



7 August 2025

Our Evolving Taikura Curriculum

At Taikura we continue to work on maintaining a curriculum which meets the needs of ākonga in our classes. The process of modernisation and localisation is ongoing as we honour our 100 year old Waldorf philosophy while weaving in the rich socio-cultural context of Aotearoa, New Zealand. We strive to make learning relevant and responsive to the needs of the students of our time, whilst looking forward to the world they will inhabit in the decades to come.

As part of this work we have been reviewing Lower School Main Lessons. One recent example of this evolution is the transformation of the Class Two Main Lesson/Story Curriculum content, “The Saints”. At the heart of this Main Lesson it’s acknowledged that we are to provide ākonga with feeling-filled pictures of the highest of humans given to the service of the earth and humanity. This being achieved by sharing stories which emphasise the free and beautiful deeds of humans, as to inspire reverence. With the essence of this Main Lesson in mind (as described by Rudolf Steiner) the Lower School teachers collaborated with ideas on how to develop this Main Lesson whilst maintaining the desired soul experience.

This has led to creating a new approach for our time and place. We have currently re-titled the Main Lesson as “Ngā Ahurangi”, signifying people who embody qualities of love, compassion, and empathy towards others. Previously focused solely on Christian saints, this lesson will now embrace a wider range of inspirational figures from diverse cultures and traditions. Class Two children will explore stories that highlight spiritual strength, compassion, and courage, including Māori leaders such as Tāwhiao, Te Whiti, Tohu and Dame Whina Cooper, alongside global exemplars of peace and justice. The stories of the Saints may still be told yet making these changes acknowledges the modern day diversity represented in our classrooms.

This change means that all tamariki may see themselves and others they know reflected in the stories they hear, fostering a deeper sense of purpose, kindness, and connection. Our lessons will continue to include storytelling, art, drama, and literacy, but now with a broader and more inclusive lens that aligns with the values and realities of our time and place, as well as Rudolf Steiner’s educational philosophy.

Darryn Breakwell



Impression of Tāwhiao



He Pito Kōrero

Ngā mihi maioha ki a koutou katoa!

Learning different types of karakia is a really good way for our ākonga to expand their knowledge of kupu Māori. They also begin to understand that there are different kupu Māori for the same word in English. Below is a short karakia that can be said by an individual that gives thanks for the food that they are about to eat.

Homai e Rongo
te ō, te kai
Hei ō mōku
Hei ō mō tamaroto,
hau!

*Given by Rongo
food
that is sustenance for me
that is also sustenance for my wellbeing
and vitality!*

Kīwaha o te wikiKīwaha of the week!

Ko tāua tahi (Cor taah eu wah tar he)
That makes two of us, me too, you and me, that goes for both of us!
An idiom used to express agreement or support for someone else's statement.

Mahina: Kia ora e hoa! I loved that kōrero that we heard about the naming of our
maunga Kahurānaki!

Taraia: Ko tāua tahi e hoa!

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



Waiata Mai Every Thursday 12:25 - 12:55pm!

Ngā mihi hīkaka ki a koutou ngā manu tioriori o Taikura!

Every Thursday in our whare, Te Manukura, you can learn some of the many waiata that your tamariki sing at kura!
Nau mai, haere mai te katoa...all are welcome!

Ngā mihi ki a koutou ngā kōpara e kō!
Nā Troy Gardiner

KAMAR Portal and Updates

Last week you will have received an email regarding our School Portal which is accessible via our School Website. Both parents and our High School students have been given an individual password to access individual students' information securely.

At Taikura we use a school database called KAMAR. KAMAR is a student management system which is like an online filing system for all of our student related data. The portal allows parents and our High School students to securely access their individual information on KAMAR. This enables parents to check that relevant information on file is accurate, and they can notify the office of any necessary changes or updates.

Using the KAMAR portal parents will be able to access the following areas:

- The school calendar
- Student contact, caregiver and medical details
- Individual financial information
- Attendance data - lesson by lesson each day
- Pastoral incidents as recorded by teachers
- Reports - both current and past reports
- Access to some results

If you encounter any issues in accessing the portal, please contact Anne Hilton anne.hilton@taikura.school.nz

Last week some of you will also have received a notification from KAMAR regarding attendance and or pastoral incidents. Unfortunately, we could not run a pretest on these updates, and we have a few issues to resolve before these emails become a regular occurrence. Our intention in sending these weekly updates to parents is to enable a shared picture between home and school of attendance and pastoral items. Thank you to those parents and caregivers who responded to this email and engaged with us to resolve any discrepancies.

If you have any questions regarding this process or the information in any of the summaries, please contact the Behaviour Development Team using the following email address: behaviourdevelopment@taikura.school.nz

Upcoming Events

Hockey Fun Day Fundraiser - Saturday 9 August 10:00am

School Board Meeting - Monday 11 August at 5:00pm

Class One Parent Hui - Wednesday 13 August at 6:00pm

Class 10 Play Performance - Wednesday 13 August at 7:00pm

Teacher Only Day - School Only - Thursday 14 August

Mid-Term Break - Friday 15 August & Monday 18 August

Tu Mai Taikura hui-a-whānau - Thursday 21 August at 6:00pm

Community Assembly - Thursday 4 September at 11:00am

Spring Festival - Friday 12 September

Class 12 Project Displays & Speeches - Friday 12 September and weekend of 13 & 14 September

Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori - 15 to 19 September

Taikura Fete - Sunday 16 November

School Attendance Reminder

Our expectation is that students attend 90% of each term which means students do not miss more than one day of school every fortnight. If a student misses one day of school every two weeks, they miss more than a whole year of school by the age of 16.

Students with inconsistent attendance may find it challenging to settle into classroom learning and are missing out on experiences offered as part of our Steiner Waldorf curriculum. Our curriculum is unique in that it is not only skills based but the content is progressional as it works to meet the soul needs of each student at each age. Our staff put a great deal of effort into the planning, and it is significant when there are multiple absences throughout the course of a Main Lesson. As has been shared previously there is no Special Character rationale for home days or rest days.

In partnership with Taikura, as a parent, guardian, caregiver, you play a key role in building a healthy rhythm of regular attendance for your child. Part of this partnership is that parents must let the school know if their child is going to be absent or intends to be absent for a portion of the school term for whatever reason, like a tangi or medical procedure. The Ministry of Education have updated their attendance guidelines providing further explanation around what they consider a justified or unjustified absence:

A student is present if they;

- are physically present in class,
- are physically present in alternative provision,
- are engaged in onsite exams or study,
- are temporarily out of class either at school,
- or are engaged in Board approved learning offsite.

A student is justifiably absent if they;

- are ill/unwell,
- or the school principal has approved their absence.
- or at a medical/dental appointment,

A student is unjustifiably absent if;

- the reason for the absence is not yet known,
- they are absent without parent/caregiver permission,
- they are taking a holiday during term time,
- their absence is explained but not approved by the principal.

For students to make the most of their learning opportunities it is essential for them to be present. It is our expectation that if students are healthy they are attending school full time.

The morning routine sets the tone for the student's school day. At the start of each day a picture of what to expect is given to the class. This initial gathering in the morning creates an opportunity for students to anticipate their learning and helps them to prepare for the day. This preparation time is important for your child and when missed, or even partially missed, it can prove unsettling, and may cause anxiety for students. If there are any issues which the school is not aware of that contribute to a pattern of lateness, please let your Class Teacher or Sponsor know.

We greatly appreciate all of our families who openly communicate with us when there are challenges around their children attending regularly. Our class teachers and sponsors are always open to supporting parents and students with attendance where helpful.

Pippa Caccioppoli

Our Kids Online – Informed and Empowered Programme

Last year we ran an Our Kids Online evening for parents and caregivers as well as a number of follow up screenings. Our Kids Online was created in 2018 by Rob and Zareen Cope after their children started asking for handheld devices and they now educate other parents on how to increase resilience in children through their Cyber Safety Presentations in schools.

All parents who attended the evening at Taikura were given a code to access their online programme for parents to support conversations between parents and children. Rob and Zareen have also created an online programme for school students, 'The Informed and Empowered Programme'. This programme consists of modules and resources to help educate students on how to keep themselves safe in the online world in relation to various potential negative impacts such as predator exposure, cyber-bullying, misinformation, excessive social media use. It also covers emotions, healthy relationships and setting healthy boundaries.

We are going to run this programme over the coming weeks with our High School students. Some modules are designed to be shared with the whole High School, and we will do this as part of our weekly High School assemblies. Other modules are designed for a specific year group or couple of age groups where we will group classes 8 and 9 together and classes 10-12 together. Students will be guided through these modules by their Sponsor and Main Lesson teachers.

We will be starting the programme this week with a module on Technology and the Developing Brain. Below are some of the discussion points out of this first module:

- Have your parents mentioned how different growing up was for them compared to today?
- What are the pros? What are the cons?
- What do you think are some of the impacts of instant gratification, abundance of choice, being switched on 24/7, scrolling other people's feeds, fake news and algorithms?
- What are some things you think you can do to set healthy boundaries with your technology use?
- What will I do to keep myself safe and protect my emotional well-being when I'm online?

Rob and Zareen recommend that parents implement the following to keep their child(ren) safer:

- Keep all devices out of bedrooms
- Make your home a safe place for children to ask questions and have big discussions
- Install filters/monitoring apps in your home and on devices
- Know where to find reporting information if needed
- Implement offline ways to reconnect as a family.

You are welcome to view the resources on the Our Kids Online website.

Class 10 Play Performance - The Odyssey

Written by Dan Bain

Wednesday 13 August at 7:00pm in the school hall.

This play is an adaptation of the Odyssey story which Class 10 have studied this year during their Mythology Main Lesson. Odysseus is the person who came up with the idea of building a wooden horse at the battle of Troy to sneak some soldiers in past the gate. The play is set in Ancient Greece, so the Gods are plentiful, always meddling in peoples business. There are encounters with the Cyclops, Aeolus Lord of Winds, the Lastrogonians, Circe, the Sirens, the Scylla, Charybdis, The Sacred Cattle of Helios, The Blind Bard Demodocus, Zeus, Athena, Poseidon and a lot of bad weather. Oh, and it's a comedy. 90 minutes of fun and laughter.

Clayton Gibson
Director



Sports Update - Basketball

On Monday 4 August the Taikura Senior Boys team faced the Taradale Senior Boys team in the season's semi-final. In a thrilling display of athleticism and respect, both teams showcased exceptional basketball skills and talent, which turned the game into a master-class of sportsmanship and competitive spirit. Many thanks to Taikura's coach Isaac Cox for his dedication, encouragement and leadership.

Janet Osborne

Sports Coordinator



Save the date and your books!



Book Day

Friday 29 August

For Classes 1-7

This year all our favorite events are back!

'The famous Book Character Dress Up Parade'

'The Great Book Swap'

'Guess that Quote'

and

'The World's Best Book Quiz'

It's time to get busy creating costumes, hunting out old books to swap and reading up a storm in time for this huge celebration of our favourite books.

More details to follow in the coming weeks.





THIS THURSDAY

ORGANIC
PASTA LUNCH

EVERY THURSDAY
19.06.25 until 21.08.25

Sold at the canteen window by the 1st XI Hockey Team.
Bring cash or buy an 8x or 4x pass for \$40/\$20.
For passes email: silke@moenchmeier.de

GF option available

\$5



SATURDAY 9TH AUGUST
FUN FAMILY HOCKEY DAY
AND SIT-DOWN FLEA MARKET
AT TAIKURA ON THE SCHOOL TURF

12-3pm

FLEA MARKET

COME AND FIND SOME GREAT TREASURES:
CHILDREN'S AND ADULT CLOTHES,
BOOKS, TOYS, HOUSEHOLD ITEMS, ...

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Look Sharp Discount Code for School Families

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www.looksharpstore.co.nz

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Knitted Kindy Slippers

Taikura Kindergarten is selling hand knitted woollen Kindy Slippers as a year-round fundraiser.

Sizes available

2-3yrs = \$12

3-4yrs and 4-5yrs = \$15

5-6yrs and 6-7yrs = \$18

Custom orders for older children and adults are welcome. Please contact Victoria 022 1037862 for any queries.



Community Notices

Rangimarie Christian Community

The *Rangimarie* Flat is now ready for a tenant. The flat is fully furnished and has a healthy homes certificate. It may suit a small business or therapeutic space or music lessons or... If you know of anyone who may be interested, please contact Lesley 021 065 8065 or Corrie 027 368 0242 or Sabina 021 083 07141

Rental Wanted

Kia ora,

We are a Dutch family of six, and we'll be moving to New Zealand at the end of the year. Our children will be attending Taikura for the next school year, and we are currently looking for a long-term rental property in the area.

Ideally, we're looking for a home with at least 3 bedrooms, available from mid-January—though we can be flexible with the start date to suit availability.

If you have a suitable property available, or if you could point us in the right direction, we would greatly appreciate your help.

Please feel free to get in touch via email at rolbekker@gmail.com.

Warm regards,

Sebastiaan, Meike & kids



Eurythmy

For the brave hearted. It's not too late to join us!

Tuesdays at 9:15am

Anthroposophical Society Rooms

sue.simpson0@gmail.com

Enlivening the Earth Biodynamics Workshop 5-7 September

This workshop will involve hands on stir and spread of 500, utilizing the rhythms of the biodynamic farming, planetary rhythms and the gardening calendar, also exploring biodynamics within the nutritional medical frame. The workshop is designed for those who want to use biodynamic regenerative practice in their own farm or garden. We are grateful to the Kete Ora Trust for sponsorship of this workshop.

Cost: \$350 for the three day workshop, with onsite accommodation available if needed. For more information follow our link: <https://www.taruna.ac.nz/courses-and-workshops/biodynamic-learning-pathways/>



**TARUNA
COLLEGE**
Connect, Nourish, Sustain

Enlivening the Earth

Introductory Biodynamics Weekend Workshop

5-7 September: starting Friday afternoon, finishing Sunday afternoon
Cost: \$350



Are you interested in growing good food, working with mother nature and weaving a spiritual understanding into the very practical work of farming and gardening? Are you curious about holistic farming, gardening, food, and nutrition - and how to incorporate good growing practices at your place in Aotearoa?

Then we welcome you to come and take part in this introductory Biodynamics workshop. We will explore topics that include:

- the foundations of biodynamics
- growing nutrient-dense food
- themes of spirituality, connection, and planetary rhythms
- an exploration of biodynamics within a medical frame.

We will also build understanding of:

- biodynamic preparations - including stirring and spreading 500
- how to utilise the rhythms of the biodynamic farming and gardening calendar
- how the inner life of the gardener or farmer also needs to be cultivated.

Biodynamics is a holistic approach that views the farm or garden as a living organism, emphasising the interconnectedness of all living things. It incorporates cosmic principles, biodiversity and unique homeopathic preparations to enhance soil health and overall farm or garden vitality.

This workshop is designed for everyone:

- wanting biodynamic regenerative practice in their own farm or garden
- interested in wellness for land and people
- wishing to increase their perceptive powers of land, soil and life
- already a biodynamic practitioner wanting to experience the wider context and community of biodynamics.

Your workshop facilitators:
Monique Macfarlane - biodynamic practitioner and educator, who makes biodynamics relatable
Rachel Pomeroy - biodynamic teacher and star watcher.

Gratitude to the Kete Ora Trust for generous sponsorship of this workshop.

For further information and registrations please contact
info@taruna.ac.nz or see our website www.taruna.ac.nz
or call +64 6 8777174

Join us for Dying Matters Week 2025!

1ST - 7TH SEPTEMBER 2025

*Dying
Matters*
WEEK

HAWKE'S BAY PROGRAMME

Tangihanga Theatre

Taikura Rudolf Steiner
School
31 AUG at 6PM
1 SEPT AT 11AM & 6PM

MON 1ST SEPTEMBER

About Acorn Project
Kerrie Waby & Grayson Uncles
212 Queen St, Hastings
FROM 10AM - 11AM

**Coming to Grips With
Grief & Loss**
*with Sue Haldane from
Grief Room Therapy*

212 Queen St, Hastings
FROM 10AM - 11AM

**Break the Deathly
Silences**
Informal cafe conversations
Westermans Cafe
FROM 2PM - 3PM

When I Die Workbook
With Kathryn Perks
Hastings Library
FROM 4.30PM - 5PM

**What is an End of Life
Doula?**
with Alysha Macaulay
Hastings Library
FROM 5PM - 5.30PM

Coffin Club Open Day
Old Netball Courts,
707 Sylvan Rd
FROM 9AM - 12PM

TUES 2ND SEPTEMBER

Wāhine & Wā
*Conversations on Death,
Nature, and Healing*
Heretaunga Women's
Centre
FROM 11AM - 2PM

**What Does Dying
Look Like?**
*A conversation with
Cranford's Dr Martyn Horsfall*
Hastings Library
FROM 5.30 - 6.30PM

WEDS 3RD SEPTEMBER

**Assisted Dying Talk
and Q&A**
*Michael Nestmann, Manager
of AD Team, Te Whatu Ora*
212 Queen Street, Hastings
FROM 10.30 - 11.30AM

**Assisted Dying Talk
Small Group Option**
*Michael Nestmann, Manager
of AD Team, Te Whatu Ora*
Hastings Library
FROM 1 - 2PM

The Last Ecstatic Days
Movie Night, \$10 entry fee
Havelock North Focal
Cinema 3
FROM 6-7PM

THURS 4TH SEPTEMBER

Wills, PoA, Living Wills
*With Christine Symes from
Bramwell Bates*
Hastings Library
FROM 9.30 - 10.30AM

Caring for the Caregiver
*with Rebecca Ross & Sue
Haldane*
Hastings Library
FROM 11.30AM - 12.30PM

**Compassionate
Communities**
*With Stephanie Hutchinson
and Rebecca Ross*
Hastings Library
FROM 1 - 2PM

Wills, PoA, Living Wills
*With Christine Symes from
Bramwell Bates*
Hastings Library
FROM 2.30 - 3.30PM

**Learn About Acorn
Project**
Kerrie Waby & Grayson Uncles
212 Queen Street, Hastings
FROM 2.30 - 3.30PM

**Coming to Grips With
Grief & Loss**
*Sue Haldane from Grief
Room Therapy*
212 Queen St, Hastings
FROM 5.30 - 6.30PM

End of Life Planning
With Jo Drylie & Kathryn Perks
Hastings Library
FROM 5.30 - 6.30PM

FRI 5TH SEPTEMBER

**Crematorium Open
Morning**
Registration required
204 Orchard Rd, Camberley
FROM 9 - 11AM

End of Life Planning
With Jo Drylie & Kathryn Perks
Cranford Hospice
FROM 1 - 2PM

Hospice 101
Learn about Cranford Hospice
Cranford Hospice
FROM 2.30 - 4PM

SAT 6TH SEPTEMBER

**How to help when a
loved one is grieving**
*Sue Haldane from Grief
Room Therapy*
212 Queen St, Hastings
FROM 11AM - 12NOON

Funeral Home Open Day
Tong & Peryer
509 Queen St
FROM 1 - 2PM

Distilling Death
A conversation over cocktails
Hastings Distillers
231 Heretaunga St East
FROM 3PM - 4.30PM

SUN 7TH SEPTEMBER

Dying Matters Q&A Panel
Ask us anything!
Hastings Library
FROM 2PM - 3.30PM



Register for local events
gowithgrace.nz/dyingmatters

Webinars
& Podcasts
also available
online

Taikura Rudolf Steiner School Hastings

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