



Newsletter Number: 18

Date: Friday 27th June 2025

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

As we wrap up another busy and successful term, we would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all our students, parents, caregivers, and whānau for your continued support and involvement.

A special thank you goes out to everyone who participated in our Matariki celebrations last week. It was a beautiful opportunity to come together as a school community to reflect, connect, and celebrate the Māori New Year.

We would also like to acknowledge and congratulate Mrs Hayley Brown on the successful completion of her practicum in Room 24. Hayley, your professionalism, positive attitude, and eagerness to learn have made a lasting impression on us all. We wish you every success in your future teaching career.

Congratulations to the students involved in the DanceNZ Made crews! It's been inspiring to see your dedication and hard work as you prepare for the upcoming competition. Your commitment and enthusiasm are truly commendable.

Well done to all students who participated in the Kiwi sport Orienteering meet at Owen Delaney Park this week. You represented our school with pride and energy.

We also celebrate the students who attended the Blue light Camp - your positive attitude and the way you embraced every challenge with an "I Can" mindset was outstanding. You made us very proud.

A big thank you to Mr John Kuper for the fantastic work he has done teaching in Room 23 this term. John's unwavering support for our school and his student-first approach have made a real impact. We appreciate all that you have contributed.

Thank you also to Mrs Kate Callaghan, who stepped in over the past month to support our science and technology programme. Your flexibility and dedication ensured a smooth learning experience for our students.

As Mrs Emma Voysey heads off on maternity/parental leave today, we want to express our warmest wishes. Emma, your energy, compassion, and tireless support through the Student Support Hub have been invaluable. You will be missed!

Finally, to all our parents, caregivers, and families - thank you for the many ways you support our school. Whether it's helping in the classroom, cheering on from the sidelines, or simply encouraging learning at home, your involvement makes a huge difference. We truly couldn't do it without you.

We wish everyone a safe, happy, and restful holiday. Remember, the greatest gift we can give our children is TIME - so enjoy every moment together.

**Nga mihi
Brent Woods,
Principal/Tumuaki**

TAUPŌ INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

COMMUNITY HUI INFORMATION KEY FINDINGS

Wednesday 18 June 2025

1. Communication & Transparency

- **Improve clarity, consistency and accessibility of communication** (emails, HERO, Facebook, printed notices).
- **Use larger fonts** on newsletters for accessibility.
- **More regular and proactive communication** between teachers and parents (start-of-year introductions, class updates, regular check-ins).
- **Better use of HERO** – reporting, assessment, Board introductions, and parent updates.
- **Transparency from the Board** – share meeting dates, agendas, and minutes via HERO; clarify roles and responsibilities.
- **Explain “why” decisions are made** and what changes will mean for students and families.

2. Student Voice & Equity

- **Gather and act on student voice** regularly: how they feel in class, sense of belonging, ideas.
- **Ensure equity in opportunities** (remove separate Boys/Girls classes; offer EOTC, camps, and awards fairly to all students).
- **Support for all learners** – especially those needing additional help (learning and behaviour).
- **Challenge high-achieving students**, especially in composite classes.

3. Belonging, Culture & Wellbeing

- **Foster school pride and belonging** (student celebrations, “school families”, informal events like parent-kid games).
- **Better induction/welcome for new families and students** (Term 1 welcome, student packs).
- **Culturally responsive and trauma-informed practices** – connect before teaching, respect for all Tamariki.
- **Address behaviour issues** – both students and teachers; concerns about some teachers being unprofessional or negative.
- **Reception and environment should be welcoming** – first impressions matter.

4. Teaching Practice & Staff Culture

- **Consistency across classes** (expectations, discipline, curriculum, camps, communication).
- **Monitor and support teacher quality** – observations, feedback, alignment with values.
- **Address teacher retention** – why did many leave, and what is being done to retain staff?
- **Focus on positive teaching** – reduce punitive approaches; training in trauma-informed and respectful teaching.
- **Share best practices and PD** – especially around literacy, behaviour, and inclusion.

TAUPŌ INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

COMMUNITY HUI INFORMATION KEY FINDINGS

Wednesday 18 June 2025

5. Governance & Strategic Direction

- **Clearer governance vs. management boundaries** – educate the community on roles.
- **More visible and approachable Board** – who are they, what are they doing, how can parents get involved?
- **Involve experts** to guide the Board on specialist topics (e.g. behaviour, learning support).
- **Strategic alignment** needed with other Taupō schools.
- **School-wide standards and planning** – classroom conditions, curriculum delivery, long-term goals.

6. Community Engagement

- **Invite and involve parents more** – events, volunteering, fundraising, celebrating culture (e.g. Matariki).
- **Engage parents informally and regularly** – cups of tea, class visits, shared activities.
- **Tap into family skills and networks** – surveys, invitations to contribute.
- **Recognise partnership with whānau** from day one.

7. Equity, Inclusion & Opportunities

- **Reevaluate awards and recognition systems** – e.g., Bevan Docherty Award equity concerns.
- **Provide equal learning and extracurricular opportunities** for all students.
- **Support diverse student needs** – emotional regulation, trauma-informed care, cultural responsiveness.
- **Celebrate and share success stories** – both student and school-wide progress.



T.I.S. SPORTS CO-ORDINATOR NEWS

What a way to wrap up Term 2! Taupo Intermediate has been buzzing with sporting success and spirit right to the very end.

Last week we had the final grading round in our Hockey Competition. In a thrilling top-of-the-table clash, it was TIS Quick shots vs TIS Stars. It was a nail-biting game filled with high energy, great skills, and outstanding sportsmanship. **Congratulations** to the TIS Quick shots who came away with a narrow 1-point win. **In Basketball**, **congratulations** to our AIMS Games team who have been promoted to the High School League! A big step up and a reflection of their commitment and effort.

TIS also competed in two exciting Super 11 events - **Rugby League and Rock Climbing**. Our **Girls Rugby League team** travelled to Rotorua, where they put in an exceptional performance, winning all their pool games to make the final. After a tough battle, they came away with a **well-earned silver medal** against a strong Tauranga team. What a fantastic effort! The team was Aaliyah Smith, Aria Solitt-Huraa, Aviana Liddington, Ciara Lee Holt, Freya Binnie, Hailey Robertson, Isla Gilmour, Jacoli Nortje, Lakoda Puhia, Jade Hirst, Layla jade Tukaki, Neveya Rea, Paris Hirst, Porsha Kahia, Rhio Flavell-Painter and Ryleigh McKee.

Back here in Taupō, our climbers took on the Super 11 Rock Climbing Champs.

- The **Year 7 Girls Team** of Sadie Eyes, Indigo Hendara, Avery Lee, and Erin Soutar claimed **Silver**.
- The **Boys Team** of Carter Bridgens, Max Peirce, Patrick Wilson, and JK battled hard to take **Bronze**.

The **Taupō Big O Orienteering Event** was this week which coincided with the World Orienteering Championships in Switzerland, where Mr. Woods' son competed — and with the strong results from our TIS students, we may have a few future contenders following in his footsteps! It was on a new course held across the challenging terrain of Owen Delaney and Spa Park. TIS were out in force with Seventy-four TIS students taking part in what turned out to be an epic mix of navigation and unexpected cross-country training - with some running up to 8km without even realising it!

TIS had a fantastic day and dominated the results:

- **Mixed Division Champions** - Te Rerewai Meihana and Pablo Stewart
- **Girls:** 1st - Sophie Lyons & Nyla Grigg, 2nd - Sophie Joines & Juno Depauw
- **Boys:** 2nd - Liam Dunbar, Chad Atkinson & Paddy Parkes, 3rd - Jayden Lyons & James Darlington

A massive thank you to all the parents who supported us with transport and supervision at these events - we couldn't do it without you. I'll leave you with one of my favourite quotes, which I've been sharing with students to encourage them to keep up their good training habits over the holidays:

"The fight is won or lost far away from witnesses - behind the lines, in the gym, and out there on the road, long before I dance under those lights." - *Muhammad Ali*

Keep showing up, putting in the effort, and the results will follow. Enjoy the break and stay active!

Have a safe and happy holiday,

Sam Warriner

TIS Sports Coordinator



T.I.S. SPORTS PHOTOS



TAUPO ORIENTEERING CLUB

To celebrate 50 years since the Taupo Orienteering club started up, we are holding a 50th Anniversary rogaine series in various parts of the town area.

| Date | Where |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Friday 24 August | Town area TBA |
| Friday 7 Sept | Town area TBA |
| Friday 21 st Sept | Town area TBA |
| Friday 5 th October | Town area TBA |
| Friday 19 th October | Local farm map - familiarisation of orienteering on farm country |
| Friday 14 th Dec | Spa park with BBO |

• This is a great opportunity for families with year 5 to 8 (or younger or older) to take part in more events just like today's rogaine – either on foot or on MTB.
• Check out website TaupoOrienteeringClub.org closer to event dates
• Email info@taupoorienteering.org if you would like to be put on our regular newsletter email list.



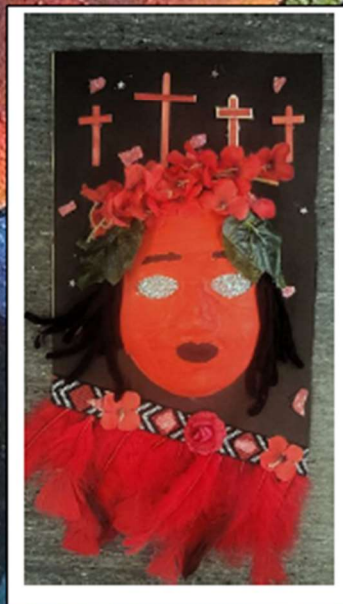
VISUAL ARTS TECHNOLOGY

CELEBRATING MATARIKI

This term in Visual Arts Technology, students have been learning about the meaning and significance of Matariki.

Students explored a Matariki star's story, unique qualities, and cultural importance in te ao Māori. They then brought their learning to life by designing and creating a 3D Matariki Mask that visually represented their chosen star.

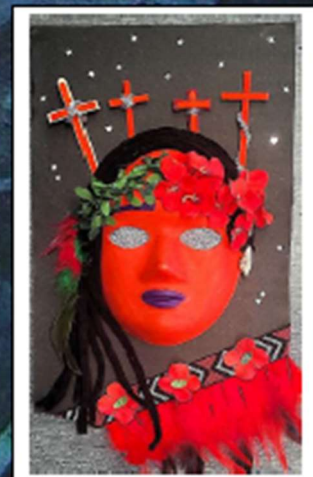
A key challenge was to ensure their mask clearly reflected the essence of the star—so much so that someone viewing it could guess which star it represented, even without knowing its name! I am so proud of all their artwork.



VISUAL ARTS TECHNOLOGY



Happy Matariki.
A time for
remembering the
dead, celebrating
the present, and
planning for the
future.



T.I.S STAFF NEWS



STAFF SNAPSHOT

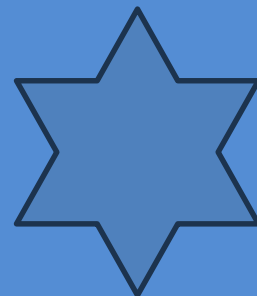
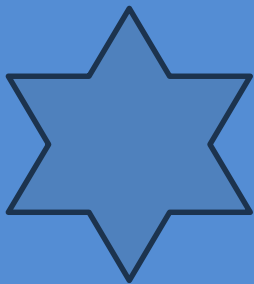


Kia ora e te whānau, I'm Kelly Rangihika, and I'm excited to be your Room 5 Teacher for this year at Taupō Intermediate School. I've been teaching for 16 years, gaining valuable experience from a variety of schools, and I'm continuously learning and growing in my practice.

*My roots are in Kawerau, and I whakapapa to Ngāi Tūhoe, Ngāti Whakatōhea, and Ngāti Awa. This heritage deeply informs my approach to education. Central to my teaching is the Māori proverb, "Mā mua ka kite a muri, mā muri ka ora a mua", which emphasizes the interconnectedness of leadership and growth. I am a firm believer that **nurturing positive relationships** with students, parents, and colleagues creates a supportive and engaging environment where students thrive. When students feel happy and connected, they become more proactive in their learning journey.*

When I'm not in the classroom, I'm enjoying time with my three adult children and four wonderful grandchildren, who bring so much joy and energy to my life. I'm genuinely enthusiastic about the remainder of 2025 and strengthening the connections within our school community.

Nga mihi nui, Kelly Rangihika Room 5 Teacher



Hi, my name is Donna Shaw, I have been a teacher aide for 16 years, 12 of that being at Taupo Intermediate. I am very happy to be part of the HUB where I teach Literacy groups. I am passionate about the students growth in this subject.

I also teach the ESOL students and love to learn about their culture and them about ours. I also do the Literacy after school tutoring.

My husband and I have a farm block just north of Taupo where we raise dry stock and also our special needs foster son, who we adore. My hobbies are knitting, gardening and definitely traveling overseas.

ROOM 21 - WRITING

Squirrels were known for their mischievous antics. Among them was a particularly clever squirrel named Nutty. Nutty lived up to his name, always devising elaborate plans to swipe snacks from unsuspecting park-goers.

One sunny afternoon, Nutty overheard a conversation between two children about a grand picnic that was to take place in the park that weekend. The picnic was to be the biggest event of the season, complete with blankets spread out as far as the eye could see, loaded with sandwiches, pies, and, most importantly, an enormous cheese platter.

Nutty's eyes twinkled with excitement. Cheese was his ultimate weakness. Not just any cheese, but the creamy rich kind that melted in your mouth. He knew he had to get his paws on it.

The Plan

That night Nutty gathered his fellow squirrels for a meeting under the old oak tree. They sat in a circle as Nutty unveiled his plan, which he named "The Great Squirrel Heist." The plan was simple yet daring they would distract the humans with their classic squirrel charm while Nutty made off with the cheese.

Nutty assigned roles to each squirrel. One would perform acrobatics on the swing set, another would raid the trash cans, and a third would pretend to be stuck in a tree, crying for help. Each distraction was designed to pull the humans' attention away from the picnic area.

The Execution

The day of the picnic arrived, and the park was packed with families and friends enjoying the beautiful weather. Nutty and his team took their positions, each one ready to spring into action at the signal.

As planned, the acrobat squirrel began his routine, flipping and twirling through the air with the grace of a seasoned performer. The humans clapped and cheered, completely captivated by the show.

Meanwhile, the trash can raider was doing his part, rummaging noisily and creating a small spectacle of his own.

Nutty seized the moment. He scurried across the picnic area, his heart pounding with excitement. The cheese platter sat there, gleaming in the sunlight like a golden treasure. With a swift flick of his tail, Nutty grabbed a chunk of cheese and darted back into the safety of the trees.

The Twist

Just as Nutty was about to celebrate his victory, he heard a voice from above. "Well, what do we have here?" It was an owl, perched on a branch with a knowing smile. The owl had been watching the entire operation unfold.

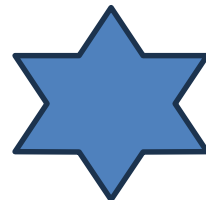
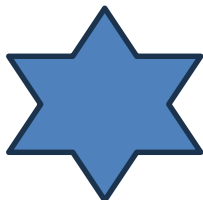
"You've outdone yourself this time, Nutty," the owl hooted. "But remember, sharing is caring."

Realizing he had been caught, Nutty nodded sheepishly and agreed to share the cheese with his team and the wise owl, who had kept their secret safe.

The squirrels gathered under the oak tree, nibbling on the cheese and laughing about their daring adventure. The Great Squirrel Heist had not only been a success but had also taught them the importance of friendship and sharing.

And so, the legend of Nutty and his band of squirrels spread throughout Oakville, becoming a tale of cleverness and was remembered by both humans and squirrels. By jamie. The end or is it!

Stan and Declan were stalking nutty!!!!!!



THE SUPPORT HUB

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

Support hub proudly presents the Taupo Intermediate Shout Out noticeboard

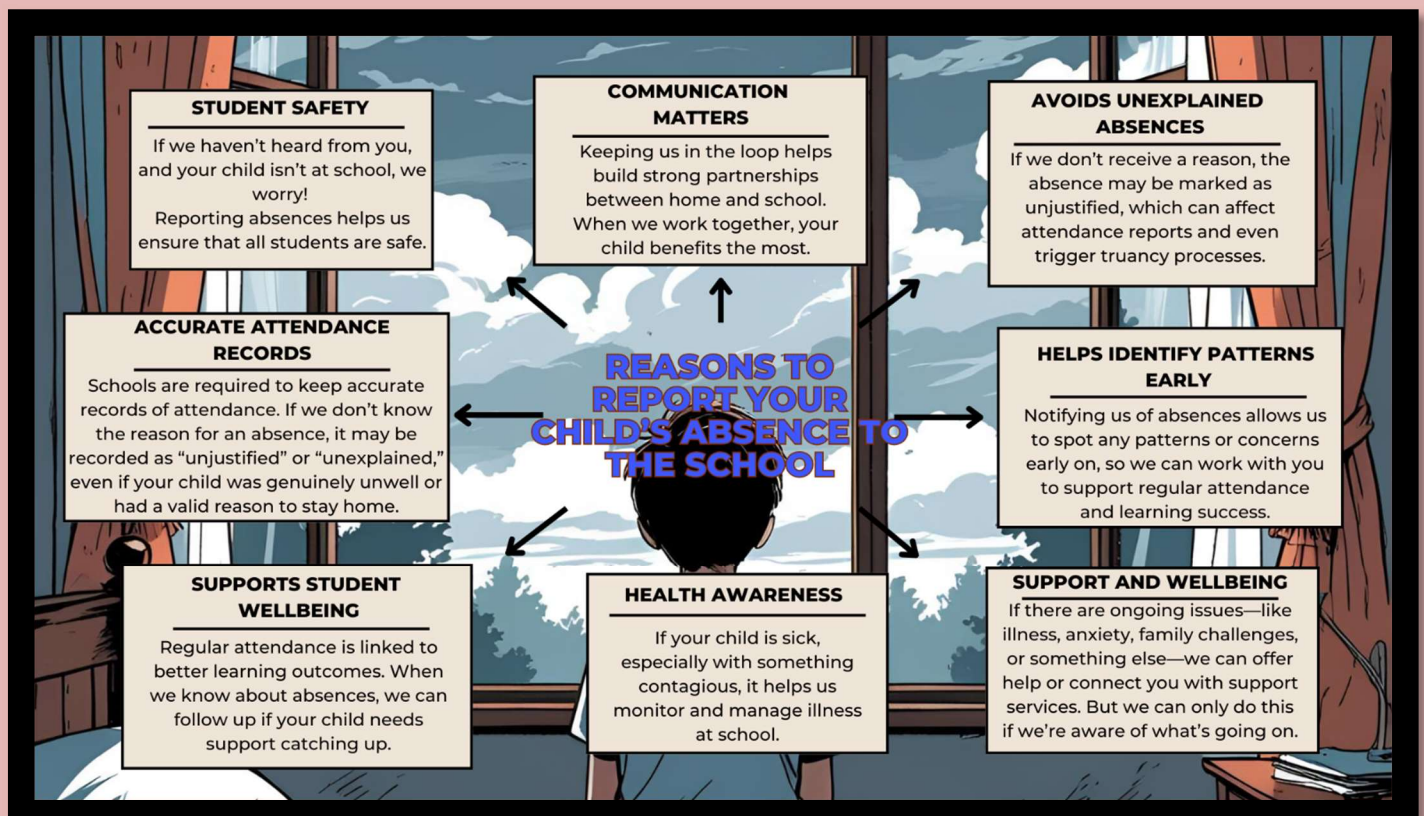
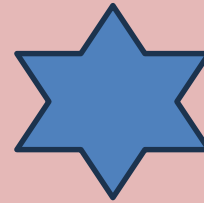
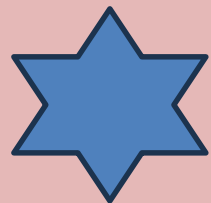
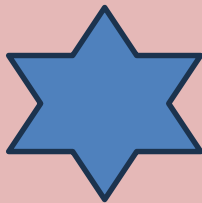
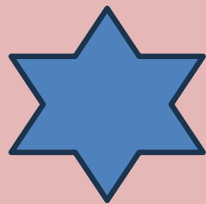
Have you got a great sports coach? Did the teacher go above and beyond for you? Have some parents supported your class activities? Did a random student help you in the playground?

Please let us know and we'll put it on our board.

Email any messages of thanks or praise to LearningSupport@taupointermediate.co.nz.

Help us fill the board with all the positive people in our school.

Be sure to mention their name and a brief message why you've given them a shout out.



GREENING TAUPŌ - ART COMPETITION



Te Rerewai's family attended the Prizegiving for the Greening kids taupō art competition.

Attendees including artist Sue Graham who was the judge and Jo Saville from Huka honey.

Te Rerewai got 2nd place for this in Taupō in her age category. It was a great event and show cased alot of kids in Taupō art talent.

T.I.S TUCK SHOP **KRISTIE'S KAI**

MORNING TEA BREAK 11-11.30am– Buy Items at the Tuckshop directly
LUNCH TIME BREAK –1.30pm-2pm – Buy Items at the Tuckshop directly



NB: Please note there is no longer any pre ordering of any lunch orders in classrooms
(Please download our School HERO app to view the Tuckshop Menu

Sushi & Indian cusine can be ordered at
They are delivered to our school on a Tuesday and Thursday
and can be collected from the Tuckshop on these days.



T.I.S IMPORTANT **UPCOMING DATES**

Monday 14th July

First day of school for Term Three

Tuesday 15th July

Room 4 Snow Trip

Wednesday 16th July

Room 4 Snow Trip

Friday 18th July

Super 11 Basketball

Friday 25th July

Super 11 Winter Tournament

Monday 28th July

BOARD MEETING

Friday 1st August

Super 11 Cross Country

Friday 8th August

Super 11 7s Rugby

Monday 11th August

Room 16 Whirinaki Camp

Tuesday 12th August

Room 16 Whirinaki camp

Wednesday 13th August

Room 16 Whirinaki camp

Room 17 Whirinaki camp

Thursday 14th August

Whirinaki camp

Friday 15th August

Room 17 Whirinaki camp

Monday 18th August

Taupo-nui-a-Tia & Tauhara College

School visit - Yr 8 Students

Tuesday 19th August

Taupo-nui-a-Tia & Tauhara College

School visit - Yr 8 Students

Wednesday 20th August

Tough Guy Tough Girl Challenge

Tuesday 26th August

Taupo Inter Schools Cross Country