

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: 3
Date: 19th February 2021



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:

“Change is the law of life, and those who look only to the past and present are certain to miss the future” -John F. Kennedy, often referred to by his initials JFK, was an American politician who served as the 35th president of the United States from 1961 until his assassination in 1963. Kennedy served at the height of the Cold War, and most of his work as president concerned relations with the Soviet Union and Cuba.

Welcome to the term again and I wonder now that when I was hoping for an uninterrupted year I was perhaps not looking to the future.

Covid will be with us for some time and what we must do is develop good systems and structures that allow us to move smoothly through these times of transition and uncertainty.

There are a number of things that remain standard;

- need for us to maintain excellent Hygiene Protocols.
- If you are sick you need to stay home and isolate.
- If you are coming onto our site, you need to use our New Zealand Covid Tracer App and then sign in at our reception desk. You will be issued with a sticker which will indicate to our staff that you have followed these procedures.

We will update you on other requirements that happen when and if we change levels such as the following issued from the Ministry of Education.

“Following the recent cases in Papatoetoe, the decision was made yesterday by Cabinet to require **face coverings to be worn on public transport across New Zealand at Alert Level 1**. This means that face coverings will be required on public transport at all alert levels. There is no change to the application of face coverings for schools”.

Cabinet will review the decision on face coverings for public transport and our alert levels on **Monday 22 February**.

At Alert Level 1, as with Alert Level 2, face coverings must therefore be worn:

- on all public transport, including on long-distance bus and train journeys and most ferries.
- on domestic flights throughout New Zealand.
- by taxi and ride-share drivers — while it is not compulsory for passengers to wear them, they are strongly encouraged to.

Face coverings are **not required** at school or on any school transport. But they must be worn on all public transport, including by any school children **aged 12 and over**.

At any alert level, children, young people or teachers and other staff who want to wear face coverings at schools or early learning services may do so. They are entitled to make this decision and should not be criticised for doing so.

Public Health advice is that children under six should not wear face coverings in any setting.

There are also general exemptions for users of public transport, including for people where, for medical and health reasons, a face covering would not be appropriate, and small passenger vehicles such as taxis and Ubers (the drivers will be required to wear a mask). Please go to our [FAQs on our website](#) for more information about face coverings in education settings.

A range of general information is available on the [COVID-19 website](#)” - **Iona Holsted - Secretary for Education**.

REMINDERS:

- **Thursday 25th February 2021** – Taupo Intermediate Swimming Sports held here in our school pool. Year 8s start at 9.15am – 11.25am = Year 7s Start at 12 noon – 2pm
- **Saturday 27th February 2021** – Across the Lake Swim
- **Saturday 6th March 2021** – NZ Ironman Event

NOTE: The Public Health Nurse spoke to our Year 8 Students regarding the Human Papillomavirus Vaccination Program. This has nothing to do with COVID19. Consent forms will be given out over the next few days.

FLAG

COMPETITION

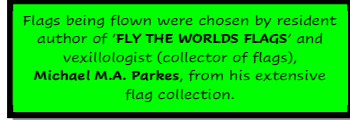
Thank you to all those students and staff that entered this terms Flag Competition. 210 entries were received, and Mr Elliott was overwhelmed with the calibre of many entries. To win the major prizes, generously donated by local businesses, entrants needed to name the country's flag flying aloft the flagpole last week and include an interesting fact for each (all handwritten). Spot prizes were on offer for everyone, but to get in the draw for major prizes, entries needed to have correct spelling, punctuation and make grammatical sense. Only 10% of student entries had no mistakes. The main mistakes made included: writing their names without capital letters, writing the days of the week without capital letters, not being able to spell the days of the week, spelling mistakes in their facts, not writing the countries with capital letters (Myanmar, Denmark, Iran & Poland), and lack of punctuation (full stops, commas, apostrophes).

Major winners were: SIENNA MURTAGH – R.16, AURELIA WOOD – R.14, CHELSEY HARRIS – R.22, BIANCA STEWART – R.17.

Best facts winner was TEEGAN PRICE – R.5

The flag competition returns later this year with more fabulous prizes!

A big thank you to our sponsors:



TIS triathletes - had a busy time last weekend. Kian Weston swam the Huka Xstream River swim on Saturday – 3.3kms down the mighty Waikato River from the Lagoon to Hipapatua. Then on Sunday he joined Oli Barnett and Olivia Shepherd in the Tri-sport Taupo run Kinloch Triathlon. They competed in the U16 Junior Series Race and acquitted themselves well against the best U16 triathletes in the country. They all have a bright future and look on track to follow some of our other world class triathletes who started their triathlon journey from Taupo.



ART CLUB

Starts Wednesday 24th February

3pm-4.30pm

\$10.00

Laptop Programme Status:

Amidst all the class related tasks needed at the start of the school year, our teaching staff have worked hard to cover our Digital Citizen Unit and set up the laptops of their pupils ready for the year. This is not a small task and requires, not just the physical hours in configuring the laptops and programmes to suit each individual class, but also instructing their pupils on various procedure and policies that they need to adhere to at Taupo Intermediate.

This year, as with the other 6 years we have run the programme, it has taken a few weeks to do this properly, but we are almost there. We need all our pupils to be ready to start working with their laptops together, so it is impractical to start looking at how they are used in class without the whole class having access to a computer. Once this happens then the class is taken through a range of things together as a group including what they are or are not allowed to do with their laptops. We need this consistency across the school. Individually releasing laptops to go home before this process is complete is not an option.

To add to this, we also have some issues that crop up. One of them this year was the computer case included in the package deal. We were sent laptop cases that were not to the standard that we had originally agreed to so these were sent back and replaced. To our suppliers credit they supplied us with a better-quality case in exchange and dropped their margins to make sure that the package price remained the same. These cases arrived this week and have been issued. Please remember that laptops must be transported in these cases or the insurance package that has been purchased with the laptop might be voided.

For those that still wish to join our laptop scheme please note that we do have a waiting list at the office, and we will be ordering another batch soon. This batch, however, will only cover those that have paid a deposit as we do not hold a stock of laptops.

For those that are not a part of the scheme be assured that your child will have an individual desktop that they can work on in the class.

Thank you again Taupo Intermediate Parents and Caregivers for the wonderful support you have shown us in our 7th year of the T.I.S Laptop programme. Over 80% of new enrolments this year have chosen to take part.

Jon Wood Room 03
T.I.C. Laptop Programme