

NEWSLETTER

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



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PRINCIPAL'S PRATTLE

Kia ora koutou,

Getting the answers to straight forward information is just a mouse-click away on the internet. But while computers are great at spitting out answers, they aren't very good at asking questions! Luckily, that's where humans excel. Curiosity is baked into the human experience.

Questioning comes naturally to your children but it tends to drop off when they turn 5 or 6, both at school and at home. The busy dynamics of both conspire against allowing our children to ask those questions and as we get a little older it often seems that asking questions is not 'cool' and may feel a little vulnerable admitting that they don't know something. But questioning is a highly valued 21st Century tool in companies, in day-to-day interactions and as citizens asking questions about the world, about policies and even questioning the actions of our governments.

At TPS we endeavour to remind our learners as often as possible that there is no such thing as a 'silly question'. If you don't know, then you won't know if you don't ask! We try to slow down the curriculum and focus on the depth of learning rather than the breadth and as we do this, it allows greater time for the learners to process information and then search for greater meaning. We use this delightful little technique called 'wait time' where we say so much less and, lo and behold, the students talk more. The more they talk, the more questions they ask!

How can you instil confidence in your children to ask questions too?

- Make it safe ... fear kills curiosity. Encourage your child to ask questions and praise them when they do.
- Make it cool ... the people who are the real innovators are those that ask questions - the explorers, the mavericks. That has a 'cool' factor that appeals to some kids!
- Make it fun ... use processes such as detective solving mysteries, puzzles or riddles. Get your child to turn closed questions (yes/no questions) into open questions and experiment with different lead-off words... Why? What if? How might we? How could we? How should we?

Encourage this in your children ... curiosity is such a key part of our lives!

Marty Hantz *"Don't be afraid to ask questions. Don't be afraid to ask for help when you need it. I do that every day. Asking for help isn't a sign of weakness, it's a sign of strength. It shows you have the courage to admit when you don't know something, and then allows you to learn something new"*

Barack Obama



A huge thank you to Travis Elliott and his family for the very generous donation of large picture books, readers and books for our library.



Save the date!

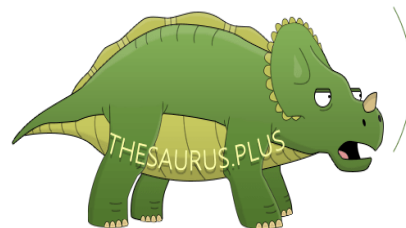
Friday 14th September – more details to follow

TPS VALUES – Purposefulness

This, as a value, has very strong links to our Self-Management Matrix as Purposefulness has to have a strong component of knowing what we are doing and why, so that there is a great deal of relevance to our learning.

synonyms for purposefulness:
determination, firmness, resoluteness, resolution,
resolve, decisiveness, decision, decidedness,
sense of purpose, purpose

As teachers we explicitly share with our learners what we are learning and this is often shown as WALT's (We Are Learning To....) or as Learning Criteria, both of which we often ask the learners to self and peer-assess against. The greater the student engagement and understanding of what it is that they are learning, the more likely they are to own it and control it – this is often called Agentic Learning or Agency.



You can help your child to be purposeful at home by also explaining why it is that we do what we do.... Encourage and answer questions. It is also important that parents encourage children, not to give up, to show 'grit' and 'stickability'.

SPOONER SHIELD

Tomorrow, Friday 17th August, our top sports teams will be involved in the annual Spooner Shield tournament hosted at Bledisloe School. For many this is one of the highlights of the year, with the opportunity to do 'battle' with other schools and, often, against many that they'd play sport with on Saturday morning! This day is a great community day full of banter and fun – not just the players either. Despite the fact that it is very competitive, the teachers involved and the sideline spectators all get into the spirit of it all. If you've nothing better to do tomorrow then pop on down to Bledisloe School/Bledisloe Park and catch up on the joy of it all. Note: The Spooner Shield Hockey will be held at TPS!

TEACHERS STRIKE ACTION – 15TH AUGUST

Thank you so much for all of the messages of support that many of you have quietly passed on to the staff at TPS. So warming knowing that so many of you have recognised the reasons for the strike action and we appreciate the fact that you know that this is all about ensuring that we retain the best possible education for our children now and for the learners of the future. So great to see so many of our families walking with us on our march!



CAN YOU HELP?

We are looking for a parent to help with the Road Patrol Crossing on Puketapu Road, Thursday mornings. It is from 8.20 – 8.45am. Please contact the office if you can help as at present we do not have anyone. Thanks!

SECOND HAND UNIFORMS

If you have any TPS school uniform items that your child has grown out of, are still in good condition, we would love to have them! You can also swap them for bigger sizes if you need too.



Support the re-opening of our Community Pool

Donations can be made at our Give-a-little page:
<https://givealittle.co.nz/cause/taradale-community-pool-reopening-fundraiser>

CROSS COUNTRY 2018

Cross country training has begun for our Y3-6 students. Our school cross country will be held on **Monday 27th of August** at Dolbel Reserve. We have made a few changes to the way we are running cross country running this year.

As a staff we completed some valuable learning sessions with a professional athletics coach. The outcome of these sessions is that we have now adapted the way our students train for cross country. We emphasise working on speed, running technique and the skills involved in running. As the student's bodies are still developing, focusing solely on sustained running for longer periods can be detrimental to their development and their enjoyment levels. As a result, our weeks will be made of up short training sessions, that vary in skills taught and running intensity.

The second change is that on the day of our school cross country, we will be running 2 types of races, one competitive and one non-competitive race for each year level. Our aim is for all students to enjoy physical activity and by offering a non competitive race, where the focus is on enjoyment and participation, we will allow those students with whom running is 'just not their thing', an opportunity to participate with like minded students in a lower intensity race.

Importantly, we will be running a competitive race in which all students will be encouraged to enter. Sports is about pushing yourself and competing against others and here at T.P.S. we expect students to challenge themselves. This race is not only for the 'good runners' but for all students who want to extend themselves and also want to earn extra points for their house.

As cross country is one of our school house events, runners will earn house points for participating.



The points are distributed as follows:

- All people who enter the non-competitive race will earn 1 house point.
- Those students who enter the competitive race will earn 3 house points.
- The finishers in the competitive race will earn the following points

1st	= 12 points	6th	= 7 points
2nd	= 11 points	7th	= 6 points
3rd	= 10 points	8th	= 5 points
4th	= 9 points	9th	= 4 points
5th	= 8 points	10 th	and below = 3 points

This is to encourage and reward the participants who want to compete against others and who want to earn additional points for their house. We also need to identify our top runners in each age group, who will then go on to represent T.P.S. at the inter school event later in the term.

An outline of how the day will run will be coming home closer to the time. In the meantime we encourage you to discuss with your child what their goals are and which race they will compete in.

Many thanks,

TPS P.E Coordinators

CREATIVE WRITING...

The taikwando bear is showing off to Rose. Rose said "you are strong". "Thank you" said Fred. "Should we go for a swim?" said Rose. "Yes" said Fred. They shook their fur to get the water off. "Do you want to relax on the rocks" said Rose. "Yes please" said Fred.

Ash Rm17

There lived a fairy princess. She was called Bella and she had a black cat called Zoe. Bella had shiny blue wings, a sparkly crown, black heart shaped earrings, a rainbow dress and long smooth hair. She was really kind because she saved a puppy, helped her friend at maths, let her cat on her bed and gave her favourite bookmark to her best friend. It was an angel she's been keeping for 10 years and it wasn't dirty. One day Bella decided to go shopping. Then she opened the door. Suddenly it rained and rained!!! "Oh no" said Bella. "My wings are not waterproof!" Then she shut the door as quickly as can be. "Now I can't fly" Bella said with a sob. But then she remembered the really old magic wand. "Fingers crossed" Bella said. She tapped it gently on the door to get it working then Bella said "Wizard, wizard, my wings are wet". Bella hoped it will still work. Then a frosty cloudy gloomy thing appeared inside. It was the wizard that came from the other side of the world! Then the wizard call Jack said quietly "I'll fix the problem right now" he said. Pow, Pizz, Pop! The wizard made a loud sound. "There" said Jack "all done". "Thank you, thank you, you saved my life" said Bella. From that day on she lived happily ever after. The end.

Hannah R17

Did you know there were pools in Bali? Did you know there was cheeky monkeys in Bali? They stole our water. Did you know I bought clothes in Bali? It was fun. Did you know they had motorcycles in Bali?

Gabby R17

WE WOULD LOVE YOUR HELP!

On Friday 12th and Saturday 13th October the Pink Ribbon Street Appeal volunteers take to the streets to raise awareness and funds to fight breast cancer.

10,000 volunteers are needed this year. If you would like to put your hand up and help for an hour or two then please visit www.pinkribbonvolunteer.co.nz

The Pink Ribbon Street Appeal provides students and their teachers an excellent team building opportunity while experiencing volunteer work helping the Breast Cancer Foundation NZ.



If you've been diagnosed with breast cancer, we are here to help.

All our services are free.

Join **mybc** online community for New Zealanders affected by breast cancer

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Call the **Advice** line 0800 BC Nurse (0800 226 8773)

To discuss any of our free services, contact our breast care nurses.

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07/17

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