

## Happy 2010

4 February 2010

### Principal's Diary...

Kia Ora Te Awamutu 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 also to our new teachers (see details below). Wow, what a real happy buzz there has been throughout the classrooms as we welcome old friends and new into our school.

I would like to also acknowledge the fabulous work that Miss Tracy Findlay has dedicated to TAPS over the past eight years. Her strong professional commitment and leadership at TAPS has been rewarded with Tracy winning the Deputy Principals role (Junior School). Congratulations Tracy Findlay ☺

We welcome our new teachers:

Miss Stacey Sutton Room 1B, Mrs Diane Darlington Room 2, Mrs Emma Baker Room 3, Mrs Jane Ellis Room 7 (Part-time teacher) Mrs Valida White Room 8, Mrs Kim Tautari-Scott Room 10, Miss Rachel Wickens Room 11, Mr Arty Dimitrov (Matua Arty) Room 12, Miss Helen Garland Room 15, Mrs Davina Miller Room 16 and Mr Dean Jones (Matua Dean) 21. You may have already met a number of these people last year as several of these new staff members were with TAPS in a part time or relieving capacity during 2009. We extend a warm TAPS welcome to you all.

The New Zealand Curriculum changes launched by the Government in December last year officially reflect the research around what effective learning needs to look like in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. We will be holding workshops 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.

School property has taken on several different "make-over's" during the holidays with a new caretakers shed erected up past the top block, the library has now been converted into two classrooms and the new library is to be built where Room 17 is currently with a new classroom to house Room 17 to be built in the senior area of the school by the end of this year.

As many of you will be aware, our school roll has increased dramatically over the last two years hence the re-development of the above mentioned areas. This has also led to the BOT consulting with the Ministry of Education regarding roll numbers and the decision has been made to implement an enrolment & zoning scheme in term two of this year. This is an integral part of allowing us to manage the roll and class sizes, with the objective being to maintain "ideal" numbers in each classroom and prevent overcrowding at our school.

Can I please remind all parents to check children's bags this week for the syndicate newsletters which have more permanent information for you and your family.

Once again, I extend a very warm welcome back to the school year and wish everyone all the best for your personal endeavours and the wonderful opportunities we get to share in your child's learning.

Yours in learning

Gareth Duncan☺  
Principal

### **Meetings coming up:**

Board of Trustees Meeting – Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February @ 6pm in the staffroom

PTA Meeting - Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> Feb @ 7.30pm. The PTA is a very small, but active group in our school and needs you to join and support the 2010 fundraising efforts. Please come to our meeting to find out more.

### **Lost Property:**

Can be found adjacent to Room 14 (previously Room 12)

**Our Syndicate leaders for 2010:**

Senior School Deputy Principal – Mrs Gill Gibbs

Junior School Deputy Principal – Miss Tracy Findlay

**Syndicate 1 Leader is:** Mrs Diane Darlington (responsibilities for all Year 0-1 learners and teachers Rooms 1B-4)

**Syndicate 2 Leader is:** Mrs Kim Tautari-Scott (responsibilities for all Year 1 & 2 learners and teachers in this area, Rooms 7-11)

**Syndicate 3 Leader is:** Mrs Anna Booth (responsibilities for all Year 3-4 learners and teachers Rooms 12-16)

**Syndicate 4 Leader is:** Miss Tara Walter (responsibilities for all Year 5-6 learners and teachers Rooms 17-22)

**Children's Absences:**

It is school policy that you notify the office: 871 5378 before 9am daily if your child is going to be absent. Our school mobile phone can be sent a text with a message as well: 021 276 0505 – please ensure you insert your child/children's names in the body of the text so we know whom the message is from. We thank you all for your support in keeping children safe. Our office staff will call or text you between 9.30 a.m. & 10.30 a.m. if your child is not in class and we haven't heard from you.

**Wednesday Wonderland Early Childhood Programme 2010:**

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 which runs every Wednesday afternoon with Maree Parkes. Maree was previously teaching in Room 1 and also spent many years working as a Kindergarten teacher prior to entering the primary sector. Maree has the title of TAPS Community Connector and will be working closely alongside pre-school centres and kindergartens to help the transition to school. The programme for 2010 will start Week 3, Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February at 1.30pm – 3pm. Please come to the main foyer of the school.

**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 there for deductible for tax purposes. You will note that the fees have increased this year. It is over 10 years since the last increase 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.

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Here is an opportunity for you to provide feedback via our Micro survey for this month. Please give us your feedback as we review our system for 2011. Gareth☺

(Please return to your child's classroom teacher).

**Stationery 2010:**

*Was it difficult (or not) for your family when purchasing the school stationery packs?*

*How could we improve the system for 2011?*

*What other suggestions do you have regarding the start of the school year for you and your child/ren?*

## **BOT NEWS**

The Board of Trustees would like to invite all parents to take a look at the school web site under 'Strategic Plan 2009 – 2011' for a closer look at 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 2010 targets outlined. I would like to invite all parents to come along and share your thoughts in a series of open chats on the National Literacy and Numeracy standards.

### **BOT Elections on 7<sup>th</sup> May this year:**

#### **What is a school board of trustees?**

Every state and state-integrated school in New Zealand has a Board of Trustees. Boards bring families, communities and schools together to work for a quality education for our children.

The Board of Trustees is a Crown entity. It is the employer of all school staff and sets the school's overall strategic direction. The school's Principal is the board's 'Chief Executive' and manages the schools operation in line with the Board's policies.

The membership of the school board includes elected parent representatives, an elected staff representative and the principal. If the school has students above Year 9, the board also includes a student representative.

#### **What do trustees do?**

School trustees have a very important role in making sure every child achieves their potential at school.

Here are some of the things they do:

- Work with the principal and consult with staff, students and the community.
- Set the educational goals and strategic direction of the school.
- Monitor progress and let parents know how the school is progressing against its annual targets and how well students are achieving.
- Decide how the school's funding will be spent.
- Select the school's principal and support the development of all staff.
- Oversee the management of staff, property, finances, curriculum and administration.

#### **What sort of skills do trustees need?**

Trustees are active leaders in their schools and need a balance of skills and experiences. They need to work well in a team, be able to put plans in place for the school's future, ask challenging questions and have good communications skills. It helps to have an understanding of financial matters and the education sector, and experience in managing people.

For more information please visit the following site - <http://www.nzsta.org.nz/>