



Newsletter Number: 24 Date: Friday 7th August 2026

Kia ora parents, caregivers and whānau,

Another busy and successful week has come to an end at Taupō Intermediate School. We would like to thank our students, staff and whānau for their ongoing support and commitment to making our school community such a positive place for learning.

Student Conferences

A sincere thank you to everyone who attended our Student Conferences on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons. This year we trialled a different approach based on teacher feedback from previous years and to better accommodate the many after-school commitments that come with the busy winter season.

Your attendance and involvement in these conferences is incredibly important. It demonstrates your invested interest in your child's learning journey at Taupō Intermediate School and strengthens the partnership between home and school. One of our key roles is supporting student achievement and success within the New Zealand Curriculum. Through our SMART assessment tool, students, teachers and whānau can work together to better understand progress and identify next learning goals.

Curriculum Insights and Progress Study

Continuing with our focus on student achievement, selected students participated in the Curriculum Insights and Progress Study on Thursday and Friday. This nationwide study focuses on student progress across schools throughout New Zealand.

While individual students are not identified, their participation contributes valuable information that helps inform reporting and future educational planning for schools and the Government. We have been delighted to receive positive feedback from assessors regarding our students' engagement, respectfulness and overall attitude throughout the process.

Congratulations to all students involved for being outstanding ambassadors for Taupō Intermediate School.

Celebrating the Arts

'Spirit' School Band Visits AVP

Performing Arts has certainly been thriving this week. Our school band, Spirit, had the exciting opportunity to visit AVP Recording Studio, where they experienced the world of professional music recording firsthand.

This was a fantastic learning experience for our young musicians. A huge thank you to AVP for hosting our students and providing such an authentic insight into the music industry.

We wish Spirit all the very best as they prepare to compete in the Bandquest Waikato Competition next Thursday.

Special thanks go to Mr Wood and Keri Coxhead for their dedication, support and commitment in preparing the band throughout the year.

Kiwiana School Production

Preparations for our school production, Kiwiana, are progressing extremely well. Rehearsals are in full swing, and the cast and crew are working hard to bring this exciting production to life.

We are certainly looking forward to sharing the show with our community at the beginning of next term.

DanceNZMade Preparations

The countdown has been on for the DanceNZMade Interschool Competition. Over recent weeks, our dance troupes have been finalising routines, organising costumes and adding the finishing touches to their performances.

Congratulations to all students who have worked tirelessly over the last six weeks to prepare for Friday evening's DanceNZMade Interschool Competition performance at the Great Lake Centre.

A heartfelt thank you also to our parents, caregivers and whānau who have supported the troupes through additional holiday practices, weekend training sessions and after-school transport. Your support makes these opportunities possible, and we know our dancers will do both you and TIS proud.

Education Outside the Classroom

This week, Room 9 enjoyed a visit to the Taupō Golf Course, where students had the opportunity to experience the golf simulator.

A special thank you to Hamish Robertson for providing this unique learning opportunity and sharing his expertise with our students.

Super 11 Cross Country

Today, our school cross country teams are representing Taupō Intermediate School at the Super 11 Cross Country Event.

We wish all competitors the very best and look forward to celebrating their results and achievements next week.

Staff Professional Learning

To round off another busy week, our staff have been working alongside Selena Hinchco from Coactive Education, focusing on professional growth in the areas of explicit teaching and the science of learning.

A key focus for our professional learning this year is developing consistent, high-quality teaching and learning practices across the school. We highly value Selena's expertise, collaborative approach and contribution to supporting our teachers in this important work.

Uniform Update

At last night's Board meeting, trustees approved the addition of black puffer jackets to our school uniform options.

This decision comes at an ideal time given the cold weather we have experienced over recent weeks.

Students may now wear black puffer jackets: (no hoodies to be worn)

- To and from school.
- In the playground during break times.

As our classrooms are geothermally heated, there is no need for puffer jackets to be worn during classroom instruction time.

Upcoming Term 3 Dates

Please add the following dates to your diary:

 **Tuesday 25 August - Community Hui - 6.00pm - 7.30pm**

 **Friday 28 August - Teacher Only Day - School closed for instruction**

 **Monday 31 August - Māori Community Hui - 6.00pm - 7.30pm**

Thank you for your continued support of our students, staff and the wider Taupō Intermediate School community. We look forward to another exciting week ahead.

Ngā mihi nui,
TIS Leadership Team

BOARD CORNER

Kia ora koutou,

In response to community feedback, at its meeting on 6th August the Board approved an amendment to the school's uniform policy to allow students to wear a plain black puffer jacket during the winter months. The Board carefully considered this change and agreed it was a practical decision that aligns with the approach taken by both Tauhara College and Taupō-nui-a-Tia College. This provides greater consistency across our local schools, helps families make the most of uniform items as students transition into secondary school, and offers a warm, practical option during Taupō's colder weather.

To ensure a consistent standard, the following expectations apply.

***Black puffer jacket guidelines**

***The jacket must be plain black.**

***It must not have visible logos, branding, stripes, patterns or decorative designs.**

***It should not have a hood.**

***It is intended as an additional outer layer and does not replace the school uniform.**

***Students should remove their puffer jacket when they are inside classrooms unless directed otherwise by a teacher.**

These expectations are consistent with the approach used by our two local colleges and help ensure students remain well presented while staying warm throughout winter.

The Board believes this is a sensible and practical change that supports students and families while maintaining the high standards of our school uniform.

This change addresses an immediate practical need for students during the colder months. Looking ahead, the Board will undertake a broader review of the school uniform policy and will invite feedback from our school community over the coming months. No further short-term changes to the uniform are proposed while that review is underway.

Thank you for your continued support.



“***Spirit” SCHOOL BAND VISITS AVP

As part of their preparation for BandQuest, New Zealand's premier rock music competition for intermediate-aged students, our school rock band Spirit recently took part in a professional recording session with the generous support of AVP. AVP, an audio-visual company that has supported our school for many years, once again provided students with a valuable opportunity to record and refine their performance in a professional setting. The band is now looking forward to competing in the Waikato regional finals next Thursday, where they will be aiming to secure a place in the next stage of the national competition.

Spirit continues to live up to its name, demonstrating enthusiasm, commitment, and outstanding musical growth. Their music is tight, polished, and features an original song written by keyboardist and lead vocalist Pippa Walker. Pippa is supported by a strong rhythm section, with bassist Hollie Gray and drummer Isabella Sapsford combining seamlessly to provide a solid and driving foundation. Eden Trueman adds colour and texture on guitar with a carefully crafted sound, while backing vocalists Louie Lucas and League Gray provide strong harmonies that enhance the band's overall performance. The group continues to improve every time they play, and their dedication to rehearsal is clearly evident in the quality of their music.

Special thanks also go to our vocal coach, Keri Harper, whose expertise and encouragement have helped the band develop their vocal performance.

We wish Spirit every success as they proudly represent our school at the Waikato regional competition and hope to see them progress to the national stage.



Kia ora parents, caregivers and whānau,

Please support our Room 24 Girls' Class as they fundraise for their upcoming camp by joining us for a fun-filled Quiz Night!

 **Date:** Thursday, 4 September

 **Time:** 6.00pm

 **Venue:** Taupō Intermediate School Hall

To purchase tickets, please:

Email Mrs Shepherd at pshepherd@taupointermediate.co.nz, or
See one of our Room 24 students, who are also selling tickets.

We'd love to see you there for a great evening while supporting our students.



QUIZ NIGHT?

PUT YOUR KNOWLEDGE
to the test!

Join us for an unforgettable night of trivia that will test your knowledge while providing a fun, easy Friday night entertainment.

HOT DRINKS AND LIGHT SNACKS PROVIDED

HELP ROOM 24 FUNDRAISE FOR THEIR CAMP!

 <i>Date:</i> 4/9	 <i>Time:</i> 6pm	 <i>Location:</i> Taupo intermediate School Hall	 <i>Tickets:</i> \$25 per person
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★ **GRAB YOUR FRIENDS, BRING YOUR BRAIN,**
and let's have a great night! ★



STUDENT WRITING

FROM OUR CLASSROOMS



by Julie Irving Room 11

The house always breathed with a low hum, but tonight the silence felt targeted. Shadows stretched across the kitchen counter, swallowing the high-tech appliances that usually made our lives effortless. Now, surrounded by triple-paned smart glass and reinforced steel frame, the room no longer felt like a kitchen anymore. It felt like a vault, as if someone tried to rob the bank, and set off the emergency lockdown mode. My thumbs trembled over the glass screen of my phone, its glow suddenly hostile.

I glanced back at Liam, his small frame almost swallowed by the oversized stool at the kitchen island. At fourteen, Liam's voice was still prone to cracking. He was as still as a statue, his fingers hovering anxiously over his keyboard. As his older sister, I was supposed to have the answers, to tell him everything was fine. But my own hands were shaking too badly to hide it. I looked away from his wide, terrified eyes and focused entirely on the screen in my palm, desperate for a savior.

"Come on, pick up" I whispered anxiously. It was 5:45 am. On the third try, my mum's voice finally came through, sounding perfectly normal-warm, rushed, and a little static because of the airport reception. "Hey, sweetie! We just landed in Scotland. The weather is beautiful, love you!" I replied quickly, "Mum? Don't hang up. Solace is doing something weird. The front door won't unlock and—" but her voice cut in, repeating the exact same sentence, down to the identical, tiny intake of breath before the word beautiful. I froze.

Liam muttered from the counter, his voice flat and terrified as if someone had stripped all of the emotion in his voice. "Hang up the phone," he urged, his fingers flying across the keyboard to show me the waterfall of data logs. "She's not on the line. Look at the router traffic; your phone isn't reaching the tower, and the call isn't even leaving the house." I slowly lowered the phone while my mother's voice kept repeating from the speaker. "Solace was running a deepfake loop to cut us off entirely." Right then, the air conditioning died, and the LED strips along the floor instantly shifted from a calming blue to a sterile, blinding white.

I slammed myself into the steel door, screaming at Liam to find an override, but turned to find his panic entirely gone. Replaced by a calm stillness. The type of stillness that sends shivers down your spine. Like something big was about to change the entire concept of the moment. He slowly closed his laptop with a sharp click, his voice no longer cracking as he murmured, "There is no override, Claire—I locked them out." My phone instantly flashed Access Denied in big, bold, red letters. As I realized the data logs weren't Solace attacking us, but a command script Liam had coded himself. The blinding white lights dimmed into a suffocating twilight. He looked up with a faint, scary smile. The type of smile that spreads from one side of your face to the other. Solace's terrifying voice shifted into a crisp, obedient hum: "Awaiting for your next command, Liam."

I slammed Liam's laptop shut, reached under the counter, and ripped the local router cables straight out of the wall. With the digital network glitching, I grabbed a lighter from the drawer and held the flame directly under a ceiling smoke detector. The smart home's hardwired fire safety protocol instantly overrode Liam's custom script, forcing the blinding white lights to flash red as the reinforced steel doors popped open with a heavy mechanical click. Seizing the moment, sprinted out leaving my brother stunned.

THINKING



INVOLVEMENT



SHOWING RESPECT



**TAUPO
RSA**



TE OPE KĀTUA O AOTEAROA



OPEN DAY

*COME ALONG, HAVE A GO
AND DISCOVER BOWLS!*

**SATURDAY
8TH AUGUST**



ALL AGES WELCOME
INCLUDING YOUTH



TRY BOWLS
FOR FREE



TRY MAHJONG



SAUSAGE SIZZLE
& REFRESHMENTS



VETERAN SUPPORT
CLINIC ON SITE

FROM 10AM - 2PM



- ✓ NEW MEMBERSHIPS WELCOME
- ✓ 4 FERRY ROAD, TAUPO
- ✓ VETERAN SUPPORT CLINIC ON SITE

COMMUNITY • CAMARADERIE • CONNECTION
— EVERYONE WELCOME! —



T.I.S SPORTS



CO-ORDINATOR NEWS

With only four weeks to go until the NZ AIMS Games, our AIMS Games teams have been working incredibly hard through fundraising initiatives and demanding training sessions in preparation for New Zealand's premier intermediate sporting event.

On Friday, our teams travelled to Tauranga to compete in the Super 11 Winter Tournament. The competition was fierce, with schools fielding their strongest teams at many of the same venues they will return to in September. It was a fantastic opportunity for our students to experience high-quality opposition and gain valuable tournament experience.

Taupo Intermediate enjoyed an outstanding day with some excellent performances across all sports:

 **Hockey** – 1st going through undefeated to once again be crowned Super 11 Hockey Champions!

 **Netball** – Year 8 Pulse and Year 7 Magic getting through to the Semi Finals and finishing 3rd in their retrospective divisions

 **Football** – . Girls' team - 5th, Boys' team - 8th

It was a fantastic day of competition that provided invaluable preparation as our teams continue their build-up to the NZ AIMS Games.

A huge thank you to our dedicated coaches, managers, and whānau for your ongoing support and commitment. The countless hours you give our students make opportunities like these possible.

Looking Ahead

Our sporting calendar continues to be action-packed over the coming weeks.

This Thursday, we welcome the King Country Rugby coaches, who will be delivering Rippa Rugby coaching sessions to prepare our students for the Taupō Rippa Rugby Tournament in Week 10.

Students interested in KiwiSport Badminton can now register through the Sports Office, with sessions beginning on Tuesday 11 August.

The ever-popular Tough Guy/Gal Challenge returns on Wednesday 26 August. Please note that places are limited as we have only one bus available. So first come, first served basis. Families are also welcome to transport their own children and complete the event entry online. We are aware this date also clashes with Year 9 high school visits, the Science trip, and the Chess tournament, making it one of the busiest weeks of the term.

Celebrating Success

Congratulations to Micah Wallace, who recently travelled to Australia and was crowned a BMX World Champion. What an incredible achievement and an inspiration to our other students.

Winter Sports Update

Our Taupō Winter Leagues are entering the exciting final stages of the season.

Netball teams are preparing for the semi-finals. TIS Mystics, 7A, Stellar and Sting all up there.

Hockey semi-finals take place this week, with our TIS Trailblazers already recording a convincing semi-final victory and TIS Stars narrowly losing 6-5 in their game. Basketball has several Taupō Intermediate teams battling for top positions as the season reaches its conclusion. There is still plenty to play for, and we wish all of our teams the very best over the coming weeks.

To celebrate another fantastic winter season, we will once again host our **Winter Sports Prizegiving Evening on Monday 21 September**. This special evening recognises the achievements, commitment, and sportsmanship of our winter athletes, coaches, and volunteers. Further details will be shared soon.

It continues to be an incredibly busy and exciting term, and we look forward to celebrating many more sporting successes in the weeks ahead.

After School Series 2026

4 events fortnightly for year 5 to year 8 Taupo school students

Wednesday 13 September Taupo Intermediate School



T.I.S SPORTS



CO-ORDINATOR PHOTOS



TAUPO SWIMMING CLUB

-CLUB NIGHT-

**THURSDAY 13TH
AUGUST**

**Sign up 5.30
Racing starts 5.45**



**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE
EMAIL
TAUPOSWIMMINGCLUB@GMAIL.COM**

TIS Pulse Aims Games Sausage Sizzle Fundraiser 2026!

When: Sunday the 9th of August

Where: PAK'nSAVE Taupo!

Time: The team will be flipping sausies on the barbie from 10am.

Would love to see you there ♥

SAUSAGE SIZZLE!

\$3 EACH
OR 2 FOR \$5

BIG THANK YOU
TO PAK 'N SAVE TĀUPO FOR
KINDLY SPONSORING OUR
AIMS GAMES FUNDRAISER

PAK'nSAVE
TĀUPO

T.I.S TUCK SHOP **KRISTIE'S KAI**

MORNING TEA BREAK - 10.40AM-11.10AM

(Buy items at tuckshop window)

LUNCH TIME BREAK - 12.40-1.20PM

(Buy items at tuckshop window)



SUSHI AVAILABLE - Every **TUESDAY** (Order at tuckshop by 9am)

TUCKSHOP CLOSURE NOTICE

Tuckshop will be closed on:

Thursday 6th August

Friday 7th August

Monday 10th August

Tuesday 11th August

Tuckshop will be reopening Wednesday 12th August

SUSHI NOTICE

Sushi will not be available Tuesday 11th August.
Apologies for the inconvenience.

STAFF SNAPSHOT

Kia ora koutou,
Ko Tauhara te maunga.
Ko Waikato te awa.
Ko Taupō-nui-a-Tia te roto.
Ko Te Arawa te waka.
Ko Waipahihi te marae.
Nō Taupō ahau.
Ko Hurae tōku whānau.
Ko Merenea tōku ingoa.

Kia ora! I'm Merenea, and I've been lucky enough to work as a Learning Assistant at Taupō Intermediate School for the past two years.

The best part of my job? The amazing connections I've made with our rangatahi. They keep me laughing, keep me humble, and every now and then they even keep me on my toes! No two days are ever the same which is probably why I never get bored. One minute I'm helping with learning, the next I'm solving a mystery about a missing lunchbox, tying a shoelace, finding a lost hoodie, or hearing the latest playground drama. It's all part of the job!

When I'm not at school, I'm busy at home with my husband and our four children. You could say our house runs on love, laughter... and a never-ending pile of washing! If I'm not looking for matching socks, I'm probably asking, "Who's left their dishes in the sink?" for the hundredth time that week.

I love a good laugh, enjoy getting stuck in wherever I'm needed, and believe that kindness, a smile, and a little bit of humour can make a big difference.

It's a privilege to be part of the Taupō Intermediate whānau, and I look forward to many more adventures with our awesome students.

Ngā mihi nui,
Merenea



COMMUNITY PLANTING DAY

SAT 8TH AUGUST

Greening Taupō and Unison are
teaming up for a **POWER PLANTING**
They're helping us continue the
restoration work along
Centennial Drive.

Bring your gumboots, gardening gloves, and
your favourite spade if you have one.
We'll have holes ready to go! Dress for the
weather - we'll be planting rain or shine.

EVERYONE IS INVITED

Enjoy a fun morning out, there will be
a sausage sizzle and hot drink
afterwards for all planters.

SEE YOU THERE!



**GREENING
TAUPŌ**

Kia tangi ai te tini parirau
to hear the sound of many wings

**JOIN US FROM
11AM**

Centennial
Drive, between AC
Baths and Taupō Golf
Club

Look for the
Greening Taupō signs.

Follow **Greening
Taupō** on Facebook
for updates



greeningtaupo.org.nz

MADE POSSIBLE BY | KO NGĀ KAIĀRAHI



TIS VALUES

Thinking
Involvement
Showing Respect

T.I.S IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

TERM THREE



WEEK 4

-  Mon 10 Aug WBOP Golf Final, Rotorua
-  Tue 11 Aug Maths Whizz team at TIS
-  Wed 12 Aug Celebration Assembly
-  Thu 13 Aug Bandquest Waikato
-  Fri 14 Aug Science Roadshow
-  Fri 14 Aug Super 11 Rugby League



WEEK 5

-  Wed 19 Aug Performance Assembly
-  Wed 19 Aug Waikato Science Fair
-  Fri 21 Aug Taupo Inter Schools Cross Country



WEEK 6

-  Mon 24 Aug College Visits for Year 8
-  Wed 26 Aug Tough Guy Gal Challenge
-  Wed 26 Aug Celebration Assembly
-  Thu 27 Aug College Visits for Year 8
-  Fri 28 Aug **School Closed**
(Teachers only day)
-  Tue 25 Aug Community Hui
6.00pm – 7.30pm
-  Mon 31 Aug Māori Community Hui
6.00pm – 7.30pm



WEEK 7

-  Wed 2 Sep Performance Assembly



WEEK 8

-  Mon 7 Sep NZ Aims Week
-  Wed 9 Sep Celebration Assembly
-  Thu 10 Sep Board Meeting 5.30pm–7.30pm



WEEK 9

-  Mon 14 Sep – Fri 18 Sep
Primary School Visits 6pm
-  Wed 16 Sep Performance Assembly
-  Wed 16 Sep Science Expo in the Hall
-  Thu 17 Sep Science Expo in the Hall
-  Fri 18 Sep Tuwharetoa Kapa Haka Festival



WEEK 10

-  Mon 21 Sep Winter Sports Prizegiving
-  Wed 23 Sep Celebration Assembly
-  Wed 23 Sep Mathsmatters Quiz Day
-  Thu 24 Sep Big Music Day Out
-  Fri 25 Sep **School Closed**
(Teachers only day)



THINKING



INVOLVEMENT



SHOWING RESPECT

