



# Taihape Area School

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2011

## Term 2 Newsletter Number 1

**Phone:** 06 388 0130

**Email:** [rmcmillan@tas.school.nz](mailto:rmcmillan@tas.school.nz)  
[office@tas.school.nz](mailto:office@tas.school.nz)

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

*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 passed extremely quickly with Easter dominating the middle portion and the unusual situation of Easter Monday coinciding with ANZAC Day. Highlights of the holidays included the Royal Wedding, the performance of the Breakers Basketball Team, and the weather which had dire consequences for some regions, in particular the Hawkes Bay. The tornadoes that rampaged through the southern states of the USA provided yet another graphic illustration of the overwhelming power of nature.

With the World Rugby Cup in New Zealand this year, the School Terms have been realigned meaning longer terms at the

beginning of the year - term one is 11 weeks, term two 11 weeks, and term three 10 weeks long. However because of the Rugby, term 4 is only 6 weeks long. This has meant that all schools have had to adjust their calendars to ensure that all normal term 4 activities can still be accommodated. It also means that for the first two terms it is a case of back to the future, with a return to longer terms.

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 children progress through the school system, each term, and each year in turn, becomes progressively more and more important. We aim to set all children up for success from day one at school, and hope to avoid the “*ambulance at the bottom of the cliff scenario*”, whereby children are continually behind the eight ball, and spend their time in catch up mode.

To ensure this happens, and that all young people 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;**
- **Our Options Programme;**
- **Celebration Assemblies;**
- **Beginning of Work on the Gully Project;**
- **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.

One of the downsides of living in a small town is that the bush telegraph features strongly in everyday life. And the sad thing is that shared information converts easily from gossip to reality if people observe common curtesy and ask proper questions of the appropriate people. As stated earlier in this newsletter, we operate a genuine Open Door Policy here – people are always available to talk to you, and to clarify issues or queries.

Apparently many misconceptions exist about TAS, the programmes we operate, and the quality of the teaching and learning we provide. The most recent ERO Audit (2010) highlighted a number of very positive

attributes including the quality of student-centred programmes and learning pathways, the positive relationships between students, between students and teachers, and between the school and whanau. If you would like to clarify any concerns you may have about the school, please take some time to visit and have a look around.

At the end of last year we had a visit from the parent of a prospective Year 9 student. She was weighing up the option of sending her child to a local College, or away to boarding school. And she had heard all these negative things about TAS from friends and from people who had never actually set foot inside our front gate. However after a visit and a look around, she expressed amazement about what she discovered. As a consequence, her child is now with us, is happy and achieving excellent results, and mum is a convert to the TAS way. As well she is doing her best to correct those people who have misinformed views of this school.

Yes we do have issues, particularly in terms of space, and the cost of running dynamic learning programmes in an isolated region. On the other hand however, we leave no stone unturned to ensure we do our utmost to provide quality learning opportunities for our young people.

Richard McMillan  
Principal

## The Week Ahead

Monday 2nd	Start of term
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Road Safety Programme
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Year 5/6 DARE Parents Evening
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Celebration Assembly</b>
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Round the Bridges Fun Run/Walk

## What's on this Term

Monday 16 <sup>th</sup>	DARE Programme begins
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Year 5-8 Young Leaders to Palmerston North

### June

Monday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Queen's Birthday
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Celebration Assembly
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Science Fair
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup>	Science Fair

### July

Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup>	School Photos
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Celebration Assembly
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup>	End of Term

### August

Monday 1 <sup>st</sup>	Beginning of Term 3
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## Celebration Assembly

This Thursday (hosted by Manu)

Start Time 1.00pm

All welcome

## 2011 Term Dates

Term	Start Date	End Date
3	1 <sup>st</sup> August	7 <sup>th</sup> October
4	25 <sup>th</sup> October	13 <sup>th</sup> December

## Great News

We received a wonderful surprise in the holidays with notification from the **Whanganui Community Foundation** of a grant of \$10,000 towards the cost of transportation for our winter sports teams. This will enable us to charge reduced, and more realistic sports subscriptions, and hopefully enable more students to participate.

The cost of transportation, and the isolation factor, is an inhibiting factor for many of our students. This grant is definitely a huge bonus for us.

## 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.

## New Flag Pole

A new Flag Pole has been installed in the front of the School. The Flag pole was made by master craftsman Steve Bradley, and installed by Steve and his son Chris. We thank them for this.

As well special thanks to the Taihape Primary School Reunion Committee, who funded the Flag Pole. We really appreciate their generosity.

## End of Term 1

A number of exciting events were held at the end of term 1. These included:-

- the Room 7 and 9 Camp at Kawhatau;
- the Area Schools Training Camp;
- the Year 9-13 Young Leaders Conference in Wellington.
- the School Athletics Festival;
- Room's 5, 7, and 9 visit to Mount Stewart;
- an end of term Concert.

## Concert

An end of term highlight was the **Concert** held on the last Friday. We have some amazingly talented performers in this School, and the concert certainly highlighted this.

A special thanks to Tim Pekamu for organizing this for us - it was a great way to end the term.

## ANZAC Day Service

Congratulations to our representatives at the Annual **ANZAC Day Service**. Head Boy and Girl, Boyd Mower and Te Pauwai Chambers, delivered an outstanding speech, which was extremely well received by the gathering.

As well students from TAS acted as flag bearers – well done to Rhiannon Scott, Zoe Whatarau, Jessie Sincock, and Chante Rukupo.

It was wonderful to see TAS playing such an important and leading role in this very important ceremony.

## School Athletics Festival

The **School Athletics Day** was held on the last Thursday of term 1. This was a hugely enjoyable and successful day, and once again highlighted the outstanding athletic prowess of our students. Of particular satisfaction this year were the much improved levels of participation, and

consequently competition, in the Senior Grade.

Thank you once again to Jason Fellingham and Jude Hardwidge for organizing this event, and also to the large numbers of staff and community people who assisted during the day. It was also wonderful to see so much support from family and whanau.

## Hockey

On the last Thursday of Term, the **hockey** team travelled to Fielding to play Fielding Agricultural School 2. This game became a benchmark moment as the hockey players have been training hard since the beginning of the term. Compulsory fitness sessions on Wednesdays have been supplemented with skill work on Thursday evenings, which although voluntary, have been extremely well attended. However as Ryan pointed out to the team “two years ago we lost 0-21 to FAS 2”!!

The great news was that TAS started their season in emphatic fashion with an unlucky 1-0 win (could have been more), with Ryan scoring from a penalty corner. This represented an excellent all round team effort with all players starting the season really well. Ryan, Boyd, and Nathan formed a potent attacking force, and were well served by inners Kayla and Zoe. The halves of Oliver, Hema, Kerryn, Hannah, and Rowan gave us real impetus in the midfield. At the back Luke, Lauren, Eden, and Shelby quickly shut down opposition attacks. Marewa did well in her first ever game of hockey.

A positive start, but the really encouraging thing is that this team has much yet untapped potential.

As well we had amazing support from our parents – after loading up the small bus we had to change to the big bus which was still full. Thank you parents for the encouragement this gives our players.

## Seeds from Mount Stewart

On the last Thursday of term, the children in room's 5, 7, and 9 accompanied people from REG (Rangitikei Environmental Group), and DOC, on an expedition to **Mount Stewart**. While there they collected seeds and seedling to plant here at school – the seeds in planter boxes, and the seedlings in a corner of the gully. Once the seeds/plants have grown sufficiently big, they will be replanted on Mount Stewart as part of a REG Project to re-vegetate the mountain.

Thank you to Hugh Stewart (REG), and Alyson Dorian and Viv McGlyn (DOC), for facilitating this fantastic opportunity for our children.

## Yummy Apples

It's Yummy Sticker time again. Please find attached to your newsletter your collection chart. When you have filled this up bring it into Whaea Janice and get a new copy. The more yummy stickers we can collect the more sports gear we are able to obtain for our P.E. trolley.

Happy munching:-)

## Round the Bridges Fun Run/Walk

On Sunday (8<sup>th</sup>) the Wanganui Chronicle, in conjunction with HEHA (Healthy Eating Healthy Action) is running an Annual Community Event called **Round the Bridges Fun Walk/Run**. This year is the 34<sup>th</sup> event. The cost of entry is \$5.00, profits of which are distributed to nominated charities – this year Wanganui Coastguard and NIE.

All entries go into a lucky draw, with prizes for both individuals and schools. **Prizes and Giveaways** include:

42inch Plasma TV  
Mitre 10 Mega vouchers  
Pak and Save Gift Vouchers  
50 CD's sponsored by Universal Music  
50 CD's sponsored by EMI Music  
Stationery items sponsored by New Holland  
HEHA T-shirts  
Powerade Caps and bottles  
Plus....

## Panui from Learning Street

Welcome to TAS

The following students start their learning journey with us today; Charlie, Kayden, Laycie and Nikau Bennett, Jerome and Whetu Thompson, Brooke Striven, Delesqure Vaughn, Caden Turnbull, Shakaya Tweeddale Piki MacPherson and Brooke O'Hara. Welcome to you all. I know you will have a wonderful time at Taihape Area School.

Term 1 was fantastic, lots of occasions for our children to excel. As we head into Term 2 I am excited at all this term has to offer. We will have lots of opportunities to celebrate our children's success. This term we have our first round of formal reporting to parents. These

learning conferences are incredibly important as they give our parents specific information about their child's academic progress.

We also have the Science Fair, Zero Waste Education, DARE Police Initiative and Puberty Education Programmes happening throughout this term. We are ready and raring to go for what will be a very full on 11 weeks. If you have any wonderful ideas or inspirations for supporting TAS and your child's learning please feel free to contact your child's classroom teacher or myself.

Have a wonderful week.  
Deb

## Awesome Colgate Carton Race

Dear Householder

We need your empty

### Colgate Toothpaste Cartons!!

Our Schools is competing to win a share of \$60,000 worth of new sports gear. It's part of a campaign called the Awesome Colgate Carton Race and the winning schools simply have to collect the most Colgate toothpaste cartons per pupil. That's how easy it is.

So we're asking everyone we know to raid their bathrooms and check their recycling bins, ask your friends, family, even neighbours across the fence for Colgate Toothpaste Cartons – every carton counts, so please do whatever you can to help us win!!

We'd be grateful for 1 or 2 empty Colgate toothpaste cartons, and absolutely thrilled if you had more!! You can drop them into the School Office by 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2011, or simply pass them along to one of our school families.

Thanks for your support, and for giving us a sporting chance.

You can find out more at: -

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

## The Great Anchor Milk Run

For the next 80 days we will be involved in another fund raising opportunity, the

### Great Anchor Milk Run

promotion. This promotion gives schools and consumers the chance to win a share of \$500,000 cash by simply purchasing any specially marked Anchor milk. **Every litre of milk equals 1 entry into the draw e.g. 1L = 1 entry, 2L = 2 entries, 3L = 3 entries.**

To be in to win, enter the unique code on the reverse of the Anchor milk bottles by **texting to 311 or enter online** at: -

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

One lucky winner will be drawn each day to win \$2,500 cash, and \$2,500 for the school of their choice. All entrants go in the draw to win the grand prize of \$50,000 and \$50,000 for their nominated school.

For more information and for detailed terms and conditions, visit: -

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



## Reminders

We need your empty **Colgate Toothpaste Cartons** and old **Cell phones**.

Buy **Anchor milk** and text to 311 to win cash for yourself, and TAS!!

## Quotes of the week:

"It is easy to assume a habit; but when you try to cast it off, it will take skin and all" - Josh Billings.

"I have found that the best way to give advice to your children is to find out what they want, and then advise them to do it" - Harry S. Truman.

## KiwiCan

Tena koutou katoa!!

Welcome back to a new term of Kiwi Can!! We finished off last term with an awesome Challenge morning of activities and fun!! It was great to see everyone having a good time, participating and showing school values!! Congratulations to all our Kiwi Canners who showed a CAN DO attitude!! Ka pai!!

A huge shout out to the Yr 7/8 leaders, Whaea Kathleen, Whaea Deb and also to our teachers who gave a hand during the Challenge morning!!

Last but not least we would like to congratulate Ritchies Rebels with being Term 1's winning group!! MEAN RITCHIE'S REBELS MEAN!!

KC see you  
Wanda & Moo

## Road Safety

Road Safety Campaign – by Rockup and Horizons

Manawatau Regional Council -Horizons are sponsoring a road safety campaign aimed at our youth and the need for wearing seat belts. The Rockup group will be using a portable climbing wall in school on Tuesday

to spread the message. All students in Years 11-13 will be able to go through the program which gets the message of safety across in a 45 minute session which looks to challenge and excite. All Year 11-13 students will need PE gear and sports shoes on Tuesday for safety reasons associated with the activity

## Whanau Engagement

### Learning Conferences Start Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May(check this please)

Over the holiday break you would have received reports on your child's progress. Students in Years 9-10 completed Reflection Reports on their work to date and have had feedback from their teacher. They also received a summative report on their first term options. Those students in Years 11-13 completed Reflection Reports on their work to date and a comment from their teacher.

In with these reports you will have received a letter inviting you to a Learning Conference at a specific time over the next few weeks.

At this Learning Conference with your child's Dean or Associate Dean you need to bring these reports.

The Learning Conference can also include any of your child's teachers. Please confirm with Janice at the school office your attendance and which teachers you would also like present at the Learning Conference. If you are unable to come at the time specified ask Janice about an alternative time.

At the Learning Conference you will the opportunity to discuss your child's Career Interests, areas of strength and areas needing development. You will, with the Dean and your child, set goals and make action plans to take your child through to the next Learning Conference in Term Four.

This is a great opportunity for whanau, teachers and students to come together and use our resources for the benefit of your child.

Haere ra , Ka kite ano

Richard Baker