

21 April 2010

WEEK 1 2010

Principal's Diary

Kia ora TAPS (Te Awamutu Primary School) Learning Family/Whanau

Welcome back to Term 2 everyone, 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 our two new teachers: Miss Philippa Herron who is teaching in Room 9 and Mrs Sharon Ngatai who is teaching in Room 13 - Welcome to you all.

As you will be aware we had the Education Review Office here towards the end of last term. The Board of Trustees would like to thank those parents who came forward and attended the meeting with them here at school. Our school has received a positive review of its education practices and we look forward to sharing the results with you all as soon as the final report comes from the ERO Office.

Congratulations to our Yr 5 and 6 Rippa Rugby Team who came runner-up at the Term 1 Waikato Rippa Rugby Tournament winning \$150 Sports Voucher.

A few things to remember at a glance:

Term 2 dates:

Monday 19th April to Friday 2nd July

Uniform...

As you prepare for the winter terms can I please remind you the shoes stipulated in the school uniform policy are: **Black**, shoes with laces or velcro are acceptable – this does not mean sneakers with other colours on them. Your support of this policy is appreciated. Our uniform room is open on Wednesday mornings from 8.15 - 9am in the hall. Eftpos is available. We have tights, socks, netball knickers and long sleeve winter tops in stock.

Our Syndicate Leaders:

If you have any enquiries or concerns regarding your child's schooling go first to your child's teacher and then to the Syndicate leader if need be. If you have further queries to make, the next step is to make an appointment with one of the Curriculum Leaders (Deputy Principal's) Miss Tracy Findlay – Syndicates 1 and 2 or Mrs Gill Gibbs – Syndicates 3 and 4.

Syndicate 1 Leader is: Mrs Diane Darlington (responsibilities for all Year 0-1 learners and teachers Rooms 1- 5)

Syndicate 2 Leader is: Mrs Kim Tautari-Scott (responsibilities for all Year 2 learners and teachers Rooms 7-11)

Syndicate 3 Leader is: Miss Helen Garland (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- 21)

See Concerns, Complaints and Compliments Procedures on the school web site.

Gareth Duncan

Principal

DP's Corner

Achievement at TAPS - Summary Statement

English:

TAPS collects extensive achievement information using a range of nationally referenced assessment tools.

Through the use of SEA and Six Year Observational Surveys, assessment information shows that students spend their first year at school consolidating aspects of the Literacy Programme and make significant gains in Reading in Year 2 with 86% meeting school targets. The expectation to have 80% of children reading at their chronological age after one full year of school is still an important goal for the school and every child's achievement and progression is monitored.

Using the Supplementary Test of Achievement in Reading the school reports that students in Years 3 – 6 achieve at levels that are mostly at or above national expectations in reading. Assessment data gathered in March 2010 shows that three quarters of students achieved at or above national expectations for their age in reading. Māori girls continue to improve with 79% achieving at or above expected levels, up from 68% in 2008. Boys, overall, continue to move closer to the 80% target having moved from 64% in 2008 to 72% in 2010.

Two target groups have emerged as continued areas of concern in Years 3-6 with those being Māori boys and Pasifika students whose stanines are between 1 and 3. In response to this concern, Te Awamutu Primary School has a specialist literacy teacher in a full-time position. Individuals in the target group are working with the specialist literacy teacher, involved in targeted interventions and/or are being closely monitored. The school acknowledges that a large number of Pasifika students have English as a second language and believe that all of these students have significant personal learning potential. Home links with Pasifika students is an area that the school has identified as an important element to explore.

Writing levels assessed against the exemplars show that 70% of Year six students at the end of 2009 were achieving learning outcomes at level 3 or higher. Moderation of samples happens within syndicates and is also overseen across syndicates by senior leaders. To increase the validity of data gathered, Te Awamutu Primary School has registered to use Assessment Tools in Teaching and Learning (asTTLe) which will supplement teacher assessment knowledge for more able students.

Mathematics

Teachers use the Mathematics PAT and Numeracy Project Assessment Tools to measure student achievement. Whereas just over three-quarters of Year 5 and 6 students achieved at or above national expectations on the PAT Mathematics in 2010, data collected using NumPA tools showed concerns in strategy and knowledge. Collation and analysis of this data led the school to apply for professional development through the maths advisory. Teachers have been committed to the sustainability project and are carefully targeting and monitoring progress of student's whose levels have been a cause of concern. A series of mathematics workshops planned for terms 2 and 3 will provide parents and whanau with valuable support specifically designed to sit alongside the Numeracy Framework.

SCHOOL NOTICES

Board of Trustees Election

Nominations for the five parent representative vacancies on the Board of Trustees close at 12 Noon on Friday 23 April 2010. Thank you to all who have considered standing as a Board member. We currently have five nominations. The following people have offered themselves as candidates: Bruce Airey, Andy Goodridge, Lorraine Hoet, Alan Taylor, and Roger Waitere. If there are no further nominations then these candidates will be declared elected and will form the new Te Awamutu School Board of Trustees. If we receive further nominations there will be an election (voting papers will be sent to you). If you are considering standing for a position on the Board you must have your completed nomination form handed into the school office or placed in the ballot box by 12 Noon on Friday 23 April 2010. Late nominations cannot be accepted.

Ian McLauchlan
Returning Officer

Before School Care

Due to the number of increasing requests for such a service, this term sees the start of our Before School Care programme. This will commence next Monday, 26th April. The programme runs from 7am – 8.30pm in the school hall with breakfast supplied. If you are interested in enrolling your child please collect an enrolment form from the office or alternatively you can pick one up from Laille at the After School Care Programme in the hall.

School Fees (donation) & Consumables Levy (compulsory)

Thank you to all those families who have paid their school fees & levies. We still have a number of accounts outstanding and as we have eluded to previously we rely heavily on your support in this area so we are able to continue to maintain & purchase resources for the children. If you have misplaced your account, the office staff are able to help you with this.

PTA

The PTA AGM is being held next Monday, 26 April at 7.30pm in the Staffroom. Everyone is very welcome.

Bus Tags

Term 2 bus tags are now available to be purchased from the office. Last day for purchasing the new tags is Friday the 30th April.

No current tag, no ride.

Lunch Orders

We are seeking volunteers to help take & collate the school lunch orders on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from 8.30 to 9.15.am Please let the office staff know if you can help.

Milo Monday

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

COMMUNITY NOTICES

MAD COW DRUMS

Mad Cow Drums are pleased to make the following offer to students of Te Awamutu Primary School who want to learn to play drums in 2010. Lessons will be on Thursdays at lunchtime in the school hall. They are \$12.50 per lesson and there must be a minimum of 6 students to start. Please call Glenn on 871 4447 for more information. **Please note there is no requirement for a drum kit to begin these lessons.**



FOOD LABELS

What's in a label?

All foods have labels to tell you **what is in it**. Once you can understand and interpret **food** labels you can work out whether a food is actually healthy for you.

There are several parts of the label that you need to consider –

- the **nutrition information panel** (a grid usually on the back that has all the nutrients and numbers in it)
- the **ingredient list**
- and the **nutrition claims** (e.g. 'lite' or 'no added sugar')

Each week we will give you more information to 'decode' food labels.

