

# Te Awamutu Primary School

*Together Achieving Personal Success*

Dear Parents and caregivers

14 June 2022

I do hope everyone enjoyed a lovely long weekend to celebrate the Queen's 70th Jubilee. Next week, New Zealand will hold its very first Matariki public holiday, in honour of the Māori New Year. This is "a time where people, whānau, and communities gather together to remember the year that has passed, to celebrate the present, and to plan for the next year. It is a time to reflect on our loved ones who are no longer with us, to feast and celebrate with our relatives and friends, and to look towards the future and the hope of a season full of bounty." ([tepapa.govt.nz](http://tepapa.govt.nz) webpage). The date to put on your calendars is **Friday 24th June**, there is no school on this day.

Whilst we have always prided ourselves on being a safe physical environment, TAPS has developed and improved its Health and Safety notification processes over the past year and a half. Chris Rennie is delegated with the responsibility of identifying and planning for the mitigation of day to day risks across the site and then briefing the Principal and the Board. This year we are using an app called "Safe 365" to record potential risks and near misses and all staff have it loaded on their phones. We invite you, as parents and visitors, to share any risks you see around the school environment, or any near misses you may witness. You can do this by sharing it with any staff member who can record it on our system. Thank you for your help in this.

Teachers in our school will be attending paid union meetings in the week of June 13th in the run up to the re-negotiation of their collective agreement. The meetings will discuss the teachers' Time 4 Tamariki | Wāwāhi Tahā campaign, which aims to win smaller class sizes, more support for high needs students, better recognition of cultural skills, greater job security for our essential relievers and to fairly value and recognise teachers' work. Our union, NZEI Te Riu Roa, has scheduled online meetings to minimise disruption to teaching and learning and our school will aim to ensure the least disruption to your children's learning while upholding the right of teachers to participate in their union meeting.

COVID-19 continues to affect our students and staff this term. Please ensure you are informing the office if your child tests positive so that we are able to implement additional measures to reduce the likelihood of its spread. That is, extra cleaning, notification etc. It seems to be centred in the top block at present with two teachers absent due to COVID, and one or two cases in Room 4 (new entrants). Please ensure you keep your child home when they are ill, even if it's just a cold...while their immunity is down they are more likely to pick up other health issues like tummy bugs etc.

I would like to highlight some great learning around the school this week. Firstly, our teachers have recently completed professional observations in the teaching of Structured Literacy. This is deliberate and explicit teaching of the letters and the sounds they make in isolation and when put together. It was expected that our learners would take a while to excel as we had to work on backfilling gaps in knowledge created by teaching methods that are more broadly focused on sounding out words, looking at the pictures for clues, and comprehension of text. This method is still important, but should be introduced after the children have learned letter and sound concepts. Structured Literacy continues to go well and this week a Team 3 teacher has told me of a child who has progressed a massive amount of reading levels as everything suddenly clicked into place. These are the teaching moments educators live for! Please know that while your child might not bring home a book to read every night, we encourage you to share and enjoy literature with your child as often as you possibly can.

In Numeracy, the Board had approved a pilot of a Maths Knowledge programme in the top block for the duration of Term 2. We have a dedicated teacher aide who pops into each Topa classroom, meets with groups of students and gives them quick fire lessons in the area of maths knowledge that they are working at. Each level numerical stage is split further into A, B, C, D etc, and once the child has practised the skills in that level, they are given a mastery test to pass to see if they have retained the knowledge before they can go up to the next numerical level (e.g, 4D to 5A). You will likely see the knowledge practice sheets in your child's homework each week. They have 4 boxes on them, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday - due into the teacher on Friday. They are quick and easy to do. As parents, please feel free to help your child or to mark the work and give your child instant feedback on their progress. This will motivate them to work harder and faster to progress through the levels. At its midpoint, the pilot is going very well and our Year 5 & 6 learners are making really good progress and, even better, they are excited about their learning. Hopefully, the data from the pilot will be so great that we'll have all of the evidence required to fund this in the other teams too.

This year, in September, TAPS will be holding their triennial elections for our school Board. We hope to attract a diverse group of parents that have skills in a range of areas that support our school to be the best it can be as we make decisions that shape our children's future. If you have an interest in the Board, please put your name forward for nomination. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me to have a korero.

Finally, some sad news that will be a shock to many of you. After more than 15 years of teaching, forming lifelong connections and hard work at our kura, Maree Parkes has tendered her resignation as Teacher and Team Leader at TAPS. Maree has won a position at Kaitoke School on Great Barrier Island where her roots are and where her parents still reside. At the moment, we are working on replacing Maree's leadership positions and we don't have a clear idea of her end date as of yet. It is likely to be the end of term or soon after.

Nga mihi

Sharon





## Te Awamutu Primary School

*Together Achieving Personal Success*

*Māa Mahi Tahī Te Eke Panuku A Teetahi*

### Principal's Award Winner

# TIMATANGA

Term 2 2022 —Week 4

## Māni Ross

Māni, I am so proud of you! You are kind, caring, considerate, respectful, keen to learn and a friend to everyone! You have also quickly developed into a responsible leader in Room 1. Every day, you work tirelessly to show all the TAPS values, from being organised and ready for your own learning, to helping and guiding new friends in our class.

Māni you always listen carefully to the teacher's instructions and as a true role model you are always one of the first to be on task and doing the right thing.

Māni you try your very best in all that you do.

You are a true Manaaki High Flyer!

Kia Kaha!



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### Principal's Award Winner

# TAIOHI

Term 2 2022 —Week 4

## Ella Grogan

Ella is kind, caring and reliable member of Room 10. She shines enthusiasm and passion when talking about her learning, working extremely hard to achieve her learning goals to a high standard. She consistently strives to follow the TAPS values, showing respect and care towards her peers and teachers. Ella has a positive attitude towards everything she does and is always the first to lend a hand when there is a job that needs doing. It has been

great to see Ella's confidence in the classroom grow and develop so far this year. Keep being amazing Ella, Room 10 is very lucky to have you in our class.



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### Principal's Award Winner

# TAUIHI

Term 2 2022 —Week 4

## Jaira Alota

Jaira is a kind, bubbly student, who shows all TAPS values everyday in all areas of her learning. She is an absolute joy to have in the classroom, always pushing herself to be her best. Jaira is a role model to all her peers, and is a natural born leader, definitely someone to watch out for as she progresses throughout school. She shines when she is being creative, especially in art and writing, where she can be free to create a picture in the audience's mind. Jaira shows me everyday that she is ready to learn and succeed, by arriving with a smile on her face. Keep being the superstar that you are, Jaira!



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### Principal's Award Winner

# TOPA

Term 2 2022 —Week 4

## Grace Brown

Grace has made an absolute awesome start to term two. She is always showing all the TAPS values in class in all areas, always settles into her work quickly, and is consistently well prepared for each lesson and, at all times, presents her work to a high standard which makes marking it a real pleasure! Grace is a real respectable person and shows this value towards everyone each and everyday. Grace is polite to the teacher and her fellow classmates. Overall she is a delight to have in Room 22 and, even as a year five, she is a great role model for all!





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### Principal's Award Winner

# TIMATANGA

Term 2 2022 - Week 6

## Josie Harrop

Josie, the teachers in the Timatanga Team have noticed how much you love being at TAPS and how you consistently live the TAPS values. You can feel so proud of your good manners, and how you always notice and think of others. It is heart-warming to see how you genuinely value the uniqueness and special qualities of others. We also love the way you approach your learning, full of enthusiasm and focused because you understand that you have important work to do and you just enjoy learning so much! It is tricky for everyone to show resilience all the time, but Josie you are a wonderful role model for the junior children in the way that you bounce back with positivity and a smile. Thank you Josie for being the fun, curious, and kind person that you are. You truly deserve the Principal's Award. Congratulations from everyone in the Timatanga Team



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### Principal's Award Winner

# TAIOHI

Term 2 2022 - Week 6

## Leon Robertson

We love having Leon in Room 7 as he is a great role model! This year is Leon's second year with Mrs Gillespie and it has been fantastic to see him continue to develop to be a confident, responsible class leader.

Leon is always very kind, caring, and willingly helps others. He has lovely manners, he is friendly and he gets on well with everyone. He has a fun sense of humour and a lovable, cheeky personality. Leon has a positive attitude towards his learning and he always strives to do his best. Leon makes sensible choices and always displays our TAPS values. Well done, Leon.

You are awesome- keep being the wonderful you!



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### Principal's Award Winner

# TAUIHI

Term 2 2022 - Week 6

## Anarchy-Rose Redgate

Anarchy you are such a kind hearted gentle member of Room 12. We love how you show the TAPS values in all that you do, each and every single day. You go out of your way to help those around you, always putting others before yourself.

Anarchy, you are so cheerful and positive. We are so impressed at the way you demonstrate the value of perseverance in your learning. You are always ready for each new experience and as a result of this you are making such great progress and succeeding in reaching your goals. Keep up the outstanding effort.



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### Principal's Award Winner

# TOPA

Term 2 2022 - Week 6

## Rumi Rutherford

Rumi is kind, thoughtful and has the most beautiful nature. Her smile beams across her face, leaving people feeling warm and comfortable in her presence. Rumi is always looking out for her peers, making sure they are okay, and well looked after. Rumi steps out of her comfort zone to take risks and try new things, with a resilient attitude and of course that big smile! We are so grateful to have such a sweet and caring student in Room 6. Rumi, you are an absolute rockstar - there are not enough words to describe our appreciation and gratitude we have for you. Never stop smiling and living life to the fullest Rumi!





# Timatanga

What a wonderful start to Term 2 Timatanga has had! "What is Scientific Phenomena?" is our Inquiry this term. On Friday 3rd June Timatanga Team had a MAD SCIENTIST Day. We had so much fun doing science activities and experiments all day! We also thoroughly enjoyed 'PINK SHIRT DAY'! 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. Over the next few weeks we will also be busy with...

- Our Wednesday afternoons are Large ball PE rotations
- PMP continues every Thursday
- Our annual Timatanga Pyjama day coming up for Winter Solstice (21st June)
- A MATARIKI Disco (Thursday 23rd June) & a whole school Matariki day (Friday 1st July)

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

From all of your Terrific Timatanga Teachers.



# Taiohi

Team 2, Taiohi Newsletter -Week 7

So it is goodbye Autumn and hello Winter!

It is great to see lots of keen and happy learners in Taiohi. We see children with smiling faces, using lovely manners and making good choices in our area of the school. Nice work Team Two!

Our Team Two Community garden is growing beautifully and there are lots of vegetables ready for anyone to harvest- please help yourself...silverbeet, lettuce, bok choy, are all ready to eat. The more we pick, the more those plants keep producing. It is so heart-warming to see our little learners tending the garden voluntarily during their lunchtimes. They love doing it!

Also, Team Two learners seem to be really enjoying the Science rotations around our Room 1B, 7, 8, 9 and 10 classrooms each Monday. Teachers have been teaching a different Science topic in each room and giving the learners hands on experiences to learn from. Exciting learning has been happening! Hopefully your children have told you all about it and they can possibly continue investigating the experiments at home with caregivers, to further their learning.

(Weeks 5, 7, 9- our Assembly is on fortnightly, odd weeks, in the hall -all welcome to join us)

Learning is fun! Keep up the great efforts everyone! Remember, a little bit of learning, .... plus a little more learning adds up to a whole lot of excellence in learning.

Mrs Janette Gillespie, Mrs Karen Sykes, Mrs Vicki Neustroski, Mrs Renee Lisignoli, and Ms Liarna Slade.

# Tauihi

Talofa ma fa'afeiloa'i ile vaiaso 7

Wow! The term is flying by and we are already into the second half of the term! Over the past 6 weeks Team Tauihi has been looking into science, specifically the Physical World. We have loved exploring air, flight, solids, liquids and gases. For the second half of this term we are going to be looking into Environmental Sustainability within our school, our community and around New Zealand.

During writing we have been creating procedural pieces. Throughout our classes there have been some amazing artwork created around this and some yummy treats made. Check out the photos below!

Lockdown packs/Dragon Math Books - Last term students were given a Lockdown pack with various things in that they could use at home in case of Lockdown. We would appreciate it if these bags and contents be returned to school so they can be recycled for classroom use. Dragon Math books were also kept in book bags just in case they were needed at home. Some of these books have been kept at home, we would also appreciate it if you could send these back to school as well.

Winter weather - Now that we are in our winter months our students need to be wearing the appropriate uniform items. We have noticed that footwear has not been in the correct uniform. These need to be black shoes only and without any other colours on them. Black boots are not school regulation shoes. Please ensure your children are wearing their jerseys and/or jackets to school as it is turning very cold and that all uniform items are named.

Thanks heaps!



# Topa

Topa Syndicate has been so busy lately! We have been busy completing science experiments each week and practising our big ball skills through winter sports training with soccer, hockey, tapuae and turbo touch. We are about to start writing our speeches too! A note will be coming home with more information about that soon.

Check out some of the science experiments we have completed in the photos. Remember, we are having a science fair at the end of the term - we welcome any students that want to participate by completing an experiment at home and bringing in the results to share with the syndicate! A note went home about this a few weeks ago.



Te Awamutu Primary School


# Timatanga Matariki Disco

We are having a disco for our Timatanga children on Thursday the 23rd of June in the school hall.  
Time: 1.45pm to 2.45pm.  
Children can bring their disco clothes and we will get disco ready at school to celebrate Matariki.

There will be some disco treats and surprises for our dancing stars.

Kind regards From your Timatanga Teachers

# TE IWA O MATARIKI THE NINE STARS OF MATARIKI




The diagram shows the nine stars of Matariki arranged in a circular pattern. The stars are labeled as follows:

- Waipuna-ā-rangi
- Ururangi
- Tupu-ā-rangi
- Hiwa-i-te-rangi
- Matariki
- Tupu-ā-nuku
- Waitā
- Waiti
- Pōhutukawa

Pyjama Day!

Tuesday 21 June



We are beginning to learn about narrative writing, using Goldilocks and the Three Bears as a provocation. To coincide with the Winter Solstice, the shortest day, we thought it would be fun to have a Pyjama Day!

*Come to school in your PJ's on Tuesday!*

Join us in your pyjamas, with Goldilocks and the Three Bears to enjoy a day in Fairy Tale Land

Timatanga Teachers

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