

# THE TAWHAI TIMES

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Naumai e te whanau o te kura Tawhai  
Tena koutou katoa

A very warm welcome to all our new families who have recently joined the Tawhai School community.

## ATHLETICS DAY



Tuesday the 1<sup>st</sup> of November ended up being the perfect day for the Annual Tawhai Athletics Day. Beautifully fine weather set the scene for the year 3-6 students to show off their running, jumping and throwing skills.



All students demonstrated determination and performed to the best of their ability. Congratulations to all those children who were placed in the events.

A big thank you also to Miss Page for organising such a successful day.

## THANK YOU

A big thank you for your support last Thursday. Many of our staff were able to attend Graham Smith's funeral due to large number of children being picked up at lunchtime. It was a lovely service and wonderful that the staff were able to pay their respects to such a wonderful volunteer who became such an important part of the Tawhai School Community.

## SICKNESS

Over the last few days there has been a significant number of children who have been suffering from a tummy bug. We have ensured that all surfaces are regularly cleaned and we are encouraging children to clean their hands after going to the toilet and before eating. Can you please make sure that you keep your child home 24 hours after any vomiting or diarrhoea episodes to reduce the chances of spreading the bug.



# ISLAND BAY MARINE CENTRE



The Senior Syndicate had a splendid day out at the Marine Education Centre in Island Bay last week. They were very fortunate in having great weather too. Here are a 'few' photos taken of Room's 1 and 2 either down in the rock pools



exploring or hands on in the aquarium! It was wonderful to see how much the children enjoyed picking up the various sea creatures and they were very gentle with them too! A big thank you to Sarah and the Marine Education Centre.

# EPRO8 TECHNOLOGY CHALLENGE

On the 26<sup>th</sup> of October the first four of our six EPro8 Challenge teams participated in the EPro8 Tech Challenge which is a competition, an engineering and problem solving race. This year over 4000 students from nearly 400 schools throughout the North Island have taken part.

Teams competed to:

- build large sized structures
- solve practical problems
- engineer using pulleys, motors, gears, wheels and axles
- invent machines that can complete simple tasks
- undertake unusual and fun experiments
- construct basic electronic circuits



in a 2.5 hour time-frame. There was not enough time to finish all the challenges – so strategy was required to know which ones to go for. When they completed a challenge they pushed the “Big Red Button” (which played different music per team). They were judged and the points were added to the live leader board. The kids had an excellent time and learnt how challenging it is to work under time-pressure, with equipment that is new to them and in teams that didn't always “gel”. It showed us how important it is in

challenges like this to have strong leaders and to think outside the box. The teams displayed resilience and developed flexibility in their approach. I was very proud to be there and to watch what they accomplished. (It would have been equally challenging and frightening for a group of adults to work through!)

A big congratulations to team "Sporty Brains" who made it through to the semi-finals (the top four teams from each heat compete in the semi's) to be held in two weeks time. The team members were Ella Drummond, Adam Grant, Ava Staples and Ryan Winstanley.

The other three teams were:

"Technadoes" Finn Staples, Justin Gray, Danaka Cains and Riana Shaw.

"Blossom Brains" Alex McGinty, Isabel McMillan, Alicia Bell and Zaviera McMillan

"Lightning Strikers" Thida McPhail, Shanika O'Donovan Karangaroa, Alec Hardgrave and Coco Zhou

Tino pai, EPro8 Challenge Kids – you did Tawhai proud!



And on Friday, the two teams made us even more proud because both managed to get into the semi-finals of the EPro8 challenge which are on Thursday 10 November! Team Techno Gs (Daemon, Damion, Max and Quentin) came 1st! And Team Silver Ferns (Emila, Sam W, Cos and Abi) came 3rd!

## SCOOTERS

Teachers have been talking to the children about the expected behaviours if they bring their scooters to school. Scooters and bikes need to be walked in the school grounds unless they are on the bike track or in the scooter area. We want to keep everyone safe so if you could remind your children, particularly when arriving and leaving school, it would be greatly appreciated.



## GOLDEN TIME

On a Friday afternoon the children who have displayed our school values Respect, Responsibility and Excellence throughout the week celebrate with Golden Time. This is a time the children can engage in an activity of their choice. We are encouraging children to think about some suitable activities that may be offered at this time. If you have a particular skill or are interested in taking a group of children for a game or activity, please talk to your classroom teacher. We would love to have your support with this programme.

## OUR VISITORS

It was a great pleasure to host Matt Skilton and Kirsten Bell from Tahatai Coast School in Papamoa. The purpose of their visit was for us to share the great successes we have with Mutukaroa, our Home School Partnership Programme. A big thank you to the parents who were happy for Kirsten to observe their learning conversations and to Sarah (our Mutukaroa Co-ordinator). I know the children were thrilled to see Matt again and we all enjoyed catching up.

## SPORTS RESULTS

### Touch

Touch begins at Fraser Park tomorrow and at Hutt Park this Friday. The draws for the season will be up on the website tomorrow, together with a map of the layout of fields. For those who have not been to Hutt Park in the past please allow a little bit of time for parking as it can be quite congested.

Thank you to those who have paid their fees. There are still a lot who have not paid and these are due Friday. The fees are as follows year 1-4 \$18.00 and year 5-6 \$20.00. If you have any concerns about paying please see Sharon Gilmour in the office.

## IMPORTANT DATES

*[Please keep checking our school website for the most up to date events calendar]*

- 31 October – 24 November – Junior Syndicate swimming
- 15 November – Northern Zone Athletics – (17 November postponement date)
- 22 November – Interzone Athletics – (22 November postponement date)
- 29 November – Board of Trustees meeting – 7pm in the staffroom
- 1 December – Parent helper morning tea – (further details to follow)
- 3 December – Stokes Valley Christmas Parade (Saturday)
- 5 December – Reports sent home
- 7 December – Parent interviews
- 8 December - Road Patrol Pool Party
- 13 December – Year 6 Leavers' Dinner 6pm – 8.30pm
- **15 December – Last day of term (1pm finish)**
- **30 January 2017 – Term one.**

### **2017 term dates;**

- Term 1: 30 January - 13 April
- Term 2: 1 May - 7 July
- Term 3: 24 July - 29 September
- Term 4: 16 October - 14 December (1 pm finish)

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Kia pai tō rā  
Kia ora

Karen Poole  
Principal