

17 February 2010

Principal's Diary...

Kia Ora Te Awamutu Learning Family/Whanau,

Te Awamutu Walk of Fame & Mangaohoi Stream Treasure Hunt

Te Awa Syndicate visited the Te Awamutu Walk of Fame and completed a treasure hunt along the banks of the Mangaohoi Stream in week 2 as a "hook in" for their communities and ecological sustainability learning scopes. It was a fantastic day, many thanks to all the parent helpers who took time out of their day to come with us!

Please go to our website for photos from this trip and more www.taps.school.nz



Prize Winning Potatoes

On Friday 5 February, Te Awamutu Dahlia Circle held their annual show at the Te Awamutu Bowling Club. As well as a spectacular show of Dahlias they also ran a vegetable competition for keen gardeners in the area. Syndicate 3 students entered a range of vegetables from our school vegetable garden and took pride in receiving 1st place for their potatoes and 2nd place for their tomatoes.

Pictured right, Christopher Packwood, Sam Patel and Mackenzie Margetts accept on behalf of all Syndicate 3 children their prize from organiser Margaret Yates.



Information Evenings

We will be holding opportunities for parents to engage with TAPS about the Literacy and Numeracy Standards and the ways in which we will be reporting to you and your children this year.

BOT Information evening / National Standards

Session 1 - An interactive information evening will be held regarding the new Literacy and Numeracy Standards on Thursday 4th March at 6pm in the school hall. Also for those parents who are interested in standing as a parent representative on the BOT, this will be a time for sharing information.

Session 2 - An interactive coffee chat with the Principal will be held regarding the new Literacy and Numeracy Standards on Friday 5th March at 11.30am in the school hall.

To read more about the standards please feel free to visit:

<http://www.minedu.govt.nz/Parents/YourChild/ProgressAndAchievement/NationalStandards.aspx>

Yours in learning and have a fabulous week.

Gareth Duncan☺

Principal

Our fortnightly Maori translation and saying to bring into your home

'Kia kaha!' 'Be strong!'

We're promoting Te Reo Māori at TAPS. You can join us in this learning journey by using the phrase "Kia kaha!" to encourage your child in anything they do. It's a great way to say 'go hard!' and 'give it your best!'

Tēnā koutou!

Ngā mihi aroha ki ngā whānau katoa o tō tātou kura tuatahi o Te Awamutu.

You'll be pleased to hear that our Te Reo and Tikanga classes have begun. There has been loads of fun, laughter and learning at each session. Our kaupapa (topic) for this term is 'Whānau.' The tamariki are learning to say who they are and who their whānau are in te reo Māori. We will also focus on heroes and heroines within our own whānau.

Kapa haka has so many tamariki attending, it's exciting and full-on at the same time!

Keep the evening of Wednesday 10th March free for 'Kai and Kōrero,' a get-together for whānau to get to know each other and chat. See you there!

If you have any pātai, give me a call at school and we'll find time to kōrero.

Nāku

Erin Keremeta-Kapa

Mufti Day

This Friday, 19th February, gold coin donation. All proceeds will go to Relay for Life.

Lunch orders

Children are able to order their lunch in the hall each Monday, Wednesday & Friday before school starts. Please see the enclosed menu for items & pricing.

Milkshake Monday helpers needed

In order to resume our Milkshake Mondays, we need some helpers. You would be required on Mondays from 10.15 until approximately 11.15. Please phone the school office 871 5378 if you are able to help.

Reading helpers - ONE hour a day is all we need

Are you someone who might be able to offer an hour a day to sit with a child and listen to him or her read? If so please give Gareth a call at school because we need you urgently! Our reading teachers will give you all the advice and support you need to get started – time and a listening ear is all we need – Phone me: 8715378

STOP work meeting for teachers

A paid stop-work meeting for teachers will be held on Thursday 18th March from 1.30pm – 3.30pm. The Board of Trustees will keep the school open for instruction on this afternoon. There will be a skeleton staff on duty and children may well be working in larger groups for staff to best accommodate the afternoon programme. Please feel free to come into school and take your child if it fits in with your day. All children must be signed out from the office.

Are you able to help with a sports team this year?

We have a variety of sports on offer for the children at TAPS but like everything we do need volunteer help to assist in the coaching or the managing of teams. Teams that we need help with are:

- Netball (please ring Miss Edwards at school)
- Basketball
- Volleyball
- Cricket
- Touch

If you have skills or time to contribute to the following codes then please call Miss James at school to register your interest. All equipment and training required can be provided from the school to support you and the team.

School fees (donation)

Shortly you will receive an invoice with the details of your school fees. School fees are still classified as a donation and are therefore deductible for tax purposes. You will note that fees have increased this year. It is over 10 years since the last increment and due to ever increasing costs to maintain and purchase resources over this time we had no choice but to increase school fees this year. Unfortunately the funding schools receive from the Government in no way covers the costs we incur. We appreciate and thank you for your support.

Please note: School fees are separate of the compulsory consumables levy of \$15 per child (for paper and photocopying materials supplied throughout the year). Any pastoral or hardship support needed for your family please let Mr Duncan know.

Meet the teacher evening for Syndicate 1 & 2

Syndicates 1 & 2 are having a meet the teacher's picnic tomorrow night starting at 5 pm. The school pool will be open from 5pm-5.30pm for a swim followed by a picnic. All Syndicate 1 & 2 families are welcome to come along. Please bring your picnic dinner, togs and lots of smiles. If it is wet a decision will be made at lunchtime regarding cancelling the event.

Meet the teacher evening for Syndicate 4

To the wonderful parents and caregivers of children in Te Awa Syndicate (Syndicate 4 – rooms 17 to 22)

We are having a meet the teacher night at 6:00pm Monday 22nd February on the courts by the pool. Bring your picnic dinner and togs if you would like to have a swim.

Tara Walter
Syndicate Leader

BOT Meeting – 23rd February @ 6pm in the staffroom

'**Kai and Kōrero**' - Wednesday 10th March

Keep cool with water!

DIY flavoured water:

Flavoured waters from the shops can be packed full of sugar – some have 7tsp of sugar per bottle!

While these drinks can taste nice, too much sugar isn't good for our bodies so try flavouring the water naturally to avoid all that extra sugar.

Try using some of these to flavour your own water:

- Mint
- Strawberries
- Orange
- Lemon

