

# TAUMATA SCHOOL



## Key Dates:

- **13 MAY: SCHOOL TRUSTEE INFORMATION EVENING 5:30PM**
- **14 MAY: NATIONAL YOUNG LEADERS DAY - HAMILTON**
- **17 MAY: MARK OSBORNE**
- **20 MAY: TAUMATA SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY**
- **22 MAY: RIPPA RUGBY WORLD CUP**
- **24 MAY: BOT NOMINATIONS CLOSE**

Nga mihi nui kia koutou katoa.

Welcome back to Term 2 and in particular a warm welcome to the following students who have joined the Taumata family.

Harry & Thomas Hetherington, Deshoné & Danica Kraft, Luka and Anthony Russell, Isaiah & Geneva Grafas, Stephanus & Carli Van Der Merwe, Daksh Kumar, Alisha Kumari, Sasha Sharp, Nikitta French, Czarina Buchanan, Silarha Meyer, Eli Williams, Chloe Oosthuizen, Jaxon Wall, Sione Fakapulua, Thea Shalfoon, Isla Logan, Laine Shine, Savannah Coulter, AJ Woolf, Niel Boershema, Cadence Daniel, and Jacob Macdonald. We look forward to working with you and your families/whanau over the coming years.

We were delighted with the Official Opening day and I want to publicly acknowledge our amazing students. Preparing for such a significant event can take considerable time and our Taumata learners were absolute stars. It was a proud moment to see them demonstrate what it means to be an active audience; engage in waiata with heart and passion; and then for our Pūwhenua students to express pride through their haka - signifying the mana of our guests and dignitaries. My thanks to all involved, particularly our learning coaches, parents, whanau and of course students. It was a proud day.

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FOR SOMETHING.  
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ANYTHING.  
- A.J. JULIANI -

Recently I was involved in a conversation where the question "What is the purpose of Education" was posed. The responses (all from a variety of educators) were based around preparing learners for the future, empowering, developing sound foundations, preparing for secondary school or even preparing for good jobs... I was intrigued and reminded of a recent reading where the underlying theme was "our job is not to prepare students for something... but instead to prepare them for anything!" - AJ Juliani.

For me this resonates as we focus on both the foundation skills necessary for learning such as Reading, Writing and Maths; but also give equal value to creative pursuits, innovation, life skills and competencies; and of course learning how to learn. Our school vision is aspirational "Empowered to learn; Empowered for life". It requires a belief that through building the capacity to learn, we ensure our learners have the best chance at being prepared for whatever life offers.

## New Learning Coach:

At the end of Term One we advertised for a new learning coach to join Mauao. We are delighted to inform you that we have appointed Trudi Fausett who is currently working as a Year 3 teacher at Te Akau Ki Papamoa. Here is a brief introduction from Trudi:

*Kia ora koutou*

*My name is Trudi Fausett and I am so excited to be joining the Taumata team this year.*

*I grew up in Auckland but I started my teaching career in the Waikato getting my first job at Waipa Primary in Ngaruawahia. Throughout my teaching career I have had the opportunity to work in some amazing places such as London and Dubai and gained a wide range of experiences and skills, having taught from Years 1 to 9.*

*I have been working at Te Akau ki Papamoa School as a Senior Teacher for the past seven years, teaching from Years Three to Six. I love taking on new challenges and learning and am proud that while working at Te Akau ki, I become an ADE (Apple Distinguished Educator). Which simply means I strive to use technology to help children's learning in creative ways.*

*Learning in my space is all about what the children can create with the new knowledge they have learnt. It's about using all the tools available to showcase their understanding. I find it so inspiring that I can connect children's learning with their own unique creativity in so many ways.*

*I am so looking forward to working with you and your children, I love the culture that Taumata is creating and can't wait to be apart of this dynamic learning environment.*

*Nga mini  
Trudi*


## School Policies & Procedures

Do you have queries around our school policies or how we do things? Our school policies are managed through School Docs and are available for viewing at anytime. As a parent you can access our policies and procedures by visiting: [www.schooldocs.co.nz](http://www.schooldocs.co.nz) in the search bar type Taumata School. Enter our username (**taumata**) and password (**empowered**)



## Communicating Learning

At the end of Term 2 we hosted a parent workshop around how we communicate learning, and how to access your child's learning on Linc Ed. The following learning spotlight "Communicating Learning" is available on our website.



# Communicating Learning

### What is it?

Communicating Learning is what would normally be called "Reporting to Parents". As a school we believe that reporting is NOT and EVENT that happens at key points during the year, but instead is an ongoing dialogue between children, learning coaches and parents/whanau

At Taumata School we will communicate learning in the following ways:

- Real-Time communication
- Open learning days
- Learner-led conferences

### What do we communicate?

Our learning coaches are continually assessing and diagnosing learning through their daily conversations, book work, formal testing, observations and so on... Your child's current achievement, next learning steps and learning progress will be shared with you in REAL Time, in an ongoing learning conversation through Linc-Ed. These comments, reflections and diagnostic assessments will build consecutively throughout the year, and will also build, year upon year to create an overall learning picture.

In addition to this ongoing REAL TIME communication we will provide an opportunity for learner-led conferencing where our learners can share their learning journey and next steps

### Linc-Ed

Linc-Ed is an online tool for learning coaches to upload a range of information about each child, track progress over time and store/access valuable information relative to each learner. Linc-Ed allows learning coaches to communicate to parents and whanau in 'REAL-TIME' about specific examples of learning.

At Taumata School we will communicate learning in:

- core curriculum (Reading, Writing and Mathematics)
- Integrated Learning (learning across the curriculum)
- Learning Principles (learning that demonstrates our learning principles)



## Student Learning Conferences

One of our learning principles is to build 'learner agency' - which means that learners know why they are learning something, where they are at and what they need to work on next. Recent research around deep learning suggests that:

**" If the focus is to be kept on learning, and the ownership of the learning with the child, then the best person to talk about the learning is the learner"**

**"Not only is the student the best person to tell their parents what they have learnt, but if we believe that students build their knowledge by communicating what they know, then providing an opportunity for students to tell their family what they know can significantly assist with that learning" (Absolum, 2006)**

In committing to this principle, we hope to increase the involvement of students through student-led conferences and building their capacity to reflect on and confidently share and celebrate their learning with you.

What are Student Led Conferences?

A student-led conference is a learning conversation run by the student for his/her parents whilst being supported by his/her learning coach. The conference is entirely focused on the student's most recent learning and achievement, and highlights our belief that there is a clear link between a student's ability to talk about their learning and the actual progress they make.

Our Student-led Conferences will take place in Week 8 this term. You will be sent a link in Week 6 to book a 30-minute conference with your child. There will also be time within this 30-minute timeframe for you to speak directly with a learning coach about your child's progress and achievement against the curriculum levels.

Date: Wednesday 19th June

Times: 2.15pm - 6.45pm

Venue: Your child's learning Hub

## School Trustee Elections

### What is a school board of trustees?

Almost all state and state integrated schools in New Zealand have a board of trustees. School board membership includes parent representatives, a staff representative, a student representative (where there are students above year 9) and the principal. Your board may also include other types of trustees. Contact your school for more information on the composition of your school's board.

### Who can become a trustee?

Parents, caregivers and people from the wider community can put their name forward to be on a school board during the board of trustee elections.

### What do trustees do?

The board is accountable to its parents and community and for student progress and achievement.

Here are some specific things a board does:

- Sets the strategic direction and plans for the school and monitors the school's progress against them.

- Monitors and evaluates student progress.

- Oversees the management of staff, property, finances, curriculum and administration.

- Ensures that the educational needs and aspirations of Maori learners, Pasifika learners and learners with special learning and behaviour needs are identified, planned for and met.

- Fulfils the intent of the Treaty of Waitangi by valuing and reflecting New Zealand's dual cultural heritage.

- Appoints and supports the principal and assesses their performance.

### What skills do trustees need?

Trustees are active leaders in their schools and need to work well in a team, ask challenging questions and have good communications skills. Boards need a balance of skills and experiences around the table to ensure effective processes for planning, monitoring, reporting and reviewing of the school's performance are in place.

### What help do school trustees get?

New Zealand School Trustees Association provides free advice around employment and governance, support and resources. NZSTA also provides a variety of professional development opportunities for trustees.

Shortly you will receive information about the up and coming elections and nomination forms. The closing date for nominations is **Friday 24 May**.

### For more information check out

<https://www.nzsta.org.nz/advice-and-support/information-for-parents/>

An information evening will be held in the Taumata School staffroom on Monday 13 May at 5:30pm.

## A few photos from our opening day:

