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LEADING ME TO LEAD MY LEARNING



WHĀIA TE PAE TAWHITI

Taihape Area School

Monday 10th February, 2020

Term 1 – Newsletter Number 3

Important Dates

This Week

Wednesday 12th Year 9 Whanau BBQ/Meet and Greet
 Thursday 13th BOT Meeting
 Friday 14th Senior Swimming Sports

Next Week

Mon 17th –Wed 19th Year 10 Camp Makahika
 Friday 21st **Heart Foundation Mufti-Day**

Newsletter – last Hard Copy (Printed) Version

The **School Newsletter** is now available from several sources – printed hard copy, on the TAS Website, via email, or on the Skool Loop App. In this increasingly digitised age the need for hard copies is getting less and less, and it is very expensive to print as well. If you still wish to receive a weekly hard copy (of the Newsletter), please email Amber Lee in the Office. If you would like it emailed to you, please let her know as well. Otherwise you will be able to access the Newsletter via Skool Loop, or on the Website (tas.school.nz).

Principal's Corner

Tena koutou katoa

Welcome back to another busy week. We have had a very positive start to the new School Year. Classes are working well, and there is a very encouraging tone right throughout the school. The students in this School are a pleasure to work with – they enjoy new challenges, are accepting of individual differences, and generally go the extra mile to ensure our School is a happy and productive place.

Once again this year we will continue to work closely with **Mokai Patea Services**, sponsors of the Rangatahi (Year 9-13) and Tamariki (Year 4-8) Mentoring Programmes.

When initially launched the Rangatahi Programme provided support, advice, and encouragement for NCEA Level 1-3 Students who required extra assistance as they pursue academic and life success. The Programme was then extended to include Tamariki (Year 4-8), with children from Contributing Schools involved as well. The Tamariki Programme began in Week 1, while the Rangatahi Programme will start soon.

Mokai Patea Services makes a significant contribution to Taihape as a whole, and has over-time sponsored several initiatives that have made a significant impact at School. We are perhaps fortunate that a number of our Parents work at Mokai Patea Services, and have an intimate understanding of the School. The challenge for them is juggling their professional role with that of being a parent. However it works, and we have a collaborative relationship that is evolving to produce positive outcomes for all concerned.

We have a busy week ahead. On Wednesday evening the Year 9 Cohort is holding a BBQ Meet and Greet Evening. On Friday we have the Senior Swimming Carnival. As well the annual Pool Party is on from 5.00-7.00pm. Busy but enjoyable times.

Have a great week.

Nga mihi nui
Richard McMillan

The TAS School Wide Behaviour Expectations

Rangatiratanga:

We are Learners
We show Rangatiratanga

Wairuatanga:

We are Reflective
We show Wairuatanga

Whanaungatanga:

We are Caring
We show Whanaungatanga

Manaakitanga:

We are Respectful
We show Manaakitanga



Some Important Bits and Pieces

We have had an awesome start to the School Year. The students have all arrived back well rested, motivated, and ready to engage with learning and School Life. We have another very busy year ahead, and before we know it, it will be Prize Giving Time, and we will be reflecting on another successful year.

During the Call Back period (before School Officially started) we had discussions about things we needed to do better to make our daily life at School more productive. We have

reached agreement on a number of things and will apply this consistently from now until the end of the Year. To assist with this we ask for your support:

Uniform - we are a uniform School and our students are expected to abide by this, and we have done our best to ensure uniforms are affordable. Students not wearing correct uniform will be given missing items at School. If this becomes an issue whanau will be involved.

Language - One of the big challenges of life is to learn how to behave in a range of contexts, and it is important that students learn that certain behaviours, including swearing, are not appropriate at School, and in particular around young children. Please reinforce this at home.

Lunch Leave - Year 13 Students (only) have leave from School at lunchtime if they choose. Year 12 Students have lunch leave on Thursdays only.

Cell Phones - the issue of Cell Phones and the digital World in general has been big news over the past few weeks. There is a body of research that highlights the negative impact over-exposure (to phones/computers/internet etc) can have on the overall well-being of Student's, and their academic progress. So overwhelming is this research that an increasing number of Schools are banning Cell Phones.

Our stance is that phones are not permitted in the Primary School (Year 1-8). In the Secondary School phones are to remain in Students bags during Class-time, unless the Teacher gives permission to use these for learning tasks (only).

Portable Speakers - these are not permitted at School.

With your support these issues will become a non-event, and we can focus on the teaching and learning process.



School Donations

Taihape Area School has opted into the new Donations Scheme for 2020. What this means is that families will no longer be asked for a School Donation or Option Fees. There will be no Fees for any Day Trips, however families can be asked for a donation towards an overnight trip. Fees can also be charged for sports and any activity with a take home component, for example the Pit Bike option.

The School offers two high cost options of Snow Academy and Rafting, and these are managed by making payments directly to the course providers, Ruapehu Alpine Lifts and Mangaweka Adventure Rafting.

TAS has joined this Scheme on a trial basis for 2020. Therefore you will not be asked for donations, and if you have set up automatic payments please stop these.

Primary School Technology



Technology Programmes (PTP), for our Year 7 and 8

Students, began last Tuesday. It is essential that all students are dressed appropriately, in particular wearing the correct footwear. As well girls with long hair need their hair tied up.



Safety is paramount and cannot be compromised.

TAS Bus Students

Bus Students are not permitted to go to town when their buses arrive at School. All students are in our care and protection from the time they get on the bus in the morning, until they return home after School. This responsibility does not include excursions up town.



N.B. The School Canteen is well-stocked, with a range of options for all tastes.

Immunisation Education

On Wednesday afternoon, 12th February, our Year 7/8 Students will be having Immunisation Education Sessions. This involves an Education session to the Year 7, and then the Year 8 students (separate sessions), which takes approximately 20 minutes each, and then the Students will take the Information Form home for Parents/Caregivers to read, fill in the appropriate part, and return to School.

Bullying

Pink Shirt Day this year is in May, but it is always a worthwhile exercise to re-examine the concept of bullying. Pink Shirt Day aims to create Schools, Workplaces, and Communities where all people feel safe, valued, and respected.

New Zealanders are encouraged to **Speak Up, and Stand Together, to Stop Bullying** by celebrating **Pink Shirt Day!**

The link below covers the following themes:-

- About Bullying?
- What is a Bully?
- Why do some people get bullied?
- Why do some people bully others?
- Is bullying harmful?



It isn't uncommon to hear someone say something insensitive, or mean, to someone else. In fact, probably all of us have said, or done, something that wasn't very nice to someone else, in a moment of anger, or frustration. And although such comments or actions, are not okay, **bullying has some specific features** that make it much more serious, and harmful.

About Bullying

Bullying is deliberate – harming another person intentionally;

Bullying involves a misuse of power in a relationship;

Bullying is usually not a one-off – it is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated over time;

Bullying involves behaviour that can cause harm – it is not a normal part of growing up (Bullying-Free NZ Week website, 2017).

Bullying can be:

Physical – hitting, tripping up;

Verbal – insults, threats;

Social – spreading gossip or excluding people.

Cyberbullying is bullying online, via the internet, mobile phones, and social media. It's a common form of bullying, especially amongst young people (Steiner-Fox, 2016).

<https://www.pinkshirtday.org.nz/assets/PSD-2018/PSD-2018-TEACHERS-TOOLKIT-FS2.pdf>

Supporting Your Child

The most important lessons your child needs for success aren't taught in the Classroom, they're taught at home. Children's performance in School has more to do with parents than with their natural brainpower or even their teachers. One recent study claimed the parental effect on exam results at 16 is 5 times greater than any other factor. So what should we be doing to maximise their chances?

Read to them – Even at the Age of 10 Reading to your kids is the best educational benefit you can give them, as it encourages a love of stories and increases vocabulary. Carry on even after they can read for themselves – it’s a great way to introduce them to trickier books, and classic works of literature, they may not be able to tackle on their own.



Encourage your child to use the library - Libraries are places of learning and discovery for everyone. Helping your child find out about libraries will set him on the road to being an independent learner. Remember that libraries also offer a quiet place for students to complete homework, and are often open in the evening. Learn more about resources for students in [Library Services for School-Aged Children](#).



Encourage your child to be responsible and work independently - Taking responsibility and working independently are important qualities for school success. You can help your child to develop these qualities by establish reasonable rules that you enforce consistently, making it clear to your child that he has to take responsibility for what he does, both at home and at school, showing your child how to break a job down into small steps, and monitor what your child does after school, in the evenings and on weekends. If you can't be there when your child gets home, give her the responsibility of checking in with you by phone to discuss her plans. Learn more in [Encourage Responsibility, Independence, and Active Learning](#).

Encourage active learning - Children need active learning as well as quiet learning such as reading and doing homework. Active learning involves asking and answering questions, solving problems and exploring interests. Active learning also can take place when your child plays sports, spends time with friends, acts in a school play, plays a musical instrument or visits museums and bookstores. To promote active learning, listen to your child's ideas and respond to them. Let him jump in with questions and opinions when you read books together. When you encourage this type of give-and-take at home, your child's participation and interest in school is likely to increase.

ACTIVE LEARNING

What I hear, I forget

What I see, I remember

What I do, I understand

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 accepted) give children the impression that school doesn't matter. School absolutely does matter, and is a 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 developing later in the schooling system.

Everyday does count!!

Weetbix Tryathlon 2020

The **Annual Weetbix Tryathlon** is to be held @ Ongley Park, Palmerston North on Wednesday, 18th March, 2020. Last year we had a large number of participants in this fantastic event.



The regular price of entry is \$40-\$45 for early birds, but there are team/group concession rates as well.

<https://tryathlon.co.nz/locations/palmerston-north/>

EVENT DISTANCES

Individual

Age Group	Swim	Cycle	Run
6 years:	50m	–	1.5km
7 years:	50m	4km	1.5km
8-10 years	100m	4km	1.5km
11-15 years	150m	8km	1.5km

Teams

Age Group	Swim	Cycle	Run
Junior Team of Two (7 years):	50m	4km	1.5km
Junior Team of Two (8-10 years):	100m	4km	1.5km
Senior Team of Two (11-15 years):	150m	8km	1.5km

	<i>Early Bird</i> <small>(ends 3 weeks from event date)</small>	<i>Online</i> <small>(valid 20 days from event date until online entries close)</small>	<i>On the Day</i> <small>(available on the day of the event)</small>
<i>TRYathlon - Individual</i> <small>Individual</small>	\$45	\$50	\$60
<i>TRYathlon - Team</i> <small>Price per participant</small>	\$45	\$50	\$60
<i>Splash & Dash</i> <small>Individual</small>	\$40	\$45	\$55

All prices incl GST

Breakfast in the Hub

Once again Breakfast is available in the Hub, each morning from 8.00-8.40am. This is an important part of what we do, a social time, as well as an opportunity to fuel up for the day





ahead. Breakfast consists of toast, milo, yoghurt, snacks, fruit pottles, baked beans, and often fruit. We are indebted to Tracey Murrell and Bronwyn Troon for organising this each day. We are also very grateful to Taihape New World, Mokai Patea Services, Kids Can, Kick Start Breakfast, Fonterra, and a number of staff for donations of food that make this possible.

Road Patrol

The School Road Patrol has been resurrected this year, with a number of very keen Year 7/8 Students training as Patrollers. With larger numbers using the Crossing, Patrollers perform a very important service, and we ask that parents provide support for this. Some ideas are listed below:

What should I teach my child?	Why should I teach this?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To always cross at the School Patrol if there is one. • What the commands given by the School Patrollers are and how to behave when waiting to cross. • That the School Patrol personnel only operate the crossing before and after School. • That there is more than one type of School Patrol crossing, and only the ones with stripes on the road act as Pedestrian Crossings when the School Patrol is not operating 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Patrols are safe places to cross. • It is important for pedestrians to follow the commands of the school patrollers and to wait quietly to cross. This helps to keep everyone safe. • These crossings may not be as safe at other times, and will require care. • Some children think that traffic has to stop for them on all types of crossings. This is only the case for pedestrian crossings.

How do I teach this?

Talk About

- What the School Patrol is and why they are there;
- The different commands and when to cross;
- How to wait quietly until told to cross;
- What an important job it is to be a School Patroller, and how one day they may become a School Patroller too;
- What to do if they find the School Patrol isn't operating one day?
- What type of School Patrol crossing operates at their School.

Practice

- Before your child starts School, visit the School Patrol when it is operating before or after School, Watch how the patrol operates. Then use the patrol to cross with your child, holding their hand.

- When your child has started School cross at the School Patrol with them in the morning and afternoon, until they are going to School independently.

The link below provides access to a practical guide for parents and caregivers to help keep **Children safe on the Road**:

<http://www.police.govt.nz/sites/default/files/publications/road-safe-activity-book-helping-hands.pdf>

Career Options



One of the challenges we face living in a small community is that our Students are exposed to a limited range of employment/occupational opportunities. As a result Careers Programmes at School are very important because as society changes, the range of pathways and occupations School Leavers can access is growing exponentially. Many Students have a narrow view of the options and possibilities (see article above), based on what they see around them. The aim is to broaden their horizons, and make them aware of the incredible range of options available for life after School.

Heart Foundation Mufti-Day

Wear Red next Friday (21st) when we are

holding a **Mufti-Day** to support the New Zealand Heart Foundation.



Quotes of the Week

“The more I see, the less I know for sure” – John Lennon.

“The most wasted of all days is one without laughter” – E.E. Cummings.

TAS Behaviour

Expectation

Manaakitanga

We use appropriate language in all School settings. This sounds like:-

- We use encouraging, supportive words - ‘You can do it’, ‘Well done’;
- We use polite words - ‘Please’; ‘Thankyou’, ‘May I’;
- We use kind words - ‘Can I help you?’, ‘Ka Pai’;
- We use welcoming words - ‘How are you today?’

Apology from Former All Black

Former **All Black Norm Hewitt** (hopefully some people can still remember Norm) has opened up on the moment his son called him out for his High School bullying, prompting him to apologise to his victim 20 years later.



Speaking to **The AM Show**, he said bullying was a vicious cycle usually carried out by people who are bullied themselves. "I became a bully because I was bullied," he said, "there was violation and violence in my home."

He recalled being beaten by his father, and said when he later became the bully it was like "when I was nine years old, and my father was standing over me".

Mr Hewitt talked about the moment he apologised to actor Manu Bennett, who he bullied as a boy at school.

"My son and I were watching *The Arrow*, and I said 'I know that man,'" he explained. "'I gave him a hiding at school', that was the first thing that came out of my mouth."

"My son was nine years old and he goes 'how did that make you feel Dad?' and I went 'far out, that's a big question, it makes me feel pretty stink'."

Two weeks later he saw Mr Bennett at the airport and it was a sign that he needed to "stand up and just go over".

He said he was terrified of what Mr Bennett may say to him, but the feeling of apologising was "liberating".

Mr Hewitt said if he was to look back on his past he would "not have recognised" himself. "When you're in a world of absolute despair, and pain, you're so self-centred that nothing else matters."

He is currently working with companies in Wellington, such as PCL Construction, mentoring employees on safe workplace interactions, which he said is extremely rewarding.

"We have to own the behaviour to change the destiny."

Please Remember:-

If you still wish to receive a weekly hard copy (of the Newsletter), please email Amber Lee in the Office.