

TAUMATA SCHOOL



Key Dates:

- **3RD APRIL: FURNITURE FOR NEW SPACES ARRIVES**
- **4TH & 5TH APRIL: PŪWHENUA NOHO**
- **4TH APRIL: THE CROSSING OFFICIAL OPENING**
- **5TH APRIL: ALL STUDENTS IN CORRECT SCHOOL UNIFORM (EXCEPTIONS WITH EMAIL TO LEARNING COACHES)**
- **8TH APRIL: BOP PRIMARY GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS**
- **10TH APRIL: WBOP SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS**
- **10TH APRIL: REPORTING PARENTS 6PM-7PM**
- **12TH APRIL: END OF TERM 1**
- **29TH MAY: TERM 2 STARTS**

Nga mihi nui kia koutou katoa.

This is our first newsletter since the violent attacks in Christchurch and whilst we have all tried to make sense of what happened, it has been heartwarming to see the tremendous outpouring of love and genuine heart from our nation. Nigel Latta recently wrote about the power of grief and the compelling sense of action we feel to reach out and help. He also referenced the diversity of our nation and the need to collectively 'stand up and step in' when faced with blatant disrespect.

As a school we are committed to creating an inclusive learning environment that values the differences that each of us bring. We are also committed to offering a world-class learning experience. As such we know that young people learn best when they feel accepted, build strong relationships and can be visible and active members of society. We encourage you to talk with your children about what it means to belong, what it means to be inclusive and what it means to be accepting of other people. There is a wonderful saying that goes something like this... "the greatest gifts we can give our children are roots and wings". I see roots as a place of belonging, and an understanding of what it means to be a good, kind, compassionate, loving citizen of the world. And the wings? Let's work together to grow dreamers who believe that nothing is impossible.

Genavier Fuller

WHAT TO DO DURING AN EMERGENCY

- 1 FIRE**
 In case of FIRE, an intermittent siren and voice repeating "Please evacuate the Building" will be heard. All children and staff will exit in an orderly fashion by the safest exit and make their way to the field where they will assemble in whanau groups. If children are already outside, they will make their way to the field and assemble in whanau groups. Whanau teachers to take a register.
- 2 EARTHQUAKE**
 In the case of an earthquake, a voice will yell "Earthquake - Drop and Cover". Adults and children will assume the drop, cover and hold position whether in the learning studio or the hall. At such time that the quake has subsided the Principal or Deputy Principal will ensure the outside environment is safe. Once a safe area is identified, the Principal, leadership or office personnel will notify the learning studios. At that time, classes will exit in an orderly fashion to the safe area.
- LOCK DOWN**

New Learning Coach:

We are growing and already we are in a position to advertise for another learning coach to join our junior school team. We hope to appoint someone to start as soon as possible in Term 2, however we are also aware that the successful candidate will need to provide adequate notice if they are already in a school. Therefore we have asked Whaea Kathy Hughes to support in Mauao until the new learning coach can start. Further communication about how this will work will be shared in the coming week with those families affected.

Reading Support at Home

On Wednesday evening we hosted the first of a series of workshops on how to support learning at home. We enjoyed spending time with those able to attend looking at creating conditions that support reading. Key ideas explored included: making reading fun, making connections with real life, connecting reading to prior experiences, sharing your own love of reading and that 5 mistakes in 50 words means it is possibly too difficult. We will be running a similar parent/whanau workshop on Mathematics in Term 2.

Official Opening

We can now confirm that our Official Opening day will be held on Wednesday 1 May 2019 at 9:30am. The Establishment Board of Trustees have invited a number of key guests who have been involved with the conceptualisation through to creation of Taumata School and look forward to sharing this momentous occasion with you and your children. Further detail will be shared before the end of the term.

Due to the recent Christchurch events we have had a number of queries regarding our emergency procedures. As a school we have developed procedures for evacuation, lock-down, reverse evacuation and earthquake situations. We practise these drills throughout the year in order to refine and review, and our learning coaches are well versed in the procedures for each situation.

In the event of an emergency, we will use our three main mediums for contacting parents and whanau. These include: Linc Ed; our UpSchool app and also facebook. Within the communication we will advise what the emergency is and the desired actions we require from parents and whanau. In the event of a Lock-down we will work closely with our local Police.

In the coming weeks we will start the transition to our new learning spaces. The Mauao (junior) team currently working in our Pūwhenua block will shift to Maungatokitoki. They will continue to operate in one learning studio with the added ability to open up into the next studio. Pūwhenua (senior) team will then move from The Grove (library & information) to the Pūwhenua learning studio.

We appreciate your support as we transition into the new spaces and if you are available to help with unloading the new furniture into the spaces on Wednesday 3 April - we would appreciate any help available.



Learning Spotlights

Over the coming weeks we will be adding learning spotlights to our school website. These learning spotlights will look at a specific area of our school organisation and detail what it is, what we believe and where you can find additional research or information that supports our direction. We hope these will further build a 'picture' of what we believe at Taumata School. In addition to this on Wednesday, April 10th we will be hosting a community meeting to share with you how we will be reporting on and sharing learning at Taumata School. During this meeting, we will outline what this will look like over this year as well as introduce you to LINC-ED, our online student management system. Our aim has been to implement a robust system that allows teachers, parents, and students to access learning in an online environment that is secure, easy, and effective.

LINC-ED allows teachers to share learning anytime, anywhere and this can be viewed on any device. We are excited about the potential that the software offers. The report is designed to build year on year so that over time you will have access to comments, assessments, images, video and helpful resources all in one place.

Date: Wednesday, April 10th
 Venue: Taumata Hall
 Time: 6:00pm-7:00pm.

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 an EVENT that happens at key points during the year, but instead is an ongoing dialogue between children, learning coaches and parents/whānau.

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
 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 whānau in 'REAL-TIME' about specific examples of learning.

Innovative Learning Environments

What is it?
 Innovative Learning Environments are about the social, learning, cultural and physical design of a learning space. An innovative learning environment is one that enables teachers to meet the needs of a variety of learners.

What do we believe?
 Educational practices have been and continue to evolve to best suit learning. It is therefore important that as pedagogy evolves, so too do the physical environments we learn within. We believe our Innovative spaces provide appropriate flexibility to learn and teach in a variety of ways. They are well lit, have adequate air flow, indoor/outdoor flow to utilise the outside environment and more.

Links to Research
 Ministry of Education link
 Educational Central (2019)
 Dr Ken Fisher "Linking Pedagogy and Space" link

Collaborative Learning

What is it?
 Collaborative learning is when people work as a group or team to achieve a common outcome. Collaborative learning represents a shift from traditional teacher-directed learning environments. It involves working in groups of two or more, mutually seeking new understandings, meanings and creations.

What do we believe?
 We recognise that the urge to form partnerships, to link up with others to solve new challenges, and the desire to discuss, problem solve, debate and define is one of the oldest forces in nature. There are few examples of solitary, free living creatures. We also recognise recent research (OECD, 2013) that identifies that learning is a social and emotional activity. When there is active engagement between and amongst peers, learning is deeper and more profound.

Links to Research
 OECD (2010) "The Nature of Learning"
 Stephen Heppell "21st Century Learning"
 Core Education Top Ten Trends 2018



House of Science

Recently NZ Avocado provided a very generous offer to sponsor our membership to the House of Science. The House of Science is committed to supporting schools develop and grow Scientific literacy and provide a range of resources, science kits and teacher support. The sponsorship provided by NZ Avocado allows our school access to two science kits per week for the year. We would like to thank NZ Avocado for this generosity and supporting our authentic learning principle.

Whānau Rōpu

As part of the fund-raising campaign the Whānau Rōpu (PTA) are planning to run a Mothers Day Raffle in Term 2. If you are able to assist with sponsorship of items and vouchers that could be included in the prize hampers this would be greatly appreciated. Possible ideas could include spa, beautician, make-up or clothing vouchers, wine, flowers or chocolates however any item donated will be used and appreciated. Items can be dropped off with Vanessa at the reception office during school hours. The last day for any donations is 29/04/2019. We thank you in anticipation of any support you may be able to offer.