



*ANZ Proudly supports Te Awamutu Primary*

## **TE AWAMUTU PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Telephone: (07) 871 5378 Fax: (07) 871 4957

**Absentees - text only 021 276 0505**

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

4 February 2009

### **Principal's Piece**

Kia ora Te Awamutu Primary School Learning Family/Whanau

Welcome back to a new year at school. I hope you all had a great holiday and managed to escape for a few days. A big welcome to our new families at TAPS and to our new teachers: Ms Cunningham Room 3, Miss Atkins Room 8, Ms Woulfe Room 13 and Mrs Lester Room 19 - welcome to you all.

The New Zealand Curriculum changes launched by the Government in November last year officially reflect the research around what effective learning looks like in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. I will be holding meetings this term to share with you our educational philosophy and the vision for Te Awamutu Primary School that the Board, staff and community have worked on during 2008. I hope that you will be able to make it to one of the two sessions this term.

The Board of Trustees would like to thank you all for your feedback last year regarding our vision, strategic goals and direction for the next three years. (See below) The DRAFT document will be available for viewing at the school office shortly and will be posted on the web site in early March. However here is a preview that includes our Mission Statement, Values, Vision and introductory statement.

#### **Mission Statement**

Every learner will have the opportunity, support and guidance to achieve and celebrate their personal best.

#### **Values**

As a Cornerstone Values school, we are committed to building character through teaching, advocating and modelling honesty and truthfulness, kindness, consideration and concern for others, compassion, responsibility, respect and duty. Our Cornerstone Values underpin all decisions and actions in our quest to ensure that each learner achieves their personal best.

Careful consideration is made, when making curriculum decisions, to encourage students to value the following; excellence, innovation, inquiry, and curiosity, diversity, equity, community and participation, ecological sustainability, integrity and to respect themselves, others, and human rights.

#### **Vision**

**Together Achieving Personal Success  
@  
Te Awamutu Primary School**

**Introductory statement:** At Te Awamutu Primary School (TAPS) our aim is to develop perceptive students who are wise, morally sound, challenging and interdependent. When our students leave TAPS they will be equipped with powerful and innovative tools for learning to think and thinking to learn.

To ensure that all TAPS students succeed during their foundation years, priority is given to learning and teaching in English (Literacy) and Mathematics (Numeracy), especially for students in Years 1 – 4. Learning outcomes for all students will be improved and the achievement gap between our highest and lowest achievers will be lessened through developing a shared understanding of priority outcomes, effective use of assessment, providing support and guidance to staff and continuing to develop an effective professional community of learners.

While literacy, numeracy, Cornerstone Values and general health promotion occurs daily at TAPS, students will achieve success in other supporting areas through inquiry based learning. Authentic learning scopes allow for an integrated, inquiry approach where the ultimate aim is to develop young people who are confident, connected, actively involved and developing the attitudes and skills for lifetime learning. We believe that knowledge and understanding of New Zealand's cultural diversity and the unique position of the Maori culture is pivotal in creating our dream team where together we can support each other to achieve personal best.

**OUR SCHOOL VALUE is: "Friendliness"**

**Our Goal for Weeks 1 and 2.** To develop positive relationships between teachers and pupils and foster friendliness amongst children.

- i. (Juniors) I will smile and say hello to all the people I meet.

- ii. (Seniors) I will greet people with a smile and make sure that they are included in my games.

**Indicators of success:**

1. Children smile and greet one another.
2. Everyone feels welcome in the classroom and playground.
3. Children can be observed having fun
4. Laughter is often heard
5. Put downs are not used
6. Hotspots are rarely needed.

School wide values assemblies take place every fortnight. EVERYONE is welcome to these assemblies at 9.15am on a Monday.

Take care everyone.

**Quote for the week: "The only way to have a friend is to be one."**

*Gareth Duncan*

Principal

**DPs Corner**

Tēnā koutou and a huge TAPS welcome back. My name is Gill Gibbs and I have the best job in the world.

Part of my brief in the school is to oversee the pastoral, behavioural and academic well-being of our students and, along with my colleague Viv Buchanan to support Gareth in his role as Principal.

As the students progress to and through their middle and senior years with us there are changes that you may well see. School and home partnership is especially important as we support the children through this developmental stage in their lives.

For instance your children may show bursts of emotion, they may become judgmental and critical about themselves and others. They also develop a greater sense of self confidence and will often take on tasks and responsibilities that they know they will have success in. In this age group (7-11 year olds) children are often sensitive to criticism and respond particularly well to positive responses. The road ahead may seem a little rocky at times. However we are all here to help our intrepid adventurers and we look forward to sharing that support role with you. So many changes. . . .How exciting.

This year Viv Buchanan and I will take turns to have input into this weekly newsletter.

**Changes to be aware of for 2009:**

Our teams as they have been known have changed. We now have four syndicates in our school.

All enquiries or concerns go first to your child's teacher and then to the Syndicate Leader. If you have further queries to make you would make an appointment with one of the Curriculum Leaders (DP's) Mrs Viv Buchanan or Mrs Gill Gibbs. Our DP's support the following areas in our school – Syndicate 1 and 2 = Mrs Buchanan and Syndicate 3 and 4 = Mrs Gibbs.

**Syndicate 1 Leader is:** Ms Jane Coles (responsibilities for all Year 0-1 learners and teachers Rooms 1-4)

**Syndicate 2 Leader is:** Miss Tracy Findlay (responsibilities for all Year 2 learners and teachers Rooms 5-8)

**Syndicate 3 Leader is:** Mrs Anna Booth (responsibilities for all Year 3-4 learners and teachers Rooms 9-14)

**Syndicate 4 Leader is:** Mrs Bronwyn Whiteman (responsibilities for all Year 5-6 learners and teachers Rooms 15-20)

**SCHOOL NOTICES**

**SCHOOL LUNCHES**

Please find enclosed the lunch menu for 2009. Lunches will resume next week. If you are able to volunteer an hour of your time to help collate the classroom orders on a Mon, Wed or Friday morning please leave your name at the office.

**UNIFORM ROOM**

The uniform room is open every Wednesday from 8.15am – 9.00am (please note the new time) There will be a second hand uniform sale on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February from 8.15 am – 9.00am – CASH ONLY

**COMMUNITY NOTICES**

**Te Awamutu Junior Hardball Cricket** – If you are aged 9-13 years old, and would like to play cricket on Saturday mornings this term, please come to our registration and practice night on Thursday 5 February at 5.30pm. We meet at Te Awamutu College cricket practice nets which are situated on the college fields in Factory Rd, next to the Wananga. If you can't make it to the registration night, or need any further information, please phone Sharon Holt 870-3121.

**Phantom Kickboxing Te Awamutu**

178 Teasdale Street (behind Marshalls Pharmacy) 2 for 1 training deal. Two juniors (6-13 years old) can train for the cost of one person for the whole of February. Juniors training on Thursday 6pm-7pm, \$5 for 2 people, for February, with the mention of this ad.

**Parent survey:**

We need your help please . . . .

Here is an opportunity for you to provide feedback via our survey for this month.

We are aware that our stationery purchasing option for 2009 created tension for some families and that was not our intention. Please give us your feedback as we review our system for 2010. Gareth☺

**Stationery 2009:**

*Did purchasing the school stationery packs cause concern for you this year? If so what were your concerns?*

*How could we improve the system for 2010?*

*What other suggestions for you like to make regarding the start of the 2009 school year for you and your child/children?*

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