



**Newsletter Number: 09**

**Date: Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

**Tēnā koutou katoa,**

As we approach the end of the term, it is incredible to look back and see how quickly the time has flown. This term has been a standout for teaching and learning at Taupō Intermediate, and our staff and students have been instrumental in making it such a success. Our core mission is to create reflective, curious, creative, and critical thinkers who are equipped to problem-solve in an ever-changing world. Seeing our students embrace these challenges, contributing actively and stepping into leadership roles has been a highlight for us all.

### **A Culture of Respect**

One of the most heartening aspects of Term 1 has been the outstanding level of respect shown by our students toward staff, their peers, and the wider community. We frequently welcome visitors to our school, and the feedback has been consistent: our students are remarkably well-mannered and possess a genuine pride for their school. Thank you for your role in making TIS such a special place to be.

### **Health and Wellbeing Focus**

This week, our focus shifted toward the physical wellbeing of our Tamariki. We have successfully completed:

- Year 8 Vaccinations: Catch-up sessions for our students.
- Year 7 Screenings: Hearing and vision testing to ensure our students are set up for success in the classroom.

A huge thank you to our Community Health Services for their professional support of our school and whānau during these clinics.

### **Staff Professional Development**

Our teachers are lifelong learners, too! This week, our staff have been busy upskilling in two key areas:

1. **Structured Literacy:** Engaging with the Ministry of Education's professional learning groups to enhance our literacy outcomes.
2. **PC4All (Positive Culture for All):** This programme focuses on developing robust restorative practices and refining our behavioural structures. Our goal is to ensure a positive, predictable, and supportive teaching and learning environments for all ākonga.

### **Beautification Team: Easter Fundraising**

Our student-led Beautification Team has an exciting vision for our school bathrooms! They are working hard to fundraise for new mirrors, hand dryers, and paint for student-designed murals. To support this project, we have two events coming up:

- Easter Raffle: Tickets are \$2.00 each for a chance to win one of our fantastic Easter Hampers.
- Mufti Day: We will be holding a school-wide Gold Coin Donation Mufti Day on Thursday, 2 April.

Please encourage your child to get involved in these initiatives to help make our school environment even better.

Once again, a huge thank you for your ongoing support. By working together, we are providing your children with the best possible opportunities to be successful in 2026.

**Ngā mihi nui,  
The Team at Taupō Intermediate School**

# ATTENDANCE CORNER

## Attendance Progress Report: Term 1 Week 9

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

Here is a quick look at how we've been tracking over the last five 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%
Week 9	69.54%	19.04%	6.61%	4.81%

### Summary of Attendance Data: Weeks 5–9

The overall trend for the second half of the term shows a school community working hard to stay engaged, with Regular Attendance (90%+) fluctuating between 66% and 71%. While there have been some dips, there are positive signs of improvement in the highest-risk categories.

### Key Takeaways

- **Regular Attendance Stability:** Week 5 saw a peak of 70.74%, followed by a slight decline, but Week 9 shows a healthy recovery back toward that 70% mark.
- **Positive Shift in "Chronic" Absence:** There is a fantastic downward trend in Chronic attendance (Below 70%). It dropped from 7.21% in Week 6 to 4.81% in Week 9, suggesting that intensive recovery efforts are working.
- **The "Irregular" Increase:** We've seen a steady climb in the Irregular category (80–89%), moving from 16.83% to 19.04%. This suggests many students are just a few days away from being "Regular" attendees.
- **Current Status:** As of Week 9, nearly 89% of the student body falls into the Regular or Irregular categories, meaning the vast majority of our students are engaging with school consistently.

### Action Focus for the Final Week

- **Recognition:** Celebrate the 70% of students in the "Maintenance" phase to keep momentum high.
- **Early Intervention:** Focus on the 19% in the "Irregular" bracket. A small push this week could move them back into the "Regular" 90%+ category for the start of Term 2.

# ATTENDANCE CORNER

## Helpful Holiday Hints

The transition from the school grind to the holiday haze can be a bit of a shock to the system. To avoid the inevitable "I'm bored" on day one, a little bit of tactical prep this week goes a long way.

### 1. The "Boredom Jar" Brainstorm

Before the term ends, sit down with the kids for 10 minutes and have them write down 20 things they want to do over the break.

- **The Rule:** Mix it up! Half should be "Big Activities" (zoo, movies, playdate) and half should be "Zero-Cost/Quick" (drawing, clean their room, baking cookies).
- **The Benefit:** When they inevitably claim there is "nothing to do," you simply point to the jar. They own the ideas, so they're more likely to do them.

### 2. Set the "Digital Boundaries" Early

The "Screen Time Battle" is the classic holiday villain. Decide on your "Holiday House Rules" before the term ends.

- **The Strategy:** Will they have unlimited time? Or do they need to "earn" it by reading for 20 minutes first?
- Setting the expectation now prevents the daily morning negotiation once the holidays actually start.

### 5. Carve Out "Parent Sanity" Slots

Holidays are for the kids, but you need to survive them, too! Look at the calendar and block out a few "Quiet Zones."

- Whether it's an hour of "independent play" after lunch or a scheduled afternoon where a grandparent/sitter takes over, knowing you have a break coming up makes the high-energy days much easier to manage.

**COME ALONG AND CHECK OUT OUR EXPO TO SEE WHO IS OUT THERE TO SUPPORT OUR TAMARIKI AND WHāNAU.**

**TAUPO INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL**  
**AGENCY EXPO**  
Your Community, Your Connections, Your Future!

**DATE:** APRIL 1st, 2026  
**TIME:** 12:30 PM - 4:00 PM  
**LOCATION:** ON THE TURF!

**Sports Clubs & Demos**  
**Fun Games & Activities!**  
**FREE GIVEAWAYS!**

taupo blue light  
GREENING TAUPO  
ANAMATA  
New Beginnings  
real ahakoa te aha  
Growing Through Grief  
TAUPO INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL  
Budget House  
HE KĀHUI TĀNGATA  
YOUTHTOWN

# **BOARD CORNER**

## **TAUPO INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL BOARD** **CASUAL VACANCIES FOR A PARENT REPRESENTATIVE**

Casual vacancies have occurred on the school board for two elected parent representatives.

The board has decided to fill the vacancies by selection.

If 10% or more of eligible voters on the school roll ask the board, within 28 days of this notice being published, to hold a by-election to fill the vacancy, then a by-election will be held.

Request for a by-election should be sent to:

**Presiding member Simon Bendall**

Email: [sbendall@taupointermediate.co.nz](mailto:sbendall@taupointermediate.co.nz) by Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2026

## **E-SCOOTER SAFETY** **TRAINING**

Taupo District Council is running an e-scooter safety training session on Tuesday, 14 April 9am-11am.

To be held on the basketball courts behind the former Toi Ohomai Institute buildings (now Taupo-nui-a-tia) 113 Horomatangi Street.

**Course outline:** The Scoot Safe programme supports students to be safe and enjoy their e-scooters, with the focus on riding an e-scooter in an urban environment.

**Skills covered in the course:**

Doing a quick helmet and pre-ride safety check

Safe speeds - scoot at a speed that you do not pose a hazard to yourself or others

Being able to stop safely and quickly

Choosing safe places to scoot – avoid driveways, gravel and kerbs

How to safely ride your e-scooter on the road

Being aware of others in shared spaces

Safe handling and parking

**This course is free but places are limited.**

**Course requirements:**

This course is for children and teenagers aged 10 years and above

Participants are required to bring their own e-scooter and helmet

Please wear covered shoes (no jandals).

Please register to :

Sarah Wraight - Road Safety Coordinator

T +64 7 376 0720

M 027 336 6425

E [swraight@taupo.govt.nz](mailto:swraight@taupo.govt.nz)



# T.I.S SPORTS



## CO-ORDINATOR NEWS!

It has been a challenging week for sport, with poor weather conditions leading to the postponement of two scheduled tournaments. Our students competing at the NZSS Triathlon also had to quickly adapt, with the event being changed to a shortened Aquathlon format.

Despite these disruptions, our students showed great resilience and determination, performing exceptionally well under the circumstances.

**Well done to Jack Gibson, Josh Speedy and May Foley**

We are incredibly proud of how they handled the changes and represented the school with such positive attitudes and effort. Well done to everyone involved!

We were fortunate to get the Taupō Inter-Schools Disc Golf Championships completed just before the storm arrived. There was some very impressive throwing on display, with a number of excellent low scores recorded.

**A huge congratulations to Liam Brown, who took out the overall win with an outstanding score of 31. Well done to the entire team for their efforts, with special mentions to:**

**Leela Thompson – 1st Year 7 Girls  
Liam Brown – 1st Year 7 Boys  
Nathan Powell – 3rd place  
Kahlia Crocker – 2nd Year 8 Girls  
Holly Gray – 3rd Year 8 Girls**

Looking ahead to next week, Basketball Trials for the AIMS Games team will be held on Wednesday 1st April from 3:30–5:00pm on the school turf. These trials are open to all students who have registered online with the Great Lake Basketball Association.

Sign-ups are now open in the sports office for the annual KiwiSport T-Ball Tournament. Please note that spots are limited, and we will also require parent support for team manager roles on Wednesday 23rd April.

Thank you to all the parents who have already volunteered their time to coach and manage our hockey and netball teams—it is hugely appreciated. We are still a few coaches short across both codes, so if you are able to help, or know someone who might be interested, please get in touch at [sport@taupointermediate.co.nz](mailto:sport@taupointermediate.co.nz).



# T.I.S SPORTS PHOTOS!!



# Mount Tauhara Trip recount writing

## The Moment That Mattered

By Kennedy

On an non-ordinary life-changing Thursday dawn our large class was determined as they grouped up in the rocky, gravel car park (near the enormous mountain). Oblivious of what we were implementing. Brutally, the piercing, chilly air travelled through our bones. Suddenly, we waddled over the wooden step and marched over to a gigantic pine tree. Our miniature heads tilted upwards, staring at the pine tree towering over us. Out of the crowd of students marched out Heidi- a highly experienced environment teacher at Kids Greening Taupo. She gave all of us students plenty of detail about the mountain we were standing directly under, and the environmental groups that support nature and planting on the mountain. After a short but inspiring talk from Heidi every group received a scavenger hunt work sheet.

Shortly after, Mrs Shepherd announced each group to slowly head off, and challenge themselves to walk up the towering mountain. Our tiny group was first. When we started to march off into the farm land we admired the view of the small town. Every student skipped over the rocky, beige, and sandy gravel path that was extremely slippery. Emma observed below us to find the rest of our class pacing themselves. Satisfyingly, we approached the peak of the farm lands. After many conversations and a few cheeky nibbles, the rest of the class had reached the peak of the farm lands as well. Briefly, Mrs Shepard reminded us to stop at the wooden chair.

Mysteriously, we entered the bush land, as we scurried off, our group believing the wooden chair was around every corner. While Emma was sneaking out several gummy snakes we believed we were going to faint. "Would you fancy a gummy" offered Isa, shivering from behind me her voice creaked, "Yes please!" I replied, as my legs slowly turned to jelly and my lips froze to a purple shade.

Nearly tripping over the roots the forest took over the scenery, bush, and dirt path. Giving up on the inside we turned one last corner, I heard people joyfully scream "The chair!" I cheered. Successfully, I managed to get the first seat before swiftly there was no more room. I was joyful as lollies were delightfully being handed around. Politely, I squeaked "may I have a gummy please" Emma then nodded "sure you can!" Emma- a polite year eight student, with lush blonde hair that sways, is my best friend. Talking flooded through the atmosphere as we awaited for the rest of the class. Izzy observed Mrs Shepard, we asked her if we could carry on hiking she replied "Agreed, but make sure to stop at the waterfall" we nodded.

"Click, Rattle, Stomp" was the sound of our determined, racing group, as we continued to imagine hearing the waterfall. I stopped marching and thought about the one thing I held in my flooding mind, did this moment really matter? Suddenly, I shook myself out of my query day-dream, "Catch up!" yelled Isa with a shiver travelling through her shaky voice. Jogging, I reached my classmates and my group, admiring the ancient bush land- it brought me a connection with the ground, like the mountain was part of me. Instead of yapping to my classmates, I observed the tourists coming down the maunga, (speaking a foreign language). "I believe I hear drooling water" Annabelle softly mentioned looking to the side of her. Joanne joined "I hear the water fall as well" she gracefully whispered, everyone in the space around us stopped in the tracks and commented what they heard as well. We all galloped racingly. The sound became more clear until Emma peered at a sight of the fresh water, her eyes widened, then she opened her mouth "The waterfall is right in front of us!" she roared, "Really?" I added in disbelief. We figured the only way to find out is by viewing it for ourselves, we galloped in immaculate sync- instead we were running like a big frightening monster was after us... We were standing right in front of the small, fresh, and crystal-like waterfall- it calmed me like a plushy on my shoulder. I was enormously proud of my classmates and friends. We sat down and tiredly nibbled on some tasty lollies as we waited for our fellow classmates and teachers. They came in groups, not long after as we yapped, we regathered to our groups as Mrs Shepard briefly chatted to us all.

Slowly, we left to complete our walk up the maunga. After many more cheeky gummies, the peak of the mountain was within arms reach, we cheered, "Hooray!" Joy flooded through everyone's bones. This moment felt so special, almost as if I was connected to the mountain. It felt that the mountain was communicating to me, and how lucky I was to be a part of the moment. I limped over to the edge of the mountain, and peered out to nature's immaculate views. Zoomingly, I unzipped my now muddy school bag. I reached in and snatched out my lunch box, I then brought it over to my friends and sat next to Emma. Then satisfyingly I snacked on my food as after the walk I was severely peckish. The walk made me feel wrecked and tired, but also a sense of identity and being worthy. I smashed my Marmite sandwich into my drooling mouth as the rest of my classmates arrived. I loved hearing my friends cheer each other on. We took some memorable photos then began our quick journey down the mountain. It was a very quick trip down- no complaining, all though it also wasn't worthless and still cheerful. I felt spoiled to share a memory like this with my friends. Jumping over roots was the highlight of the speedy trip down, and an even quicker trip down the rocky, crispy farm lands.

In conclusion, this memorable trip to the mountain and having the privilege of sharing this with my friends was once in a lifetime. We shared funny moments, and we were there for each other when the climbs got tough. Although the most important thing was we didn't give up! A bonus was that we climbed up and down the mountain with a speedier time than the boys class! This memory allowed me to feel a sense of accomplishment, trust, and most importantly to never stop!



# T.I.S IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

## 2026 - MARCH TERM ONE

### Week 10

Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March - R12 & R13 Mount Tauhara Trip

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April - Performance Assembly

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April - TIS AGENCY EXPO 12.30PM-4PM - SCHOOL TURF

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April - Good Friday Easter (School Closed)

## TERM TWO

### Week 1

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April - First day of Term Two

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April - Celebration Assembly

### Week 2

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April - Anzac Day observed - SCHOOL CLOSED

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April - Room 15 Mount Tauhara Trip

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May - Super 11 Lightweight Rugby Gisborne



**Taupo-nui-a-Tia**  
COLLEGE

## Become a host family!!

Your spare room can earn \$340 per week, hosting an international student!!

Most of our students have great English skills and enjoy being active.

Students are generally 15-18 years of age

This year we will welcome students from Germany, Italy, Czech Republic and the USA!



For more information please contact:

**Suze Stevenson**

**Homestay Coordinator**

[suzanne.stevenson@taupocollege.ac.nz](mailto:suzanne.stevenson@taupocollege.ac.nz)

021 478811