

NEWSLETTER

TO ENABLE OUR LEARNERS TO BE LIFELONG
ACHIEVERS WHO CAN THINK CREATIVELY
AND CRITICALLY AS PART OF A CARING
GLOBAL COMMUNITY.



TARADALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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PRINCIPAL'S PRATTLE

Kia ora koutou,

Well, now that the election is done and dusted and we now know who the Government is, we can now also see some of the directions that they'll be taking. One of the most controversial additions to the education landscape over the last decade or so has been the inclusion of National Standards. Like them or lump them, they were here to stay ... or so we thought. All schools put a great deal of effort into the National Standards regardless of our opinions. So, what will this mean for the format of your child's school reports?

Firstly, in 2017 there will be no change in our reports to that which we were already planning anyway. This is rather sensible as at this point in time we have too few details around possible changes. Secondly, for us, National Standards reporting didn't add anything new to that which we were reporting on prior to their inclusion. They just created a bit of extra work around the format of the actual report. The rationale behind the concept of National Standards was to provide a report format that was easy to follow for parents and didn't need to use jargon. Again, TPS had been doing this for quite some period of time.

So, what can you expect from us in the future? For a starting point, the relationship between the home and school is vital so we would still have a clear expectation that parents would be open to approaching us as they need to and, this in particular, has been assisted by the use of SeeSaw which gives a 'real time' look at what a learner is doing. We would still report twice a year, use language that you would understand and still have a very high expectation that the learners are as involved as they can be. Whether we use the National Standards or the Curriculum levels as 'benchmarks,' for us there will still be a set of targets that we will use ... but the language as to how the learners are performing against these may well change.

We take great pride in our reports, in the efforts put in by our learners and by the staff to share those efforts and talents. That will not change in the slightest.

MARTY HANTZ

E huri to aroaro kit e ra, tukuna to ataarangi ki muri I a koe

Turn and face the sun and let your shadow fall behind you

2018 BYOD Information Evening

We have successfully implemented the 'Bring your Own Device' programme into our Year 5-6 classes over the last four years and this will continue in 2018. The following information will assist you to learn more about our current BYOD programme.

BYOD Parent Meeting: 7 Nov, 7.00 pm in the "Whare". The proposed organisation for 2018 will be outlined and any additional questions answered. Noel Leeming and Cyclone, as our preferred suppliers, will also be present to answer any questions. **This evening will also include a brief explanation of how the Modern Learning Environment (MLE) works at Taradale Primary School.**

We have been asked about the preferred device. **Our recommendation is a Chromebook.** The prices vary but are approximately \$400. It is a really personal choice as to the brand, colours and headphones chosen. The Chromebooks have worked really well in our current BYOD classes. Unless there is a particular reason for purchasing a device earlier we would recommend waiting until after the Parent Meeting as this is around the time special prices and the latest models become available.

ASTROTURF!

Up and running and being so well used! During the day at school and even over the weekend and at night – the locals are reporting that the court is in heavy use. And that is exactly what it is intended for. Please feel free to use it.

YMCA AFCARE - HATS

A gentle reminder that if your child is at Afcare on any given day then they are also required to wear a hat if outside. Due to the administration of all of this, it is best to have a hat brought from home rather than using school hats.

TPS KAPAHAKA

Many thanks to all who have passed on such fabulous and positive comments regarding the TPS Kapahaka group. Your thoughts and excitement are so appreciated!

In response, it is very important to thank those parents who assisted on both nights last week, those who helped with creating the uniforms, staff members (Sarah McGrail, Miranda Kirk, Dan Madsen and Lynley Taylor) and, of course, Geemas Green and her whanau. Wonderful role models, each and every one.

Lastly, one more group? Indeed! The tamariki themselves! What an amazing, hard working and talented group of kids!

MORE ABOUT MATHS

Maths is about learning not performing. Many students think that their role in maths is not to learn but to get questions right. On the contrary, it is important for them to know that maths is about learning, and to know that maths is a growth subject, it takes time to learn and it is all about effort.

ENROLMENTS FOR 2018

With preparations underway for enrolments for 2018, if you have a child who will be starting at TPS next year, please email the office for a pre-enrolment form. This is a great help to us to forecast numbers coming in throughout the year.

TEACHERS ONLY DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED

A reminder that school will be **closed** on **Friday 10th of November** (next Friday). This day is an essential day for the staff where we get together to ensure that our report writing skills and understanding is very consistent. A big day with a big outcome. Afcare will be running throughout the day. Please note that there will be no staff available to look after students.

This term TPS has its annual food bank fundraiser. This has been organised by our Year 5 & 6 leadership group.

A food bank has been created and any contributions will be donated to the Salvation Army.

We would love it if everyone could bring along 1 or 2 non-perishable items by the Friday 24th November. There is a box in each classroom to put your donation.

Examples of non-perishable items are spreads, muesli bars, crackers, biscuits, pasta, rice or toiletries (Salvation Army has asked that we don't include spaghetti and baked beans as they already receive donations from Watties.)

Thank you so much for your support in doing our part in helping those less fortunate than ourselves!

Chess Tournament

Congratulations to the following TPS kids who attended the Chess Tournament held on Friday 27 October 2017 at the Hastings Sports Centre.

**Georgia D
Kaitlyn D
Finn F
Ava C
Angus P
Issac E
Millie A
Baxter H**

**Blake R
Hudson H
Kelly L
Zachary D-J
Danny Y
Gabriel C
Emma D
Brooke G**

They all played well! Congratulations to Angus who got second in his age group.

LIBRARY NEWS

The library has been a hive of activity over the last few weeks!

We have been lucky enough to have had Stacy Gregg, an author of many much loved pony books come to visit us.

A group of interested year 5 & 6 children came along and learnt about Stacy's life as an author and heard about her very interesting travels as she researched for her books. The children also took part in a creative writing exercise about earthquakes and Stacy later commented to me how impressed she was with our children's amazing creative writing skills!

The Summer Reading Programme is in the planning stages so you will hear more about it over the next month or so.



NAPIER KINDERGARTENS - OPEN DAY

All Napier Kindergartens are having an open day on Saturday 4th November, 9.30 – 12.30. Call in to any Kindergarten, have a look around, meet the teachers and find out more about their amazing learning environments. Bring your children, everyone is welcome!

CRICKET DRAW

Please visit www.hbcricket.co.nz for the weekly draw

CREATIVE WRITING ...

On Tuesday 31st October, Room 17 went on an amazing adventure to the fantastically friendly Faraday centre. When we were on the very loud bus. I said 'I wonder what I can do there'?

When we got there I went straight to the sewing machine because it looked very old fashioned. Not only did it look old fashioned but you could even use it!

Then we went to the butter machine, My eyes were shinning white like diamonds. I saw it say to make butter you had to turn a handle 100 times. I thought how did you use is in the old days? POP! What was that? It was this Yellow and white thing. You had to put it through a pipe and it would go to the other side. My heart was racing, pounding and roaring with excitement. I had so much fun!

From Lucy R17

Did you know that I am a Junior Jem? I practice to get my leg to the top of my head. A Junior Jem means to be a competitor and get medals, trophies and ribbons.

Piper R4

Wow! I went to the parade. I had candy floss and I had a unicorn face paint. There was a fabulous shop. It had lots of five year old hats. I couldn't choose which hat... I chose the flower one.

Mabel R4

Once upon a time there was a person called Lucy. She lived near the woods. So one day she decided to go and have a walk in the woods. The woods were dark and spooky. Suddenly she could not get out. "Help me, help me" she cried. Then she heard a stamping noise. "Who is there"? she asked. Rrrrrr! Aargh! It's a lion! Zoom! What was that? It was a friendly tiger. Phew!

Hannah R2

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