



Newsletter Number: 05

Date: Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2026

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

Can you believe we are already halfway through the first term? It feels like just yesterday we were celebrating Christmas and New Year, and now Easter is just around the corner. As the saying goes, "*Time flies when you are having fun!*"

The first half of Term 1 has been a resounding success. Our students have settled beautifully into their classes and routines, consistently living by our TIS Values.

### **Connections & Goal Setting**

A huge thank you to all the parents, caregivers, and whānau who attended our Meet, Greet & Goal Set evenings this past Wednesday and Thursday. That connection between home and school is vital; it ensures our teachers clearly understand your expectations for your child's journey in 2026.

- Missed the sessions? I strongly encourage you to email your child's class teacher to organize a time to catch up.

### **Sustainability & Community Stars**

Congratulations to Nia Simm, Adelyn Pritchard, Leela Thompson & Laura Officer! They were recognized at this week's assembly for their outstanding and entertaining video on the *Greening Taupō* Facebook page. Their work on preventing "gold clams" from entering our beautiful Lake Taupō was fantastic.



**A special thank you to Rachel and the Greening Taupō team for everything you do for our school and the wider community!**

### **Sports & Participation**

Well, done to all the students who participated in the school swimming trials today. It was awesome to see over a third of the school diving in and giving it their best. The energy poolside was infectious!

### **TIS Excellence Awards**

This week, students received their TIS Excellence Awards Passports.

This is a wonderful opportunity for all students to strive for:

- Bevan Docherty & Donovan Bixley Awards
- Principal's Academic Medals (Bronze, Silver, & Gold)
- The Tū Rangatira Award



**(Note for Year 8s: You can build on last year's achievements! See Mr. Blake to have your previous credits transferred over to your new 2026 passport)**

I wish all our students the very best of luck in pursuing these awards throughout the year. Thank you to our entire school whānau for your ongoing support. I'm looking forward to another five exciting weeks to wrap up a great first term.

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

# ATTENDANCE CORNER

**Amazing Progress: We are hitting our attendance goals!**

Kia ora whānau,

We have some exciting news to share! This year, our goal at Taupō Intermediate is to have **85% of our students attending school 80% or more of the time.**

Thanks to your incredible support and our students' commitment, we are currently **tracking ahead of target at 87.43%**! Every day at school counts toward building friendships, confidence, and learning. Let's keep this momentum going as we head through the term. Thank you for being such an active part of our school's success!

ATTENDANCE THRESHOLD RATES				
	Regular	Irregular	Moderate	Chronic
	90%-100%	80%-89%	70%-79%	Below 70%
	Maintenance & Recognition	Early Intervention	Support & Strategy	Intensive Recovery
Week 5	70.74%	16.83%	5.41%	7.01%

## BOARD CORNER

### 2026 Board Meeting Dates

- ✚ 24 February
- ✚ 26 March
- ✚ 14 May
- ✚ 18 June
- ✚ 06 August
- ✚ 10 September
- ✚ 22 October
- ✚ 26 November

### SchoolDocs (Policies & Procedures)

*If you want to view or review school policies, you are able to do this by clicking on the link or open the link below -*

<https://taupointermediate.schooldocs.co.nz>

### Community login using the following:

Username: taupointermediate

Password: tiscommunity

**The board policy committee are currently reviewing the following policies during term 1:**

- Alcohol, Drugs and Other Harmful Substances Policy
- Sun Protection
- Digital Technology and Online Safety
- Cellphones and Other Personal Digital Devices
- Firearms

# PHYSICAL EDUCATION AT T.I.S

## Lunchtime Sports - Let the Games Begin!

Today we kicked off Lunchtime Sports and it was an absolute hit with our students! Round one is done and wow... the competition is already fierce. It's clear we've got some serious talent (and a whole lot of competitive spirit) across the school.

With skills and gameplay being practised in PE sessions, the teams wasted no time getting straight into it – working together, testing strategies, and bringing the energy from the first whistle. What a way to launch!

We're also super excited to support and cheer on our students who will be representing our school at the upcoming Ki-o-Rahi Festival. What an awesome opportunity for those students signing up to get involved. We have loved seeing some new names pop up willing to give it a go. THIS is what it's all about!

A special shoutout to four legends who stepped up today to referee games and help with set-up and pack-down. Opportunities like this simply don't happen without students who are willing to get involved and lead by example. We were so proud of how you carried yourselves out there today in a leadership role. Thank you, Kauri, Cyrus, Tariq and Eva – you smashed it!

**PE Department - Charné and Dee**





# T.I.S SPORTS



## CO-ORDINATOR NEWS!

### Sports Bulletin – What a Busy Week!

Our sporting fields have been absolutely buzzing with activity this week, and it's been fantastic to see so many students getting involved!

#### **Ki-O-Rahi Taster Sessions & Tournament**

We've had Kiwi Sport Ki-O-Rahi taster sessions that have proved extremely popular with our students. It's been awesome seeing everyone learning this fast-paced traditional Māori game.

A huge thank you to our PE teachers Whaea Dee and Charne for running an exciting lunchtime Ki-O-Rahi tournament!

#### **Ki-O-Rahi Tournament – Tuesday 10th March**

This event has been very popular! However, we can currently only enter 4 teams, as we have just 2 parents and 2 teachers available to manage teams on the day.

 We need to finalise teams by Wednesday 4th March.

If you are available to help manage a team, please let us know as soon as possible.

Otherwise, teams will unfortunately need to be selected.

#### **Girls Cricket with Taupō Cricket Club**

We were lucky to have Shayan and Sebastian from the Taupo Cricket Club delivering girls cricket sessions. The skills, enthusiasm, and encouragement they brought were fantastic to see. Thank you for supporting and growing girls' cricket in our school!

#### **Swimming Sports**

Today we held our Swimming Sports, and it was wonderful to see students giving their best in the pool and supporting one another from the sidelines. Well, done to everyone who participated and showed great sportsmanship!

#### **Disc Golf – KiwiSport Sessions at Spa Park**

Sign-ups have opened for Kiwi Sport Disc Golf sessions at Spa Park.

Year 7: Thursday 5th March

Year 8: Friday 13th March

This is a fantastic opportunity to learn a new sport and challenge yourself in a fun outdoor environment.

 Year 7 sign-ups are still open.

 Year 8 sign-ups open Monday.

#### **Winter Sports Trials Next Week**

**Hockey Trials:**

**Tuesday 3rd March**

**Thursday 5th March**

All Hockey, Netball, and Basketball students should have received notifications regarding:

**Trial dates, Season dates, Forms to complete on Student Experience**

Thank you to everyone who has already filled out forms and offered to help as coaches or team managers. We truly cannot run these activities without your support — it is very much appreciated.

#### **Congratulations!**

A huge congratulations to our new Year 7 student Micah Wallace for winning the Oceania BMX Titles — what an outstanding achievement! We are incredibly proud of you and look forward to celebrating more of your successes.

**It's been an action-packed week with so much student involvement.**

**Keep up the fantastic effort, and let's continue the momentum into next week!** 



# T.I.S SPORTS PHOTOS!!





# EMERGENCY SERVICES DAY

KAIMANAWA RESERVE | SUNDAY 15 MARCH | 9AM TO 1PM

Witness Fire and Emergency NZ, NZ Police, Greenlea Rescue Helicopter, and Hato Hone St John Ambulance in action as they perform a real-time vehicle extrication!

Meet the teams from Land Search and Rescue, Coastguard, Taupō District Civil Defence, and the Harbourmaster.

Grab a sausage from our gold coin donation BBQ, supporting Hato Hone St John.

A coffee and ice cream cart will also be there!

Don't miss this exciting and educational day for the whole family!



# THE SUPPORT HUB



## SUPPORT HUB

Blue light and the Police come into our school during lunchtime and offer supervised games and activities. These students were really getting involved and showing each other respect in a game of Multisport.



## BREAKFAST CLUB

Breakfast club is available 8.15am till 8.50am in the hall Mon-Fri.

## POLAR FLEECES



Plenty of fleeces available to get ready for winter. Reminder that shoes are black shoes or roman sandals.

February 2026 |

# GIRLS' CLASSES

EOTC ADVENTURE AT  
MT. TAUHARA



## Hello from the Girls' Classes!

What an incredible experience we've had during our Education Outside the Classroom (EOTC) trip to Mount Tauhara! Our girls truly embraced the challenge and opportunity of climbing our local maunga. It was a day filled with learning, laughter, perseverance, and pride.

### Our Learning in Action

During our EOTC experience, the girls:

- Explored the history and cultural significance of Mount Tauhara
- Strengthened their understanding of our tūrangawaewae and connection to place
- Demonstrated teamwork, leadership, and perseverance throughout the hike
- Built resilience and a growth mindset by stepping outside their comfort zones
- Made meaningful connections between nature, identity, and wellbeing

It was wonderful to see students encouraging one another, showing kindness on the track, and celebrating reaching the summit together. Many girls pushed through challenges and proved to themselves that they are capable of more than they think.

## WHAT'S COMING UP?

Over the next few weeks, we will be:

- Diving deeper into the fascinating world of volcanoes and earthquakes
- Learning how natural events shape communities and environments
- Writing detailed recounts about our Mount Tauhara experience

Please encourage your child to share their stories from the trip and discuss what they learned. Keep an eye out for upcoming recount writing tasks connected to our EOTC learning.

## Wrapping Up

*"We are incredibly proud of the courage, determination, and positivity shown by every girl. Experiences like this help build not only knowledge but confidence and character.*

*Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to another exciting few weeks of discovery and growth in Rooms 24 and 25!*



## STUDENT VOICE

"The view from the top was amazing and worth the hike!"

"Climbing Mt. Tauhara was challenging but fun. I felt really proud when I reached the top!"

"I showed resilience and kept going even when I felt tired."

"My favourite part was walking with my friends and enjoying nature together."

### Greening Taupo

A huge thank you to Heidi from Greening Taupo for sharing her knowledge and passion with our students. Her engaging session helped our learners understand the important ongoing environmental projects at Mt. Tauhara and inspired them to think more deeply about caring for our natural environment. We are truly grateful for the time, expertise, and enthusiasm she brought to our EOTC experience.



### Students showing leadership

A big thank you to our Greening Taupo Junior Leaders, Emily and Kahliia, for confidently teaching their peers about what it means to be part of the Greening team. We especially loved the fun and informative explanation about the difference between Manuka and Kanuka plants – such a memorable and engaging learning moment for everyone!



### Parent/ Whanau support

We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to all of our wonderful parent volunteers who generously gave their time and support to make this trip possible. Your encouragement, care, and willingness to help ensured that our students were safe, supported, and able to fully enjoy this special learning experience. We truly appreciate your partnership and the positive difference you made on the day.

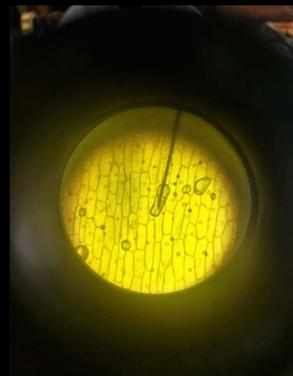


### Interesting fact about Mt. Tauhara

Mount Tauhara is a 1,088-meter (3,570 ft) tall dormant lava dome volcano located just 6km from Taupō town, last erupting around 63,000 BCE. It offers 360-degree views of Lake Taupō and the central North Island and is culturally significant to local Māori, with a 500-year plan currently underway to restore its native bush.



# SCIENCE



## We have had a fantastic start to the year in Science!

The children began by learning about basic chemistry. They explored particle theory (how tiny particles make up everything) and looked at how materials change between solids, liquids and gases.

We are now learning about biology. The class has been comparing plant and animal cells by looking at onion cells and their own cheek cells under a microscope. This has helped them see the differences between the two types of cells. This week, we have been building on this learning by finding out how cells work together in our bodies.

We have also been learning about why we breathe and what happens to the air we breathe out. The students carried out an experiment where they bubbled carbon dioxide ( $\text{CO}_2$ ) through limewater to show that  $\text{CO}_2$  is produced in respiration. They also made model "balloon lungs" to help them understand how our lungs work.

On sunny days, we carried out photosynthesis experiments to see how plants make their own food. The students observed how plants produce oxygen as a waste product during this process and enjoyed seeing bubbles form and leaves floating.

Over the coming weeks, we will be exploring ecosystems and geology, with a focus on our local area to help the students make real-life connections to their learning. We will conclude our time together by learning about forces and motion, investigating how and why things move.

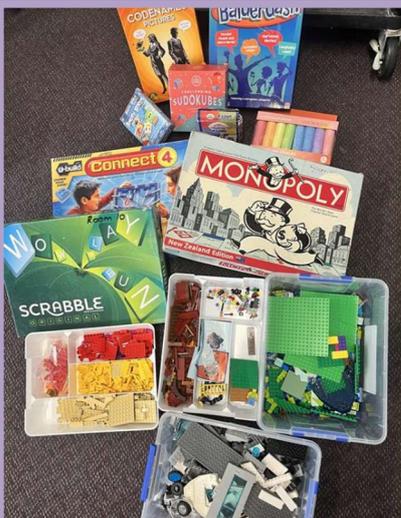
**It has been wonderful to see the students so engaged and curious in their learning!**

# "MANA AKE BREAKTIME ACTIVITIES"

"Awesome attendance so far at the break time activities, over 80 at one time for Just Dance last week! So grateful the school have allowed us to use the hall for this. We have a great selection of games in the library, as well as lots of chess sets & a return of some Lego now, which was very popular last year.

Mana Ake Wayfinder Nicole Grey

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
<b>PLAY</b> 10:40-11:10		HALL JUST DANCE		HALL JUST DANCE	
<b>LUNCH</b> 12:40-1:20	LIBRARY OPEN	LIBRARY ACTIVITIES	LIBRARY OPEN	LIBRARY ACTIVITIES	LIBRARY OPEN
	<b>(LUNCHTIME SPORTS)</b>				



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

**2026**

**FEBRUARY**  
**TERM ONE**

**Week 06**

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March - Kiwi Sport Tasters - Ki-O-Rahi**  
**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March - Year 7 Vaccinations**  
**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March - Performance Assembly on the Turf**  
**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March - Kiwi Sport Tasters - Disc Golf Yr 7**

**Week 07**

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March - Year 7 Fluoride applications 9am-12noon**  
**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March - Year 8 Vaccinations**  
**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March - Celebration Assembly on the Turf**  
**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March - R24 & R25 Museum Trip**  
**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March - Te Miro WBOP Mountainbike Champs**  
**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March - Photo Life Visit(Classroom & Individual photos)**  
**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March - Kiwi Sports Tasters - Year 8**

**Week 08**

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March - Performance Assembly**  
**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March - TIS Leaders Camp - Papamoa**  
**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March - TIS Leaders Camp - Papamoa**  
**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March - Super 11 Swimming Rotorua**

**Week 09**

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March - Yr 7 Vision Hearing Technician visiting**  
**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March - Celebration Assembly**  
**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March - NZSS Triathlon**  
**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March - Board Meeting 5.30pm-7.30pm**  
**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March - Yr 7 Vision Hearing Technician visiting**  
**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March - Yr 7 Vision Hearing Technician visiting**  
**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March - Super 11 Touch Rugby**

**Week 10**

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April - Performance Assembly**  
**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April - Good Friday Easter (School Closed)**

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

## **TAUPO INTERMEDIATE STAFF**

**Board Presiding Member: Simon Bendall** ([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 8 Dean)** ([sblake@taupointermediate.co.nz](mailto:sblake@taupointermediate.co.nz))

**Deputy Principal: Michelle Patterson (Year 7 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**

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

### **Room 4**

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

### **Room 5**

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

### **Room 6**

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

### **Room 7**

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

### **Room 8**

**Pamela Clydesdale** ([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**

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

### **Room 12**

Giovanna Frizon ([gfrizon@taupointermediate.co.nz](mailto:gfrizon@taupointermediate.co.nz))

### **Room 13**

Maria Gray ([mGray1@taupointermediate.co.nz](mailto:mGray1@taupointermediate.co.nz))

**Room 14**

Courtney Warren ([cwarren@taupointermediate.co.nz](mailto:cwarren@taupointermediate.co.nz))

**Room 15**

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

**Room 16**

Kim Crofskey ([kCrofskey@taupointermediate.co.nz](mailto:kCrofskey@taupointermediate.co.nz))

**Room 17**

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

**Room 18**

Donna Shaw (Literacy Support)

**Room 19**

Bernadette Gallagher (Numeracy Support)

**Room 20**

Emma Voysey & Andrea (Support Hub Office & Hauora Room) ([amaclennan@taupointermediate.co.nz](mailto:amaclennan@taupointermediate.co.nz))  
([evoysey@taupointermediate.co.nz](mailto:evoysey@taupointermediate.co.nz))

**Room 21**

Rebecca Ingram LSC Support Hub ([learningsupport@taupointermediate.co.nz](mailto:learningsupport@taupointermediate.co.nz))

**Room 22**

**BOYS CLASS** Rob Emerson ([rEmerson@taupointermediate.co.nz](mailto:rEmerson@taupointermediate.co.nz))

**Room 23**

**BOYS CLASS** Phil Somers ([psomers@taupointermediate.co.nz](mailto:psomers@taupointermediate.co.nz))

**Room 24**

**GIRLS CLASS** Priscila Shepherd ([pshepherd@taupointermediate.co.nz](mailto:pshepherd@taupointermediate.co.nz))

**Room 25**

**GIRLS CLASS** Jacqueline Emerson ([jEmerson@taupointermediate.co.nz](mailto:jEmerson@taupointermediate.co.nz))

**TECHNOLOGY TEACHERS**

**Food Technology:** Amy Kingan ([AKingan@taupointermediate.co.nz](mailto:AKingan@taupointermediate.co.nz))

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

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

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

**Science:** Kate Callaghan ([kcallaghan@taupointermediate.co.nz](mailto:kcallaghan@taupointermediate.co.nz)) &

Amanda Mangelsen ([aMangelsen@taupointermediate.co.nz](mailto:aMangelsen@taupointermediate.co.nz))

**LEARNING ASSISTANTS**

**Learning Assistants:** Donna Shaw/Bernadette Gallagher/Carol Davis/

Holly Clarkson/Merenea Hurae/Kelvin Crickett

Cameron Bradley/Nia Maxwell/Dee Campbell/Charne Whitham

**OFFICE/SUPPORT STAFF**

**Office Manager/PA:** 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 ([mhadfield@taupointermediate.co.nz](mailto:mhadfield@taupointermediate.co.nz))

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