



Te Awamutu Primary School

Together Achieving Personal Success



Week 4, Term 1, 2020

Kia ora whānau,

It has been so nice to catch up with everyone over recent weeks. To our new families, I look forward to talking with you and introducing myself. In the past, I have always prided myself on knowing all of the student's names, but I have some serious work to do to catch up as we have welcomed so many more new enrolments than normal. Our school now numbers 486 students which exceeds the number of students we had in June 2019.

I'm truly grateful for the support and kind words from our community, over the last weeks of the holiday with the mould situation in Rooms 8, 9, 10, 17. Everyone has pulled together and the classrooms are operating well in the main block. The paperwork for demolition is well underway with the architect and the process for getting new modulators could be implemented sooner than we'd hoped. The Ministry of Education has been working hard to make things happen for us.

Room 12 and Room 13 have started their refurbishment and the painting crew continues to move around the school. The roofers are expected back, in the near future to complete the deck roof above Room 5b and 6a and install new clear lights above the upstairs toilet by Room 1 and 2. This work will likely be done on the weekend. Other jobs have been incorporated in the Room 12/13 project, so there is lots going on in relation to property development. The money provided by the NZ Government last year is still available to us. TAPS has been allocated approximately \$340,000. Some of this will go towards topping up the budget for the jobs associated with the Room 12/13 upgrade, but the rest is left unspent at this time. If you have suggestions for projects we could do with that money, feel free to share them with me via email. Please understand, we don't actually get that money. It stays with the Ministry of Education Property Team and we can apply to use it through all of the regular procurement systems.

This year, TAPS opted into the Government Donations Scheme and therefore we have NOT asked for any contribution towards school donations, paper, Athletics or STEPS fees etc. And we won't be either. We will only ask for payment towards optional activities that your child chooses to participate in, for example Touch fees. If parents elect to make a donation to the school (corporate or personal) that is your choice. For the Year 5 and 6 camp in September, we will be asking for a small contribution to help us cover the costs of food and accommodation. The camp will cost the school a little over \$40,000 depending on the number of attendees at the time. If the school shoulders the cost of this alone, we may not be able to provide funds for future camps, trips and visits. However, at TAPS we are huge supporters of school camps and would not like to see them end. Please help us to keep this kiwi tradition alive for our children.

Talking about kiwi traditions, our school pool is being kept clean by Matua Manu ready for the water restrictions in Te Awamutu to be lifted so we can top up the pool and keep the pump going regularly. I've had two offers from families to supply water from their bores but we don't have any way of transporting the water. As you'll know, ordering a truck of water is a 6+ week wait, so also not an option. Thank you for being focused on solutions. We were really counting on the forecasted thunderstorms over the weekend.

Our Year 6 School Leaders were announced last week. These students have been voted by their peers and they received their badges at assembly on Monday 24th. We know you will uphold our school values and be the best you can be both in and out of the school.



The raffles for the Gala have gone home and are selling like hotcakes. There is a video on our Facebook page if you need to understand how they work or how they are drawn. A big thank you to Noel Leeming for supporting us with the donation of the \$200 vouchers (for 2nd place). Also, Strawbridges have donated a TV for the Gala - I believe it is a 32 inch Smart TV. This will be raffled on the night so make sure you come along and join in the fun on Friday 20th March 4.30 - 7 pm. Now that the courts have been resurfaced (largely from grant money), the Friends of TAPS are working towards improving our playgrounds.

It is with sadness that I inform the community that Mr Michael Macdonald, the teacher in Room 11, has resigned from his position at the end of the term. Michael and his partner are off overseas. Whilst we are sad that he is leaving, we wish him and his partner all the very best for their exciting adventure. We will celebrate Mr Mac's time with us toward the end of the term.

Thank you to the ongoing support of those who nominate TAPS for ANZ points when you organise mortgages etc. We are able to use these points to purchase equipment for the school. In the past we have used points to get robotics equipment, a chilly bin for the Friends of TAPS, iPads etc. Also, on behalf of the Friends of TAPS, a very large thank you to local real estate agent, Gillian Van der Veen from Ray White who has donated \$500 to the Friends of TAPS after a parent nominated our school at the time their house was sold. Thank you both.

We look forward to hosting you for the Parent Interviews this Wednesday 26th and Thursday 27th. The purpose of the interview is to check in with the teacher and share anything you feel the teacher needs to know about your child.

There will be another newsletter in Week 6. We have finished our subscription with SchoolZine and will be doing our own newsletter formats and emailing them out via LincEd (soon to be Hero), in order to save a few thousand dollars. You will find them just as informative, but perhaps with less advertising.

Until then, take care and we'll see you around school.

Ngā mihi nui

Sharon



Principal Award Recipients

Our heartfelt congratulations to the eight students who have received Principal Awards so far. Kia kaha!

Week 2, Term 1



Eva Kirk - Team 1



Archie Gray - Team 2



Peyton Bainbridge - Team 3



Torryn Howells - Team 4

Week 4, Term 1



Jackson Westgate - Team 1



Ryan Ellis - Team 2



Orjaswee Bhujel - Team 3



Phoenix Daley - Team 4

Notices

RDA - Donation

TAPS contributed \$490 to the local RDA, who were robbed over the holidays.

Thanks to those who supported this good cause.

Term 1 Policy Reviews

As per the schedule the policy titled, "Recognition of Cultural Diversity" is up for review this term. Parents can log in to School Docs via taps.schooldocs.co.nz to review this policy or read any other policy.

User: taps

Password: Manaaki

Staff Surgeries

Both Matua Manu and Mrs Parkes will be going on leave shortly to undergo surgery. Matua on his hip and Maree on her back.

We will be soldiering on without Matua Manu from 3rd March onwards, taking care of incidental jobs like the lawns etc ourselves.

Maree goes on leave from the 9th March and we have arranged for a well-known reliever to fill in for her until the Term 1 holidays. Both will return in Term 2, fit and able to move without pain.

On behalf of the school community, we wish you both a speedy recovery, with all of our aroha and best wishes.

Epilepsy Awareness

Purple Day, run by Epilepsy New Zealand is an annual awareness campaign to raise awareness of epilepsy and to let people living with epilepsy know that they are not alone. We have 3 students with epilepsy at school.

On Thursday March 26th wear purple and bring a gold coin donation.



Talent Quest

Some students are already busy preparing for our TAPS talent quest. It's not too late, if you think your child can entertain and be able perform on stage, please encourage them to come see Mrs Westgate. We are holding auditions during the week up to gala to find our finalists. The finalists will perform on stage at the Gala where judges will pick our winner.

Any questions please contact Erin Westgate at

erinw@taps.school.nz

Team News...

Team 1 Timatanga

What a flying start we have had to 2020. It has been challenging and exciting to relocate 2 of our classes so all 4 NE classes are together. Some exciting learning is happening as we investigate who we are and where we belong, as we get to know each other.

It is great to see families chatting in the busy corridor as you drop off and pick up your children. Remember we are always available before and after school to talk about children's learning.

Room 3 are still part of the Team, we are just down the corridor, and join our friends on Wednesday afternoons to explore their learning spaces.

We had an adventurous walk around our community to make connections with the places we know and love to visit. Thank you for your support on this walk, although it was a hot day, it has proved invaluable with the language and discussions between children.



Thank you for providing children with their stationery and having them ready for learning every morning with water bottles, healthy lunches and the correct uniform. If you are unsure of our uniform policy, check it out on our school website.

We have been overwhelmed with the support for our swimming sessions, thank you to those amazing mum's who help teach, supervise and get in the pool too. Fingers crossed we can get some more swimming in soon.

We are a week out from our exciting trip to Kawhia. We have been visiting Kawhia for 6 years with our children. It has significant meaning to our area and fits well with our inquiry about who we are and where we belong. We are still mindful that the ocean beach road is closed due to the fire risk, we will monitor as we head into next week. Fingers crossed we can get out to dig some hot pools. Remember to get those permission forms in and come with us for a fun action packed day.

Finally mark Friday the 20th of March on your calendar...
TAPS Twilight Gala.



TAPS Twilight Gala Friday 20th March 4.30pm

Team Timatanga needs your help!

The gala will consist of stalls and activities for your enjoyment, and it would be much appreciated if you could help supply any of the following items, over the next few weeks.



Week	Things we need
All weeks/Anytime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pamper pack items - soaps, bath bombs, coffee, tea, face and hair products. Anything to enhance relaxation.
Week 2 - 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chocolate bars - all shapes and sizes Wrapped lollies, jelly beans
Week 4 - 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Citric acid, jelly crystals, icing sugar, lollipops Grocery items - tins, jars, bottles, packets
Week 6 - 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apples
Week 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Home Baking for Bake Sale

Please see your teacher if you are able to help in any way on this exciting afternoon.
Thank you from your friendly Timatanga teachers.

This is a fun family afternoon, thank you to those families who have donated things for our Team 1 pamper raffle, we also need those wrapped lollies rolling in so the lollie necklaces can be made. We look forward to seeing you at our parent teacher interviews this week.

Stay hydrated,
Your Timatanga Team Teachers



Taiohi – Team 2

Young minds growing, developing their flight feathers and learning to fly

Welcome

Welcome to Taiohi Team 2. We hope you all had a fantastic Christmas and Summer break.



As you should be aware from the school's Facebook post or the special newsletter that was emailed to you last week, Three of our Taiohi classrooms have been moved to new classrooms. If you haven't received the email regarding the reasons for the movement please make contact with the school office to a) check if we have your correct email address and b) to get a copy.

This year the teachers will be situated in the following classrooms (please note the change in classrooms from last year):

Room 7 - Janette Gillespie janetteg@taps.school.nz
 Room 1 - Vanessa Filer vanessaf@taps.school.nz
 Room 2 - Kim Lester - Team Leader (kiml@taps.school.nz)
 Room 4 - Kathryn Picard kathrynp@taps.school.nz

If at any time you have queries, concerns or questions, please pop into see us or email us on the above addresses to make contact with your child's teacher.

If you require a more in depth discussion, we ask you to make an appointment to see your child's teacher. Thank you for your understanding on this, as before school there are often tasks we are getting ready for the school day, and students to welcome and support before the 9am bell. Most afternoons we have scheduled meetings. However, with notice we can make a shuffle that best suits both of us. Again, you are welcome to make contact or make an appointment on the email addresses above.

Term Dates

Term 1 Mon 3 Feb - Thurs 9 Apr
Term 2 Tues 28 Apr - Fri 3 July
Term 3 Mon 20 Jul - Fri 25 Sept
Term 4 Mon 12 Oct - Last day TBC

Term 1 Public Holidays

Waitangi Day - Thursday 6 February
Anzac Day - During the School Holidays
(observed Monday 27 April)
Good Friday - During the School Holidays
Easter Monday and Tuesday - During the School Holidays

Parent Teacher Interviews

Te Awamutu Primary will be holding a Parent Teacher Interviews on Wednesday 26th February and Thursday 27th February. This is to provide you with an opportunity to come and meet your child(ren)'s teachers, look around their learning environment, and a chance to discuss anything their teacher may need to know about your child(ren). You will need to book online to make an appointment, more information will come out earlier to the time.. We look forward to seeing you all there.

Swimming

Swimming for all students will begin immediately. As swimming is part of the New Zealand Physical Education Curriculum, please ensure your child brings their named togs and named towel daily, along with sunscreen if required. Togs and towels need to be in a sturdy, plastic bag for ease of handling. Please clearly name all clothing. Please discuss with your child and/or practise with them putting their belongings back into their tog bag to help minimise missing or lost items. Team 2 will be holding a Swimming Display to show what skills they have learnt on *Thursday 5th March*. More information about this will come out closer to the time.

Inquiry

This school's big inquiry focus for the term focuses on 'Social Sciences'. Taiohi Team's big question for Inquiry is 'Past and the Present - What's different and what's the same?' We will be looking at investigating and answering the following questions:

- What is unique about themselves and their whanau
- How their ancestry has shaped them and where they came from/ given their name.
- Identifying differences between life in the Past and life at Present.
- What has changed over the years. What is still the same?

Some delegated homework activities will be needed to be completed to help the children find the answers to some of these.

Assemblies

Team 2 - Taiohi will be having an assembly in the hall every 2nd Wednesday afternoon at 2.15pm. These will begin in Week 2, 12 February. These assemblies will be to celebrate the learning of our students.

Whole school assemblies will be held every second Monday (even weeks) in the hall at 10.00am These will begin in Week 2, 10 February.

Reading

Students will be reading in class daily. Please ensure your child brings their book bag every day so they can take their reader home to read each night. Students will be unable to take their reading book home if they don't have their book bag. No Bag means No Book!

Homework

Each student will receive homework every night. This will consist of a book to read every night, spelling words to learn and a maths activity or basic facts. Extra homework may be required from time to time in the form of special projects or research, to tie in with our classroom learning programmes. To help your child to be successful in their learning, we would appreciate your help by ensuring their homework is completed every night.

Named items

To minimise your child's personal belongings getting lost or misplaced, please name all uniform items, sun hats, shoes, lunch boxes, drink bottles, togs and towels.

Uniform and Jewellery Requirements (as per school policy)

Please check the Te Awamutu Primary School website if you have any queries around our uniform and/or jewellery policies.

Regards,

Kim Lester, Janette Gillespie, Vanessa Filer and Kathryn Picard.

Tauihi – Team 3

Team Tauihi would like to congratulate our fantastic Class Councillors and Deputy Class Councillors for 2020! They will begin to take turns leading our Team Assemblies from week 5 onwards. We would love to see you at our team assemblies, held at 2.15pm on Wednesday in odd weeks.

Room 11



Ryden Quinn



Thomas Stewart

Room 12



Corey Powell



Milla Westgate

Room 13



Ronan Hinchliffe



Casey Ranwell

Room 14



Braydon Brown



Anja Oram

Room 15



Ella-Jayne Edwards



Tommy Pryor

Room 16



Olivia Jackson



Mila Richards

Due to our school swimming pool being closed, Team Tauihi will not be going ahead with our regular Swimming Sports programme which was booked in for week 5. We are currently looking into our options and more information will come soon.
