

## TE AWAMUTU PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Website: [www.taps.school.nz](http://www.taps.school.nz)

3 June 2009

### WEEK 6 2009

#### Principal's Diary...

Kia ora Te Awamutu Learning Family/Whanau,

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to our new teacher in Syndicate One, Mrs Elaine Williams. Due to the growing roll in our New Entrant area, this week we have opened out fifth new entrant class. Welcome to our new families and children who have joined Mrs Williams in Room 11 this week.

## Stewart & Cavalier Proud sponsor of our J-Rock Team 2009



We wish our J-Rock Group all the best for tonight's performance at Founders Theatre in Hamilton and I would like to thank all those people who have been involved in preparing our children for this fabulous opportunity. To our teachers: Mrs Lester, Miss Edwards and Miss Walter – Thank you!

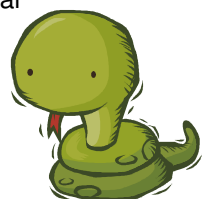
I would like to acknowledge the fabulous contribution and participation in a community environmental exercise last week by planting trees with Environment Waikato, Waipa District Council, and Honda. The planting day was organised by the Lower Mangapiko Stream Care Group which has been working hard to improve the stream quality and surroundings between Pirongia and Te Awamutu. Thank you to those children, staff and parents/caregivers who attended and helped with this project. You might like to read Room 14's class blog: <http://missfiler.edublogs.org/> and Room 15's Wikispaces site: <http://tapsroom15.wikispaces.com/>. Please enjoy reading the learning that is happening for these classes in our school.

**Syndicate Ones inquiry question** for this term is: "We all have different experiences of the natural world through our exploration, play and asking questions. We all use resources from our natural world, so, "how can we treat our natural world respectfully?" We wish syndicate one all the best this Friday as they embark on their Pirongia Forest walk looking at the natural resource on our back door step, and how we look after our environment. We hope that everyone keeps warm and enjoys your adventure!

#### **Snakes Alive**

Following the response to the EOTC survey earlier in the year, a camp has been organised for the Syndicate 4 students. This will be a two day (one night) camp at the Narrows and will be held within the week of the 7<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> December. (Exact dates and costs to be confirmed).

To offset the cost, Syndicate 4 students who choose to, will be selling Snakes from the Natural Confectionary Company over weeks 7 – 10 this term. Over the next two days, senior students will take home the notices for this fundraiser with the first boxes being given to students this Friday.



## **Mothers and Daughters Breakfast**

For our girls and a significant adult female in their lives, we are excited about the upcoming TAPS Breakfast date. Our special guest Tegan Morris is excited to have the opportunity to meet us next Thursday. If you are keen to come along, please fill in the slip that your daughter brings home and drop it to the office.

*Gareth Duncan*

Gareth Duncan  
Principal

## **DP's Snippets**

### **ASSESSMENT AT TAPS**

Your child's learning is assessed throughout their time at TAPS. Assessment gives teachers useful information about how well your child/children are progressing, and what students need to do next to continue learning.

While some types of assessment provide a mark or a score, teachers also use observations and examples of other students' work (National Exemplars) as a basis of assessment. Over the next few weeks, we would like to share the assessments that we currently use beginning with Years 0 – 1.

### **5 Year, 6 Week and 5 Year, 6 Month Assessment Check ups.**

After an initial 6 week period, the teacher has established an effective relationship with children to enable data collecting to provide information about individual children's next learning steps.

Data collected at this stage specifies:

1. early book and reading strategies
2. self management
3. writing observations
4. letter identification
5. basic sight words

These results help to determine next learning steps.

These results are then revisited at 5 Years 6 months to ascertain the learning progression of individual children and the milestones that they have achieved within the first six months of their schooling.

### **Record of Oral Language;**

This assessment observes aspects of a child's control over oral language and assesses a child's ability to handle selected grammatical structures.

The purpose of this assessment is to

1. observe a child's control of grammatical structures
2. group children for specific teaching
3. guide teachers with use of grammatical structures with individuals in their class.

Early detection leads to intervention for the children with inclusion in an oral language "Talk To learn" group. The teacher aides are trained with specific teaching techniques to assist these children formulate the correct grammatical structures.

## **Viv Buchanan and Gill Gibbs**

## **SCHOOL NOTICES**

### **Absences**

If you receive an absence alert (text message), get in touch with us please. For all absences the Ministry of Education requires a satisfactory explanation/reason to be provided as to why a child is absent. Non response will result in your child being marked as truant.

### **Uniform Shop**

There will be a second-hand uniform sale on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July, from 8.15am. We are in need of some plastic bags so if you have any please drop at the office.

### **Lost**

Black leather shoes, named H Airey. If found please return to Room 20 or the office.

Polar fleece jumper, named Gabriel Venks. If found please return to Ben Cavanaugh Room 8.

