

TAUMATA SCHOOL



Key Dates:

- 1 JUNE: QUEENS BIRTHDAY
- 2 JUNE: TAUMATA 101 FOR NEW FAMILIES - WHAT LEARNING LOOKS LIKE 6:30PM
- 15 JUNE: BOT MEETING
- 17 JUNE: WHOLE SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY
- 18 JUNE: GENERAL LEARNING COMMENTS IN HERO
- 19 JUNE: SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS
- 25 JUNE: LEARNING CELEBRATION HUI
- 26 JUNE: SCHOOL DISCO
- 3 JULY: LAST DAY OF TERM

Message from the Principal:

Genavier Fuller

Nga mihi nui whanau

George Couros is one of my favourite educational writers and recently he wrote about being grateful in these strange and different times. He shared a quote about 'making it' and I found it very inspiring. So...I wanted to share his insight.

"If you are reading this... you made it! You made it through your first week at Level 2 COVID-19. It will have been challenging and involved new ways of being! But here we are at the end of this first week.... And.... we made it! That is something to be grateful for and proud of".

This week has been amazing. It has had that "first week of the school year" feel about it as we smile, connect, celebrate our achievement and enjoy being in the company of others. I have loved hearing the laughter and chatter of your children; the joy as they navigate the playground and the excitement of being back amongst their friends and peers. What a week... lots of new ways of doing things... but together we have made it.

In this newsletter we will outline how the lockdown has changed our learning programme and the yearly calendar. It will also outline our learning approach, process for communication and introduce some of our student leaders.

Assessment and Reporting

During the latter part of term one our learning coaches spend time assessing and diagnosing needs of your children. They use a variety of tools to support this diagnosis such as Running Records (to determine how well children understand what they are reading); Maths GLoSS/JAM assessments (which find out number knowledge and strategies for addition/subtraction, multiplication/division; and writing sampling. The focus of these assessments is not so much on the score or level but on diagnosing your child's strengths and areas of need. They inform the learning coaches programme and help them to determine the pathway. With the lockdown we have had to revise this plan and our learning coaches have been working hard to ensure we have this accurate information. If your child has been with us for some time... this is much easier as we will already have some data to go on; but if you joined us this year our learning coaches will be working furiously to ensure we know full well what areas need to be addressed.

In the coming weeks we will be sharing how your child is tracking against the curriculum levels in Reading, Writing and Mathematics. This is to give you clear information about their progress and also identify next steps. The information will come via the HERO app and as the year continues you will be able to see this anytime, anywhere. In addition to this, if your child needs additional support, we will be sharing the programmes of support they will be involved in or how we plan to address needs. At this stage we ask that you ensure you can access HERO. Further information will be shared in the coming weeks and please highlight 25 June for Learning Celebration Hui where learning coaches will lead a conversation on your child's progress. For further information about how we report please check our website.

Empowered to Learn; empowered for life:

The current climate has required our society to be adaptable, innovative, creative, resilient, authentic and problem solvers. As a nation we have had to navigate new ways of operating as a response to a health pandemic. It has pushed us out of our comfort zone and forced us to re-imagine how life might look. In the wake of this we see some amazing responses from our people. New-found creative outlets, scientists seeking solutions that respond to COVID-19, a re-design of some workplaces and work output and new connections within/across communities.

As a school we are driven by our vision statement "Empowered to Learn; Empowered for life" firmly believing that we want graduates who feel empowered, who are problem-solvers, who have the tools and capacity to learn and face new and wicked problems. We hope to have graduates who are creative and resilient; who see failure as 'first attempts in learning' or part of the learning process. However within this philosophy is a commitment to building foundation skills - mastering the craft of reading and writing; use of strategies for solving numerical problems. Innovation does not mean throwing out all the basic skills - it means taking what works and building upon it - linking in what we know works in education. It also means some element of compliance (getting through the 'must do learning' that forms the tool kit) although compliance is not our end goal for learning.

If you are new to our school, it will look different. It will look different to the environment you were educated in... But different is necessary if we are to create learners who leave the education system in 2031 ready to face new and challenging problems that we can only imagine. If you wish to talk with someone around what drives our vision and our approach to learning come and have a chat with our learning coaches or visit our website and explore the readings that underpin our approach.

Taumata School Site - Stage 2 Buildings:

As a school we continue to grow and welcome new enrolments at our school. Our current roll is 361 and over the coming two months we will welcome an additional 20 students who are pre-enrolled. This is exciting for us as a school as we shake off the 'new school' status and embed our regular innovative learning status.

It does however mean that we are heading towards capacity for the allocated stage 1 build. Over the lockdown our Board of Trustees met online with members of the Ministry of Education and Southbase Construction to plan for Stage 2 construction. At this stage the things we can share are:

- Stage 2 will create buildings for an additional 290 students
- We are currently exploring 2 potential options for building site. The north eastern section of our site (offset from Puwhenua) and the newly grassed area beside the technology block
- The Board of Trustees is exploring the positives/negatives of both single storey and two storey learning spaces. They have a planned visit to Hamilton early June to visit Te Ao Marama School.
- Master planning of the whole site will be revised to plan for 'playscape', playgrounds, learning space, fields and cultural reflections.
- At this stage we are hoping to have building commence onsite before the end of this year

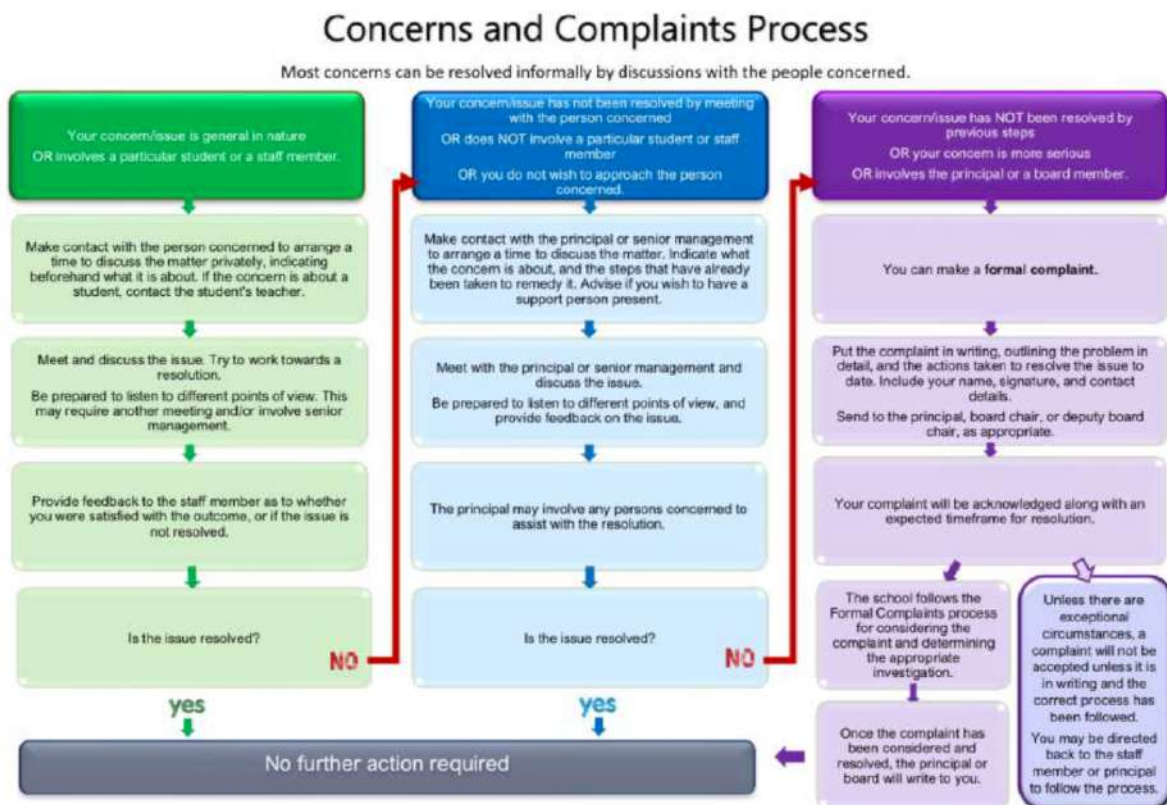
Student Leaders

Providing pathways for student leadership is really important to us as we prepare our students for the future. Leadership roles provide opportunities for students to have input into our school development, grow their own critical thinking and support other students across the school.

Today we recognised the first of our student leaders; Ambassadors and Sports Leaders. These students completed applications that highlight the skills they will bring to the role and how they will support the school going forward. Congratulations to these students.



Channels for Communication:



This flowchart aligns with the school's Concerns and Complaints policy and procedures.



Let's keep everyone safe

Visiting your school or early learning service

Please follow these simple rules:



Tell us your plans early

- Let us know early that your child will be attending so we can plan for them.



Essential visitors only

- Please ensure your visits to the school or early learning service are essential.
- Use the sign-posted entry point.



Drop off and pick up your child at the time you are given

- Your early learning service or school may require you to drop off or pick up your child at a particular time.
- Please help with staggered arrival and pick up times, if required.



Record your visit in the register

There are two registers:

- **Visitor register** – All site visitors must be recorded in the visitor register, which will record your name, time in and out, date, phone number and physical address. This assists with contact tracing if necessary.
- **Contact tracing register** – Your school or early learning service also keeps a register that identifies which children and adults are in each teaching space.



Maintain a 2 metre distance at all times

- Keep any on-site visit short.
- Maintain a 2 metre distance from those who are not part of your household, workplace or school bubble.



Sick children must stay at home

- Please keep children at home if they are sick. A sick child will be sent home.
- If your child is at higher risk of severe illness from Covid-19, they must stay at home.



Practice good hygiene

- Wash and dry your hands, cough into your elbow, don't touch your face.
- There's hand sanitiser available around the school or early learning service. Please use this if you touch surfaces.



Covid-19 cases

- You will be advised if your school or early learning service is connected to a confirmed or probable case of Covid-19. You will be advised of any actions to be taken.
- The site must close for 72 hours to allow contact tracing and cleaning. They may be physically closed for a further 14 days.