



# Taihape Area School

Monday 21st February 2011

Term 1 - Newsletter Number 4

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**"Leading me to lead my learning"**

*Tena koutou katoa*

Week 4 already!! It has been an exciting and very positive beginning to the term and 2011 School Year, and already we have ticked a number of important boxes. Two camps have been completed, the Year 13 Rafting Trip, and last week the Year 10 Camp at Green Pastures (Wanganui).

The issue of **bullying** is extremely topical at present, with the Ministry of Education and a variety of support groups heavily involved in discussions about strategies for dealing with this problem.

There is no denying that bullies are present in all schools, in fact in many aspects of our society. It is also undeniable that adults are often the worst bullies of all, in terms of the way they speak to others, treat others, and generally abuse others. The problem of course is that children, young people, are very impressionable and, as they seek their place in society, tend to imitate the actions of the adults in their lives.

Unfortunately, schools become the meat in the sandwich as we endeavour to

impose and develop socially acceptable norms of behaviour, attitudes, and values, and sometimes it seems like an uphill battle as we correct students for behaviour/s they often regard as being normal in their lives outside school. As is the situation with swearing and bad language, we never teach children these things at school. We do our level best to teach children to respect each other, to look after each other, to care for each other, and to accept and celebrate individual differences and attributes. In other words to live our values of:

**Manaakitanga** (THE ACTIONS THAT INCREASE OR ENHANCE POWER, VALUE AND RESPECT);

**Rangatiratanga** (THE ACTIONS THAT BIND A GROUP TOGETHER);

**Wairuatanga** (THE ACTIONS THAT SHOW THE OTHER SIDE OF YOU);

and **Whanaungatanga** (THE ACTIONS THAT CONNECT AS A TEAM).

We work extremely hard, often against the odds, to instill these values in our students. We always treat our students with respect, sensitivity, and compassion even when things turn to custard, and they are angry, upset, and bewildered.

Without doubt there is some bullying at this school. However, I am absolutely certain that this bullying is at the lower end of the scale, and that we have procedures in place to ensure all students are safe, and that any issues are investigated and dealt with. All students are encouraged to speak to an adult about anything at all they are worried about, or have concerns about. Generally they are quite content to do this, and even happily report their friends for inappropriate behaviour. They need to know that this isn't narking, but a positive way in which they retain their power, that they are standing up for themselves, are protecting

themselves, and that they may be helping prevent others from developing anti-social behaviours.

As someone who has taught for quite some time – beginning in the 1970's heaven forbid – I'm convinced that the level of bullying is now considerably less, much, much less in fact. In a previous era natural justice often prevailed, and physical fights were frequent.

However, these days our students are seriously involved in a huge range of physical activities during intervals, and lunchtimes, and this must have some impact on channeling their energy in a positive way.

A revamped **Super Competition** kicked off on Friday, heralding the start of a massive year in rugby, culminating of course with a New Zealand hosted World Rugby Cup. Super Rugby has evolved over the years starting with Super 12, then Super 14, and now a Super 15 with a reformatted structure.

2011 completes the **World Cup Cycle**, following Football in 2010, and Tournaments for Cricket, Netball, and Rugby this year. We will follow the progress of our teams with eager anticipation, and much expectation.

## The Week Ahead

Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Road Patrol Training Kiwi Cricket Fundamental Movement Programme (Y5/6)
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Banking

## Important Events Remaining This Term

<b>March</b>	
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	BOT Meeting
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	School Swimming Sports
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Union Meeting (1.00-3.00pm)

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup>

Friday 11<sup>th</sup>

**April**

Friday 1<sup>st</sup>

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup>

Monday 4<sup>th</sup>

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup>

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup>

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup>

Friday 15<sup>th</sup>

**May**

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Celebration Assembly  
(11.00am)**

Interscholar Swimming

Teacher Only Day

BOT Meeting

Young Leaders Day (PN)

School Athletics

Championships

**Celebration Assembly**

**(1.00pm)**

Athletics Postponement Day

**END OF TERM**

Term 2 begins

## 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.

## Stop Work Meeting

### Notification of Paid Union Meetings for Area School Teachers

**On Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March we will be closing school at 12.25pm so that our teaching staff can attend .**

## 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 next meeting of the BOT's is Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March.

## Thanks

The School has received a donation of a quantity of food items from Otaihape Health – we are very grateful for this as the food will be used to assist with School Camps.

## Cricket

**Cricket** - for Year 4-8 students on Thursday, at 3.30pm, on the Rec.

**Kiwi Cricket** – last Thursday two Coaches from Wanganui Cricket visited to begin Kiwi Cricket here at TAS. Kiwi Cricket is a skills based programme that teaches children the basics of the game. Hopefully this will lead them to develop an appetite for the game.



## Quotes of the week

"The darkest hour has only 60 minutes" - Morris Mandel (in Jewish Press).

'A wedding is an event, but marriage is an achievement" - In Tune with the Father (Suomi College).



## THE LAST SALUTE

*Article rank*

*19 Feb 2011*

*Wanganui Chronicle*

*By John Archer and Glenn Watson*

### **Military funeral of Major Monique-Maria Brown hears of an amazing, lovely lady**

A Waiouru army major who collapsed and died during an official ceremony rehearsal at Trentham was buried yesterday with full military honours.

Monique-Maria Brown, 47, collapsed at the military camp on Monday during a practice run of a welcoming ceremony for the new Chief of Army, Major General Timothy Keating.

Army medics tried unsuccessfully to resuscitate Major Brown, a former military police officer.

The cause of death has not been established. Her family believe she may have had a heart attack but an autopsy was unable to determine why she died.

She leaves behind her husband Errol, who is also in the army, and sons Harrison, 17, and Levi, 13.

Family spokesman David Chambers said Major Brown was an "absolutely awesome" person.

"You couldn't ask for a more lovely lady," he said. "Her mana was just amazing."

Major Brown was a self-professed army brat and tomboy, born and raised in Waiouru in the 1960s. After attending Turakina Maori Girls' College, she asked her father if she could follow his footsteps into the Army Transport Corps.

When he told her "it is no place for young ladies" she went and joined the Australian Defence Force, and was one of

the first women to be accepted into Duntroon Military College.

In her holidays, she covered long distances on her Harley Davidson and worked as a jillaroo, mustering cattle in the Outback. Later she was the first woman in the ADF to study at Westpoint Military Academy in the US, and on her return she was the first woman in the ADF to serve in a combat unit.

She transferred to the NZ Army in 1994 and joined the Military Police. As its second in command, she challenged the status quo and gained respect with her professionalism. She had already gained awards in martial arts and military studies, and added a degree in criminology from Victoria University to her achievements.

On weekends, she and Errol did gigs with their rock band Leather and Lace.

In 1998 she was paralysed by a brain aneurism but, with tremendous tenacity and faith in God, she fully recovered. She kept her recovery in mind with frog ornaments in her office —



frog an acronym for Fully Rely On God. She had been in the army for almost 17 years and was passionate about youth projects, such as a centre for teenagers at Waiouru.

She was fully involved at Waiouru, on both school boards the marae committee, and in the kapa haka group.

She told Army News in 2008 that the centre made a “huge

positive impact and difference to, not only the kids, but to the whole Waiouru community”.

“Before, teens spent their weekend nights at home with one or two mates

during the winter or out roaming the streets in the summer. Now they have a place to hang out and catch up with their mates. It’s a really positive, high-energy environment and the kids thrive in it.”

Centre co-ordinator Dawn Allsop told the Chronicle yesterday the Major was a fantastic woman. “The kids really looked up to and admired her.

“She did a lot of fundraising for the centre. It is open on Friday and Saturday nights and the kids, mostly teenagers, come

along for karaoke nights, movie nights and so forth," Ms Allsop said.

Army spokesman Major Aaron Couchman said Major Brown was the holder of an Armed Forces Award for long service and good conduct.

She was involved in setting up a weapons training facility at the Waiouru Military Camp.

She was also the project manager for a simulator that allowed soldiers to train in a computer-generated landscape, using weapons that fire compressed air.

The aim was to give recruits experience before they ventured on to a real rifle range.

Two months ago, Major Brown and her family moved to Linton, where she was serving in the 2nd Logistics Battalion.

Yesterday's funeral was attended by several hundred mourners, including the newly appointed Chief of Army, Maj Gen Tim Keating, and included several haka and a firing party.

## Panui from Learning Street

### Road Safety

We have had a couple of situations where drivers have had to slam on their breaks to avoid seriously injuring a child who has walked out in front of them. Please talk to your children about how they walk to school safely. There is no law that gives the minimum age for a child walking to school; however we are all aware of the danger of crossing our main street, even when using the pedestrian crossing.

The NZ transport code for cycling asks, "Is the child old enough to understand and apply traffic laws? From age 11 onward, children may be able to start riding in traffic unsupervised. BUT this will depend on the level of instruction they have received, their skills, confidence and ability to apply the road rules. And the question all parents and caregivers must consider... Is the child mature enough to be on the road and share the road with other users?"

This information could also be transferred to children walking to school. PLEASE consider whether your child is mature enough to walk to school by themselves. I would suggest students who are under 8 years old (depending on what roads they need to cross) are not mature enough to negotiate our main road.

#### **Interaction Books for Week 3**

Key competencies are the capabilities people have, and need to develop, to live and learn today and in the future. *The New Zealand Curriculum* identifies five key competencies:

[Thinking](#), [Using language, symbols, and text](#), [Managing self](#), [Relating to others](#), [Participating and contributing](#). The

following students have been acknowledged for the way they have demonstrated the key competencies.

- Aden and Ani helped Mrs Whale with swimming last week. It was great to have some taller students to help with the littlies.
- Elisha picked up clothing and made sure it got back to the owner. (Well done Rhianne's Mum, it was named!)

Duty teachers have observed – Terrific atmosphere on the play areas, great interactions... Great to see the Year 7/8's using the PE trolley...Brayden Marsden (Rm 5) cool manaakitanga, stopped, helped and apologized when he knocked someone over while playing tag...Bubbles best at hula hoop!...Gilly Barns reminded younger students to walk in the Learning St...Great to see people wearing their hats...good game of 4 square on deck, Sean Sumich and group.

Lots of positive interactions, keep up with the encouraging attitude!  
Together Each Achieves More (TEAM)  
Ms. Logan

## Scholastic Bookclub

The first issue for 2011 has been distributed.

### Issue 1

Closes Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March

Please make cheques payable to  
Taihape Area School

## 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.

## Community Noticeboard

**Gumboot Day 2011**

**Saturday March 12<sup>th</sup>**

Heaps of competitions and awesome prizes

Decorate a real gumboot  
A3 Paper gumboot and Wearable  
Art Competition

[www.taihape.co.nz](http://www.taihape.co.nz)

or Ring Michelle

021 1526412 or 3881129

You're listening  
to



Host an

# overseas student

•  
**EF (Education First) Foundation** is looking for volunteer host families for 15 – 18 year old students who want to live with a New Zealand family and attend high school. With different nationalities and interests to choose from, you are able to find a student to suit your family.

**Host families come in all shapes and sizes.** If you are able to provide a bedroom, a place at your table and a caring home environment, you have what it takes to share your life with a high school student from overseas.

Apart from your commitment to provide food and accommodation, you do not have to take on additional financial expenses. All EF students are fully insured and bring their own spending money. EF also gives you around \$50 per week to help cover expenses.

**To find out more about hosting** an EF student, please contact Vanessa Witt, phone 06 388 0608 or email [vanessa@greenhaus.co.nz](mailto:vanessa@greenhaus.co.nz).

Taihape Area School has recently registered for the Starship School Swap Phones for Rewards programme.

The “Phones for Rewards” programme enables students to play a valuable role in a nationwide fundraising campaign for Starship’s Air Ambulance Service, while also increasing their awareness of environmental issues, community giving and having some fun along the way. The good news is that our school gets to benefit too.

The programme works by our school co-ordinating the collection of as many old mobile phones as possible. These phones are donated to the programme and then Starship Children’s Hospital, together with its recycling partner, can turn these old phones into cash to help children from all around the country.

Depending on how many phones our school collects, there are some exciting rewards we can claim, including interactive whiteboards, projectors, PCs, books, handycams, sports gear and cameras.

Your child may be asked to collect unwanted mobile phones from family, friends, the local community or other contacts. Any make or model of phone is acceptable – as long as permission is sought from the phone’s owner first.

The more phones our students collect, the more rewards we can earn for our school.

We look forward to your child’s/children’s participation in this worthwhile programme

