

# Taipa Area School

Vibrant Dynamic Hub of the Community

## NEWS LETTER

Thursday 13 March 2014

Dear Parents

Term One has been quite busy at Taipa Area School. We have welcomed six new teaching staff to the school, along with new students and families. We took the opportunity to introduce the new staff during the Community Consultation meeting in February as well as at the Powhiri early in the term.

The parent-teacher-student three way interviews held this week seemed to be useful and productive. Form Teachers will be following up with parents who were unable to attend on Tuesday. Thank you to all the parents who came along.

Last week the Primary Classes were on camp – thanks also to all of the parents that support the camp. The Year 13 leadership camp, Eastern Zone swimming sports, senior athletics day and Taipuna wananga are some examples of other events that have contributed to the busy term

Coming up events include the **Teacher Only Day on Friday March 21**. On that day the teachers will be developing ways to provide exciting quality e-learning experiences for the students and the use of ICT to enhance learning at Taipa. The Teacher Only Day is being run by FarNet in Whangarei for all Secondary and Area Schools in Northland. School will not be open for learning on that day. Early in Term One Taipa teaching staff were involved with professional learning around effective curriculum delivery and engaging students with their learning.

The day after the ToD; **Saturday March 22 is the Taipa Kids Triathlon and School Gala**. Information about the event is available on the school website ([www.taipa.school.nz](http://www.taipa.school.nz)) or from the school office.

On Wednesday and Thursday of the same week (19 and 20 March) all Year 11 students will be involved in a Star extravaganza that will provide the opportunity for students to earn NCEA credits. Information about the courses and the requirements will be sent out prior to the programme.

We are considering sending the school newsletter mainly through e-mail or via the school website. If you are unable to receive the newsletter in this way or you would prefer a printed version of the newsletter please let the school know through the class or form teacher of your child.

It is with pleasure that I announce the Student Leaders at Taipa Area School for 2014: Nopera and Katryan are Head Students, Sophie is Deputy Head Student and Ezekiel is the Student Board of Trustees member.



2013 NCEA results were encouraging but also indicate that our students still need a lot of support from both home and school . The Participation based results for 2013 include

NCEA qualifications for 2013	Taipa Results %	National results %
Year 11 L1	61	81
Year 12 L2	77	85
Year 13 L3	88	78

Many of the Year 12 students that earned Level 2 NCEA in 2013 also completed L1 in the same year. One of our targets for 2014 is to make sure that 85% of all students that leave school will earn NCEA at L2.

The focus of the first whole school assembly was to remind students about the **Taipa Way**.

For students	For teachers
Focus on your learning	Focus on student learning
Be in the right place at the right time	Be in the right place at the right time
Speak positively to each other	Speak positively to each other
Support others in their learning	Support students in their learning

Finally I would like to communicate that Mr Crow and Mrs H Tobin are on study leave for the rest of the year, although they will still be involved with the school. The Principal, Pateriki Toi, will be returning from sabbatical in Term Two.

Mike Ryken  
Acting Principal

### **Taipa Area School Complaints process:**

(adapted from the Taipa Area School Administration Policy and procedures)

In the day-to-day management of the school, there may arise, a range of issues of concern to parents.

If the parent chooses to talk to a staff member about an issue, the staff member is expected to respond promptly and appropriately.

Parents may ask to meet with the Principal to make a complaint about a staff member, another student, an incident that occurred or a school event. All complaints will be treated seriously.

The complaint should include the issue of concern and the details that cause the concern. The principal may request the complaint to be made in writing. Any written complaint will be recorded. This will include the date of the complaint, who has made the complaint and what the complaint is about. The resolution and people

involved in this will also be added to the record. It may be appropriate for the Principal to take some time to consider the nature of the complaint and speak with other relevant parties. The Principal will work with the people concerned to resolve the complaint and to communicate the resolution to the parent as soon as possible.

If a complaint is about a staff member, the Principal, or a member of the RTL, there is a formal complaint procedure outlined in the school employment policy.

The board is the employer of school staff and responsible for the school operating within the law. Boards of Trustees are committed to making school the best learning environment possible for students. Parents have the right to have their concerns listened to and addressed.

Complaints to the Board of Trustees should be in writing and addressed to the Chairperson of the Board. A discussion with the Board Chairperson or a board member is NOT a formal complaint.

If a Principal has managed a complaint and parents are not happy with the outcome, parents are entitled to complain to the Board of Trustees.

Parents may complain to the school or the Ministry of Education about the school's complaints process or process for managing stand-downs and suspensions.

Complaints about Boards of Trustees can be directed to the Office of the Ombudsmen.

<http://www.minedu.govt.nz/NZEducation/EducationPolicies/Schools/>

Ministry of Education role:

In some instances, parents will complain to the Ministry of Education about an incident involving their child that occurred at school.

It is common practice for the Ministry to direct all complaints back to the school in the first instance. The Ministry upholds the school's ability to self-govern and follow their own policies and processes for managing complaints.

Apologies to anyone trying to ring the school on the number 4060501 as this number has been disconnected from February 25. All calls should be made directly to **4060159**. We have had some issues with our phone lines after changing providers, but these should all now be sorted. If you do have problems, please inform the school of the issue in detail so we can attend to it.

## YEAR 13 LEADERSHIP CAMP

This year the Year 13 Leadership Camp was held on the 13 -16 of February. Seniors left with Mr Ryken and Mr Lee and were later joined by form teachers Margaret Timmer Arends and Mr Walsh. This camp has been held at Trefoil Park, 15 km south of Kaikohe for a number of years.

The first activity on the program involved the students participating in two physical challenges to encourage problem solving and teamwork amongst the seniors. With each activity involving the use of ropes, someone on each of the two teams had to know their knots. The first team building activity was to make a means of crossing a river, with only one student being able to cross to the other side and not return (unless it was by the structure they had built, after it was built).

The second activity involved the students making a structure in trees that would suspend the students off the ground between several trees while singing our national anthem. It was evident that the students from the outset were up for the challenges, coming up with plans and suggestions in order to achieve both goals.

Teams then had to cook and clean up before the evening activities. At the end of the evening, students were split up into groups of 3 - 4. Each team was then given a tarpaulin, a sheet of polythene and 5 minutes to get the stuff they would need to sleep out overnight. For many it was the first time that had spent out under the stars. Each group was left in a location with instructions that all groups were to keep heading up the river until they reached a fence and meet there in the morning at 8am. That night the possums were particularly active

and kept a few students awake. All students arrived at the appointed time the next day for an activity which involved a walk - "kilimanjaro" which was a test of character and stamina.

The students had other leadership activities that encouraged them to look at different leadership styles.

Overall it was a very successful leadership camp and we look forward to our student leaders contributions in 2014.

Dwayne Walsh  
Year 13 Form teacher



## Music Department News

Kia ora! My name is Sean Scanlen and I am the new classroom Music Teacher. I am enjoying teaching the students here. All students from year 7 up are learning to read and write music, and the level one students have an assessment towards their Music Works achievement standard soon.

Our itinerant Music Teacher, Tupu Campbell, will begin teaching his band and instrumental classes this week. They start on Wednesday (Day Three).

Kia Ora, My name is Ilana Hill and I am the new Geography and Social Studies teacher. If anyone has any local history or myths or geographic stories that they would be willing to share please email me at [ilanah@taipa.school.nz](mailto:ilanah@taipa.school.nz)

## Community Consultation and BBQ

Thank you to all those families who attended the community consultation BBQ on February 21st. It was a great opportunity to meet the new staff, make comment and pose questions in relation to new initiatives and the future direction of the school over the next three years. The feedback so far is being reviewed by both the Board of Trustees and the school leadership team. Student and staff input is also being sought.

The consultation feedback will then be collated to identify themes and issues. Actions and strategies will be devised to address issues and incorporate some of the great ideas that are fed back.

One of the major themes that is already coming through is the need for better communication with whanau and community, and to celebrate the great things that are happening in the school. We do not do enough to promote school successes and achievements. Many ideas and suggestions for improvement have been presented in the feedback and will contribute to the formulation of plans of action.

## Consultation and feedback was sought on;

- i) Strategic and Annual Goals for 2014 (see goals below)
- ii) eLearning and Bring your own devices (BYOD) (see below - also a letter and survey have been posted out with the Academic Three-Way Interview letters to families)
- iii) Bilingual education policy (see below)
- iv) Strengths, Weaknesses and Opportunities
- v) Other comments and questions

## Events and Information Shared

1. **'Kids TriAthlon and Gala'** day to be held on Saturday 22 March. This triathlon is open to all children throughout the area aged 8 - 13 years old and is a great opportunity for whanau and the community to support their children and have fun.
2. **Building Upgrade;** The main block of the school is due to be upgraded this year. Students are being housed in other parts of the school so that there is minimum disruption once building is underway. The Property Committee are working with the planners on this major project. Changes to classrooms have also provided opportunities for structural changes with an emphasis on a 'middle school (Yr7-10)' approach to assist with transition from intermediate to secondary schooling.

**School Moto: 'By Perseverance Achieve'**

**School Vision: '*Vibrant, Dynamic Hub of the Community*'**

	Goal 1	Goal 2	Goal 3
<b>Strategic Goal 1:</b> Quality, exciting teaching and Learning	1.1 Promote teaching as inquiry and reflective teaching practices	1.2 Improve the behavioural, emotional and cognitive engagement of all students	1.3 Provide students with exciting quality e learning experiences that promote digital citizenship
<b>Strategic Goal 2:</b> Open, Supportive Environment	2.1 Use ICT to promote and support good teaching practice	2.2 Ensure student voice effects curriculum development and teacher reflection	2.3 Cultivate positive behaviour for learning across all school areas.
<b>Strategic Goal 3:</b> Welcoming, Inclusive Community Relationships	3.1 Promote and celebrate school successes and achievement	3.2 Organise and promote inter-school and community events	3.3 Better engage whanau with student learning and development

### e-Learning and BYOD (Bring your own device)

Goal 1.3 'Provide students with exciting quality e-learning experiences that promote digital citizenship.' Strategic goal for 2014 and beyond

By Term 2 2014, Taipa Area School should be able to offer students high speed, wireless internet access to enhance teaching and learning. Using these devices as effective learning tools will enhance student learning, promote digital citizenship and build valuable skills for the world they are growing into.

Many students may already have suitable devices that could be used as part of their learning at school. Reasonably priced options are available through major retailers.

Once the school wifi is in place, students will be encouraged to bring a laptop or tablet that can connect to the wireless so they can have better quality, more frequent access to technology in their learning programmes.

## Bi- Lingual Education Policy at Taipa Area School

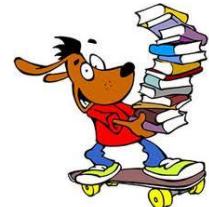
In our last ERO Report (FEB 2013) there was a recommendation made to the BOT to develop a policy and a philosophy to make clear to the community the purpose of bilingual and immersion learning for students and parents who wish their students to have this learning opportunity at Taipa Area School.

Parents and whanau of Taipuna met last year to discuss and develop the following recommendations to the BOT:

- \* Taipuna delivers programmes within an environment that nurtures and is conducive to the student's Maori world view.
- \* Taipuna is catering for students committed to rumaki/ immersion and reorua/bilingual learning pathways.
- \* Taipuna incorporates the philosophy and principles of Ka Hikitia (Accelerating Success for Maori students).
- \* Teachers will foster and implement the cultural competencies of *Nga Tātaiao*:
  - Ako - (taking responsibility for their own learning and that of Māori learners)
  - Whanaungatanga -(actively engaging in respectful working relationships with Māori learners, parents and whānau, hapū, iwi and the Māori community)
  - Wananga - (participating with learners and communities in robust dialogue for the benefit of Māori learners' achievement)
  - Tangata Whenuatanga, (affirming Māori learners as Māori)
  - Manaatanga - (showing integrity, sincerity and respect towards Māori beliefs, language and culture)
- \* Ngati Kahutanga is woven throughout The Curriculum and Te Marautanga.

## Library news

A very warm welcome to 2014. The Library has had a busy start to the New Year with all Primary & Intermediate classes being allocated two timetabled slots for the year. The hope is that *all* our students, Year 1 - Year 13 will start the year with a renewed vigour for reading/literacy.



Our sincere thanks to the Art Department and the Primary Department for the beautiful artwork on display in our Library, it is a wonderful place to display students work, it gives our Library a *Gallery* look and feel, also thanks to one of our parent weavers, Mrs La Herk for the beautiful korowai that she has woven and loaned for display in the Library.



We have begun a '*Primary Boys Book Club*' it is a timetabled slot held once a week where they come to the library and we engage in a culture of: '*book talk & share*' they are an enthusiastic little group who are enjoying this time together, participation is voluntary.

**Thank you all for participating, keep up your reading; eagerness to listen and learn & your infectious enthusiasm - as always, our aim is to make life-long learners & readers out of each and every one of you'**

The '*Girls Book Club*' is held on a Thursday during the lunch break, this will be for Primary and Intermediate girls. *Please bring your friends & come for some food, fun & share.*

My thanks to staff and parents who brought their children in during the Christmas holidays on the two days that we were open for the exchange of Library books and also to those who took advantage of the school

swimming pool being available with staff supervision - we plan to do it again in the coming Christmas holidays, dates will be notified early in Term 4.



## Intermediate News

Welcome back to school! We are looking forward to a busy and interesting year. We would like to give a special welcome to all the new students in the Intermediate department this year.

The Intermediate teachers this year are:

**Year 7&8: Shelly Dormer (Head of Department)**

**Year 7&8: Pat Trenberth**

Please feel free to contact us at school if you have any concerns or questions.

### Upcoming Events

**Eastern Zone Swimming –March 13<sup>th</sup> Taipa Area School**

**Rugby Sevens- March 20 (Moerewa) April 3<sup>rd</sup> (Taipa)**

**Rippa Rugby –11<sup>th</sup> April (Kerikeri)**

**Triathlon – March 22<sup>nd</sup> Taipa Area School**

### Hats

All students in Intermediate are welcome to wear a hat. Hats must be plain black.

### Uniform

Your child should be wearing the correct uniform to school each day. If there is a reason that your child is unable to be in the correct uniform you must send a written note to school to explain the reason why. The only earrings to be worn at school are studs; any other kind are too dangerous when we are playing sport. Shoes need to be black.



### Homework

Intermediate students will start to bring homework home in the next few weeks. All students are expected to read for at least 30 minutes each day and learn their spelling words. They may also have a homework sheet for numeracy or literacy. Please feel free to contact your child's teacher if you have any questions about homework.

### Swimming

Our main focus for sport this term is swimming. Students will be able to swim several times each week at school. We would like to see all students swimming and improving their skills ready for the upcoming swimming events this term.

## **Squash**

**There is an opportunity for Intermediate students to learn how to play squash. Students will be able to have two free sessions with a coach. There will be a further four sessions available for students at a cost of \$5 per student. If your child is interested, please send a note to school and we will put their name down for coaching.**

## **Life Education Caravan**

**We have recently had a visit from the Life Education truck. There was a lot of great learning that happened which is supporting our classroom programmes. Each student received a workbook which we will be working through in class. The cost for this is \$3 per student. If you have not already sent this money in, can you please do so as soon as possible.**

**Cheers**

**The Intermediate Teachers**



## **Dates to calendar:**

**March 19      Far North Swimming championships (Kaitaia)**

**March 21      Teacher Only Day**

**March 22      Taipa Triathlon and mini gala**

## **Did you know?**

You can keep up with all the things your children have been up to on our Blog site: <http://taipaprimary.blogspot.co.nz>. Have a look and follow us for up to date information.

Also - we have set up a Facebook account where we will be posting notices and information onto - especially follow up information around notes that get set up. Please become a follower to keep up to date. Go to [www.facebook.com/tas.primary](http://www.facebook.com/tas.primary) We are always keen to get your feedback about what is the best way to get into contact with you. We are finding that notes DO NOT always work. Please let the classroom teacher know which is the best way to keep you up to date.

## **Caught Being Good**



**Nga Manaia:** Soul-Jah, Atray, Onyx  
smith, Matty Smith  
**Nga Tamure:** Vitor Prentice, Te Toanga  
Toby, Dontay Posinkovich  
**Nga Mango:** Samantha Murphy, Lyrik  
Puru, Azaria Williams, Arne'z Loffley  
**Nga Ngaru iti:** Brendon Harrison



**Nga Manaia:** Karoraina, Lexus Rau-i-  
Munu  
**Nga Tamure:** Demetreus Rau-i -Munu,  
Miracle Gear  
**Nga Mango:** Tane, Te Aroha Hesketh,  
Ashleigh Court.  
**Nga Ngaru iti:** Tuhiana, Manawa

## **Attendance**

This is an ongoing concern for us. We are aiming for at least a 90% attendance for all students (this means missing less than 1 day every two weeks). If your child is going to be away, could you please notify the school on the day. You are able to ring us on 406-0159 or send us an e-mail to [absent@taipa.school.nz](mailto:absent@taipa.school.nz) You can also send a note with your child in advance if you know they will be away. A medical certificate is a Ministry requirement when students are away for more than three days for medical reasons. Please do not be offended when you receive a phone call to check where your child is if we have not heard from you. **100%** attendance will be rewarded in assemblies and at the end of each term. Keep an eye out for photos of students with perfect attendance in future newsletters.

## Camp

As this newsletter goes to print, we will just be returning for our camp at Whatuwhiwhi Top Ten holiday camp. More to come in the next Newsletter.

## Squash

There is an opportunity for primary students Years 5-8 to learn how to play squash. Students will be able to have one free session with a coach. There are will be four more sessions available for students at a cost of \$5 per student. If your child is interested, please send a note to school and we will put their name down for coaching.

## Chocolates

Thank you to all those who have put their hands up to help sell chocolates. We would like ALL monies back by the end of the term at the very latest. Thank you Te Wiki and family for already selling 3 boxes!!



## Buses

Just a friendly reminder that we must have a note or a phone message (before 2pm) if you would like your child to do something different at the end of the day. This is for everyone's safety.



## Hats

Everyone should have a hat to wear at school. This is really important!!



## Swimming

Our main focus for sport this term is swimming. Students will be able to swim several times each week at school. We would like to see all students swimming and improving their skills ready for the upcoming swimming events this term. Please have togs, a towel and plastic bag EVERY DAY so you don't miss out.

## Te Wananga o Aotearoa

TE ARA REO MAORI CLASSES - LEVEL 4

Intermediate Level

Every Tuesday 6.00pm - 9.00pm

Contact Wiremu - 4089330

# Taipa Wombles recycle at Waitangi



On Waitangi Day Mrs Wilkinson and some brave students and whanau braved the weather to help CBEC with their recycling. Pairs of students and parents manned stations, and educated the public about which bin to put their rubbish in. We then helped to sort it afterwards. Many thanks to Mr and Mrs Ashby, Bayley, Kororia, Anei, Manaia, Angeline and Jeff, Ned, Jamie and Dylin, Stevie and Mr Wilkinson, Tui and Aria for giving up your sleep in on this wild wet day. Sue Woods came to our assembly and presented these students with special certificates. The best part was, they got paid for doing such a GREAT job. The money will be put into our fundraising account which we hope to use in creating a nice eating space for our primary students.

## Life Education Caravan

We have recently had a visit from Harold the Giraffe. We learnt a lot and this supported our classroom programmes. Each student received a workbook which we will be working through in class. The cost for this is \$3 per student. If you have not already sent this money in, can you please do so as soon as possible. Thanks

## Career Directions for our Tamariki

Over the years Taipa Area School has visited Waikato University for their OPEN DAY on an annual basis -

Thursday & Friday 15/16 May 2014.

The very first trips were the most memorable and focused on Year 7 & 8 students and their whanau. That first year, we took two buses full of parents and their children. It was a learning exercise shared, and set some great dreams of what could be in the future. Over the past few years we have restricted the numbers to just Y13 students which enabled us to keep costs down by using our minibus. **HOWEVER** this year I would like to offer places to any parent or caregiver that wants to share the experience with their child from Y7 up. The interesting aspect of taking children so young is that the world of possibilities is still very real for them, they dream that they can be anything they want to be and if their horizons are stretched and they are aware of what is required, they are better able to meet the expectations ahead of them.

Check out <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y6h-WAQM3iA&list=PLD79F4D2019219DF0> for a history of TAS's involvement in this event.

I am looking for any parents interested in joining us this year. If numbers are large enough we will be able to take a bus. If you like the idea and would like to share this opportunity with your child/children register your interest by emailing: [careers@taipa.school.nz](mailto:careers@taipa.school.nz) or calling me at school on 406 0159 ext 218

John Lee  
Career Counsellor

Follow the University of Waikato on [Facebook](#) for the latest updates, news and photos from Open Day 2014

# **SPORTS NEWS**

## **Senior Touch**

This year we entered a senior boys team into the Northland Secondary Schools Touch Tournament, which was held at Lindvart Park in Kaikohe. The boys did reasonably well considering they had not had a lot of training and didn't have any subs on the day. Well done boys.

## **Northland Swimming Champs**

We proudly entered five swimmers into the Northland Swimming Champs held in Dargaville this year. This was the first time in a number of years, that we have had entries in this event. Unfortunately due to illness, only two out of the five swimmers were able to go. Congratulations to Zana Yates and Te Hemara Gardiner-Toi for making the long trip and representing our school. We hope to have more entries next year.

## **Surfing**

Daniel Tobin and Mr Crowe have kindly offered to take senior students for surfing lessons this year. At the moment we have 5 students in the group, they will have weekly lessons and will work towards entering some of the Secondary School competitions. Watch this space!!

## **Waka ama**

Our numbers for waka ama have doubled this year. Whaea Nyree King and Mr King are training the junior boys and senior girls twice a week. The senior boys have also been training with coaches from Te Oranga Health Services. We are extremely grateful for the transport and trainings they offer at no cost. Thank you to Whetu Rutene, Larinda Wijohn and Chase Herbert for offering this help. The senior boys and girls will travel to a regatta at Kai Iwi Lakes this Friday. Good luck to both teams.

## **Rugby League**

The following boys have been representing Taipa Area School in a combined team. Congratulations to Rauharuhi Fiaui, Donte' Manuel, Nopera Matthews, Tautoko Matthews and Neil Pai for representing Te Rangi Aniwaniwa in the Northland Rugby League Competition. Good luck in your trial on Sunday 16 March in the Bay of Islands to represent the Northland team.



We held our athletics sports last week. As you can see fun was had by all.



## SENIOR ATHLETIC WINNERS

Event	Jnr	Inter	Senior
100	Davis Orbell Zana Yates	Chaz Wilcox Mistique Tuoro	Norpera Mathews n/a
200	Johnny Rakena-Toby Analise Moses	Bradley Lanigan Gabrielle Johns	Darwin Pepene
400		Chaz Wilcox Cheyenne Rose Taylor	Norman Laws Walker Sophie Hetaraka
Shot	Analise Moses Tommy Edwards	Huirangi Lawrence Norman Laws Walker	Rauharuhi Fiaui Sophie Hetaraka
Discus	Tommy Edwards Analise Moses	Donte' Manuel Cheyenne Rose Taylor	Rauharuhi Fiaui Rose Derbyshire
Javelin	Analise Moses Tommy Edwards	Cheyenne Rose Taylor Donte' Manuel	Darwin Pepene Sophie Hetaraka
Triple jump	Cyrus Broughton Analise Moses	Norman Laws Walker Cheyenne Rose Taylor	Darwin Pepene Jahna Kamlade
Long jump	Mark Lange	Tautoko Mathews Cheyenne Rose Taylor	Darwin Pepene Jasmine Kingi

## **SLINGSHOT 'BETTER SCHOOLS' PROGRAMME**

We are now part of this wonderful programme whereby Slingshot customers can choose to have a percentage of their monthly bill donated to the school. Each month, Slingshot will send us a cheque to use as we see fit. How big that cheque is depends on you! If you'd like this easy and pain free way to contribute please go to [www.slingshot.co.nz/schools](http://www.slingshot.co.nz/schools) or call 0800 89 2000 and speak to one of their friendly customer helpers.



### **Who is Slingshot?**

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## PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS

**Electronic Newsletter.**

Would you like to receive the newsletter by email? Be the first to get your Taipa Area School Newsletter. Contact us to join the list.

Phone - 4060159

Email - [office@taipa.school.nz](mailto:office@taipa.school.nz)

**Absentees.**

If your children are absent or going to be absent from school please inform the school by either method below:

- Phone: 4060159 press 9 at the prompt
- Email: [absent@taipa.school.nz](mailto:absent@taipa.school.nz)