

TAUMATA SCHOOL



Key Dates:

- 12 FEB: WHANAU HUI CONNECT
- 12 FEB: WHANAU ROPU MTG (PTA) 7:30PM STAFFROOM
- 20 FEB: PŪWHENUA NOHO
- 10 MAR: PŪWHENUA SWIMMING SPORTS
- 11 MAR: TAUMATA 101 FOR NEW FAMILIES 5.30PM
- 13 MAR: TEACHER ONLY DAY
- 16 MAR: Y5/6 WEST CLUSTER SWIMMING



Nga mihi nui kia a koutou katoa;
Warm greetings to you all.

Kia ora and welcome to the first edition of our school newsletter for 2020. We are very excited to see so many new faces at Taumata School this year, and hope you have all felt welcome and connected as integral members of our Taumata whanau. There is definitely a buzz of excitement as students get to know each other, connect after the holiday period and begin the learning journey for this year.

In addition to the 89 new students who started on Monday we welcome Hannah Rowland, Michaela Jesney, and Kylie Forlong to the teaching team. We know these exceptional teachers are going to further enhance the opportunities and learning experiences provided for our students. In addition to these full time teachers we welcome Kathy Hughes, Veronica Sowerby, Amanda McKinlay, Emma Hone and Natalie Ward who are teaching part-time across our school. We feel privileged draw on such committed educators who can support us in a part-time capacity.

Contained within this newsletter is information that will be both useful and informative. Some will be information shared in 2019, but for our new families, it will be useful to know how to access key information and understand what we believe about learning and teaching. Further parent workshops will be provided during Term 1 this year.

At Taumata School we have very clear beliefs about learning that were formed during our establishment phase. These beliefs were formed based on consultation with our community, research and evidence from across the globe and nationally; and also based on what we know works for young learners. As a result a strong mission and vision guides our school and underpins all decision making. The mission for Taumata School is:

"To provide a world class learning experience that prepares and empowers learners for the adventure that is life".

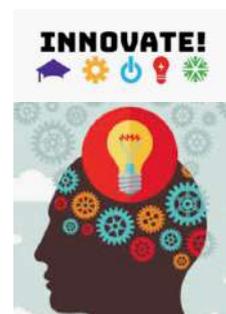
Essentially we have a belief that our role is to provide an educational experience that defaults to 'the way we have always done things' but one that recognises we are preparing young people for a world vastly different to what we experienced and therefore our role is empowerment; or as our vision aptly defines:

"Empowered to learn: Empowered for life"

Innovative Learning:

At Taumata School we talk often about what it means to be **innovative**. The word innovative when paired with schooling and education often generates significant debate and discussion. Very quickly there will be proponents and opponents of innovation, particularly when it is referenced to 'open/flexible spaces' and multiple groups of students operating in one space.

At Taumata School to be innovative does not mean to discard things that we know work. It doesn't refer to total change (for the sake of it) and an environment that is digitally dependent or based solely on the 'latest fad'. For us it means, creating the best opportunities for each individual learner; knowing who they are as learners so that we can be agile in our approaches, pedagogy and how learning is presented. For some learners, traditional approaches may work best, for others more collaborative, experiential approaches light the fire for learning. George Couros, author of "**Innovate Inside the Box**" believes that innovative teaching and learning is about creating opportunities that lead to empowerment (whakamana); empowerment for all learners (students, parents, whanau and teachers). This fits perfectly with our school vision - we know that *what we nurture; is what we grow* and we want students who know how to learn, unlearn and relearn... who are empowered to learn and therefore equipped with capabilities for life.



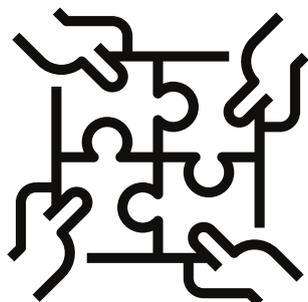
Communication:

A good place to access information about how we do things at Taumata School is our school website: www.taumata.school.nz under the **resources** tab. You will find information about how we communicate learning; innovative learning; learning through play and how to support your child at various stages; along with important information about our local curriculum and the principles that guide our work. I would like to encourage you to take the time to have a look through the website, because there many resources that will help you informed about what learning looks like at Taumata School. In addition to this we plan to host workshops at various stages that I would encourage you to attend. For key dates and events please like our school facebook page and download our school app.

School Policies/Procedures:

Policies are integral to the successful running of a school because they provide guidelines, rules and expectations for learning, health and safety, accountability and educational achievement. At Taumata School we use an online policy and procedure service called school docs. You can access any of our policies and procedures online any time, any where by visiting www.schooldocs.co.nz, and searching for Taumata School. The username is (**taumata**) and password is (**empowered**). At various points in the year we will undertake a review and ask for your input into the effectiveness of certain policies and procedures. This term we have a review of "Recognition of Cultural Diversity" and encourage you to log in, click the current review tab and select "Recognition of Cultural Diversity". To make a comment about the document click the RED Policy Review Button on the top right.

Relationships; relationships; relationships:



We know that parents, family and whanau want their children to experience success at school and feel a sense of belonging and joy. We also know that parents want to be involved; understand what is expected; and know how to contribute to the success of their child's learning experience. This very involvement, leads to greater success for students and clear relationships that support the child to reach their potential. For us, it's about educationally powerful connections between the school, parents, whanau and the community - connections that focus on improved educational outcomes for students.

Next week we have a formal opportunity to build these powerful connections. On Wednesday evening we have **Whanau Hui Connect** meetings. These are an opportunity to 'connect' with your child's learning coach and share the valuable information you know about your child. It's sharing how they have settled into the school year, communicate any challenges or changes in circumstance, or share your hopes/dreams for the year ahead. By now you will have received communication on how to book online, and we look forward to seeing many of you next week.

"Waiho i te toipoto; kaula i te toiroa.

Let us keep close together... not far apart.

Taumata School Uniform:

At Taumata School we have a school uniform. The decision to have a uniform was made after extensive consultation with our community, and included consultation on suppliers, cost, durability and availability. Our chosen supplier is Kukri and uniforms can be ordered online. We are aware there have been delays with supply and appreciate that children are awaiting uniform items to be delivered. In all other circumstances we expect students to be in their full school uniform which includes:

- school shorts or skort (with logo). In Winter we allow long pants (charcoal) due to the cold
- school polo with logo
- hat (charcoal or black hat)
- school polar fleece or jacket (though not necessary at the moment)
- black shoes (sandals or jandals in summer/shoes in winter with plain socks)



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

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.

Taumata Team 2020:

Leadership



Gen Fuller - Principal



Jacq Price - Deputy Principal



Mike Rankin - Deputy Principal

Technology



Raina Urwin



Sean Fullick

Mauao 1: NE/Y1



Sandi Valentine



Arfenna Porteners



Hannah Rowland

Mauao 2: Y1/2



Pippa Woods



Sean Clarke



Bailey Harris



Michaela Jesney

Matarawa: Y3/4



Sharon Baggaley



Trudi Fausett



Kylie Forlong

Pūwhenua: Y5-7



Dan Priest



Sjaan McDivitt



Leonie Belk

Administration & Support



Vanessa Le Roux - Office administrator



Graeme Higham - Caretaker



Nina Leslie - Administration and Learning Assistant