

# 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

Newsletter Number: 06  
Date: 13 March 2020



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”.

**“Only the unknown frightens men. But once a man has faced the unknown, that terror becomes the known.”** — *Antoine de Saint-Exupéry* *Antoine Marie Jean-Baptiste Roger, comte de Saint-Exupéry, simply known as de Saint-Exupéry, was a French writer, poet, aristocrat, journalist, and pioneering aviator. He became a laureate of several of France's highest literary awards and also won the United States National Book Award. He is best remembered for his novella [The Little Prince](#) (Le Petit Prince) and for his lyrical aviation writings, including [Wind, Sand and Stars](#) and [Night Flight](#).*

## In my opinion:

It is a difficult time for all of us in the country and of course in our school with the concerns about how this virus will affect us. Schools have been given advice on a regular basis from the Ministry of Education and in today's newsletter I have include the latest from the Secretary for Education.

It is however necessary for us to continue to undertake our role as educators and for our students to remain focussed on their learning and on all the wonderful activities we are providing. The busier we are the less time we will have to worry about the unknown.

This week we sent out some communication about our “**Triadic Goal Setting Interviews**” – involving our students, teachers and you the parents. The information provided included the administration and organization required for these to take place, so please follow the instructions for getting involved.

- **There is a change of the days programme on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 where we will be finishing our academic classes at 1.00pm to allow us to devote the afternoon and evening to the interviews**
- **Booking for these interviews is ONLINE : to do this you need to go to <https://www.schoolinterviews.co.nz/> and enter the CODE: 3x 532**

Sometime during the week Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020 we will be releasing information about the **Reporting for Parents** process following our revaluation of our systems and reviewing the purpose. This will clarify clearly what and when we will be providing and discussing information about your child learning.

## School Triathlon at Wharewaka Point: Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2020

### The starting order will be:

Individual Year. 8 boys, Year 8 girls, Year 7 boys, Year 7 girls and then the Duathlon Event.

**The Year 8 boys will start at 12.30pm**, with the remaining starts approximately 5 minutes apart. Where at all possible we ask that parents take their child's bike out to the event as we have over 125 bikes required at the start. **We will have staff on site from 9.30am**, though bikes can be dropped off up until 12.10pm. The students will be bussed out to Wharewaka Point and back to school after the event. However, if parents wish to take their child with them after the event, they can sign them out from there. Students who live nearby and wish to walk or cycle home afterwards will require a note.

**Waikato Schools Triathlon:** Congratulations to all students who competed at the Waikato Schools Individual Triathlon on Wednesday, excellent effort and top results by Year 8's: **Lewis Campbell 1<sup>st</sup>, Danilo Brandon 3<sup>rd</sup>, Tom Weston 6<sup>th</sup>, Finn Wigram 8<sup>th</sup>, with Emma Speedy 4<sup>th</sup> Year 8 girl. Year 7's: Oliver Barnett 2<sup>nd</sup> and Louie Cameron 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

**Taupo Half Marathon:** As part of the Bevan Docherty Award students are required to run or walk the 21km Taupo Half Marathon. Total Sport who run the event have placed an age limit on all their events (15yrs for the Half Marathon), but have offered to allow our students to enter the Half Marathon via the following discounted method: If parents could go on the following link <https://www.registernow.com.au/secure/Register.aspx?E=37791&G=115043>. Then sign their child up to the 10km event and pay the Youth 10km fee. Closer to the event the organisers will move all students in the group up to the 21km event at no extra cost. Unfortunately, adults would still need to enter their correct event and age group.

## Laptops

“Thank you once again for your support for our Laptop Programme. We have issued all the laptops that we originally ordered, as well as some laptops we received last week. There are limited numbers available from our supplier with no ETA into the country for future orders due to the disruption to the supply chains caused by the effects of **COVID-19**. However, through our close contact with our suppliers, they have agreed to put on hold a limited number for our school until next week.

So, if you would still like your child to be a part of this scheme, then you will need to have paid your deposit by end of school Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020. Our final order will then be sent on Thursday for any remaining laptops we need. - **Jon wood T.I.S**

**Laptop Programme Coordinator Taupo Intermediate**

## **REMINDERS:**

- **HEALTH AND SAFETY DIRECTIVE - You are required to sign in and check in** at the office during school hours and not just wander down to classrooms. Teachers are unavailable for meetings during class time. Please make an appointment through the office – 07 3788097
- **Students who are checking out during the school day** need to be checked through our office system
- **MINISTRY OF EDUCATION LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENT - ALL ABSENCES** need clarification and or Justification by Parents / Caregivers. Absences are recorded on our Ministry Data base so you will need to contact us as to why the absence has occurred.
- **HEALTH AND SAFETY DIRECTIVE - DON'T** use the driveway into the school in the morning and after-school as we have 10 x buses picking up and dropping off from this entrance each day as well as students walking into schools.

**THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE STUDENTS, PARENTS /CAREGIVERS WHO ARE FOLLOWING THESE PRECEDURES YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT IS VERY MUCH APPRECIATED  
HAVE A GREAT WEEKEND!!**

## *Wiremu*

### **NZAIMS**

This week I attended a meeting with the Manager of the Ministry of Education in Wellington in my role as Executive member for NZAIMS – New Zealand Association Intermediate Middle Schools – the Principal lead group representing the aspirations and learning needs of the students aged 10 – 14, their teachers and their communities.

It gives me and our group, the opportunity to meet with those key people who make the decisions that directly affect our school and community and although I believe it will be a challenging role, I commit to keep our students as the centre of our decisions. Following our meeting with the Ministry of Education we have been asked to keep our communities informed of school requirements particularly with the COVID – 19 virus **so the following is an update bulletin from the Secretary for Education as of the 12<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

### **Kia ora**

You may have seen that the World Health Organization has now declared COVID-19 to be a pandemic. As noted by the Minister of Health, this doesn't change what New Zealand is doing to respond to coronavirus.

The Ministry of Health has been working through its pandemic plan since January. You will also know the Government has already implemented a range of measures to minimize the impacts to New Zealand. This includes border restrictions, a requirement to self-isolate on arrival in New Zealand from China, Iran, Italy and the Republic of Korea and immediate and detailed contact tracing of any confirmed cases. It is important to note those four countries account for more than 90% of cases globally and China and the Republic of Korea have significantly declining numbers of new cases.

We have 5 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in New Zealand and it is pleasing to know they are all doing well and are at home. Their children, four students at Auckland schools, continue to be well and show no symptoms. While we expect that more cases will arise, the Ministry of Health says that with continued vigilance the chance of widespread community outbreak is expected to remain low in New Zealand. We all have a role to play in this.

For our school, our pandemic plan is also ready to be implemented if needed. In the meantime we will continue to focus on good hygiene practices. Hand washing and good cough etiquette are very important tools in preventing the spread of illness including colds, flu and COVID-19.

With that, there is a good video clip from Nanogirl that will help your children to better understand the virus - YouTube clip - Nanogirl <<https://govt.us3.list-manage.com/track/click?u=2f59fcd18a691d315b5a045cb&id=90d68764de&e=447ce61ac7>>

You may have also seen the Prime Minister sat down with Dr Michelle Dickinson (aka Nanogirl) and the Prime Minister's Chief Science Advisor, Juliet Gerrard, to talk about coronavirus:

\* Watch on the PM's Facebook page <<https://govt.us3.list-manage.com/track/click?u=2f59fcd18a691d315b5a045cb&id=6e33302b02&e=447ce61ac7>>

\* Read and watch on the Newshub website <<https://govt.us3.list-manage.com/track/click?u=2f59fcd18a691d315b5a045cb&id=2ce34b1e76&e=447ce61ac7>>

One other action we can all take is to be vigilant about our own health and the health of our children. I will be encouraging my staff to stay away from school if they are showing signs of illness such as coughs and colds. I ask that you please do the same with your children. Colds and flus are common in schools and by staying away, seeking medical attention and practicing good hygiene, we can all keep any spread of illness to a minimum.

### **Ngā mihi**

**Iona Holsted - Secretary for Education** <[bulletin@education.govt.nz](mailto:bulletin@education.govt.nz)>