



Taihape Area School

Monday 7th November, 2011

Term 4 Newsletter Number 3

Phone: 06 388 0130

Email: rmcmillan@tas.school.nz
office@tas.school.nz

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

Tena koutou katoa

This is a huge week for thousands of Secondary School Students through-out the country who are beginning their external NCEA Examinations. For our Year 11, 12, and 13 Students, this represents the culmination of their year's work, and is obviously a very significant test of their abilities and in particular the effort they have made during the year. We wish them all the very best for this important challenge.

For teachers we have entered without doubt their most busy period of the year. As well as maintaining ongoing programmes, and completing the usual end of year tasks such as report writing, we are also in **review** and **planning** mode.

As a staff, and individually, we have begun reviewing our performance, and the performance of the school, through-out the year. When the review process is complete,

planning for 2012 will be stepped up to ensure that next year we are able to continue to move forward. This planning process involves setting priorities and preparing a school budget, which is a major task.

*Our sole focus is to improve the quality of teaching and learning in our school – that is, add value to what we do. We will do everything possible to maintain momentum, and to ensure that our school is a progressive and dynamic place. In any school change is great for everyone, as long as it has relevance, is planned, and has a positive impact on the quality of **teaching** and **learning**.*

The BOT is also reviewing its operation, and the operation of the School. If you have any ideas for improving life here at Taihape Area School, please contact the School, or a BOT Member. We would appreciate any feedback or suggestions.

The **School Charter** provides the foundation for our operation. Our Charter has been recently revised, and a new 3-5 year **Strategic Plan** is under development. Each year an **Annual Plan**, based on the goals of our Strategic Plan and the data collected from school reviews, is developed each year. Copies of these documents are available from school – they are displayed in the foyer.

Richard McMillan
Principal

The Week Ahead

Monday 7 th	Celebration Assembly
Wednesday 9 th	Level 3 Arts portfolios submitted
Thursday 10 th	NCEA exams begin
Friday 11 th	Interschool Cross Country- Hunterville

The Term Ahead

15 th – 18 th	Year 9 Camp
22 nd - 24 th	Girls into Science

December

Thursday 1 st	Final day for NCEA course assessments. Professional Development Day – No school for Year 9 – 13 students
Friday 2 nd	Interschool Softball- Hunterville
Wednesday 7 th	Top Town
Thursday 8 th	Prize Giving - 1pm END OF TERM

Year 11 - 13 Course Completion and Exams

All senior courses will finish on Wednesday the 9th of November but Teachers will continue to be available during their usual timetabled Year 11 to 13 class times until the 25th November for revision and internal assessment opportunities by arrangement only. Students are expected to sign in and out at the office.

Students attending for internal assessment and revision are asked to come in mufti.

Students who arrive at school but are not involved in revision classes or internal assessment opportunities will be asked to leave the school grounds so they do not disrupt the learning of others.

Students are required to attend prize giving on Thursday 8th of December so that we can recognize the many achievements our students have already accomplished.

We wish our students involved in the external assessment process all the best and hope they get a fair opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding.

Surplus Staffing

The 2011 School Year started with a loss of approximately 50 students, mainly as a result of the restructuring that has occurred at the Army Base in Waiouru. This came as a surprise, and was impossible to plan for. Since then we have lost more army families, while the economic situation has also forced families to move from this area in search of employment. The combined impact of the recession and the down-sizing of the Army Base has severe repercussions for our School in terms of staffing, as well as funding. It should be noted that the economic situation is having a major impact right across the country with a number of rural schools really struggling.

Since the initial roll reduction suffered at the beginning of the year, other losses have been off-set by new enrolments on a regular basis, and the roll has remained static in the 340's.

Unfortunately the Area School is still in a position of having surplus staffing. Presently we are undertaking a formal process (CAPNA – Curriculum and Pastoral Needs Analysis) to analyze our current teaching resources and needs to ensure that we can cover all curriculum areas, as well as ensuring the Pastoral Care requirements of students are addressed. This is a very involved process and at this stage we are collating data, and absolutely no decisions have been made in terms of staffing for 2012. Surplus staffing issues are often resolved by natural attrition, with people moving on for various reasons, including family, and retirement.

It is a fact of life that people talk and speculate, but any discussion about what is going to happen, and who will be effected, is

uninformed, and based on pure conjecture and gossip.

The bottom line however, is that when the 2012 School Year begins, we will be fully staffed and able to provide all current learning programmes.

Good News

Good news with notification of a grant of \$4,000 for the Library from the Thomas Macarthy Trust.

Year 7-10 Technology

Safety is paramount and a very important consideration for all students taking **technology** – this includes hard materials (e.g. woodwork, metal work), and cooking. To ensure their safety students must wear suitable footwear, which for technology can include covered in sneakers. Canvas shoes are not permitted as they provide no protection.

These rules are universal, and even for those of you who remember when technology was previously called manual, the rules haven't changed.



Parents we need your support with this – please ensure your child/children arrive at school on their technology day with suitable footwear.

Exert from Sunday News

Hot tips on doing your best in NCEA - By IMOGEN NEALE

On Thursday approximately 144,000 Year 11, 12 and 13 secondary school students start their NCEA exams, while Scholarship entrants started last Thursday.

Nothing beats well-planned study, but for students light in preparation former Rosehill College dux Sylvie Chan, who has a string of academic Scholarships to her name, says if it comes down to cramming, practising the things that make up the bulk of the exam is a must.

She says if an essay is worth 40% students should focus on that, although she warns “crammers” should still make sure they get a good night’s sleep and ideally spend the day before an exam relaxing. “Don’t burn yourself out,” she says.

Number Works’n’Words Christchurch branch tutor Ivan Leary says “best of luck” to any students who’ve left their study to the last minute.

“Any work crammed at this late stage will still be helpful though,” he says.

The best plan of action is not to panic, to get a good night’s sleep and have a decent breakfast.

“With a relaxed attitude, and full of energy, all your hard work during the year should pay off,” he says.

Tips on the Ministry of Education’s Studyit website focus on what to do just before the exam and include double checking you’ve got the right time and place for the exam, avoiding people who make you nervous, and putting all your stationery in a clear bag the night before.

Once in the exam, the website advises

students to stay calm, read questions twice and answer the easy ones first.

Victoria University education, psychology and pedagogy school head Dr Lex McDonald says plan and schedule — even if there’s only a day left.

“And it’s easy to say, but don’t panic. Continue to read, summarise and put things in your own words. That way you’re more likely to remember it.”

McDonald says charts and maps can also help, as can mnemonics — such as Never Eat Soggy Weetbix to remember the compass points north, east, south and west. And even TV stars face everyday life, with Pearl McGlashan, who plays Jasmine Cooper on *Shortland Street*, sitting Year 12 and 13 NCEA exams.

The Western Springs College student says, “Keeping yourself hydrated and fed is definitely important”.

She says using your time well is important because cramming too hard means students risk burnout.

“And that’s not healthy. You’ll be too tired to do the exam and that defeats the purpose. People freak out when exams come up,” Pearl says. “But people aren’t as unprepared as they think they are.”

This year’s largest NCEA exam session is level I English on Wednesday morning, with nearly 48,000 candidates, and the smallest is Scholarship Latin, with 26 on Thursday afternoon.



Cricket

Cricket for Year 4-8 children began again last Thursday, and runs from 3.30-4.30pm.

As well we have 3 students playing for the recently formed **Taihape Community Cricket Team** which is playing in the Wanganui B Grade Cricket Competition.

Community Cricket

On Saturday the **Taihape Cricket Team**, comprising Area School players as well as community players, finally got the opportunity to play after 3 cancelled games, and scored an unexpected, but deserved, win over the experienced Marton Scarens.

The Scarens batted first in cold windy conditions and scored 153 off their 40 overs. The Taihape bowling and fielding was outstanding through-out and restricted Scarens to only 43 runs off the first 20 overs. Matt Jacobsen 1 wicket for 15 runs, Wayne Davis 3 for 17, Nathan Chaney 1 for 5 (off 5 overs), Brad Fannin 1 for 35, and Mark Riley 2 for 23 were the main contributors. Kerryn Read also bowled well and created a run out with excellent fielding. The fielding effort was backed up by an outstanding wicket keeping display by Dion Hooper.

In reply Taihape reached 154 for 4 in the 34th over. New comer Mark Riley led the way with an outstanding 77 not out. His innings included 10 fours, and one six. Matt Jacobsen (16), Wayne Davies (9) and Brad Fannin (8 not out) provided excellent support.

Last summer cricket was resurrected in Taihape, when we played in the summer holiday league. The initial goal was to field a College Team, but a lack of players brought about a change of thinking, and as a result a Taihape Community Team was created. The first season proved a real struggle with the team suffering a number of heavy losses. However things look more positive this summer when Taihape will be playing a full season in both the full competition, as well as the holiday league.

Softball

Two teams are participating in the **Annual Year 7/8 Softball Tournament** to be held in early December. The children involved are practicing very hard to retain the title won last year.

Cycling

Zoe Whatarau, Boyd Mower, Sam Wong, and Ryan Donne are representing TAS in the **Annual Round Taupo Cycle Race** on Saturday 26th November.

Scholastic Bookclub

Issue 7

Closes Friday 18th November

Please make cheques payable to Taihape
Area School

Taihape Swim Centre

Some admission fees for the **Taihape Swim Centre** have increased for the 2011/12 season. Please see the new prices below: -

- **Facility Hire:**
\$60.00 per hour (includes 2 lifeguards)
- **School Prices:**
\$1.20 juniors
\$1.50 seniors (9am - 3pm)
- **School Swimming Sports**
\$50.00 per hour + GST
- **School Lessons:**
\$4.00 (TCDT Lifeguards)
- **Carnivals:**
\$60.00 per hour
- **Child/Toddler:** \$2.00

Online Math's Tutors

Have a look at www.MathsBuddy.co.nz
This amazing web site is designed to provide much needed support to all students in their Mathematics learning and revision. It is just like having a live tutor on screen – one that is available 24/7.

- More than 150 full lessons relevant to your child's school math's programme;
- The entire New Zealand Mathematics Curriculum is available to every student;
- Parents can receive automatic weekly reports on their child's progress.

Career Tips

No idea what you want to do when you leave school?

- Think of the things that make you happy. What subjects do you like at school? What things do you enjoy doing outside of school? List the things you like doing and rate them from one to ten.
- Give yourself permission to try out

different things. You could try designing your own apprenticeship. This is where you explore different jobs within a set time limit, say six months. That way you are not fully committed, but you can find out if you like the job.

- Another way to approach things if you have no clear goal is to work on a more general qualification. These can be applied to many different fields, for example, business administration or management. A management degree can be used in a variety of fields such as project management, logistics, or sales and marketing.

- You could also look for a course that has no fees to try out an area of interest without getting into debt.

Too many choices, and can't make a decision?

- When you're comparing several different Professions, try to find people to talk to who are doing the jobs you're interested in.

- Set up an interview with them to ask them about what the job is really like. This is called informational interviewing. It may show you that your dream job is not what you thought.

- As you are talking to people, take note of your gut feeling about the jobs. Is there something that really grabs you? If so, you could pursue some work experience in this job to confirm that it's the right choice.

More information on the careers website:
www.careers.govt.nz

Board Wanted

Board is required for a very sensible senior female student from the end of January or beginning of February 2012. Enquiries please ph/txt 0274224752

Panui from Learning Street

Today in our celebration assembly the following students were acknowledged for achieving merit and excellence in the STAR (supplementary Test of Achievement in Reading) or PAT (Progressive Achievement Test) Mathematics. This is the most merit and excellence awards we have earned. Well done to all these students who have strived to achieve.

Years 1-6 Merit - Merepaea Smith, Jack Inwood, Kirsten Brown, Brook Strivens, Maddison Holdem, Annie Parkinson, Liam Baker, Tyler Carr, Brayden Pehi-Marsden, Madison Tapu Grant, Dallas Marurai, Aden Tapu, Samuel Troon, Tori Coles, Xaviyah Crow, Morgan Nathan, Bailey Rata-Hall, Alazye Logan, Dallas Sullivan, Mitchel Fannin

Year 1-6 Excellence – Stefie Straka

Year 7-8 Merit – Molly Chaney, Warren Cooper, Liam Fellingham, Ashleigh Squires, Cody Nukunuku, Maclayn Witika, Shelby Inwood and Aaron Chapman

Year 7-8 Excellence – David Frankham, Hannah Brew, James Hamilton, and Teresa Sumich

Congratulations

Congratulations to Rhiannon Scott, who has been accepted to attend the Otago University Advanced School Sciences Academy for 2012. This is an amazing opportunity for any student in the science area. This is two one week camps run over 2 sets of holidays next year (plus some extra work she will have to do throughout the year). It is fully paid for and only accepts 50 students from all over the country (from small rural areas) to give students an awesome range of experiences in a range of science disciplines. Rhiannon put in a lot of effort over the holidays for her application and helped keep Miss Gardiner on her toes!

Summer Camps

Scripture Union Camping offer a range of **Summer Camping experiences** for Year 7-13 Students. In our region they offer the *Tongariro Eco-Adventure* and *Surf Classic Camps*.

More information about these, plus other camping options, and application forms are available from the School Office.

Quotes of the week

"You can't connect the dots looking forward; you can only connect them looking backwards. So you have to trust that the dots will somehow connect in your future.

You have to trust in something -- your gut, destiny, life, karma, whatever. This approach has never let me down, and it has made all the difference in my life - Steve Jobs.



YFU

YOUTH FOR UNDERSTANDING
NEW ZEALAND

Hi, I (Miss Gardiner) am a local volunteer for a youth exchange program called Youth For Understanding (YFU). We have a range of students that will come to New Zealand for an exchange.

We are currently looking for a home for a young man from the USA, Lucas. Lucas will be in New Zealand for a 3 month exchange (end of January – end of April), and will be 17.5 when he arrives. He's from a small town in North Eastern USA, and enjoys, water sports, is a passionate hip hop and break dancer (he is part of a crew which competes against other crews), loves to go skiing, hiking, is a gifted visual artist and also plays drums in a band. He likes to get involved in the community and school life (including environment groups and school productions).

If this young man seems like someone that would fit into your home for this short amount of time, please do not hesitate to contact me! What better place for him to spend his exchange than a home in Taihape!

Study Leave for Years 11 - 13

Unlike many schools with secondary students TAS is prepared to support our Year 11 to 13 students while they prepare for external assessments (exams) and continue to provide further opportunities for internal assessment even after external assessments begin.

All senior courses will finish on Wednesday the 9th of November but Teachers will continue to be available during their usual timetabled Year 11 to 13 class times until the 25th November for revision and internal assessment opportunities by arrangement only. Students are expected to sign in at the office.

Students who are not involved in revision classes or internal assessment opportunities are required to indicate they are taking leave from school from the 9th November by bringing a letter to their Dean signed by their caregiver or completing the form below.

Students who arrive at school but are not involved in revision classes or internal assessment opportunities will be asked to leave the school grounds.

A First Aid course (with NCEA credits) will be run on the 30th of November and 1st of December for Year 11's and those seeking to refresh their knowledge in preparation for the work force.

Students are required to attend prize giving on Thursday 8th of December and are encouraged to return to take part in the Top Town house competition on Wednesday 7th of December.

Request for Study Leave/ Course completion leave

_____ (Student name) in Year ____ would like to notify TAS that they will be taking leave from the 9th of November as they :

a. Have completed their studies for the year

b. Will be studying at home

They will be attending the First Aid Course on the 30th October / 1st December

Attending Top Town on December 7th.

They understand that they are required to attend Prize Giving on the 8th December

_____ (Care giver signature)

