

Taipa Area School

Vibrant Dynamic Hub of the Community

NEWS LETTER

Week	Date	Item
9	2 April - Thursday	Last day of school
Term 2 Week 1	20 April	Teacher Only Day
Term 2 Week 1	21 April	First Day of Term 2
2	28 April - 1 May	Northland Area Schools Tournament

Dear Parents

It has been a short and busy term term 1. As we learn to come to grips with a new system of curriculum delivery we are also taking time to review how things are going. Both teachers and students have had the opportunity to give feedback on how the changes have affected them - what's going well and what's not. What are the things we need to spend more time developing? What are the things we need to sideline for the time being and what things should we not continue with at all? These are the questions that we are asking ourselves as we review or progress so far.

I believe without looking at the feedback data yet that there are things that we need to pay attention to. Definately some students are thriving in the new environment while others are finding things difficult. Overall students seem happier and more engaged. I note a positive upwards trend in our attendance data particularly in the senior part of the school.

At the end of the day any change should equate to an improvement of learning outcomes for all students. We are not interested in change for the sake of change.

Teacher Only Day 20 April

There is a Teacher Only Day scheduled for the first day of next term. Teachers are taking this day to work with Pam Hook who is a nationally renowned expert on Solo Taxonomy. This is a thinking process that aims to develop a students ability to move from simple ideas to more complex ones and apply them to any learning situation. NCEA and associated achievement standards for example are structured on the concepts of Solo Taxonomy. As a school we want to develop with our community, a shared and explicit interpretation of what thinking and learning looks like in any given situation.

Novice Girls make 250m final at Secondary Waka Ama Nationals 2015

Last week the Secondary Waka Ama Nationals were held on Lake Tikitapu (Blue Lake) near Rotorua. This was a magnificent event with over 65 secondary schools from around the country involved in the week long competition.

Sam Moe was first up to represent Taipa in the Junior 19 singles (W1) 250m. This was an incredibly competitive division for Sam, a novice in singles paddling. She was up against a number of experienced paddlers- many of whom paddle for clubs outside of school and have been paddling and competing since they were 7 or 8 years old. Sam only just missed out on making the 250m Plate Final by one second (which equates to one stroke of the paddle). Great effort Sam.

Our Junior 16 crew, consisting of Shania Shaw, Zana Yates, Maya Lingard, Celine Conaglen, Haylee Manukau-McEwan, Madi Moa, captained and steered by Toria Walker competed in both the 205m and 500m team events. These novice girls had their work cut out for them, vying for semi and final spots with 72 other J16 girls crews over 9 heats in their division. It was really exciting for our girls to come in 6th place in the 250m Plate final on the last day of competition. This was an awesome achievement and a very proud moment for us all.



J16 W6 crew; Haylee, Shania, Maya, Celine, Toria, Zana, and Madi



J19 W1; Sam

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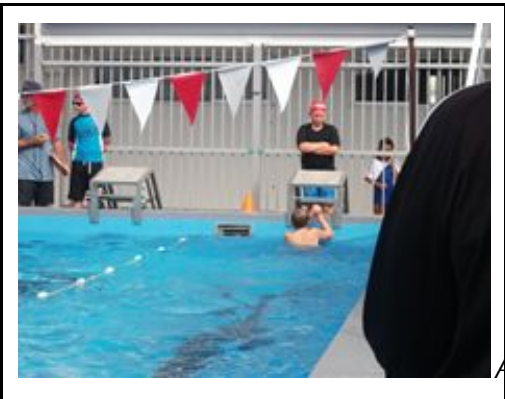
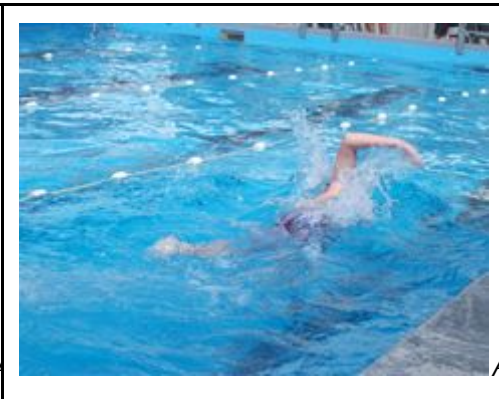
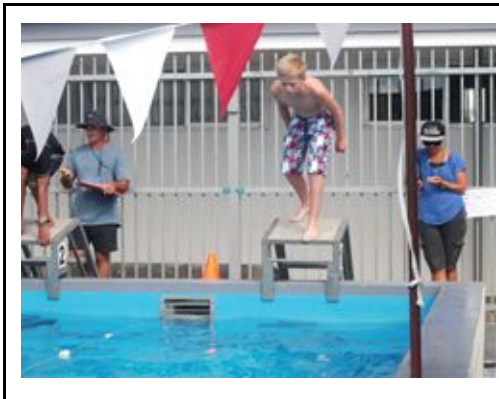
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On Friday 20th March all students from years 5 - 13 had the opportunity to take part in the last house competition of Spirit Week. The course started at the bottom of Taipa beach and students ran a course which took them around the sailing club and up to the bridge. Students had the opportunity to jump off the bridge or enter the water from the shore line. Students then swam down to the jetty. Overall we had over 80 students compete. The staff were very proud with how the students maintained their focus throughout the course. There were some outstanding performances by Porowini Derbyshire, Luke Wilson, Rory Jones, Gabrielle Johns, Haylee Manukau-McEwan and Shania Shaw.



