



**Newsletter Number: 07**

**Date: Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March 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.**

Things are truly gaining momentum here at Taupō Intermediate! It has been an incredible week watching our students dive into new opportunities, from the music studio to the sports field. Our school values are being lived out every day, and the positive culture vibrating through our rooms and playground is a testament to the hard work of our staff and the enthusiasm of our ākonga.

### **Celebrating Excellence: Our First Medalists**

This week marked a special milestone as we awarded our first TIS Excellence Award medals for 2026. These awards recognise the dedication and determination to strive for excellence.

A massive congratulations to our first six award winners:

- Harper Hornsey & Zoe Mephram: Principal's Academic Bronze
- Elhana Tekā: Principal's Academic Silver
- Blaise Hickman & Isabella Sapsford: Principal's Academic Gold
- Ben Pridham: Bevan Docherty Gold

We have set a bold goal of issuing 2,000 medals in 2026, and we are officially underway!

### **Sporting Action**

It has been a massive week on the turf and the trails:

- Trials: After-school Hockey trials wrapped up last week, and we have started our Saturday morning Netball trials this week.
- Kiwi sport: Our students got stuck into the Ki-o-rahi tournament and a Disc Golf taster session.
- Mountain Biking: A huge shout-out to our riders who competed in the Te Miro Mountain Bike Champs!

### **Leadership**

We also officially named our TIS Bus Leaders for Terms 1 & 2. These students received their badges at this week's Celebration Assembly. We rely on these leaders to uphold our values and ensure a safe, positive journey for everyone on our school transport.

### **Notes from the Music Studio**

Mr. Wood has shared some exciting news from the Performing Arts department - there has been an overwhelming interest in our school rock bands this year! Our first band is already up and running, and due to high demand, a second band is currently being formed. We can't wait to hear the music echoing from the studio soon.

### **High-Quality Consistent Teaching & Learning**

As part of our strategic commitment to Akoranga Kouna (High-Quality Instruction), our staff continued their professional development this week with Selena Hinchco from *Coactive Education*.

The focus was on explicit teaching, the science of learning, and organisational pathways. Selena conducted classroom walkthroughs and provided glowing feedback on the visible improvements in teaching practices and the high level of student engagement. It is exciting to see our evidence-based "Common Practice Model" coming to life in every classroom.

Thank you to all our staff, students, and whānau for making the start of 2026 so vibrant and successful.

**Nāku noa, nā**

**The Team at Taupō Intermediate School**

# ATTENDANCE CORNER

## Attendance Progress Report: Term 1 Week 7

This report outlines 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 three 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%

### Current Status vs. Target

Our target combines the Regular (90–100%) and Irregular (80–89%) brackets.

Current Performance (Week 7): 87.6% (68.80% Regular + 18.80% Irregular).

Target: 85% \* Verdict: We are currently meeting our strategic target by 2.6%.

### Trend Analysis

While we are meeting the overall 80%+ goal, there has been a slight shift in our "Regular" attendees (90%+). After a dip in Week 6 (67.54%), we saw a positive recovery in Week 7 back up to 68.80%.

The Chronic bracket (Below 70%) has also seen a healthy decrease, dropping from 7.21% in Week 6 to 5.60% in Week 7. This suggests that our "Intensive Recovery" efforts and whānau engagement for our most at-risk students are beginning to see results.

*Together we are striving for excellence in attendance for term 1!*

### 5 Tips to Get Your Child to School on Time

Lateness is often the first step toward disengagement. Every minute counts toward that 90% "Regular" attendance threshold! Here are five practical tips for TIS whānau:

1. The "Be Ready" Method: Have your child pack their bag, check their PE gear and school needs, and lay out their uniform the night before. This eliminates the "where is my...?" frantic search at 8:15 am.
2. Consistent Sleep & Hygiene: Intermediate-aged students still need 9–11 hours of sleep. A consistent bedtime (without devices in the bedroom) ensures they wake up feeling refreshed rather than sluggish.
3. The 10-Minute Buffer: Aim to arrive at school by 8:30 am. This gives ākonga time to catch up with friends and "settle in" before the bell rings, reducing the anxiety of walking into a classroom that has already started.
4. Problem-Solve the Barriers: If your child is resisting school, talk to them. Is it a social issue, a struggle with a certain subject, or just tiredness? Identifying the *why* early allows the school to support you with a plan.
5. Positive Morning Culture: Try to keep the morning routine calm. If getting out the door is a struggle, use a "When/Then" strategy: "*When your shoes are on and your bag is at the door, then you can have 10 minutes of free time/music.*"

# BOARD CORNER

Introducing our new Presiding Member of Taupo Intermediate School Board 2026



**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**



# T.I.S SPORTS



## CO-ORDINATOR NEWS!

### **Wow—what a week of amazing achievements and sporting success for Taupō Intermediate!**

The week started with the Taupō Ki-o-Rahi Tournament. It was a fun day filled with amazing skills and some great fast-paced strategies as teams worked hard to outwit their opponents. From the round robin tournament, we had five teams progress to the quarterfinals and three teams make it through to the semifinals. TIS 1 went on to reach the final, where they defeated Kurutau to become the 2026 Ki-o-Rahi Champions.

The winning team was Kauri Kururangi, Luca McKenzie, Lee O'Brien, Tariq Campbell (who played half the day with a fractured toe!), Adi Lee, Tea Bosshart, Jade Hirst, Mason Cook, Portia Lee, and Waihaki Karaitiana, coached by Dee.

Well done to all TIS players for their effort and teamwork, and thank you to the parents who came along to support and help throughout the day.

On Wednesday we had eight riders compete at the Taupō Schools Show Jumping competition at Tauhara. The TIS team came third overall, with many top-four individual placings. The support and encouragement shown between riders was next level, and for several riders this was their first show jumping event.

Well done to Thea Young, Avery Lee, Lily Bennett, Annabelle Milne, Addison Rennie, Zoey Bismark Seraphina Roberts and Harper Laurenson.

Thank you also to the parents who helped transport horses and riders to the event.

Then on Thursday we swapped horses for bikes as our TIS Mountain Bikers headed to Te Miro for the WBOP Mountain Bike Championships. The racing was very competitive with large fields and challenging Grade 2–3 trails, but our riders were not deterred and performed exceptionally well.

### **We celebrated several podium finishes:**

Year 7 Boys: Kian Thompson – 1st, Benjamin Grant – 2nd

Year 8 Boys: Stanley – 2nd place in a sprint finish, just 0.02 seconds behind first

Junior Boys Team Relay: Kian Thompson, Benjamin Grant, and Stanley – 1st place

Year 7 Girls: Micah Wallace – 2nd place (before heading off to compete in the downhill at Crankworx)

Junior Girls Relay Team: Anaeia Winiata, Nia Simm, and Zoey Bismark – 2nd place

It was a fantastic day, and our tradition of excelling in mountain biking continues.

This week also saw the start of the Year 8 netball trials. It was great to see so many students participating once again, which made it a challenging job for our selectors. Year 7 trials will take place on Monday and Wednesday next week.

Finally, a big thank you to all the parents who supported these trips and events throughout the week. We truly appreciate the time, transport, team management, and encouragement you provide. We could not do it without you.



# T.I.S SPORTS



## Sports Registration Notice

All students wishing to play for the school in **Netball, Hockey or Basketball** must register online using the appropriate code.

Please ensure you complete the registration process to confirm your student's participation in their chosen sport.

**Follow the login instructions below to register your student.**

### Netball

<https://www.sporty.co.nz/viewform/476914>

### Basketball

<https://membership.mygameday.app/regofrom.cgi?formID=118085>

### Hockey

<https://www.sporty.co.nz/viewform/345825>





# T.I.S SPORTS PHOTOS!!



# THE SUPPORT HUB

Learning Intervention Groups start next week. All students involved have had a newsletter sent home via our HERO app giving a brief explanation on the programme. We are very excited to get our Literacy and Numeracy support up and running.

**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!  
Sponsors: taupo blue light, GREENING TAUPO, ANAMATA, New Beginnings, real ahakoa te aha, Growing Through Grief, TAUPO INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL, Budget House, HE KAHUI TANGATA, YOUTHTOWN

Young Pioneers has started well this year with lots of engagement from our students. Today they made bow and arrows with bamboo and some string. They will be helping set up for a concert that is happening next weekend at Taupo Timebank.



# PHYSICAL EDUCATION



## **Well... where do we start?!**

**This week in PE we launched a brand-new sport — a modified version of netball designed to suit our larger class sizes and allow everyone to participate. With up to two classes in a session, we've adapted the game to make sure every student gets involved, and it has been an absolute hit.**

**Honestly, Thursday might have been our favourite day of PE so far.**

**The kids.  
The teachers.  
The skills.  
The energy.  
Just unreal.**

**At the start of each session, we reminded students that not every sport we teach will be their favourite — and that's okay. The goal is to give it a go, make the most of the session, and who knows... you might end up loving it.**

**And that's exactly what happened.**

**Every session was packed with energy, effort and laughter. Dee and I jumped in and played every single block (all six sessions!), and seeing teachers get involved too is always a highlight.**

**That's where we believe the real magic happens — connections outside the classroom, shared laughs, and students seeing their teachers having a go too.**

**We're excited to keep building on these sessions over the next few weeks. Skills are growing and enthusiasm is high!**

**Meanwhile, lunchtime sport is still going strong with Ki-o-Rahi, as classes battle their way through the round robin. At the end of the term, the winning class will take on the teachers in the final showdown — and we cannot wait.**

**A massive shout out this week to our student helpers, referees and scorekeepers. Running three fields at once takes a lot of work, and without these students stepping up it simply wouldn't happen.**

**We're incredibly proud of the leadership and responsibility they've shown.**

**Let's keep the momentum going and most importantly — keep having fun. 🚴 🏃 🏐**

**PE Department.  
Charné and Dee**

# STAFF SNAPSHOT



Kia Ora, Ko Jacqueline Emerson toku ingoa. I originally come from Hawkes Bay where I met my husband of 41 years, Rob. We have two children and three grandchildren who all presently live in the Central Coast, Australia. Rob and I moved to Taupo at the beginning of the year, and we are enjoying being part of the TIS team. I teach in Room 25, the girl's class, and they have made me feel very welcome. In my spare time I enjoy interior design, renovating homes, coffee and retail therapy.



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

**2026  
MARCH  
TERM ONE**

## **Week 08**

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March - Performance Assembly**

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March - R24 & R25 Museum Visit**

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March - Rm15 Mount Tauhara Trip**

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March - Rm 2 Mount Tauhara Trip**

**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>h</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** ([sbendall@taupointermediate.co.nz](mailto:sbendall@taupointermediate.co.nz))

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

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### **Room 4**

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**Room 18**

Donna Shaw (Literacy Support)

**Room 19**

Bernadette Gallagher (Numeracy Support)

**Room 20**

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**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))

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