

TE AWAMUTU PRIMARY SCHOOL

'Together Achieving Personal Success'

3 February 2012

Welcome to Week 1, Term 1 - 2012 Principal's Diary...

Welcome back to a new year at school. I trust you all had a great holiday and managed to escape for a few days. On behalf of all the staff at TAPS I would like to extend a BIG welcome to our new families.

Wow, what a happy buzz there has been throughout the classrooms as we welcome back old friends and new into our school. I would like to acknowledge the fabulous work that our staff have put into welcoming your child/ren back to school for the 2012 academic year. We have a really exciting year of learning and fun opportunities ahead for all of our children. Please remember to check your children's bags this week for their syndicate newsletter which will have more information for you and your family.



Strategic Plan/School Charter

The Board of Trustees would like to invite all parents to take a look at the school website in the coming weeks under 'Strategic Plan 2012 – 2014' for an understanding of our learning targets. The document is available for viewing at the school office and will be posted on the web site in early March with the 2012 targets outlined.

Property Update

Over the Christmas holidays every classroom and the school hall was fitted with air conditioning units. The staff car park (off the Bank Street entrance) is almost complete with the paint marking scheduled for the coming week. The top block renovation is well underway with Rooms 17 & 18 already in use. Rooms 19-22 should be complete by the end of this term. We appreciate your co-operation and patience while these rooms are out of action.

Meet the teacher:

To start the academic year we will be holding a meet the teacher and goal setting evening for you and your child during week 4 (21st & 22nd February). We would like to advise all parents/caregivers that **school will close at 2pm on these days** and we would ask that you pick your child/ren up from school at 2pm or arrange alternative collection for your child/ren. After School Care will run as usual for those children who attend this service with an earlier start time of 2pm on these days to accommodate the early school closure.

Our learning team for 2012:

Junior School Deputy Principal – Miss Tracy Findlay (years 0-2)

Senior School Deputy Principal – Mrs Gill Gibbs (years 3-6)

Syndicate 1 Leader/Room 2 Teacher – Mrs Diane Darlington (responsibilities for year 0-1 learners and teachers in Rooms 1-3)

Room 1/Wednesday Wonderland – Mrs Maree Parkes

Room 3 – Mrs Sharon Ngatai & Mrs Di Gudsell

Syndicate 2 Leader/Room 9 Teacher – Mrs Bridget Perkins (responsibilities for year 1-2 learners and teachers in Rooms 7-11)

Room 7 – Mrs Janette Gillespie

Room 8 – Miss Valida White

Room 10 – Mrs Tara McAuley

Room 11 – Miss Katie Goodridge

Syndicate 3 Leader/Room 12 Teacher – Mrs Kim Tautari-Scott (responsibilities for year 3-4 learners and teachers in Rooms 12-16)

Room 13 – Mrs Davina Miller

Room 14 – Mrs Jane Ellis

Room 15 – Mrs Kathryn Picard

Room 16 – Mrs Jo-Anne Dannock

Syndicate 4 Leader/Room 17 Teacher – Mrs Anne Mackey (responsibilities for year 5-6 learners and teachers in Rooms 17-22)

Room 18 – Miss Wendy James

Room 19 – Mrs Jessie Monk

Room 20 – Miss Linda Woulfe

Room 22 – Mrs Kim Lester

Yours in learning

Gareth Duncan ☺

SCHOOL NOTICES

Bus Students

All students who travel to and from school via bus must have a current Term 1 bus tag. These are \$30 and available from the school office. **All tags must be paid by Friday 10th February. No tag – No bus.**

Wednesday Wonderland

We would like to extend an invite to all our pre-school community (all children 4.5 years and older) to take up the offer of attending our preparation for school programme run every Wednesday afternoon with Maree Parkes (trained teacher and TAPS community connector). The programme is fully funded by the school and therefore free of charge. The 2012 programme will commence in week 3, Wednesday 15th February and runs from 1.30pm – 3pm. For more information, contact the school office on 871 5378 or office@taps.school.nz

Uniform

All children are required to be in correct uniform at all times unless you have been advised otherwise.

UNIFORM SCHEDULE

- Blue/white short sleeve polo shirt with monogram
- Blue/white long sleeve polo shirt with monogram
- Navy polar vest with monogram
- Navy polar sweat with monogram
- Navy track pants
- Navy Skort
- Navy Shorts
- Navy ¾ Pants
- Navy Trousers
- Navy bucket hat
- Navy knee high or ankle socks
- Black or blue shoes or sandals – **NO** jandals or multi coloured shoes

The uniform room is open every Wednesday morning from 8.15am – 9am in the hall. More information may be found on the school website. www.taps.school.nz

Swimming

Swimming is an important part of our school programme and is compulsory for all children. Please try to ensure your child has named swimming gear, including togs, towels and underwear, each day during the swimming season (Term 1), unless he or she is unwell. Parents are requested to send a note to school if they wish their child to be excused from swimming on any particular day.

School Dental Clinic Service

The dental technicians have advised us that they hope to be on site as of 20th February 2012. For all general enquires, phone 0800 TALK TEETH. The new mobile dental unit will be located in our car park at the rear of the school when on site.

Lunches

Due to receiving late notification from our supplier that they are no longer able to provide the lunch service we have no alternative but to inform you that school lunches are currently unavailable. We are in the process of seeking a new supplier and will notify you when the lunch service is up & running again. We apologise for the inconvenience.

Lost Property

We have a large number of items in our lost property room which is beside Room 14. Please come and browse through if your child is missing any items. ***REMEMBER TO NAME ALL ITEMS OF CLOTHING**

An Important reminder for all parents & caregivers.

The Bank Street entrance to the school grounds is for staff and trade vehicles only. The boom gate will be closed during peak times (8.30 – 9.05am and 2.30 – 3.15pm) for child safety. The bus zone on Teasdale Street is strictly for school buses. It is NOT a drop off or pick up zone for your children. Over the last week, we have had a number of parents parking in the bus zone which disrupts the buses and can result in them running behind schedule. Please refrain from stopping there no matter how briefly.

School Fees & Consumables Levy

2012 invoices will be sent home next week. School fees are set at \$50 per child, \$90 for two children and \$120 for 3 or more children. These are due by the 1st March.

Unfortunately funding received by the Ministry of Education is not great enough to cover all teaching resource costs. It is your donation that helps us meet the cost of these resources, which in turn enables us to provide a fuller and wider education for your child/ren than would otherwise be possible. The consumables levy is compulsory. The levy assists with the cost of paper and photocopied material supplies throughout the year. This fee is \$15 per child, per year.

Phone Books Fundraiser

Te Awamutu Primary School has again been offered the fundraising opportunity of delivering the local phone books around the Te Awamutu Township. We are currently seeking volunteers to deliver these books into letterboxes around the area. Delivery starts Friday 17th February. If you are able to help we will have the phonebooks ready to go next Wednesday from 8.30am – 9am in the hall or alternatively please contact Maree Parkes in Room 1 or Kim Fabish in the office.

Moo Milk Monday

“Moo Milk” Monday will start on Monday 13th February. Your child can purchase flavoured milk and a cookie for \$2 at morning tea time from the hall foyer.

School Houses

Traditionally our school has been divided into four houses named after some of the early Maori migration waka.

Tainui – Yellow

Arawa – Red

Aotea – Blue

Tokomaru - Green

Each house has a particular coloured banner. House competitions are incorporated into various sporting events throughout the year – swimming, cross country, jump rope for heart, athletics etc. If you are unsure of which house your child is in, ask your classroom teacher.

PTA

PTAs have been quietly helping the school community for at least 100 years in New Zealand, and will no doubt continue to do so for many more years yet. PTA, Home and School, Friends of the School etc., are all voluntary, non-profit organisations. They are associations of parents and family based in the school, whose aim is to bring into closer relationship the home and the school for the benefit of the children. These groups form a link between the school and the wider community. The child is at the centre of everything parents and teachers do.

THE PTA AND IN-SCHOOL RELATIONSHIPS

Many parents question the role of the two groups in the school, PTA and the Board of Trustees. We all have to work together in the school for the good of the children and, as we teach our children, a little ‘give and take’ helps. PTA members are not here for a power play. If PTAs want to raise funds for the extras that are felt necessary for school a ‘wish list’ of ideas from the Board/Principal/Staff at the start of the year is a great way of planning the fundraising. All groups within the school should be working towards common goals that are out-lined in the Strategic Plan. The role of the **Board** is to **GOVERN** the school. The role of the **Principal** is to **MANAGE** the school.

The role of the **PTA**, parents, family, and community is to **support these by being involved in the school**. Most PTAs run their own accounts and are an autonomous body – even though they are, of course, looking to the welfare of the school. In best practice, PTA, Board, and Staff communicate closely and regularly so that all sectors of the school community are working effectively towards achieving common goals. If everyone is pulling in the same direction, rather than being at odds with each other, a lot more can be achieved. PTAs need to remember that Board approval is required for long-term items that are being purchased for the school. Boards and Principals need to remember that they should include a figure for income from the PTA in the budget after it has been agreed to.

POSSIBLE ROLES OF THE PTA IN SCHOOLS

- To encourage all aspects of parental involvement
- To facilitate consultation on school policies
- To hold parent-based discussions on topics relevant to the school
- To carry out fundraising ventures
- To host social occasions
- To provide pastoral care to the school community
- To give parents/caregivers a voice within the school

WHY HAVE A PTA?

- To encourage fellowship among parents, teachers, children and the community
- To achieve a mutual understanding of goals and problems in educating children
- To ensure that our children receive the best education that we can possibly give them to foster the best physical, intellectual and mental health of the child
- To assist parents in being parents – the most important job in the world and the one for which you get no training
- To enable parents, teachers and community the opportunity to formally discuss areas of interest
- To assist the school with activities where parent involvement is required
- To support the school Board of Trustees in development, communication and action of policies, strategies and other activities
- To ensure that parents are receiving all the information they need regarding education in our school and in the wider community
- To provide a channel through which parents can voice their concerns
- To assist the school with fundraising via donations, funding of assets and/or services

Our small and friendly PTA will be meeting in the staffroom on Monday 13th Feb at 6pm to discuss events for the year including the upcoming “School Gala”. We would like to encourage all parents & friends of the school to come along and share your ideas or lend a helping hand. Children are welcome to come along. We hope to see you there 😊

Tune into 107.8 TAPS FM

"Your education station".

Run and managed by the students & staff at Te Awamutu Primary School.

2012 Term Dates

- Term 1 Tuesday 31st January – Thursday 5th April
- Term 2 Monday 23rd April – Friday 29th June
- Term 3 Monday 16th July – Friday 28th September
- Term 4 Monday 15th October – Friday 14th December

Statutory Holidays

- Auckland Anniversary – Monday 31st January
- Waitangi Day – Monday 6th February
- Good Friday – 6th April
- Easter Monday – 9th April
- ANZAC Day – Wednesday 25th April
- Queen's Birthday – Monday 4th June
- Labour Day – Monday 22nd October

A few other dates to mark on your calendar

- Monday 13th February 6pm - PTA Gala Meeting in the staffroom – ALL WELCOME
- Friday 24th February – Syndicate 2 swimming display
- Friday 2nd March – Syndicate 4 swimming sports (postponement date Monday 5th March)
- Tuesday 6th March – Syndicate 3 swimming sports (postponement date Wednesday 7th March)
- Friday 9th March – Syndicate 1 swimming display
- Monday 12th March – Inter-schools swimming sports
- Tuesday 21st & Wednesday 22 March – Student Led Conferences (Meet the teacher/goal setting)

Community Notices

Waipa Tennis Academy

Term 1 coaching is well underway. Tennis is great for exercise and coordination. All enquires: contact Quentin Wallace on 871 5988 or email qwallace@xtra.co.nz

Waipa Mayoral "FUN" Cycle Challenge

The 10km annual cycle challenge will be held Thursday 23rd February starting at the Leamington sports ground, Carlyle Street, Leamington at 5.30pm. Normal road rules apply; the roads will not be closed. Be in to win a new bike. Children under 10 years must be accompanied by an adult during the cycle ride. Younger children can remain at the park for fun cycling activities with Team Energize. Contact Kerin McDonald for more information on 07 823 2510 or email kerinm@sportwaikato.org.nz

Music Lessons

Would your child like to play a musical instrument? Weekly lessons are available with gifted & enthusiastic teachers from the Te Awamutu Auxiliary Brass Band. Students must be 9 years and over. Very reasonable rates for lessons and instrument hire. Please contact Steve on 871 6391 or Jenny on 871 6789.

Junior Cricket

Te Awamutu Junior Hardball Cricket – if you are aged 9-13 years old (years 5-8), and would like to play cricket on Saturday mornings in Term 1, please come to our registration nights on Thursday 2nd Feb & Tues 7th Feb@ 5.30pm – 6.30pm (\$30 registration fee). We meet at the Te Awamutu College cricket practice nets which are situated on the college fields in Factory Rd. Games begin Saturday the 25th February. If you cannot make it to registration night, or need further information, please phone Helen Bastion (07) 871 3321.



