

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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Tena koutou te whanau o tenei Kura, nau mai haere mai ki te Kura Waenga o Taupo

Greetings to all our families and welcome to Taupo Intermediate School – “the best Intermediate in Taupo”

In my opinion

The following letter from an Otago Boys High Volunteer coach was sent to all parents of the school this week. It is well written and touches on the wider issue that we should all think and empathise before criticising. Worth a read if you like.

Letter from a Volunteer Coach:

Today I heard a comment made about me behind my back. I started to turn around and look, but then decided better of it and kept my eyes on the field.

My wife hears things like this more often than I do, because many of you don't know who she is. She tells me what you say. I have received ... angry emails, full of "suggestions," about who should be playing where and how I... lost that day's game for the kids.

I thought I'd write an open letter to all of you parents, even though I might never send it.

I'll start it this way:

"I am a volunteer." I'm the one who answered the call when the league said they didn't have enough coaches. I understand that you were too busy. I have some news for you. I'm not retired. I'm busy too. I have other children and a job, just like you do. Not only do I not get paid to do this - it costs me money. I see you walk up to the game 15 minutes after it started, still dressed for work. Do you know I've already been here over an hour? Imagine if you had to leave work early nearly every day. I've never seen you at a practice. I'm sure you're plugging away at the office. But I'm out here, on the field, trying my best to teach these children how to play a sport they love, while my bank account suffers.

I know. I make mistakes. In fact, maybe I'm not even that great of a coach. But I treat the kids fairly and with respect. I am pretty sure they like coming to my practices and games, and without me or someone like me, there'd be no team for them to play on. I'm part of this community too and it's no picnic being out here on this stage like this.

It's a lot easier back there with the other parents where no one is second-guessing you.

And I also know you think I give my son or daughter unfair advantages. I try not to. In fact, have you ever considered that maybe I'm harder on him than on the others? I'm sure he hears plenty of criticism at school from classmates, who hear it from you at home, about what a lame coach I am. And if, even unconsciously, my kids are getting a slight advantage because I know them better and trust their abilities, is that the worst thing in the world, considering the sacrifice I'm making?

Trust me, I want to win too. And if your son or daughter could guarantee we'd do that, I'd give them the chance.

After this game is over, I'll be the last one to leave. I have to break down the field, put away all the equipment and make sure everyone has had a parent arrive to pick them up. There have been evenings when my son and I waited with a player until after dark before someone came to get them. Many nights I'm sure you've already had dinner and are relaxing on the couch by the time I finally kick the mud off my shoes and climb into my car, which hasn't been washed or vacuumed for weeks. Why bother cleaning it during the season?

Do you know how nice it would be if, just once, after a game one of you offered to carry the heavy gear bag to my car or help straighten up the field? If I sound angry, I'm not.

I do this because I love it and I love being around the kids. There are plenty of rewards and I remind myself that while you're at the office working, your kid is saying something that makes us all laugh or brings a tear to my eye. The positives outweigh the negatives.

I just wish sometime those who don't choose to volunteer their time would leave the coaching to the few of us who do.

I have taken the liberty of sharing this letter I was sent by a parent who was concerned about the way some coaches are treated when they give of their time to help our students.

As you know we have many opportunities here at Taupo Intermediate, Sporting, Cultural and Academic, and part of our school philosophy, and an expectation of mine, is that we as a staff get involved as well, whether as a coach, manager, supporter and even financier.

A large number of my staff are involved in activities and know that it helps build strong relationships with our students. Seeing them as more than just classroom teachers, and I know that our students enjoy having them coach or manage them.

Winter Sports teams include 10 x netball teams with 2 teachers as Coordinators, who have coaching roles with our Year 7 and 8 A teams, 6 x Hockey teams and 8 x Basketball teams representing the school each week. Along with our teachers we have a fantastic enthusiastic group of parents who either coach or manage and for that we are grateful.

We have more than sport teams, at the moment we have worked with, and taken students away to the Literacy Quiz in Tauranga, and at the end of this term 4 x Maths teams will travel to Hastings for Mathematics, with Maths competitions continuing in Term 3.

Four of my staff are now working on the Major Musical Production. This will involve weekly practices and sometimes weekends, and continue until the performance nights in the second week of October.

Dance is a prominent activity in our school with a teacher assigned to tutor this area, as well as Wearable Arts, TIS Band with Musical Director and a School Singing Group. Dedicated teachers are assigned to all these roles.

I applaud and thank my teachers for their commitment beyond their classroom, and I applaud and thank our parents for your generous and continued support.

You will see myself, or Baz Haydon at all of these venues consistently throughout the year. We do this because we think what our students are doing is important for them, for our school, and for their families.

PLEASE SUPPORT ALL OUR COACHES, MANAGERS, DIRECTORS, TUTORS AND STUDENTS – WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER AND WE ARE HERE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

- **LIT Quiz** was held in Tauranga on a very wet and miserable Tuesday night – 22nd May 2018, with 2 x teams travelling with Cassie Nicholson and myself leaving here at 3pm and returning to Taupo by 12 midnight. Our top team gaining 3rd place with the second team coming in 14th.
- **Waikato/BOP Road Cycling Comp:** On Wednesday 23rd May Gabby Donald, Rachel Mace, Joseph Brown, Lucan de Roo, Dylan Gardiner and Kasper Lenoir travelled to Paterangi, where they competed in the Waikato/BOP Road Cycling Champs. Though leaving in the rain, the weather cleared during the morning and the race was held in calm conditions. The boys raced first, all competing well, with Kasper placing third in the Year 8 Boys, while the Year 7 Boys gained valuable experience. The girls then followed, Rachel unfortunately fell and was unable to finish the race, while Gabby put in an amazing effort, coming 1st in the Year 7 Girls. Well done.
- **Sponsored Clean-up:** This event is being held next Tuesday 29th May, with buses arranged, weather looking good, and most students having sponsors and keen to help. All classes require parent help and supervision during this event, so please if you are at all available, offer up your time for this worthy event.
- **Epro 8:** Last night our top team of Jessica Thomsen, Summer Maulder, Jack Painter and Ben Chapman competed in Rotorua against 12 finalists from the Taupo, Rotorua and Whakatane regions. The team worked well together on difficult problems, gaining fourth place. Congratulations.

Wiremu

The following children played in the NZMSM Taupo/Tongariro Area competitions on Saturday and achieved great results:-

Caitlyn Whittaker – 3 Gold, 3 Silver, 1 Bronze, 1 VHC. **Trophy Winner** - Contemporary 12 years and under Trophy, Modern 12 Years and under Trophy, 2nd Overall Points Trophy
Charlotte Rosenberg - 2 Gold, 4 Silver, **Trophy Winner** -Modern Piano 10 years and under, Most Promising Beginner 1st =
Eloise Allerton - 1 Bronze, 2 Very Highly Commended, 1 Highly Commended
Lucas Neill – 3 gold, 2 silver
Nanami Ishikawa - 1 Gold, 1 silver, 2 bronze, 2 HC
Neeve Buckingham - 1 Gold, 2 Bronze, **Trophy Winner** - Boogie Woogie 11 years
Nuthara Manuwelge – 2 Gold, 1 Silver, 2 Bronze, 2 VHC, **Trophy Winner** – Boogie Woogie 12 years Trophy
Pippa Nelley – 1 Silver, 1 VHC, 1 HC
Rory Mackintosh - 2 Silver
Rowan Davies – 1 Gold, 1 Bronze, **Trophy Winner** - Duet 12 Year Trophy'
Udula Bandara – 1 Gold, 1 VHC, **Trophy Winner** – Boogie Woogie 13 & 14 Yrs Trophy

The Teachers from NZ MSM would like to congratulate all these students on their hard work and great results.



The Kids Greening Taupo group has started during Specialisation time on Thursdays. The group of 40 students will be planting two areas of the school (pictured) as part of the Taupo wide project to restore biodiversity. This week the students took a quick trip to Opepe bush to see what much of the Taupo area would have been like before human arrival. Next Thursday we will meet a representative from the Waikato District Council at Spa Park to look at some of the restoration projects that are happening there. Students will then have to decide what needs to be planted in the two allocated areas of the school to help restore biodiversity.



We have had a few cases of Head Lice in some classes recently. There is a Prescription treatment for Head lice available **FREE** by request at the doctor's surgery.

Please inform the office of **new addresses and phone numbers** for student contacts. With the winter chills amongst us, we are having more sickly students who we have been unable to contact parents or caregivers due to new phone numbers or change of address.