

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”.

“Don’t perceive the facts as a false criticism or else you lose badly! Because facts are facts and they need to be respected and be taken into consideration promptly!” — Mehmet Murat ildan Somer was born in [Ankara](#) but moved to [Istanbul](#) in 1982, after graduating from technical university, and worked as an engineer for [Sony](#), an experience he draws on in his writing.

Interesting situation that we find ourselves in today and our quote today is never more important about facts being respected.

We have ‘battered’ with bulletins, notifications, broadcasts, podcasts, emails, texts, verbal nonsense, Facebook, tweets, twits and so on.....? so it is really difficult sometimes to sort out the corn from the chaff.

As for our school we must adhere to two sources of information from the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health and respond accordingly which at times has been difficult. Difficult because we have to then decipher and summarize what we receive and then send it out to you as to what we are doing in our school and community, only to then read and hear that what the school is doing is maybe contrary to what the other 4 million people and workplaces are doing.

Schools are unique, if you had not already recognized this, we have children to assist, teach, counsel, feed and clothe while looking after the Health and Well-being of our teachers and support staff and their whanau. These are the facts that we are supposed to be respecting.

We should be the next cabs on the ranks, along with the hospitals and medical centres to get all the supplies necessary to ensure our student and teacher welfare is also being looked after and our sanitation supplies, online learning equipment and devices, as well as vaccinations for our staff.

We are in our school like those in our community doing whatever is necessary to get supplies into our schools and taking measures necessary. Of that you can be assured is what we are doing.

- **The Ministry has asked us to give you this factual statement.**

COVID-19 update - 21st May 2020

Kia ora koutou

Early this week, and again today I have been alerted to social media content that is wrong and unnecessarily upsetting parents and whānau. The gist of the misinformation is that the law passed on 13 May gives powers to Police and others to uplift children from school if they appear unwell and forcibly test for COVID-19, and administer medication including flu vaccinations.

As you already know, neither Police, Oranga Tamariki nor anyone else have been given any such powers. If a child is unwell at your school or kura, you contact their parents or caregivers in the usual way to collect them. If you have concerned parents or whānau, I know you will reassure them that there is no change to school practice.

New Public Health Response Order – accurate information

The [COVID-19 Public Health Response \(Alert level 2\) Order 2020 \[PDF\]](#) came into effect at 12.01am on 14

May. The purpose of the order is “to prevent, and limit the risk of, the outbreak, or spread of COVID-19 by putting in place obligations in relation to businesses and services, and gatherings”.

Schools and early learning services are excluded from the requirements of the Level 2 Order apart from having to have appropriate contact tracing, physical distancing (breathing space), and hygiene measures in place (see our [health and safety guidance \[MSWord\]](#) for details).

As has consistently been advised throughout the COVID response, if you are concerned someone is showing COVID-19 symptoms please send them home and encourage them to seek medical advice through their GP or Healthline. Please contact the Medical Officer of Health for support if there is someone at your school who is refusing to go home, when they are suspected of having a communicable disease such as COVID-19 - Iona Holsted - Secretary for Education

• **TAUPO INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL REMINDERS:**

- Students and Staff / Contractors only allowed on our site at all times
- Staff and contractors are all to sign in before proceeding into the school
- Stay home if you are feeling unwell or exhibiting any signs of illness
- DO NOT DRIVE INTO THE SCHOOL TO DROP OFF OR PICK UP YOUR CHILD.
- School buses are back in service and I thank Nimon's Company for working really hard to keep drivers and students safe under extraordinary circumstances. Thank you to all the students who are cooperating and assisting with this service and as it is a privilege will continue to do so if they want to remain on the buses.

We are currently working through the requirements and demands from sporting organizations who want to get their codes underway and my message to all will be to let us get our schools underway first and then we will entertain the idea of a return to various codes.

Our school will make the decision about what we can manage and will then ensure that things can go ahead from our school perspective.

My considerations at this stage concern:

- How many students and families want to get involved with sports particularly under the conditions being set by each of the associations
- Are our families in a position to be able to pay the fees or will the associations be able to get access to the money allocated by the government, or do you hold your breath?
- What are the starting dates – in my opinion we should be looking at the beginning of term 3.

We are going to start some activities that we can control in the school for example the Mountain Bike trials on Sunday and day trips for our Year 7s to Waiohuru for our Social Science unit of work on ANZACs.

We are also having to manage our cultural groups in the school with Dance and Kapahaka along with auditions for our Major Musical production as we think that one way to help our students settle into school again is to plan, practice and prepare for events that may happen and if they do then we will be ready and if not then at least we tried.

Our Science Fair is going ahead this year with planning and preparation underway and again to help our students return to normality whatever that may look like.

So, in summary the facts are that we are adhering to the Health and Hygiene protocols as directed by the Ministry of Education and Health and that we are working hard to get back to normal school life and that our staff who have worked tirelessly during the Lock down with the Online learning, continue to do so with Face to Face studies.

To our parents and caregivers for recognizing the work that we do as a school, I thank you for your messages of support and look forward to these continuing. I want to also take this opportunity to try and assist any of you who are finding things tough at this stage to contact me if you cannot get any support or sense out of anyone else.

We have access to counselling, sanitation packs and networks that might help and if you are financially struggling then please contact me at school.

In my opinion, who cares about polls and leadership nonsense as it does not matter to those who have lost their jobs or who are hungry and the sick. What are their chances as we are head into the winter months? Why are we not concentrating on making people accountable and finding solutions?

These are the facts about the effects of the pandemic, and I continue to say forget the celebrations as we have many families and individuals who are deeply affected.

Have a great weekend and be safe out there

Arohanui me te tautoko ki a koutou

Wiremu

Mountain Bike Trial: This Sunday at 3pm we will be holding a Mountain Bike Trial on the Tourist Trap Track, meeting in the old carpark opposite the horse hire. Please observe physical distancing and if possible wear a buff. On arrival if students could collect a number for their bike and write their name etc. in the book. While there is still uncertainty regarding events, we need to be prepared for the BOP/PB Champs, the Te Miro event and AIMS if they happen to go ahead. If these events aren't held we intend to run a school event for our students. For interested students who can't make this trial we hope to run a further trial, probably next week.

University of Canterbury KIWI Competitions:

After the difficulties we had last year with the ICAS testing, we have decided this year to change to using the University of Canterbury KIWI competitions. Students completing the 'Principals Academic Award', can this year use an achieved, merit, excellence, or distinction in this competition to tick off one of their goals. Any student wanting participate in the English, Mathematics or Science Competition should collect a newsletter from the office and return it completed by the end of next week.