

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.

Tawhai School is beginning to burst at the seams with new enrolments arriving almost daily. It is wonderful continuing to have such high levels of confidence from our community in what we are doing and we are very fortunate to have such active and keen parents so willing to be part of their child's learning. Not only have we grown in roll but we also have a brand new classroom which is now complete and ready to be moved into. The newly named Room 12 has an internal slide door to link with Room 11 and is modern, bright, warm and perfect for quality teaching and learning to take place. I know that Miss Kale and her excited Year 2 students are very keen to move in as soon as the green light is given. I'd like to thank the lovely Room 11 students and Miss Anderson for their patience and tolerance throughout the building process. I am sure they too are looking forward to seeing the classroom full of their peers.



With Term 1 coming to an end on **Friday 15 April** I would like to thank you for giving great support to your children and their learning. By simply showing an interest in their learning, asking questions, helping with homework and talking to them about their school day you help foster confidence and belief in what they are doing. I know Karen Poole has been thrilled with the continued 100% attendance in the Mutukaroa learning conversations and staff have



commented on how responsive and supportive you are during home and school communications. Term 2 will be about minimizing disruptions and working hard towards helping students achieve their learning goals. To help them get a great start to the new term please encourage regular nightly reading and manage 'screen' time on

televisions, games and computers.



Throughout the term teachers have been participating in a professional development programme where they are learning about developing student's independence, knowledge of their learning strengths and weaknesses, and overall levels of 'agency'. As a result this term teachers have trialled 'learning maps' where your child mind maps what they see as influences on their learning. The mind mapping will continue throughout the year as confidences grow and teachers are all participating in a call back workshop in the holiday break. I mention this as I am so proud of the teaching staff and their professional commitment towards learning and growing as teachers. The day will involve all of the schools in Upper Hutt and provides a wonderful

opportunity for Tawhai teachers to share, hear about and network with other teachers from similar schools.

FAREWELL WENDY NELSON



At the end of the term we say farewell to Wendy Nelson, a long serving member of staff. Ms Nelson has been teaching for 36 years, 26 of which have been at Tawhai School. Ms Nelson is a highly valued member of staff and will be sorely missed by students, colleagues and the parent community. Ms Nelson has resigned to take some much deserved 'time out' for her, after 36 continuous years' service to the profession. When Ms Nelson began teaching at Tawhai School in 1989 she made an immediate impact with fundraising for much needed sports equipment, establishing sports days, and initiating the tradition of the annual walkathon fundraiser. Ms Nelson was the first elected staff

member to serve on the Board of Trustees and has produced and directed a number of school productions, ran school camps, zone sport events, and taught Year 1 through to Year 6. She has also been a wonderful support to fellow teachers as the worksite representative for the NZEI (teachers union). With Ms Nelson leaving we lose a wealth of experience, expertise, knowledge and a wicked sense of humour. Her attention to detail will also be sorely missed! On behalf of the Tawhai School Community of past and present I'd like to wish Ms Nelson a fantastic last week in the job and lots of rest after such amazing service. Thanks Ms Nelson for all that you have done for the school and especially for the students.

FAREWELL EILEEN KERMACK

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Eileen Kermack who has recently retired after 5 years at Tawhai School. Eileen has been working as a teacher aide supporting Luke and his learning needs in the classroom. Eileen has always brought a positive attitude to work and has shown great empathy and care for all children. On behalf of the staff and students I wish Eileen all the very best for her retirement and thank her for all the hard work over the years.



INTERZONE SWIMMING



On Wednesday 30th March, 17 students from Tawhai represented our Northern Zone Team at the Interzone Swimming Sports at Naenae Swimming Pool and more than held their own against a large number of students who swim several times a week! Tawhai School had a number of seconds, thirds and fourths overall which was fantastic! The highlight of the day was when our Northern Zone Girls medley team took out first place! Amazing swimming by all 4 girls (Ella Drummond, Ava Staples, Indica Tangaroa, and Isla Coe - Koraunui School)!

The whole squad trained very hard in the lead up to Interzone and displayed a positive attitude to going out and just doing their very best. A big congratulations to all of the Tawhai students for their great efforts. I would like to thank Miss

Sullivan for helping me out with the training and organising the kids. I think our extra training sessions certainly paid off!!

WORLD OF WASTE TOUR

On Thursday, members of the Enviroschools Team embarked on the World of Waste Tour. Our Tour guide Jonas from the Lower Hutt City Council took us to four main locations including the Silverstream Landfill, EarthLink Recycling Store, The Dowse Art Museum and The Waste Management Depot.

It was a very interesting day that gave us a lot of insight as to how waste is managed throughout the Hutt Valley. We look forward to taking a look at our very own waste management systems at Tawhai School and to try new initiatives so please watch this space!

Thank you to Craig McMillan, Junior Bates, Aaron Stead and Donald McElhaney for being parent support on the day.

For more photos of the 'WOW Tour', please visit the Enviroschool's blog on our school website.



ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS 2016-2017

This year we are once again selling Entertainment Books. The books cost \$60.00 (\$12.00 from each book will go towards the purchase of Kapa Haka uniforms). A big thank you to those who have pre-ordered books. The books will be available on **Thursday 7 April** and can be used straight away.



TERM 1, 2017 – TAWHAI SCHOOL GALA

With the success of our first Gala, which was held in Term 4 – 2013 (firmly a happy spot in our memories) we have decided it's high time to run another. So far all we have set that it will be held in Term 1 in 2017. We are holding the first (of many) "Gala Committee Meetings" in the Staffroom on **Thursday 5th May at 6:30pm**. This is just a quick 30 minute meeting to create the actual committee and set a plan, so if you are interested in being part of this exciting event (or have some great ideas or contacts) please register your interest to me (Sarah Gray) on the following contact details and let's get this party started.

Cellphone: 021799049 or email: stokesvalleygala@gmail.com

PARENT TUTOR READING

We are looking for 2 parent tutor readers to listen to students read. The parent/tutor reading programme began at Tawhai School over 12 years ago. We have successfully trained many parents and grandparents to work with students, hearing them read and just talking to them at times to assist them with their learning. We are now looking for two parents to help assist our students. If you have a spare hour or two a week and are keen to help out, please contact Kelly in the office on 5636 329, or email Raewyn Young at raewyn@tawhai.school.nz.

SPORTS RESULTS

TOUCH RUGBY

Touch Rugby finished last week at Fraser Park. Congratulations to all teams who had a great season many of whom were playing for the first time. Special mention to the following teams for their placings:

Tawhai Taniwhas	1st year 5-6 girls -Division 1
Tawhai Tuis	3rd year 5-6 girls - Division 1
Tawhai Twisters	2nd year 5-6 boys - Division 2
Tawhai AB's	3rd place year 5-6 boys - (Fraser Park)
Tawhai Terminators	2nd place year 1-2 boys - Division 4

A big thank you to all the awesome coaches and helpers who have done a fantastic job. Thanks to parents for their ongoing support.

ANZ FUTURE FERNS

This programme finished on Saturday for our two year 1-2 teams. Thank you to Shelley Steer and Amy Benson for their assistance at the sessions.

TINIBALL-MINIBALL

The competition for both Tiniball and Miniball start week 2, commencing **9 May**. Teams are just being finalised and details will be sent out to all team members next week.

NETBALL

This year we have two senior teams participating in the competition at Heretaunga College on a Saturday morning and one year 3-4 team in the ANZ future FERNS competition at Hutt Valley on Saturday afternoon. More details to follow next week.

WATERPOLO

This year we are entering one team in the local competition at Naenae Pool. Players have the opportunity to attend a free training session at Naenae Pool next week (details out tomorrow).

SPORTS FEES

Sports fees for each sport are kept to a bare minimum to cover registration. In accordance with the permission slip in the sports booklet which parents sign, fees must be paid **prior** to registration. Sports uniforms for the upcoming competitions in term 2 **will not be issued to players until fees are paid** (or arrangements made to pay in instalments).

IMPORTANT DATES

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

- **15 April - Last day of term 1 – 3pm finish**
- **2 May - Start of term 2**
- 20 May – Pink shirt day (anti-bullying)
- 24 May – School cross country (26 May postponement date)
- **6 June – Queens Birthday (public holiday)**
- 7 June – Northern zone cross country
- 21 June – Inter-zone cross country

- 28 June – 1 July – Polyfestival
- Week of 4th July – 3 way conferences (dates to be confirmed)
- **8 July - Last day of term 2 – 3pm finish.**

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Kia pai tō rā

Kia ora

Matt Skilton

Principal

COMMUNITY NOTICES

FREE MIND LAB OPEN DAY – SATURDAY 9 APRIL

On Saturday, April 9th the Mind Lab will be hosting a free open day. The kids will have the opportunity to taste-test a few sessions that form part of our School Holiday Programme - whether it's meeting a robot, experimenting with augmented reality, or getting messy with soda bombs and scribble bots. Think stop-motion, green screening, 3D printing, augmented reality and science (or in other words, excitement galore)! There will be special holiday programme discounts if you register on the Saturday.

So head down to our base at 25 Victoria Street, Petone (Ground Floor of the IBM Tower) from 1pm - 4pm on Saturday, April 9th with family and friends.