

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 interesting with our apparent lack of tolerance towards those who have migrated to New Zealand, in particular the wearing of a piece of clothing that in fact hides the face of the person, based on religious reasons.

I think it is important that we as a people have open discussion about this, at all levels, and we should include our children in these discussions and let the discussions be informed ones, before we start campaigning and throwing the cot and the toys around. Yes I believe we are a much more tolerant society, as long as we don't try to impose our views on others, or even try to change them.

In our school we have a set uniform, and to attend this school you need to wear it. This is our set rule and policy and we have at times been challenged about the uniform and the wearing of it. Quite clearly, this is a non-debatable issue, there are some clear options that you can choose, but there is still a choice.

I guess when we adopt another country, as our home, we might also need to make some changes in our lives to better fit in. If you change schools then you have to change uniforms and adapt to some of the rules and regulations of the new school. When we recently visited Dubai and Abu Dhabi, we were informed that there were some things that we were not allowed to do in public, which included no shorts or short skirts for my wife, even though the temperature was about 40 degrees. We had to adapt so not to offend the local custom, and there were also some very strict laws about the consumption of alcohol.

I think New Zealand is a great country to live in with its liberal laws and lifestyle, but there are some things that we might not all agree with or find abhorrent. Racism is one that is abhorrent, but disagreeing with the issues involved with ones culture may not necessarily be racism, it could be a lack of understanding or the practice may not fit with our psyche. We hear it all the time in our country from those who have immigrated here, that is, they are proud to be a 'Kiwi' and have adapted to the kiwi way of life. It doesn't mean that one would forget their heritage.

The Tangatawhenua of this land have had to make a number of changes to fit into today's society and throughout time have lost some of the things that are important including our "Reo" and our land. When you visit a marae you need to follow the protocol and it is the tangatawhenua – the people of that land - who make the rules, with very few exceptions to that protocol. When you visit Parliament there are also protocols to follow, even when we visit the bank. In my opinion, you don't get very far by trying to make people do things or by belittling. Try understanding and building knowledge and community capacity.

We have had a fantastic response to our Parent / Teacher / Pupil Interviews with an excellent response. We are positive that we will have all benefited in some way and now have some better understanding of where your child is at, and where we need to be focussing. Next week we will chase up those who missed an interview and hope to finish the term positively. **Thank you to my staff for their preparation and input – a lot of work, thought, and effort is appreciated.**

Can I also congratulate all those students who displayed their **Science Fair Projects in the hall**? I know that a lot of parents took the opportunity to wander around the displays. There were certainly some fantastic efforts and extremely interesting problems to solve or resolve. Great effort folks and the winning entries will be sent to the Bay Of Plenty Science Fair later next term as judged by **Mrs Hemopo - Thank you for coordinating this event.**

Thank you to **Pukekohe High School** for visiting us with an excellent concert and we look forward to next term's visit from Tauranga Boys' College Band.

Well done to the members of our **Chess Team who competed at Tauhara College yesterday and to Mrs Sandham for her organisation-** results later in this bulletin

And speaking of building capacity, we have been processing our roll returns for the Ministry of Education, which happens twice a year, in March and in July. This is where the Ministry of Education wants to know how many pupils are actually in our school. This number determines the ratio of teachers to pupils and also how much money we get from the government for the running of the school – power, water, rates and building maintenance, curriculum development and delivery. We have also been looking at our Attendance and Non- Attendance figures for each class and our school overall. Individual class teachers will discuss any personal issues with you at Parent / Teacher / Pupil conferences particularly if there are any concerns.

Some will be pleased to note that their child has an excellent attendance record and in fact in the school our attendance rate since the beginning of the year is:

- **92.96%** *attendance overall which is excellent.*
- **5.45%** *justified absence - where you have communicated to us the reasons*
- **0.36%** *unjustified absence - where we have not been informed of absence*
- **0.95%** *intermittent Unjustified – random style days*
- **0.29%** *students on overseas holiday.*

Attendance rates for

- **92.91%** *Males*
- **93.01%** *Females*

I was just thinking and have these questions?

- *Are beds and mattresses ever not on special?*
- *When I could afford to invest in a property – another house as a rental – which was a method of saving for my retirement, I am sure that I paid GST at point of sale. Now someone wants to charge me with another tax, called a Capital Gains Tax, when I decide to sell. I can't give it to my kids, as they might be up for a tax, on gifting, of death duties or some other tax. I am moving out of "Sherwood Forest" and I will not be voting for "Phil Hood" or his brother "Robin" and maybe I'll visit the Land of Oz.*

Go the Crusaders. You might have noticed that I am a fan of the Blues, but I am sure the whole country will be behind the Crusaders this weekend. They do deserve the title after their season of travel, but I am sure they will not want the sympathy vote, and I hope they get hold of..... !!

Have a great weekend whatever your passion, and thank you all once again for your awesome support.

Bill Clarke

Principal.

Health Reminders:

We need to remind our pupils and our community about the winter flu and colds, the need to keep your child at home if they are suffering or showing signs of ill health. If in doubt seek medical advice. Please remember that we have up to 530 people on site and we want to keep things under control.

Personal hygiene is important with washing of hands and controlling our coughing and sneezing. An announcement on the radio just the other day indicated that a person sneezing can infect an area of 5 square metres, perhaps a little far-fetched, but if it is, then that is why we need to control ourselves. At school we should be continuously instructing our pupils of the techniques involved, like "sneezing into their sleeve at the elbow joint".

We are also encouraging our pupils to use disposable tissues, and not storing in handkerchiefs, in their pockets, all day. At this stage of the year some of us are prone to "school sores – impetigo", and again we remind you to check your child to see if they have small sores that need to be covered to stop the spread of infection. – **Wash your hands regularly.** – Again seek medical help if you are unsure as these sores can cause long lasting skin scarring.

Jill Curry our health nurse is making herself available each Tuesday from about 11.00am to 1.00pm for any referrals, either, self referrals, teacher referrals or parental requests.

FUNDRAISER IDEA

TAUPO DeBRETTS THERMAL HOT SPRINGS
Taupo Hot Springs has put together a special fundraiser for local Taupo schools, where there is no input needed from school staff or PTA members. We do it all for you! We are offering a 12 month family membership exclusively to school families in the Taupo area.

Normally priced at \$250, our school fundraiser offers this to school families for only \$145, with a further \$20 from each membership sold returned to your school. For \$145, this represents fantastic value for a family (2 adults and up to 4 children aged 3-17 years). You can enjoy all we have to offer for the amazing price of under .40 cents per day!

Membership includes all main thermal pools, fresh water pools, spa pools, our 12 private pools and unlimited access to our 4 story high hydro slide.

BOP/Poverty Bay Intermediate Climbing Champs:

Last Friday our indoor climbing team of: Aly Guillemot, Daisy Morgan, Xanthe Sando, Harrison Painter, James Burr, Ryan Moffitt, Nicole Maisey, Jorja Ward, Sarina Towers, Phoebe Slee, Tash Donald, Emma Fraser, Shaun Warnock, Cameron Merwood and Mathew Forsyth competed at the Events Centre in a competition hosted by Taupo Intermediate. The students showed great skill and for the first time won both the Year 7 and Yr 8 Teams Competition, along with the following top individual placings: Ryan 3rd and James 4th Year 7 boys, Daisy 4th Year 7 girl, Shaun and Cameron 1st equal Year 8 boys, and Nicole 2nd and Jorja 3rd equal in the year 8 girls wall climbing. Then Jorja placed 2nd overall in the table climbing in a time of 5.69 seconds. Thank you to the parents who supported their children and spent a few cold hours belaying all the competitors.

ICAS English:

We plan to hold this test Monday 1st Aug as some of the students are flying out to Noumea the following day.

Class Ski Trips: These are being planned for weeks 3, 4 and 6 of term three; though obviously rely on the mountain getting a good fall of snow before then. Information and forms will not go out until the beginning of next term with the transport, ski hire and lift package expected to cost a maximum of \$45. Encouraging your child to do some work over the holidays to help pay for their trip.

Chess Power Regional Competition

Yesterday 7 students from TIS went to Tauhara College to compete in the 2011 Regional Chess Finals. Six other schools were involved where each student played 7 games. Our results were:

Junior Section - 1st place TIS.

Individual section – joint 2nd place was won by Mathew Forsyth with 5 wins and 1 draw. Mathew also won an **Excellence** certificate, **Credit** certificates went to

Ben Simmons, Ryan Webber, Jack Thompson & Stephen

Hepburn, **Merit** certificates went to Jake Wellington & William McLean.

Well done to all those who took part.



