

TAUMATA SCHOOL



Key Dates:

- 24 JUNE: PHOTOLIFE SCHOOL PHOTOS
- 24 JUNE: 7PM WHANAU ROPU MEETING
- 25 JUNE: VISITING PRINCIPALS
- 25 JUNE: MATARIKI EVENING
- 1 JULY: BOT MEETING
- 3 JULY: MATHS PARENT INFO SESSION 6PM
- 5 JULY: END OF TERM 2
- 22 JULY: TERM 3 BEGINS

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

It was so great to be back in school this week after an amazing opportunity to visit schools in the Hawkes Bay. The Principal of Kimiora School was particularly interesting as he talked about the challenges of his Decile 1 school, and how they were engaging the community in developing the 'playscape' of the school. Matt O'Dowd (Principal) has adopted a 'safe as necessary; as opposed to safe as possible' mantra. His belief is that we often provide 'risk averse' environments to ensure all of our students are safe - and ultimately all School Boards and staff understand the diligence required with this. However in our attempt to provide a 'safe as possible' environment we can potentially stifle the ability of children to test own boundaries and limitations. At Kimiora School children were building towers from bread crates that were higher than the roof of the school, they had converted old lawn mowers into trolleys that children raced around on. They had minimised structured equipment, and instead provided plenty of free play and loose parts for children to use their imagination and create their own playscape. It was definitely an interesting perspective as we work to identify exactly what the playscape of Taumata School will look like in the future. I have shared some of the photographs from my week further on in this newsletter.



Te Ranga Commemoration

This morning a group of our students represented Taumata School at the Te Ranga Commemoration.

Te Ranga was the sequel to the battle of Gate Pa where Maori had shown great fortitude and skill. Unfortunately whilst Maori were fortifying the Te Ranga site, the British learnt of their plans and whereabouts and gathered troops together and attacked. Colonel Greer attacked the defenders of the 'half-dug' trenches and more than 130 young Maori warriors lost their lives. The site is on the corner of Pyes Pa Road and Joyce Road where two Maori Pou (carvings) stand. The first "Te Pou Iroiro o te Mamae" to symbolise the hurt, pain and suffering endured; and the second is "Te Rere o te Toto Ngati Matepou" to symbolise the lives lost as well as those who escaped.

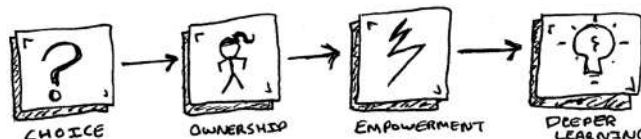
Thank you to all students involved and especially to Rawiri and Madden who read 'The Ode' in Te Reo Maori and English. Pai rawe koutou katoa.



Thank you to all candidates who put themselves forward for our recent Board of Trustees election. As Principal it was heartening to see the genuine interest from our community around the governance of Taumata School. I would like to congratulate the elected Board of Trustees which includes; Jeremy Kedian, Tom Roberts, Kat Storey, Andrew Tarr, Rebecca Wichmann and Jacq Price (staff representative). Our first meeting will be held before the end of the term.

Student-led Conferences:

On Wednesday this week we hosted our first 'Student-Led Conferences' and I must say that I am so proud of our learners. In our commitment to 'empowering for life' we believe that it is important for children to know what they are learning, why they are learning it and what they need to work on next. Whilst we clearly have a curriculum that has expected levels of achievement, we recognise that when students have choice in their learning, they have ownership. When they have ownership they feel empowered, and empowerment leads to deeper more profound learning. The skill of our teachers is to align those passions and interests and guide the students within the expectations of the curriculum.



In saying that congratulations to you all. We had 89% of parents/whanau attend our student led conferences which is a fantastic turnout. Your attendance at these conferences shows the clear value you have for partnering with your child and their learning coach on this learning journey. If, for some reason, you did not have your questions about learning answered, or you missed the opportunity to attend please make an alternate time with your child's learning coach.

Matariki:

Next Tuesday 25 June we will be formally celebrating Matariki. Matariki signifies the Maori new year and the rising of the Matariki cluster (Pleiades/Seven Sisters) and is often used to guide planting of crops or harvesting. It also signifies new beginnings. We invite you to celebrate Matariki with us on Tuesday evening starting at 5pm in our school hall. We will share a range of art, stories, music and lanterns. Please dress warmly and join us from 5pm onwards. If the weather is poor we will advise of an alternate date.

Additional information:

Undesireable behaviour...vs...bullying

Recently we have had an increase in students using the word 'bullying' to describe mean and hurtful behaviour. Bullying is tragically real, and prominent in all sectors of society, particularly with the increased use of social media. Bullying can have devastating short term and long term consequences and often needs immediate intervention by an adult. But bullying is also quite defined.

Though there are many definitions of 'bullying' generally the foundation of bullying includes an imbalance of power (strength, popularity, age, social status); repeated behaviour; and deliberate and intentional. When bullying is evident it is crucial to act immediately.

On the other hand we can have undesirable, insensitive, thoughtless, mean and sometimes aggressive behaviour that is not bullying. This behaviour needs to be addressed immediately as well, but needs to be distinguished as different to bullying.

One of the challenges that schools have is bringing together children who come from families with different values. What might be seen as humorous or acceptable in one family, can be seen as offensive, rude and mean in another; and as such it is important for us to guide our children in what is acceptable and desirable behaviour at Taumata School. We do this through our PB4L (positive behaviour for school) programme.

In our attempt to "**Empower for life**", we hope to guide our students to understand and differentiate bullying (which suggests power/powerlessness) from undesirable and hurtful behaviour and help our students to understand that they have choice and can take action. We also want to empower our students to be citizens fit for society. We ask that you support us as we guide behaviour and correct when there is undesirable behaviour. We also want to assure you, that where there is evidence of bullying we will address it immediately.

Absenteeism and Lateness

Just a gentle reminder that if your child is away (due to illness or family reasons) it is important to let the office know. You can do this by calling the office or downloading the school app (see below). We also ask that if your child is late they must report through the office and sign in. This ensures we know who is on our school site at all times.

Playground and Parking

We love that Taumata School is becoming a hub of the community and love seeing parents and students enjoying the playground after school. However lately we have witnessed some undesirable behaviour by unsupervised children. If children are unsupervised we will ask them to leave the school grounds, as our learning coaches are busy preparing for the next days learning and unable to actively supervise.

Also... just a timely reminder about our drop off zone. If you are using our drop off zone please remember to remain in your car so that this is used in a streamlined way.

Thanks again for all of your assistance in these matters.



Change of clothing

If your child is prone to the odd 'accident' at school we ask that you place a change of underwear and shorts in their school bag - just in case. Where possible we will assist your child however we do not have a large supply of clothing on hand, and we ask that if we have provided a change of clothing that these are returned to Vanessa in the office please. We thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Photos of Hawkes Bay Tour

