



Digital Technology At Taikura

Over the last year Taikura has been working closely with John Phelps from Technology Concepts on a draft digital technology plan. This work has come about in order to ensure our school and its students and staff have every advantage in the modern world of technology, within the context of our Special Character.

During our work with John Phelps in developing a draft digital technology plan, we have identified our number one priority goal of a six goal plan to be **Wifi accessible across the school and kindergartens for staff, students and visitor use.**

Management and staff are supportive of this goal, and are overwhelmingly in favour of installing wifi at Taikura. Over a decade ago a decision was made by the then Board of Trustees that the school would be wifi free. This decision took into account the views of the parent body, which at that time felt very strongly that wifi should not be available at Taikura.

Of course this has not meant that there is no wifi available on site, due to our tenants use in Taikura House, the Health Centre opening next door, and businesses and private homes close to our site.

In recent years wifi has also been permitted in our High School and Lower School SENCO (Special Educational Needs Coordinator) rooms so that students using assistive technology would not be disadvantaged. Our signing in/out Vistab at the front office, installed for health and safety reasons, also uses wifi.

We are also able to see that parents' opinion of wifi and digital technology in general has evolved over the last ten years. Our Grapevine moving to an online format has been a welcome change for whānau, and there are virtually no businesses or households without wifi in our community.

A move to consistent wifi access would have multiple benefits, most especially to students requiring learning support.

- Students using assistive technology would not be disadvantaged by being limited in where they can use their devices within the school. Currently groups of students in the Lower School and High School whose learning is supported through various digital applications are having to leave their classrooms and go to Taikura House to access these tools/supports.

Kelly Sutton: "Students' traveling to and from this learning is considerably longer in time than the 5 -10 minute exercise they are required to do. These learners are being disadvantaged by the time out of the classroom - the time it takes to settle back into activity at either ends and most importantly their learning experience and self-esteem would be so much more readily supported if they could access the tools their learning style/need requires in a manner where this is business as usual and their learning way is integrated into the everyday life of the classroom. Just as one child reaches for a pen and paper to craft and recraft a piece of writing another child should be able to reach for their talk to text application, and engage independently with the same learning task."

- The school could invest in sets of mobile devices for student use which would reduce the current pressure on the IT room.
- Visitors would be able to have wifi access which would assist in the ever increasing paperless meetings - this would include our governors
- Staff would have consistent access to wifi which would assist in not only increasing paperless meetings but also flexibility in terms of where they work and plan outside of their teaching - currently they are limited to the desktop devices in classrooms or a couple in strategic locations.

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SCHOOL NOTICES

We are not in any way considering students or their families bringing their own devices, having access to the wifi password, or changing our stance on the use of mobile phones on our site. The use of digital technology will be appropriately monitored for educational purposes, and social media sites will continue to be blocked, as they are now.

The BoT has approved the trial roll out of wifi across the school for the duration of Term Four 2020, and we very much look forward to seeing the benefits this will bring to students and staff. This will be reviewed for next year, and a final decision on wifi at Taikura will be made early in 2021.

Please email Suzan (suzan.bart@taikura.school.nz) directly if you have and feedback or concerns.

Pippa Caccioppoli
Principal

High School Information Evening

We would like to warmly invite parents and students to our High School Information Evening on **Wednesday 2 September at 7:00 pm in Taikura House**.

For parents and students of **Class 6 and 7** the evening will involve a welcome and overview of the transition from the Lower School to High School as well as a brief introduction to our NZ Certificate in Steiner Education. Subject teachers will then give an overview and an outline of the Class 8 year and curriculum in their subjects.

For parents and students of **Class 9** an overview of how the New Zealand Certificate of Steiner Education works in Classes 10, 11 and 12 will be given along with an introduction to the Trades Academy programme which is available to students from Class 10 onwards.

For parents and students of **Class 10 and 11** the focus will be on sharing information around elective subject choices for the following year.

Individual emails have been sent to parents outlining the relevant information for specific classes.

I look forward to seeing you at our Information Evening.

Pippa Caccioppoli

Policies And Procedures Update

Taikura has been working with SchoolDocs to create a website for our policies and procedures. We are excited to announce that the site is now live and available to our school community.

The school works on a subscription basis with SchoolDocs to maintain, update, and review our policies. SchoolDocs provides us with a comprehensive core set of policies, which have been well researched and follow the Ministry of Education National Administration Guidelines. The policies and procedures are tailored to our school, and the school supplies specific information such as our charter, and procedures for behaviour management, reporting to parents, etc.

SchoolDocs updates, modifies, or creates policies in response to changes in legislation or Ministry guidelines, significant events, reviews/requests from schools, and regular reviewing from the SchoolDocs team. Our board of trustees has the opportunity to view changes/additions and comment on them before they are implemented. We will advise you when policies are up for review and how you can take part in the review.

There is a detailed formal three yearly review cycle administered by SchoolDocs which feeds into improvements not just for Taikura, but for all schools signed up to SchoolDocs across the country. Parents are an essential part of this review process. Although this is a formal process we consider the policies living documents with the capacity for feedback and improvement at any time. The site is very comprehensive with many hyperlinks, and although we have done our best to ensure all documentation contained within the site is current, there may be areas where this is not the case. We would very much appreciate any feedback you have so we can make corrections and changes where needed. This is very much still a work in progress.

We will be sending out an email to all parents containing the username and password.

Please email suzan.bart@taikura.school.nz directly with your feedback, or if you have not received the password information.

SCHOOL NOTICES



He pito kōrero!

“Kua rongō kōrero koe...? Did you hear ...?”

Kia ora e te whānau

Have you heard that there is an Indigi Talk by four Māori presenters on ‘*Indigenising Education*’? The four presenters are; Professor Linda Tuhiwai Smith, Dr Diana Kopua and Mark Kopua, and our own Jeremy Tātere Macleod from Waimārama! This will be well worth taking part in! You can find more information on this site: <https://allevents.in/hastings/indigi-talks/200019841808229>

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

Na te rehe (Nah teh deh heh)

You've got skills! (When making things with your hands).

Hemi: Kia ora e hoa, I've just finished my woodwork project, a small table!

Rangi: Na te rehe, e hoa!

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



Taikura Parents Group

Welcoming everyone in the community to these free talks and gatherings (including parents, grandparents, past parents, those on the waiting list). Join us in the warm and relaxed space of the Hastings Taikura Kindergarten (in their lovely community space - just inside their front door). We aim to create a parent supportive environment and all our gatherings are baby/toddler friendly. You are welcome to arrive and leave as meets your needs.

Our guest speakers begin at 9:00 am and usually finish about 10:30am. Tea & coffee is freely available from 8:45 am. Donations of food for the morning tea are appreciated.

For questions, suggestions, offerings please contact Filipa Hope - 0274513445 or Melanie Sims - 0274 555 300

Next Parent Group meetings:

Friday 28 August: David Urieli - Taikura High School teacher. Looking at George W Carver benefactor to humanity.

Friday 11 September: Herman Veluwenkamp -What is Biodynamics? Looking at ideas behind this method of agriculture.

School Hoodies

It has come to our attention that there is some confusion and discrepancy within our community, particularly in our sports community, around Taikura School hoodies. Traditionally these have been awarded to the Senior 1st 11 hockey team only, partially sponsored to lower the cost for families. A couple of years ago they were also awarded to the Senior Netball Team. This year a variety of senior and junior sports teams across the school have requested hoodies, and one team in the Lower School has purchased Taikura hoodies for their entire team, causing confusion for other students as to why they weren't given the opportunity to purchase a hoodie. If you are a Manager, Coach or parent of a sports team, please ensure requests are brought to the Sports Coordinator at Taikura, Janet Osborne, before making decisions on the additional purchasing of gear. The hoodies are now being worn at school, and the printing of children's names across the back is in violation of our dress code. We would like to know your opinion on this matter and have created a small survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/J85X2RP>

Some points to consider before completing the survey would be:

- Are school hoodies appropriate for every day wear or should they only be for sports?
- Is the cost going to be a barrier for some students and their families? Sports fees are an additional expense for families to meet (often the last bill to get paid) and there is a uniform provided. A branded hoodie is not an essential item. Some high school students play in several teams and it would get expensive to have to buy more than one hoodie.

We value your feedback and will consider it carefully before moving forward with decision making in this area.

SCHOOL NOTICES

BMT Update

Kia ora koutou

Last week there was a sharing on our front page about our Behaviour Management Team - and some of the mahi this group do. This has initiated korero amongst the community. With this in mind I thought I would take the time to share a little of the history around this plan, how it came into being and how it continues to be developed.

This plan drops out of Behaviour Plans for both Lower and High School. These plans talk firstly about creating environments for learners which are predictable, and enhance feelings of security. Environments which hold space for learning. Our current work with PB4L will continue to strengthen these plans and teacher practice. These procedures and guidelines for teachers sit alongside the Behaviour Management Team mahi which was talked about last week - and all of these documents sit under the umbrella of our school policies.

The impetus for such a document came from parental and student feedback way back prior to 2015. Students in particular, fed back a dissatisfaction with what they experienced as inconsistent responses to what they perceived as similar infringements.

This plan was written via consultation and discussion among staff, and cross referencing with similar documents from other schools. Its purpose is to support the development of a consistent, predictable and safe environment for students at Taikura. Primarily the work was to help align staff in their identification and responses to misdemeanors and their selection of consequence. The plan and the classification of behaviours were developed over a 6 - 10 month period.

Last week's sharing was largely at the request of some Lower School families who have experienced conversation with Matua Troy in his Behaviour Management role but didn't necessarily have a name to a face for both Matua Troy and/or Anne Hilton.

There are regular reviews of this document, the various classifications and its implementation. We are also working to ensure this work aligns and supports the implantation of the Positive Behaviour for Learning programme (PB4L) at Taikura. PB4L supports us in creating a daily experience for the student that aligns with the culture and values expressed by school and community. Our work is ongoing and if you wish to discuss this work more fully please don't hesitate to contact me.

Ngā mihi nui Kelly Sutton

All school Policies on Student Pastoral Care and Discipline can be viewed on the School Docs site. School Docs is a collaborative venture between experienced educationalists and specialist technical writers who write, moderate and adapt policies and procedures documents for New Zealand schools. Simultaneous to this migration some policies are in the process of being updated and renewed. Please read more under Policy and Procedure Update in this issue.

BoT by-election

We have had a resignation from our Board of Trustees and the decision has been made to hold a by-election to ensure the whole community can have their say as to who the new member of the Board should be. If you or anyone you know would like to put their name forward for nomination please email Suzan on suzan.bart@taikura.school.nz

Cancellation

Unfortunately Mike Sargent's visit has had to be cancelled due to COVID-19 and Level 2. All of Mike's trips around New Zealand are suspended until there is a clearer picture around COVID-19

SCHOOL NOTICES

Screen Time

When I think about books that I have loved and the pictures they have formed in my head and adventures and journeys they have taken me on, I have one memory that stands out. It was a time when I was totally lost in a book, totally taken to another world. We were on a family holiday and it was a scorching day and we were down at the beach. I had no interest in the sea that day. All I wanted to do was to huddle under the umbrella and read. I was about 11 years old and I was reading *The Weirdstone of Brisingamen* by Alan Garner and despite the sun, sand and sunblock, I was lost in a world of cold snowy winters and old crumbling manors. It's this power of imagination that pulls us into those stories and takes us on unforgettable journeys, enriches our lives and supports us in times of need. Stories are at the heart of the Steiner curriculum and play a huge role in children's rhythms at school. Often hearing stories early in the day, after lunch or at the close of the day. This helps ground the children and gives them a moment of quiet and time to totally relax.

Some children find it hard to concentrate on these stories and are unable to settle into storytime. I have often wondered if screen time was a possible cause of this; if it was impacting on their ability to listen to these stories and to hold the stories' images in their mind. With ready-made images so available on screen media, were some children losing that ability to form their own unique images in their own minds and thus find it a challenge to concentrate at story time.

The Journal of Developmental Science recently published an article researched and written by Sebastian Suggate and Philipp Martzong which investigated the influence that screen time (both active screen time e.g. computer game and passive screen time eg.TV or a movie) had on mental imagery performance for pre-school and primary age children. Parents were first surveyed about their children's screen time use and then the children were asked to imagine 2 specific items, e.g. a trumpet and a violin and then asked to decide which item encapsulated a given sensory feature (ie. "Which is shinier, a trumpet or violin?"). The researchers found that children who had more screen time performed lower on mental imagery accuracy, supporting their hypothesis that the ready-made screen images via screen media reduced the brain's ability to actively create its own images. There was no difference found between the influences of active or passive screen time. The researchers acknowledged that vocabulary, working memory and the child's ages were also good predictors of mental imagery performance. The researchers found that 1 hour a day of screentime over 10 months had a negative impact on mental imagery accuracy.

In conclusion the researchers commented that:

"The ability to draw forth mental images, inspecting and comparing these, would appear to be a foundational human faculty lying at the heart of cognitive functioning (Kosslyn et al., 2003). On the one hand, society is becoming increasingly technical and specialized, on the other hand, more dynamic and instable. Accordingly, education will need to ensure that children are creative and innovative, alongside acquiring specialized skills. Mental imagery is precisely an ability that can contribute to novel problem solving and adaptive thinking as well as specialized skills, hence it would seem wise to avoid compromising children's development in this regard. In this sense, the current findings that screen time negatively affect mental imagery need to be actively replicated and pursued, with a focus on better understanding underlying mechanisms, potentially leading to interventions to reduce screen media usage (Schmidt et al.,2012), and participation in educational activities to foster mental imagery." <https://doi.org/10.1111/desc.12978>

Toby Blakey
Class 3 Teacher



SCHOOL NOTICES

Mark Your Calendar

August 26	7:00 pm	Liaison Parent Meeting - School Library
August 28	8:45 am - 9:00 am Start	Parent Group - George W Carver Benefactor to Humanity - David Urieli
September 1	6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	CL6TM Parent Evening
September 2	7:00 pm	HS Elective Information Evening - More info To Come
September 11	8:45 am - 9:00 am Start	Herman Veluwenkamp - What is Biodynamics?
September 15	6:00 pm - 7:30 pm	Class 7 Parent Evening

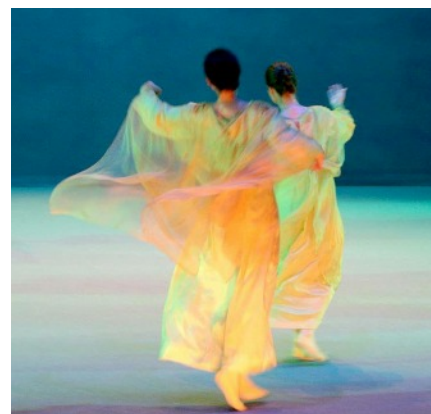
TERM 3: Monday 20 July – Friday 25 September (Friday 21 August – Monday 24 August - Mid Term Break)

TERM 4: Monday 12 October – Wednesday 16 December

COMMUNITY NOTICES

The Art Of Eurythmy

Building a healthy rhythm in life through The Art of Eurythmy. This is an offering of six morning sessions 8:30 - 9:30am Starting Thursday 6 August – 10 September, at Taruna College. Cost: \$70:00 for six sessions. To register: contact Sue sue.simpson0@gmail.com or phone 0210396186



Recently a group of parents were able to taste eurythmy during a nursing workshop. The positive response has encouraged me to offer a course to which all are welcome. If interested please contact me sue.simpson0@gmail.com or phone 0210396186. For those working people, I'm open to running an evening course, please send me your notice of interest and what evening works best for you. No promises, but promising!

The Art of Well-Being

Meet yourself, Know yourself, Be yourself. Three, week-long seminars scheduled for Wednesday 19 - 24 August, Wednesday 4 - 9 November 2020 and Wednesday 10 - 15 February 2021.

The 'Art of Well-Being' lets you come back to your centre as you explore art, mindfulness, movement, and your life story. Sometimes we forget to care for ourselves, and **Art of Well-Being** is designed to nourish the soul, allowing a renewing of the senses. For further information see our website www.taruna.ac.nz/courses-and-workshops/pathways-of-transformation/art-of-well-being-ij or call 068777174

The Hastings Choral

The Hastings Choral presents our first concert following Lockdown. The choir along with Soloists Dianne Abraham (Soprano) and Lili Junior Crichton, (Tenor) will bring you Perfect Nostalgia in a selection of light opera favourites from; The Merry Widow, The Bartered Bride, The Desert song and many more! Joe Christensen, conductor, Anna Hansen Pianist. Tickets; \$28.00 (\$22.00 from choir member), Students \$5.00 **SUNDAY** 6 September, @ 2:00 pm. Taikura School Hall, 507 Nelson St North.

Car For Sale

2005 Toyota Avensis Station Wagon 2 Litre. Gold, automatic, warranted, registered, new tyres, good condition Great family or surf wagon. \$3800 ONO Phone Janet 027 339 0990

Magnolia Leaves Wanted

Green leaves up to 15 cm long from a medium sized Magnolia Grandiflora tree (also known as 'Little Gem'). Please contact Amanda on 0221840740