

TAWA INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

Dear Parents

Thank you to everyone for supporting us in getting the newsletter successfully over to an e-zine format. Remember that at any time you can subscribe with a different email simply by clicking the button on the home page of our [website](#). There is also a button that takes you straight to our [Twitter](#) account which we would encourage you to follow. I have it on good authority that if you register for a Twitter account you can then get the feeds directly through Facebook so you don't have to keep going back to Twitter to get our updates.

Community Get Together

Unfortunately due to the weather, we have cancelled the dinner part of the get together tonight but the classrooms will be open from 6.30pm – 8.00pm for you to come along and see your child's classroom and meet the teacher.

Homework

Homework is one aspect of school life that provokes strong debate from many quarters. We know of research that has 'proven' homework to have a negative effect on learning; and other research to indicate that homework done well can increase achievement in learning. Homework that builds on the learning that is happening at school and which children can do independently is beneficial to learning. Homework that reinforces that students cannot learn by themselves is detrimental.

In the holidays our staff were fortunate to work with [Anne Davies](#), one of the world's foremost authorities on assessment for learning. A key to this is giving students ownership of their learning and one of the principles she shared with staff is that a 'school should not be a place that young people come to watch old people work hard!'. This same principle could apply to homework. If at any stage you find yourself working harder on your child's homework than they are then it is definitely time to re-group and maybe contact the teacher to clarify what is expected.

All students have homework. It is set out in a standard way across the school with many common tasks (spelling, basic facts, reading and Spec) as well as work assigned by classroom teachers. Our homework guidelines can be found on [Schooldocs](#). You need the username *tawaint* and password *team* to access this site. (The search function is the fastest way to locate documents). We also have high flyers linked to homework as a way to recognise those students who excel in the area of homework.

Our students will show you their Homework folders at the Community Get Together tonight.

National Standards

There has been a lot of publicity of late around the [national standards](#). From our examination of the legislation our current assessment practices more than meet the requirements with the exception of the overall teacher judgment against the standards. Contrary to what you may have heard or read, the standardised assessment tools that schools use have yet to be aligned to the national standards. The assessment team at the Ministry of Education have told me that the earliest we will see them aligned is term 4 of this year. At the learning conferences, which will be happening in a few weeks, we will share with you your child's performance using some of these assessment tools. We will be able to show you the national standards but we will not have the knowledge or tools to make a judgment against the standards until later in the year.

There are very strong feelings out in the community about the standards. I have no difficulty with schools being held accountable for the achievement of their students. I do have concerns about the effect of labelling children below or well below standard when we know that people learn at different rates and in different ways. I have decided to blog about our school's journey with the National Standards. So if you want to find out more visit my [blog](#)! And feel free to leave a comment.

Finally

We have had a fabulous start to the year. Thank you for having your children so well rested and organised to start. I am really looking forward to seeing you tonight at the Community Get Together.

Kind regards

CAROLYN STUART
Principal

Room 9

Room 9 has spent some time considering the characteristics of a good or bad student, and a good or bad teacher. Here is what we came up with:

A good student is one who ...

- Is friendly
- Is fair
- Is caring
- Is polite
- Encourages others to do the right thing
- Shows good sportsmanship

A bad student is one who ...

- Talks when others are talking
- Does not listen
- Does not follow instructions
- Is mean and is a bully

A good teacher is one who ...

- Listens to students' ideas
- Is a good role model
- Is fair
- Cares about the students
- Supports the students
- Has a good attitude

A bad teacher is one who ...

- Is unfair
- Doesn't listen to the students
- Doesn't follow the Staff Treaty
- Doesn't respect the students' rights

SCHOOL NOTICES

DARE – Drug and Alcohol Resistance Education

During Term 1 and Term 2, classes will be taking part in the DARE programme. In Term 1 this will involve Kakapo, Huia and Pouakai and in term 2 Tui, Piwakawaka and Toroa. The programme is delivered by Constable Ian Browne of the New Zealand Police and runs for one session per week over six weeks.

DARE has been an important part of our health programme for many years and covers important issues confronting students of intermediate school age such as peer pressure, assertive behaviour, drugs and responsibility. There will be an element of home learning involved, and Constable Browne encourages discussion of the lesson content at home.

If you have any queries about the programme please contact Louise Bray-Burns on 232 5201 or email her loubray@tawaint.school.nz

Yummy Apple Promotion

Tawa Intermediate are taking part in the Yummy Fruit Company's healthy living promotion where you save and collect the Yummy stickers off apples and 2kg bag labels in return for free sports gear for the school. Look out for the introduction letter and sticker chart coming home soon with your child and get behind this fantastic opportunity for some new sports gear for the school.

Bullrush

You may recall this game from your days at school. It seems that during the 90s many games like Bullrush were banned or discouraged. It appears that there is a school of thought that that was a mistake. A number of schools around the country have brought this cool game back, including Mt Pleasant School whose students have been playing it since November 2008. It has proved to be very popular with both boys and girls and they have received a lot of positive feedback. Tawa Intermediate is intending to try out "Tackle Space" where a teacher will supervise an area of the field where tackling will be permitted as part of a game of bullrush.

To be able to play students **MUST** have a different top to their school uniform to change into. This needs to be one that is okay to get dirty and potentially ripped. No different top - no play.

For those who do not know the game of Bullrush, the basic idea is that there is an oblong/rectangle marked out on the grass with everyone lined up along one end, except for one person who is in the middle. This person calls one person out and that person has to get to the other end without being tackled to the ground by the person in the middle. The runner can either choose to run on their own or yell out "Bullrush", in which case everyone else must also run to the other end. The catcher can choose to chase the person called out or go for anyone else. If the runner goes on their own, everyone else waits until either the runner is caught or gets to the end, at which point they then have to run. Each person caught then helps the catcher catch more people until there is one runner left. There are a couple of versions of how people play but this is what we plan to try out.

We will obviously be encouraging and monitoring safe play but we will also be telling the students that if someone tackles you and lands on you - it may hurt - that is what happens. So if you choose to play be prepared that that may happen. Unsafe and/or over vigorous play will not be accepted.

POSITIVE PUPILS

<i>Respect</i>	<i>Protection</i>	<i>Caring</i>	<i>Fairness</i>	<i>Honesty</i>
Jireh Va'afusuaga Suraj Maisuria Tyran Te Paa		Megan McAlpine Garyu Liu Laura Gemmell Hemisha Jeram		Garyu Liu Keegan Tomlinson

HEALTHY EATING

We all know it is good to eat at least 5 serves of fruit and vegetables every day. This term we are looking at the range of vegetables available and why it is important to include them in our weekly diet. Vegetables offer us a range of vitamins and other nutrients and are really beneficial to growing healthy kids!

GREEN VEGETABLES:

Has anyone ever told you to “eat your greens”? Green vegetables are a great source of Vitamin C, vitamin K and B group vitamins. They offer minerals like iron, potassium and calcium.

We are lucky to be able to choose from a massive range of green vegetables in New Zealand including spinach, broccoli, asparagus, celery, silverbeet, cabbage, bok choy, rocket, lettuce, watercress, courgettes, leeks, beans, cauliflower, peas, cucumber and more. This choice means we can incorporate them into lots of our favourite recipes and ensure that we don't get sick of them. Enjoy!!

YEAR 8 GIRLS SELF DEFENCE COURSE

If you are the parent of a year 8 girl you will receive a notice today inviting her to take part in self defence lessons at school. These are provided by the Girls Self Defence Project Aotearoa/NZ and have been successfully run by their tutor Jan Beth at Tawa Intermediate for several years. The girls will be selected to participate, as each course can only take a maximum of 20 students. The lessons are held in the TIS studio during school hours and are free for the girls who are selected. If you have any queries call Louise Bray-Burns at school on 232 5201 or email her at loubray@tawaint.school.nz

SUPPORTING STUDENTS WITH LEARNING OR BEHAVIOURAL NEEDS

If your child/children have particular learning or behavioural needs that you would like to bring to our attention, please complete the Learning/Behavioural Needs Form that can be found on the front page of our website under the Our Information tab. There are also copies of it at the front desk that you can pick up. You can either bring it to school, post it or email it to loubray@tawaint.school.nz.

If you prefer, you can phone the school and make a time to see Louise Bray-Burns to discuss any concerns you have. As part of her role, Louise has the school wide overview of Learning Needs. This involves working with classroom and specialist teachers and teacher aides to provide appropriate programmes that support students with individual needs. Louise co-ordinates and attends all IEP (individual education programme) meetings and ensures that outside agencies are involved where applicable to support individual student needs.

CONGRATULATIONS TO

Jess Kerr who obtained the fastest times in the 800m and 1500m at the Colgate games over the holidays.

Dante Matakatea, Joshua Hapi, Sam Marley, Adam Preston, Zac Boyd and George Bloomfield for making the Western Bays Under 13 Boys Representative Softball Team.

Selena Savaii for making the Western Bays Under 13 Girls Representative Softball Team

NEW HALL TOILETS

The whole school was witness yesterday afternoon to the opening of the new hall toilets. Jone Salauneune, Magnus McLaughlin, Christi Humphries and Courtney Robinson, being the oldest and youngest of the boys and girls at the school, did the official opening, cutting through a “ribbon” of toilet paper. There has been much excitement today as students tried out the new facilities. The hand dryers seem to be quite a hit with the students appreciating a device that actually works!

PUBLIC NOTICES

Qualified Specialist Music Teacher available for personal tuition

Contact Megan McCarthy 0276923682 or email megs.mcc.rose@gmail.com

Western Suburbs Soccer Club

Registrations for the coming season will be held on Thursday 11 February 5.30pm - 7.30pm and Sunday 14 February 10.30 - 2.30pm all at Endeavour Park Clubrooms, Albatross Close, Whitby. For more details ring 234 8611 or email juniors@westernsuburbs.co.nz

Penguins Inline Hockey Open Day

(ice hockey on roller blades)

Sunday 14 February 2.00 - 5.00pm

Kilbirnie Rec Centre

For more details phone Claire 934 1344

or www.penguinhockey.co.nz