

25 March 2010

Dear Parents

This week Ernie Newman and Katherine Hall from TUANZ visited our school. I am proud to say that our students knocked their socks off. You can read all about it on the [TUANZ blog](#). What Katherine has written about is so true. With every passing week we become more and more hampered by the slow internet coming into the school. We are wondering if there is anybody in the parent or wider Tawa community who could help us lobby for a solution to this very frustrating situation.

While they were in the school, Ernie and Katherine visited Room 3. Here the students and their teacher, Imogen Warren, shared their [class's blog](#). If you want to know what the orange was that Katherine referred to in her blog post, then you need to visit this [blog](#). Also check out the information on the [blog](#) about Chocolate the chinchilla. And don't forget to leave a comment so students know you've been.

One of the benefits of using blogs in schools is that they give students an authentic audience for their writing. We think that this is important. Blogs enable our students to connect with the greater global community. Room 3 are now in regular contact with [Melville Intermediate](#), who have given them a lot of advice about blogging in general. They are also connected to [Mr Millar's Classroom](#) at Chalon Peaks Middle School in California. What an amazing way for our students to learn about their world.

Our visitors from TUANZ also spent time with Room 4 where Tayla showed them her e-portfolio using [My Portfolio](#) and Mrs Helen Moran shared their class's wiki.

### **Home Learning Update**

One of the great things about working with children is that they never fail to surprise you! We thought that we had been very organised and clever with the system that we had set up for home learning. But we have discovered, through the learning conferences, that many parents are unaware of the home learning requirements at Tawa Intermediate.

Our home learning guidelines can be found on the school's [website](#). They are sitting in the public part of the website which means you do not need a log in to access the information. If you scroll to the bottom of the guidelines page you will find all the links to the common home learning workshops. The guidelines are also clearly laid out. It is time for the adults to take charge!!!!

### **Learning Conferences**

Thank you so much to everyone who attended the learning conferences last week. There is an old saying that it takes a whole village to raise a child and this is certainly something we believe in. We have received a lot of positive feedback about the new format and we are now looking at ways to assemble activities to further support learning off the school's website.

Tawa Intermediate is an amazing community of people all committed to making the future bright for our students.

Kind regards,

Carolyn Stuart  
Principal

# ROOM 8

In room 8 we have been looking at how people show citizenship in times of disaster. We have been learning to describe events using 'show don't tell' techniques where we don't say exactly what is happening, so the reader can use their own imagination. Here are some examples from our writing:

Chile earthquake: The crumbling beneath my feet made it very real. I ran in circles panicking, not knowing where to go. I heard screams as people looked for safety. The road started to split in two. The shaking nearly made me fall over. You can't survive a deadly earthquake. -Thomas Crowley

Mt Vesuvius erupting: As people started yelling, screaming and running for their lives they could hear the rumbling of the lava in the mountain, there were big black clouds covering the sky very quickly they knew something was going to happen. Suddenly the lava came rushing out above the mountain and running beneath their feet. The buildings crashed and tumbled into a thousand pieces. -Jenna Logan

The sky filled with darkness, tired footsteps were heard all around. Deadly screams and blood curdling cries echoed through the streets. Hot red liquid gushed around the feet of statues, columns and people. Ash filled the air and suffocated....Maddy Booth



Titahi Bay fire: "Nanny, there's something wrong with the sky. I don't like it!" said 4 year old Kyle. Residents of Clipper St, on Gloaming Hill, were very frightened by the 20-30 metre flames racing across 2.5 km of land. The thick smoke filled up throughout the houses while over 150 residents were evacuated. The fire looked like a volcano erupting into a thousand flames bursting into thick, dark clouds. POOF! - Vicky Chea

I watch out my window into the raging flames as the huge buckets spill onto the flames of hell. The huge buckets hang from the sky as they race to get above the burning hell. The beast will not stop, burning up everything in its path. As it gets bigger and bigger everything goes black. Nothing can be done. The trees burn down. - Brad Mant

# *SCHOOL NOTICES*

## **SYMPATHY**

As a school we extend our deepest sympathy to the Faleafaga family. We know that the thoughts and prayers of the school community are with you all at this sad time.

## **INTER-INTERMEDIATE ATHLETICS**

On Tuesday a team of forty-five students went to the Inter-Intermediate Athletics Championships at Newtown Park in Wellington. This competition brings together the best athletics from the thirteen intermediates in the Wellington Region.

Schools are awarded points for each athlete who finishes in first, second or third. Our team performed well and we finished in third place.

There were a number of fantastic individual performances. Annese Wolff and Danielle Watson started the day off well for Tawa when they finished 1st and 2nd respectively in the Junior Girls 1500m. They also took out 2nd and 3rd in the 800m. Alex Pickett showed great pace to finish 1st equal in the Junior Boys 100m and 2nd in the 200m. Liam Taufale also had a great day, winning the Senior Boys shotput and setting a new Wellington record in the Senior Boys 100m heats. Unfortunately injury meant Liam had to settle for 3rd in the final.

There were a number of other good performances that resulted in points for Tawa. However the gutsiest performance of the day goes to Jess Kerr who recovered from being sick while running the 1500m to still finish 2nd in the event. Jess also finished 3rd in both the 800m and 200m.

## **WE NEED HELP!**

Coaches, managers and umpires are urgently needed for the TIS teams that play at Ngati Toa, starting next term. Teams will be unable to play if we are unable to get helpers. If you can assist in any way, please email Gemma Goldfinch on [gemma.goldfinch@tawaint.school.nz](mailto:gemma.goldfinch@tawaint.school.nz)

## **LOST PROPERTY**

We want to assure parents that every piece of named lost property that is handed in to the office is always immediately returned to students. Any property that is not named is held in the uniform shop. Students can search through the lost property when the uniform shop is open i.e. Monday 3pm -4pm and Wednesday 12:15-12:45pm. Unfortunately not every piece of named lost clothing is handed in and we strongly encourage parents to name items in more than one place and in a way which is difficult to remove.

## **PARKING IN RANUI TERRACE**

Parkwise officers will be monitoring the parking in Ranui Terrace on a regular basis. If you do not wish to incur penalties, please use the appropriate parking available.

## **BOT ELECTION**

Nomination forms have now been posted out. Nominations will close on Friday 23 April 2010 at noon.

## PAID UNION MEETING – NEW DATE

We have received a new date for the NZEI stop work meeting for teachers. The meeting will be held on Tuesday, 27 April 2010. **This means that children will be going home at 12.15pm, the beginning of lunchtime, on that day.**

## EARTH HOUR

Earth Hour 2010 is fast approaching: at 8.30pm Saturday 27 March millions of people across the globe will switch off their lights for one hour to send the message that by acting together to fight climate change we can make a difference.

In 2009 Earth Hour reached a billion people and over half of New Zealand took part!

WWF is asking people all over New Zealand to show they are willing to be part of the solution – individuals, families, businesses and communities are all urged to flick the switch on Saturday March 27.

## PORIRUA GRAND TRAVERSE

The Porirua Grand Traverse is a fun event held 28 March 2010. This year the organisers have kindly added a fun run/walk event, of which \$5 of each registration goes towards your nominated school famine funds.

For more information check out the website, [www.poriruagrandtraverse.co.nz](http://www.poriruagrandtraverse.co.nz)

## 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!

## PURPLE

It's actually fruits that reign supreme amongst purple produce. However, the vegetables do contain antioxidants and fibre in varying amounts. They are exciting and different and it is good to give them a go in your day-to-day cooking. To get you purple intake eat fruit and vegetables including **eggplant, grapes, beetroot, kumara, red cabbage or lettuce, peppers, cauliflower and asparagus varieties.**

## POSITIVE PUPILS

Respect	Protection	Caring	Fairness	Honesty
Connor Spinks CJ Holland	Connor Spinks	Connor Spinks Laura-Jane Douch	Matt Clark Te Pania	

# The Little Red Book

New to our area

An alternative to the Entertainment Book

**The Little Red Book** contains **\$1000 worth of Discounts** ranging from **25-50% off** and **2-for-1** Vouchers on meals, coffees/drinks and entertainment from lots of great places like Dockside, Tulsi, The Flying Burrito Brothers, Muffin Break, Sky City; a free WOF inspection worth \$47.

- **Fits into pocket/handbag – so discretely there when needed.**
- **Can recoup investment by just using “coffee/drinks” vouchers or using one meal voucher.**
- **Vouchers valid to 28 February 2011.**
- **Great gift idea – personal or corporate.**
- **Chance to win a Luxurious Weekend Away at the Intercontinental Hotel in Wellington.**

Limited stock for sale and at \$29.95 they will sell fast, so please support your child's school and buy your copy now. **\$8 from the purchase of each book is donated to Tawa Intermediate.**

## COMING EVENTS

Last day of term	1 April
First day of term 2	19 April
NZEI Stop work meeting	27 April

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### Cross Country – Olympic Harriers

Do you love cross country running or want to get fit for the winter sports season? Olympic Harriers is holding its introduction and opening day on Saturday 27 March at 1pm at Alex Moore Park in Johnsonville. Training days start the first Tuesday of term 2 from 4pm to 5pm or 5pm to 6pm. Contact Jo Murray on [jo@kellysports.co.nz](mailto:jo@kellysports.co.nz) or 2329409 for more info or check out our website [www.olympicharriers.org.nz](http://www.olympicharriers.org.nz). We're a family club so welcome all ages from 5 years old and above. We are also holding our first Porirua City Scenic Fun Run or Walk around the spectacular Whitireia Peninsula on Sunday 18 April. Starts and finishes at Onepoto Park. There is a kids' 1km fun run which you can enter on the day. Details on our website.

### Kelly Sports Holiday Indoor Soccer Tournament

We are running a year 7 and 8 indoor soccer tournament at Porirua Indoor Sports from 1.30pm to 4.30pm on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> and Friday 9<sup>th</sup> of April during the school holidays. Enter as a team of five or six. For an enrolment form or more info contact Jo Murray on [jo@kellysports.co.nz](mailto:jo@kellysports.co.nz) or 232 9409 or go to our website [www.kellysports.co.nz](http://www.kellysports.co.nz).

**MATHS TUTORING**  
**After school tutoring available**  
**1 + 1 = 3**  
**Does your child need help with Math?**

I am a student in Year 13 at Tawa College and have had many years of experience working with younger children. Maths is a strength of mine and I take Level 3 Statistics and Calculus at school.

For more information contact: [Heidi Ann \(04\) 232 9972](tel:042329972)

## Fencing Classes

Fencing Classes offered in Tawa on Thursday afternoons or in school holidays

Interested in fencing: Classes most afternoons and Saturday mornings. Ring Susan: Tel 938 3090 or Mob 021-0276 1922. Email: [comgt@paradise.net.nz](mailto:comgt@paradise.net.nz)

Holiday Sessions are also offered:

April 7, 8 and April 14, 15 for Over-9's: 9am – 3pm

April 12, 13 for Under-9's: 9am – 12.30pm

\$130 per person for the 2-day programme. We provide the gear and there is a mini competition on the 2<sup>nd</sup> afternoon for over 9's.

Ring Susan Tel: 938 3090 or Mob: 021-0276 1922. Email: [comgt@paradise.net.nz](mailto:comgt@paradise.net.nz)

## Zone Dance Academy Disco

Venue - Zone Dance Academy, 11 Mohuia Crescent, Elsdon.

Saturday March 27th from 6pm – 8.30pm. ALL WELCOME.

Dress colourful, fun, bright and crazy!!!

\$2 entry at door. Sausage sizzle, food, drinks and glow sticks on sale.

Come and have fun dancing the night away!!

## Kiwi Kids Learn

A new educational magazine has been launched for parents and caregivers to support their children to be all they can be. Kiwi Kids Learn is a fantastic resource and full of useful information to use with school age or preschool children. Kiwi Kids Learn also includes two sections specifically for kids. There is a dedicated 8-page lift-out for the kids with activities and games. There is also a section within the magazine for students to 'showcase' their work to the rest of New Zealand. To find out more or to order a copy go to [www.kiwikidslearn.yolasite.com](http://www.kiwikidslearn.yolasite.com)

## Taylor Park Autumn Tennis Open

Novice Tournament

Taylor Park, Tawa

For more information, contact Francis Glover, Tennis Inc, 0274289759