

# Te Awamutu Primary School

*Together Achieving Personal Success*

Tēnā koutou katoa

First and foremost I would like to begin my newsletter piece with our warmest congratulations to Candy and Glen MacWilliam. Candy is the teacher in Room 21 and is 22 weeks pregnant, expecting in October! Earlier this week, Candy shared the gender of her baby with the staff through a gender reveal cake. There is nothing like a colleague expecting a baby to make everyone on staff happy and joyous.

A few quick reminders; there is a teacher only day on Friday (this Friday!) Please ensure you have care arranged for your child or children. Staff will be at Te Awamutu College participating in professional development alongside many of the other schools in our area.

Most of our teaching staff will be attending a Paid Union Meeting (PUM) on Tuesday 22nd June 2021. Legally, all members must be allowed to attend. To prevent disruption to families we have organised our school so that half of our members (12) will attend the morning session and the other half will attend the afternoon session and school will be open as usual for all students. This may make for an unsettled day but we will endeavour to keep the learning programme ticking over as best as we can for the short period the classroom teacher is offsite.

Last week, 7th - 11th June 2021, marked Support Staff Week around the country. I would like to use this forum to express just how grateful we are for our wonderful support staff whether they be in the admin team, cleaners, Manu or our precious teacher aides. While they all perform separate duties they are a vital part of the collective success of our school.

Also last week, teachers completed a series of learning observations on each other. It can be a bit nerve-wracking for some but ultimately it is an opportunity to learn from each other and develop our practice, ensuring we are always 'achieving personal success' like our school motto depicts. Our values apply to both students and adults alike. Thanks to the staff for their professionalism in sharing their practice. Our teachers are amazing at what they do.

Progress with Room 17's rebuild is continuing behind the scenes. The design is done, and the tender period is over, the trees are felled to clear the site and the plans are in at Council for consent. Hopefully, it won't be long until the building commences.

Because of the trees being cut down, we have some firewood that we would like to make available for TAPS families personal use. Please contact the office and arrange a time to collect some.

Behind the scenes, teachers are busily preparing online reports for parents. These do differ from paper reports you would've seen in the past but posts will be more frequent (termly), reflective of what the student is learning at the time rather than 6 months later, and they will be accessible anywhere at any time through your smartphone or device. Please talk to your child about their learning. Each post on Hero will share the learning goal, the criteria the student had to include in order to be successful, a photograph or video of their actual day to day learning (not a contrived piece) and a comment from the teacher so it should be obvious to you as the parent/caregiver of what your child is learning. Please comment on the post - your child will be able to read your comments in years to come.

Recently the school has employed another ORS teacher after Mrs Lanah Gibbes changed roles in order to begin our 6th new entrant room. We'd like to welcome Miss Jonelle Seeney to the team. Speaking of new entrant numbers, based on our current knowledge from our pre-enrolments we are anticipating we will be beginning our 7th new entrant classroom in the middle of term 3, just in time for Mrs [Vicki Neustroski](#) to return from maternity leave. Lucky Team 1!

Our current roll is sitting just over 530 students. If you have a four-year-old child that will be coming to TAPS please make sure you let us know so we can plan accordingly.

Thank you to our families who completed the survey for Structured Literacy. Generally speaking, most families are positive about our use, some don't see the benefit for their older, capable learners and some don't have prior experience to compare to as their children have just started school. All feedback provided was worthwhile and has given us an insight into what we have and haven't done well and what we need to do next. Next week, Kylie McKay, Maree Parkes, Elizabeth Ellis and I will be visiting some Bay of Plenty schools that have been using a Structured Literacy approach for over a year. We are hoping to learn from their experience in the hope that we can quickly and more efficiently solve any puzzles of practice that arise for TAPS. I'll let you know how that goes.

A reminder for all visitors to our school - we are a smoke-free zone and a no vaping zone. This is nationwide and has been stipulated by the Ministry.

In discussion with Maree Parkes, we'd love to resurrect the mini Team 1 sharing shed that you may have seen by the hall door. Originally they were introduced pre-COVID but have since become a bit of a mess. Therefore we are going to move the shed by the front gate and we ask our community to please share any surplus garden produce you have from your home gardens. For example, mandarins, feijoas, lemons, seedlings etc. We will also keep a shelf for books in good condition.

Finally, welcome to the new families we've had join our school community recently. You are warmly invited to pop in and say hello or to stop and have a chat anytime we may see you around the school.

Together Achieving Personal Success.  
Kia Kaha!

Nga mihi

*Sharon*



# Timatanga

Timatanga enjoyed our "Get Firewise" focus last week, especially our visit from Senior Firefighter Greg who came to check we had been learning how to be wise near fire.

Remembering there are safe and unsafe fires. With the main messages being if children see a fire in the house they are to shout Fire! Fire! Fire! and GET OUT FAST! The children also practised if there is smoke from a fire in a room they are to get down low and get out FAST!

Huge thank you to our families who were able to continue these conversations at home by talking about an escape plan, as well as a meeting place in the event of a house fire. If you haven't had these conversations yet please consider doing so this week while the learning is still fresh.

Timatanga has also been really enjoying our PE rotations each week. We have managed to do 4 of the 6 different rotations so far. The children have had a chance to practise some skills in the following sports: Football, Netball, Basketball, Rippa Rugby, Hockey and Lacrosse. It has been hard for our students to decide which is their favourite - we just love seeing them enjoying a wide variety of sports and skills. So lucky. Let's hope the weather continues to be kind to us on Wednesday afternoons.

Thanks again for your continued support in having your child ready for learning each day.

Kind regards

Your Timatanga Teachers

Mrs Sykes, Mrs Gibbes, Miss Edwards, Mrs Parkes, Mrs Densem and Miss Jones

# Taiohi

Over the past couple of weeks, Team 2 have been learning about Firewise and how to stay safe in the event of a fire. We had Fireman Steve come talk to us about the importance of safety around fire and heat. He explained to us what happens in a house fire and what we need to do and why we need to do it.

Thanks Fireman Steve!

Our zoo trip was a huge success and a great 'hook-in' to our report writing. Our classes are all now writing reports about the animals we saw at the zoo and how to classify creatures. Some of you may have noticed that one set of bag hooks has arrived in Team 2. We are waiting on 3 more sets of bag hooks for our brand new classrooms. The children were excited at the arrival of the first one.

Please name your child's school jumper. If it goes missing it is easier to return or find it if it has a name on it.

Team 2 teachers,

Mrs Ellis, Miss Filer, Miss Slade, Mrs Picard, Mrs Gillespie

# Tauihi

Where have the last six weeks gone? It is hard to believe we are halfway through the term already. Team Tauihi have continued to learn about Space in very creative ways. There are various art displays in classrooms and some classes are beginning to write reports about the planets. We are now starting to learn about Matariki and the importance of this in our community.

It has been great to see some students working hard on learning how to self assess and peer assess in the classroom. This is where they are looking at their goals and how to achieve them. They are also helping each other to assess and edit their work.

From weeks eight to 10 we have the Life Education Truck coming with Nicki and Harold, where we will be learning about how to look after ourselves through physical fitness and how this works on our heart and lungs. We are looking forward to seeing them both.

This is just a reminder that school uniforms need to be worn at all times. Shoes and socks are the best to keep our feet warm and cosy. Warm school hats and jackets are available at the school office for those cold, winter mornings. A big thank you to Jacqui, for turning on our heat pumps in the mornings for us. We really appreciate it!!

# Topa

The last three weeks have been full of productive learning in Topa. Students are still highly engaged in our space Inquiry and it is wonderful to see so many children choosing to continue this learning outside of school time. Many children set their alarm clocks to get up at 11 pm and witness the rare spectacle of a blood supermoon. It was fantastic to see the excitement that our students had and the enthusiasm to learn more about this event. Towards the last part of this term, Topa students will be given the opportunity to direct their own learning about space and explore their own personal passions in this area. If you have not already, talk to your child about what they are learning in Inquiry this term. You may even find that you learn something new.

This term Topa students are doing gymnastics on a Friday. This is a great chance for children to develop their motor skills and learn something new. Here is a picture of Room 21 enjoying themselves during gymnastics:





**TE AWAMUTU INTERMEDIATE  
PRESENTS**

**TICKETS ON SALE NOW!**

# Little Stars

**PERFORMANCE DATES**

**TUESDAY 29TH JUNE  
7.30PM**

**WEDNESDAY 30TH JUNE  
7.30PM**

**THURSDAY 1ST JULY  
7.30PM**

**ADULTS \$15  
STUDENT/CHILD \$5  
FAMILY \$30  
(2ADULTS, 2 CHILDREN)**

**TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE  
SCHOOL OFFICE**



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

**"Where your children are safe, happy and engaged"**  
Te Awamutu Senior School Holiday Programme

**WINZ Subsidies Available**

**MONDAY 12th**  
**A DAY IN THE 80'S**  
Let's wind back the clock to the 80's, please come dressed in theme! We will listen to 80s music, watch an 80s movie and maybe some 80's food?

**MONDAY 19th**  
**DESIGNER CUPCAKES & ICECREAM**  
Today we are cupcake & ice-cream decorating. Let's have some yummy fun today! You also will all have some homework...design the next holiday programme!!!

**TUESDAY 13th**  
**HULA HOOPING**  
Today Coralee will be onsite do a little hula hooping display, then teach you all some fantastic tricks. Super groovy and very 80s!

**BRING A HOOP IF YOU HAVE!**

**TUESDAY 20th**  
**ST JOHNS**  
This morning St Johns will be with us for a mini emergency responder session. They will have some great tips on how to respond when something goes wrong. Something yummy for afternoon tea anyone?

**WEDNESDAY 14th**  
**MOVIES/CRAFTS**  
This morning we head to Regent Cinema. On our return we are have a surprise autumn art activity

**SNACK ORDERS ALLOWED**

**WEDNESDAY 21st**  
**MOVIES/HP COMPETITION**  
This morning we head to Regent Cinemas. On our return we will be going over our holiday programmes designs (or completing them if you don't have a copy) Bragging rights & prizes for ideas we use!!!

**SNACK ORDERS ALLOWED**

**THURSDAY 15th**  
**LEAP/POOLS**  
We have an exciting day planned starting with a visit to Leap where we will be leaping, laser trapping, laser tagging & doing the commando course, followed by a swim to cool us off!

**PLEASE BE ONSITE BY 9 BACK 4.30**

**THURSDAY 22nd**  
**BEARDS, BEARDS, BEARDS!!! ROCKCLIMBING**  
We start the day with a trip to The Meteor Theatre to watch Beards, Beards, Beards!!! Followed by Rock climbing.

**PLEASE BE ONSITE BY 9 BACK 4, PLEASE ENSURE YOU HAVE COVERED FOOTWEAR, HAIR TIED UP.**

**FRIDAY 16th**  
**PJ PARTY DAY**  
Come prepared today with your PJs pillow, slippers and even a sleeping bag.

**PAJAMA PARTY**

**PLEASE BRING A BAG OF LOLLIES OR CHIPS TO SHARE**

**FRIDAY 23rd**  
**SHARED LUNCH/ITS IN THE BAG**  
Lots of prizes to be won, so wear your thinking caps, and be ready to answer the trivia questions to be in with a chance to win!!!

**BRING A PLATE PLEASE, REHEATS ONLY NO CHIPS/LOLLIES**

# 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.

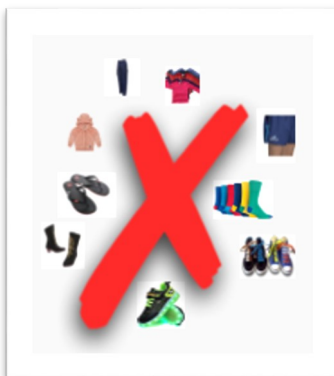
But the time is right to reiterate our school uniform standards because our school looks so smart when everyone is wearing the right thing. It also fosters a sense of pride and belonging for our tamariki.

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](mailto:office@taps.school.nz)**