

Te Awamutu Primary School

Together Achieving Personal Success



5 December 2022—Week 8—Term 4 2022

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Our warmest congratulations to Anja Venneman, Year 6 whom entered the Rotary Essay Competition in the 11+ year old category with a story about 'an exciting day'. Anja's story is a heartwarming recount of the time she heard that her Aunty and Uncle were expecting a baby. Anja and her family attended a prize giving ceremony where she received acknowledgement for her success.

Your child's 2023 classrooms will be announced via Hero on **Monday 12th December** around lunchtime. At 12pm on that day all students will swap to their 2023 classroom to meet the teacher and do a small activity together in preparation for next year or to establish connections. Sometimes our children may come home and be disappointed that they aren't in a certain class or with a particular friend. Please encourage your child to try their new environment for at least 3-4 weeks in 2023, before you approach the school. Remember that our attitude towards change often sets the tone for our child's resilience. Management does not change classrooms without good reason, especially when we have given the opportunity for parents to write in before the classes were drafted. Designing classrooms is a major undertaking and I wish to thank Chris Rennie and Kim Tautari-Scott for their work in this area.

In the afternoon/evening of the 12th we will also host our **Christmas in the Park on the blue astro turf courts and field**. Parents can arrive at any time but I will officially kick things off at 5pm with introductions. Every 10 minutes thereafter each team and the Kapa Haka Roopu will perform a song or two for your entertainment. Bring a picnic rug and a picnic if you wish. Some people pick up takeaways on the way in, and usually the Friends of TAPS do a sausage sizzle and a lolly stall. Parking will be available on the field for our families but we ask that you be careful on the blind corner of the driveway as you come in or out. We may even have a special visit from St Nick! The weather has been notoriously bad on this evening, over the years. If it pours with rain we will have to cancel.

The Senior Leadership have worked solidly over the last few weeks to recruit new teaching staff for 2023. The contracts have all been signed and we are hoping to introduce our newest members of the whānau to you prior to the end of the year. Some of our existing staff members are having a change of scenery and will be teaching in different teams next year. Please see the school organisation below.

Timatanga - Team 1:

Year 1's (late 2022 starters and early 2023 starters) and Year 0's (1st April onwards).
 Room 1B - Colleen Murray (new). This will be a new entrant, transition to school classroom.
 Room 1 - Vicki Neustroski
 Room 2 - Katie McNaughton
 Room 3 - Lanah Gibbes (Team Leader)
 Room 4 - Renee Lisignoli
 Laura Ginsberg will be working in Room 2 once a week to cover release and alternate between Room 3 and Room 9 every other week to cover team leader release.

Taiohi - Team 2:

Year 1s (older) and Year 2s
 Room 7 - Janette Gillespie
 Room 8 - Claire Hocking
 Room 9 - Karen Sykes (Team Leader)
 Room 10 - Liarna Slade

Tauihi - Team 3:

Year 3 and Year 4 composite classes

Room 5a - Grace Harris

Room 5b - Amy Harrop

Room 6 - Nic Edwards

Room 12 - Arden Mason

Room 13 - Erin Westgate

Room 14 - Jane Ellis

Room 15 - Jamie-Lee Shadbolt

Room 16 - Wendy James (Team Leader)

Jonelle Clayton will be doing one day per week in Room 12 and 16 to cover release.

Topa - Team 4:

Year 5 and Year 6 composite classes

Room 17 - Kelsey Oliver

Room 18 - Morgan Pound

Room 19 - Rebecca Wilcox

Room 20 - Sara Sabin (Team Leader)

Room 21 - Brenda Thomas

Room 22 - Tyana Fenney

Candy MacWilliam will be doing a day per week in Room 20 and 22 and one day every second week in Room 21 to cover release.

We look forward to having Rob Thompson and Margaretha Brady back, covering Classroom Release time (CRT). This is where every full-time teacher is provided with two days per term to do planning and assessments.

Mathathon

Thank you to all of our supporters for sponsoring our school in the Mathathon. Whether your business or workplace provided prizes, or, you were encouraged to sponsor your child, grandchild or neighbour, your generous support far exceeded our fundraising expectations. We raised just over \$22,000! Wow!

We have reinvested a bit into purchasing some additional spot prizes for the students so that many more have the chance of 'winning' something for their efforts. We also bought a lemonade popsicle for every student to enjoy today (Monday). The school intends to spend approximately \$6000-\$7000 on Dragon Maths text books for every child in Year 3 - 6 in 2023 and the teachers have suggested we purchase a new range of resources for teaching strand (statistics, volume & capacity, measurement etc). We may even have enough to buy a range of board games for classrooms.

Year 6 Graduation

This will be held this Wednesday evening. I would like to take this opportunity to commend our current cohort of Year 6 students. They are kind, well behaved, respectful and hardworking. We hope the parents and caregivers will enjoy celebrating the accomplishment of 6 great years at TAPS, with their children.

Christmas Shirts and Hats

Students are able to wear Christmas hats and headbands from this week on. They will still be required to wear a school uniform sun hat during break times, however.

All students are able to wear Christmas t-shirts from next week (the last four days of school). This is so that tamariki are all wearing their correct school uniform at prize givings.

Please ensure all children are wearing appropriate school shoes that are totally black in colour.

School finishes at 12.45pm on Thursday 15th December. The morning will be spent, clearing out the classrooms, transferring property to their 2023 classrooms and singing and dancing.

Swimming is well underway for the final week of school. Teachers are focused on water safety, before our little people head away to beaches, lakes and rivers for their Summer vacations. Students have up to three swimming sessions per week. Naming their togs and a towel is a good step in ensuring they come home again.

Kim Fabish will continue to work in the office off and on over the holidays. I recommend parents get in contact with her via kimf@taps.school.nz or ring the school to arrange a time to visit for uniforms and enrolments so she can invest her time into helping one family at a time.

Additionally Sue Packwood will come in and support Kimi for a late night (2pm - 6pm) on Thursday 26th January 2023.

End of Year Learning Data

Every year at this time we analyse data to ascertain how well our children have progressed with their academic learning and, to what degree, they are achieving at or above the learning outcomes expected of their year group. This year we are over the moon to share, our achievement data has improved in all areas and significantly so in Reading - especially for our Māori ākonga. We are attributing this to reasons such as a consistent, full year of learning, deliberate and explicit teaching in Structured Literacy which is starting to flow over into Writing, and the introduction of the Maths Knowledge programme that is motivating learners to practise maths skills. This data does not include children who have been at school less than one year. In Reading it doesn't include older students who are reading decodable texts in Structured Literacy because they are covered in that data which is incomparable to this achievement data.

There are so many variables to the data, however it's moving upwards and that's worth celebrating.

When looking at the progress made in Maths, the Board have agreed to use some of our cash reserves to fund Learning Support Assistants to run the Maths Knowledge programme across the whole school for the duration of the 2023 academic year. This allocation of funds is significant for our learners.

Percentages of students achieving AT or ABOVE their expected curriculum level

Percentages of students achieving AT or ABOVE their expected curriculum level

	2021	2022
Reading	66% All 58% Māori	83% All 81% Māori
Writing	69% All 60% Māori	74% All 68% Māori
Maths	69% All 57% Māori	75% All 64% Māori

Attendance Data

School Attendance is a highly political subject at present, with a variety of parties weighing in on the debate. The aim is for schools to have 70% of their students (412/589 of our current students) attending 90% of the time (45 days out of 50 days per term). At present, our levels are far lower than this and next year we will be working with families to encourage all students to be at school as often as they can. We will also be asking parents to be more diligent in having their children at school on time and leaving them at school until 3pm. While there has been a lot of illness around and people have been playing it safe, we need to ensure that generally speaking our children are absent from school only when absolutely necessary.

Thank you to our wonderful community for your amazing support during the 2022 learning year. Our tamariki are so blessed to have committed champions in their lives, allowing us to provide a wide range of opportunities to enrich their school life.

I would like to wish you all a warm, relaxing, festive season with your whānau. I look forward to seeing everyone next year.

Meri Kirihimete

Sharon



Te Awamutu Primary School

Together Achieving Personal Success

Māia Māia Tahī Te Eke Penukū A Teetahi

Principal's Award Winner

TIMATANGA

Term 4 2022 - Week 4

Darcy Murrell

Darcy is an absolute delight to have in the Timatanga Hub. Watching you grow, develop and mature in your beginning stages of school has been an absolute pleasure. Darcy, you are kind, caring, and respectful towards both your peers, friends and teachers. You are always well-mannered and truly reliable! You take charge of your own independent work, you ensure that you meet the high standards you set for yourself and you always strive to reach your set goals. Darcy, you consistently display the TAPS values in all that you do and in every possible way! You show true leadership qualities and you like to lead by example. You are polite and you enjoy sharing your knowledge and skills. We admire your dedication and positivity towards everything you do Darcy. Keep up the great



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Principal's Award Winner

TAIOHI

Term 4 2022 - Week 4

Harrison Billot

Harrison is a kind, caring and motivated student. He has evolved into an excellent role model who consistently displays the TAPS values in all that he does. Harrison has shown so much dedication and commitment to working hard and achieving his goals across all curriculum areas. He is a friendly face who is quick to welcome new students and make them feel safe and included. Harrison's quiet and calm nature makes him a real treasure in the classroom. He is a fun-loving, bubbly student who many of his peers look up to and turn to for support. Harrison, you are amazing and we love having you in Room 8. Keep being the superstar you are, you should be so proud of your achievements!



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Principal's Award Winner

TAUIHI

Term 4 2022 - Week 4

Archer McFall

Archer is a friendly and cooperative student who always comes into class with a smile on his face. He has a positive attitude towards everything he does, even with his broken arm where he has shown resilience. Archer has the most amazing manners and is always the first one to the mat. He is very respectful to those around him and often helps others. Archer is a great role model where he settles to his work quickly and does not allow others to distract him. He is a very hard worker who takes pride in everything he does. You are an amazing, conscientious student, Archer, and we love having you in Room 16.



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Principal's Award Winner

TOPA

Term 4 2022 - Week 4

Teegan Sargent

Teegan, it has been an absolute pleasure having you as a student in Room 21 this year. You are an enthusiastic learner who can always be trusted to finish any task given to you, and to the very highest standard. You constantly show all of the TAPS values in everything you do and I am very proud of your ability to put 110% into all aspects of your school life. You treat everyone who enters Room 21 with the utmost respect, and you serve as a wonderful role model for your classmates. Keep up the great work next year at TAI, and the world is yours for the taking.



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Principal's Award Winner

TIMATANGA

Term 4 2022 - Week 6

Ayvah Walker

You have become a wonderful role model in Room 2 Ayvah.

It is an absolute pleasure to have you in our class. You show our TAPS values all the time. You are reliable and thoughtful. You are the absolute expert classroom tidy upper (you ensure our equipment is put back in the right place ready for learning). You know where everything belongs in our class. At the end of each day you support your classmates to pack their bags for home time, without even being asked to do so!

You look out for others during our day and like to see everybody happy and on task with their learning. You show great common sense and responsibility out of the classroom as well.

Thank-you for being so responsible and always trying your best.
Congratulations Ayvah. You are amazing.



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Principal's Award Winner

TAIOHI

Term 4 2022 - Week 6

Grayson Hoyes

Grayson, I have loved having you as a member of Room 1B this year. Your dry sense of humour and that twinkle in your eye has kept me on my toes. You are an enthusiastic and well-mannered student and can be relied upon to make great choices. This makes you an outstanding role model, which is evident in your large friendship group, your peers naturally flock to you.

Grayson has a fantastic attitude towards school and his learning. He always strives to be the best he can be. He does this through having the confidence to ask questions when he is unsure and thinking about the task at hand.

Keep being amazing Grayson



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Principal's Award Winner

TAUIHI

Term 4 2022 - Week 6

Billy Haworth

Billy, your confident, cheeky, and can-do attitude brightens up everyone's day. You are hardworking and have learnt to give everything a go and to try. You have a kind heart and are always looking out for your friends and classmates. Billy, you consistently display the TAPS Values in everything you do and have learnt how to ask for help when you need it. You are the first person to offer a helping hand and share your creative ideas with the class. Room 15 loves hearing about your adventures and laughing with you when you share your jokes. I am super proud of the effort you put into your work and how resilient you have become. I have thoroughly enjoyed watching you grow into the confident, determined and creative person that you are. You are a pleasure to have in the classroom.



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Principal's Award Winner

Topa

Term 4 2022 - Week 6

Ashton Taylor

Ashton - I have been extremely lucky to watch you grow and mature into an amazing young man over the last two years, what a pleasure that has been! You are responsible and I can rely on you to complete tasks and jobs without too much explanation. You have learnt that working hard gets good results, both in the classroom and out on the sports field. I have watched you flourish this year and you show resilience when things start getting tricky. You know that in order to achieve your personal best, you have to give your all, in all that you do. Thank you for being such an awesome student and I know you are going to continue showing our TAPS values at Intermediate next year.



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Principal's Award Winner

TIMATANGA

Term 4 2022 - Week 8

Paige Campbell

Paige, you are a kind-hearted, gentle girl who loves learning. The Room 4 children have been so lucky to have you as a role model and friend. You are an excellent self-manager, always looking after your belongings and ensuring you are ready for learning by being an active listener and following instructions beautifully. Paige, I love the way you are the first to offer to help around the classroom and consistently use your initiative to notice when things need to be done. The pride you have for your classroom is heart-warming and very special. Thank you for living the TAPS values in all you do and say. Your cheerful smile and cheeky giggle brightens the day of all those around you! Keep being the amazing person you are Paige, because you are shining brightly!



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Principal's Award Winner

TAIOHI

Term 4 2022 - Week 8

Emmett Parsons

Emmett, I have loved having you as part of Room 10 this year. I have had the privilege of watching you grow, mature and dedicate yourself both socially and academically over the course of the year. Emmett, you have a positive attitude towards all areas of your learning; asking clear questions when you are unsure but never giving up no matter how challenging a task may be. You arrive at school with a huge smile on your face and love sharing special memories from home with the class. You are a well-mannered, kind and thoughtful student with a splash of cheekiness and I have thoroughly enjoyed watching you excel this year. Thank you, Emmett for being the amazing person you are and I look forward to seeing you continue to grow next year and beyond!



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Principal's Award Winner

TAUIHI

Term 4 2022 - Week 8

Emus Alcantara

Emus you have only been with us for two terms, but what an amazing two terms it has been. You are an absolute delight to have in class, your manners are impeccable and your work ethic is superb. You have a passion for learning, and love getting stuck into your work. Emus is a respectful listener and enjoys sharing his worldly knowledge.

He has developed a huge respect from his Room 13 peers with his amazing achievements and levels in all curriculum areas. You are friendly, kind and have a smile that brightens a room.

You are the true representation of a TAPS super star! Mrs Westgate was very lucky to have you for two terms, I envy your next teacher. Keep being amazing and shining bright Emus.



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Principal's Award Winner

TOPA

Term 4 2022 - Week 8

Charlie Downie-Boyte

Charlie, you are a phenomenal human being. You go out of your way to ensure you have respectful conversations with others, and rather than just talking at someone, you listen and respond appropriately. Charlie is well-mannered and polite and always offers to help those around him. It has been amazing watching you grow and mature over your years at TAPS and you will be missed by all. You excel not only in school and sports, but with the extracurricular activities you participate in too. This principal award was written by all of the Topa Syndicate teachers, because we all agreed that you deserve the final award of the year. Congratulations on all that you have achieved, thank you for being the wonderful young man that you are.



THE SAFE & HAPPY CLUB HOLIDAY PROGRAMME



The Christmas holidays are almost here and once again we are offering a fun filled programme, running from Te Awamutu Primary School & Pekapekarau Primary School.

We have some fun days planned including sports, crafts, a colour run, a cheerleading workshop, a visit to Yoga & Oils to make bracelets, trips to Ninja Valley, Hobbiton, Bucking Boar Cornfield and Waimarino and the cinemas.

Please see below for bookings & pricing.

<https://enrolmy.com/the-safe--happy-club-ltd>
or email
info@safeandhappyclub.co.nz

PLEASE NOTE – FOR THOSE THAT QUALIFY, WE HAVE THE WINZ SUBSIDY AVAILABLE.



School Holiday Special!!

Something for KIDS to do in Te Awamutu these holidays...

...Grab your friends, get locked in, find clues and ...

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\$25 per person
4-6 per team
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(*Offer applies to these 2 rooms)

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Te Awamutu Sports Park
420 Albert Park Drive
10am - 4pm

10 & 11 DEC 2022

SATURDAY
SUNDAY