

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:

This week has been an interesting one for the country and for our school, with new and used political parties being formed and restructured, questions about expenditure at governmental level, and with all this we sit and wait our fate. With all this “palaver”, with the political parties and their fighting for votes, begs the question, what difference is it going to make to our lives, to our lifestyle, and in some cases our very survival? We seem to hear a lot of criticism of what the present government is doing, but not many solutions or alternative policies being shared.

The pressures that are exerted on families today, have an effect on student performance at school, and in my opinion an unfair burden. How do we expect students to perform to National Standards if we surround them with tension and uncertainty, whether mum or dad have work, whether mortgages will be met, the price of goods and services and the upcoming winter months?

Some of our political leaders are promoting the removal of GST from essential food items and the argument is, ‘what constitutes an essential food item’? Some believe that this will encourage people to spend more on these essentials, and that, I am not sure will happen.

At present half the world thinks that the new Kentucky Fried Burger is “essential” as it has all these special food values attached to it. Some think there should be an extra tax on take away foods as they are major contributors to our obesity and health problems including death rates.

I suggest that we remove the tax on essential goods such as the fuel, petrol, diesel, gas and also on domestic power and visits to the doctor and prescription medicines. The reason is, they are not debatable items but are crucial in household budgets, and fuel for example has a flow on effect to transport systems.

For example the transport of food to the supermarkets has risen so the cost is recovered from the sale of goods. Take the GST off and there is no need to raise prices. The health issues are important for families, so a reduction in costs here will have direct benefits to the family budget and would in fact encourage people to seek medical care instead of avoiding it.

I don’t believe that we can guarantee that the money saved with No GST on essential food items will in fact be spent in the right areas. It wouldn’t be hard to change the fuel price structure as they have shown they can do that over night. The money saved in these areas is clear cut and the savings will have immediate effect on household budgets, and then less impact on some of our students who attend our school.

Speaking of our students, it is great to see so many of them continue to be so positive with a lot continuing to experience success at all levels. Last week we took a group to the Literacy Quiz held at Tauranga Intermediate School on Thursday evening where our two teams finished with a 5th and 6th placing. Thank you to Mrs Sandham and Miss Olsen for their preparation of the teams, and for their ‘expert’ driving home in foggy conditions at the conclusion of the event, arriving in Taupo around midnight.

The next day I attended the Bay of Plenty Kayaking competition at Waimarino complex in Tauranga with Baz Haydon and a group of our kayakers. We had a good day with some individual podium finishes, and also securing second overall in the Teams Championship to Tauranga Intermediate – again.

This week we were also entertained by Dylan Ellise – with his drumming show and it was well supported by our classes. We have had classes visiting the Waiouru Army Museum as part of their ANZAC study.

We have also spent some time organising our pupils into Specialisation groups which will operate on Thursday from 11.45am-12.45pm. The groups provide a wide range of activities from construction to creations, visual and performing arts and our aim will be to provide some exciting classes for all our students.

We also announced our intention to organise a Taupo Intermediate School Has Talent contest with the auditions and selections being held at the end of this term 2 and the finals being held in the last week of Term 3 culminating in a performance show and static Arts exhibition.

Sunday at 2pm Baz Haydon and myself will be taking 19 students away to Napier for the Leadership Course which we are all excited about, and will be working with Taradale and Illminster Intermediates. This is a new venture for us and will no doubt determine our future involvement. We return on Tuesday at 5pm.

Have a great weekend and go those mighty big trucks, along with all the sports teams and of course the Blues!!

W D CLARKE

Principal

CONGRATULATIONS:

Speaking of talent

- Matilda Fulljames was selected as a finalist in the Term 1 ASICS Sports Awards for the Auckland South region. The awards were judged over the holidays and Matilda was named WINNER of the ASICS Sports Award for Term 1, for the entire region.
- The calibre of entries was extremely high and Matilda's win is testament to her achievements.
- The ASICS Sports Awards are open to all Year 7 and 8 students who have achieved outstanding sporting results, or who have defied the odds to achieve sporting success at an intermediate school. Five regional winners are named each term from across New Zealand.
- As the regional winner, Matilda wins a \$250 prize pack from ASICS, and is now in the running for the supreme award which will be named in term four. The supreme winner will be invited to follow in the footsteps of the likes of Ross Taylor, Casey Williams and Isaiah Toeava as a sponsored elite ASICS athlete for a year, taking home \$1500 worth of ASICS sports gear to help them reach their sporting goals.
- Taupo Intermediate School has also been sent an array of sports gear as part of the prize package and for this we are grateful.
- Entries are now open for Term 2. Nominations can be made at the awards website: www.asicssportsaward.co.nz and we strongly encourage talented young sports people to enter.
- *We also wish Matilda all the very best for her venture to the States in her quest for "fame and fortune"- along with some ex-pupils of ours, Cameron Smith and Sophie Hill.*

NEWS ON THE TELEGRAPH:

- *Corby Price ex student of Taupo Intermediate School now attending Hamilton Boys High has been selected in the NZ U17 Road Cycling Team and is off to race in Australia in July.*

BOP Inter-Intermediate Kayak Champs

These were held at Waimarino last Friday, involving slalom, sprints, long distance and rescues. The team from Taupo Intermediate of Jordan Milne, Jesse Guillemot, Charlie Rouse, Bradley McKnight, Mathew Forsyth, Isabella Battell, Loren King, Jamie Cudby, Claire Hume and Sarina Towers travelled across on the Thursday morning so they could spend the day training on the course. They then stayed at Omokoroa overnight and on Friday travelled back to Waimarino for the competition on Friday.

The team was placed second in both the boys and girls competitions. While all our students were well placed in their races, Jamie came 1st in the long distance, Claire came 2nd in the girls slalom and Charlie came 2nd in the boys slalom.



Kayak Championships held at Waimarino

BOP/Poverty Bay Amazing Race

Tuesday this week saw six of our students, Natasha Donald, Annabelle Fletcher-Jones, Loren King, Kynan Harrison, Keegan Edwards and Terrell Wichman travel to Mount Maunganui to compete in 'The Amazing Race'. Over 20 schools competed in the Intermediate division, being sent on a quest which involved problem solving, clue & fact finding along with mental and physical agility in a competitive race. The students competed well but were unfortunately unplaced.



Sandcastle Building in the Amazing Race

Mountain Bike Trials:

Trials for our school Mountain Bike Team began on Monday with 19 students racing on the Tourist Trap. Two further trials are planned, with the next one being on Wednesday the 18th of May. Students can attend as many trials as they wish. These trials are being held on the Tourist Trap, Craters of the Moon at 3.45pm.



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