



# Taihape Area School

Monday 1st August, 2011

## Term 3 Newsletter Number 1

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*Tena koutou katoa*

**Welcome** back after the holidays, and a very special welcome to all new families. We hope you all had a wonderful break, and the opportunity to spend lots of quality family time. The holidays came at about the right time, with the rounds of flu and illness beginning to take hold. Hopefully the two week break was a chance to break the cycle, and everyone is now recovered, fit and well.

As has been well advertised the term structure for the 2011 School Year has been modified this to cater for the needs of the Rugby World Cup. This has meant that terms one and two were longer than usual (11 weeks), this term will be 10 weeks, and the final term only 6 weeks. What this means in reality is that this term is absolutely crucial for our students, in particular those doing NCEA. Mock exams are scheduled for week 3, but the challenge for our students is to ensure that they are

prepared for the external exams that begin early term 4 (week 3). Preparations for these exams will need to begin well before the holidays. While the time-frame has changed, making this term more congested, we have known of this well in advance. It is really a matter of students taking time to carefully plan their study programme. Deans are available to assist with this.

The weather was certainly a highlight of the holidays with the snow a wonderful and exciting diversion. The fact that it was only around for a day or so added to the experience, and therefore avoided the hardship associated with long term snowfall.

As with all new beginnings, this term promises much, and will hopefully be a time of further growth and development for our school, and for the people we work so hard for, our students. The start of a new term is a very important time for everyone involved at school. It is essential that all students, parents, and teachers get things right, and begin the term in a positive manner. Good habits and attitudes at school need to be reinforced by a positive support system at home. Hopefully you were able to take the opportunity in the holidays to talk to your child/children about their school work, and provide plenty of positive encouragement, and help set some goals for term four.

As student's progress through the school system, each term, and each year in turn, becomes progressively more and more important. We aim to set all students up for success from day one at school, and hope to avoid the "ambulance at the bottom of

the cliff scenario", whereby students are continually behind the eight ball, and spend their time in catch up mode.

To ensure this happens, and that all students are given every opportunity of success, they really do need your unconditional support and encouragement.

Please remember we operate a genuine **open door policy** – contact us with any concerns, problems, or enquiries. Early intervention can often prevent major issues.

We have another extremely busy term ahead with lots of **exciting events** and **activities** planned. These include: -

- The Winter Sports Season (Part 2);
- Our Options Programme, including skiing;
- Celebration Assemblies;
- Year 11 Career Camp;
- Year 12 Leadership Camp;
- St Bernard's Football exchange;
- Secondary School's Tournament Week (TAS participating in Netball and Hockey);
- Y 6/8 Winter Sports Tournament;
- Mathex Mathematics Competition;
- Australasian Math's Competition;
- Book Week;
- The arrival of Spring, and the lead-up to the balmy days of summer!!
- The 2011 Rugby World Cup;
- Plus, plus, plus....

In summary a great deal to look forward to, more challenges ahead, and hopefully plenty to celebrate as we continue our efforts to create a school and learning community second to none.

Richard McMillan  
Principal

## The Week Ahead

Monday 1st	Start of term
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Year 11 Career Camp begins
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Australian Math's
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Year 11's return
Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup>	School Ball

## What's on this Term

Week 3	Mock Exams
Week 4	Secondary Schools Winter Tournament Week
Week 6	Year 12 Leadership Camp
Week 7	Book Week
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Visiting Author
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	BOT Meeting
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Mathex (PN)
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup>	School Closed for Y9-13 Students for NZQA Alignment PD

### September

Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Y10-12 Parents Evening
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### October

Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup>	End of Term
October 7 <sup>th</sup>	Teacher Only Day

## Everyday Counts

It would appear that there is a misconception that it doesn't matter if children in the first years of school miss a few days of school. This is completely wrong. The first years of schooling are absolutely crucial for all children, and **Everyday Counts!!**

This is the stage when children are coming to terms with life at school – routines, expectations, how to interact with teachers and children, developing independence – as well as learning the core skills that are the foundation for all learning – in particular in the essential areas of literacy and numeracy .

Without this core set of tools life becomes progressively more challenging as the students' progress through the schooling system.

As well absenteeism has a negative impact on a child's attitude towards school – missed days (illness excepted) give children the impression that school doesn't matter.

School does matter, and is an absolutely critical stage in life's journey.

Missing school can set in place a vicious cycle of lost learning opportunities, development of negative attitudes, and disengagement from school.

Statistics prove conclusively that students with high levels of absenteeism in their early years at school, are at real risk, and often drop out as early as year 11. Over time they develop an attitude that school isn't important, and also struggle because they have gaps in their learning - this learning delay enhances their negative view of life at school. But as we all know, a rounded education is essential for a successful transition into the adult world, and beyond.

We are extremely concerned about any unexplained absenteeism, but in particular children at the early stages of their schooling. Every day missed represents lost opportunity, as well as increasing the risk of issues later in the schooling system.

**Everyday does count!!**

## **Timetable Changes this Term**

Changes have been made to the **timetable** this term as part of an adjustment for the ski season, but also as part of a review that the school was encouraged to undertake by the ERO (Educational Review Office).

The **Whole Day Options** for Years 11-13 have been reduced to once a week. TAS however, maintains its' commitment to providing the opportunity for our students to access courses like Agriculture, Outdoor Education(skiing), and Gateway, and therefore a whole day course option will continue to operate on Mondays for our Year 11-13 students. Most staff and students believe this will have a beneficial effect on their studies.

The 2-block options for Year 9-10 student's, have been moved from Wednesday to Monday, while the Year 7 and 8's will have their specialist blocks on Wednesday and Thursday after lunch.

The Whole Day Option remains on Fridays for Years 7-10, and this will be their ski day. As with the Year 11-13 students a whole day option provides opportunities for fieldtrips, outdoor education, careers, and intensive learning in subject areas in which the students can apply themselves in depth.

## NZQA Alignment PD

**Early notice** - School will be closed for all Y9-13 Students on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> August. Our Secondary Teachers will be involved in NZQA Alignment Professional Development. With the changes NZQA Standards, the Minister of Education has designated two PD Days to assist with this realignment.

Please note it will be school as normal for the Primary School (Year 0-8) students.

## Support Your Child's Learning and Inquiring Mind

Below is a list of wonderful **websites** that you can use on a regular basis to support your child's learning.

### LITERACY

<http://www.spellingcity.com/>  
<http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/construct/>  
<http://wetellstories.co.uk/>  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise/words/spelling/sound/spell/silentletters/game.shtml>  
<http://www.netrover.com/~kingskid/108.html>  
<http://freerice.com/>  
<http://www.starfall.com/>

### MATHS

<http://freerice.com/>  
<http://www.netrover.com/~kingskid/108.html>  
<http://www.tutpup.com/>  
<http://www.multiplication.com/>  
[http://www.harcourtschool.com/activity/thatsafact/english\\_K\\_3.html](http://www.harcourtschool.com/activity/thatsafact/english_K_3.html)  
<http://www.counton.org/games/mathonaire/>

### THINKING GAMES

<http://www.coolmath-games.com/0bloxorz/index.html>  
<http://neutralx0.net/home/mini04.html>

**HAVE FUN!**

## The Middle Years

Research has indicated that for children, the **Middle Years** (Y7-10) are the most important in their development after early childhood. They are moving into adolescence. They want authority, but they don't want it. They want boundaries, but they don't want them.

Of course this begs the question, what makes this age group different from others? The research says:-

- Students in the Middle Years of schooling derive their standards and models of behaviour from their peers, and acceptance by the group is central to their confidence and well-being;
- Early adolescence is the time when young people begin moving away from dependence on family to establishing autonomous views and models of operation;
- At the same time they need frequent affirmation, as well as love and acceptance from adults;
- Students prefer active over passive learning experiences, and favour working with their peers during learning activities.

## Quotes of the week:

Those people who talk a lot and are always teaching others usually do not do much work.

To succeed in life one must have the courage to pursue what he wants.

## Year 11 Career's Camp

Later this week, Wednesday to Friday, our Year 11 students are travelling to Wellington as part of a Career's Camp. They will be visiting businesses and organisations in the Capital, with a view to long term career options.

## Badminton Rep

Congratulations to Vidya Vijayakumar who is a member of the Wanganui Under 15 Representative Badminton Team. Vidya is the number 1 player in this team, and has outstanding potential in this sport.

She is extremely dedicated to the sport, and travels to Wanganui once a week for squad practices.

We will follow her growth and development in this sport with much interest.

## NZ Area Schools Tournament

During the first week of the holidays a group of students took part in the **New Zealand Area Schools Winter Tournament**, held this year in Taupo. The following students took part as members of respective Central Regional Teams: -

### Rugby

Boyd Mower, PT Horton, and Zoe Whatarau

### Netball

Te Puawai Chambers, Chante Rukupo, Jesse Anne Sincock, and Shivaughn Marurai

### Futsal 9 (derived from soccer/football)

Josh Fellingham

The students had a fantastic week, and thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to test their abilities against peers from Area Schools around the Country.

At the conclusion of the tournament higher honours were awarded to a number of players:-

Boyd Mower – North Island and New Zealand Area Schools Rugby Team;

Te Puawai Chambers, Chante Rukupo, and Jesse Anne Sincock – North Island and New Zealand Area Schools Netball Team;

Josh Fellingham – North Island Futsal Team.

Congratulations to these very talented sportspeople.

Thank you to Dave Whatarau, Jason Fellingham, Barb Wallis, Dave Chambers, and Jenny Mower for their support as “Camp” Parents. We are also indebted to Dave Chambers who was able to access Army Motels at a very generous rate.

Thank you also to the teachers and parents who travelled to and from Taupo during the week and offered their support as well.

## Rugby Reps

A number of boys have been selected in **Wanganui Representative Rugby Teams:-**

### Under 16

Jack Murrell and Alex Hawira

### Under 14

Robbie McFarlane and Beau Walker

### Under 13

Jerome MacLean

Congratulations and well done to these talented players, and budding All Blacks.



## Y9/10 Rugby

The **Year 9/10 Rugby Season** ended in disappointing fashion with the final game cancelled, on the first Saturday of the holidays, because of poor ground conditions.

After a slow start to the season, the boys came together as a team and began to realize their undeniable and exciting potential. This was graphically demonstrated with a 100 point drubbing of Wanganui Collegiate, an obvious highlight of the season.

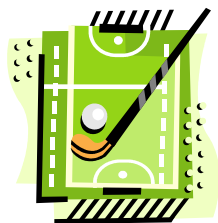
Huge thanks to Coach Dave Whatarau and Manager Janice Hawira for their efforts during the season. Their enthusiasm and dedication was rewarded with a noticeable improvement in the attitude and commitment of the team.

## Hockey

On the last Monday of Term 2, TAS played the very competitive and physical Dannevirke High School team, currently second on the table (just behind us).

Atrocious conditions proved challenging – very strong winds, and the turf water covered in the first half, making constructive play very difficult. As well the TAS players seemed lethargic, and started with a lack of accuracy and control. Dannevirke scored an early goal and placed considerable pressure on our defence.

Just before the break however, Oliver sparked life into our effort with a long



penetrative run, before passing the ball to Ryan who scored.

TAS began the second half with much more urgency. Ryan made a strong run down the right wing outstripping the defenders, before scoring with a fantastic strike from the top of the circle, with the ball flying into the top left hand corner of the goal. A few minutes later, Ryan was in the action again with another penetrative run, and a pass across the goal to Boyd who converted.

These two quick goals proved decisive, and The game settled down to an arm wrestle between two committed and strong teams. The TAS players responded strongly to the very physical play from the Dannevirke players, with Boyd, Ryan, Oliver, Hema, Rowan, Kayla, and Zoe more than matching their opponents.

It is likely we will face Dannevirke later in the season when the competition enters the playoffs stage.

**Goals:** Ryan 2, Boyd

**Player/s of the Day:** Zoe Whatarau and Ryan Donne-Gregory.

### Draw

Tomorrow we are playing FAS, in Fielding, at 5.00pm. We will be leaving from School at 3.30pm.

Next week we are playing PNBHS 7, on turf 2, at 4.15pm.

### **Tournament Week**

This year we are taking part in the **North Island Mixed Hockey Tournament** to be held in Ngatea (Thames), in Week 4.

Detailed information about this will be provided to the students involved shortly.

## FOT News

We are grateful to our **FOT (Friends of TAS)** organization for the funding for our new, and large, sandpit. The junior students, in particular, are delighted with this new recreational resource.

## Lost Property

A large amount of un-named uniform and clothing was collected at the end of the term. Please see Janice at the office and let's see if we can find a home for it all.

## Panui from Learning Street

Welcome back! As we head into the new term I'd like to share some information about school attendance.

Did you know? Research shows that in New Zealand, higher student attendance at school is associated, on average, with higher student achievement.

### **Why is regular attendance at school important?**

Regular school attendance will mean that your child has a better chance in life. Your child will achieve better when they go to school all day, every school day.

- they learn better
- they make friends
- they are happier
- they have a brighter future.

Under New Zealand law, you must make sure your child of school age is enrolled and attends school all day, every school day

unless they have an acceptable reason. Illness, doing work experience or competing in a school sporting event are acceptable reasons for being absent from school. Avoid keeping your child away from school for:

- birthdays, shopping, visiting family and friends, if they sleep in, looking after other children, minor check ups or care such as hair cuts.

### **Are you having problems getting your child to school for some of these reasons?**

- won't get out of bed in the morning
- won't go to bed at night
- can't find their uniform, books, school bag

...

- slow to eat breakfast
- haven't done their homework
- watching TV
- have a test or presentation to do, have an assignment to hand in
- it's their birthday.

### **If so, a set routine can help**

- have a set time to go to bed
- have a set time to get out of bed
- have uniform and school bag ready the night before
- have a set time for starting and finishing breakfast
- set a time for daily homework activities
- speak about school positively
- be firm, send your child to school every school day including their birthday and the last day of term!

Please feel free to contact the school as soon as possible for advice and support. Remember - **Together Each Achieves More** and when it comes to school attendance

### **Every Day Counts**

Deb Logan  
Assistant Principal

## Raffle Results

### TAS Junior A Netball Raffle Results

Wild Pork Meat Pack

Winner

Ticket # 85 Tika Mete

Wild Venison Meat Pack

Winner

Ticket # 3 Elwin Whanau

Both raffles drawn under police supervision  
Thank you for supporting the girls in their raffles.

Thanks  
Loni

## Votes Needed

**Shontae Bennett**



entered a talent quest on [www.stuff.co.nz](http://www.stuff.co.nz) last week and was picked as one of the top10 finalists. They have a public poll open at the moment, not sure when it closes though, and she is currently sitting in 2nd place. Any votes would be much appreciated!! (you can vote more than once but just need to close the browser and reopen each time)

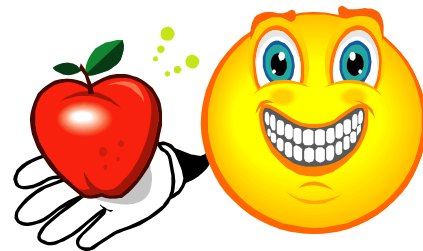
## Yummy Stickers

Two months left to collect Yummy Stickers to gain sports gear for TAS.

Send in your sheets as they fill up, there is a new sheet within this newsletter **OR** go to the website and print off a sheet.

<http://www.yummyfruit.co.nz/>

Happy munching



## Mufti Day Funds

ON the 6<sup>th</sup> July we raised \$620 for Jesse Theobald and his family.

This money was transferred into New World and Warehouse Gift Cards.