

Dear Parents

Welcome to 2010 at Tawa Intermediate.



We have had a great start to the year with everyone arriving on Tuesday eager to begin another year. We had more than 100 parents stay for the assembly at which we outlined some of the key activities associated with our school and Tim Anderson, deputy chair of our Board of Trustees, also spoke. New students and staff were welcomed to our community with a Powhiri. Joe Apihai, one of our year 8 students delivered a spine tingling whaikorero to our new arrivals. The Year 8 members of our Kapa Haka/Poly group also performed.

This year we are trying to make our school 'greener'. Our first action to achieve this is to stop printing our weekly newsletter making email the main method of distribution. Tomorrow your child will be given a notice for you to fill in to confirm that we are using your correct email. Families without email access will continue to be given a printed copy. People will be able to subscribe to our newsletter using additional emails from the front page of our website. You are welcome to receive the newsletter through more than one email! Our goal is to eventually do the majority of all our syndicate and class information this way as well.

Speaking of staying in touch we have created a [Twitter](#) account for school. If you are a Twitterer (or you always wanted to be one and now you have a reason!) start following us. There is a link to [Twitter](#) on the school's website.

Key Messages

Student Safety

One of the most important messages we need to give to our students at the start of the year is that we are a 'Telling School'. This means that if something isn't going okay we tell someone who can make a difference. We have been reinforcing this message at every opportunity and families need to help us with this as well. Whenever your child comes home from school with a story about something that is not okay your first question to them needs to be "So who did you tell?". If they haven't told anyone then your job as parent is to help them identify who they should tell and then offer them help to do this. One way to do this is to email their classroom teacher. All teachers emails are firstname.lastname@tawaint.school.nz. We also have a special email that students can use called help@tawaint.school.nz. This is monitored by the senior managers of the school. The only way we can ensure everyone's safety is if we know that when things are not going well we will hear about it.

Community Get Together

Next Thursday evening we are holding a community get together at school. We hold this event to enable you to meet other families from your child's class and to provide an opportunity for your child to formally introduce you to their teacher and to tell you about the routines and special things that happen in their room. The format for the evening is for families to bring their tea up to school from 6pm. We will set out the field to enable class groups to sit together. After tea students will take you up to their rooms. If the Wellington weather lets us down we will dispense with the tea part and have families come to classrooms from 7pm. If the weather is inclement check the 'News Centre' on our website for the latest information.

Absences and Lateness

If your child is going to be away from school it is really important that you let us know. You can do this by phone 232 5201, txt 0277292229 (0277AWA ABZ) or email absent@tawaint.school.nz. We monitor lateness closely at Tawa Intermediate. This is because of the disruption that children who are late to school cause not only to their class and teacher but to their own learning as well. Parents are also reminder that we start half an hour later on a Wednesday morning because of staff professional learning. On Wednesday students are expected to be at school by 9:00am so they are ready for a 9:15am start. On Wednesday children who catch the bus will arrive late to school because of the college bus timetable. These children will not be marked as late on Wednesdays but please ensure that your child comes to the office to sign in once they arrive at school.

Staying in the Know

The school's website should always be your first port of call when needing information about our school. The daily and community notices can be found under the News Centre button and we keep these updated with the latest information about school events. We encourage students to check the daily notices before they leave home, ensuring they have all their requirements for the day. We would also encourage you to spend a few minutes exploring our site so that you are aware of the great resource it is.

Academies and Performance Music Groups

At Tawa Intermediate we love to offer our students the opportunity to develop and showcase their talent. We have already kicked off the audition process for our academies in dance, drama, hard materials, and visual arts. Our auditioned music groups – the madrigal choir and band, are beginning to assemble the group of children who will form our orchestra. If your child is talented in any of these areas please encourage them to get their audition forms into the office by Friday of this week. Auditions begin next week so that we can quickly get these groups underway. We also have some performance groups for which the children do not need to audition. These are the All-comers Choir which practices between 8:00 and 8:30am on Friday morning and the Kapa Haka/Poly Club. We offer private music lessons and information about this will be coming out shortly.

Student Leadership

We have a Student Council and a Sports Council made up of student representatives. These will be chosen over the next few weeks. This year we are also starting a Young Leaders Group as we acknowledge the need to develop leaders for the future. More details about this will follow.

Property Developments



The new toilet block on the end of the assembly hall is nearing completion. I am delighted with how it is looking. As odd as this may sound I have always wanted to be principal of a school that gives its students toilet facilities that are as good as shopping malls! I think this comes from my own loathing and refusal to use the toilets when I was at school –much to my mother’s anguish. They are brightly coloured and even feature the flash new hand dryers that you find at the Michael Fowler Centre.

With the provision of a large toilet facility off the hall we are gutting the old toilets and cloak bays in the Avalon Block – turning the area into teaching space. We are doing this two classrooms at a time with Rooms 13 and 14 underway at present. Rooms 15 and 16 will be done next.

BoT Property Sub-Committee

For the past three years we have been very fortunate to have the services of Brett Gillies as the chair of our BoT Property Sub Committee. This role is to oversee the school’s property development and involves two Board meetings a term and approximately one sub-committee meeting a month. Brett has indicated to us that he is not seeking re-election to the Board and so we are looking for someone to take over this role. If you have skills, or know of someone with skills in property development then please let me know. My email is principal@tawaint.school.nz.

Kind regards

CAROLYN STUART
Principal

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.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Qualified Specialist Music Teacher available for personal tuition

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

Tawa Junior Soccer Registration Evening

Tuesday 9 February 6.30pm - 9.00pm

Redwood Park Clubrooms (next to Redwood Primary School in Redwood Avenue)

Socks and shorts - available for sale.

Inquiries: Robyn Pankhurst 232 8998

Western Suburbs Soccer Club

Registrations for the coming season will be held on Sunday 7 February 10.30 - 2.30pm, 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