

TAWA INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

Dear Parents


What picture comes onto your mind when you think of school? Is it an image of students sitting in pairs, organised in rows and working quietly from a text book? What about teachers? Do you picture them sitting at a desk, talking to the class from the front of the room, or maybe walking up and down making sure students are quietly getting on with their work? Your 'mental model' of what school looks like is very much dependent on your experience of what school was like when you were a student. For some this is a little longer ago than others!



In the last 15 years we have learnt a lot about what contributes to effective learning. A definition I like comes from Robert Garmston who talks about learning being both cognitive and social. What this means is learning is a two step process. It starts by learning something cognitively and then socialising this new idea either against what you currently believe or through dialogue, finding out how this new learning fits with what others think. Sometimes we support the socialisation of learning by discussing the new concept in groups, writing an assignment or through doing some sort of activity that forces you to compare the new learning with what you already believe.

One of the trends that I have noticed at conferences in recent years is keynote speakers stopping every 10-15 minutes and getting the audience to talk with those around them about what has just been shared. This is an example of socialising learning in action.

One of the things we know about students of an intermediate age is that they can listen for about ten minutes before tuning out. Many of our teachers have asked classes to let them know if they talk for more than ten minutes as they become more aware of the ineffectiveness of long periods of teacher talk. Needless to say students are very good at giving this feedback! Students spend quite a lot of their day working with others and the idea of a silent classroom is now relegated to those times when students are completing an assessment.

 One of the first things I noticed when I came to Tawa Intermediate was the logo of the student sitting at a desk. It is very clever the way that it incorporates the letters T.I.S. into the shape of a child sitting at a desk. My question is though – is this image still relevant to a 21st century school? We have been talking about this at the Board of Trustees. One of our Board members remembers being a pupil at Tawa Intermediate when the logo was developed. This was the early 1980s. A question for our school's community to think about is whether or not this logo of a student sitting at a desk is still an accurate image of learning in the 21st century. What do you think? Is it time we looked at updating this logo? If we were to update it, what imagery would you use to describe learning 25 years on?

We really want to know what our community, including students, think. Please email me with your ideas at principal@tawaint.school.nz. I look forward to hearing from you,

Kind regards

CAROLYN STUART
Principal

ROOM 3

For homework last week students were asked to describe their first 2 weeks of the 2010 year. This is what they said:

Matt – The last 2 weeks have been fun, meeting new people, making new friends and getting back with old. It's nice to know the testing is over for now and the teachers are just as cool as last year. This year will fly by.

Patricia – Last year I wanted to be a librarian but didn't get in. Last Monday Miss Warren announced the class librarians and I was in. Me, Tayla, Daniel and Flynn are all librarians. I think we're all going to be a great team.

Dahlia – We have learned about the school norms (respect, protection, fairness, honesty). They are very important to our school as they help us when we are playing a game or learning about new things.

Haley – We have mostly played games because everyone can learn how to work as a team. Well, that's what I think anyway. In week 3 we actually start work. I'm pretty gutted about that but I suppose doing work is better than just sitting around playing games.

Sarah – After 2 weeks school feels like a field trip every day.



**Welcome to our new addition to the class,
Vanilla the Chinchilla!**

SCHOOL NOTICES

PAID UNION MEETING

Our teachers will be attending a paid union meeting on **Thursday 25 March 2010**. This means that children will be going home at 12.15pm, the beginning of lunchtime, on that day.

YEAR 8 GIRLS SELF DEFENCE COURSE

If you are the parent of a year 8 girl you will receive a notice 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. These need to be returned by tomorrow, Friday 19 February.

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

McKenzie Radovanovich and Meghan Allan from Tawa Swimming Club who have qualified for the NZ Junior Nationals being held 20th-21st February.

Damon Creasy, Jakob Wanders, Andre Burrige, Josh Hapi and Puru Richards who, as part of the U12 Western Bays Softball team, have been selected to compete in the Triangular Softball Tournament in Paraparaumu on 28 February.

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!

ORANGE:

This week we are focusing on **ORANGE/YELLOW** vegetables, which are full of antioxidants and Vitamin C. Including vegetables such as carrots, pumpkin, butternut, squash, sweet corn, golden kumara, swede and yams in your family diet will ensure that they are getting the **ORANGEY GOODNESS** that they need.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Missing Cat

Bella has been missing from her home in Takapu Road since Thursday last week. She is a one year old female tabby Tonkinese cross with apricot cream underbelly and paws. She is friendly but shy. If you have any information, please call 232 9656.

Qualified Specialist Music Teacher available for personal tuition

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

Tawa Rugby Club registration

Thursday 25 February 5pm – 8pm Hurricane Players to attend
Saturday 27 February 9am – 2pm
Tuesday 2 March 5pm – 8pm

Any queries please ring Des on 232 7870

Childrens Pottery Classes

All materials and tuition included in fee
Suitable for beginners or experienced

Ages 8 – 12yrs
Sundays 1.30 – 3.30pm
March 7, 14, 21 and 28
\$70 for 4 weeks

Gear Homestead Woolshed Potters, Okawai Road, Porirua
Contact Vicky 2399696 vgriffin@clear.net.nz