

# TAUMATA SCHOOL



## Key Dates:

- 6 MAR: FAMILY PICNIC @ TAUMATA SCHOOL 5:30PM
- 10 MAR: PŪWHENUA SWIMMING SPORTS
- 11 MAR: TAUMATA 101 FOR NEW FAMILIES 5.30PM
- 12 MAR: GISBORNE PRINCIPALS VISITING GROUP
- 13 MAR: TEACHER ONLY DAY
- 16 MAR: Y5/6 WEST CLUSTER SWIMMING
- 19 MAR: ERO VISIT - ASSURANCE
- 26/27 MAR: OPTIONAL YEAR 7 KAIMAI EXPERIENCE
- 9 APR: LAST DAY OF TERM ONE
- 27 APR: ANZAC DAY OBSERVED
- 28 APR: TERM 2 BEGINS

### Taumata School Pepeha

Ko Mauao me Puwhenua nga maunga  
 Ko Tauranga te moana;  
 Ko Waikareao te kete kai  
 Ko Kopurererua te awa  
 Ko Takitimu te waka  
 Ko Ranginui te iwi  
 Ko Tamateapokaiwhenua te tangata  
 Ko Ngai Tamarawaho te hapu  
 Ko Taumata te kura  
 Anei matou, nga tauri no nga hau e whā

Mauao and Puwhenua are our mountains  
 Tauranga is our sea  
 Waikareao is our food basket  
 Kopurererua is our stream  
 Takitimu is our canoe  
 Ranginui is our tribe  
 We are people of Tamateapokaiwhenua  
 Ngai Tamarawaho is our whanau  
 Taumata our school  
 Here we are learners from the four winds

I start this newsletter with reference to our Taumata School **pepeha**. A **pepeha** is a structured introduction that provides connection to the land, sea, and people; and provides a sense of belonging for our school.

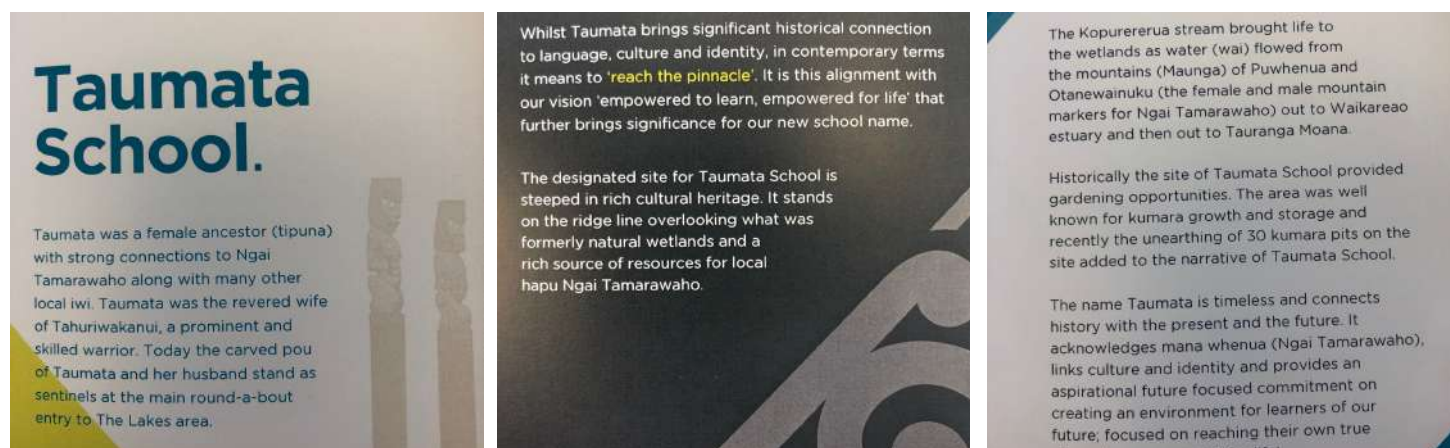
As a school we are fortunate to have a strong connection to culture, language and identity and link to the land on which our school resides. Often these links can be tenuous or surface level, however as a newly established school we are fortunate to celebrate our connection; and understand what makes us unique as a school in **Aotearoa** (New Zealand).

As a member of our Tauranga Peninsular **Kahui Ako** (Community of Learning); this is a challenge extended to all schools in our local area; a challenge that asks school communities to celebrate what it means to be diverse and inclusive; but also to celebrate and give **mana** (power/influence/honour) to the Treaty of Waitangi.

At Taumata School we are fortunate to be a multi-cultural school where the diversity of our community is celebrated. As a school we are committed to ensuring that all students feel connected and included and that our approaches are personalised and responsive. However recently we have been challenged by the question of "How do we know we are a school in Aotearoa, New Zealand?" If you stand outside our school? If you stand in a learning space? If you interact within our school? What are the things that signal we are a school in New Zealand as opposed to anywhere else in the world?

At Taumata School we are proud of the history of the *whenua* (land) we have been developed on; traditionally the land of *Ngai Tamarawaho - mana whenua (hapu)*/people with traditional authority of the land) and steeped in rich history. For those that followed our establishment and construction journey, this land was prominently used for cultivation, resource gathering and domestic habitation; and during the build this was further supported by the discovery of several prominent *kumara* (sweet potato) storage pits and a *toka* (marker rock) that now sits in our main office.

To have history, connection and belonging is what it means to be a school in *Aotearoa*. To bring life to cultural connections and celebrate the intent of the Treaty of Waitangi is what it means to be a school in *Aotearoa*. And... to celebrate the multi-cultural and diverse community that makes up Taumata School alongside the unique bicultural nature of New Zealand is what it means to be a school in *Aotearoa*, New Zealand. Here is further information that links our school to it's rich history.



## Teacher Only Day:

As part of the Teacher Collective Agreement bargaining with the Government in 2019, teacher only days were offered to support schools with ongoing professional learning and increasing workloads. Next **Friday 13 March** we have our planned teacher only day, where Taumata School will be closed for instruction. Instead, our teachers will be working with Libby Gardiner around strategies to support well-being for our Taumata learning community. We are excited to be working with Libby and developing strategies that support both learning coaches and students.

## Building Capability and Capacity at Taumata School:

Empowered to learn; Empowered for life is our school vision that transcends all decision making, principles and practices. As such, in 2020 we are looking at ways to grow opportunities for learners and our teaching team. Recently we have created leadership roles where members of our team will be developing further opportunities for both students and colleagues. We are excited to inform you of the following leadership roles:

**Leadership Pathways** (Sjaan McDivitt): focus on building leadership pathways for students

**Culturally Responsive Pedagogies** (Dan Priest): focus on growing our cultural practices and commitment to Treaty of Waitangi

**Kaitiakitanga** (Sean Fullick): focus on sustainable and environmental practices

**Innovative Curriculum** (Sandi Valentine, Pippa Woods, Sjaan McDivitt, Sharon Baggaley): focus on curriculum growth and development

**Digital Technologies** (Trudi Fausett) focus on digital learning, tools and the new curriculum

**Specialist Technologies** (Raina Urwin) focus on specialised technology which includes food, materials manipulation and STEM

**Clubs and Experiences** (Arlenna Porteners): focus on developing experiences for learners including lunch clubs and activities

**Special and Inclusive Learning** (Jacq Price): focus on supporting learners to access the curriculum

**PB4L** (Mike Rankin) focus on teaching desired behaviours to support our school community

## Staffing Update:

We are a rapidly growing school which is both exciting and unique. As a school established in 2019 we have grown from 150 students on day one last year; to 346 at the time of writing this newsletter. This is beyond expectations and as a result we have once again been recruiting. Desperately seeking those teachers with the X factor to join/enhance our teaching team; and meet the learning needs of our students.

In addition to meeting this roll growth we farewell Leonie Belk as her family relocate to Tairāwhiti (Gisborne). We feel fortunate to have had Leonie on our Taumata team and whilst we are sad to see her leaving us, we are excited for the new journey ahead for Leonie, Jaimee and their wider family.

As a result we have made 3 new appointments which include:



**DAYNA GRIMES:** Dayna joins us from Biloela School in Queensland. Dayna and her husband have recently relocated to New Zealand and she is excited to be joining the Taumata team.

Dayna will be joining the Pūwhenua team and will begin working in the learning space on Monday 9 March to provide a seamless transition for the students in Leonie's whānau group.



**VERONICA SOWERBY:** Veronica has been working in the Matarawa team in a part time capacity and will be joining us full time from Monday 16 March. Veronica is an experienced teacher, who lives locally in The Lakes area and is excited to be joining the Taumata team



**GEORGIA RYAN:** Georgia is relocating from Wellington where she has been teaching in Discovery School. Georgia is an experienced teacher who will join the Pūwhenua team at the beginning of Term 2. This appointment is due to the growing numbers in the senior school.

## Notifying an Absence:

If your child is unable to attend school for any reason please notify us as soon as possible. You can let us know by calling the office on 07 579 0990, using the absentee notification on our website, using the absentee notification on our school app or by emailing Vanessa at [office@taumata.school.nz](mailto:office@taumata.school.nz)

If a child is absent and we have received no formal notification you will be contacted via phone between 8:45 and 9:15am as part of our Health and Safety procedures.

## School Uniform Reminders:

As a school we are proud of our school uniform. Please remember that track pants and tights may only be worn on COLD days during Term 2 and Term 3. They are not part of our uniform during the summer terms.

Hats: Our school policy is NO HAT; NO PLAY. It is our preference that students wear a CHARCOAL hat; and preferably one that covers the ears and back of neck. However, any hat is better than NO hat and during these summer terms our focus is ensuring all children wear a hat of some sort.

Kukri have advised there have been some delays with certain uniform items; although shipments are arriving weekly.



## Ways to address a concern or complaint:

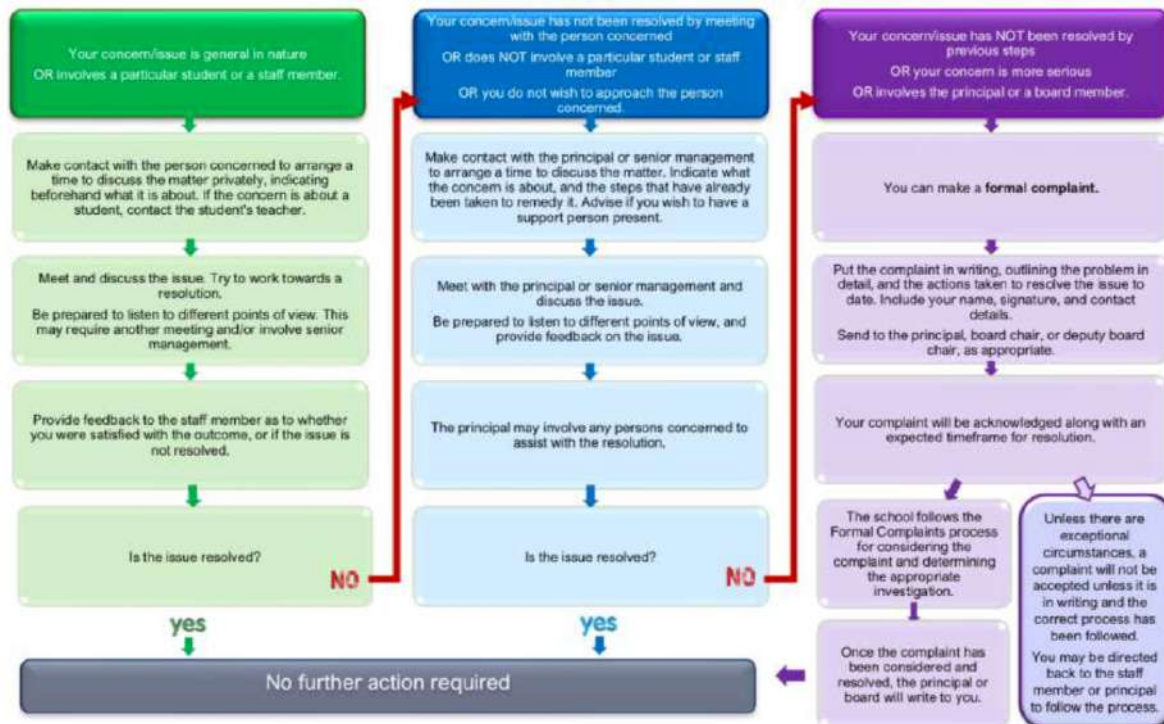
From time to time, due to the nature of our work with people, we recognise that there may be concerns or complaints about certain aspects of how we operate. Please know we are focused on the best for our students, and that requires us to build positive partnership with you as parents/whanau. At Taumata School we have a complaints process and policy that provides clear guidelines for our school community about how to raise and resolve any issues and ensure they are handled appropriately and maintain the dignity for all involved. This process enables us to:

- maintain a positive learning environment for students
- resolve matters early and efficiently
- respond to feedback and concerns constructively
- deal with complaints fairly and effectively
- take into account all perspectives (open to all sides)
- maintain confidentiality
- preserve school community relationships and communication
- monitor and record complaints and concerns about student safety.

The following guideline is a useful infographic to determine possible pathways when addressing concerns or complaints - it is always helpful to address any specific issues directly with those involved. This guideline and the formal complaints policy and procedure is available on school docs.

### Concerns and Complaints Process

Most concerns can be resolved informally by discussions with the people concerned.



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