

Pippa's Panui

Returning to school this week has been a strange sensation. In many ways it feels like the beginning of the year again except that now the grass and pathways are covered in a carpet of autumn leaves and the summer sunshine and warmth has been replaced by rain showers and cold winds. Students and teachers are nervous, anxious, excited, happy and tired. Seeing our colleagues, friends, students and parents is something to celebrate and enjoy but at the same time there is a cautiousness around how we greet and interact with each other. Returning to classroom, kindy and school day routines is reassuring but can also prove tiring and frustrating after eight weeks of a different home rhythm. In the first couple of days there has been a huge need to socialise, to catch up with each other and remind ourselves of what it means to listen, be patient and kind in a big group setting. As we move into the week the focus is on returning to our work and our learning, assessing where we are at and establishing our next steps forward.

For Class Five, the return to school saw them welcome their new class teacher, Christiana Hatcher. Christiana has a long association with our school and community and a deep connection to our Special Character. She has been a much-valued teacher aide and has had the opportunity to spend some years working alongside various teachers while she has completed her teacher training. She brings with her much learning and practical experience in building relationships with learners and working for each learner's success. We are excited to welcome Christiana to our teaching staff.

We are also very fortunate to have three new teacher aides join our staff; Zodi Woods and Sonya Lethbridge working in our Lower School and Sophie Minton supporting our High School students.

Staff across all faculties are working through the implications of our extended absence from school and kindergarten and looking at possible and probable adjustments to our programmes and activities in moving forward. Festivals, plays, assemblies, camps and day trips play a significant part in our curriculum and year programmes and working through how these can and should look in our current and constantly changing climate is being worked on. Other aspects which we are reviewing are assessment timelines in our High School and reporting to parents, parent evenings and parent teacher interviews. We look forward to updating our parents and students of these adjustments as soon as possible.

Pippa Caccioppoli
Principal

Warmly echoing Pippa's words of welcome, it is wonderful to have had the students resume their learning here at school. In the Lower School we appreciate that the nature of our distance learning, depending on the ages and stages of your tamariki, involved considerable effort and engagement from whānau. We appreciate all that has been accomplished during this time, many of you managing multiple communications and teaching plans, alongside the running households and working from home.

Thank you for these lovely snapshots of distance learning from the Lower School.

Kelly Sutton
Deputy Principal



Botany Work by Millie McGuinness
Class 5



Johanna Mallow Industriously
Working - Class 5

House-building Project
Tobin de Lacey-Tong - Class 3



Stella de Lacey-Tong Completing and Trialling the
"Building the obstacle course" challenge! - Class 6

SCHOOL NOTICES



He pito kōrero

Ngā mihi maioha ki a koutou te whānau whānui o Taikura!

I have appreciated the time during our rāhui; I was able to spend time with my whānau, catch up on a lot of the jobs at home, and slow down for a period of time. This kupu (word) 'rāhui' gained popularity during the mate korona (Corona virus) crisis, and it means a ritual prohibition set for a period of time. The use of the term rāhui is being modified by people to use for various activities during the lockdown.

Traditionally rāhui is set down by someone of rank in an area, restricting people from using the area until the rāhui is lifted.

As we come out of our rāhui, my hope is you are all well and rested!

Kīwaha o te wiki ... phrase of the week!

Weti weti! (Weh tee, weh tee)
Awesome, fantastic!

Hemi: Kia ora e hoa, I just passed my restricted licence!

Rangi: Weti weti, e hoa!

He pito kōrero is a space dedicated to celebrating and promoting Te Reo me ōna tikanga.

Taikura Sport Update

Greetings all, just a little bit of information for those who will be wondering what is happening in regards to school sport. Like a lot of things, this is getting slowly worked through, what I can tell you is the following:-

All local sports codes are being advised that there will be an update on school sport information from Monday 25 May.

I will be passing on information as soon as I have the updates. There is a strong possibility of school sport not starting until term three. We just need to wait for unfolding details.

For the lower school there will be no training until further notice/direction from Sports Hawkes Bay.

We are looking at setting up some modified games as a form of training for our high school netball, hockey and basketball players during lunchtime, run by school staff.

In the High School no team trials will be held at this stage, when we know how High School sport is moving forward we will review how we manage this.

There is a possibility of entering fewer teams because of the ruling around one sibling in the school getting sick all siblings need to stay home so we have to be prepared for the possibility of lower attendance over the winter months.

Thank you for your patience
Janet

Vision and Hearing Technician School Visit - (To Be Confirmed)

Lynley Keehan, the Hastings Vision and Hearing Technician will be making a **second** visit to the school on **Thursday 2 July**. She will be carrying out standard tests for distance vision with some of the Class 5, 6 & 7 students - this happens every year for all students in New Zealand, and is helpful for picking up on simple vision issues which may not have been previously identified. She sometimes checks other students too: If there is no record of your child/children having not had a Before School Screen or need to be re-screened; for these exceptions, I will send home a letter informing you that Lynley would like to see them. If you have concerns about your child/children's vision or hearing, and they are not being seen by an outside professional, please collect a yellow form from the office and have it filled in and returned **before** Thursday 2 July, and she will include them.

Karyn Wills
SENCO

SCHOOL NOTICES



Tēnā koutou e te whānau whānui o Taikura!

I hope you are all resettling into routines. It is wonderful to be back in the library and warming the space up after such a long absence. It is also so good to see all the students – I really missed them, and couldn't help worrying whether they had enough to read. Hopefully some students, like me, found some old favourites to re-read. The library is open for students for classes and we are doing a roaring trade in book issues.

Book returns: Please make a real effort to get all overdue books back as soon as possible. If a book has been misplaced over this break, do let me know.

Unissued books missing: Sadly, there were quite a number of books missing at our annual stocktake. The majority of these were from the middle school library – including a number of Diary of a Wimpy Kid books. I will advertise the titles in a future Grapevine, but in the meantime, please keep an eye out at home and make sure **any** Taikura books come back to me (or to the office) ASAP. You can tell they are ours by the handwritten spine label, the Taikura barcode on the back of the book, and the Taikura stamp inside. *It is a real loss for all of us when books go missing, so please support me in hunting at home for these.*

Student librarians: At the beginning of the year, we started in on our student librarian programme, and I have been delighted with the number of keen students, and the punctuality and commitment they have given to their role. We as a community can all be proud that our students want to support the school in this way, and that they do it with such grace. Ka mau te wehi! I look forward to restarting the programme once safe processes are in place for students.

Interesting reading facts (librarians specialise in these!): During the rāhui I was lucky to be offered some incredible free professional development opportunities by New Zealand school library networks. A piece of research mentioned on one course is really pertinent at this time:

Reading for six minutes lowers stress levels by 64% - better than listening to music, having a cuppa or going for a walk.

So happy reading everyone, and wishing you a gentle return to life beyond lockdown.

Ngā manaakitanga,

Kura
School library



Some of the new books covered in the last few weeks.

Thank You

We would like to sincerely thank our parents for their patience and understanding around our current drop off and pick up routine, including having students at school on time.

Pippa Caccioppoli
Principal

SCHOOL NOTICES

Board and Trust Update

It is wonderful to see Taikura coming back to life this week, and both students and staff resuming their meaningful work. The timing of our meetings has been ideal, our previous meeting was the Monday before lockdown, and our latest meeting was this past Monday, the first day back. This timing has given us the ability to be well organised in our responses to Covid-19 and the implications for our school. Our meeting was held via Zoom rather than on-site and this worked well. Items on our agenda included supporting families in hardship where Covid-19 has had an impact on income, policy reviews and assurances, including police vetting and medicine storage, deciding on our planned teacher only day, supporting local community owned businesses, annual and strategic plans, staffing, property and kindergartens.

- You will have received an email on Tuesday evening confirming our teacher only day for Friday 29 May will go ahead as planned.
- On reviewing our police vetting policy it was noted that it states **ALL** volunteer helpers on camps need to be vetted, not just those staying overnight. This will be actioned going forward. If you plan on helping out at camps in the future it is worth completing a police vet check now, they are valid for 3 years. Please call or email Suzan (suzan.bart@taikura.school.nz) to organise.
- An internal audit was completed on medicines, managing minor/moderate injury and illness in Term One. Staff have been briefed and are implementing the procedures which include recording treatments in the first aid log or on the student management system, notifying parents of moderate injuries, or any head injury, ensuring all medication is securely locked away, and what guidelines to follow when dispensing medicines.
- We are aware there may be families in our community who will be impacted financially by Covid-19. The Trust has therefore decided to increase the hardship fund, which is available for those in need, and helps towards the payment of attendance dues. Please contact Selena (selena.crouch@taikura.school.nz) directly for further information around applying for this assistance.
- If you are in a position to donate to the hardship fund in order to assist those of our community in need, please deposit any donation directly into: Taikura 03-1518-0040482-00 using 'hardship' as reference
- We are also aware of many in our community who own their own businesses, in order to promote you we would like to compile a list for publishing in next week's Grapevine. Please contact Suzan directly (suzan.bart@taikura.school.nz) if you would like to be included in this list
- It is always a pleasure to hear reports from the Kindergartens. Teachers at Taikura kindergarten have put forward a proposal on improving the front of their property and the Trust are fully supportive of this. Improvements will include thinning and trimming trees to let more natural light into the building, planting a garden for produce and establishing substantial composting. We are grateful to Liam and parent volunteers for supporting the teachers in this work. New windows were installed in Kereru kindergarten during alert level 3, and have made a big difference to the space, allowing more light and sunshine into the kindergarten.

Please remember that agendas, reports and minutes of BoT meetings are available for parents to read. Please call in to the office or contact Suzan if you would like to do so.

Ngā manaakitanga, nā,
Suzan Bart
BoT and Trust secretary

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Urgent Accommodation Required

We are urgently seeking a 3 - 4 bedroom home preferably long term in Hastings/Havelock North area. We are house proud tenants with references. Our eldest child attends EIT and our youngest is in Class 5. If you have a place to rent or know of anyone who might please contact Helena on 021 20 22230.

Kia Ora Taikura Whānau

We are a family with one year old twin boys looking for a kind and caring person to help us out for five weeks (Tuesday 2 June-Friday 3 July). Please, contact me on: danica.henselondrusova@taikura.school.nz for more details if you are available and willing to help. Your help will be much appreciated.