

# Te Awamutu Primary School

*Together Achieving Personal Success*

Kia ora koutou

Firstly, apologies for the late newsletter. That's completely on me due to having a couple of days sick leave.

On Sunday 8th, our Kapa Haka tamariki from our Kura Kotahi Rā Roopu had their first weekend workshop in preparation for the festival. Even in the early stages of practice, their singing of waiata can create goosebumps on the skin. With their continued dedication to practice, they will be spectacular at the festival, I am sure. Thank you to Matua Pou and whānau members who helped and supported our tamariki over the course of the day. The festival date is Wednesday 29th September, Week 10.

Camp for our Year 5 and 6 group is only a month or so down the track. Thank you to all of those parents who have offered the donation to support the costs of the camp. The cost of this camp will likely be around \$50,000 including buses, activities, accommodation and heaps of kai. This is a huge lump of money to come from school funds for only one quarter of our school's students so the donations have been gratefully accepted. But the experience of camp is beyond amazing and will be remembered for the rest of your child's lives, so I consider it money well spent. Additionally, thank you to the parents who offered to help while at camp. We are lucky to have a positive response from our community, but the flip side is we can not take everyone.

We have now surpassed the number of students we ended the 2020 school year with. Our current roll is 549 students and growing! The constant issue now is, where do we put everyone? Next Monday, we welcome Vicki Neustroski back after maternity leave. She is taking over Vanessa Filer's position in Room 8 with our Year 1 and 2 students. Also, I can confirm that we have employed an experienced NZ teacher until the end of the year by the name of Vickie Foster to begin our 7th new entrant classroom. Welcome to TAPS Vickie! We will be having a farewell assembly for Vanessa on Friday afternoon starting at 2pm which parents and caregivers are welcome to attend.

Production practices are in full swing. We look forward to hosting you at one of the shows on the 15th and 16th of September. We are conscious of the fact our roll has grown since our last show, so we are offering the opportunity for retirees/gold card members/grandparents to purchase a ticket at a reduced price for the Dress Rehearsal show. This is NOT a polished show and there are sure to be some bloopers but it's a great opportunity to host retirees and create more opportunities for people to see the show. The intention is not for the general public to attend this session unless chaperoning their elderly family members.

Attendance at school is vitally important to the overall success of your child's learning journey. We are noticing that more and more parents are collecting their children early from school each day too. Even missing an hour a day, equates to 5 hours per week = a whole day off. In a term that is two full weeks, in a school year that is 8 weeks/two months. Did you realise that picking them up early could have such a huge impact on their education? Primary school days are important for setting up the foundation skills of learning. Without those skills your child could go on to become a struggling learner here, at Intermediate and then College. It will impact on their self esteem, relationships, work ethic in future jobs and their academic achievements. All students should be at school between 8.55am and 3pm daily unless there is a valid reason which is communicated with the teacher or the office.

Some fantastic news is that after four years of careful fiscal management, the school has managed to build up our reserves to a very healthy level. Therefore, the Board have asked me to consult with parents as to how you think a portion of our savings should be spent that would enhance our three strategic goals:

1. Strengthen teaching and learning practice
2. Enhance Culturally Responsive Practice
3. Foster the well-being of students and staff

Your ideas might involve personnel, property modifications or learning programmes you are aware of. Please share any ideas with me via email, [sharong@taps.school.nz](mailto:sharong@taps.school.nz) or [principal@taps.school.nz](mailto:principal@taps.school.nz)



Chris Grenfell will be stepping down as our Board Chairperson this week after approximately two and a half years of service however he will remain as a Board member until the next elections in 2022. As a Principal, I have been very appreciative of the amazing support Chris has offered to myself and the school during the ups and downs of the past few years. He is very pragmatic, calm and always puts the needs of our students first when making difficult decisions. Sarah Ranger (current Deputy Chair) will be stepping up into the Chairperson role for the remainder of the Board term. While Chris leaves big boots to fill, Sarah's fair, compassionate approach and passion for our school will stand her in good stead.

I'd like to express my gratitude to Elton Reid who has worked to invigorate our junior fort at the front of the school. It still has a few pieces to go such as a basket swing and then we will do some planting and installation of other pieces. Elton has donated his labour for free. Mike Tyler from Abrasive Blasting is refurbishing the old slide at free of charge too. THANK YOU for supporting our school!

The last day of this term, the 1st October 2021, will be a Teacher Only Day so that we can host parent/student interviews over the course of the whole day. We are trialling a different approach this time in order to consider the well-being of our teachers. Usually, teachers teach all day and then launch into interviews until 7pm at night on at least one of the days and it can be pretty exhausting. Therefore, bookings will open in the future for the day/afternoon. Any parents who can only attend in the evening or early morning, should talk directly to the teacher about organising a separate time. Candy Mac William will be hosting her interviews on Monday 20th of September (Week 9) as she is due to begin her maternity leave on the Friday of Week 9.

I am very saddened to share the loss of a great dad this week. James Saunders, the father of William (currently at TAI) and Daniel passed away on Sunday 8th August. James helped out at TAPS a fair bit, especially when it came to all things Science. He made an amazing rocket launcher with William for a homework project in 2019 and came along to the sharing day to help out. He also played the part of our resident Science expert in our meteor gig that same year. Our aroha and deepest condolences go to his family at this devastating time. A good man, taken too soon.



*Nga mihi*  
*Sharon*

# Timatanga

Welcome to all the new students who have begun their learning journey with us this term.

Thank you for your support in helping your child settle into school and into their classroom routines. Please let us know any information that may help with your child's independent habits, i.e. letting them do as much as possible for themselves.

We will be opening a new classroom in week 5 this term and we are super excited to present our whole school production in Week 8, ***"Manaaki Airlines Presents... What a wonderful world! - Travel around the world"*** on the 15th and 16th of September.

Children are encouraged to have water only in their drink bottles. If your child has a special dietary requirement, please speak to the class teacher. Classes often have a healthy snack in the morning block. For this, please ensure that your child has a suitable food item, i.e. fresh fruit, vegetables, fresh nuts, extra sandwich, crackers, cheese, raisins.

**Team 1's main focus is building your child's skills in Reading, Writing, Spelling through a Structured Literacy approach, Maths and using our TAPS Values to grow independent, kind learners.**

# Taiohi

On Monday of Week 1, we had a fantastic start to the term, with a hook in flying us all around the world. Some of the classes arrived at school to find their rooms had been converted into airplanes, they handed in their boarding passes and took flight visiting their 'production country' and learnt all about the culture and things they might see in this country. We have already started learning our songs and dances for the production which is coming in Week 8 We can't wait to show you!

Our whole school cross country is a little earlier this year. It will be on Thursday the 19th of August (Week 4) with the postponement date of Friday the 20th of August. The children have already learnt the course and will be practising over the next week or so.



# Tauihi

## Our learning for Term Three

**Writing programme** - this term we are focusing on a variety of writing genres where students are encouraged to write recounts, reports, and explanations based on our inquiry and personal experiences.

**Mathematics** - we are continuing to learn our basics in math, such as Numeracy and the supporting mathematical strands. The strands we are focusing on are: Geometry/Measurement - Describing locations/ giving directions and Reflections and Translations and Rotation. Our students continue to use Mathletics to aid their learning, this can also be accessed from home.

**Reading** - we continue focusing on decoding strategies through Structured Literacy, comprehension and understanding. **ALL students** must have a book bag to take books home in, including their library books which will start coming home this term. We encourage all students to be reading **every night** for at least 10 minutes.

**Inquiry programme** - This term we have our whole school production which every student will be involved in. Our big inquiry question is: ***How in the world do we express ourselves in the Arts?*** Our students will be participating in The Arts which include - Drama, Music, Dance and the Visual Arts which will lead into our production. This theme will run through our other curriculum areas. A letter will come home from each class outlining what clothing etc will be required for the Production soon.

**Physical Education** - This term we are building up our fitness levels in readiness for our Cross Country which will be held in Week 4 on Thursday, 19 August. A newsletter will come out closer to the time with more information.

# Topa

Term Three is shaping up to be a busy one and Topa Team has hit the ground running!

We have started practicing for our school Cross Country (Week 4) and on Thursday we went down to the velodrome to practise on different terrain. We will be practicing there again this Thursday afternoon.

In Week One, each class had their in class competition for speeches. It was fantastic to see all of our tamariki getting up in front of their class, delivering their speech! We had 21 students make it through to our Topa Finals at the beginning of Week Two. They were:

Year 5:

Sid Ram, Braydon Brown, Olivia Jackson, Lily Rose, Corey Powell, Gemma Bowler, Daniel Saunders, Lucas MacDougall and Tom Stewart

Year 6:

Sadie Dyet, Kaleb Wilken, Eva Smith, Kate Mitchell, Jezreel Alota, Emily Coates, Blake Murrell, Rhys Merrick, Eva Pivott, Elias Herrick, Lucy McKay and Brody James

They were all amazing and we are so proud of them!

The winners were:

Year 5:

1st - Tom Stewart, 2nd - Lucas MacDougall, 3rd - Braydon Brown

Year 6:

1st - Brody James, 2nd - Emily Coates, 3rd - Lucy McKay





TE AWAMUTU PRIMARY SCHOOL PRESENTS



# Tickets on sale soon

**WED** | **THU**  
**15TH** | **16TH**  
**SEP** | **SEP**

TWO SHOWS EACH DAY:  
11.15AM & 6PM

**\$7**  
PER TICKET

DRINKS AND SNACKS  
AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

