



Newsletter Number: 08

Date: Friday 20th March 2026

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

It has been another fantastic week of teaching and learning here at Taupō Intermediate! Our kura is buzzing with energy as we dive into new opportunities and strengthen our connections within the community. Here is a look at what our students have been up to this week.

Leading the Way at Papamoa

A huge shout-out to our 23 TIS Student Leaders and 23 potential student leaders who attended the Leadership Camp in Papamoa this week. This was an incredible experience organised and supported by the Taupō-Nui-a-Tia College Year 12 PE students and staff.

Our young leaders spent their time building teamwork skills and stepping out of their comfort zones. It is wonderful to see the tuakana-teina relationship in action between the college students and our intermediate.

Enrichment & Academic Growth

The "TIS vibe" is strong with a huge range of activities currently in full swing:

- **The Arts:** Itinerant music lessons are providing our budding musicians with specialised coaching.
- **Community Connections:** Our Granny Readers Programme continues to be a highlight, fostering a love for literacy across generations.
- **Sports & Play:** Students have been enjoying Disc Golf tasters and the Taupō Fun Golf Day - great ways to stay active and try something new!
- **Core Learning:** Literacy and mathematics support groups are well underway, with students working hard in their targeted learning sets.

Investing in our Staff

While the students are busy, our staff are also "sharpening the saw." We recently held another two days of professional learning with Selena Hinchco from Coactive Education. These sessions are invaluable for ensuring our teaching practices remain consistent and centred on student success.

Celebrating the "Young Pioneers"

Our Young Pioneers groups are continuing their great work, exploring new ways to innovate and solve problems. It's inspiring to see our students taking such an active role in their personal development and within our community.

Good Luck to our Swimmers!

To top off an action-packed week, our swim team is in Rotorua today for the Super 11 Swimming competition. We know they will represent TIS with pride and give it their absolute best in the water. Go team!

Reminder: As we head into the final weeks of the term, please ensure students are keeping up with their hydration, bringing their sun hats and being SunSmart for outdoor activities.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our school and our students.

**Nāku noa, nā
The Team at Taupō Intermediate School**

ATTENDANCE CORNER

Attendance Progress Report: Term 1 Week 8

This table represents our current standing against the strategic goal: 85% of ākonga attending school 80% or more of the time.

Here is a quick look at how we've been tracking over the last four weeks:

ATTENDANCE RATE FOR THE SCHOOL				
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%
Week 6	67.54%	18.04%	7.21%	7.21%
Week 7	68.80%	18.80%	6.80%	5.60%
Week 8	66.13%	21.04%	8.62%	4.21%

Key Attendance Trends

- **The "Regular" Slide:** There is a concerning downward trend in students with the highest attendance (90%+). This group dropped from 70.74% to 66.13% over the last four weeks.
- **Growing "Irregular" Bracket:** As the Regular group decreased, the Irregular (80–89%) group grew from 16.83% to 21.04%. While these students still meet the 80% threshold, they are increasingly moving into the "Early Intervention" zone.
- **Moderate Risk Increase:** The "Moderate" (70–79%) category saw its highest levels in Week 8 (8.62%), indicating a segment of the student body is drifting further away from the target.
- **Chronic Recovery Success:** Interestingly, the "Chronic" (Below 70%) category showed steady improvement, falling from 7.01% to 4.21%. This suggests that Taupo Intermediate's "Intensive Recovery" strategies for at-risk students are highly effective.

As the term winds down at Taupo Intermediate, it's natural for students to feel that "end-of-term slump." Since our data shows a slight slide from Regular to Irregular attendance, keeping the momentum high in these final weeks is key!

Here are 3 fun tips for parents to help their kids cross the finish line strong:

1. **The "Final Countdown" Visual** - Create a visual countdown on the fridge or a noticeboard. Instead of just crossing off days, add a "Mini-Win" for each day attended, such as choosing the music in the car on the way to school or picking the movie for Friday night. This turns the final push into a series of small celebrations.
2. **"Mystery Morning" Envelopes** - To beat the morning "I don't want to get up" blues, place a sealed envelope on the breakfast table. Inside, tuck a small surprise or a "coupon" they can redeem after school (e.g., "30 minutes extra gaming," "A trip to the park," or "Your favourite dessert tonight"). They only get to open it if they are dressed and ready for school on time!
3. **The "High-Five" Feedback Loop** - Ask your child to share one thing they want to finish well before the term ends - it could be a tech project, a sports goal, or just a clean their desk. Every day they head to school to work on that goal, give them a literal high-five or a "desk note" in their lunchbox. Acknowledging the effort keeps the "Regular" attendance habits

BOARD CORNER

Introducing Tracey Sainsbury one of our new Board Members

Kia ora koutou, Ko 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. I believe 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.

Ngā mihi nui
Tracey Sainsbury





T.I.S SPORTS



CO-ORDINATOR NEWS!

It has been another busy and exciting week for sport at TIS.

The week started with the Taupō Golf Fun Day at Taupō Golf Course. It was a great morning filled with golf, fun, and learning. Well done to all the boys who took part, and a big thank you to Taupō Golf Course for organising such an awesome event.

We then moved into disc golf with our Year 8 students. A big thank you to Keith Harris, who guided the group through key skills before finishing with a fun and competitive tournament. There were some very low scores recorded, showing just how quickly our students picked up the game. Congratulations to our top qualifiers who will represent TIS at the interschools next Wednesday: Paige Harris, Nyla Grigg, Maia Gray, Kahlia Crocker, Hollie Gray, Jack Gibson, Tyrone Leach, Cooper Marriott, Carter Nagel, and Tristan O'Reilly.

Last weekend a group of athletes travelled to WBOP Athletic Champs. TIS students had some great results with Jessica Rakei 2nd in Shot put and Discus, Téa Bosshart 2nd in Long Jump and High Jump. Knox Short Long Jump 2nd in Long Jump. 3rd in 400m and 3rd in 4x100m relay. Beauden Turnbull 3rd in 4x100m relay and Connor 3rd in 4x100m relay.

Well, done also to all students who have trialled for netball and hockey teams. Hockey teams have now been announced, and netball teams will be released on Monday. Thank you for your patience — it was a very difficult task for our selectors given the high standard of play.

Today, we head to Rotorua for the Super 11 Swimming event. Good luck to the team of 10 students who are travelling to represent TIS.

Finally, a big thank you to all the parents who supported sport this week. We truly appreciate your time and effort — we couldn't do it without you.

Enjoy your weekend.



T.I.S SPORTS PHOTOS!!



THE SUPPORT HUB

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Please encourage your students to be in correct uniform.

School skorts/shorts or blue pants

White t-shirts and blue jerseys or jackets

Black shoes or roman sandals only

We have plenty of school jerseys available if you do not have one.

Please send your student to the support hub.



Learning Support groups are up and running this week. We have intensive literacy support with Holly, Literacy support and ESOL with Donna and Maths support with Bernie.



In Week 9 and Week 10 we are having school wide testing with PATs. Those students with a confirmed diagnosis of Dyslexia and Dysgraphia will be given the support of a reader/writer during these assessment sessions for reading, maths and writing

FOOD TECH NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2026



What have we been up to?

The second half of our food tech rotation mixed a bit of geography in with cooking.



Each lesson focused on a different country and a well-known dish from that place. It was a fun way to learn about foods from around the world while still building confidence and skills in the kitchen.

We've looked at the United Kingdom and made scones, South Africa with malva pudding, the USA with mac and cheese, and India with curry. We'll finish up next week with Canadian poutine and Japanese sushi.

In Week 10, students will move on to their next technology rotation, which is art. Students currently in performing arts will then rotate into food tech for seven weeks.



MEET MRS KINGAN



Born and raised in the Canadian prairies, I followed my (now) husband home to Aotearoa 8 years ago. And it was the best decision I could have ever made.

We spent the last 7.5 years in Hawkes Bay. Where I had a variety of roles in education. From short/long term relief, to Kahui Ako WST, staff BOT rep and most recently high school English.

After moving to Taupō midway through last year, I was ready for a new challenge and have loved making the shift into Food Technology at TIS. I enjoy cooking in my own time, so being able to combine that with teaching has been a lot of fun.

Outside of school, you can find me travelling the world, hiking, biking, swimming or exploring our beautiful region. Or spending time on the Rangitaiki farm my husband manages, that we now call home. Turning farm dogs into pets, tending my veggie garden or relaxing with a good book.

I'm enjoying being part of the TIS community and am looking forward to getting to know the students, staff and whānau as the year continues.



BREAKTIME FUN

(BETTER BREAKS, BETTER WELL-BEING @ SCHOOL)

THANKS TO OUR WONDERFUL HELPERS FOR
MAKING THIS AWESOME SIGN AND WHAEA NICKY
FOR GIVING US THE MATERIALS



GOT DONATIONS OR WANT TO HELP OUT?
NICOLE.GREY@LAKESDHB.GOV.T.NZ

Success

WE USUALLY HAVE 50 STUDENTS EACH TUES/THURS
ENGAGED IN POSITIVE ACTIVITIES TOGETHER
LUNCH @ THE LIBRARY.
IT'S BEEN FUN SEEING THE LAUGHS
AND COMPETITIVENESS COME OUT!

COLOURING



WE CAN PRINT
COLOURING PICTURES YOU
WANT - JUST ASK



CHESS



TE WHATU ORA VISION HEARING TECHNICIAN

The Te Whatu Ora Vision Hearing Technician is visiting the school on the 24th 26th & 27th of March 2026 to test the distance vision of all year 7s. Optoff forms have been given to all year 7 students if parents & caregivers DO NOT want them to have the test. Students who are already wearing glasses or under the care of an optician will not be tested. Students whose vision does not pass the screening test will be given a letter requesting them to visit an optician. Some opticians offer a free service for students up to the age of 16 and this information will be supplied if students get a letter. Students will be informed of their result at the completion of their test.

DR CRAIG HARRISON PRESENTS...

UNDER PRESSURE

NEW ZEALAND TOUR

A talk for youth athletes,
parents, & coaches

"Powerful, insightful & thought-provoking!"

*"Craig is a wonderful speaker and
provided extensive knowledge to the
group."*

"Incredibly valuable!"

TAUPŌ | 26 MARCH

Tickets at eventfinda.co.nz



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

This week in PE, we've dived into **Week 2 of netball!** Students have been sharpening their passing, footwork, and teamwork skills while having a blast in modified games and skill stations.

We are **back on the turf**, the tunes are blasting, and everyone is moving—it's a total vibe! The energy is contagious, and even the **Hub staff from the office are loving seeing all the enjoyment.**

Lunchtime sport is still **Ki o Rahi**, and the competition is on fire! Five classes are neck-and-neck on points, showing off some seriously impressive skills. The winning class at the end of term will even get the **chance to take on the teachers**—the ultimate showdown!

A massive shoutout to our **student referees and scorers**—we couldn't run these games without your leadership and hard work. Packing up fields and equipment? You guys make it look easy and show off amazing work ethic!

It's also awesome to see **teachers supporting their classes** at lunchtime. Their cheers and encouragement make the games even more fun for the Tamariki. We are so proud of all our students for their energy, teamwork, and positive attitude—keep moving, keep smiling, and keep having fun!

Nga mihi,
PE team - Dee and Charne



STAFF SNAPSHOT

Hi! My name is Giovanna Aumuller Frizon,

I'm a new teacher at the school and I'm originally from Brazil. I've been loving life in New Zealand, especially the opportunity to spend time outdoors and explore new places. When I'm not teaching, you'll usually find me reading a good romantasy book or watching a TV series or trying new outdoor activities and travelling.

I would describe myself as calm, organized, and passionate about teaching, and I enjoy creating a positive and supportive classroom environment. I look forward to building even stronger relationships with my students and becoming an active part of the school community.

Giovanna Aumuller Frizon - Room 12 Classroom Teacher



T.I.S IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

2026 - MARCH TERM ONE

Week 09

Tuesday 24th March - Yr 7 Vision Hearing Technician visiting

Wednesday 25th March - Celebration Assembly

Thursday 26th March - NZSS Triathlon

Thursday 26th March - Board Meeting 5.30pm-7.30pm

Thursday 26^h March - Yr 7 Vision Hearing Technician visiting

Friday 27th March - Yr 7 Vision Hearing Technician visiting

Friday 27th March - Super 11 Touch Rugby

Week 10

Tuesday 31st March - R12 & R13 Mount Tauhara Trip

Wednesday 1st April - Performance Assembly

Wednesday 1st April - TIS AGENCY EXPO 12.30PM-4PM - SCHOOL TURF

Friday 3rd April - Good Friday Easter (School Closed)

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

TAUPO INTERMEDIATE STAFF

Board Presiding Member: Simon Bendall (sbendall@taupointermediate.co.nz)

Principal: Brent Woods (bwoods@taupointermediate.co.nz)

Deputy Principal: Sam Blake (Year 8 Dean) (sblake@taupointermediate.co.nz)

Deputy Principal: Michelle Patterson (Year 7 Dean) (mpatterson@taupointermediate.co.nz)

Sports Coordinator: Sam Bradley (sport@taupointermediate.co.nz)

CLASSROOMS/TEACHERS

Room 1

Zoe Fletcher (zfletcher@taupointermediate.co.nz)

Room 2

Wendy Marais (wmarais@taupointermediate.co.nz)

Room 3

Performing Arts: Jon Wood (jwood@taupointermediate.co.nz)

Room 4

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Kim Crofskey (kCrofskey@taupointermediate.co.nz)

Room 17

Samantha Barr (Howe) (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)
(evoysey@taupointermediate.co.nz)

Room 21

Rebecca Ingram LSC Support Hub (learningsupport@taupointermediate.co.nz)

Room 22

BOYS CLASS Rob Emerson (rEmerson@taupointermediate.co.nz)

Room 23

BOYS CLASS Phil Somers (psomers@taupointermediate.co.nz)

Room 24

GIRLS CLASS Priscila Shepherd (pshepherd@taupointermediate.co.nz)

Room 25

GIRLS CLASS Jacqueline Emerson (jEmerson@taupointermediate.co.nz)

TECHNOLOGY TEACHERS

Food Technology: Amy Kingan (AKingan@taupointermediate.co.nz)

Visual Arts: Pamela Wood (pwood@taupointermediate.co.nz)

Materials & Design: Nikki Morris (nmorris@taupointermediate.co.nz)

Performing Arts: Jon Wood (jwood@taupointermediate.co.nz)

Science: Kate Callaghan (kcallaghan@taupointermediate.co.nz) &

Amanda Mangelsen (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

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Tuckshop Manager: Kristie Bush (kbush@taupointermediate.co.nz)