



Newsletter Number: 17

Date: Thursday 19th June 2025

**Dear parents, caregivers, students, families, and the wider community.**  
**E nga mātua, e nga kaitiaki, e nga taura, e nga whānau, me te iwi whānui.**

### **Thank You – Let’s Talk: Our School, Our Future**

A sincere thank you to all the parents and caregivers who joined us for last night’s “*Let’s Talk: Our School, Our Future*” board presentation. Your presence and continued support are vital as we reflect on our journey and look ahead to the future of our school.

The Board was proud to share a few key achievements over their current term, including:

#### **Strategic Leadership & Governance**

- Strong progress made on areas identified in the ERO review
- Principal appointment in 2024
- Appointment of new Board members
- Establishment of key sub-committees: Property, Policy, and Finance
- Policies reviewed and updated, including School Docs implementation (Term 3, 2025)
- School values reviewed
- Ongoing Uniform Review
- Launch of a refreshed school logo and branding

#### **Property**

- 10YPP and 5YA property planning brought up to date
- Turf canopy project progressed and almost completed

#### **Teaching & Learning**

- Improved student achievement monitoring
- Review and redesign of Target Classes: CWAA, Boys’, and introduction of the Girls’ class in 2025
- Laptop scheme reviewed – Introduction of Chromebooks in 2025
- Establishment of a dedicated Student Support Hub
- Restructuring of year levels and team structures to better support student success

#### **Community & Engagement**

- Strengthened partnership with Memorial Hut (Ski Lodge)
- Increased community engagement and relationship-building
- Improved communication, including the implementation of HERO in 2025
- Māori community hui held to support cultural inclusion and collaboration

☎ 07 378 8097    ✉ [office@taupointermediate.co.nz](mailto:office@taupointermediate.co.nz)    📍 22 Kotare Road, Taupō 3330  
[www.taupointermediate.co.nz](http://www.taupointermediate.co.nz)

*“Make a positive difference through the T.I.S way”*

## **Behaviour & Wellbeing**

- Proactive behaviour management has led to a reduction in stand-downs and suspensions
- Actively involved in MoE Positive Behaviour for Learning (PB4L) – known as Positive Culture for All (PC4All)
- Ongoing Health & Safety focus across the school

## **Facing the Challenges**

The Board also openly acknowledged the challenges faced while working toward making TIS the school of choice within our community:

- Setting and embedding a long-term strategic direction takes time
- Supporting a positive culture shift across the whole school
- The need to shift perceptions and improve the community view of our school
- Limited community options for suspended students remains a significant challenge
- Staff shortages continue to affect consistency and delivery
- Ongoing work with local community agencies to provide student support

## **ERO-Identified Focus Areas**

The Board is also responding to ERO's recommendations, with clear steps being taken to:

- Strengthen school community engagement in strategic planning
- Develop a 2-year localised curriculum to meet the needs of all learners
- Improve teacher understanding and use of assessment data
- Lift Māori student achievement through targeted consultation and collaboration
- Looking Ahead: Strategic Direction 2026/27
- The Board is currently developing our 2026/27 Strategic Plan, with a clear focus on:
- Effective governance
- Keeping learners at the centre
- Quality teaching and learning
- Strong community engagement

Thank you to everyone who has contributed their voice and ideas so far. Together, we are building a school that reflects our values, serves our learners, and strengthens our community.

**If you are interested in being a board member, please contact Jason Clarke**  
**presidingmember@taupointermediate.co.nz** as our board election is scheduled for  
**10th September 2025.**

**Ngā mihi nui**  
**Brent Woods**  
**Principal/Tumuaki**





# TAUPO INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

## Celebrating Student Excellence

At Taupo Intermediate School, we proudly recognise and celebrate achievement across a wide range of areas. Our awards programme encourages students to fully engage in school life while striving for excellence through our core values of Thinking, Involvement, and Respect.

Students can achieve **Bronze**, **Silver**, and **Gold** levels in each category. Awards are presented during assemblies, and families are warmly invited to attend and celebrate student success.

2024 Bronze, Silver and Gold achievements will be transferred to the 2025 Record sheets.

Awards Record Sheet 2025			
 <b>Bevan Docherty Award – Sporting Excellence</b>	Date	Assessor	Signed
<i>Tick off each activity as it is completed.</i>			
Regular member of class lunchtime sport			
Represent T.I.S at Taupo Kiwisport level			
Represent T.I.S at Taupo Inter-School level			
Represent T.I.S at Super 11 level			
Participate in an after school sport (e.g. basketball, volleyball, hockey, touch)			
Participate in Saturday morning netball competition			
Complete a recognised local sporting activity (e.g. W2K, Aratiatia Walk)			
Take part in a Taupo community sporting event (e.g. IronKids, Possum Run, Taupo Marathon)			
Represent T.I.S at the NZAIMS Games			
 <b>Donovan Bixley Award – Cultural Involvement</b>			
<i>Tick off each activity as it is completed.</i>			
Represent T.I.S at a cultural event (e.g. Dance NZ Made, Islandquest, Kapa Haka)			
Member of the school production or perform at T.I.S Talent Show			
Member of the Kapa Haka group			
Participate in music-related activities (e.g. learning an instrument, ukulele group)			
Take part in a cultural community project (e.g. KOT, Taupo event volunteer)			
Participate in a local or national theatrical/musical/artistic event			
Provide service to T.I.S (e.g. tuck shop, librarian)			
Podium finish in a dance, music, singing, photography, drama, or art competition			
Take part in a T.I.S Cultural Exchange			
 <b>Principal's Academic Award – Academic Achievement</b>			
<i>Tick off each activity as it is completed.</i>			
Progress 2 or more sublevels in e-asTitle Maths within a year			
Progress 2 or more sublevels in e-asTitle Reading within a year			
Progress 2 or more sublevels in e-asTitle Writing within a year			
Participate in a school-wide academic event (e.g. Mathmatters, Epro-B, Science Fair)			
Receive a Technology certificate at assembly			
Selected to represent class in the school speech competition			
Maintain over 90% attendance			
Represent T.I.S at an academic event (e.g. Lit Quiz, Bay Maths, Epro-B)			
Achieve Merit or Excellence in an external academic assessment			
 <b>Ambition Award – All-Round Excellence</b>			
<i>Only for students who achieve Gold in all three core awards.</i>			
Gold in Bevan Docherty Award (Sporting)			
Gold in Donovan Bixley Award (Cultural)			
Gold in Principal's Academic Award (Academic)			
Positively contribute to the student leadership team			

### Bevan Docherty Award

1 2 3 **Bronze** 5 Silver 7 **Gold** 9

### Donovan Bixley Award

1 2 3 **Bronze** 5 Silver 7 **Gold** 9

### Principal's Academic Award

1 2 3 **Bronze** 5 Silver 7 **Gold** 9



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Room \_\_\_\_\_



## **TEAM NGĀURUHOE MATARIKI WHĀNAU BREAKFAST** **THURSDAY 19TH MAY**

This morning, we celebrated Matariki with a special Team Ngāuruhoe Whānau Breakfast. It was wonderful to see so many of our whānau come together to share kai and celebrate the spirit of whānaungatanga. We served up sausages, spaghetti, and bacon, along with tea, coffee, and Milos — a warm way to start the day! It was a great way to celebrate the Māori New Year and the hard work our Tamariki have been doing all year. Nevaeh Waiariki, one of our rangatahi in Ngāuruhoe, led our karakia for the day; well done!

A huge thank you to Calida Brunton for the use of the Food Tech rooms and her support in organising the food, and to Sam Blake for helping coordinate the event. Thank you also to our amazing Ngāuruhoe teachers who came in early to prepare, and to all the whānau who joined us — your support made the morning truly special.

**Ngā mihi nui!**  
**Team Ngāuruhoe**



## STAFF SNAPSHOT

*My name is **Shivani Swastika Chand**, and I'm originally from the beautiful islands of **Fiji**. I'm proud of my cultural roots and always enjoy sharing the values, traditions, and warmth of Fijian life with others. For the past two years, **Aotearoa has been my home**, where I live with my husband and have found a strong sense of belonging.*

*I am passionate about teaching and see it as a meaningful and rewarding role. I strongly believe in **building positive, respectful relationships with my students**, as this forms the foundation for learning and growth. I take the time to get to know each child, to understand their strengths, interests, and the challenges they may face. I believe children learn best when they know they are cared for and respected, and I do everything I can to provide that environment in my classroom.*

*As a teacher, I aim to be a guide, a mentor, and a role model. I look forward to building strong connections with you and supporting your child as they grow and succeed both inside and outside the classroom.*

*Vinaka vakalevu,  
**Shivani Swastika Chand**  
(Room 7 Teacher)*





*"Children don't get  
traumatised because they  
get hurt -  
they get traumatised  
because they were **alone** in  
their hurt."  
- Dr. Gabor Maté*

# THE SUPPORT HUB

## **SIGNING IN** **AT THE OFFICE**

If your child is late to school for any reason, arriving at anytime after the 8.50am bell, they **MUST** sign in at the office.

If they are leaving school in groups at any time during the day, they **MUST** sign out at the office first.

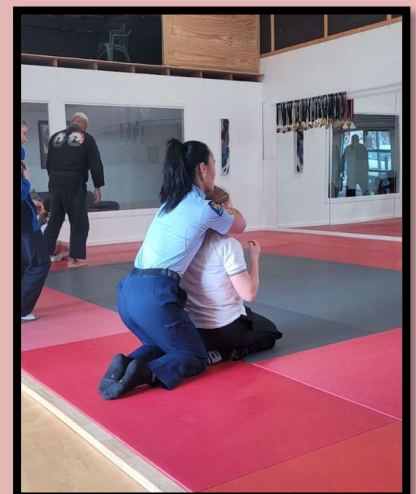
We prefer to have the parent sign them out or have a prearrangement with the office staff.

This will help our attendance data and ensure students are coded correctly on HERO.

Constable Pickle joined us for Jiu-jitsu this week.

She learnt some new skills and enjoyed meeting the girls.

Constable Pickle is keen to come back and join in with more sessions.



# ROOM 21 - WRITING

## Know one Knows

*It started as just another adventure. Peyton and I loved exploring, finding abandoned places, imagining what had happened there. But that day, when we stumbled upon the wrecked train, deep in the woods, something felt wrong. The air was thick, heavy, like the forest itself was warning us to turn back.*

*The train sat in silence, rusted and broken, tangled in vines like had been swallowed by time. Inside the air was damp and heavy with the smell of rotting flesh, old blood, and something dead. As I took another step, something snapped beneath my foot. I looked down and saw bones. My stomach flipped. Payten picked one up, turning it over in a hand. Human. She asked, half laughing. We moved deeper into the train, stepping over broken seats and scattered belongings. The train groaned, as if wanting us to leave, then a noise, a faint, shaky breath. I turn fast. charlotte and Jack short-The lovebirds- sat Pressed against the far wall, their faces pale as they were clinging to each other like it was the end. Charlottes voice cracked. "You need to go, it's not safe".*

*A sound, sharp and sudden, made them all tense. The train door slammed shut, followed by footsteps. Someone was here. The lights flickered weakly. Shadows stretching over the wreckage. My heart pounded while Payten tensed beside me. Jack stood gripping Carlottes hand ready to protect her. A figure stepped forward from the darkness. The dim light barely revealed them at first, but as they move closer you could see that blood dripped from their fingers. Their clothes were torn, their expression blank. Their grip tightened around the knife like it belonged there. Then their face became clear, it was Meka. Charlotte screamed. Jack tried to shield her, but it was useless One slash and then silence.*

*Peyton grabbed my hand. Pulling me backward, my feet stumbled over broken seats and shattered bones, my heart pounding. The train groaned like it was alive, like it knew what had just happened. We didn't scream, we didn't cry. We just ran. Branches tore my arms as we crashed through the forest. The smell of Blood still clung to me. Every shadow felt like Meka was right behind us. When we finally stopped gasping for air, the train was just a blur in the distance, but the forest was too quiet. I turned to Peyton, my voice shaking. No one will believe us. She wiped her face with a trembling hand. That doesn't matter. And she was right. Some stories aren't meant to be told. The end. Moral of the story don't go exploring in the forest by yourself and who knows your classmate could be a murderer.*

*By Jayde Wiggan and with the help of Piper Quinn.*

# **TI.S IMPORTANT** **UPCOMING DATES**

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June**

**Matariki – School Closed**

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June**

**Kiwi Sport Orienteering – Big Day out**

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June**

**Last day of school for Term Two**

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**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July**

**First day of school for Term Three**

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> July**

**Room 4 Snow Trip**

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July**

**Room 4 Snow Trip**

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July**

**Super 11 Basketball**

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> July**

**Super 11 Winter Tournament**

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> August**

**Super 11 Cross Country**

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> August**

**Super 11 7s Rugby**

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> August**

**Room 16 Whirinaki Camp**

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> August**

**Room 16 Whirinaki camp**

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> August**

**Room 16 Whirinaki camp**

**Room 17 Whirinaki camp**

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> August**

**Whirinaki camp**

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> August**

**Room 17 Whirinaki camp**

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> August**

**Taupo-nui-a-Tia & Tauhara College**

**School visit - Yr 8 Students**

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> August**

**Taupo-nui-a-Tia & Tauhara College**

**School visit - Yr 8 Students**



# **T.I.S STAFF** **(CONTACT INFORMATION)**

## **TAUPO INTERMEDIATE STAFF**

**Board Presiding Member: Jason Clarke** ([presidingmember@taupointermediate.co.nz](mailto:presidingmember@taupointermediate.co.nz))

**Principal: Brent Woods** ([bwoods@taupointermediate.co.nz](mailto:bwoods@taupointermediate.co.nz))

**Deputy Principal: Sam Blake (Year 7 Dean)** ([sblake@taupointermediate.co.nz](mailto:sblake@taupointermediate.co.nz))

**Deputy Principal: Michelle Patterson (Year 8 Dean)** ([mpatterson@taupointermediate.co.nz](mailto:mpatterson@taupointermediate.co.nz))

**Sports Coordinator: Sam Bradley** ([sport@taupointermediate.co.nz](mailto:sport@taupointermediate.co.nz))

## **CLASSROOMS/TEACHERS**

### **Room 1**

Zoe Fletcher ([zfletcher@taupointermediate.co.nz](mailto:zfletcher@taupointermediate.co.nz))

### **Room 2**

Wendy Marais ([wmarais@taupointermediate.co.nz](mailto:wmarais@taupointermediate.co.nz))

### **Room 3**

Jon Wood ([jwood@taupointermediate.co.nz](mailto:jwood@taupointermediate.co.nz))

### **Room 4**

**CWAA CLASS Sarah Hack (Team Ruapehu Leader)** ([shack@taupointermediate.co.nz](mailto:shack@taupointermediate.co.nz))

### **Room 5**

Kelly Rangihika ([krangihika@taupointermediate.co.nz](mailto:krangihika@taupointermediate.co.nz))

### **Room 6**

Ida Ngatai([ingatai@taupointermediate.co.nz](mailto:ingatai@taupointermediate.co.nz))

### **Room 7**

Shivani Chand ([schand@taupointermediate.co.nz](mailto:schand@taupointermediate.co.nz))

### **Room 8**

**Pamela Clydesdale (Team Tongariro Leader)** ([pclydesdale@taupointermediate.co.nz](mailto:pclydesdale@taupointermediate.co.nz))

### **Room 9**

Cheryl Berkahn-Weir ([cberkahnweir@taupointermediate.co.nz](mailto:cberkahnweir@taupointermediate.co.nz))

### **Room 10**

Kriza Cruz ([kcruz@taupointermediate.co.nz](mailto:kcruz@taupointermediate.co.nz))

### **Room 11**

Wairakei Mana Ake Hub

### **Room 12**

Andrea MacLennan - Hauora Hub (Teacher Aide) ([amaclennan@taupointermediate.co.nz](mailto:amaclennan@taupointermediate.co.nz))

### **Room 13**

**Emma Voysey - Hauora Hub (Student Support Manager)** ([evoysey@taupointermediate.co.nz](mailto:evoysey@taupointermediate.co.nz))

**Rebecca Ingram - Hauora Hub (Learning support coordinator)**  
([learningsupport@taupointermediate.co.nz](mailto:learningsupport@taupointermediate.co.nz))

**Room 15**

Donna Shaw (Learning Assistant) ([dshaw@taupointermediate.co.nz](mailto:dshaw@taupointermediate.co.nz))

**Room 16**

**BOY'S CLASS** - Phil Somers ([psomers@taupointermediate.co.nz](mailto:psomers@taupointermediate.co.nz))

**Room 17**

**GIRL'S CLASS** - Priscila Shepherd ([pshepherd@taupointermediate.co.nz](mailto:pshepherd@taupointermediate.co.nz))

**Room 20**

Courtney Fitness ([cfitness@taupointermediate.co.nz](mailto:cfitness@taupointermediate.co.nz))

**Room 21**

Suzanne Rokstad ([srokstad@taupointermediate.co.nz](mailto:srokstad@taupointermediate.co.nz))

**Room 22**

Samantha Barr ([sbarr@taupointermediate.co.nz](mailto:sbarr@taupointermediate.co.nz))

**Room 23**

Reliever until further notice

**Room 24**

**Tash Jones (Team Ngauruhoe Leader)** ([njones@taupointermediate.co.nz](mailto:njones@taupointermediate.co.nz))

**Room 25**

Salendra Kumar ([skumar@taupointermediate.co.nz](mailto:skumar@taupointermediate.co.nz))

**TECHNOLOGY TEACHERS**

**Food Technology:** Calida Brunton (Team Leader) ([cbrunton@taupointermediate.co.nz](mailto:cbrunton@taupointermediate.co.nz))

**Visual Arts:** Pamela Wood ([pwood@taupointermediate.co.nz](mailto:pwood@taupointermediate.co.nz))

**Soft Materials:** Nikki Morris ([nmorris@taupointermediate.co.nz](mailto:nmorris@taupointermediate.co.nz))

**Science:** Pinky Dawson ([pdawson@taupointermediate.co.nz](mailto:pdawson@taupointermediate.co.nz))

**SUPPORT STAFF**

**Learning Assistants:** Donna Shaw / Bernadette Gallagher / Andrea Maclellan/Carol Davies/  
Holly Clarkson/Waimaria Matete/Merenea Hurae/Kelvin Crickett/Courtney Warren/Cameron Bradley

**Office Manager/Personal Assistant:** Rachel Wakelin ([admin@taupointermediate.co.nz](mailto:admin@taupointermediate.co.nz))

**Finance Manager:** Corinne Jacobshagen ([accounts@taupointermediate.co.nz](mailto:accounts@taupointermediate.co.nz))

**Office Receptionist:** Dianne Coe ([office@taupointermediate.co.nz](mailto:office@taupointermediate.co.nz))

**Resource Manager:** Libby White ([adminassistant@taupointermediate.co.nz](mailto:adminassistant@taupointermediate.co.nz))

**Caretaker:** Mark Hadfield ([mhatfield@taupointermediate.co.nz](mailto:mhatfield@taupointermediate.co.nz))

**Tuckshop Manager:** Kristie Bush ([kbush@taupointermediate.co.nz](mailto:kbush@taupointermediate.co.nz))