

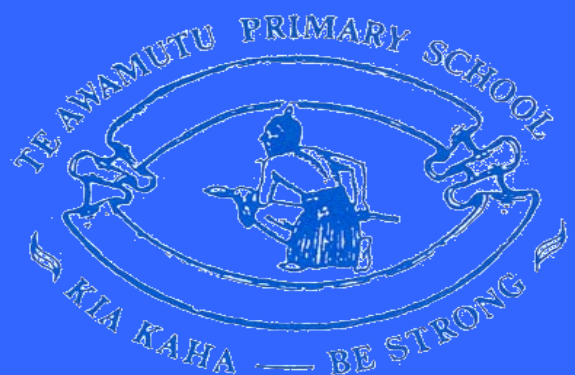
Te Awamutu Primary School

Together Achieving Personal Success

Maa Mahi Tahī Te Eke Panuku A Teetahi



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12 June 2020

Kia Ora whanau

COVID Wrap Up

I'd like to begin my piece with a deliberate thank you to all parents and whānau for the work they did during distance learning. I assure you that no matter how much or how little you did, it was enough. Being present and keeping your children safe in the heart of your family was the right thing to do. During that time, your child or children would have learned a wide range of things, particularly about what the NZ Curriculum calls the 'key competencies'. Now they are back at school, we will observe their current ability levels and resume teaching your children from there. That also relates to their mental well-being. I think that the tumultuous nature of the past three months, the anxieties present in the community and in the media will have had an impact on our children. From time to time they may say or do something that makes us realise that perhaps their young minds were a little more susceptible to the stresses created by COVID. All we can do is continue to reassure them that they are safe and loved, while providing the necessities of life. Good sleep is important!

We've been exploring the elements of Alert Level 2 and 3 that we would like to keep as a school. This week we have surveyed students and asked their perspective about the 3 shorter breaks or two longer ones. Teachers have provided feedback about the things that worked well too. Perhaps the biggest benefit we've noticed is the confidence and independence gained by our students walking into school alone or being supported by their siblings. Between 8.30am - 9am teachers have invested time talking to their students and settling them in and have not been distracted by conversations with parents or colleagues. These conversations are important but perhaps need to be made at an alternative time or need to be confined to once or twice a week. Also, the staggered release times have been valuable for different reasons. We have toyed with the idea of reducing the release times to 2.50pm for bus, after school care and new entrant children and then releasing all of the other students at 3pm as usual. We would be open to parents asking for older siblings to be released at the same time as their new entrant siblings, if desired. We hope you have enjoyed seeing a greater presence of staff at the gates. We hope to continue this as often as we can but sometimes resourcing is an issue. We will collate all sources of information and get back to you with our decisions next week. For now, please continue to do as you have done and keep an eye out on Facebook or via Hero (online system) for any changes.

COVID aside, there are many other things that I would like to share with you.

Staffing

Sadly, I have two staff resignations since resuming school after the lockdown. Because of COVID, Jess Scull and Anita Graham have reevaluated their priorities and have decided to hand in their notice to pursue things important to them. Jess will stay at home with her two young children and Anita has got a job teaching correspondence school from the comfort of her home. We have spent the last few weeks advertising and interviewing for their replacements. Today I can reveal that we have secured two replacements who will enrich the teaching and learning in Topa (Team 4). Room 19 will be taught by Miss Sara Sabin and Room 20 will be taught by Miss Emily Nash. We will be farewelling Jess, Anita and Michael Macdonald, who was due to go overseas soon after lockdown began, at a special assembly on **Friday 3rd July at 2pm**.

Property

The refurbishment of rooms 12 and 13 resumed at alert level three. By the end of June, we should be ready to move our patient students and relieved teachers back into the brand-new classrooms. We are all so excited! Additionally, once the library is clear, Room 6b (Miss Jones) and Kakariki Room (Ms Holland), will be relocating into the bigger library space (although divided into two separate spaces) until the new moduls are completed. Everyone has been so patient and have maintained a positive mindset throughout this process. The events of this year will certainly go down in history.

The tender has gone out for the demolition of rooms 8, 9,10 and 17 and a company has been chosen to undertake the demolition work - which will begin in the near future. When they are onsite and ready to begin, we will think strategically about the location of our students, however, they will also spray on a compound to mitigate airborne dust or mould particles. The new modular plans have been agreed upon and colours chosen and they will soon start being built offsite. The Ministry is still warning us that the process could take another 6 months before we can move into our new buildings. It's so hard to be patient, but it will be worth the wait in the end. Another benefit is that we potentially will get a new and/or invigorated Team 2 playground too!

We also have a builder onsite completing targeted repairs around the school. For example, rotten window ledges, replacing rotten decks and stairs, door sills, broken guttering etc.

Uniform Standards

While we are very understanding that children have grown a lot during lockdown, we'd appreciate vigilance and effort into adhering to our uniform standards please.

Remember particularly, school shoes that are completely black and either navy or black socks. Girls ankle boots are not actually part of our uniform.

Parent Interviews

Enlight of Mrs Scull and Mrs Graham leaving, we have asked them to host their parent interviews in the last week of this term so they can share their student's learning with their parents.. The rest of the school will have parent interviews in the second week of term 3, on the 29th and 30th of July. At this stage, Room 19/20 parents may want to meet the new teacher.

Support Staff Week

We have nearly 60 staff members at TAPS and over half of that comprises Support Staff of some description, be it our amazing admin, brilliant before/after school care, tender-hearted teacher aides or collaborative caretakers and cleaners. You will have noticed us celebrating the work and contributions of these people this week via Facebook. On behalf of the community we are truly thankful for the work of these people who help keep the ship afloat!

Kia Kaha

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Sharon

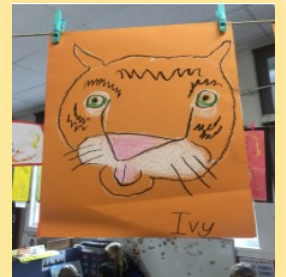


TIMATANGA NEWS



Team 1 Teachers would like to thank all our families for connecting with us and welcoming us into your homes via google meeting and zoom sessions during our time in lockdown. We loved sharing learning with you and seeing all the exciting things you were doing with your bubble family. This has helped make it a smooth transition back into school life. It has been an uncertain time for us all and our children continue to teach us all about our core TAPS values of Responsibility and Resilience - WOW we are super proud of the way the children are independently walking into school, hanging their bags up and unpacking their book bags, lunch boxes and drink bottles and remembering to hand sanitise.

The classrooms were initially split into 2 bubble groups to monitor outside break times and we have made every possible effort to maintain social distancing in classrooms while teaching the importance of hand washing often. We are now all together at break times as a team and children are enjoying being with their friends while we all continue to keep up our good hygiene practises.



A huge welcome to Karen Holland who is our amazing teacher in our Ruma Karkariki classroom. All our new children to TAPS will be starting with her from now on. Look at these scary dinosaurs!

All our children have been busy reconnecting with friends and enjoying lots of creative learning. Look at the amazing tiger pictures relating to the book "The tiger who came to tea", and we had a real (Miss Newman) friendly tiger visit our classrooms. We have also had a fun Teddy Bears Picnic. We couldn't picnic outside so we snuggled up with our favourite soft toy in the hall and listened to Mrs Harrop read her favourite bear story.



We have had lots of fun hunting for leaves and doing some amazing art that reflects our beautiful Autumn Season. We are definitely heading into Winter now though.

We had lots of fun out on the field on Wednesday getting involved in winter sport rotations- football, rippa rugby, basketball, netball, hockey and lacrosse.

We are looking forward to starting our Monday Assemblies this week at 2.15pm in the hall, where Room 5b, 6a and 6b will be sharing their learning and celebrating with certificates.

With 3 weeks of school left we are looking forward to celebrating Matariki, safety with Constable Irwin and a fun Pyjama day to celebrate the shortest year.

talking about road
day of the

Thank you for all your support



TAIOHI NEWS

Welcome back everyone! Thank goodness we all survived and now the virus has gone from New Zealand!

It has been great to get back into the school routine again. All our learners have settled back into their learning and are continuing to make good progress. The online learning through Seesaw has helped keep all of Team 2 children continuing their learning from home. We are pleased that all families just did what they could, throughout that time away from school, and kept safe. That Lockdown was the best and most valuable opportunity to spend time with family.

Keep up the reading homework with your child and enjoy sharing a story together. A good way to enhance their comprehension skills is to ask them to retell the story. Keep encouraging your child to think for themselves and take responsibility for their own self managing.

Our Team 2 Assemblies resume next week again- even weeks – Wednesday, at 2.15pm in the hall (unless it is pouring with rain and we can't get over to the hall).

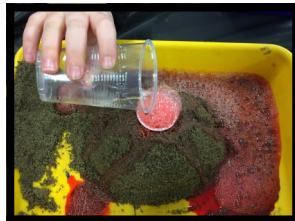
Principal Assemblies started again on Monday this week (odd weeks-Week 9) each fortnight, via Zoom, at 9.10.- with principal Awards. So, the next one will be Monday, in Week 11.

Thank you all very much for your support during Lockdown.

Team 2 teachers,

TAUIHI NEWS

Team Taiuhi had an interesting term starting with our team being in two bubbles for the first two weeks and then moving into one big bubble. Our students have been very resilient in coping with differing break times to cater for the different bubbles within our school. They have become very knowledgeable about Covid 19 and are very aware of the reasons why we protect each other and ourselves by washing and sanitising our hands, often reminding each other to keep safe. We are very grateful to be back into Level 1, however, being very mindful of personal space and hygiene.



Room 11 settled back into school life well after lock down in the safe hands of Miss Hayley Kerrison. Miss Kerrison is a great asset to Team three and we look forward to our continued collaboration throughout the year.

For our inquiry this term, all classes have been keenly participating in scientific experiments, then using those experiments for writing procedures on how to conduct them. Many students enjoyed doing experiments at home during lockdown and are now enjoying doing them as a class. Here are some photos of Room 14's volcanoes.

As the term progresses we will be carrying out assessments so that goals can be updated on HERO. These will be shared with parents through HERO and they can be discussed at parent/caregiver interviews, early Term Three.



Miss James, Miss Kerrison, Mrs Ripia, Mrs Westgate, Mrs Ellis & Miss Galbraith

TOPA NEWS

It is hard to believe we are halfway through Term 2, and the year!

TAPS students are starting to readjust back into school life and routines. Our students have done so well considering this year has been disruptive.

Topa's Inquiry Topic this term is Ecosystems, and so far there has been some awesome Artwork created across the senior classrooms.

We have also gathered some amazing student writing about Lockdown experiences. There have even been debates on student's feelings about the Lockdown period, with interesting discussion.

It has been a great learning curve for both students and staff, and we are constantly reminded of how to problem solve and find easier ways to do things.

We are so proud of the Topa Students and Teachers for their continued hard work and resilience in these unusual times.

Topa Team :)

Principal Award Winners

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Principal's Award Winner

TIMATANGA

Term 2 2020 - Week 9

Caitlin Brown

Caitlin, you began proving yourself as a leader the minute arrived in Room 5b! You are polite, considerate, responsible, always showing care and concern to others at all times. During lockdown, your work ethic shone through as you honed your writing skills; every day I eagerly awaited your video that would show how you had excelled with each days' challenges. You are a wonderful independent worker, who just gets on with it. You will then eagerly extend your learning with feedback given, and still have time to assist other learners - all with the most amazing smile and placid demeanor. You are an absolute treasure to have in Room 5b and a great asset to Timatanga!! You are on the brink of an amazing learning journey, and already rocketing through the stars! Keep aiming high Caitlin, I am so proud of you! Kia Kahā!



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Principal's Award Winner

TAIOHI

Term 2 2020 - Week 9

Sasha Shabeto

Sasha deserves this award because she is a wonderful class member in Room 7. Sasha is always very polite, enthusiastic and conscientious. She is always responsible and knows how to make sensible choices. Sasha consistently displays the TAPS values and has become a respected role model to others in our class.

She takes pride in her work and strives for excellence in everything that she does. Throughout Lockdown, Sasha regularly completed learning tasks and has continued to show very pleasing progress in all her work. Sasha is enthusiastic towards all her learning but is particularly keen to learn Maths.

Well done, Sasha- keep up the excellent attitude and effort. You are awesome!



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Principal's Award Winner

TAUIHI

Term 2 2020 - Week 9

Ronan Hinchliffe

Ronan, as a teacher there is nothing more rewarding than having a student like you that loves to learn and work hard. Even through lockdown, you continued to extend yourself not because you had to but because you wanted to. You impress me with your ability to implement what you learn so quickly and effectively. I have really enjoyed watching your confidence grow through your role as our class councillor. Room 13 picked a great leader and a true example of someone with a very bright future.



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Principal's Award Winner

TOPA

Term 2 2020 - Week 9

Matilda James

Matilda you are a star! Your love for learning is infectious. You are hard working and constantly go above and beyond any given task. You are also the only student who consistently asks for more work and homework. On top of all of this awesomeness, your manners are impeccable and you consistently show all of the TAPS values. Keep aiming high our future Dr. James. Your potential is limitless and I am certain you will achieve anything you set your mind to.



Information Sheet on Vision and Hearing Checks in School

Vision Hearing Technicians from Community and Southern Rural Health will be visiting our school. The objective of the test is to identify previously undetected vision and hearing defects.

Which children are routinely checked?

- Catch up screening for children who have not completed vision and hearing checks as part of their B4 School Check
- Children absent from previous visit, require retests or follow up
- In special circumstances, parents, teachers or others may request a vision or hearing check
- New immigrants
- All Year 7 student's vision only

What tests are carried out?

Ears

- Audiometry (hearing test)
- Tympanometry – middle ear function test (only carried out when hearing test is not within a normal range)

Eyes

Long distance vision tests – not a complete visual examination, but a simple screening test

NB All of these checks are non-invasive, safe and should cause no discomfort.

The Vision Hearing Technician will:

- Notify parents of all test results
- Enter results on Ministry of Education database (Enrol)

The Vision Hearing Technician will obtain personal details from the school ie; names, date of birth.

If the technician needs to contact parents or caregivers following the visit, addresses and phone numbers will also be required.

Our Service may share this information with other health professionals involved in the children's care.

If any parents/caregivers **do not** want their child to be checked, or their child is currently under specialist care for a vision or hearing defect, they should let the school know.



Self care for colds and the flu

- **Rest at home**
- **Drink plenty of water**
- **Blocked or runny nose? Cough?** Ask your pharmacist about nasal sprays, decongestants. Lozenges or cough mixtures.
- **Sore throat?** Suck a teaspoon of honey (not safe for children under one) or gargle salt water. Adults can also try a medicated lozenge, gargle or throat spray.
- **Aches and pains?** Try paracetamol OR cold and flu medicines (check doses carefully and ask your doctor or pharmacist if safe for you)
- Avoid antibiotics—they can't cure colds, flus or most coughs as these are viruses.
- Information from health.govt.nz

THE SAFE & HAPPY CLUB HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

The July holidays are almost here and once again we are offering a fun filled programme, running from Te Awamutu Primary School. We have some great onsite days planned along with trips to the cinemas, pools, Lazertag, Leap, bowling and a trip to the theatre. Please see below for bookings

<https://enrolmy.com/the-safe--happy-club-ltd>

or email

info@safeandhappyclub.co.nz



PLEASE NOTE - FOR THOSE THAT QUALIFY, WE HAVE THE WINZ SUBSIDY AVAILABLE.

To Our Great TAPS Support Staff

*It's not easy.
It's not always fun.
So I want to say thank you for being the one
Who ...
fixes, supports, looks after, and hugs, reminds, arranges coffee,
or wipes out nasty bugs, cuts down trees, unblocks toilets,
blows all the leaves, puts out cones, you do patrol and roll up your sleeves.*

*You listen, clean up, add an ice pack or plaster,
phone parents, fix rolls or vacuum glitter like masters.*

*You pay all the bills and support us through dramas
Like broken sewage pipes, property projects or tractors from farmers.*

*You build up our students up and show them respect
And in return they love you, more than you'd expect.
You are THEIR constant teacher aide, part of their tribe.
You are OUR superheroes, our friends, our guides by our sides.*



*So this week or next.
Regardless of context
We are very thankful to each one of you
For the amazing and special work
that you do!*

