

TAUPO INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

Striving for Excellence

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Kia ora koutou te whanau o tenei kura,

te kura Waenga o Taupo

Greetings to all of our families

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In My Opinion:

As we continue to watch the drama unfold each day in Christchurch we must surely begin to understand and better appreciate life, security and what is important and what is superficial. Do my own wants and needs begin to fade or will they suddenly become more prominent once the broadcasts are reduced on television? It does make you think about what is important, about us making decisions and not to 'sweat the small stuff'. Let's keep hoping that things will settle down and people can start to think about a normal life or as normal as it will ever be.

I attended a meeting with Intermediate Principals from the Waikato and Bay of Plenty, our guest was the Minister of Education, who spoke about the damage to various schools in Christchurch. Some would not be reopened while others will be repaired, and some schools will have temporary buildings put into place. Some students will be relocated to other schools, and as in our case, students will be enrolled from Christchurch with us and other schools throughout the country. We know that there is a need to try to return to some form of normality as soon as is possible and schools are the place for kids to get back on board with their mates, their routines and focused activities.

Our Minister of Education, Anne Tolley, couldn't tell us for how long this situation would last, or how long the shifts and the repairs would take, only that it will take a huge chunk of money to rectify.

As the Principal of Taupo Intermediate, which I would consider to be a big school, I sometimes stress out about something happening here, and it sometimes takes days to resolve or for me to be calm again. I have stressed out about our building programmes and the delays here, and now I can only sit back and admire the performances of such people as Bob Parker the Mayor of Christchurch, into his second round of damage control and John Key Prime Minister who has gone from earthquake to mining disaster and back to earthquake damage control. The Civil Defence Coordinator and the rescue crews from throughout the world. New Zealand can be so proud of their reputation here and overseas and this was truly evident when they came to help so quickly. You can see the tired looks and despair every time someone brings news about the recovery process, and yet they have to maintain a positive face.

I say they deserve our continued support - Kia Kaha, Kia Toa, Kia Manawanui.

We have held a "Mufti Day" to support the fundraising for the Schools in the affected areas, raising a grand total well over \$1450. We have decided to give our funds directly to the schools via the Principals' Association group in Christchurch. A special mention to Room 8 who raised a handsome total of \$325.

Thank you to everyone for your efforts and continued support this week, and final thoughts:

- *We need our professional sports team to front up for their games, as we are a sporting nation, games at times relieves the mind of what is around them and maybe it lifts the spirit of a community as well.*

W D CLARKE - Principal

Life in our school continues with

- The large number of entries in the Across the Lake Swim on Saturday and the Ironkidz event on Sunday. We were rewarded for our participation as a school, being the second largest representation of our age group. It was great to see our students who have gone on to secondary school continuing to participate and do so well, - Karl Smith, Jack Davies, Nicole Scott, Nicole Van der Kaay, Beth Owen, Stephanie Johnston and Ella Reardon to name a few. Well done to Rob McKnight and crew from Waipahihi School. A great way to start the week off for the NZ Ironman event.
- Our School Swimming Sports being held on Tuesday and during our programme we did stop and take some time out to reflect and support the people of Christchurch. It was great to see the large number of pupils participating and great finishes to the class relays.
- All our athletes participating in the various events this week, the splash and dash, cycling, running etc
- Our Athletes going to Mount Maunganui on Friday for the “splash, kayak and dash” event, formerly the Quadathon which we have dominated in the past with our strong cycling presence. Funny that the cycling leg has been removed from this event?
- The Ironman event where our staff will again be manning/womaning the run leg at 5 Mile Bay recording and checking numbers and of course giving lots of advice and support. I want to wish Cameron Brown all the best as he deserves to win his 10th Ironman title, what a truly amazing achievement that would be and to Jo Lawn in her endeavours. – Awesome role models for dedication and training.
- Good luck and best wishes to all those from Taupo who have entered as well, truly a personal achievement to be treasured.
- And to all the volunteers and workers your efforts also reflect the positive community spirit of Taupo as the Events Capital of New Zealand.
- **Kayak Team Trials** will be held over the next two weeks, students should have registered their interest with Mr Haydon.

Triathlon: Thanks again to all the parents who helped out at the two triathlons last week.

National Schools

Triathlon Championship:

These have now been moved to Jacks Point, Queenstown on the 31st March. We will not be sending a team, but please let Mr Haydon know if you intend entering your child, we may be able to help with the entry fee.

At the same time are the BOP Open Water Swim and the BOP Touch competition.

Taupo Intermediate Swimming Championships:

Well done to all the competitors and supporters at Tuesday’s event. Top classes
Year 7 were Rooms 4 (1st), 21 (2nd) and 8 (3rd)
Year 8 Rooms 16 (1st), 22 (2nd) and 20 (3rd)

In the individual elite competition the following students excelled.

Year 7 Girls: 1st Kirsten Robinson, 2nd Gabrielle Hannen and 3rd Nina Lawson

Year 7 Boys: 1st = Matthew Lockett, Ryan Moffitt & Ben Cudby

Year 8 Girls: 1st Claire Hume, 2nd Caitlin Taylor & 3rd Emma Cordell

Year 8 Boys: 1st Bradley McKnight, 2nd Jordan Milne and 3rd Jesse Guillemot

Across the Lake Swim:

Last Saturday 45 of our students completed the 1km swim, and five in the 4.2km leg of the Across the Lake Swim. Conditions were ideal with all swimmers happy to be able to tick off another goal in their Bevan Docherty Award. While most were just keen to complete the distance, top times were as follows: 1km – Caitlin Taylor 16.27, Alice Orr 18.27 and Natasha Donald 19.32. 4. 2km – Claire Hume 1.16.47, Bradley McKnight 1.16.51 and Emma Cordell 1.26.55.

Ironkidz:

Great to see a large number of our current, and ex-students at the Ironkidz on Sunday. Many after swimming across the Lake the previous day. Well done to all who competed and congratulations to those who gained podium finishes. Thanks also to the staff that assisted at both events.

Taupo Junior Rugby

Registrations will be taken in our school hall
Monday 7th March at 8.00 - 8.45am and then 2.45 - 3.45pm.

Registration forms will be given out today as parents will need to fill it in and sign. No registration will be taken without fees being paid (\$40/individual, \$60/two siblings and \$10/sibling after that). **No eftpos is available.**

There will be two other registration opportunities at Owen Delaney Park between 10am - 1pm on the 19th & 26th March. Late registrations will be accepted at Sports House. No registrations will be taken after Easter holidays.

Please do not hesitate to contact Sofia if you have any questions on e-mail
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