



Taihape Area School

Monday 31st January 2011
Term 1 - Newsletter Number 1

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"Leading me to lead my learning"

Tena koutou katoa

Welcome back after the holidays, and a 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 weather over the holidays was a glorious highlight with clear beautiful days dominant. Hopefully everyone had the opportunity to enjoy this.

On the flip side of course, the prevalent dry conditions has caused real issues for our farming community. Hopefully the wet weather of last week provided some respite.

2010 ended in tragedy with the Pike River Mining disaster, which is still having massive repercussions for everyone concerned. However over the holidays the news has been dominated by the horrific flooding in Australia, Sri Lanka, and Brazil. The forces of nature are undeniable and continually challenge the resolve and resilience of people and societies. The flooding has been tragic and soul destroying for the community's worst affected, and our thoughts and best wishes go out to them as they endeavour to rebuild their lives and homes.

As we begin a new year it will be fascinating what fate has in store, what challenges we will face, and how history will in time view 2011.

The start of a new School Year is a very busy and important time. In school terms it is regarded as the "establishment phase" of the year. It is essential that all students, their whanau, and teachers get things right, and start the year in a positive manner – i.e. establish the ground rules and expectations, and lay the foundations for a successful year. To this end we have all been very busy over the last few days preparing for the New Year – 4 days of staff, curriculum, and team meetings, as well as additional time spent setting up classrooms will hopefully establish the basis for a successful year.

It is essential however that good habits and attitudes at school are reinforced by a positive support system at home.

The **School Newsletter** is a very important link between home and school. Please take the time to read it, and also take note of any important notices, dates, and actions required.

Our goal this year is to sustain our progress, and enhance the programmes and culture that is evolving in our School. Some wonderfully positive and committed people are associated with Taihape Area School – your children are in very safe hands.

As with all beginnings the year 2011 promises much. It will hopefully be a period of considerable success, as well as a time of further growth and development for our school, and for the people we work so hard for, our students.

The start of the year is an extremely busy time for everyone. I must apologise about the “paper war”, but there is a large amount of information we need to pass onto you. Please take time to read all the bits and pieces, and note any important dates on your calendar.

The Week Ahead

Monday 31 st	Start of School Year
February	
Wednesday 2 nd	BOT Meeting

Important Events Remaining This Term

Tuesday 8 th	Year 13 Camp begins
Friday 11 th	Year 13 Camp finishes
Thursday 24 th	School Swimming Sports
Monday 28 th	Year 9 Camp begins
March	
Thursday 3 rd	Year 9 Camp finishes
Friday 11 th	Interschool Swimming
April	
Friday 1 st	Teacher Only Day
Monday 4 th	Young Leaders Day (PN)
Wednesday 6 th	Summer Quad
Friday 15 th	END OF TERM
May	
Monday 2 nd	Term 2 begins

Staffing

We are delighted to welcome Kim Gardiner to TAS. Kim is a beginning teacher and will be teaching Maths and Science in the Senior School.

School Leavers

We wish leavers from 2010 all the very best for the future, and acknowledge the positive contribution they made during their time here. It is always sad to farewell students at the end of each year, but this is

an unavoidable part of the on-going life cycle of a school.

The 2010 Year 13 Group was an amazing collection of talented and very capable young people who were wonderful ambassadors for our school. This year they have dispersed far and wide as they enter the work force, or undertake further education at a variety of Tertiary Institutions (which a high proportion have chosen to do).

As well a number of students are relocating with their families. For two girls 2011 promises much as they have earned wonderful opportunities for advancement in their specific areas of expertise.

Emma Martin has left to join the highly prestigious New Zealand School of Dance, in Wellington. Emma was chosen after a rigorous and exhaustive selection process, her success testament to her precocious talent, as well as the perseverance and hard work she has put in over an extended period.

As Sue Ward mentioned at our Prize Giving, Emma will without doubt “have her name in lights before very long”. For a dancer from Taihape this is a unique and very special achievement, and acknowledgement of her exceptional talent.

Ngaere Chambers has been offered a place in the Netball Academy at Tu Toa College, in Palmerston North. Tu Toa is highly regarded as a netball institution, and is at the forefront of Netball in the lower North Island. Ngaere aims to play for the Silver Ferns – for her this is another step in the journey towards that goal.

Congratulations to these supremely talented girls.

To all our leavers very best wishes for a happy and successful future – kia kaha!!

TAS Values

Four Maori values, which align with the NZ Curriculum's Key Competencies, are being developed school-wide. They are competencies which empower our 21st Century learners.

Manaakitanga - THE ACTIONS THAT INCREASE OR ENHANCE POWER, VALUE AND RESPECT.

Participating and Contributing

We are born with our own mana and are the only ones that can decrease what we have.

How you relate to others and how others feel about working with you.

Making others feel good about themselves, acknowledging their qualities and actions.

Rangatiratanga - THE ACTIONS THAT BIND A GROUP TOGETHER

Managing Self

Increase your leadership opportunities

Behaving appropriately towards others

Wairuatanga – THE ACTIONS THAT SHOW THE OTHER SIDE OF YOU, YOUR REFLECTION IN THE WATER

Thinking

Reflection, being able to understand your strengths and weaknesses.

To set goals around improving yourself and to make the necessary changes.

Self assessment

Whanaungatanga - THE ACTIONS THAT CONNECT AS A TEAM (Whanau)

Relating to Others

Your roles and responsibilities within a group

Working together towards a common goal

Team work, team approach

Te Reo

This is identified as being 'te mauri o te mana Maori' therefore the building of te reo would affirm "Mokai Patea-tanga" and of course Maori-tanga

School Fees

As you are probably well aware, all schools have difficulty stretching their budgets to ensure that all needs can be met, and that children are given the best possible resources and opportunities. Unfortunately Government Funding is never sufficient. Taihape Area School has a nominal fee of **\$50.00 per child, or a maximum of \$120.00 per family**, for the year. As many of you will be aware some schools charge families considerably more than this. The proceeds will help provide for the classroom programmes we believe the children should be receiving, and will be spent on photocopying for pupils, classroom stationery and equipment, sports gear, and extra reading materials. Your contributions are appreciated and receipts will be issued.

Sunsafe

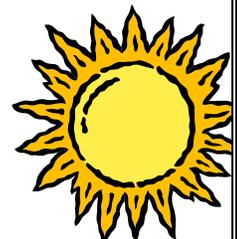
The School operates a **Sun Safe Policy**.

This requires Junior Children (Year 1-8) to wear sun safe hats during the summer months (terms 1 and 4).

Children are only permitted outside if they are wearing a **sun hat**.

In New Zealand the incidence of sun cancer is growing, and it is now regarded as being a major health problem. The intensity of the sun, and the lack of natural shelter at our school has really highlighted this very important issue.

We ask your support and assistance in encouraging all children to be sun safe – i.e. to wear sun block and sunhats when not at school.



International Students

This year we are looking at enhancing our operation by providing courses for **students from overseas**. This has many benefits for the School and our Students, and adds a real cosmopolitan feel to the School. The opportunity for our students to rub shoulders with their peers from other countries is both an educational and enlightening experience.

Our unique physical location will enable us to develop programmes containing a range of very exciting and challenging outdoor activities.

To make this possible we are on the lookout for families who would enjoy the opportunity to host International Students. This can be an enriching experience for both parties.

If you are interested please contact the School, or Jenny Mower.

Board of Trustees News

Meeting - the first meeting of the new school year is on Wednesday 2nd February, at 5.30pm.

Thank you to those people who have used School facilities over the holidays, and have ensured that everything is in order. Sadly Schools are often targeted by vandals during the holidays. It is always with some degree of trepidation that we return after all holidays, including long weekends, and often face the prospect of dealing with damage, theft, and mess.

However we are very grateful to our neighbours who do their very best to keep the place safe.

Open Door Policy

At Taihape Area School we operate a genuine **open door policy** - parents are asked to keep in close contact with the class teacher, and school generally, to discuss any issues regarding the education of their children. Early intervention, and prompt action, can prevent small problems from becoming major issues.

A special request - if you have any issues at all as regards the operation of our school, please let us know!! We consider all suggestions carefully, but do enjoy positive comments as well.

Absences

We ask that you advise us of your child's intended **absence**. This can be done by:-

- ◆ Phoning before school 3880130
- ◆ message through another child
- ◆ Email –

office@tas.school.nz

Cathy Gregory, the Office Manager, will follow up any unexplained absences, but this can be a time consuming exercise. No follow up note is required if we have been advised on the day of absence.

A difficulty occurs however when people have changed their phone number, or the growing number of cell phones are not functioning – if you have a new number please let us know!! It is important you maintain clear lines of communication with the school.

Cell Phones

We live in a digital age, and many children now own their own **cell phones**. This is now an undisputable and unavoidable fact of life. However owning a cell phone is a huge responsibility, and it is important that all children learn to use them appropriately, sensibly, and with respect.



We are not prepared to take responsibility for children losing their cell phones and ask that they hand these in at the office when they arrive at school.

Txt bullying can also be an issue – as adults it is our responsibility to monitor how our children are using their cell phones, and to ensure that they are doing so appropriately.

School Newsletters

The **School Newsletter** day is Monday. If you wish to have items published, please ensure these are with the Office Manager, Janice Hawira, before 9.30am Mondays.

Stationery

To enable students to make a positive start to the year, children in the Primary School were provided with **stationery** lists for their new classes at the end of last term. It is important children have their stationery as soon as possible as this enables them to start work in their books straight away.



Remember however, cheapest is not always the best. Please ensure that the quality of any stationery purchased is good.

Academy High School Diaries

Unfortunately we have just been notified that the printing of the Academy Diaries (issued to our Year 9-13 Students) has been delayed, and they won't be available until week 2 or 3. The diaries are printed in Christchurch, and after overcoming the disruption of the September Earthquakes, a technical issue has caused this delay.

Money Sent to School

At different times a great deal of money arrives in the School Office for a variety of reasons. This can cause a **major**



headache for the Office. To make processing easier, please **send money in a named and labelled envelope.**

That is - all money to be in an envelope; envelope to be named; write on the envelope what the money is for.

Term Dates 2011

The term structure for 2011 has been modified to accommodate a range of circumstances surrounding the World Rugby Cup. The main consequence is that term 4 is only 6 weeks long.

Term	Start	End	Number of Half Days
1	31 st January	15 th April	110
2	2 nd May	15 th July	108
3	1 st August	7 th October	100
4	25 th October	13 th December	62
			380

Ways Parents can help Teachers

The partnership between **parents, whanau,** and **teachers** is expressed in many ways. Some of the most basic elements of this important partnership are also most important for a happy student doing well at school.

- **Start each day smoothly and peacefully** with kind words, smiles and a hug. A child leaving a happy home starts the day in a good frame of mind – the best pre condition for good learning.
- **Ring- fence time every day** after school to spend time with your children, hearing about their day, listening to what they are saying and paying them your full attention with no interruptions.
- **Send your child to school** with a nutritious breakfast inside them – one that includes protein, fruit and good carbohydrates. Pack nutritious, healthy food and tasty food for their brainfood time and in their lunch so that they eat it all.
- **Make sure they get plenty of sleep** every night so their brains and bodies grow.
- **Use non-aggressive conflict resolution** strategies so your children learn by example how to deal effectively with their anger and frustration with others. Help them learn to share and take their turn.
- **Place high value on good manners** and respect for others and their property.
- **Model and teach time management** and organisational skills. Use calendars and planners for school and family life.
- **Show your love of learning** by going with them to the library, to concerts, museums, and art galleries. Find out the names of plants and birds in your locality

and go for walks together. Fill your home with books.

- **Talk with respect about teachers, friends and neighbours.** Deal with any issues in private, not in front of your child.
- **Encourage them to take responsibility** for their own learning and their own belongings.
- **Let your children and family know everyday how much you love and value them.**

TAS Web-site

TAS now has a **web site**. This can be accessed at:

<http://tas.spikeatschool.co.nz>

This is a brand new site and is obviously a work in progress. Over time it will develop and hopefully become an important part of what we do at TAS, as well as an interface between School and our Community.

Any feedback and suggestions would be appreciated, particularly as to the information you would like available on the website.

Panui From Learning Street

Kia ora koutou and welcome back to what is going to be an awesome year on Learning Street. I've had a wonderful holiday spending days in the garden and taking the chance to catch up on some reading (nothing to taxing on the brain). It feels like a very long time since we were together and so I've listed a few housekeeping items to ensure we are all

working together to give our children the best start.

School begins at 8.45 and it is very important that your child arrives at school by 8.30, this gives them a chance to catch up with friends and their teacher before the class programme starts. On Learning Street we have morning karakia, all whanau are welcome to share this time with us.

Ordering lunches

Lunches are ordered from your child's class and the order is delivered back to the class at lunch time.

Learning celebrations

We will be having our learning celebrations in weeks 5-7 this term. This will give you an opportunity to set goals with your child and their teacher.

Teachers will advise you of the exact timetable closer to Week 5.

Looking forward to a focused, fantastic and fun 2011.

Kind Regards

Deb Logan

Assistant Principal – Learning Street

TEAM – Together Each Achieves More

Swimming

Swimming is a major focus this term – all Primary Children are expected to take part in class swimming programmes, and lessons will be held daily, starting from today. It is important we take every opportunity available to utilise the Taihape Swimming Pool.



Please ensure that your child/children have their togs and towel each day, and that of course they are named/ labelled and in a water proof bag.

Cricket

Cricket for Year 4-8 students will begin next Thursday at 3.30pm.

Holiday Cricket Update

The Taihape Cricket Team played throughout the holidays. A particular highlight was an outstanding bowling performance from Alex Hawira who took 5 for 49 against Marist. This was an outstanding effort and included a hat trick – a special achievement by someone in only his third game. Kieran Clark also bowled well taking 2 for 39.

First Representative Player

Taihape has its first representative player for some time, and the first for the reformed club, with the selection of Nathan Chaney in the **Wanganui Under 14 Cricket Team**. Nathan spent a week in early January taking part in a development tournament in Wanganui. He performed well there earning selection in the Wanganui Under 14 Team that played in the Central Districts Tournament, held in Blenheim, last week.

Congratulations and well done to him.

2010 - the Final Days

Top Town

The 2010 School Year ended on a real high with a fantastic **Top Town**. This activity is organised by the Year 12 Students, who last year excelled themselves with a top quality event

Christmas Parade

TAS entered a float in the annual **Taihape Christmas Parade** held on the 11th December.

Special thanks to the Law family for the use of their truck, and also to Warrick

Greaves and Andrew Yates for organising the props. Thanks also to the TAS big band for taking part as well.

Homework

Homework is viewed as an extension of school activities and a means of reinforcing learning, as well as developing and practicing independent study skills. It should be a positive experience between parent and student, and is not compulsory.



Guidelines:

Students in junior classes will bring home reading material most nights, and a log to record their reading shared at home.

Students in year 3 to 8 may use a homework communication book/notebook.

Teachers will explain their expectation in letters to parents at the beginning of the year.

Regular homework tasks will include reading, spelling and maths basic facts. Homework involving topic and project work is spread over several days.

It is recommended that time allocated to homework be limited to 30 minutes per day, or 2 hours per week, as we believe children should have the opportunity to take part in a range of after school activities.

Most of all homework should be an opportunity for families to share in the

N.B. Homework should be a positive experience for children and parents alike.

Quote of the Week

“The greatest natural resource that any country has is its children.”
Danny Kay

Student Leadership Team 2011

House Leaders:

Manu

Tessa Anderson and Grace Horton

Rakau

Boyd Mower and Te Puawai Chambers

Awa

Sam Wong and Ryan Donne-Gregory

Maunga

Kate Swanson and India Woolliams

Head Boy

Boyd Mower

Head Girl

Te Puawai Chambers

Head of Sport

Ryan Donne-Gregory

Student Secretary

Shelby Hart

Student in Charge of School Council

Grace Horton

Head of Hospitality

Sam Wong

Utiku Old Girls Summer Netball League

Wednesday Nights from 5.30pm

Start Date – February 9th 2011

Finals – Friday 1st April 2011

For more information or to register a team contact:

Ngahina Transom – 063880029 or
hina@kinct.co.nz

Stacey Buchanan – 063880289 or
stackyb@hotmail.com