

Te Awamutu Primary School

Together Achieving Personal Success

Tēnā koutou katoa

I would like to begin this week's newsletter by welcoming new families to our T.A.P.S whānau. People are moving to Te Awamutu from far and wide and it is nice to have you at our school.

I feel like it has been sometime since I have last written and I've been doing a bit of thinking. I'm going to share some of my thoughts here today because I want to be transparent about some of the behind the scenes decisions we make.

The first thing I've been pondering is the growth in our local area and the increasing enrolments to our school. We are currently sitting on 532 pupils - which compared to 2020, is where we sat on the first day of October. That's four months faster than what we considered to be one of our biggest years. From a Senior Leadership point of view, we need to reflect on our strategic goals and constantly check in, evaluate progress made and move forward. Our goals are:

1. Strengthen teaching and learning practice.
2. Enhance culturally responsive practice.
3. Foster well-being of students and staff.

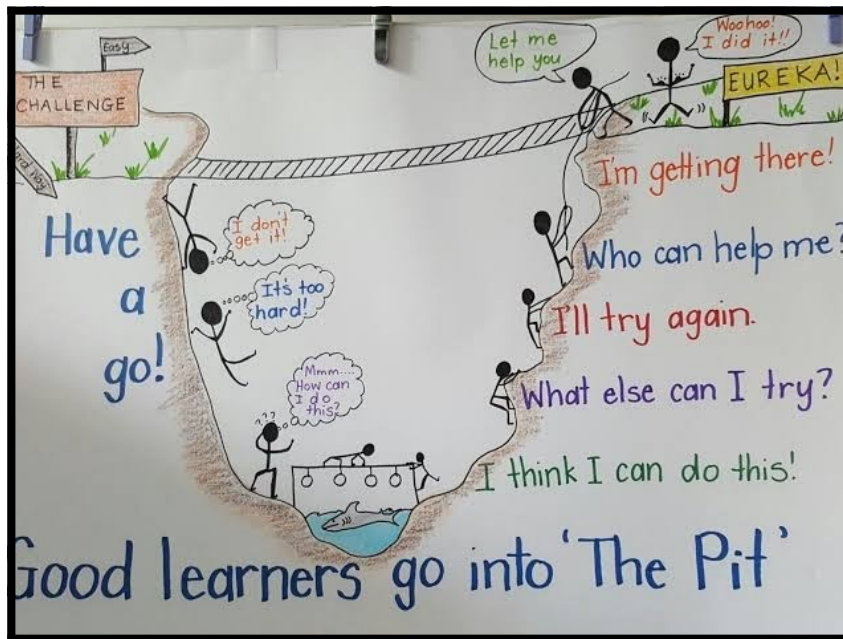
Under these goals are a raft of initiatives that the body of teachers and staff at the school are constantly developing on and driving, in order to do the best job possible. Some examples of those initiatives are; Formative Teaching Practice (learning goals, criteria, children having a voice on what they are learning or what they need to learn next), Structured Literacy, Kura Kotahi Rā, Hautū, Wai Ako (a digital tool for all learners), PB4L (Positive Behaviour for Learning) among others. Our philosophy is not to run programme after programme that is only as successful as the duration that someone is pushing it, but to change the way we teach and influence the way student's learn that will carry them through the rest of their days as a 'lifelong learner'.

We need the environment conducive to learning too. Thankfully our triple modular buildings are completed and they are fantastic! The Team 2 playground is largely finished however it is due some improvements to the plastic tubing that covers the chains. We are due another single classroom to replace Room 17 that was demolished. This is in the design phase and is due to be placed on the grass to the right hand side of the top asphalt court, resulting in the two silver birches and the golden elm being cut down. I don't like to cut down trees, contrary to what it may look like, but the location of the trees when they were planted 30 or more years ago is no longer suitable and the damage to infrastructure below the ground is concerning and they have created a health and safety issue on more than one occasion. Please know that we have ordered some trees to replace those taken out and once they arrive in mid-July we will plant them with a long term plan in mind. The small green fort in Team 1 is due a makeover in the next holidays. Playground equipment is massively increased thanks to Vanessa Filer and Heidi Dunn (and their application for grant funding) and Mr Rennie has just purchased some pretty neat scooter and skateboard grinding boxes and ramps. The PB4L team have designed a fancy new school sign for our front gate that is currently being made. There are modifications happening all over our school - all for the purpose of making our environment aesthetically pleasing, building pride in our school and providing opportunities and spaces for children to learn and grow.

As adults we can control **what** to learn and **where** you learn (as above), but I think we need to remember that the actual learning can be hard for our children.

"Learning is the process of acquiring new understanding, knowledge, behaviours, skills, values and attitudes", (Wikipedia).

Because you are developing **new** learning, we can expect the journey to be challenging, maybe even frustrating. We may even be tempted to give up and stick with what we currently know. This brings me to my next pondering about what educationalists call, "The Learning Pit" by James Nottingham. See this graphic:



As adults at school or at home, we can facilitate independent and confident learners who expect to be challenged, to solve problems and practise in order to achieve success. We need to guide from the side, rather than rescuing our children from the pit too early.

To experience this myself, I decided to teach myself something new in the recent holidays. Something I have never done before...crocheting a flower for a woollen beanie my Mum knits. It was hard. I was advised by a professional that I should stick to an easy stitch and just practise for the time being. I listened for a while but then I went back to the flower because I'm stubborn like that. Within a day of beginning my challenge I had succeeded three or four times over (some better than others). I had help, I looked at examples, I followed the step by step guide on YouTube, I pulled them apart and started again ten times over and I experimented with different types of thread. What started off as a social experiment to remind myself what our students must feel ended up being a great experience. I developed unexpected confidence and a can-do attitude that lifted my well-being. It made it much easier to accept the next challenge days later (I hired a tractor to move mountains of dirt). Learning is not only challenging but very rewarding too! Everyone should try it.

Nga mihi
Sharon



Did you know ... You can purchase uniform anytime the office is open. We don't have set days anymore. Alternatively you can email kimf@taps.school.nz with your order, once the payment has cleared via internet banking, we can deliver to your child's classroom.

Payments can be made to 12-3134-0088611-00—use child's name & uniform as reference. There is a copy of the uniform list on our website

Timatanga

What a wonderful start to Term 2 Timatanga have had, to help inspire our Term 2 learning!! "Where is my place in the Universe?" was kicked off with a great trip to the Te Awamutu Space Centre. Space Dave was extremely enthusiastic and knowledgeable about all things SPACE. The children (and adults) enjoyed discovering and exploring. A H U G E thank-you to all of the parents and caregivers who attended this trip with us. Your support is always appreciated.

Did you know? Our Team is happy to see the enjoyment the children are getting from all of the new TAPS @Play equipment. Every lunchtime, the children have access to brand new play equipment for games and activities. How lucky are we!!

What a fantastic cause the 'PINK SHIRT DAY' was last Friday. We will continue to work together to stop Bullying and encourage more kindness and inclusiveness! We ALL loved how much the children got into wearing pink as well.

Coming up over the next few weeks we will be busy with...

- Firewise and our firefighter visit (week 5)
 - Our Wednesday afternoon PE rotations
 - PMP continues every Thursday
 - Continuing our Solar System and Space adventures, leading into Matariki
 - Preparing for our school visit from Harold, Nicky and the Life Education Van
- Exciting!!!

Thank you to all of our Timatanga families for supporting their child/children in being ready for learning each and every day.

From all of your Timatanga Teachers.

Taiohi

Team 2 had a fantastic trip to the Hamilton Zoo last week. The weather was pleasant and everyone enjoyed seeing the animals up close.

The zoo has upgraded many of the enclosures which enabled us to view the animals better. Our learners were keen to discover the different types of habitats that the animals needed to survive. We found out that many of the animals are endangered and the zoo is working hard to help preserve their populations. All the teachers were impressed with the Team 2 children's behaviour. A big thank you goes out to all the parents who gave up their time to support us on our trip.

We hope to have another trip later in the year, so the parents who missed out this time will be first on our list next time.

Our Team 2 community garden is being prepared for planting soon, with winter vegetables. All our learners will get a chance to dig the garden and help with the planting of new vegetable plants.

Each Tuesday afternoon, Team 2 are enjoying being involved with learning the skills of winter sports, such as netball, basketball, soccer, rippa rugby and volleyball.

Team 2 assemblies are held every second Wednesday at 2.15pm. The next one being in the week starting 7 June.

Today is a great day to learn something new.... keep having fun learning each day!

Team 2 teachers,
Mrs Ellis, Miss Filer, Miss Slade, Mrs Picard, Mrs Gillespie

Tauihi

Team Tauihi children are enjoying learning lots about space this term. Last week classes visited the Kihikihi Space Centre where Space Dave shared his amazing knowledge about space with us and we got to experience lots of activities to help us with our learning. We were able to take a virtual trip into our solar system and even saw some real rock from Mars. We are looking forward to continuing with this inquiry topic and building our knowledge.

A big thank you to all of our parent/caregiver helpers, teacher aides and Matua Manu who came along to help us on our trip.

We also supported Pink Shirt Day on Friday by wearing pink and donating a gold coin. It was a fun day where we talked about how we can be kind and caring to each other. Some of us wrote special messages to our classmates telling them what we really like about them. Our kind words to each other put big smiles on our faces! We also enjoyed some time with our junior buddy classes.

Topa

This year, all six classes will be attending camp at Totara Springs in Term 3. This will be from Wednesday 8th to Friday 10th of September. The cost of camp is largely covered by the Donation Scheme but unfortunately, this does not cover everything.

We will be asking for a \$100 contribution towards the cost of camp to help cover the cost of food, accommodation and travel to and from the camp. Please start putting aside a small amount each week to help ease the pressure of paying a lump sum all at once.

EOTC (Education Outside The Classroom) provide students with access to hands-on experiences that are not available inside the classroom. They offer unique and stimulating learning opportunities that support your child's learning and achievement. These programmes are aligned with the National Curriculum.

We would like to see all students attend camp. We understand that for some families it can be daunting and often the child's first experience staying away from home but the benefits of camp are huge! School camp is one of the most memorable parts of growing up. Getting out of school to experience challenges they never face in daily life will grow your kids' confidence, teamwork, and relationships in ways that just aren't possible inside the classroom. If you think your child might be nervous about camp, start talking to them about all of the great things they get to do such as archery, slug guns, hot pools and more!

More information regarding camp will come home later in the term with specific details and information to help us plan for this amazing event.



Yes! You read it right! There is excitement in the air.

TAPS is having another production!! We are well under way with preparations and our main cast are about to start rehearsals. Please mark in your calendars our production week. That is; Week 8 of Term Three, Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th of September.

We will follow the same layout of shows as the last production with a matinee show and evening show on both Wednesday and Thursday.

The story behind our show this year is a group of students riding a magical school jet around the world visiting and celebrating countries and cultures. Each classroom will perform an item related to a country or culture.

We are conscious of representing each country/culture in an authentic and respectful way. In order to do this, we invite any parents willing to advise and support us in relation to their culture, to be involved. Please contact Erin Westgate on erinw@taps.school.nz.

We are very excited and would like to congratulate the following students who auditioned and were successful. They are: below standing—Lucy McKay, Eva Pivott, Leah Quinn, Brea Taitoko, Leah Quinn, Ruby Pryor—sitting—Thomas Stewart, Hazel Mallinson & Austin Osborne-Sharrock



*Erin Westgate & Caroline Jones
Production Leaders*



ABOVE—Script Development Crew—Jackson Kelly, Eva Smith, Thomas Stewart, Eva Pivott, Ronan Hinchliffe, Kaddie Rose Hudson & Mrs Harrop - **Thank you Mrs Harrop**, our very own publisher author, who worked with this talented group of writers to put this awesome script together

TAPS @ Play



Te Awamutu Space Centre



Pink Shirt Day

Teacher Only Day

Friday 18th June

This day will be used for Professional Development for most local schools.

TAPS Uniform

We have noticed that over the past year our uniform standards have declined somewhat. After COVID-19, we understood that sourcing shoes was a challenge and that not all families had the financial resources to purchase a pair of school shoes, so we have let a lot of things slide.

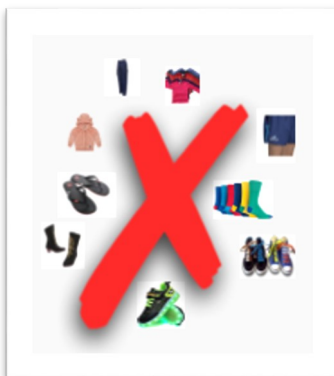
But the time is right to reiterate our school uniform standards because our school looks so smart when everyone is wearing the right thing. It also fosters a sense of pride and belonging for our tamariki.

TAPS sells our own uniforms directly to keep costs to a minimum. You are able to purchase navy blue socks and skorts from local shops as well as second hand uniforms from local buy and sell Facebook pages. Please be mindful to only buy items that are in a good condition, avoiding ripped, broken zips or very faded items.

Parents, as the responsible adult, please ensure your child is wearing the correct uniform during school time.

UNIFORM SCHEDULE

Navy/Royal short sleeve dri-fit polo shirt with TAPS monogram
Navy/Royal polar sweat with TAPS monogram
Navy Skort
Navy Shorts (not jeans/rugby type/cargo)
Navy track pants
Navy bucket hat/TAPS Beanie
Navy/Black knee high or ankle socks or full stockings (no foot-less tights)
Black or blue shoes or sandals
Plain navy or black long sleeve thermal can be worn in winter under short sleeve dri-fit polo



Please note: The above schedule does not allow shoes with colour or white soles including bright laces and flashing lights. The school will not be responsible for the lost or missing items irrespective of their value. Please name ALL uniform items appropriately. There are a plethora of companies who provide labelling services or products....we have found a silver sharpie/vivid works a treat.

WINZ approved



Do we have your correct details?

Have you moved? Do you have a new phone number? Have you got new emergency contacts?

Newsletters and team notices are emailed, have you been receiving them? If you think you may have missed emails, email the office and we can update our system.

office@taps.school.nz