

Taikura Rudolf Steiner School

The
Grapevine



Pippa's Panui

18 September 2025

The plant-seeds spring in the womb of Earth
And waters rain from heaven's heights
So does Love spring in human hearts
And wisdom water the thoughts of people.
Rudolf Steiner

Around our school grounds the arrival of spring is evident in the new buds and beautiful blossoms. As well as new life, Spring can also be a season of physical illness, and we have had many students and staff struggling with these in recent weeks, so much so that we had to ask a number of our classes to learn from home due to having no relievers available to cover unwell staff. As I shared last week the Spirit of the Spring Festival is "Know Thyself". Spring is the time to bring our thoughts and feelings into conscious actions into the world of matter. In the Autumn our St Michale play acknowledges the overcoming of the dragon and in the spring, we need to make sure that we do not let the dragon take hold, we need to resist the temptation. With Spring there is a picture of keeping the forces which are streaming at bay, and we do this through healthy activities, finding nourishing ways to occupy ourselves.

The past term has been full of healthy activities across our school and kindergarten with celebrations, community events and hui, outdoor and sporting activities, concentrated learning in the classrooms and planning for the future. We have come together for Mid-Winter and Spring festivals, projects, plays, eurythmy and musical performances as well as the Winter Warmer and community assembly. Our students have been on field trips, ski trips and sports trips and winter sports uniforms are being returned after final games and cross-country races completed. We have welcomed a new school board and farewelled and thanked those who have stepped down from this role. As we make our way to the end of the term we are looking ahead, and planning is beginning to get underway with our senior students selecting electives and timetable and workload requests being gathered from staff for next year. Thank you to those who contributed to our strategic planning survey and our governance groups look forward to sharing the next steps next term.

Nationally within our Steiner Waldorf community there has been a great deal of mahi this term given to the ongoing development and strengthening of our national Steiner Waldorf curriculum and associated documentation. Significant steps have been taken this year to more strongly articulate our non-negotiables in regard to the curriculum and the reasoning behind these. Work has also continued on the integration of He Reo Puāwai, our national Steiner School Māori curriculum into our national Steiner Waldorf curriculum. Nationally our high school teachers are working collaboratively to continue to articulate our high school curriculum expectations based on the themes and impulses for each year and our lower school curriculum is being robustly reviewed, both nationally and internally at Taikura. All of this important mahi happens on top of and in addition to the teaching and learning within our school and kindergarten and we are incredibly grateful to the teachers for their ongoing efforts in this area.

As we make our way into the holidays next week and the sunshine begins to warm and the daylight hours begin to increase there is hope that the illnesses and exhaustion of springtime will ease so that there is energy and enthusiasm for the many milestones we have ahead in term four. I wish you all a wonderful holiday and look forward to welcoming you back next term.

Upcoming Events

Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori - 15 to 19 September

Last day of Term 3 - Friday 19 September

First day of Term 4 - Monday 6 October

Taikura Fete - Sunday 16 November



He Pito Kōrero

***Tōku reo, tōku ohoho,
tōku reo, tōku māpihi maurea whakakai marihi***

*My language is my awakening,
my language is the window to my soul.*

This is a proverb by Sir Timoti Kāretu, one of Maoridom's most respected language experts. It is also a whakatauākī that is part of the waiata '*Nei rā te kaupapa*' that our kaiako are learning to acknowledge and celebrate ***Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori***. This waiata was composed to inspire people to learn and engage with te reo Māori. I love this waiata for both the depth of the kaupapa and the melody. My favourite version of this is sung by the choir from Wellington East Girl's College: [Wellington East Girls' College, Rāwhiti | Nei Rā Te Kaupapa](#) Te rerehua hoki!

The other awesome kaupapa that is happening to encourage our ākonga to speak te reo Māori this week, is ordering kai at the kāmuri - *canteen*. There is also an added incentive of a discount on your next purchase, if you ask for the specific kai in te reo! Whaea Jaci has been working alongside Ms Sutton to enliven this space with te reo, and te puna tuangahuru – Class 10 students have been preparing kai as part of their Community Work Week. Ka pai hoki koutou!

Te kīwaha o te wiki – Kīwaha of the work.

*E pao, tōrea! (eh pah or tor de ah)
Strike while the iron is hot, now or never, go for it!*

Maika: Kia ora e mara! I've been asked to be the leader for our haka today.

What do you reckon?

Rangi: E pao, tōrea e hoa! Once they see how good you are, it'll be permanent!

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!

Class 12 Projects



Young Achievers Awards 2025

For those of you who have visited level 3 of Taikura House you may have seen our collection of beautiful photos on the wall acknowledging past Young Achievers recipients. These annual awards were established in 2010 by the Hastings Heretaunga Lions Club and they are now held by the Lions Club Hastings Host to acknowledge students in their last year of high school who have excelled in a community, academic, sporting or cultural realms. This year the event was held at Lindisfarne College and included recipients from Flaxmere College, Hastings Boys and Girls High School, Hastings Christian School, Havelock North High School, Iona College, Karamū High School, Lindisfarne and St John's Colleges, Woodford House and Taikura.

Students were acknowledged for their community and cultural contributions and initiatives including youth councils and parliament, representing their school and region in dance, performing arts, swimming, basketball, canoe polo, debating, as well as representing New Zealand in badminton, women's rugby, target shooting, canoe sprints and canoe slalom.



Our Taikura recipient this year was Mika Moenchmeier who is in Class 12. Mika has shown outstanding commitment to surf lifesaving over five years, earning multiple awards including the Waimarama Surf Lifesaving Award for Power Craft Rescue, Hawke's Bay U19 Lifeguard of the Year and the IRB Event Safety Contribution Award. During the 23/24 season Mika received the award for the most lifeguard hours in Hawke's Bay. Mika was elected Head Instructor at Waimarama Surf Club for the 2025/26 season and works as a regional lifeguard and holds a range of advanced lifeguard qualifications. Beyond lifesaving Mika has coached junior hockey at Taikura, umpired games and was a student representative on our School Board and he has volunteered as a lifeguard on school camps. Mika's leadership and dedication make him a valued role model in our community. Congratulations Mika.



Taikura Runners

Well done to all the runners competing in the recent events:

- East Coast Secondary School Road Race Championships last week
- The Hawke's Bay Primary and Intermediate Cross Country Champs this week.

Sid Spicer, Amelia Diedericks, Fuu Kaneko, Belle Ratana, Jakob Diedericks, Reuben Diedericks, Ari Napier, Ianto Owen, Oliver Taylor, Toby Mc Gavock, Oak Collins, Phillip Ostergren, Ella Frohlich, Keala Fraser and Timo Allison

Congratulations to Jakob Diedericks for a podium finish, 3rd place in the road race.

Amazing achievement to Oak Collins for coming in 1st year in the Year 7 boys section and is the HB champ!



Class 8's Trip to the Aquarium

NATIONAL AQUARIUM OF NEW ZEALAND

LAST FRIDAY, AS PART OF THEIR ENVIRONMENT MAIN LESSON, CLASS 8 VISITED THE NATIONAL AQUARIUM OF NEW ZEALAND. THE OBJECTIVE OF THE VISIT WAS TO LEARN ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF FOOD WEBS AND HOW ANIMALS ADAPT TO THEIR ENVIRONMENTS. STUDENTS ALSO EXPLORED THE VITAL ROLE ORGANISMS PLAY IN FOOD WEBS, WITH THE VISIT AIMING TO RAISE THEIR AWARENESS OF AOTEAROA'S UNIQUE BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEMS.

THE AQUARIUM PROVIDED EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS AND GAVE STUDENTS THE OPPORTUNITY TO HANDLE A BALEEN PLATE FROM A HUMPBACK WHALE, A STINGRAY BARB, A SPERM WHALE TOOTH, AND A TURTLE SHELL. THIS HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE DEEPENED THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF THESE SPECIES AND HIGHLIGHTED THE IMPORTANCE OF PROTECTING THEM.



Hockey Tournament Week

This year the 1st XI attended hockey tournament week in Dunedin and this meant that we had to complete a lot of fundraising beforehand. The families and players all committed, and we were able to fly down to Christchurch and then drove to Dunedin.

This was the first time the team had competed in a mixed gender tournament, and the teams were from around New Zealand but mainly from the south of the South Island.

We were very lucky with the weather in Dunedin, and we were well supported by ex-students who came to support the team along with those who watched from home. We won our pool games, which were very exciting and progressed through to the top four of the tournament. We secured fourth place in this tournament which is extremely good. We were playing teams from much larger schools and often the teams were filled with representative players.

The umpires commented on how polite our team was on and off the field and what a delight it was to umpire them.

Sports tournaments are different from other camps and there is rest time and lots of other games to watch. We were able to watch the umpires versus the coaches and many other teams' games. At other times we visited the Otago Museum which had hands-on Science Activities and the Royal Albatross Centre. Both coaches were very proud of the way the team performed and behaved. They were great representatives of Taikura.

Taikura Rudolf Steiner School 1st XI Hockey Team 2025



Our Kids Online – Informed and Empowered Programme

As shared previously, in our High School we are currently running 'The Informed and Empowered Programme' developed by Rob and Zareen Cope as part of their Our Kids Online platform.

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.

In the last two weeks the following modules have been viewed: Social Media, Porn, Sex, Naked Selfies and Other Stuff, and Online Predators.

Below are some of the discussion points from these modules which you may like to discuss with your students:

Social Media

- What do you think are some of the negative and positive impacts of social media platforms?
- Why do you think people take so many selfies?
- How authentic do you think the online social media space is?
- Have you ever compared yourself or your life negatively to others on social media?
- What are some of the things you could do if you find yourself scrolling and comparing?
- Why do you think people feel compelled to answer their messages as soon as they receive them?
- Have you ever used screen-time?
- Do you think there is pressure on males/females to attain a certain body type

Porn, Sex, Naked Selfies and Other Stuff

- Do you think there is a prevalent naked selfie culture?
- Do you think it has been normalised?
- What kind of issues do you think could arise from naked selfie sharing?
- What do you think someone could do if they have given or been asked for a naked selfie?
- What do you think some of the harms of consuming online porn may be?
- Why do you think it might be difficult to stop watching porn 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, including resources specifically for parents.

Before you speak

THINK

T – is it True?

H – is it Helpful?

I – is it Inspiring?

N – is it Necessary?

K – is it Kind?

The above is a copy of a poster we have at Taikura and can be a helpful reminder in regards to our communication with each other.

It aligns with our values of **Atawhai Kindness** and **Whkaute Respect**.

Summer Sports Term 4

Class 3 Netball Team <u>Coaches</u> : Keala Fraser & Lena Feldmann <u>Practices</u> : One lunchtime per week <u>Manager</u> : Regan Hallett	Class 5 Cricket Team <u>Coaches</u> : Michael Williams & Sid Trivedi <u>Practices</u> : Wednesday after school - school turf <u>Manager</u> : TBC
Class 6 Basketball Teams <u>Coaches</u> : Ian Foxcroft, Louis Skipper & Mateo De Marco <u>Practices</u> : Mondays after school <u>Managers</u> : Angela Binns & Carolina Dalmazzo	Class 7 Volleyball Team <u>Coach</u> : James Ostergren <u>Practices</u> : Friday lunchtime - gym <u>Manager</u> : Mandy Ostergren
Junior Girls Volleyball Team <u>Coach</u> : Zahara Kizito-Rees <u>Practices</u> : Tuesday lunchtime - gym <u>Managers</u> : Troy Gardiner & Roger Smith	Registration forms will be out to interested students this week.

Classes 7-11 Waka Ama Training <u>Coaches</u> : Clayton Gibson, Linda Hill- Rennie & Wayne Soanes <u>Practices</u> : Monday and Wednesday after school	Girls Surf Club Run by the Sea Sisters 6 weeks, Waimarama beach
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For more information, please email Janet sports.coordinator@taikura.school.nz

Hawkes Bay Primary and Intermediate Triathlon

Monday 24th November

We will be taking some teams from classes 4, 5 6 and 7.

Teams will be formed early next term, for students to have plenty of practice time.

Class 4 and 5 students swim 100m

Class 6 and 7 students swim 200m

If you have a student who can confidently swim these distances, please email Janet.

For more information, please email Janet sports.coordinator@taikura.school.nz

Employment Opportunity

High School Teacher Aide, 20 hours per week for Term 4 only. Commencing week 1 to the end of week 7. This position would be ideal for a parent looking for a school hours. There is a possibility of the position continuing at the start in 2026.

Please contact Selena in the office for more information or email selena.crouch@taikura.school.nz

Lost Property

A reminder to please check the lost property cupboard under the external hall stairs before the end of term.

Any items not collected will be donated to charity during the school holidays.



Homestay Families Required for 2026

We have International students attending Taikura next year who are looking for homestay families. If you would be interested in finding out more about hosting a student please contact Janet Osborne international.admin@taikura.school.nz

Plant Stall at the Fete

Calling All Green Thumbs! 🌱

Help us grow a stunning Plant Stall for the upcoming school fete!

Between now and November, we'd love everyone to get planting and potting up:

- Veggies
- Herbs
- Flowers
- Houseplant cuttings
- Special gems from your garden (or a friend's!)

Every little plant counts! Get the kids involved — it's a great way to learn, grow, and give back.



Community Notices

Family Hockey

A couple of school families are aiming to get some Hastings summer hockey games going for the whole family. Class 3 students upwards. There are logistics to work out such as where, when and how.

First of all we need expressions of interest.

Please email Tania Diedericks on taniaanz3@proton.me or txt Tania on 021 066 4908.

Oliver's Market Stall - Bee's Knees Balms

Saturday the 20th of September, Oliver Taylor will be having his first market stand by Bee's Knees Balms. Full of lip balms, beeswax wraps, candles and more, all made by him.

The event is hosted by the Haumoana Kids Market which is set up purely for kids to showcase their skills and to take their first steps into the business world.

This event is at the Hastings Sports Centre, 503 Railway Road, 10am-1pm. Perfect to pop in before the blossom parade. Cash only.

Please come down to support Oliver and all the other kids who have put so much into this.

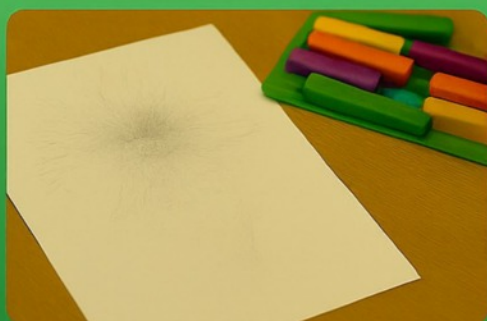
<https://facebook.com/events/s/hastings-kids-market-spring-25/3233091683505969/>

CREATIVE SPRING ART SERIES

October 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th

Thursday mornings, 10am-12pm

Commitment is for 4 weeks – \$135, including
all art materials.



- Watercolour flower painting
- Acrylic painting on canvas
- Observational drawing & sketching
- Pastel. watercolour

No art experience needed. Beginners welcome,
all levels of art experience welcome.

Enquiries: amanda@artandalchemy.co.nz

No art experience needed. Beginners welcome,
all levels of art experience are welcome.

MONDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER 9.30AM-2.30PM

SPRING HOLIDAY ART WORKSHOP WITH YOGA

WITH AMANDA SOWERSBY



**FOLLOW US AT @AMANDASOWERSBY
EMAIL:
AMANDA@ARTANDALCHEMY.CO.NZ
0211449168**

KEIRUNGA ARTS VENUE, HAVELOCK NORTH

**JOIN US FOR ANOTHER FUNCREATIVE TERM,
GROUPS ARE SMALL, PLACES ARE LIMITED.**

AFTERSCHOOL ART CLASS TERM 4 2025 WITH AMANDA SOWERSBY



**MONDAY 13TH OCTOBER -15TH DECEMBER
3.30PM-4.30PM & 4.45PM-5.45PM
8 WEEK TERM
(NO CLASSES 27TH OCT & 3RD NOV)
WEDNESDAY 15TH OCT-10TH DECEMBER
9 WEEK TERM
AGES 6-14 YEARS**

**FOLLOW US AT @AMANDASOWERSBY
EMAIL:
AMANDA@ARTANDALCHEMY.CO.NZ
0211449168**

KEIRUNGA ARTS VENUE, HAVELOCK NORTH