



10 March 2022



## Te Tāhuhu o Taikura

Within our School and Kindergarten we have been working on implementing **Te Tāhuhu o Taikura** the Positive Behaviour for Learning (PB4L) programme.

Positive behaviour expectations have been aligned to our school values of Kindness, Perseverance and Respect, all underpinned with Gratitude. The elements of reverence, love, and freedom in our vision statement, outlined below, along with our three-fold picture of the human being and the ideas of thinking, feeling and willing, are the essential elements embodied in our values.

In implementing the PB4L programme we wanted to give it a name appropriate to our context. The image which has been shared was that if Taikura is the 'whare' then the tāhuhu or the ridge pole is our values, **Te Tāhuhu o Taikura**.

For each value we have chosen a whakatauki and a symbol and we are fortunate to currently have local artist Andy Heyward developing these graphics for us. Andy shared his voyaging waka experience in last week's Grapevine.

### Respect **Whakaute**

Kia mau ki ngā kupu o ōu tūpuna  
*Hold fast to the words of your ancestors*

### Kindness **Atawhai**

Mā te ngākau aroha koe e ārahi  
*Let a loving heart guide your decisions*

### Perseverance **Manawanui**

Whāia te iti kahurangi, ki te tuohu koe, me he maunga teitei.  
*Seek the treasure you value most dearly. If you bow your head, let it be to a lofty mountain*

### Gratitude **Ngākau reka**

Kua haehae ngā hihi o Matariki  
*The rays of Matariki shine brightly over us*

When students are observed meeting these behaviour expectations then they are acknowledged by being given a token. The tokens are collected for each class and as they accumulate class acknowledgments are made. This year we have also implemented individual acknowledgments for students in Class Six and above, where individual tokens are recorded and once ten have been received students are in the draw for a weekly individual acknowledgement.

The intention of implementing **Te Tāhuhu o Taikura** is to nurture an environment where our values of Kindness, Perseverance, Respect and Gratitude can be articulated by all consistently and healthy relationships will flourish. At Taikura our vision is that every student progresses towards becoming a free, responsible and caring individual able to impart purpose and direction in their life, and contribute in manifold as well as unique ways to society. In working towards this Vision, teachers work with the following inner orientation:

*Receive the child in Reverence. Educate the child in Love. Let each go forth in Freedom.*  
(Rudolf Steiner, 1861-1925)

# Autumn Festival

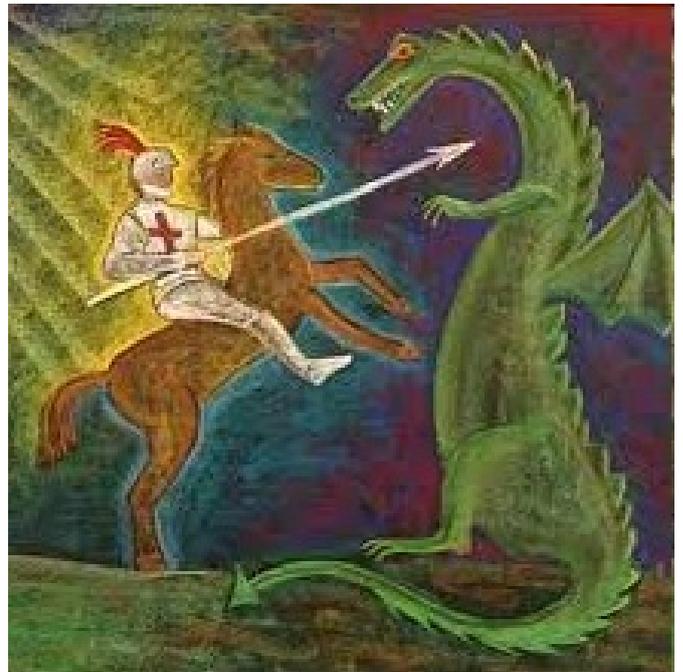
## Michaelmas

Some of you will already be familiar with Autumn's Dragon Play, some of you may be aware of it for the first time. It has been performed for over four decades and for good reason. The play is very straight-forward in exemplifying the gesture of Michaelmas, which we celebrate at Taikura alongside the seasonal occurrence of harvest time.

Through story-telling we explain spiritual truths that are far too complex for the lower school child to comprehend at their stage of consciousness development. Yet story-telling sows the seeds in the imagination of the child and this they take with them into adulthood. The spiritual truth held within the dragon play describes salvation, that is to say how we overcome the suffering and delusion in our lives and connect with a power which supplies peace, joy and light.

As with many of humanity's greatest stories, the Dragon Play is a metaphor in its entirety.

The Dragon, which enslaves the villagers, represents our own 'inner demons', the beliefs we have about ourselves and life that do not serve us. Beliefs that create fear, anxiety and manifest behaviour's which self-sabotage, beliefs that do not reflect God's will for us (Those versed with Anthroposophy would understand such experiences to be born out of the effect of Luciferic and Ahrimanic forces). The Dragon imposes itself upon the villagers, who are a picture of humanity, and sows fear and anxiety, the villagers experience helplessness. The villagers only have one place left to turn, to St Michael. St Michael represents Archangel Michael, God's emissary, the archangel considered most like God himself.



Archangel Michael directs the villagers towards spiritual light, "sparks from my sword I send, that the dragon's power shall end" (sword=clear thought) . We see this manifest through the meteors as they fall to earth, the villagers receive these and are now equipped with the "iron" that is needed to defeat the dragon. Here we can note that iron symbolises human strength, perseverance, honour, courage, sharpness of body and mind, and faith. It is that iron, is also in our blood and constantly pumping through our heart and around our bodies.

*Continued over.....*

Yet the meteors do not do the job alone. They represent the will of God, so how does this will manifest in physical reality? It does so through the thinking and deeds of mankind. The dwarves (elementals) represent the etheric earth forces and the process of transitioning something that is spiritual into something that can function within the physicality of earth as thought (smithing of the swords) and thus deed. Because of the elemental world, and the swords that are gifted, the villagers are able to carry out God's will as earthly action and hence fulfill the manifestation of God's will for humanity...they "slay the Dragon". It is also significant to see here that the dragon wasn't defeated with the making of the weapon or through clear thought alone, it was ultimately defeated by the physical deed. Action is the language of physical reality.

What is left for the human being in the absence of the dragon within? A soul which is ready to embrace the Christed Self. This Self understands that the truth of each human being is not its mineral composition but that we are super-sensible, spiritual beings. We could say Michaelic thinking allows us to break the over-identification we have with our physical bodies (materialism) and recognise ourselves as Holy.

So Michaelmas is a time to recognise our self imposed limitations of thinking and to call upon Archangel Michael's strength which we can use as a strength of vision, inner vision. So we may see and recognise that the delusions in our thinking can be forgiven and released as we develop a soul capacity for the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit seeks to exist within us and carries with it God's will, the will for your joy, peace and light to shine. Thus Michael supports us with the strength to carry out this will on earth, become our Christed Self and experience our true relationship to the world. This is certainly a challenge and involves overcoming our own darkness but it is a challenge we are divinely supported to undertake.



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If you are in suffering there is indeed a way to turn, but in the freedom granted to you you always have a choice. To acknowledge the Michaelic revelation is to turn one's sight to the ultimate truth of who you are, a truth that can be found within. A truth that, when ensouled, will end human suffering.

#### **Habits to help with this journey:**

A striving for self-knowledge, purposeful work, purposeful rest, meditation, study, mindfulness, art and creative pursuits, play, forgiveness, gratitude, experiencing beauty, nutrition, exercise, following inspiration, and all such things in intuitive balance.

# Autumn Festival

## **Nā tō rourou, nā taku rorou ka ora ai iwi**

The excited chatter from our Class Four students as they create their shields and swords to be villagers in the annual Saint Michael play, the morning chill all herald the changing season and our approaching Autumn festival.

As always, when in a Covid Protection Plan setting which does not allow for visitors or whanau on site, we will record and share the festival offerings with you.

Next week's Grapevine will include activities and recipes which you can incorporate into your whare to celebrate with whanau the Autumn season. We encourage you to try some of these suggestions over the weekend of the 19 and 20 March. This time spent preparing for the season will support your child to enter the Autumn Festival experience more fully on the Monday.

## ***Nā tō rourou, nā taku rorou ka ora ai iwi***

*With your food basket and my food basket the people will thrive*

Dear Community

The Autumn Festival table will be in the hall foyer from Monday 14 of March. We welcome any excess produce and preserves for the table prior to the school festival on Monday 21 of March.

Throughout the week it is a warming sight to watch the piles of produce grow. We encourage all students to bring something for the table on Festival day. All produce collected, is gifted to grateful homes.

Warmly Kelly - on behalf of the Festival Group.





## *He pito kōrero!*

### Kīwaha o te wiki – Kīwaha of the week

Pai noa iho (pie nor ah ee hor)  
All good!

Mata: Kia e Tia. I can't make training tonight, I've gotta finish off my assignment.

Tia: Pai noa iho e hoa! We'll go for a run up Te matā tomorrow instead!

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



## Introducing April Woodhead

April is our lovely, new teacher at Taikura Kindergarten. She previously worked at Te Kōpere and Heretaunga Kindergarten Association. We are enjoying her sharing of experiences and understanding of the young child from her mahi there.

April has a fine arts degree as well as her teaching qualification with an eye for beauty and detail within our kindergarten environment. She resides in the wonderful Waipawa with her partner Jak and their cat.

April has transitioned smoothly into our kindergarten team bringing a warm, calm presence.

In her spare time April likes to potter, enjoying gardening, craft and reading.

Emma Fisher - Taikura Kindergarten



## School App

If you have not already done so, please download our **School App** into your smart phone. You will find school contacts, newsletters, a link to our website, term dates, absentee notifications and our calendar which is filled with upcoming events, meetings, camps and trips. Subscribe to class alert groups and you will receive notifications such as class camp school arrival times and meeting reminders straight to your phone. So much useful information!

1. Go to the **App Store** or **Google Play Store** on your mobile device
2. Search **SchoolAppsNZ**
3. Download the **App**
4. Open the **App**
5. When it asks to send notifications – click allow.
6. When it asks to search your **School** – type your **School Name** in the search bar
7. Lastly, subscribe to the Alert Groups you would like to receive alerts for.



## Library News



The first term in the library always has an air of excitement, as tamariki experience a number of 'firsts'. Class 2 visit the library for the first time, new student librarians clock in for their first duties, and older classes are introduced to a new focus for their year in the library; Class 4 begin their year-long look at famous authors, Class 5 are handed out their Reading Records which they use to develop record-keeping and goal-setting skills, Class 6 start to learn about the Dewey Decimal System and Class 7 begin to explore the elements of a good book. It's always a pleasure to be a part of these new stages for each group, to see classes settle into the rhythm of their new year in the library, and to see the enthusiasm students bring to their lessons and library duties.

**Book returns:** Students have done really well getting books back from the summer holidays, we just have some last ones to come back. Please check with your tamariki that they've returned everything from summer.

### Favourite read-aloud:

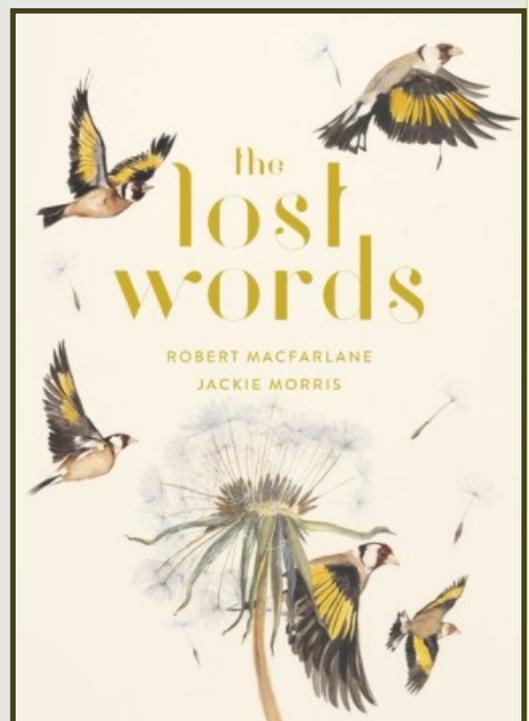
A few years ago a friend recommended this beautiful book *The Lost Words* by Robert McFarlane and Jackie French for the library. It is a book of poems about 'nature words' that have been dropped from the Oxford Junior Dictionary to make way from modern technological words.

Robert McFarlane is often described as a modern-day Romantic poet, and these poems carry layers of meaning brought to life through stunning word play, and the gold-plated illustrations by Jackie French are so beautiful.

In many of our library lessons, we have been slowly making our way through the poems in *The Lost Words* and have really enjoyed exploring the intricacies of the language McFarlane uses to so vividly describe the beauty of the natural world. Books like this are real treasures in our collection. If you ever see this book when you are out and about in book shops, it comes thoroughly recommended!

Ngā manaakitanga

Nā Kura - school librarian



## Curriculum Corner



### An Indian Feast

To finish off the Class 5 Ancient India Main Lesson, with the help of Jazreen, one of our dedicated Teacher Aides in the High School, Class 5 put together a delicious, authentic vegetarian Indian feast. Mushrooms, onions, tomatoes and garlic were chopped, spices were added, sauces were stirred and bowlfuls were eaten.

Toby Blakey - CL5 Teacher

### Lost Hoodie

Please keep a look out for this hoodie which was taken from school two weeks ago. It is black with blue daisies and 'misfit' on it. It belongs to a student in Class 7. Any information please contact 027 7255 942. Thank you.



### Instruments For Hire

The school has a number of instruments for hire, these include violins, violas, cellos, double bass, trumpets, trombones, saxophones, clarinets, flutes and guitars.

**We also have a number of private music teachers we can put you in touch with.**

If your child has an interest in learning an instrument, please feel free to contact me.....  
[zahira.rickard@taikura.school.nz](mailto:zahira.rickard@taikura.school.nz)

Look forward to hearing from you

## High School Hockey Trials

All students from classes 8-12 who are wishing to play hockey this year are invited to attend the trials.

These will be held on Tuesday 8 March and Tuesday 15 March from 3:15 pm to 4:15 pm.

Please talk to Anne or Janet with any queries.

**Venue: Taikura School Hockey Turf**

# COMMUNITY NOTICES

## Eurythmy For Adults

Two courses of eurythmy have commenced.

All are welcome no matter how much exposure or experience you've had with the art of eurythmy. This is an opportunity to explore movement in a way that refreshes and gives vitality.



Thursdays at 9:00-10:00 am

And

Thursdays at 7:00- 8:00 pm

**Steiner Centre corner Nelson Street and Whitehead Road**

Each course will run for seven weeks. Please contact Sue Simpson [sue.simpson0@gmail.com](mailto:sue.simpson0@gmail.com)

### **Ruth Strong Speech and Drama.**

***Give your child the gift of Confidence.*** With an overflow of students I would like to open more classes. If you would like your child to explore their creative potential through their voice and their imagination I have places for both Lower School and Upper School students. Please phone 027 35 40 844 for more

### **Looking For A Home To Rent**

Hello community friends! We're a local family of four (two adults, two children, no pets) looking for a home to rent for twelve months or possibly longer. Would love to hear from you... Call Sharon on 021 1729904