

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: 13
Date: 19th June 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”.

“You may encounter many defeats, but you must not be defeated. In fact, it may be necessary to encounter the defeats, so you can know who you are, what you can rise from, how you can still come out of it.” – Maya Angelou, was an American poet, memoirist, and civil rights activist. She published seven autobiographies, three books of essays, several books of poetry, and is credited with a list of plays, movies, and television shows spanning over 50 years

In my opinion:

After this week’s chapter of errors and debacle I certainly hope that we indeed ‘still come out of it’ and the ‘it’, I am referring to is that with these errors of judgement we don’t lapse back into any Covid-19 Levels and be forced to reinstate a number of barriers we have taken down.

At our schools we have had to deal with many different scenarios as we have 650 x students here and a huge number of family units. We have 35 x staff working here as well and to implement the requirements stipulated by the Government.

As we have progressed through the levels, we have all worked very hard to adhere to these constant changes and to now be in a situation that we may have to revert to other levels is disheartening.

We were told in the many broadcasts that **if we were complacent** then there would be a possibility that we would go back through the levels and did we want to go backwards?

To all of us in our community – **we haven’t been complacent!!** – so don’t just apologize about those who were complacent and apologize to all of us who have worked hard for the past 2 x months, who have had to sacrifice a lot and in some cases lost a lot.

It is tiring for all of us here as we feel like we have had to start our school year all over again, like the start of each year.

Our students must:

- re-learn all our expectations and learn to socialize again, to get on in a larger group.
- be placed back on a timetabled day and to work with different teachers and personnel onsite.
- realize that complete freedom, to do what you want, when you want, is not always possible and you have to consider others beside yourself.

I have spoken to many school colleagues who express the same sentiments, that it is taking some time, for students to reintegrate back into the school system particularly, when we have students still drifting back in.

I am asking for some patience and your continued support to help us get this right and then of course in two weeks time we have the next set of holidays, which may raise the point that should we have the holiday break or just carry on through.

The short answer to that is no we need this break as we did not get the last holiday break back in April. We didn’t have a choice, we were told to lockdown the school, get on-line learning sorted in a three day timeframe and then suddenly were told without consultation, that you can stop now, you are on holiday break the very next week. Not one of the greatest decisions ever made as we had students and teachers still communicating and setting up the On-Line Learning and us trying to sort out which students could access internet and devices – which by the way we still haven’t got here at school.

Moving on though we are still making changes to our programs, to try and get our students involved, not helped by the continued restrictions.

REMINDERS

Parent/ student / Teacher Interviews – 29th June – 3rd July 2020

- **That there is a change to the timetable on Wednesday 1st July 2020 where we will be finishing classes at Lunchtime, students will be released to go home, bus students can be catered for as buses will run as usual. This will allow our interviews to begin at 1.30pm – 2pm**
- **There is a dinner break for staff at 5.30 – 6.30pm.**
- **Some alternative arrangements have been made with some teachers no available during this week**

Community Survey

- **A link has been set up so you can complete a survey with the responses providing valuable information for us to be able to evaluate our performance**

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=wDZPbueM3EeriHX9JtT-gK4EryazvxhCuNWYSqEQSAFUMzJNRE1LS1UwSFo5NkVFUVpURzMoMldQOS4u>

- **Netball starts this weekend** for our school teams so thank you to Lisa Hemopo for her organization and thank you to the students who have resigned for the shortened season and to the parents and umpires who have stepped in to assist us. No restrictions on the number of supporters
- **Basketball starts tonight** - Friday evening with 'friendly games'- Spectators to be seated in the seating gallery and not on the playing floor
- **Hockey to start next term**
- **Musical Production rehearsals have started**
- **Kapa Haka is well underway along with the TIS Band and our Dance group**
- **Students are currently working on their Science Fair Investigations**
- **Class Ski Trips for 2020 have been cancelled**

This season RAL the company who are running the mountain, has decided to open only 4 x lifts for midweek skiing:

- o Happy Valley Platter 1 (short beginner lift)
- o Happy Valley Platter 2 (short beginner lift)
- o Sky Waka Gondola (longest run on mountain- intermediate/advanced)
- o Knoll Ridge T-Bar (intermediate/advanced T-Bar)

With only 2 x platter lifts working for beginners and not the Double Happy Chair or the Rangatira Express Chair, Whakapapa's beginner terrain is reduced to app 25% of its normal area.

Most Taupo Intermediate students would soon get bored and then need to step up from these lifts.

Though unfortunately the jump from riding the platter lifts and their low/near horizontal angle to down through the Waterfall (from the Sky Waka) or the Shirtfront or Gut (from Knoll Ridge T-Bar) would be dangerous and foolhardy.

So, we have no alternative but to cancel these bookings for our class based Ski trips and will now look at possible alternative outdoor activities which could be undertaken by classes possibly by specific year groups (year 7 or year 8).

- **Ski Race Camp in the Memorial Lodge will continue for this season in week 2 of next term.** Running trials during the July holidays, then selecting 15 to 20 students for ski training, covering carving, ski maintenance, safety, ski field knowledge etc. This would help with race skills for next year's team, use the hut and give Rana ideas for future years.
- **End of Year Camps and day activities**

At present, most of the newsletters have gone out regarding end of year camps, giving dates, activities, fees etc. along with asking for parent support

Year 7 classes activities have started with the Waiouru trip which they are finding extremely valuable. The cost for this trip is being paid by the school as a curriculum activity.

Have a great weekend and catch up on the sidelines. Thank you all for your continued support

Wiremu

TIS Tuckshop Kristie's Kai

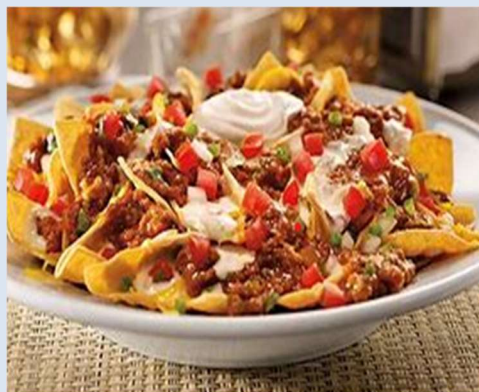
LUNCH SPECIAL

One day only

Friday 26th June

Nacho's

\$3.00



A big thank you to all those students who entered the Flag Competition last week. Room 16, who had the most amount of entries, have received some bags of lollies to share! A big thank you to Mrs Wood for promoting it in her class!

To enter, students had to submit the names of the country's flags flying (from Wednesday onwards) and a fact about each. Those entries, that had correct spelling and punctuation, would go into the draw for the Grand Prize: a **QUAD BIKING SESSION at Taupo Quad Adventures (\$110)!**

4 Runners up would win a Bunnings Drink Bottle and a chocolate bar.

THE GRAND PRIZE WINNER – with only 1 mistake: **AMY OFFICER – ROOM 16**

Runners-Up -With only 2 mistakes: Riley Hayes (Room 16), McKenzie Miers (Room 16), Zahr Mclaughlin-Twiddle (Room 16) & Jhy Connery (Room 16).

Here is Amy Officer's Interesting facts:

Mon/Tues: Chad

Chad is the largest of the 16 landlocked countries in Africa.

Wed: Benin

Benin is named after the body of water on which it lies.

Thurs: Senegal

In Senegal, every Sunday on Dakars Yoff Beach, you can find sheep enjoying their Sunday afternoon spa bath in the warm waters of the Atlantic. It is a tradition to care for your sheep there.

Fri: Grenada

The Grenada dove, which is a critically endangered species, is the National bird of Grenada.