

# Te Awamutu Primary School

*Together Achieving Personal Success*

Dear Parents and Caregivers

27 June 2022

## Welcome to Term 3, Week 3.

As previously stated, we will be producing a bigger newsletter in print once every three weeks. That is week 3, 6, and 9. Most of our daily notices go out on Facebook and via Hero and teachers send home notices about events as required, so our newsletters will be about sharing our successes and communicating any common messages to our community.

### Events

We all enjoyed the uniform free day today. Our older children look so grown up out of uniform! The purpose was to raise money for the Te Awamutu Menz Shed after their premises were broken into and they had their tools stolen a week or so ago. We smashed our fundraising goal and I'm extremely proud to say we raised \$1022.30 for the cause. Thank you very much for your tremendous support. What an amazing community we live in.

On Tuesday our students enjoyed the Bernard Mangakahia Show from Nexus Arts, Australia. The tamariki thoroughly enjoyed watching the show and were wowed by his talents with hula hoops, drums and poi. It feels great to be able to host visitors again.

Team 4 Speech finals were held last Friday. Congratulations to our students for showing personal success in public speaking. It's not easy, but all of the presenters did a superb job! Ka mau te wehi!

Yesterday our Kapa Haka group were invited to welcome Christopher Luxon to Te Awamutu at the Rose Gardens. Their performance was heart moving and powerful. Mr Luxon praised the tamariki for the quality of their performance. We may be biased but the staff and parents thought they were brilliant too! Kia ora to Matua Pou for his leadership and guidance in preparing our tauira. A video is available on YouTube for those who would like to view it. (Sound will be off for approximately a minute)



Next Friday 19th August, TAPS will be hosting Des Hunt, author. He'll be presenting to our older students and some will even be lucky enough to work with Des in a mini workshop. Thank you to Amy Harrop for organising this event on our behalf.

### Staffing

Claire Hocking has stepped into the Room 2 teacher role until the end of the year. You may recognise Claire as she has been one of our regular relieving teachers for the past year or two. We are so pleased that Claire is with us, and appreciate the patience of the Room 2 parents while we worked through this staffing challenge.

Also, our congratulations go out to Katie McNaughton. Not only did she get engaged over the holiday break, she has been awarded a permanent contract at TAPS to boot. We love having Katie as part of our whānau and we hope you get a chance to meet and interact with her at some point.

When Maree left for the Barrier she left leadership vacancies in Team 1 and 2. We'd love to announce Lanah Gibbes as the reliever Leader in Team 1, until the end of the year. Michelle Galbraith and Karen Sykes are working together to lead Team 2, also until the end of the year when we expect Elizabeth Ellis to return from maternity leave. Michelle has been withdrawn from her teaching responsibilities and is using the two days per week to lead Structured Literacy across our school. Room 12 are very lucky to continue with Mrs Jonelle Clayton and have Mrs Amy Harrop in a shared teaching role.

We are still looking for a cleaner to join the team and support the others to clean the school each afternoon. Due to staff absences, everyone has dug in to help out but Kim Fabish (Finance Administrator) has done more than her fair share of cleaning over the past week and a bit and it is hugely appreciated!

### Re-branding

The school has engaged the services of a graphic design company to professionalise some of our print media and graphics around the school site. We have been given the opportunity to look at the first draft and we've shared this with staff. Parents are welcome to see the draft if visiting the office. Mention it to Mrs Packward and she'll show you. We'd love to hear your thoughts.

### Property

Buying production tickets has given so many more parents the opportunity to visit our newly refurbished office area. We are glad you like it as much as we do!

The Team 1 steps to the playground have also had some new shade sails made and installed recently. You would be forgiven for not noticing as it was a pretty seamless transition.

We have had more trimming of trees and the removal of one at the back of the hall. This is for safety's sake as the one by the hall was rotten and the branches of others were dead and causing concern as a falling hazard. As we remove trees, we are purchasing more and replacing them for shade and aesthetics. A silver lining is; we are able to locate them in areas that better fit the future of our school layout.

New Room 17 is predominantly finished this week. This stand-alone, bespoke build is the last replacement of our four classrooms demolished in 2020. It has exceptional storage, hot water and all the mod-cons. Miss Nash and Room 6 tamariki are very excited to be moving in soon!

A huge thank you to Brendon Morehead Building and Maintenance for his work in adapting the last of the junior school fort, beside the new Room 17. Additionally to Matua Manu (caretaker), Jacqui Morrison (part-time caretaker's assistance) and Richard Sykes and Devon Packwood (husbands and all round good guys) for their amazing work in prepping the ground, framing it up with sleepers and creating the surrounding gardens (in progress). Soon the fort will be open for business once again.

### Road Crossings

With the increase in our numbers (560+ students), there are more children coming and going each afternoon and a lot more cars on the road. **Please insist on your child using the patrol crossing!** We need to role model safe road crossings for all of our children yet I've witnessed many children running across the road further down, (or up) Teasdale Street with their parents or at their parents request. This is down right dangerous with the number of cars on the road between 8.30am and 9am or 3pm and 3.15pm. A short wait at the pedestrian crossing is a lot better than a long time in hospital in the horrendous event of an accident. PLEASE USE THE CROSSING.

## COVID Update

Mask wearing is a hugely contested issue and whilst our Board has not changed any policies enforcing the wearing of face masks, we kindly ask parents and adults who come into **any school building** to wear a mask out of respect for our most vulnerable people health wise. While outdoors, the choice is yours!

## Board

After three years or more of service for many of our current members, I wish to express my deep gratitude for their time on the TAPS Board of Trustees. I have been so lucky to work with a wonderful group of parents, who are fully invested in supporting the school to be the best environment possible to educate our children. Time on a Board can be very rewarding and often goes unnoticed behind the scenes but, at times, there are challenging moments or decisions to be made. I have found the current Board to be supportive, genuine, communicative, and focused on what is right. Thank you very much for your service!

Moving forward, our Returning Officer has received **ten** nominations for parent representatives for the next three year term. This amount of nominations is our best, for as long as we can remember. I highly appreciate the great response from our community in putting their names forward and I wish each of you the best of luck. The Returning Officer, who runs the elections on behalf of the school, will send out voting papers to our parent community to give you the chance to vote for those you feel are best placed to contribute to the future of our school. To all of our parents, please take the time to vote and return your papers. There will be a sealed box kept in the school office for you to place your votes in.

## Learning Data

Over the past two months, we have been sharing our student's progress data with the Board. In the middle of the year, we analyse results class by class, noticing patterns, challenges and developing strategies for improvement. By the end of the year, each age group has a benchmark for where we would expect their learning to be. Therefore, mid-year we analyse **progress** made then at the end of the year we analyse **attainment/achievement** data.

In July we shared the progress data with the Board. The following summarises that report;

- The Leadership Team developed a system for reporting differences between Structured Literacy and "normal" reading data.
- In Timatanga (Team 1), we can't measure individualised progress as easily as others. All students have started school at different times. Until they have been at school for 6 months, we only have one data point for the purpose of analysis.
- For Literacy, 20-25% of students in each class in Timatanga (Team 1) are in early foundation stages, learning letter names, shapes and sounds. The others are using decodable texts to learn to read. We note that the transition between using decodable texts and authentic texts (the 'normal readers' that parents may be used to) tends to occur during their time in Team 2.
- In Writing, most children are progressing. In many cases where progress has not been made, it can be attributed to the fact the child was already 'at' the expected level. Those who are not progressing and are achieving below expectations are monitored for potential intervention by our learning support staff (see below).
- In Numeracy, steady progress has been made across the school. The school has implemented a pilot in Team 4 to test the value of a maths knowledge programme. This has been hugely successful and the Board has agreed to fund learning support to run this school wide from Term 3 onwards.
- Across all areas, there are very few students who have regressed in their learning, compared to previous years. These children tend to present with learning difficulties, certain diagnosis or attendance has been problematic due to illness.

In August Michelle Galbraith and Heidi Osborn-Dunn presented intervention reports to the Board.

Michelle presented a report specifically related to Structured Literacy. The school is making significant changes to our practice to ensure improved learning outcomes for our students. The report, compiled by Michelle, comprehensively outlines the progress made across the school, analysing our strengths and includes next steps. A copy of her report is available to any parent who wishes to view it.

Heidi Osborn-Dunn, our Learning Support Coordinator, presented a report on interventions the school provides or co-ordinates with outside agencies. 114 students have received some form of intervention during Term 1 and 2. In that 114, students have only been counted once, even though they may have multiple forms of intervention. Interventions, referrals or agency examples include, but are not limited to, High Health Needs, In Class Support, Child Development Centre, Riding for the Disabled, English Speakers of Other Languages, social development groups etc.

Over the first half of the year 58 students have received extra support in Structured Literacy (outside of the classroom). Support has been provided for Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) for those excelling well beyond the expected levels of learning for their age group. TAPS has provided a "Boys Writing Group" to inspire our Year 5 and 6 boys to enjoy writing again.

As you would expect, support programmes have been impacted by COVID related absences for both staff and students.

TAPS provide a significant amount of learning support to our students. Some children attract funding from the Ministry of Education, but much of our in-school intervention is funded by our Board. I'd like to acknowledge the work that Heidi does to coordinate learning support for our students who need it most but also ensuring support is distributed as widely as finances and practicality allows. Recently, I have had feedback from an external source to say they wish all schools did as much as TAPS.

As always, there is so much to be proud of at our school. A great community, fabulous and caring students, a hardworking staff and an amazing team culture. Thank you for being a part of our whānau.

Nga mihi

*Sharon*





## Te Awamutu Primary School

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*Māori Māhī Tahī Te Eke Pūnuku A Teetahi*

### Principal's Award Winner

# TIMATANGA

Term 3 2022 - Week 2

## Ayla Dent

Ayla, you are a very special person. Your confidence and generous nature make you a passionate and inspirational leader in Room 4. The way you consistently role model the TAPS values inspires all those around you to be kind and show empathy for others. We love the way you support anyone in need, ensuring we all stay in the Green Zone and have a fabulous day of learning, full of happiness and fun every day! May your curiosity and courage never wane and your integrity continue to grow from strength to strength as you enjoy the new challenges that lie ahead in terms 3 and 4. Thank you for being the amazing person you are Ayla!



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### Principal's Award Winner

# TAIOHI

Term 3 2022 - Week 2

## Leif Mitchell

Leif, you are an absolute delight to have in Room 10. You have made huge progress this year with your learning and your ability to self manage. Recently, you have become an excellent role model helping those around you and supporting your peers where you can. You are thoughtful of others feelings and ask questions when you are unsure in a situation. Leif, you show resilience and problem-solving to keep trying, even when things are hard. We are so lucky to have you in Room 10. Keep being amazing.



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### Principal's Award Winner

# TAUIHI

Term 3 2022 - Week 2

## Stan Stewart

Stan, you are the definition of a hard worker! You love to get stuck in, and you show an amazing enthusiasm and passion for everything you learn. Mrs Westgate has been lucky enough to have Stan for a second year in Room 13, and he has always thrived on challenge. Stan is the ultimate, reflective learner by setting goals and smashing them! He is looked up to by his Room 13 friends as a leader, and sets an example of 'when you work hard you get the results.' Stan you are a true all rounder as everything you do, or try, you give 100% effort. I know you have a huge future ahead of you, but with your passion, it will be an exciting one to watch.



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### Principal's Award Winner

# TOPA

Term 3 2022 - Week 2

## Connor Griffiths

Connor has been a joy to teach over the last year and a half. He is one of the first to put his hand up to offer to help someone or complete an extra task or responsibility. Connor has matured a lot since being in Topa and is starting to take risks with his learning. He isn't afraid to ask for help if he needs it and is always genuinely excited for the successes of his peers. Connor has amazingly creative ideas and often shares his 'out of the box' thinking to offer suggestions to problems that may arise. He is empathetic towards others and takes his responsibility as a school leader seriously. Connor, you are an amazing person and I know you will continue to make great strides in your learning. Keep soaring like Manaaki and you can do anything!





## TIMATANGA NEWS

What a super start to Term 3 we have had! We have welcomed Mrs Claire Hocking to our teaching team. She will be teaching in Room 2 until the end of the year. Fingers crossed we see Miss Edwards back with us as soon as her health improves. Room 4s is also lucky to have Mrs Ginsberg teaching on a Wednesday. She will also be teaching in other classes in Timatanga on a Friday.

The weather has not been very inviting, but we have been making the most of getting outside when we can. Endurance training (Cross-country) has started and our Production practices have begun. We are also excited about the Colour Run!

The children have quickly reestablished themselves into classroom routines and we have welcomed many happy new faces into the classrooms. Happiest of school days to all our new friends.

The Timatanga term 3 notice has gone home. This has a lot of information about our learning and the term ahead. You can also view this HERO (under community notices). Let's enjoy term 3 together and remember our Inquiry focus is...

***He rereke tatou  
katoa-We are all  
different!***



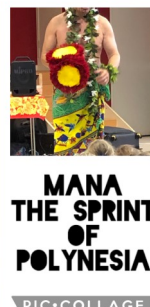
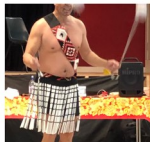
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## TAIOHI NEWS

A busy, yet fun start to Term 3. We have been watching The Commonwealth games, celebrating our medal tally, and learning about other countries along the way. We welcome several new children to the team and Amy Moorhead, our student teacher in Room 8. Amy will be with us for the term which will be a great experience for her and the children. For further assemblies please watch Hero for updates. This is due to our cross-country/colour fun run taking place in Week 5, and then production practice in Week 7 and our production in Week 9, Watch this space!!

Cross-country/colour fun run Wednesday 24th August, mark it in your calendar. A notice came home on Thursday with further details. We have begun our endurance training in preparation for the day through fun games which involve continuous running, helping us to run for longer distances.



**MANA  
THE SPRINT  
OF  
POLYNESIA**

PIC-COLLAGE

Today we were amazed by Bernard and his show, Mana, the spirit of Polynesia. Learning new skills and developing our PB4L value of the fortnight, Resilience.

Also this term we are sharing What a Wonderful World, our whole school production. All children will have the opportunity to be part of the show, and practise has started with excitement and enthusiasm. Notices have been sent home regarding costumes and production dates. If you have any questions please talk to your child's class teacher. We look forward to sharing more of your child's learning with you as the term progresses.

Taiohi Teachers

## TAUIHI NEWS



Week 3 already! We have a jam packed term ahead of us, with Cross Country, Colour Run, Production, Calendar Art, just to name a few.

We are all well into our production dance practices. We have been learning the steps to our dances, so we are professionals on the big stage. The students have been enjoying learning their moves and practicing in the hall, with their Team 3 buddy class as the audience. Remember you can practice at home, you can get a link from the classroom teacher.

In our classes we are all feet forwards into our Inquiry learning this term, exploring different countries. Most of our classes are exploring the country that we are for production. There are a number of illnesses going around during these winter months. Please ensure that you are vigilant about not sending your child to school if they are green, snotty and blowing their noses every couple of minutes. This will help to keep our classrooms as germ free as possible. If you are able to get your child to bring along a box of tissues, that would be much appreciated.



## TOPA NEWS

Wow! What an amazing start to the term we have had. We have already completed our speeches, we are practising for our cross country/colour run in Week 5, we are working towards our camp in Week 7 and all the classes are working hard on their production items for our production in Week 9. What a busy term we have!

Topa had our speech competition on Friday of Week 2 and it was an absolute pleasure listening to the 11 Year 5s and 16 Year 5s share their speeches. They worked really hard on them and they

This week we were lucky enough to have Bernard come and visit us and show us some fantastic dances and a great message about well-being. Our Topa kids absolutely loved it!



I like Saturday mornings playing on the cold frosty soccer fields,  
I like sleeping in every weekend in my comfy bed,  
I like reading Diary of a Wimpy Kid in a nice quiet room in my house,  
I like yummy homemade pizza with chips and garlic mayo, every Friday dinner,  
I like nice and cold vanilla ice cream on hot sunny days at the beach,  
I like doing literacy, maths and homework all from school every day,  
I like scoring goals and playing soccer with other kids at school,  
I like going on my fast graffitied hoverboard at home,  
I love my fat, fluffy, cuddly cat called Mindy,  
I am special,  
I am Willa.

I like reading, curled up in front of the fire,  
I like scrumptious red velvet cake, warm from the oven,  
I like skiing on glistening, white snowy peaks,  
I like the thrill of trying to find my way out of a dark escape room,  
I like being snug on the couch in front of the TV,  
I like having fun playing mini-golf with my family in Te Awana,  
I like being enveloped by my warm duvet as I drift off to sleep,  
I like acting and doing comedy in front of an audience,  
I love travelling to lots of different places and trying new things,  
I am special,  
I am Tom.

We are working on descriptive writing in Topa this term. Here are some samples of amazing writing from some of our students.





Room 19 did a waste audit week 2, and guess what we found in 1 days worth of rubbish:

1. 50% of the overall weight of rubbish was food!
2. About 12 WHOLE sandwiches and 42 WHOLE pieces of fruit were thrown out!

What you can do at home with your children:

**THINK:**

*How much food waste is thrown out in the general rubbish in your household?*

*How could you reduce this or stop this completely?*

*What could you and your child do if they don't want to eat their sandwiches or fruit, instead of throwing it in the bin?*

A HUGE THANK YOU TO



Mitre 10 Te Awamutu for donating some seedlings to the school.

