

# 20 Tapanui School

## Newsletter

Newsletter #3 - 14 March 2025

# 25

## CELEBRATIONS

### WAKA CHALLENGE THIS WEEK

This week the Kowhai Waka Leaders organised a Tug of War as the Waka Challenge. What a lot of fun and team spirit was shown. And the winning Waka was...

#### KOWHAI WAKA



#### SING AND CELEBRATE AWARDS FROM THIS WEEK

Vader George, Penelope Beamsley, Talita van Rooyen, AJ Mackey, Declan Cowie, Evie Ogilvy, Tomas Halder, Riley Jane, Charlie Roulston

**Principal Awards:** Riley Collard, Zeb Potts, Mohua Class

#### ASSMEBLY AWARDS FROM LAST WEEK

Harper Smith - Equity  
Duncan Wagenaar - Respect  
Portia Dono - Perseverance  
Brian Montejo - Respect  
Austin Lavender - Perseverance  
Clara Halder - Actively Involved  
Bella Yandug - Respect  
Jonty McCall - Respect  
Ashidhi Bogala Arachchillage - Perseverance  
Arawa Boyce - Confident



# Tapanui School

Newsletter #3 - 14 March 2025

Kia ora koutou,

Included in this newsletter are some documents that were shared at our Whānau Hui - the strategic plan summary for 2025 with a corresponding page outlining some ways you can be part of meeting our goals. We have 3 for the year in the areas of Literacy, Maths and Attendance and Engagement.

I have included a page around attendance based on guidance from the Ministry of Education with some Tapanui School stats from 2024 and our target for this year. Please take the time to read this - attendance is important.

As we continue to unpack the new maths curriculum we are noticing more and more that the goal posts have shifted from previous documents and expectations have increased at each level. This is most noticeable currently in the second phase of learning (Year 4-6). I share this because it will have an impact on progress and achievement data that is shared with you through different aspects of reporting and we don't want you to think your child has regressed...it's simply that there is now a higher expectation for them to reach at different points. We'll keep you updated as the year progresses.

I have also attached a summary of our concerns and complaints process. More detail can be found on School Docs where all our Policies and Procedures are found. To access these log in to the SchoolDocs website using these details:

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

username: tapanui password: together

Hopefully you feel safe to bring any concerns and complaints to us early as this is the best time to work together to find solutions and be aware of things we might not have noticed. I'm generally at the gate most afternoons and the teachers aren't too far away either if you want to touch base. We're more than happy for a longer chat - just ring the office to make a time.

From our Whānau Hui last week, there was some really good feedback around communication with newsletters and payment of accounts. We have been working and thinking about these things since and have actioned a couple of things from this... check out the next page for some further details.

Have a great week.

Jane

## IMPORTANT DATES FOR TERM 1

### WEEK 7

- 19 March - Sports Activator
- 19-21 March - Korero Whānau/Team Talk
- 22 March - Southland Athletics

### WEEK 8

- 24 March - Otago Anniversary Day
- SCHOOL CLOSED**

### WEEK 9

- 2 April - Sports Activator
- 3 April - Board Meeting

### WEEK 10

- 8 April - GRIP Leadership Day (Year 6)
  - 9 April - Farm Safety Day
  - 10 April - Whole School Assembly
    - End of Term 1
  - 11 April - Teacher Only Day
- SCHOOL CLOSED**

## TERM 2

### 28 April - TERM 2 STARTS

- Mihi whakatau
- Playground Opening!

# Whānau Hui Feedback and Response...

## PAYMENT OF HERO ACCOUNTS:

### Whānau said...

- *Is there a way we can pay online through the Hero app or can we just pay by cash - it's frustrating always having to go on to our banking app to deposit small amounts of money.*

### We listened and have responded...

**Internet Banking:** You can pay by direct debit through your internet banking directly into the school bank account (this is current practice).

**Tapanui Primary School**

**02 0900 0000399 25**

Some people choose to pay in advance (eg: \$20-\$30) and have a credit sitting in their child's account that can be used for any expenses incurred as the year progresses. This works really well at no extra cost.

All debit transactions and credits will show up on your HERO app.

**HERO app payments:** We have now activated this payment system in HERO.

Payments can be made via credit card or debit card. Each transaction will incur a STRIPE fee of 30c+2.7% for NZ cards, and 30c+2.9% for international cards.

**Cash to the school office:** Our bank, BNZ in Gore, is changing their opening days/hours to 5 days a week and will now be much more accessible. Cash payments can now be made at the office during school hours.

## NEWSLETTER:

### Some whānau said...

- *Opening the newsletter on Hero is a bit of a pain, it's hard to see photos and it's not as easy to share and enjoy with our children. There was a feeling of wanting to not be so engaged with a device all of the time. Some parents were fine with it on Hero. Sharing it on Facebook is good so grandparents and community can also access it although they don't always have facebook accounts.*

### We listened and have responded...

- We will be putting out a google form for you to fill in if you would like the newsletter sent home in paper form. At this stage it is possible that you would not get this until the Monday as we often put details in from the Friday it goes to print. If you wish to receive a hard copy of the newsletter please fill in the google form sent home today on Hero. Please note the newsletter is also available on our school website for extended family and friends to view.

***Thanks for the positive and constructive communication at our Hui - there are always things we can do to improve 😊***



These are coming up on the 19-21 March. Information came out on Hero early this week so be sure to book a slot. This is a time to set goals and then an action plan for each child so that everyone knows how we're going to work together to meet your child's goals. Come along to help your child to see that you're interested in their learning, you're part of their learning, and that you and the teacher are wanting to work with them to help them achieve.

**TOGETHER WE LEARN AND GROW!**

*Review*  
**OPEN**



**SchoolDocs**  
Policies and Procedures

**This terms review is now open.**

Log in to your SchoolDocs site using these details:

website: <https://tapanui.schooldocs.co.nz/>

username: tapanui

password: together

Go to "Current Review" and get started.

## IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION

There will be a

**Teacher Only Day**  
**Friday 11 April**

(last day of Term).

**Term 1 will finish for students**  
**on Thursday 10 April.**

This day has been provided by the Ministry of Education to equip and give teachers time and space to become familiar with the new maths curriculum. This will be a TOD across the Poumahaka Kāhui Ako Schools (Waikaka School, Waikoikoi School, Blue Mountain College and Tapanui School)

## Perseverance in action...



It's great to see this group of students persevering

every day with this new and challenging skill in their break times!



# ZERO WASTE



Each class have really enjoyed having Scott Martin from the Clutha District Council come to talk to us about Zero Waste. This has got the Tui class thinking about the rubbish we create and what action we can take to have less of a negative impact on our environment.



***“Look at what I picked up just as I walked from the PE shed to the classroom door! It’s disgusting!”***

The rubbish we found made us sad,  
None of it would make us glad.  
Our goal here is “Rubbish free”  
In our lunchboxes, that’s the key!

Plastic wrap just causes litter,  
It’s just as bad as sparkly glitter.  
To be a school with zero waste,  
We need to work on this with haste.

So let’s band together to be seen  
To keep our whole community clean.  
Let’s pack less rubbish in our lunch  
To make us a healthy, tidy bunch!

*Written by Annabel Stewart and Riley Collard  
on behalf of the student leadership at Tapanui  
School*



# Mohua's magical writing

We have been working on making our writing come alive and painting a picture in the readers head. These are a few of our descriptions about the Lolly carriage in our shared story 'The Silver Arrow'.

*Hanging from the roof, there were sugary lollypops. Fluffy candy floss fell from the ceiling. I went crazy! On the shelf, there were lots of lollies. My eyes watered! You could even get a humongous gummy snake. I couldn't believe it! I just had to eat it. On the shelf, there were heaps of coloured lollies. There were bags, buckets and even cans. There were heaps of them!*

*By Declan.*



*Slowly, I walked into the red box carriage. Hanging up on the ceiling, lollypops dangled. Suddenly, I saw a bucket of crunchie bars. In the middle of the box carriage I saw a tower of squishy gummy worms! It was yum. Slowly, I turned left and I saw a shelf of candy canes. It was awesome. Quickly, I saw a bunch of lollies, they looked like colourful rainbows.*

*By Austin*



*As I slowly walked into the candy car, I saw a very long gummy snake. On the wall, I saw a bag of gummies. I could not resist, I just had to dig in. Suddenly, I smelt something. It smelt like strawberries and apples. Then I saw where the smell was coming from. It was a bunch of fruit bursts! How sweet. Suddenly, I saw a sign that said 'chocolate.' I looked under the sign and I saw a bunch of chocolate. It made my mouth water. In the chocolate zone I ate them all.*

*They were so crunchy, like frozen cold ice blocks. Suddenly, I felt very energetic so I ran to the drinks and had a drink. I felt better. I was in the lolly zone again. I went to get a gummy snake because I felt like eating gummies. It was delicious. At night, I was still in the gummy zone. I love gummies!*

*By Luka*



# STRATEGIC PLAN 2025

## Tapanui School

*Charting our course for a stellar year*

### Strategic Goal #1

To raise levels of student achievement increasing engagement, confidence and resilience.

### Literacy – focus on Writing

Embed our structured literacy practices across the school, develop our assessment schedule and build knowledge and use of the new English Curriculum.

### Maths

Align the new Maths Curriculum with school systems and processes along with the introduction of Oxford University Press (OUP) Maths across the school.



*When we all work together  
this all leads to...*

**OUR VISION: TO GROW CONFIDENT, CONNECTED, ACTIVELY INVOLVED, LIFE LONG LEARNERS**



### Strategic Goal #2

Grow a safe, caring and positive Aotearoa school culture where our tamariki (students), whānau (families) and kaiako (staff) can thrive in, our community can be proud of and our students want to engage in.

2025

### Attendance and Engagement

Develop and strengthen our restorative practice, Critical Capabilities programme and cultural responsiveness to increase attendance and engagement.



# HOW YOU CAN HELP AT HOME

TOGETHER WE LEARN AND GROW

## MATHS

- practice basic facts
  - Y1 +/- facts to 10 including doubling and halving
  - Y2 +/- facts to 20 including doubling and halving
  - Y3  $\times/\div$  facts 2's, 3's, 5's, 10's
  - Y4  $\times/\div$  facts 4's, 6's
  - Y5  $\times/\div$  facts 7's, 8's, 9's
  - Y6  $\times/\div$  facts 11's 12's ideally
- notice, talk about and work with patterns and shapes, speed, distance, size, time, money - games are great
- practice writing numbers if your child has some reversals

## LITERACY

- read TO your children (no matter their age)
- read WITH your children (no matter their age)
- be interested in what they're reading - ask questions...who, what, where, why?
- Have access to lots of books - the library is great for this.
- go over sounds (particularly in junior school)
- provide lots of opportunities to write

## Contact Us:

Office phone: (03) 204 8614  
emails...

Robyn: office@tapanui.school.nz

Jane: principal@tapanui.school.nz

Maxine: maxine@tapanui.school.nz

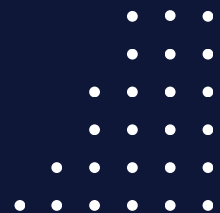
Sue: sue@tapanui.school.nz

Renee: renee@tapanui.school.nz

Kaitlyn: kaitlyn@tapanui.school.nz

## OTHER

- read the newsletter and Hero notifications
- provide a nutritious lunch every day and full water bottle
- follow parental guidance advice around social media, gaming and what your children consume through their eyes & ears
- get involved in a team activity
- get outdoors together
- give your child challenging tasks to do
- be the calm when they're feeling big emotions
- support them with routines - getting to school on time, wearing their vest everyday, managing their belongings - high expectations as they grow in independence
- teach them the basics
  - phone number
  - address
  - tie shoe laces





# EVERY DAY COUNTS!

## Annual Goal #3 - Increase attendance and engagement.

Regular attendance at school is important to your child's success and there is clear connection between going to school regularly and doing well in the classroom. Making sure students attend and engage in learning is a shared responsibility. As a parent, you are responsible for making sure your child attends school every day.

If your child is going to be absent for any reason it is essential that you let us know as soon as possible. It's important that you phone us/send an email to the office or message us using the Hero app to confirm your child's absence and provide us with the reason.

We acknowledge that there are genuine reasons students may occasionally be absent, However, without regular attendance your child will struggle to make progress. If your child is absent regularly, or for extended periods, we will reach out to you to discuss the situation.

We are committed to supporting your child to attend school. If you're having difficulty getting your child to school, you can ask for support by:

- speaking with your child's teacher
- sending us a message on Hero, or
- calling the office (ph. 204 8614) and asking to speak to Jane.

We can work with you to develop a support plan that addresses any barriers to regular attendance.

More information on attendance, including your rights and responsibilities as parents and caregivers, is available on the Ministry of Education's webpage under Attendance.

1 or 2 days a week doesn't seem that much but...

If your child misses	that equals...	which is...	and over 13 years of school that's...
1 day a fortnight	20 days per year	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1.5 years
1 day a week	40 days per year	8 weeks per year	Over 2.5 years
2 days a week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	Over 5 Years
3 days a week	120 days per year	24 weeks per year	Nearly 8 years

### The effect of absence on progress

A whole year has 365 days; a school year has 190 days. That leaves 175 days to spend on family time, visits, holidays, shopping and other appointments.

No Absence	10 days absence	12 days absence	19 days absence	29 days absence	38 days absence
190 days of education	180 days of education	178 days of education	171 days of education	161 days of education	152 days of education
100%	95%	94%	90%	85%	80.00%
Very Good	Worrying		Serious Concern		

Best chance of progress and success.  
More likely to be socially happy.

Harder to make progress or experience success.  
Harder to make friend and more likely to be less happy at school.

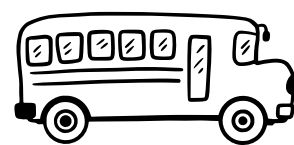
This is **persistent absence** and Very hard to make progress and social outcomes are often poor. Referral to Attendance Services is likely.

**80% attendance doesn't sound too bad however, over the year, it's getting close to a whole terms worth of school!**

**The national target from our current government is that 80% of NZ students will attend school 90% or more by the year 2030.**

**In 2024, 57% of Tapanui School students attended school 90% or more. 41% attended 81-90% of the time.**

**Our target for 2025 is to get 75% of our students attending school 90% or more.**



# Playground update

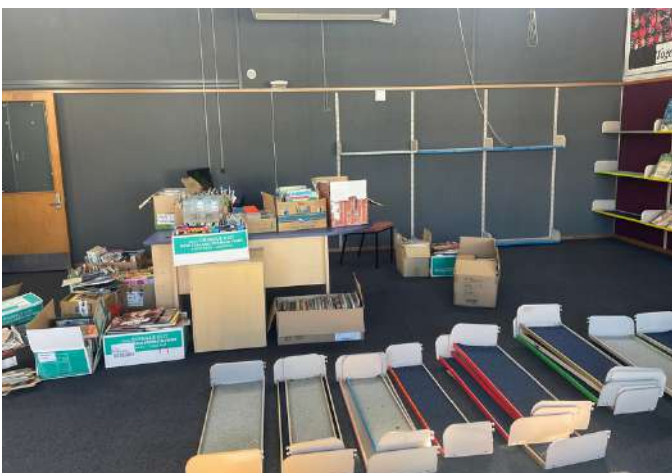


The rain didn't stop the physical start on the playground revamp on Wednesday! We are all getting very excited now that all the hard work of fundraising from the PTA over the last couple of years is finally turning into something we can all start to see! The PTA continue to be passionate about seeing it through to the end and have organised a group of people with chainsaws , tractors and trailers etc to come and remove the old wooden fort structure on Saturday morning. for health and safety reasons we would appreciate children not being onsite on Saturday. A general working bee will follow in the next few weeks as needed! Keep your ear to the ground for a date. Thanks PTA for taking this on.

The senior playground will be completely fenced off for the rest of this term while work continues.



## Library update:



Once again the PTA have put their hand up to help by offering to come in during the day to do a stocktake and reshelve books. Huge thanks to this small but dedicated group who so willingly give back to school to make it the best it can be.



# Concerns and Complaints Process

This information should be read alongside our Concerns and Complaints Policy and related policies on SchoolDocs.

## OVERVIEW



You can raise concerns and complaints with our school verbally or in writing.



The school will assess and respond according to the nature of the concern or complaint.



The school will tell you how we plan to manage your concern or complaint, and let you know when the matter is closed.



## HOW TO RAISE A CONCERN OR MAKE A COMPLAINT

Contact the following people at the school (verbally or in writing).

**A staff member involved**  
(e.g. classroom teacher, head of learning area)

**The principal**  
for serious matters

**The board chair**  
for concerns or complaints about the principal

**Another board member**  
for concerns or complaints about the board chair

- Concerns or complaints may be referred to a more appropriate person (e.g. senior staff, principal, board member).
- The school may ask you to put your concern or complaint in writing to help address the matter.
- You are welcome to have a support person (e.g. whānau member, friend, lawyer, union representative). Everyone involved is expected to respect privacy and confidentiality.



## HOW THE SCHOOL MANAGES CONCERNS AND COMPLAINTS

We manage concerns and complaints in a timely manner and seek to protect people's mana and dignity. We ensure:

- people are treated fairly
- those involved have the opportunity to be heard
- decision-making is unbiased.

**The school assesses the concern or complaint and responds according to its nature and seriousness, and who is involved** (e.g. student, staff member, principal, board member).



## NOTIFICATION AND CLOSURE

We will tell you about how we plan to manage your concern or complaint, and let you know when the matter is closed.

After responding to your concern or complaint, **the school considers the matter closed.**

**If you feel your concern or complaint has not been resolved after receiving a response,** you may escalate the concern or complaint to the principal or board.

**After the board has dealt with a matter,** there is no further avenue for consideration by the school.

If you need help to understand the concerns and complaints process, please contact the school.