



17 March 2022



## *Autumn Equinox Monday 21 March*

Festivals allow us to be attuned to the rhythms of the Earth and the community we live in. Regardless of personal beliefs and faith, every human being can connect with the magic and gifts that each turning of the seasons brings.



*Taikura Harvest Table 2022 - thank you Liam for the pumpkins.*

*For those festivals which repeat, year in and year out, the very act of the repeating is significant.*

For students at Taikura, anticipating what has been and what is to come, the repetitive quality of the festival each year, albeit experienced through a different age, creates rhythm, provides security and punctuates the year giving breath to school life.

The child being able to present some of their learning efforts to their peers, or the wider school community during a festival is significant. Presentations on stage in the protected framework of the class community strengthen the child's psychological development through the growth of self-confidence and validating their identity and relationship to place. In the festive class plays, the older child or adolescent can practice an ever more autonomous and differentiated appearance in front of spectators. The activity of participating in the festival builds relationships and connection to both the present school community and also the past. Becoming part of the mauri of Taikura.

Annual festivals in particular are of special pedagogical significance for the development of the child. They help the child to increasingly find orientation in time. For the younger child, time is still passing slowly. Annual festivals help to subdivide time into different qualities, such as, for example in Aotearoa guided by Te ao Māori and the Christian oriented year, students at Taikura experience the sequence of the St. Michael Play, Class 7 Easter Play, Easter and then Whitsun. In the darkest part of the year Matariki begins to rise, lighting the future and gathering those who have departed, which is closely woven within Mid-Winter traditions. An early morning viewing of Matariki, the telling of stories, breakfast and chilly morning bring us to the Ātea-a-rangi - The Star compass. The busy Winter season is followed by our Spring Festival with Class Nines gift to the community of a *Mumma's* Play. The community Fete, Advent Assemblies and finally Christmas, followed by the long out breath of our great New Zealand summer holiday. When comes Autumn again, we gather our restored forces and the cycle starts yet again.

The child feels increasingly at home in these festivals, while adolescents often use them for the necessary pubertal demarcation, in order to maybe pick them up later, as an adult or parent, in an individual form. Thus, annual festivals provide a sustainable experience of being at home in time. In our present fast-paced life, of holidays in far away countries, with human relationships which are often breaking apart too rapidly, such a place of 'inner residence' can not be given enough weight.

The well - kept culture of annual festivals not only enables a home in time but also in space. In the best of cases, annual festivals reflect the rhythms of the surrounding nature and, at the same time, they are mirrors of local and religious traditions as well as the cultural customs of the area. Manifold orientation in space and time during festive events, and especially in the celebration of annual festivals, therefore offer a rich developmental potential for the child.

From the festival Group.

**Acknowledgement** -Last Weeks Front Page Write up was kindly written by Darryn Breakwell. Thank you Darryn.



## Michaelmas

The sword-wielder,  
the dragon-confronter,  
gathering up the true aims,  
shielding the purposes of our hearts.  
He watches over the conflicts  
of the dark time,  
sending down iron courage  
from shooting stars,  
lifting the heart to see ahead  
the light that overcomes in darkness.

*Evelyn Capel*

Presently we are unable to meet together and celebrate the seasons, sabbats or festivals in our usual manner. There are however many lovely things you can do at home to celebrate the Autumn Festival.

Here are some activities you may want to try.

## Pumpkin Soup

- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 1 leek, white part only, finely sliced
- 1 garlic clove, crushed
- 1/2 tsp ground coriander
- 1 tsp ground cumin
- 1/2 tsp freshly grated nutmeg
- 1kg peeled pumpkin, diced
- 1 large potato, peeled, diced
- 1L Massel chicken style liquid stock or vegetable liquid stock
- 1/2 cup (125ml) thin cream
- Select all ingredients



- **Step 1**

Heat oil in a large saucepan over low heat, add onion and leek and cook for 2-3 minutes, until softened but not coloured. Add garlic and spices and cook, stirring, for 30 seconds. Add pumpkin, potato and stock and bring to the boil. Turn heat to low, cover and simmer for 30 minutes. Allow to cool slightly, then blend in batches.

- **Step 2**

Return soup to pan, stir through cream and reheat gently. Season and add a little more nutmeg if desired.





Create an Autumn Leaf lantern for your dining table. Choose a cake recipe and bake together - this becoming your Autumn Festival Cake, made annually each year at this time.

Rambles around the neighborhood - bring some foraged finds home and create an autumn festival table.



Create an Autumn inspired God's Eye. Hang in your window or above your dining table.





## *He pito kōrero!*

### ***Whakanuia Te Matatini – 50 year celebration!***

Kia ora koutou e te whānau! I felt compelled to acknowledge the fifty year celebration of Te Matatini, because even though the event has been postponed until 2023, the anniversary celebrations will continue over the next three months. What is Te Matatini, many of you may ask? Well, from the first event held in Rotorua in 1972 and named the 'New Zealand Polynesian Festival', the kaupapa has been to bring the people of Te moana-nui-a-Kiwa together, and for Māori, it was about the revitalisation of te reo, and ensuring there was a platform for the excellence in arts that could be grown and nurtured for the future generations, in the form of kapa haka!

I love watching kapa haka performances; the intensity, discipline, and creative flair that top kapa throughout the motu display. What can look like a seamless and painless 25–30 minute performance, weaving stories through waiata, waiata-a-ringa, haka and mōteatea, actually takes groups months of hard work, commitment, time, travel and perseverance...ka mau te wehi!

I find it interesting to reflect on the journey of kapa haka for our tamariki at Taikura. When I am teaching a waiata, a waiata-a-ringa (action song) or haka, I see this as a medium of cultural literacy, where students can convey an understanding of a message or story through their words and actions. For the majority of our students, kapa haka is new ground waiting to be discovered...or so I would like to think!

So, if you can imagine, for our ākonga learning a waiata, then adding hand and foot movements, then whole body movements, whilst keeping the mita (beat) with their right foot, can feel absolutely overwhelming! On top of all of that is the relentless self-discipline I require of our students, to stand and hold themselves well, actions are to be full, extended and off their bodies, heads following their hands and then to look like they are enjoying what they are doing as they share this gift with their audiences! However, I have seen over time, especially when our students have to perform at a school pōwhiri, or as part of a festival, or in the Class 10 performance, that they actually rise to the challenge and in some way feel like they have accomplished what at first seemed to be an unachievable challenge!

Kapa haka is an integral part of my lessons that develops a number of kaupapa simultaneously: firstly, supporting and reinforcing the learning of te reo me ōna tikanga; secondly, as a means to tell history, our stories, and messages via a kaupapa Māori medium; and lastly, 'Ka takahia e rātou i te ao Māori' – our ākonga are able to experience the world through a Māori lens!

Mauri ora, nā Matua Troy.

**Kīwaha o te wiki – kīwaha of the week**  
Tangetange ana! (tar nge tar ng ah nar)  
You got it/spot on!

Hemi: Hey Tia, I just worked out how to use tūpou takirua (dual pronouns) in te reo!

Tia: Tangetange ana e hoa!

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

## Curriculum Corner

The Apple Harvest has begun...

Last week Class 3 began baking. Students were asked, if they had an apple tree, to pick an apple and bring it to school. Once at school they worked in small groups to bake Apple Scones.

Next cooking session they will make the trek across the road to the school garden and collect apples together before making their next apple dish.





## Snippets From The Parent Handbook

### Lateness And Absence Procedures

Please remember to inform the **office** if your child is going to be late or absent from school, even if you have sent a text or emailed the teacher. We encourage caregivers to use the **School App**. Please see the instructions below, it's super easy to use.

## 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.



## 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

## Havelock North Bus

Havelock North Bus Afternoon departure time:

The Havelock North Bus now departs Taikura at 3:10 pm.

Taikura is the last pick up, so all afternoon arrival times should be moved forward 10 minutes.

# 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

### **Bike To Giveaway**

Fairly old but still roadworthy, man's bike free to a loving home. Brand - "Giant" Please contact David Urieli on 022 623 4127

### **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