

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 our families

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Tena koutou te whanau o tenei Kura, nau mai haere mai ki te Kura Waenga o Taupo, “te kura pai o Intermediate i Taupo”
Greetings to all our families and welcome to Taupo Intermediate School – “the best Intermediate in Taupo”.

In my opinion:

“Education is the great engine of personal development. It is through education that the daughter of a peasant can become a doctor, that the son of a mineworker can become the head of the mine, that a child of farm workers can become the president of a great nation. It is what we make out of what we have, not what we are given, that separates one person from another.” —Nelson Mandela- Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela was a South African [anti-apartheid](#) revolutionary, political leader, and philanthropist who served as [President of South Africa](#) from 1994 to 1999. He was the country's first black head of state and the first elected in a [fully representative](#) democratic election.

Thank you to all those parents who turned up to our Meet the Parent Teacher evening.

This evening was for us to share with you, important information about our school culture, “which is the way we do things around here”. I met with parents first in the hall, and then parents went off with their child’s teacher to listen to them share their thoughts and ideas for 2020.

They were able to share with you the classroom organisation and events that your child will be involved in particularly this term. They discussed some curriculum programmes and units of work, but one thing they could not share was an individual profile of your child’s progress and achievements.

In fact, for the first few weeks of school the teachers will be collecting data about your child, to add to the information gathered from their past teacher/school from 2019. Some of this information was gathered during our Orientation visits back in October 2019, and the year 6 teachers were interviewed by our teachers responsible for putting the classes together for 2020, and as you can imagine it has been a huge task.

We will continue to gather further information with some testing being carried out now. The testing and evaluation going on now, will help us determine the accuracy of the information received, and therefore determine the learning levels for your child. Following the analysis of this information we will put together a written report, with the processed results and sent out to you via their personal portfolios by the end of Term 1.

This information will also give you an indication of what Curriculum levels your child is working at, and then at the end of this year we should be able to determine the levels they have achieved.

Believe me when I say, we have a wide range of abilities, special needs – learning and behavioural, gifts and talents in our classes and we will endeavour to cater for individual needs, but we also have to balance this with the time available for every pupil.

❖ **LOCKDOWN – Thursday 13th February 2020**

A decision to put our school on lockdown at 1.00pm was made by the Principal, and not the decision of the Police. It was based on information phoned to me by one of my Teachers on the main field, who saw a large contingent of armed Police on Kiddle Drive. The Police action was in reaction to a phone call they received.

We didn’t wait for any “official notification” but took the action to go into Lockdown so that our students would not go down the field to see what was happening.

Within 2- 3 minutes of the bells continuous ringing, our students raced to their classrooms where they took refuge and remained in their classrooms until we were given the all clear by the Police. The police officer who came in give us the “stand-down order” thought our actions were spot on and followed correct procedure by enforcing a lockdown.

The lockdown for us means, all those onsite will restrict themselves inside a building and retire to a safe place, which includes the continuous ringing of our school bell, locking doors, closing windows, blinds and curtains.

The administration offices etc are all included and therefore you cannot expect to get someone to answer our school phones.

Once the lockdown was lifted, we undertook a number of things:

Senior management team – Principal and Deputy/Assistant Principals approached each classroom individually, checked that all was ok and then the students and teacher were able to get about their school day. The doors were not opened to anyone else regardless, as the teachers have been informed that they cannot be placed in a situation of trying to decide who and when it is safe. They will know when we, Senior Management tell them.

We would /could place some restrictions as to where students might be able to go once released.

For example, yesterday the students were not allowed to go onto the main field until all the police contingent had departed. No persons will be allowed to leave or enter until the lockdown has been lifted.

Yesterday following the clearance, a written brief was then sent to all teachers to read and reassure our students as to what did or did not happen.

I have to add, that I was extremely proud of the way the students and staff reacted in a very mature and professional way.

Communication to the community was via our App and Facebook.

Things that made our job difficult during this lockdown period:

- is the numerous phone calls coming into the office - My office staff have specific tasks to perform on lockdowns before they look after themselves so can't be interrupted – They will not be in a position to give you any information.
- Trying to pick up your child is not possible during lockdown because someone has to go to the classroom to get your child out, and the staff are not allowed to open the door to anyone except our to our Senior Management who will not go into the grounds until cleared.

We have to work together on this and be confident that we will do the best we can in the circumstances.

Communication Systems are an important part of our school.

- **Administration Meeting** held at 8.00am on the first working day of the week where the staff will be provided with information about upcoming events for the week.
- **Daily 9.00am News** which is emailed to every classroom every day and teachers are required to present these notices to the class and where applicable explain what the activities and requirements are.
- **A School Newsletter** will be published each Friday with a hard copy given to each student. This hard copy system will be phased out and the newsletter will be available via email, website, etc. Some of you may still need to receive a hard copy and that we will do.
- **Class Teachers** will send home letters from time to time to provide information that is pertaining to their class or team event.
- During the school day you may wish to call into the school, but you must come into the office and sign in or check in before proceeding to the classroom.
- All these notices and events about these events are followed up at our **Weekly Assembly** which normally takes place each **Friday @11.45am**. At the assembly we also acknowledge our successes with the presentation of Class certificates and event medals etc.
It is also an opportunity for invited guests to come and share their thoughts and ideas with us.
- **Megan Simpson our new Deputy Principal shared the new School APP**

❖ SCHOOL FUNDING

This year Decile 1- 7 schools have been placed into a scheme to accept a handout from the government of \$150 per student, and schools have been advised that they can only ask for donations / financial support for activities in the school. Schools cannot ask for School fees but can ask for donations under strict guidelines.

At Taupo Intermediate all activities that are part of our curriculum, we will not be asking for financial support.

Hence this year we have not asked for the \$120.00 - Technology fee. Funding for the consumable components such as cooking ingredients for Food Technology will come from this fund, as well as i.e. Social Science Field trips – to visit the Army Museum. For the past 5 years Taupo Intermediate School has not asked for any donations as we encouraged you all to be part of our Laptop Programme. The Laptop programme is a voluntary scheme and therefore you will be charged for the cost of this. All those students not involved in the Laptop scheme will be issued with a dedicated Workstation/ Desk Top.

- All non- curricula activities such as
 - Any sports trips, cultural or academic competitions as these are not compulsory
 - Camps and Day trips will also come under this category
 - In the past our Year 8 camps have cost \$230 for transport, accommodation, food and activities while Year 7 day activities have cost \$85

For us to carry out these opportunities this year, we will be asking for your financial assistance.

- Unfortunately for us, and other schools, the type of activities and future involvement in such activities will be determined by the size of the budget which in some cases will see the loss of opportunities for your children.
- I am available for discussions with individuals if you wish to seek clarification of our intentions.

These are some of the events that were publicised during this week for example: Do you know if your child is involved in any of these activities?

- Our current Lunchtime Inter Class competition is Rippa Rugby
- Warning - The famous Taupo Intermediate Teaching Staff – finely tuned athletes will be involved in the length the Lake Walk / Run –Saturday 15th February 2020
- Taupo Intermediate School Swimming Sports will be on Monday 24th February 2020 here at our own school pool with the Year 8's in the morning and the year 7s in the afternoon
At Lunchtime our pool is also open on alternate days for Year 7's and Year 8s
- Across the Lake Swim (1km, 2km & 4.2km), is being held on Saturday 29th February 2020 @ 3 x Mile Bay Ramp area
- Taupo Intermediate Triathlon will be held on Monday 16th March 2019 @ Wharewaka Point starting @ 12.20pm – we would like some cooperation by delivering bikes directly to Wharewaka at around 10.00am. The event will have both Individual and Team Triathlons.
- Selection for Leadership Camp 19th - 20th March 2020 in association with Taupo Nui a Tia – 3 students from each class making up a group of 60-70 x students.
- This group will be then reduced to 20 students selected to attend a further camp to be held in Napier, hosted by Taradale Intermediate (Hawke Bay) with Ilminster (Gisborne) Northcross (Auckland) Intermediate students – 6th –8th April 2019
- Running, Cycling and Swimming trials will be held for the upcoming Waikato/Bay of Plenty / New Zealand Duathlon /Triathlons events.
- The TIS BAND and DANCE groups will be starting this term with the KAPA HAKA group starting in Term 2

Thank you for the continued support and lets all have a great weekend.

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