



Newsletter Number: 29

Date: Friday 31st October 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.**

I hope you all enjoyed the extra-long weekend with your child as we head into the busy build-up to Christmas.

Thank You for Your Support

A huge thank you to our parents and caregivers for your support last week during the NZEI & PPTA Strike Day on Thursday. While we are aware that this causes a disruption to your child's learning and is an inconvenience, as a profession, we must stand strong. We need the Government to acknowledge and support our profession. With the well-known teacher shortage in New Zealand, fighting for better conditions and ensuring the well-being of teachers is paramount going forward. We are hopeful that the Government will take the appropriate actions to avoid further strike action.

Thank you also for supporting our staff on their Teacher Only Day last Friday.

Focus on Mathematics and Curriculum Refresh

Our Teacher Only Day focused on developing our mathematics program and improving teaching and learning practices throughout the school. Over the last two years, this has been a major focus for us.

The professional learning was led by Andrew Macdonald and Niall Dinning from the Ministry of Education as we reviewed the re-revised version of the mathematics curriculum, which was dropped by the MOE last Monday. While there have been some alterations to this edition, the fundamentals remain similar. This was a great opportunity for our TIS team to receive the latest information and be at the forefront of these changes as we move into planning for 2026.

School Successes and Activities

Chess Congratulations: Congratulations to our students in the school chess team who participated in the Auckland competition over the long weekend. Well done on your efforts!

Lunchtime Sports

Congratulations to all our students who have been participating in our lunchtime sports competition of quoits over the last three weeks. It is fantastic to see so many of you engaging and supporting your classmates during lunchtime. Special congratulations to our early class points leaders: Room 17, Room 16, and Room 21, as well as Team Ruapehu. Let's see if your class can beat them and get your team to the top!

EOTC Experience

Last week, it was great to have our first classes head out on their two-day EOTC experience which included rock climbing, an overnight stay at Memorial Hut on Mt. Ruapehu, and white-water rafting. The feedback from staff, parents, and students is that they had an awesome time and enjoyed the challenging activities. Thanks to Mr. Blake for his organisation and effort in making this EOTC experience available for our students.

Please Note: Unfortunately, the weather has impacted this week's EOTC, and the trips for Rooms 6 & 20 were postponed. We will look for another opportunity for these classes/students to complete these activities.

Connecting with our Community

Over the last two weeks, we have been visiting our four major contributing primary schools (Wairakei, Taupō, Waipahihi, & Tauhara) with our current Year 7 & 8 students who previously attended those schools. It has been exciting to hear about their positive experiences and how they have developed into independent, confident young adults at TIS. It has also been lovely to hear the positive comments from their past teachers about their personal growth and how they are blossoming at Taupō Intermediate.

To connect with our year 6 students' parents, Mrs. Patterson and Mr. Woods have been doing their evening presentations to parents and caregivers. These have been well attended, and we would like to thank you all for taking the time to hear about TIS and the direction we are heading in.

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





T.I.S SPORTS



CO-ORDINATOR NEWS!

TIS Sports Bulletin

Last Friday, our Touch teams travelled to Rotorua for the **Super 11 Touch Tournament**. The competition was fierce and fast-paced, and all four teams gave their best efforts, showing great determination and teamwork. While we couldn't quite overcome some very strong opposition, the players represented TIS with pride and spirit. A huge thank you to all the parents who helped with transport and support on the day.

This Friday our Super 11 Volleyball Team are off for their Tournament in Tauranga. They have looked great in trainings at morning and lunchtime intervals. Thank you to Mrs Wood for all her time with the team.

This week we've continued with our popular and very competitive **Lunchtime Quoits Challenge**, which has been a hit with students across all year levels. Congratulations to Room 17 who won by 1 point (90 points) over Room 16 (89 Points). 3rd was Room 21 with 75 points. I cannot wait for the next lunchtime activity. Thank you to Mrs Shephard and Mr Somers for organising.

On Friday we have our House Athletics where students participate in athletics events (Shot Put/High Jump/Long Jump/ Sprints) and earn points for their or to use team. Also, the opportunity to qualify for the **TIS Athletics Championships on Monday, 10th November**. Please note there will be no qualifiers for the 400/ 800m they will be done as straight finals at the Championships.

Students who place in the **top two** at the TIS Athletics Championships **and meet qualifying standards** will have the opportunity to represent Taupo Intermediate at the **Taupo Inter-Schools Athletics on Wednesday, 12th November** at Owen Delaney Park.

We had a great turn out for the coaching with the Northern District Cricket Coach's on Thursday. The boys had a lot of fast energetic drills and mini games of cricket. The coaches are back on Thursday 11th November for session 2. Then we will be entering four teams into the Kiwi Sport Cricket Tournament

Other news Kahlia Crocker rode at the North Island BMX champs at Mountain Raiders track in Pakuranga, Auckland. After 6 qualifying rounds, she made it to the final and is now NI 8 in the 11girls category

Thank you for your continued support.



T.I.S SPORTS



CO-ORDINATOR PHOTOS



ROOM 24

WALLS & WATER

CAMP - WEEK 3

Kia Ora T.I.S. Whanau! The excitement of camp on our beautiful Maunga, Ruapehu, has already filled the classrooms with stories from many classes. But today, the spotlight is on Room 24, and their endeavour to have fun!

We started off at about 9 o'clock on a chilly Monday morning in the school hall, Whaea Tash was attempting to get us all in one place to take the roll, but it was like herding cats! Whenever we all assembled in one place, a few would break away to go to the toilet or talk to their mates, probably simultaneously. Finally, we all came together under the threat of missing rock climbing, and she began splitting us into car groups. There were moaning, groaning, and grumbling noises when it was announced that we hadn't booked a bus so all the girls could not sit together. However, they pulled themselves together and persevered to make it through to rock climbing.

When we arrived, a jovial instructor came over and introduced himself "Hi, my name is Josh." We had to wait for about 20 minutes staring in awe at the immense walls of rock, wait, no, the immense walls of plywood. Anyway, when the rest of the class caught up, Josh, the instructor, explained in great detail how to wear the harness; "So, you put your leg through there and pull that strap, then you put that through there and pull that up to there." When we started climbing, it was a bit of organised chaos, bums and limbs everywhere, but then we got into the flow of it, and it started coming naturally. Brandon, one of the drivers, pulled off some insane moves, practically hanging upside-down on a wall, just like a bat. After a thank you to the instructors, we got back on the road. Our next stop: Mount Ruapehu.

Driving up the mountain with a group of rowdy kids in the back is no easy task. According to all the drivers (not the kids), they thought it was quite easy. Stepping out of the car is like someone from Fiji suddenly being teleported to Antarctica. There was sleet flying everywhere, and you couldn't have seen your hand in front of your face if you tried. To some the walk up must have felt like summiting Everest. It certainly sounded like it when they reached the hut. Yelling out "I dibs this bed". Room 24 had returned to a state of chaos.

After several intense rounds of ping-pong, the parents started summoning us for dinner. Nachos with mince and beans. You can already see the problem with 15 odd boys sleeping marae style on the floor. I shall not elaborate on this. In the morning, we had to hurry to get to white water rafting. With farts still fresh on our minds, the van ride to rafting was a little less noisy, for fear of breathing in fumes. At Tongariro white water rafting we were told that we needed to split into boys and girls and change into a wetsuit, a fleece, two boots, a waterproof jacket, and a lifejacket. Once we had put on our gear, we were given a small lecture by one of the instructors, "How do you spell wetsuit?" We responded "W-E-T-S-U-I-T". "Exactly, and was there any P in wetsuit?" "No" "Good, so keep it that way."

The eager cheers from our rafts were lost in the roar of the first rapid, which had the kids screaming and soaked. But even as the churning water consumed them, most of the boys responded with a chest-thumping display of bravado. Halfway to Turangi, we saw some trout, then our instructors told us we could jump off the boat if we wanted. Had they gotten sick of us? No, it couldn't be.

Coming back was uneventful except for a long toilet stop at a park in Turangi. By the time we reached school, we were all exhausted. We then piled out of the van and went our separate ways home.

By Patrick Wilson, Room 24



ROOM 19

WALLS & WATER CAMP

On Wednesday we all came to school excited to go on our camp. It was a long trip because of our excitement. Day one we went rock climbing, it was awesome. We couldn't wait to get to the hut. We got to the hut, and the sun was out shining and then we all settled in. Pizza for dinner and a cool movie and off to bed. The next day the weather had changed but we went off to white water rafting. It was very bumpy and exciting.

We can't wait for the next one.

Special thanks to Mr Blake and Brandon for coming with us



THE SUPPORT HUB

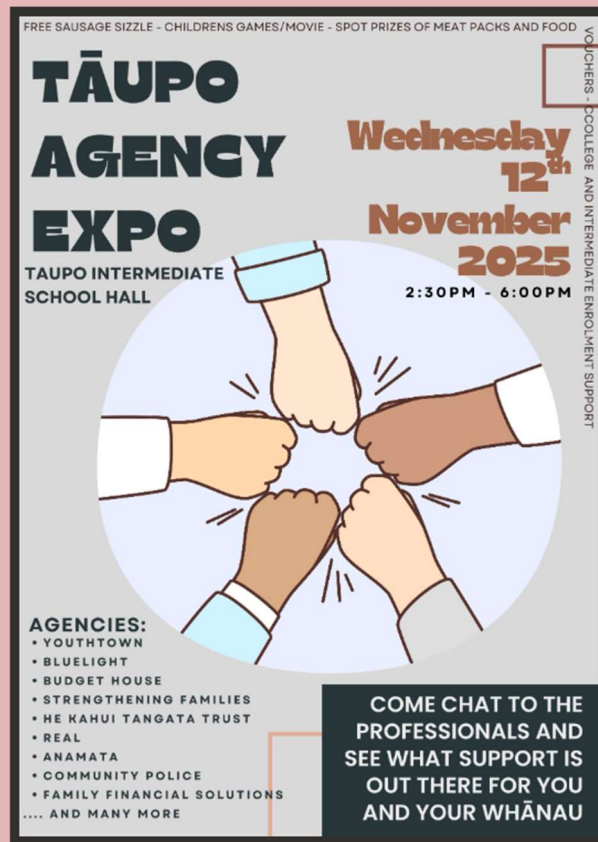
Staff dressed in pink on Wellness Wednesday in support of Breast Cancer Awareness month. The Support Hub held a bake sale to raise funds for the charity. We had wonderful families donating a variety of baked goods, along with some amazing staff members. Thank you to all that either donated or purchased food. We raised \$247



Young Pioneers group made damper and cooked it on the fire pit on Thursday this week.



THE SUPPORT HUB



YOUTHTOWN

At Youthtown, we're all about creating safe, fun, and inspiring spaces for tamariki and rangatahi to grow, connect, and shine. Alongside our after-school OSCAR programmes and holiday adventures, we've also been supporting schools with morning truancy pick-ups to help students re-engage with learning, and delivering wellness programmes that focus on building confidence, resilience, and hauora.

This term, our rangatahi have enjoyed everything from sports and creative projects to outdoor challenges and community connections.

We're proud to be part of the Taupō community and look forward to continuing to support whānau and schools in helping tamariki and rangatahi thrive.

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

TERM 4 **WEEK 5**

Wednesday 5th November – Super 11 Beach Challenge
Thursday 6th November – Super 11 Beach Challenge
Friday 7th November – Super 11 Beach Challenge

WEEK 6

Monday 10th November – T.I.S Athletics – OP Park
Wednesday 12th November – Taupo Interschool Athletics

Wednesday 12th November - Professionals Community Event 2.30pm-6pm
Friday 14th November – Super 11 Girls Cricket

WEEK 7

Friday 21st November – Super 11 Athletics

WEEK 8

Monday 24th November – Board Meeting 5.30pm
Monday 24th November - Orientation Days Tauhara and Taupo Primary visit TIS
Tuesday 25th November – Wairakei and Waipahihi visit TIS
Wednesday 26th November – CWAA Testing Day 9.30-11am

WEEK 9

Monday 1st December – Student Conferences 11.30-6.00pm
Tuesday 2nd December – Parent Conferences 3.30-4.30pm
Wednesday 3rd December – Parent Conferences 3.30-4.30pm

WEEK 10

Thursday 11th December – Graduation Dance Year 8 6-8pm
Friday 12th December – Year 8 Prize Giving 1pm (Yr 7 half day)
Monday 15th December – Year 7 Prize Giving 1pm
Tuesday 16th December – LAST DAY OF TERM – Half Day

EDUCATION OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Walls and Water Camp- Class Dates

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 3 20-24 Oct	20 Oct Room 24	21 Oct Rooms 7 & 24	22 Oct Rooms 19 & 7	23 Oct Room 19	24-Oct
Week 4 27-31 Oct	27 Oct Labour Day	28 Oct Room 6	29 Oct Rooms 20 & 6	30 Oct Rooms 2 & 20	31 Oct Room 2
Week 5 3-7 Nov	3 Nov Room 22	4 Nov Rooms 8 & 22	5 Nov Rooms 21 & 8	6 Nov Rooms 1 & 21	7 Nov Room 1
Week 6 10-14 Nov	10-Nov	11 Nov Room 5	12 Nov Rooms 9 & 5	13 Nov Rooms 3 & 9	14 Nov Room 3
Week 7 17-21 Nov	17 Nov Room 23	18 Nov Rooms 25 & 23	19 Nov Rooms 10 & 25	20 Nov Rooms 4 & 10	21 Nov Room 4

Notes:

- Each class will attend a one-night camp at Memorial Hut, Mt Ruapehu.
- All dates are weather dependent — updates will be communicated to whānau if any changes occur.

ALL DETAILS ARE ON OUR HERO APP

Walls and Water camp gear list

Tongariro River Rafting Waiver is on hero to be completed
Walls and Water camp Child permission form to be completed
Allergies/wellbeing form to be completed

(PLEASE COMPLETE)

Any queries please email your child's teacher as well
as Deputy Principal Sam Blake (EOTC)