



TE AWAMUTU PRIMARY SCHOOL

'Together Achieving Personal Success'



4th February 2015

Welcome to Week 1, Term 1 – 2015

Welcome to the 2015 year. We also welcome to the TAPS family, three new teachers: Whaea Erin Keremeta-Kapa (returning from maternity leave), Mr Gareth Cox - Room 18 and Mrs Tracy Hopewell - Room 21. Also a special welcome to the 30 new students whom started their schooling here this week, and to their extended families. I look forward to working collaboratively to support all your children to be the best they can be by developing their learning and growing their strengths and weaknesses. It is a privilege to be working in partnership with students and families and I take this opportunity to wish everyone a successful and rewarding year.

A new teaching tool and digital era has arrived at TAPS - 2015.

Connect - Learn - Innovate - Share

Kotuitui - Ako - Auaha - Tohatoha

Our TAPS discussion sessions on digital learning were held during Term 4 last year. We thank all the parents and caregivers who attended. Your input was invaluable during these sessions. Keep an eye out for more sessions during this term.

Last year the school purchased Chromebooks for all Year 5-6 students, 1:3 Chromebooks are available to Year 3-4 students and clusters of iPads for each of the Year 1-2 classrooms. We have a strong commitment to ensure that no student will be disadvantaged in their learning.

I would like to point out that TAPS is not a BYOD school. If however, you would like the option of your child in Years 3-6 to bring his or her own Chromebook to school, then we would welcome this to happen. Noel Leeming, Te Awamutu will be able to help you with the purchase of a Chromebook or online PB Tech <http://pbtech.co.nz/>.

At TAPS we are committed to being a GAFE (Google Apps For Education) school. Being a GAFE school opens us up to amazing possibilities and opportunities in digital learning. Some of the apps we will be using at school are:

- Google Drive
- Google Docs, Presentation, Spreadsheets
- Google Blogs
- Google Sites

Choosing Chromebooks as our preferred device enables students to log on to their Google Account immediately, just by opening up the screen.

In being a GAFE school, all students from Year 3-6 have been given their own school gmail account under the @taps.school.nz domain. Using our school domain, teachers are able to manage and monitor students' learning when using digital devices.

TAPS has been very lucky to be chosen by the Ministry of Education to take part in the 'Learning with Digital Technologies' contract. Our facilitator Barbara Reid will be working closely with the school throughout 2015. We welcome Barbara to our TAPS family.

Hapara Teacher Dashboard

As part of all Year 3-6 pupils 2015 stationery list, a charge of \$7.00 per student has been added for Hapara Teacher Dashboard. This is an online management system that makes Digital Learning visible to teachers. Developed right here in New Zealand and now part of the Google Education family. Hapara Teacher Dashboard provides the teacher:

- Access to all student Google folders, for marking, feed forward and feedback
- Management of student online learning portfolios and blogs
- Able to SMART share work to all students
- Able to see what online websites students are using in their learning
- Able to monitor email - outgoing and ingoing

For more information visit: www.hapara.com

Friendliness is our virtue this week:

To develop positive relationships between teachers and pupils and foster friendliness amongst children. The goals we are working on together are:

- I will smile and say hello to all the people I meet. (Syndicate 1 and 2 - Juniors)*
- I will greet people with a smile and make sure that they are included in my games. (Syndicate 3 and 4 - Seniors)*

Reminders:

- Hats are to be worn at all times outside the classroom. Please note that if your child needs to wear sunglasses then that option is also welcomed.
- Pre-enrolments to TAPS. Please get your pre-school child's enrolment form in as early as possible before their starting date. This allows us to organise class visits so your child can settle smoothly into school.

A great site for parents to visit: <http://www.parents.education.govt.nz/>

If you have a concern or complaint that you would like to have addressed, please visit our web site and follow the TAPS procedures: http://www.taps.school.nz/62/file_sets/17-policies-and-procedures

Yours in learning

Gareth Duncan

Principal

Please read: important information.

If you are aware of anyone living **out of zone** who intends to enrol their child at Te Awamutu Primary, the closing date for applications for the first intake for Term 2 is Friday 20th March. This is for those wanting to start at Te Awamutu Primary between Monday 20th April and Friday 22nd May 2015.

For further information regarding the enrolment scheme and the 'home zone' please refer to our website or you can pick up a copy from the school office or see our website for further enrolment periods.

Please note: **If you currently live 'in zone' this does not affect you in any way. We ask however, that you pre-enrol your child as soon as possible so we are aware of future needs.**

Swimming

Swimming has started this week. All children are to bring their togs and towel as this is a compulsory part of the PE curriculum. 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.

Wednesday Wonderland

We would like to extend an invite to all our pre-school community (all children 4.5 years and older) to attend our preparation for school programme run every Wednesday afternoon with Di Gudsell. The programme is fully funded by the school and therefore free of charge or those enrolling at TAPS. The 2015 programme will commence in Week 2, Wednesday 11th February. It will run from 1.45pm – 3pm and will be held in Room 3. For more information, contact the school office on 871 5378 or office@taps.school.nz

Uniform

The uniform room is open every Wednesday morning from 8.15 - 9am in the school hall. We have lots of summer stock on hand, including the compulsory school bucket hats for \$10 each. If you wish to place an order outside these hours, please leave your order form at the office and the uniform items will be delivered to your child's classroom. EFTPOS is available.

PLEASE NOTE: Hats are available to purchase from the office at any time.

School Fees & Consumables Levy

2015 invoices will be sent home shortly. School fees are set at \$50 per child, \$90 for two children and \$120 for 3 or more children. These are due by the 31st 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. 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.

Bus Students

All students who travel to and from school by 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 13th February. No tag – No ride.**

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 can be texted with a message as well: 0212760505. We thank you all for your support in keeping children safe. Our office staff will call you by 9.30am if your child is not in class, or if we haven't heard from home.

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
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Each house has a 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.

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. We have had a number of parents parking in the bus zone which is illegal and disrupts buses. It can result in them running behind schedule. Please refrain from stopping there, no matter how briefly.

Community Notices

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 one of our registration nights at the **Te Awamutu Sports Cricket Pavilion, Domain Road** on **Wednesday, 4 February or Friday 6 February @ 5.30pm – 6.30pm** (\$40 registration fee to be paid at registration). Games begin Saturday, 14 February. Te Awamutu Junior Cricket is also running an 8 a-side, 16 over competition on Friday nights at Albert Park, commencing Friday, 20 February from 5:30pm. Registrations for this night will be taken on the same nights as Hardball cricket. This is designed for those children who have had a season or two of Milo Cricket and are ready for more structured cricket games. (Registration of \$10 per player). If you cannot make it to registration night, or need further information, please contact Helen Bastion by email helendaly@xtra.co.nz

CHEERLEADING OPEN DAY

Saturday 13 December, 1.00pm - 3.30pm - 223 Ellis Street, Frankton

Come along and spend the afternoon with some of Hamilton's best cheerleaders at Cheer Revolution. Learn how to cheer, stunt, tumble and dance from New Zealand's top coaches and former Team New Zealand cheerleaders. No experience required and suitable for all ages. For more information contact info@cheerrevolution.co.nz



TE AWAMUTU SCOUT GROUP

Annual Muster Night

Tuesday 10th February and the Te Awamutu Scout Hall (opposite Bunnings) at 6pm.

All children and parents welcome. Come along and get ready for adventure.

Keas: School Years 1-3, Clubs: Yrs 4-6, Scouts Yrs 7-10, Ventures: Yrs 11-14.

TA BMX

Are you the next Sarah Walker or Marc Willers?

Come and try our BMX ... for free! **MONADY 16th February at Castleton Park.**

Ride for your school. The school with the most points on the day wins a trophy. Races will be organised by your age on the day. Check in: 5.15pm till 5.50pm. Racing starts at 6pm. Bring your bike & helmet. There are a limited number of club bikes and helmets available to use. For more information, contact Liz Seagar 871 9076.



Plunket Under 5 Expo

10am – 2pm Sunday 1st March, TA Events Centre.

Featuring the Jake and the Beanstalk Pantomime at 1pm.

Free Entry. Enquiries: email thrivingunder5expo@gmail.com

Te Awamutu Athletic Club

Golf Course Fun Run, Walk and Business Relay

Saturday 11th April 2015 9.30am

Registration forms available from the school office.

Email: teawamutu@paperlus.co.nz for more information regarding distances, prices, course maps etc
(this course is not suitable for pushchairs, wheelchairs, trikes or bikes)

TAPS 107.6FM
"Your Education Station"

