



Te Awamutu Primary School

Te Kura Tuatahi o Te Awamutu

NEWSLETTER

26th July 2024 (Week 1, Term 3)

Dear Whānau and Friends

Week 1 of Term 3 is done and dusted!

I do hope you had some quality time with family and friends over the holiday period. In the chats I've had across our parent community, it sounds as though many families were still impacted by ongoing illness and perhaps the break wasn't as restful as you had hoped.

That being said, my wish for you is a positive and happy term ahead without the scourge of sickness!



I would also like to wish a warm welcome to our news students, families and staff members.

As always, we held a Mihi Whakatau to welcome our newest people to the wider TAPS whānau on Monday. We now have 610 students and we are about to go through our busiest period of the year for enrolments.

Our usual staffroom has been converted to a classroom (Room 4b) once again, and our staff room has been established in an area at the back of the hall, further limiting our space for assemblies and gatherings.

Welcome to Mrs Kelly Williams (Room 23), Miss Rachael Downs (Room 20), Mrs Fay Cooper (Room 11) and Ms Alison Stockton (Room 4b), the latter teaching our newest new entrants. Dear I say it, but this is highly likely to not be our last new entrant classroom for the year.

With any large business, it's very important to keep systems around communication open and running efficiently. It's something we have prided ourselves on in the past. We have learned that paper copies of notices are still favoured among our community and are less likely to be missed. HERO is great for the parents who prefer digital copies but posts are often opened in your own time and lastly Facebook is great for the parents who want to 'glance and go'. Unfortunately, not all of our messages are so short and sweet, especially when we are trying to help you to understand background contexts to our decisions.

We've heard the feedback of some parents who feel that we could be doing better and recognise that some of our communication systems have not been as efficient as we'd like, all of the time. We are working to rectify our systems around communication home. You can contribute by keeping in contact with us, asking questions when you are unsure, or even making suggestions or giving feedback about what you would like done differently. This is best done face to face, or over the phone and I'm more than willing to have those conversations with you, if it means we continue to improve and foster positive relationships between home and school. We will continue to send notices etc out, usually using all three methods. Please open/read them as soon as you can to ensure you are aware of what is happening.

If you wish to raise a genuine concern or make a complaint, we have a policy of how you can do that on School Docs <https://taps.schooldocs.co.nz/index.htm> "Raising a Concern or Complaint" User name: taps Password: Manaaki. In a simplistic summary, if you have a concern, raise it with the relevant person and try to resolve it between yourselves. If you feel like the issue is ongoing and isn't being resolved, you can raise it with another relevant staff member like the management team. Please look up the policy if you would like more information.



Coffee Cove and Bike Track



After the initial soft opening of The Coffee Cove in Week 10 of Term 2, we had some great conversations with people and gleaned some valuable feedback. In light of those learnings, I'm going to share some information about our purpose and a few changes we've made.

- Ellie is an employee of TAPS. The Coffee Cove is a TAPS business (as is Before and After School Care) designed to entice our community into school and to help build relationships with our parents/caregivers over a delicious 'Underground' coffee. We're hoping that it might support our attendance data too - especially if parents have an incentive to get their child/children to school!
- The other obvious benefit is the funds raised. All of the profit made, belongs to the school and will be reinvested into our students. To be able to supplement our Government funding has been a game changer over the past two decades and has enabled TAPS to fund learning support, extra teachers, property projects like the bike track, buy classrooms of new furniture, purchase resources etc. The Coffee Cove will only add further value to our school community.
- We have refined the opening hours to 7.30am - 10.30am each school day. This means that The Coffee Cove is shut at 10.30am when the children come out to play.
- The Coffee Cove is open to the wider community, although we are not overtly advertising it as such at the moment. The School site is public grounds, and 'strangers' come into the school everyday for a plethora of different reasons. We should remember that statistically speaking children are more at risk from people they know than from strangers, but we will always put the safety of our students first.
- The Coffee Cove is not a staff incentive and we pay the same amount for our coffee as parents do - just in case you were wondering.
- You can choose to frequent any coffee shop you want around town - we won't be offended. In fact, aren't we lucky to live in a town with so many great options!
- Thank you for the interest you have expressed so far. Each day is getting a little bit busier and even I'm over there helping Ellie out by taking orders when I can. It's a fabulous way to meet more people and I've loved it, so please come and say hi.

Furthermore, we will be having a Coffee Cove and Bike Track grand opening in one week's time and we invite our community to attend! That's Monday 5th August.

At 9.30am the whole school (and parents who would like to participate) will line up in single file round the whole bike track, with a super long material sash. After a countdown, each of our 29 + teachers will 'cut the ribbon' at their location.

Around 10am, students will return to their classroom for a shared morning tea. If it is possible, we ask parents to send a small plate of food to school with their children to share with their classmates. It only needs to be a small amount as it's only morning tea and many people will bring something (an average of 25 students per class). For example, fruit, a slice, some biscuits, or crackers... Parents might like to help the teacher in the classroom with the shared morning tea and the tidy up and I'm sure it would be appreciated.

At 10.30am, parents who have attended the opening are invited to the staff room to share morning tea with the staff. This will be catered by the school.

11 am - Children return to class as per normal.

For their official opening, The Coffee Cove will have a little treat to go out with every coffee sold on Monday 5th August.

Finally from me, camp is fast approaching for our Year 5 and 6 students. The full cost of the camp is hugely subsidised by TAPS, however, we ask for \$100 per child attending as a contribution to cover the cost of the buses to transport the students there. You can pay \$100 at once or arrange to pay it off leading up to camp. Please visit the office or phone ahead to arrange payment online. Thank you for your help in this - camps are very expensive but absolutely worth every cent in my opinion.

Enjoy your weekend whānau! See you next week.

Sharon Griffiths