

# 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: 16  
Date: 24 July 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”.

In my opinion:

“Ka puta Matariki ka rere Whānui. Ko te tohu tēnā o te tau e! Matariki re-appears, Whānui starts its flight.

Being the sign of the [new] year! Matariki – Māori New Year

- Matariki literally means the ‘eyes of god’ (mata [ariki](#)) or ‘little eyes’ (mata riki)

Twinkling in the winter sky just before dawn, Matariki (the Pleiades) signals the Māori New Year.

Traditionally, it was a time for remembering the dead, and celebrating new life. In the 21st century, observing Matariki has become popular again. Heaven-bound kites, hot-air balloons and fireworks help mark the occasion.

Matariki is the Māori name for the small cluster of stars also known as the Pleiades or the Seven Sisters, in the Taurus constellation. In New Zealand it comes into view low on the north-eastern horizon, appearing in the tail of the Milky Way in winter, just before dawn. This heralds the Māori New Year.

Matariki celebrations were popular before the arrival of Europeans in New Zealand, and they continued into the 1900s. Gradually they dwindled, with one of the last traditional festivals recorded in the 1940s. At the beginning of the 21st century Matariki celebrations were revived. Their increasing popularity has led some to suggest that Matariki should replace the Queen's birthday as a national holiday.

When Te Rangi Huata organised his first Matariki celebrations in Hastings in 2000, about 500 people joined him. In 2003, 15,000 people came. Te Rangi Huata believes that Matariki is becoming more popular because it celebrates Māori culture and in doing so brings together all New Zealanders: ‘It’s becoming a little like Thanksgiving or Halloween, except it’s a celebration of the Maori culture here in Aotearoa New Zealand. It’s New Zealand's Thanksgiving.’ - **by Paul Meredith**

Welcome to our new dawn, the beginning of Term 3 one of the busiest in the school year, even though we have taken several things out of our calendar. As per usual, we have replaced these with other activities and experiences.

**COVID 19** has had an impact on the running of so many of our activities this term with a number of events being cancelled and or changed such as;

- **NO** class ski trips through lack of facilities for the abilities of all our students
- **NO** Cultural exchange with Noumea with our students not travelling to New Caledonia and their students unable to return
- **NO** AIMS games with us having to start a new competition revolving around our Leadership Schools Taradale, Ilminster, Northcross Intermediate schools
- **NO Kapahaka Tuwharetoa** festival but with us ensuring we keep our practices going and of course involving our whole school in the learning of our Waiata and Tikanga Maori.

## SCHOOL CULTURE:

It has been a very unsettling time for us at school and in the community throughout the past few months, agitated by the effects of COVID19. I was immensely proud of the work and effort of our school in the way we managed this pandemic and the associated things that became part of the situation.

One of these was the closure and restrictions we had to cope with, and I am positive that we all did extremely well.

During the campaign we were implored by the Prime Minister to “Be Safe and Be Kind” and now that we are at level one, we have decided that none of these things seem to matter.

I have been again proud of the way the majority of our students have returned to school who have put their heads down and tried to recover some of the academic ground they may have lost, but in saying that thank goodness we had a comprehensive online programme and capacity to cope with this. As an aside, we were sent a number of modems to be sent to some of our householders, but unfortunately none of the householders were identified by us as needing these modems so they were all couriered back to Wellington and the householders we did identify are yet to receive them??

I am proud of the way the majority of the 650 students we have here who are fully committed to our sports teams, musical production, TIS band, Kapa haka, dance, Maths teams, Science Fair and the many other activities on offer. To you all I say well done and thank you.

To the small number who are totally focussed on making other people's lives a misery or who have failed to engage in all these experiences, and have shown a total disrespect for our school culture of respecting each other, our Teachers and students and our environment, to you I am disappointed and you need to start making some serious changes if you want to continue in our wonderful school.

It does not help when we are also portrayed negatively on social media sites as we know we spend an immense amount of time on our health and safety and creating a real positive environment.

#### How can you help us?? Simply

- Support our ban on the need for cell phones in our school – it is clearly stated in our School Prospectus. We have a safe lock up system in the office where students can hand in their phones for safe keeping, first thing in the morning and can take them home at the end of the day. Communication with home and school can be done for no charge at the school office.
  - We will confiscate any cell phones we find are being used during the school day, lock them up in the office and will determine when we will return this to their owners. This will be to a parent or caregiver and not directly to the student.
- Further on in this newsletter are session that you can attend on Cyber Safety presenter John Parsons which I recommend that you attend which will help us use these online sites in a positive manner and go a long way to protect our students. This is a Police Initiative that we are happy to support and encourage your attendance
- I want to thank Natasha Marinkovich, School Community Officer NZ Police, for being actively involved in supporting our school in several ways and we welcome her presence along with fellow officers into our school.
  - Engage regularly with your child and with our school – early intervention is our preferred option
  - Continue to support the school as we cannot do this job on our own it is supposed to be a partnership. We want to hear about the good things that are happening as well.
  - **See you all on the side line!!**

**“The staff at the Taupo Hospital Dental Clinic will be resuming routine preventive appointments starting with the Year 8 students.**

**This will include examination, X Rays & fluoride treatment if their consent allows. We will book them in to our diaries, however our new booking system means parents may receive a text informing them of the appointment the day before.**

**Parents may attend if they want to, otherwise we will just get them from school as we have done in the past.**

**The dental team will assess your child for any symptoms before their appointment in line with Alert Level 1 guidelines from Lakes District Health Board.**

**Should any student be symptomatic they will be rescheduled”**



**JOHN PARSONS**  
NZ CYBER SECURITY EXPERT

**PARENTING IN THE DIGITAL AGE**

Struggling to work out how to parent in the digital age?  
We've got some tips to help!

**MONDAY 27TH JULY 7PM**  
TAUHARA COLLEGE HALL

**TUESDAY 28TH JULY 6.30PM**  
TURANGI TOWN LIBRARY

**WEDNESDAY 29TH JULY 7PM**  
WAIPAHIHI SCHOOL HALL

**THURSDAY 30TH JULY 7PM**  
REPOROA COLLEGE HALL

OPEN TO ALL ADULTS,  
WITH OR WITHOUT  
CHILDREN AT SCHOOL

NO MATTER THE  
SCHOOL YOUR  
CHILDREN ATTEND.

COME AND GET SOME  
TOOLS FOR YOUR  
PARENTING TOOLBOX

Contact: [Natasha.Marinkovich@police.govt.nz](mailto:Natasha.Marinkovich@police.govt.nz)

#### Sports Dates for first 5 weeks of this term:

24<sup>th</sup> July – BOP/PB Basketball  
29<sup>th</sup> July – Waikato/BOP Individual Duathlon  
31<sup>st</sup> July – BOP/PB Winter Tournament (Football, Hockey, Netball, Rugby)  
7<sup>th</sup> August – BOP/PB Cross Country  
21<sup>st</sup> August – North Island Intermediate Road Cycle Champs & Rugby 7's

**“The Year 7's will be bringing home a Consent Form for their Booster Immunisation: Protection against tetanus, diphtheria, and whooping cough.**

This is part of the Ministry of Health Childhood Immunisation Schedule. They can have this immunisation at school with the Public Health Nurses or go to their GP.

There is a section for consent or decline – please sign whichever is relevant to your child, then return the signed Consent Form back to school ‘as soon as possible.’

The video we show the Year 7's at school can be found on: [www.health.govt.nz/imms-older-children](http://www.health.govt.nz/imms-older-children).

If you have any queries the Public Health Nurses can be contacted on 376 1012.”

#### TIS Tuckshop Kristie's Kai Lunch Specials



**Friday Mini Slider & Chips \$4.00**

#### Important notice about After School Art Club

After school art club has had to be changed from Thursdays to Wednesdays

Theme - Term 3 – Sculpture  
Time – 3.15 – 4.30 – children are welcome to bring snacks for afternoon tea  
Starts – Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> (week 2)  
Cost - \$20 per term  
Permission slips from the Art