



# TAUPO INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL



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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".**

**"Of all the hardships a person had to face, none was more punishing than the simple act of waiting."**

— Khaled Hosseini is an American novelist and physician. After graduating from college, he worked as a doctor in California, a predicament that he likened to "an arranged marriage." He has published three novels, most notably his 2003 debut *The Kite Runner*, all of which are at least partially set in Afghanistan and feature an Afghan as the protagonist. Following the success of *The Kite Runner* he retired from medicine to write full-time. Hosseini was born in Kabul, Afghanistan.

### ***In my opinion***

A huge greeting to everyone out there in "lockdown land". I trust that you are all very well and that you are looking forward with great anticipation to a bit more freedom.

This time is certainly a new experience for most of us, with some of our community who can relate to earlier similar experiences of epidemics that had devastating effects on their lives.

I think it is important to not concentrate too much on the "figures" and think that New Zealand has done very well but we should be prepared for the aftermath and how we will need to work very hard to get ourselves back to a normal way of life.

It is too early to be congratulating ourselves on how well we have done. What we should be bracing ourselves for is the impact of what is to come.

With all that though I believe we can be proud of the efforts of our Taupo Community for respecting the lockdown process in the majority of cases and for looking after each other. After all, you may not have been directly working in an "essential service," but your commonsense approach and deliberate actions have meant that we have had limited numbers of cases.

So, 'aroha' to us all and let's roll up our sleeves and get down to work.

To our students, I miss having our school open and being involved with you in all those wonderful activities and the constant interaction, and I know it has been difficult for you as well, so I /we are looking forward to the day we will open again even in a limited capacity

I am proud of the way you have taken on your "online learning" opportunities and kept involved with the communication systems your teachers have set up. This type of learning will be with us for a while longer so don't tear down your work-spaces at home, because as I mentioned we are only just beginning this 'mahi'.

I am also very proud of our commitment to our Laptop Scheme that has enabled our students to access this online learning in a very seamless and productive way. Just last Tuesday Jon Wood and my-self put together and couriered out a further 20 x laptops to students who did not have them.

In fact, we have 648 students on our roll and have 8 x students who still need devices. We have 22 students who would need hard copy work-packs because they don't have internet access? We are hoping that the Ministry of Education will be able to fill the void to assist our students.

Kerri Robinson, Assistant Principal responsible for Special Education along with Linda Adams our Learning Support Coordinator spend today, Friday putting together Work Packs for our students with High Learning Needs and these were couriered out this afternoon.

Just two more examples of how we are helping our students out there, while all our staff are working n providing programmes for online learning and Senior management, Baz and Megan, working on systems that we will put into place in our school once we have been “released”.

To all you mums and dads, grand-parents and wider whanau, you have been so supportive, and you are still wonderful teachers in your own right. You have supported us by ensuring that your child/ren have taken on the tasks that have been set by their teachers and this will be a continuing challenge.

I know that you will also face challenges in present and future employment, financial worries and in some cases an inability to get back to your places of work and that there will be frustrating times ahead. You have our continued support and we will endeavor to keep these things in mind in our communications and expectations. Please keep in touch using our “comms systems” in our school for whatever reason.

To my staff, one can only state the obvious, that you are hard-working, that you keep our students at the heart of your thinking and our school, and, that your work is often under-appreciated, but certainly not from our community. Thank you to all those who have sent daily messages of support which we are proud to share amongst ourselves.

It was only recently that we were fighting for a respectable monetary reward for our work and we got a small token of appreciation. What value can we place on the work you have done and will be expected to do in the weeks and months to come??

Our satisfaction really, is that we will see the fruits of our labour and that the Taupo Intermediate community will remain strong during this trying time.

You will have seen and heard about the lowering to **Covid Level 3** sometime next week and will be wondering what that means for us at school

My advice to you is to wait until after **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020** when we will receive more clarity as to the conditions of re-entry to our school.

Simply speaking, schools will not be opened for everyone to come and go or that there will be such a choice, so hence my earlier comment that On-line Learning will continue for some time yet.

I will summarize the conditions on re-entry early next week with Schools not destined to be open until at least Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2020.

**It has been an interesting time from a personal perspective with “many tasks” being undertaken at my house bubble.**

The house is painted, the gardens have been tendered with some pruning with my favourite tool the chainsaw. Cooking and baking have been a regular feature of my day as well as constructing outdoor furniture using driftwood and old fence battens.

My wife and I have also walked and mountain biked every day to take care of the fitness levels so even though I haven’t been able to undertake, like you all, my favourite leisure activities like fishing or ‘gardening’, not, I have a great sense of accomplishment and am certainly looking forward to some ‘piliging’, sorry I mean sustainable fishing to look forward to.

I know there are many examples of outstanding ‘workman and workwomanship’ that has been going on and for that we can all feel a great sense of accomplishment.

**Kia kaha , Kia manawanui, nga mihi nui ki a koutou, Te Wiremu**