be picked up from the office.

Lucky Book Club

Last day for book club orders is Friday 7th November.

Year 6 Graduation

Tuesday 9th December, 7pm in the hall. **(Please note change in date)**

Whanau Meeting

26th November, 7pm in the staffroom. A time to share achievement results, catch up with old friends and meet new ones. Bring a plate for a shared supper. All welcome.

Super Hero Mufti Day

This Friday is a whole school mufti-day. We encourage the children to dress-up in their favourite "Super hero" outfit. Gold coin donation for Plunket.

Mother and Son Breakfast

The Mother and Son breakfast will be held on Wednesday November 12th at 7.15 in the school hall. More details to follow.

TEAM NOTICES

Syndicate One News

A huge thank you to those parents and caregivers that donated items for our raffle, and who gave time to set up, manage stalls, and/or clean up at the Gala. The Gala was a great success, and we can attribute its success to the amazing team work of children, parents, teachers, PTA members and Sunil.

Ukulele Lessons

The children had their first ukulele lesson with Noeline Kennedy last Tuesday. Children have had, and will continue to have the opportunity to practice their skills. For those children that have really enjoyed this new learning, we plan to have a follow up lesson with Noeline in Week 5. There will be a cost for this second lesson, approximately \$3.50. Note to follow.

Syndicate One Assembly is tomorrow, Thursday, 30th October. Everyone is welcome to come along to watch. Items will be by Rooms 1 and 3.

Athletics Day for Syndicate One is Thursday, 13th November. Please mark this date on your calendar. We will be starting at 9.30 am, and hope to be finished by lunchtime. We would appreciate some parent help for the morning. Please see your child's teacher if you have an hour to spare.

Syndicate Two News

It was fantastic to see so many faces at our school GALA last week!! The children enjoyed making and contributing to our Gala and we hope you had a lovely evening. To all of the Parents/caregivers/PTA members/our wonderful caretaker/children helpers etc a HUGE HUGE thank-you. Without your support we could never achieve a successful Gala. Thank-you also for supporting us, the teachers through this very busy time.

This week our classes are involved in Run/Jump/Throw lessons with Project Energize.

Reminders

- HATS are now a compulsory part of the school uniform. (Please try to make sure they are named). Your child will be asked to sit in a shaded area if they do not have a school hat on.
- Don't forget your Gold coin donation for our Milo Cricket sessions. This can be handed to the classroom teacher.

Syndicate Three News

The Syndicate 3 teachers and students would like to thank all of those parents and students who gave up their time to help out at our stalls at our Gala. It wouldn't have been as big of a success without your help. Thank you.

A special thanks to Linda Howarth, Louise Foster, Joyce Airey and Roz Libline for your help collecting and collating money from the snakes. This was a huge task and your help was much appreciated.

The first two of our classes left for Camp Adair this morning. The children are all very excited about this big adventure. Just a couple of reminders, please remember to name ALL of your child's belonging that they bring to camp.

The children are also required to bring a packet of biscuits and a packet of muesli bars. These are able to be sent to school now.

