

Tawa School

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TUESDAY 2nd FEBRUARY 2010

Issue 1 ~ 2010

From the Principal

Welcome back to the 2010 school year !

Welcome back to Tawa School for the 2010 school year. After some lousy weather for those who were in Wellington, it has been great to get some finer weather in the last week and we hope this is a sign of what is to come in the next month or two. I trust you all had an enjoyable holiday and have built up some positive family memories and some stored energy to draw on throughout the year. The staff and I have had enjoyable breaks and we are looking forward to the year ahead. 2010 promises to be an exciting year.



We have had the usual busy start to the year today. We welcome 2 new staff ~ Mrs Jan Treeby - our new Deputy Principal, leading the junior school, and Miss Verity Beaumont, teaching Year 5&6 in Rm 12. We also have about 35 new students. Welcome to:-

Rachel Sim; Jaelon & T'Chaunte Paewai, Micah Wratt; Isabella Humphries; Heaven-Leigh, Kauri & Deedum Wharehinga; Kylie & Mark Woodley; Francesca & Maria Iosefo; Michaela Peers; Cheden Bradley; John Kabiriera; Logan Juchnowicz; George Tuipeatau; Troy & Jamie Howe; Ezeil & Shaelin Tainui; Sofia Olds; Abigail Alcantara; Kayi Erol-Watt; Joseph Prime; Amber Holford; Johann Moses; Zion, William, DiAhman, Adrian Crawford; Eden & Jordan Goldsmith; and Ivan Perez.

Class programmes are already under way and it promises to be an exciting term. We will be focussing on developing our "Inquiry Learning" programmes this year as well as developing the key competencies from the new national curriculum.



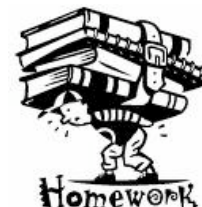
We will have an overall, school wide theme this year of "Exploring our potential" which will run through each term's theme and our various school developments. In term 1 we will be focussing on developing the underlying skills needed for inquiry based learning with a particular focus on "Self Management".

Each team will let families know about their particular programmes and what families can do at home.

National Standards - With the introduction by the Government of the new National Standards, we will be reviewing and developing our whole system of reporting to parents. This will involve 3-way goal setting (with staff, parents & students) twice in the year. There will be community consultation on this reporting process during this first term.

For any parents wanting to know more about National Standards and what they involve, you can use this link to the detailed information on the Ministry of Education's website - TKI. The web address is : www.nzcurriculum.tki.org.nz/National-Standards

Homework ~ Homework is an ongoing area of concern in many schools, including at Tawa School, and in many families. We will be reviewing and completely redeveloping our homework programme this year. There will be full community consultation about this in this first term. You might like to start having a discussion at home on what you think about homework ~ should we have it & and if so, what should it include? Should it be compulsory?



Homework in term 1 during this consultation process will mostly be limited to Reading and Maths 'basic facts' work. Each team will inform their students / families of how this will work at their level.

Meet the teacher evenings - There will be an evening programme on **Monday 15th Feb** to both meet your child's teacher and to hear about the organisation & expectations for their year level this year. Each team will have a presentation in the Library for about 30 minutes and then there will be 15 minutes in the classrooms for parents to view their child's room and to briefly tell the teacher anything they may need to know in order to make your child's year successful. Note - these are not reporting sessions.



We realise that no organisation or timing will meet everybody's needs. If you are not able to make this evening but would like to speak to the teacher, you are welcome to make an appointment.

The timing on Monday 15th Feb will be as follows :-

Year 1 & 2 team	5:30 - 6:15 p.m.
Year 3 & 4 team (including Rm 7)	6:15 - 7:00 p.m.
Year 5 - 8 team	7:00 - 7.45 p.m.

~ the Yr 7 & 8 team will have a separate talk at this time

I hope to see many of you there and look forward to meeting you throughout the year.

Stationery

Stationery is being sold from the school office. Thank you to all those families who came and purchased your stationery in advance. That was helpful and much appreciated. Nearly half of all families purchased stationery before school started which helps both the children in their learning and considerably eases the financial challenges we had in receiving stationery payments last year.



It is important for every child to have their stationery within this first week of school. We have purchased enough stationery packs for every child. **We now have eftpos available** for any school payments!

Even if you are unable to pay for the stationery in full straight away, do still come and get a pack for your child. As long as a deposit is paid and arrangements are made for paying the rest, you are welcome to take a stationery pack for your child/ren.

Note ~ we do also have automatic payment forms available.

Those families who have not yet purchased their stationery will receive a separate notice today.

Sunhats – in term 1 it is important the children have both their sun hat & sun cream at school each day, and preferably come to school with sun cream already applied, which will last them most of the day.



It was great to see lots of kids wearing their hat on the first day. Really well done to those families!

Please ensure your child has a sunhat each day so they can participate fully in the programme. Children without sunhats will only be able to play in the shade at breaks and won't be able to join in PE or other outside activities.

Ian Dewar (Principal)

From the Office

PLEASE remember to let us know if any of your details have changed – including work numbers, mobile phone numbers or the numbers for your emergency contacts.

Newsletters ~ There will be another newsletter next week and then they will be fortnightly on Tuesdays after that – plus an extra one occasionally, when required. Newsletters are numbered at the top so that you can see if you have missed one. They are also available on our school website (www.taea.school.nz).

If you wish to receive the newsletter by email, please either send an email to office@tawa.school.nz from the email address which you wish to be added to our mailing list or just send a note to the office.

Road patrol assistance - we urgently need help with road patrol before or after school. If you are able to help out on any day, please let the office staff know.

If you drop off or pick up your child from school, this is a way in which you could make a significant contribution to the school. It only takes half an hour and could be just once a week. Please consider helping the school in this way!

Community Notices

Western Suburbs Soccer Club

Registrations for the coming season will be held on Sunday 7 February 10-30am-2.30pm, Thursday 11 February 5.30pm-7.30pm and Sunday 14 February 10.30am-2.30pm, all at Endeavour Park Clubrooms, Albatross Close, Whitby.

Any girls aged 7-14 who wish to register for the Capital Football Girls Sunday League can do so at the same time and venue as above. For more details please phone 234 8611 or email to juniors@westernsuburbs.co.nz.

Penguins In-line Hockey

~ Open Day (ice hockey on roller blades)
– Sunday February 14 from 2 – 5pm Kilbirnie Rec Centre to find out more Phone Claire 934 1344 or visit our website www.penguinshockey.co.nz”

Music Learning Centre

The Music Learning Centre in Tawa is now accepting enrolments for individual and group tuition in violin, viola, cello, flute, guitar, drums, music theory and composition. Also sign up now for orchestra, choir and chamber music. Email info@musiclearning.co.nz for more information or call 232-1231.”