

4 May 2011

Welcome back to Term Two - 2011

Principal's Diary...

Kia Ora Te Awamutu Learning Family/Whanau,

Welcome back to a new term, I hope you all had a great holiday and managed to escape for a few days. I would like to extend a very warm TAPS welcome to our new families and all those returning for term two.

We started our term with a whole school assembly talking about `Care and Concern` as our leading value for this term. The information I shared at the assembly with your children was:

Goal: To develop positive relationships between teachers and pupils and foster willingness amongst children to be kind and thoughtful and to consider the needs of others before themselves. This value embodies **kindness, consideration, empathy and compassion.**

Our Care & Concern sentence for Weeks 1 - 3:

Our syndicates will focus on the following statements

***Syndicate 1 and 2 - I am kind to everyone *Syndicate 3 and 4 - I look after the feelings of everyone**

Can I please remind all parents to check children's bags this week for the syndicate newsletter which has more permanent information for you and your family regarding the learning overview for the term and other information pertinent to your child's syndicate.

Science Week - It's national science week this week. The purpose of the week is twofold;

1. To enhance teaching and learning of science in primary schools. Through professional development for primary teachers.
2. To celebrate science in our primary schools.

The Nature of Science strand is an incredibly important strand that may be somewhat overlooked in schools. Through this strand, students learn what science is and how scientists work - students learn to think and behave like scientists. To put the spotlight on science at TAPS, we have been having a daily science quiz with classes in a race to email their answers in. We highlight the life of a famous scientist in history each day and we bring interactive links to all classes in a variety of scientific fields. For more information on Science Week, please visit <http://www.nzase.org.nz/files/index>

Science is around us every day. Encourage your child/children to ask questions, look for similarities and differences.

Lastly, I would like to wish all our Mum`s a happy Mother's Day for Sunday ☺

Yours in learning

Gareth Duncan

Principal

Check out our web site:

www.taps.school.nz

Disco

Syndicate 1 and 2 will have a combined "Freaky Friday" disco on Friday 13th from 5.30 – 6.30pm in the school hall. Tickets go on sale from Monday 9th May. Mrs Tautari-Scott in room 7 will be selling tickets from her classroom on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday mornings from 8.30 until 8.55am. The price is set at \$2 per ticket. There will be items to purchase at the disco drinks, popcorn, raspberry twists and glow sticks will be \$1 each. Parents & caregivers are welcome to stay. The disco is part of the 2011 PTA fundraising calendar and is proudly sponsored by Te Awamutu Glass.

Syndicate 3 will have their disco on Friday 20th May from 6-7.30pm. Tickets will be on sale from Monday 16th from Mrs Dannock in Room 16 and Mrs Miller from Room 6. Tickets will also be \$2.

Trial of new bell times

This term we have altered the morning tea and lunchtime bells. Morning tea (playtime) will move from 10.35am - 11.00am to the new time slot of 11.00am -11.20am lunch will start at 12.45pm rather than 12.30pm. Children will have a snack break in class between 9-11.00am, to keep them well fuelled. The time change allows us a two hour block of learning first thing in the morning. Research clearly shows that this is the optimum learning time for children. The school day will remain the same – 8.55am bell - make your way to class if you are not already there, 9.00am school commences. School concludes at 3pm.

BOT (Board of Trustees) Community update:

It is time for us to review the school's Strategic Plan once again. We will be having our first community consultation meeting on **Wednesday 18th May at 6pm**; this will be held at Kelly & Bryant Chartered Accounts Greenhill Drive Te Awamutu (Taylors Hill). Please come along and have your say – What would you like to "Keep, Stop, Start"? Light refreshments will be provided.

School Fees:

Statements for the outstanding compulsory consumables fee and the school donations will be sent home shortly. These are due and payable now. If payment in full is difficult part payments will be accepted over time to clear the debt. Eftpos is available at the main office.

Children's Absences

It is school policy that you notify the office (8715378), before 9am daily if your child is going to be absent. Our school mobile phone (0212760505) can be text with a message regarding absentees. We thank you all for your support in keeping children safe. All unexplained absences are marked as truant.

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 only. The Bank Street driveway, this entrance 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.**

Lost Property

Can be found adjacent to Room 14 (Mrs Gillespie's Room)

Milo Monday

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

Uniform...

As you prepare for the winter terms can I please remind you the shoes stipulated in the school uniform Policy are: **Black shoes, laces and or Velcro** are acceptable – this does not mean sneakers with other colours on them. Your support of this policy will be appreciated.

Please return all Reading books:

If your child has any reading books at home please return them to school. There will be no questions asked if you have more than one book at home – we just need the resources returned. Thanks

PTA Support:

We would like to remind families that the PTA is a very small, but active group in our school and they need you to join and support their 2011 fundraising efforts. Our major school fundraising event this year is the School Gala to be held in Term 4 and the Quiz Night coming up later this term. Please call the school to find out more information if you are able to support in anyway.

Bus Tags

Term 2 bus tags are now due. Last day for tags is Friday 13th May. Any late tags will have to be ordered. Remember No Tag – No Bus.

Wednesday Wonderland Early Childhood Programme 2011

I would like to extend an invite to all our pre-school community (all children 4.5 years and older) to take up the free offer of coming to our preparation for school programme run every Wednesday afternoon at 1.30pm till 3pm with Maree Parkes (trained teacher and TAPS Community Connector) Please come to the main foyer of the school for directions as to where this is being held.

Netball

The competition level netball has started. Competition games are 4 x 10 minute quarters. Future Ferns will start this Saturday. We have a lot of excited young 'budding silver ferns' at school. A big thank you to all the wonderful parents and friends of the school who are coaching, managing and refereeing our teams, also thank you to all of our supporters. A big thank you to Mrs Miller for the organisation of our school teams☺ Draws for each week can be found in the Te Awamutu Courier or at www.sportsground.co.nz/teawamutunetball/.

Rippa Rugby

Te Awamutu Primary's Rippa Rugby team will be playing in the local Rippa Tournament next Tuesday at Te Awamutu Sports Rugby Club. The day starts at 9.30a.m. Please come along and support our school.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Sport Waikato is holding a basic beginners managers course at Te Awamutu Sports Rugby Club next Tuesday, 10th May 6pm – 8pm – FREE to all Managers in Te Awamutu of any sporting code

Music Lessons

Ukulele lessons and guitar lessons are available for Te Awamutu Primary students in Term 2 through 4 Front School of Guitar. Ukulele is a great way to get your kids involved in music and is available for all ages; guitar is suited to ages 7 and up. Lessons are held at the AOG Church on Alexandra St on Tuesdays after school. For more information please contact David Murray by email david@schoolofguitar.co.nz phone 027 2 GUITAR (484827) or on the website www.schoolofguitar.co.nz/teacher/3464

Under the House Children's Art Club

Re-opening Term 2 - *Do you have a creative child who requires imagination stimulation? Then our arts and crafts club is for you.* We are taking bookings now for Monday - Friday classes 3.30 - 5.30pm - Te Awamutu. Please phone Anna for more information - after 2.00pm, (07) 871-8251 or (027) 294-8824

Basketball

TA College Basketball is running a coaches clinic next week on May 10th (5.30pm - 7pm) at TA Events Centre. Ken Struthers is running the session - mainly focused on running a team of teenagers but would be relevant to all others - just let me know if you know of anyone who could be interested.

Remember....

Board of Trustees and **Community Strategic Planning Meeting 18th May at 6pm** at Kelly & Bryant. Everyone is welcome to attend this sessions and share thoughts and ideas for the future direction of TAPS.

Board of Trustees Meeting – 31st May @ 6pm in the staffroom