

Date: Friday 5th September 2025 **Newsletter Number: 25**

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.

It's hard to believe we're already in Week 8! This term has flown by, and it's been incredible to see our students rise to the occasion. Their hard work and dedication, from class projects to sporting events, have been truly inspiring. With only a few weeks left, let's keep the momentum going. Students, remember to stay focused on your studies and finish the term strong. Parents, thank you for your continued support - we couldn't do it without you.

NZAIMS Games: A Week of Sporting Success

This week, we had over 100 students participate in the Zespri NZAIMS Games in Tauranga/Mount Maunganui. We can't wait for them to return and share their experiences and achievements. A huge thank you to our Sport Coordinator, Mrs. Sam Bradley, for her incredible effort in coordinating all our individual and team competitors, coaches, and managers. We also want to extend our deepest gratitude to all the parents and caregivers who volunteered as coaches and managers and supported the fundraising efforts. Your commitment made this event possible - thank you, thank you, thank you!

A Crucial Conversation on Cyber Safety

This week, we were also fortunate to have John Parsons speak to all our teams about cyber safety and cyberbullying. His presentation was a powerful reminder for our young adults to be mindful of what they post online and the lasting impact it can have on themselves and others. He challenged our students to think about the legal ages for platforms like Instagram and TikTok and the potential future consequences of their online actions. We'd like to thank the small number of parents and caregivers who attended the evening presentation. We also want to express our gratitude to the NZ Police Education Officer for arranging John Parsons' annual visit to our school.

Important Upcoming Events -

Next week is a busy one!

Lockdown Drill: On Monday, September 8, we will be conducting our annual lockdown practice under the guidance of Harrison Tew between 9:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. We will go through the complete lockdown procedure with all staff and students. You will receive notifications as you would in a real lockdown situation.

TIS Winter Sports Prizegiving: On Thursday, September 11, we will be holding the TIS Winter Sports Prizegiving in our school hall at 7:00 p.m.

Ngāti Tūwharetoa Tajopenga Kapa Haka Festival: Our 'Te Tira Kapa Haka o Taupō Taniwha' will be performing at the festival at the Taupō Recreational Centre on Friday, September 12, at 10:00 a.m. We're looking forward to a fantastic performance and seeing you there to support our kura.

Dance NZ Made Nationals: We wish the best of luck to our successful Dance NZ Made solos, duos, trios, and teams who will be competing in the Nationals at Regent on Broadway, Palmerston North on Saturday, September 13, and Sunday, September 14.

Ngā mihi **Brent Woods** Principal/Tumuaki





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VOTING REMINDER

There is still time for you to vote in our School Board election. We need three parent representatives to join the Taupo Intermediate School Board.

Schooled have been appointed as the Returning Officer for this election. They have already sent out voting instructions by the team at Election Pilot.

The clock is ticking. Because nominations close at 4pm on WEDNESDAY 10th September.

Election pilot will be sending out reminder emails again to all parents that will include your voting link. (please check your spam email if you haven't received the email).

The voting will close at 4pm on Wednesday 10th September and the results will be available on Tuesday 16th September. The candidates who receive the most votes will be elected to the board and the results will be shared with the candidates and our Taupo Intermediate community.

If you have any questions about the election process, please contact the Returning Officer directly on 0800 VOTENZ (0800 868 369) or election@electionpilot.nz.



Election Pilot Mission Control

PO Box 414, Christchurch 8140 Level 1, 89 Nazareth Avenue Middleton, Christchurch 8024

> Schooled.nz 0800 868 369 election@electionpilot.nz

TAUPO INTERMEDIATE PARENT BOARD ELECTION CANDIDATE PROFILES

ANDERSON-CARR, Lauren



I would like to learn more about this. Thanks in advance

BELL, Fiona



Tena kautou tena koutou tena koutou katoa. Ko Fiona Bell toku ingoa. I would like to offer myself for election for the Taupo Intermediate
Board. I am a resident of Taupo and have lived here for nearly five years. I have had a lifelong association with Taupo as my family have
maintained a holiday home here for coming up 60 years. I am a registered social worker, and I now have my own business providing
services to the social service sector. I have been a social worker for many years and have worked in both community and statutory roles in
various locations in the North Island. I have always worked with whanou and tamariki. I remain steadfastly committed to improving
outcomes for children and young people. I have had previous board experience as I was a volunteer board member for the Hastings
Women's Refuge in the early 2000's. I would like to offer my experience, skills and working knowledge of the Taupo community into the Taupo
Intermediate community through election to the board. Tena Koutou, tena Koutou, tena Koutou kotoa.





CANDIDATES

BERRIMAN, Chris



My commitment to our children's education runs deep as a father of two, with one child attending Taupo Nui a Tia and another at Taupo intermediate. (ve dedicated five years to governance roles, serving on the boards of Wairakei Primary and Taupo Intermediate (where I currently remain). Before that, I was President of Bethlehem Primary's PTA. This experience has reinforced my belief in creating a school where every student, staff member, and community participant feels valued and supported, leading to a rewarding and exceptional learning journey for all at Taupo Intermediate.

BENDALL, Simon



Kia ora, I'm Simon Bendall. Our eldest son is in Year 8 at TiS, while our younger two boys are still at Wairakei Primary School and will start intermediate in 2026 and 2029 — so we're looking forward to being part of the TiS community for a good few years. For me, standing for the Board of Trustees is a way to give back and support TiS to be the school we all – students, whanau, teachers – want it to be. I loved my time when I was at intermediate, but the past couple of years have been tough going for many of the students I know and have spoken to. I feel strongly that the potential is there, that there are green shoots, and I am passionate about supporting the next phases. From 2019 to 2023, I was a trustee on the board of Hillary Outdoors, an experience that highlighted the impact of hands-on learning and leadership in young people's development. Opportunities for more outdoor education / learning outside the classroom at TiS is important to me. For more than a decade I've also been on a company board, gaining a solid understanding of how governance and day-to-day operations work best together. In my day job I run my own business, working with our wider team to support environmental planning and freshwater science projects. Coming from a family of teachers, I hold a strong belief in the value of a supportive, engaging school environment — one that sets tamariki up not just to succeed academically, but to grow as confident, capable people. It would be a privilege to contribute to TiS in this way. Ngā mihi, Simon Bendall

CLARKE, Jason



Kia ora, I am currently the presiding member of Taupo Intermediate School Board and wish to seek re-election to the board. I am committed to the continued growth of our school. We have achieved significant change in the past 3 years with much improved behaviour management systems, completed a number of property projects, increased community engagement, completed strategic planning, established new policy frameworks and made significant improvements in the way that we communicate with our school community. We still have more work to do and I am excited by the opportunity to continue to achieve excellence at Taupo Intermediate. My step daughter is in her first year at the intermediate school and loving the environment. She is heavily involved in as many of the activities offered by the school that she possibly can. She has a strong friend group and has happily shared with us the growth in her learning. This IS the school that I want for our child but it is also the school that I want for all of the students at Taupo Intermediate. I have served as a trustee and board chair in the primary school system and believe that I bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to my current role on the board at our school. The current board has set the building blocks in place for the school to flourish moving forward and I want to continue to be a part of that journey. Thank you for your vote.

CARPENTER, Pia



I am putting myself forward for nomination to the School Board because I believe I can bring valuable governance experience, strategic insight, a parent's lived experience of school challenges, and a genuine commitment to community representation. As a full-time working parent of neurodiverse children, I would bring an important perspective to the board. I understand the day-to-day challenges families face and know firsthand how important good communication from schools is in supporting whanaul would be a passionate advocate for inclusive education and school management practices that prioritise the wellbeing of all students - ensuring every child feels supported, safe, and valued-emotionally, physically, and academically. I am an empathetic and honest communicator and understand the importance of a positive and collaborative relationship between the board, principal, staff, and wider school community. I believe good governance requires listening, learning, and also being prepared to ask the hard questions."m not afraid to ensure accountability, have courageous conversations, and ask the hard questions when necessary - always with the aim of finding constructive practical solutions that are in the best interests of the whole school community. In additional to my parenting and family experience, my professional background in health and safety, strategic planning, and systems enables me to bring strategic thinking and practical insights to school board decision-making. I also have a good understanding of the 'machinery of government' and how government systems operate. I am aware of the challenges that schools face, including managing finite financial resources, the need to maintain and advocate for infrastructure development, and ensuring resources are used effectively and transparently to support long-term goals. I bring integrity, empathy, and take pride in doing what I say I will do, and in holding myself to a high standard of accountability. With strong interpersonal and communication skills, I'm able to connect with a wide range of people and perspectives, and I'm confident in navigating complex or sensitive matters with professionalism and carel'm excited by the apportunity to support Taupō Intermediate and ensure the Board of Trustees reflects the values, needs, and diversity of our community, it would be a privilege to serve on the Board and to contribute to a strong, safe and inclusive school that supports every student to thrive





CANDIDATES

GRAHAM, Brad



Dear Community.) am seeking re-election to the board after a rewarding year serving our school. I have had the pleasure of watching my child graduate from Taupo Intermediate, while my younger child is thriving in Year 7. My commitment to this role stems from a genuine desire to enhance the educational experience for all students, teachers, and staff. During my time on the board, I have been dedicated to listening to the voices of students, parents, caregivers, and the community. Together, we have initiated several improvements and embraced new ideas that reflect what our community desires from our school take great joy in contributing to our school, particularly through outdoor activities, encouraging students to disconnect from their devices and truly enjoy their childhood. I believe in fostering a vibrant environment where learning flourishes and every student can thrive I would be honored to continue this journey and work alongside all of you to create the best possible learning opportunities for our children. Thank you for your support! Sincerely, Brad Graham

KAUR, Jagdeep



Statement not provided

KARA, Emily



Kia ora, my name is Emily Kara. I am the mother of Oakland, a current student at Taupō Intermediate, and I am passionate about contributing to the wellbeing and success of our school community. I have a vision to inspire and educate our tamariki through holistic health, movement, and martial arts. I believe that by strengthening the mind, body, and spirit, we can equip our young people with the tools to thrive both inside and outside the classroom. As the mother of Oakland, who attends Taupō intermediate, I have a personal commitment to supporting the school's growth and direction. I bring over a decade of experience in health, fitness, and nutrition, along with a proven track record in community engagement. I am a certified Nutritionist (x2) and am currently working on projects that provide our kids with the best nutrition possible – supporting their ability to look, feel, and behave at their best. I am also collaborating with local kura to develop a new sport/event that promotes fitness, strength, and wellbeing.) am a Muay Thai fighter, trainer, and promoter, with experience teaching children in kura. I believe self-defence builds confidence, discipline, and resilience — qualities that help our rangatahi in every aspect of life. am currently studying nutrition and business through a professional training organisation, as well as academic writing, with the intention of continuing my academic journey at the University of Canterbury toward a PhD in Health Science. My studies give me the knowledge to make informed decisions backed by research, while also bringing fresh ideas and creative solutions to support the school's direction. My passion lies in guiding and mentoring rangatahi, helping them build resilience, confidence, and life skills. As a solo parent to three boys, I understand the aspirations and challenges many families face. My governance experience includes serving as Personal Assistant to André Taylor, who has served on many high-profile boards - giving me direct insight into effective governance, decision-making, and strategic planning. value collaboration, open communication, and transparent decision-making. As a visionary, I aspire to contribute fresh ideas that strengthen the connection between the school, whanau, and wider Taupo community. It would be an honour to serve on the Taupo Intermediate School Board and work alongside others to create an environment where every learner feels supported, inspired, and empowered to reach their potential.Ngā mihi nui,Emīly Kara

KUMAR, Monika



Statement not provided

MCCARTHY, Raelene



I am pleased to put myself forward for the school board, bringing over 30 years of business and leadership experience. Currently, I serve as Executive Manager of Business Operations at IAG New Zealand, where I lead initiatives to improve service delivery, operational efficiency, and support across the organisation. Throughout my career, I have focused on building resilient, people-centred systems and leading programmes aligned with long-term strategic goals, such as the 2030 strategy. My work has centred on modernising business structures, fostering continuous improvement, transformation and cultivating agile, adaptable teams. My collaborative approach emphasises innovation, partnership, and a strong connection to the community. With a background in business systems, governance, and strategic transformation, I am committed to delivering effective solutions and promoting an inclusive, high-performing culture. I believe clear communication and stakeholder engagement are key to empowering teams and shaping positive educational environments. I am passionate about education's vital role in shaping our future. I believe every child deserves access to a high-quality, inclusive learning environment. As a board member, I would support schools in achieving excellent outcomes for students, staff, families, and the wider community. I am dedicated to thoughtful, transparent, and community-driven governance—values I bring from my professional life. Inclusivity and fairness are at the heart of my approach. In 2024, my husband, teenage daughter, and I moved back to Taupō, along with our three pets, to be closer to family. Outside of work, I enjoy walking, biking, gardening, supporting my daughter's dance interests, and reading on rainy days! look forward to working with the board, educators, and families to ensure our schools remain places of excellence, eauity, and opportunity for all.





CANDIDATES

MILLER, Fiona



Hello! I'm Fiona Miller, and I'm keen to serve you on the TIS board. I believe every child deserves the apportunity for a quality education, providing them with confidence and optimism for their future. Key to this is being seen and respected as an individual in a safe and engaging learning environment, both in and beyond the classroom. My eldest child started at TIS this year, while the younger two attend Waipahihi School. I'm running in this election as I'm a strong believer in developing solutions, rather than pointing fingers at problems. I can bring a passion for education to the board, relevant management skills and governance experience, and a genuine desire to hear and represent your voice. Intermediate is a critical transition between primary and secondary schooling. TIS offers academic stretch, cultural errichment, competitive sports, education outside the classroom (EOTC) and introduction to specialist subjects. While I support the school's strategic direction and changes management are implementing. I believe there is still much mahi needed to make these opportunities a reality for all students. Areas of concern I've heard voiced by parents include school transitions, communication, whan au engagement, physical safety, professional conduct and equitable learning opportunities. I come from a family of teachers, making me aware of the challenges faced by schools and staff. My Waipahihi School board role (2020-current) has provided deeper understanding of The New related careers, and student achievement. My professional background and passion is science and its real-world application (BSc, BApplSci Hons, MBA). I am a self-employed business consultant, previously holding senior roles in research and agribusiness companies including AgResearch, LIC and WaikatoLink, and supporting geothermal industry growth here in Taupo with Amplify. This experience, alongside investment committee (UniQuest) and industry board (NZGA) experience, gives me strong strategic and financial planning skills. I am also deeply involved in the Taupo community through education and junior sports. I am a Trustee for CSPACT / Memorial Hut (2023-present), Trustee and Treasurer of Tawa Early Learning Centre (2020-2024) and Officer and Secretary of Taupo Family Playcentre (2014-2023). I coach junior hockey and football, and actively support my kids' schools on EOTC and sports events. I am keen to support the TIS Board and staff to transform our school from the default option into one that we are all proud of.

PAAKA, Ebony



Kia cra, ko Ebony Paaka tõku ingoa. He uri tēnei nõ Ngāti Tūwharetoa ki Tūrangitukua. He māmā takitahi ahaul am nominating myself for the Board of Trustees because I am passionate about supporting our tamariki through inclusive, informed, and culturally grounded governance! work full-time as an administrator for a local Māori Land Trust, where I regularly engage with shareholders and support the Trust's operations from a cultural perspective. This role has strengthened my skills in communication, shareholder engagement, and working within structured governance systems. I am also studying toward a degree in Psychology and Māori and Indigenous Studies. This academic path reflects my deep interest in understanding the science behind children's behaviour and development, and my belief that all tamariki deserve to be understood, supported, and valued for who they are I hope to contribute a te ao Māori lens to board discussions and decisions, supporting a learning environment that genuinely reflects Māori perspectives, values whānau voices, and empowers every learner to thrive. I believe education should nurture the whole child -emotionally, culturally, socially, and academically. I am confident I can bring a thoughtful, grounded and compassionate voice to the board. Guided by manaakitanga and whanaungatanga, I am committed to working collaboratively with fellow trustees, staff, and whānau to support the kura and help shape a safe, inclusive, and inspiring space for all ākonga. Nei rā te mhi.

ROBERTSON, Hamish



Application for TiS Board Involvement Hamish Robertson – Parent of Year 7 Student To the TiS Leadership Team, My name is Hamish Robertson, proud husband and dad to three children, including a current Year 7 student at Taupö Intermediate School. I'm writing to express my strang interest in supporting the school's angoing development by contributing to the board and wider school community. Over the past two terms, I've seen clear signs that TiS is heading in a positive direction. There's real commitment from staff and a foundation to build something special. But stronger processes and more parent involvement are needed to take the next step—and from parent evenings and conversations, I know the support exists to make that happen, My focus is an building a stronger duty of care culture and helping rid the school of bullying. I believe we have capable teachers, and despite staffing shortages, they can lead with confidence when supported. Their stories, values, and leadership can shape an incredible environment for our kids—if they're given the backing they deserve Professionally, I bring 20 years of experience as a PGA Golf Professional across New Zealand and Australia, and currently serve as Head Professional at Taupö Golf Club. My role includes coaching children of all ages, helping them develop confidence, resilience, and a sense of belonging. I've built programs and led teams that rely on strong communication, trust, and consistency—skills I believe are just as important in a school setting. I also hold a Bachelor of Applied Information Systems (2003), giving me a practical understanding of operations, systems, and community engagement. As a parent, I care about every child at this school. I want to contribute to a culture where students feel safe, supported, and proud to be part of TiS. I'm ready to stand alongside teachers, leadership, and other parents to help bring that vision to life. Thank you for your time and consideration. Warm regards, Hamish Robertson 022 514 5224 mishgolf@gmail.com

SAINSBURY, Tracey



Kia ora koutouXo Tracey Sainsbury toku ingoa. I am writing to nominate myself for the Taupo Intermediate School Board as a parent member. I moved to Taupō in 2018 with my husband and two children and now am very happy to call this beautiful town home. As a teacher by profession, I have a deep understanding of the New Zealand education system. My professional experience, combined with my commitment as a parent, motivates me to contribute to our school community to ensure all students receive the best possible education and support. My background in education provides me with insights into what a school needs to thrive. I understand the importance of strong governance, effective communication between the board and the school community, and a supportive environment for both students and staff My family has a continuous connection to the school. My son is a current student, and while he will be leaving at the end of this year, my daughter is set to start in 2027. Additionally, my work premise has recently moved onto the intermediate school grounds, which will allow me to build valuable connections with the school's staff and wider community. Delieve in open communication, transparency, and working collaboratively to support the school's vision and mission. I hope to be a supportive voice for our students, parents, and teachers, and would be grateful for the opportunity to serve on the Board of Trustees Ngâ milh nuil'rocey Sainsbury

CANTERBURY COMPETITIONS

We have recently received the results for those students who opted to complete the Canterbury Competitions. These online competitions are run each year by Canterbury University.

Our students sat English, Mathematics, Science and Spelling. Congratulations to all our students who took part.

We received the following results: Participation Achieved Merit Excellence Distinction

English 11 6 2 2 Science 10 6 4 1 Mathematics 9 9 5 3

Special congratulations to these students who achieved Merit (at or above 75 %)

English: Kauri Crabb, Jayde Wiggan
Mathematics: Kauri Crabb, Sadev Thelge, Patrick Wilson,
Aiden Zheng, Pablo Stewart
Science: Sadev Thelge, Aiden Zheng, Benji Farrar, Jack Simpson

Congratulations to these students who achieved Excellence (at or above 90 %)

English: Addison Rennie, Patrick Wilson Mathematics: Benji Farrar, Martin Jung, Sonny Knox, Science: Patrick Wilson

The Spelling Exams are being completed over the next week. ICAS results will be shared when all the testing is completed.



It's been an action-packed week at Aims Games, and our students have truly excelled!

Their skills, camaraderie, and teamwork have been outstanding. Stay tuned for more details next week or head over to our school's Facebook page for highlights.

Taupo Rippa Rugby Tournament:

A reminder for all students wanting to participate in the Taupo Rippa Rugby Tournament: please ensure you complete the online registration form. All students must be registered in order to be eligible to play.

Winter Sports Awards Evening:

Join us on **Thursday, 11th September**, to celebrate the achievements of our winter sports teams! This special evening will recognize our student athletes and offer thanks to our incredible coaches and team managers.

Please RSVP by Wednesday, 10th September, to sport@taupointermediate.co.nz.

COMMUNITY SPORT EVENTS





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.

HERO-PARENT GUIDE

Website for parents for help with HERO https://our-

hero.com/parent-guide



Why Hero?

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Hero Parent Guide

Hero is a secure learning and administration platform for schools to share learning and communicate with students and their whānau.

Te Whatu Ora





Fluoride Varnish in Schools Program

Fluoride varnish is a temporary protective coating that is painted on your child's teeth. It is quick and easy to apply.

Currently, fluoride varnish is usually applied each year at your child's routine dental examination to prevent decay.

Your child's school is part of a program in which Te Whatu Ora (Lakes) Oral Health Service is applying fluoride varnish to eligible children in Years 1-8 twice a year at their school. This is an additional service that does not replace your child's routine dental exam.

The dental team will be visiting Taupo Intermediate School on Wednesday 10th September 2025 to provide this service to those children who are enrolled with us and have consent to have fluoride treatment.

If you have any questions regarding this service, or you **do not** want your child to receive fluoride, please phone the Lakes Oral Health team on 0800 525 378 (0800 Lakes Teeth).





THE SUPPORT HUB

A real vibe at morning teatime today. Youthtown are supporting with activities, bean bags and music on our belated daffodil day. It's fabulous to see the students embracing the yellow theme somehow. Volleyball and handball seem to be the popular activities of choice during break time.













THE SUPPORT HUB

Jase Williams came to spend time with staff and students and discuss the importance of trauma informed practice, getting curious about behaviour and the importance of movement throughout the day.



Jase Williams can be found on Facebook and Instagram, follow him for more tips and supports.





The library is a space that is open most lunchtime where students can come and read a book, play a quiet game of chess with friends, do some research on the computer or just have quiet time. We have some dedicated Librarians running the space through the guidance of Mrs Hack.

TAUPO-NUI-A-TIA & TAUHARA COLLEGE

Out of zone ballots for both schools.

Closes on the 10th of September.

Tauhara ballot can be found on their Facebook page.

Nui ballot can be found on their website under zoning information.

It will be drawn on September 11th. Families notified on September 12th.

Schools will send a confirmation email when the application is received to the families.





TI.S IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

Monday 8th September
Lockdown Practice with Harrison Tew
TIS BOARD MEETING 5.30pm

<u>Tuesday 9th September</u> Ngati Tuwharetoa Schools Festival (to Friday)

Wednesday 10th September
Yr 7 & 8 - Fluoride Visits - Dental Nurses
(Classes will be called into the Library)

Thursday 11th September
TIS Winter Sports Evening - 7pm

Friday 12th September
Ngāti Tūwharetoa Taiopenga Kapa Haka Festival
Taupō Intermediate on at 10.00am

Saturday 13th September & Sunday 14th September

Dance NZ Made Nationals - Regent on Broadway, Palmerston North

13th September - She Shines On Solos. Junior, Intermediate & Senior Teams

14th September - Wake Up & Dance, Duos & Trios

Tuesday 16th September
Kiwi Sport Rippa Rugby
Year 8 Vaccinations 9am-12noon in the Hall

<u>Wednesday 17th September</u> Mathsmatters - Year 5/6

Thursday 18th September
Mathsmatters - Year 7/8
Big Music Day Out

Friday 19th September Last day of Term 3

Monday 6th October First day of Term 4