

NEWSLETTER/PANUI
JULY 03, 2026 | ISSUE #9

TE ATATŪ INTERMEDIATE

Tū Tāngata

Equipping our students to stand tall: To be the best people they can be and, by becoming life-long learners, reaching their best potential.



MESSAGE FROM MR EVANS - TUMUAKI

Tēnā koutou katoa o Te Atatū Intermediate whānau

‘Ka mahuta a Matariki i te pae, ka mahuta ō tātou tūmanako ki te tau’

‘When Matariki rises above the horizon, our aspirations rise to the year ahead.’

As we come to the end of another busy and rewarding term, it is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on all that has been achieved across our school community. Term 2 has been filled with learning, growth, and countless moments of success. Our students have continued to make excellent progress in their learning, with their individual achievements highlighted in the mid-year reports shared with whānau today.

Beyond the classroom, we have celebrated success across many areas of school life, including music, the arts, cultural activities, leadership, and sport. It has been pleasing to see so many students embrace new opportunities, challenge themselves, and proudly demonstrate our WAKA values in everything they do.

Matariki reminds us to pause and reflect on the past, celebrate the present, and look ahead with hope and purpose. It is a time to acknowledge those who have helped shape our journey while looking forward to the opportunities that lie ahead. As a school, we have much to celebrate, and we are excited about what the second half of the year will bring.

Thank you to our dedicated staff, supportive whānau, and, most importantly, our wonderful students for making Term 2 such a successful one. I wish everyone a safe, restful, and well-deserved holiday break, and I look forward to welcoming you all back for another exciting term.



IMPORTANT NOTES I

STAFF FAREWELLS

As we reach the end of another busy term, we take the opportunity to farewell two valued members of our teaching team and thank them for the positive contributions they have made to our school community.

Mrs Lisa Teariki, who has been the teacher of Room 13 this year, will be stepping down from her role to focus on commitments outside of school. While we are sad to see her leave, we are incredibly grateful for the care, dedication, and enthusiasm she has shown in supporting the learning, wellbeing, and development of the students in her class. Mrs Teariki has thoroughly valued her time at TAI and extends her sincere thanks to our students, staff, and whānau for their support throughout her time with us. We wish her every success and happiness for the future.

We also farewell Whaea Barbara Cloonan, who has provided release teaching across the school two days each week this year. We sincerely thank her for the flexibility, professionalism, and commitment she has shown in supporting both our students and staff. Her positive contribution has been greatly appreciated, and we wish her all the very best for the future. Finally, we wish Mrs Lyn Northwood a wonderful adventure as she embarks on a term of overseas travel with her husband. We hope she enjoys every moment of this well-deserved opportunity. We know the students of Room 6 and all of our staff will be looking forward to hearing about her travels when she returns in Term 4.

At the beginning of next term, we look forward to welcoming new staff members to the TAI whānau and introducing them in our first newsletter of Term 3.

MID-YEAR REPORT

Your child's mid-year report has been emailed to you today. If you would prefer a hard copy, please let your child's class teacher know, and one will be provided.

TE ARA WHAKAMUA – THE PATH AHEAD

TUESDAY 4 AUGUST 2026
5:30PM – 7:00PM

We are looking forward to hosting our Whānau Māori Kai & Kōrero on **Tuesday 4 August**.

This special evening is an opportunity for our Māori whānau to come together, connect over kai, and hear about the next steps in our journey, Te Ara Whakamua.

We also look forward to listening to the aspirations, ideas, and whakaaro of our whānau as we continue to strengthen our partnership together.

If you would like to attend, please complete this form.

We would love to see you there.

TAI TASTERS

– A TASTE OF INTERMEDIATE

Early next term, we're excited to host TAI Tasters, a two-day, student-only experience designed to give our future Y7 students a taste of life at TAI.

Y6 students from our neighbouring primary schools, along with out-of-zone students who have already applied for enrolment, will spend a half day at TAI exploring our specialist and technology programmes while experiencing the arts, music, culture, and the many opportunities that make our school unique.

Know someone who lives out of zone and is considering TAI for 2027? We'd love to welcome them to TAI Tasters too. Simply encourage them to complete an online enrolment application, and they'll receive an invitation to attend.

Further information, including confirmed dates and session details, will be shared with schools and whānau early next term.

2027 ENROLMENTS

2027 enrolments are now open, and we encourage all families wishing to attend TAI next year to complete an [online enrolment application](#) as soon as possible.

To help us plan classes and staffing for 2027, we kindly ask our in-zone whānau to submit their enrolment applications by 1 September where possible. Out-of-zone enrolment applications close on 9 September, so we encourage families to apply before this date to be included in the out-of-zone ballot process.

We look forward to welcoming our future students and whānau to Te Atatū Intermediate.

OPEN NIGHT

TUESDAY 11 AUGUST 2026
6.30–8.00 PM

We warmly invite prospective students, parents, and whānau to join us for an evening of exploration. Meet our staff, tour our learning spaces, and discover the programmes, opportunities, and experiences that make TAI a great place to learn!

E-BIKE & E-SCOOTER SAFETY

We've recently received information from New Zealand Police regarding the increasing use of high-powered e-bikes, e-dirt bikes, and e-scooters by young people.

With safety being the priority, Police are reminding families that some electric bikes and scooters are not legal to ride without the appropriate licence or registration, and there can be serious safety risks if they are used incorrectly.

Please click here for more information.

HPV VACCINATION INFORMATION

Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora has made some important changes to the delivery of the HPV vaccination programme in schools from Term 3. The HPV vaccine helps protect against a range of HPV-related cancers and is routinely offered to students in Years 7 and 8.

Please click here for more information.

IMPORTANT NOTES II

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF TE ATATŪ INTERMEDIATE



This November, Te Atatū Intermediate proudly celebrates a remarkable milestone—our 60th Jubilee.

For six decades, our school has been at the heart of the Te Atatū community, shaping generations of learners and creating lifelong memories for thousands of students, staff, and whānau. From classrooms and sports fields to productions, camps, friendships, and traditions, our story has been built by everyone who has been part of the TAI journey.

Our Jubilee Weekend, taking place on Friday 13 and Saturday 14 November, will be a celebration of our past, present, and future. Across the two days, we'll be welcoming former students, staff, and whānau back to our kura to reconnect, reminisce, and see how Te Atatū Intermediate has grown over the past 60 years.

There will be something for everyone, including student-led decade displays and market stalls, school tours, memorabilia, entertainment, opportunities to reconnect with old classmates and teachers, and a special Friday evening reunion for former students aged 21 and over.

We're excited to share that our dedicated 60th Jubilee website and Facebook page are planned to go live during the school holidays. These will become the central hub for everything Jubilee, including event information, registrations, merchandise, sponsorship opportunities, memorabilia, and the latest updates as we count down to the big weekend.

This is a milestone worth celebrating, and we would love our community's help in making it one to remember.

Whether you're a past student, former staff member, current whānau, or a long-time supporter of our school, we warmly invite you to be part of this special occasion.

Keep an eye on our Facebook page and future newsletters for more information—we can't wait to celebrate 60 incredible years of Te Atatū Intermediate with our community.

MATARIKI CULTURAL CELEBRATION

Yesterday, our kapa haka and Pasifika groups proudly represented Te Atatū Intermediate at the annual Te Atatū Schools Matariki Cultural Celebration at the Te Atatū Community Centre. After nine weeks of dedicated rehearsals, more than 60 kapa haka students and 50 Pasifika students took to the stage, with many performing in both groups. Their performances reflected not only countless hours of practice, but also a deep sense of pride, identity, and belonging. These groups are about so much more than learning songs and dance. They provide students with the opportunity to connect with their language, culture, and heritage while building confidence and celebrating who they are. A heartfelt thank you to Whaea Selesa and Ms Stowers for their dedication, guidance, and leadership of our Pasifika group. We are incredibly proud of every student who represented TAI with pride and mana.

ANNUAL BOOK BATTLE COMPETITION

Two teams of four students proudly represented TAI at this year's Annual Book Battle competition, held at Te Manawa Library. After months of reading, preparation, and teamwork, our students competed against 26 teams from across the region in a challenging quiz based on six prescribed novels. Both teams performed exceptionally well throughout the day, with Te Atatū B sitting in the top five at the halfway point. The excitement continued through to the final round, where Te Atatū A claimed the overall title, scoring an incredible 100 out of 120 points. The team received a fantastic prize pack, including books, \$25 vouchers for each team member, and a \$100 Scholastic voucher for our school library. To top it all off, the organisers recognised our students as the best behaved and most well-mannered school at the event. We couldn't be prouder of the way they represented TAI!



LIFECHANGER PROGRAMME REVIEW

This term, we've been fortunate to partner with the LifeChanger team, who have worked alongside our students to build confidence, resilience, wellbeing, and positive relationships.

Through engaging workshops and activities, students explored practical strategies for managing emotions, looking after their wellbeing, and supporting both themselves and others.

A heartfelt thank you to the LifeChanger team for the time, energy, and care you've invested in our young people. We are incredibly grateful for the positive impact you've made across our school community.

What our students had to say...

"The most valuable thing I learned was understanding the five pillars and how to respect both myself and others. I've also discovered different ways to calm myself down, and I'm sure lots of people learned valuable lessons from the programme." — Lulu, Room 6

"I learned how important it is to look after both my physical and mental health. LifeChanger taught me how to deal with both the good days and the bad days, and it helped me think about things I'd never considered before." — Elissa, Room 6

"I'd definitely recommend LifeChanger to next year's students because it's fun, helps you learn more about yourself, and teaches valuable life lessons." — William, Maya & Blake, Room 13

TERM WRAP UP

As we reach the midpoint of the year and conclude our busiest sports term, I would like to thank all students who trialled for teams, competed with determination, and consistently demonstrated strong sportsmanship and our school waka values across all events. Congratulations to all teams who qualified for the Auckland Championships.

A special acknowledgement goes to our Auckland Champions:

Year 8 Boys Softball Team

Year 8 Boys Orienteering Team

Year 7 Girls Football Team

These achievements reflect hard work, teamwork, and commitment, and we are incredibly proud of their success.

A big thank you also goes to all of our coaches for the time, energy, and dedication they put into supporting and training our students. Without your commitment, we would not be able to provide the range of sporting opportunities we do.

This term, over 250 students have represented TAI with pride across events including NZF Flag Football Regionals, Ki-o-Rahi, Auckland Champs Orienteering, North v South fixtures, Football Zone Day and Auckland Champs, Basketball Zone Day, Netball Zone Day, and Sports Camp. Throughout the term, 80 students have also participated in Wednesday night netball, alongside 20 boys competing in the different basketball night leagues, further strengthening our overall sporting participation.

As we move into the second half of the year, we look forward to Sports Academy trials for Year 7 students, as well as Volleyball, Cross Country, and a range of "have a go" days. Please keep an eye on school notices for upcoming information.

Have a safe and restful holiday.

Kōkā

2027 SPORTS ACADEMY

Looking ahead, expressions of interest for our 2027 Sports Academy have now opened for current Year 7 students. Trials will begin early next term, with 40 students selected for the academy. Throughout the remainder, students will have the opportunity to develop their skills, fitness, teamwork, and leadership while representing TAI at a range of sporting events. From the academy, 30 students will be selected to attend Sports Camp 2027. We encourage families to support their children in putting themselves forward for this exciting opportunity. We look forward to seeing our future sports leaders challenge themselves, grow in confidence, and proudly represent TAI.

NETBALL WAITAKERE ROUNDS 4 & 5 RESULTS

With the competition now taking a break over the school holidays, we wish all of our players, coaches, managers, umpires, and supporters a safe and enjoyable holiday. We look forward to seeing our teams back on court next term for the remainder of the season! Here are the official results from the final two rounds of Term 2:

TE ATATŪ PULSE

Round 8: Won 26 – 3 against RIS Kea
Round 9: Lost 5 – 23 to HIS Waitematā

TE ATATŪ ONYX

Round 8: Won 28 – 1 against HIS Titans
Round 9: Won 31 – 5 against RIS Tui

TE ATATŪ TOA

Round 8: Won 17 – 9 against BBI Broncos
Round 9: Lost 1 – 5 to SPS Seven Stars

TE ATATŪ OPALS

Round 8: Won 18 – 13 against BMIS Whetū
Round 9: Won 22 – 17 against Swanson

TE ATATŪ RIVALS

Round 8: Lost 11 – 12 to HIS Paratutae
Round 9: Won 24 – 8 against St Dom's Gold

TE ATATŪ TOKI

Round 8: Won 16 – 12 against HIS Lava
Round 9: Won 21 – 7 against GEIS 8E

TE ATATŪ MARVELS

Round 8: Lost 7 – 10 to ACG Sunderland
Round 9: Lost 6 – 10 to TAI Marvels

TE ATATŪ VIPERS

Round 8: Lost 5 – 11 to Midcourt Madness
Round 9: Won 10 – 6 against TAI Marvels



SPORTS CAMP - TOTARA SPRINGS

Our Sports Camp team returned last week with plenty to celebrate after four fantastic days of competition, challenge, and school spirit. Among the highlights were first-place finishes in Softball and Shooting, but what impressed us most was the way our students embraced every opportunity. Whether competing in familiar sports or stepping outside their comfort zones to try something new, they showed courage, determination, and a willingness to give everything a go.

A standout moment of the week was our team's dance performance, which blended our WAKA values and school haka with a fun Gen X twist. It was a fantastic reflection of our school spirit.

A huge thank you to our parent helpers, Michael O'Sullivan and Emmeline Ellis, for their incredible support throughout the week. Most of all, we're proud of the way our students represented Te Atatū Intermediate. They were outstanding ambassadors for our school, both on and off the field.

What our students had to say...

"My favourite memory was everyone cheering each other on from the sidelines. Whether we were chanting for our teams or all laughing together in the lounge, it felt like everyone was supporting each other. I also learnt that when I gave new sports a go, even the ones I was nervous about, I ended up really enjoying them."

— Ava, R6

"Before every sport I used to be really nervous, but at Sports Camp, I realised everyone else was feeling the same. I stopped worrying and started looking forward to trying new things. Volleyball ended up being one of my favourite sports."

— Hannah, R2

"If you're thinking about going to Sports Camp next year, just give everything a go and don't give up. You'll probably be tired, but you'll have so much fun and make memories you'll never forget."

— Jess, R7

BASKETBALL: TAI THUNDER

TAI Thunder had a hard fought semi-final win against Rangeview last week to progress to the final last night. Unfortunately they couldn't quite match the intensity that Waitakere brought to the court so ended up coming 2nd place in B grade. A great achievement for TAI Thunder!

We're all extremely proud of the team who have showed resilience throughout a tough season impacted by injuries and illness. Congratulations to Fin, Jones, Lucas, Nico and Zach who represented TAI extremely well on court last night. Special mention to Jacob, Mason and Toby who have supported from the sidelines when injured.

Huge thanks to Miss Sio, Mrs Northwood, Koka Amorangi, Matua Shaun and all the siblings, parents, grandparents and friends who came along to support the team last night.

Special mention to our amazing coach, former TAI student Jet Beardsall. The team have loved having you as coach and have learnt so much from you.

WEB WISE @ TAI: SCREEN QUALITY & HOLIDAY HABITS

BALANCING TECH USE OVER THE TWO-WEEK BREAK

As we approach the school holidays, it is completely natural for our students to spend a bit more time on their devices. However, rather than simply fighting over the total number of hours they spend staring at a screen, whānau can find a lot of peace by shifting the conversation toward the value of what their children are actually doing online. This week, we explore how to distinguish between healthy and unhealthy screen use and how to set your family up for a smooth, balanced holiday break.

SCREEN TIME VS. SCREEN QUALITY: CREATING VS. SCROLLING

Not all screen time is created equal, and grouping all device use into one "bad" category often causes unnecessary friction at home.

- High-quality screen time involves active engagement, such as when a student uses their device to learn a new skill, create digital art, compose music, or collaborate with classmates on a creative coding project.
- Low-quality screen time typically involves passive consumption, where highly addictive algorithms trap young people in an endless loop of mindless scrolling through short-form videos or social media feeds.
- By encouraging active and creative online behaviors rather than passive consumption, whānau can help students transition their device habits into something that genuinely stimulates their brains and builds real-world digital skills.

SETTING UP FOR THE HOLIDAYS: MAINTAINING HEALTHY HABITS

The sudden lack of school structure during the two-week break often leads to an immediate spike in device use, which can quickly disrupt sleep patterns and family dynamics if expectations aren't set early.

- It is highly effective to sit down with your child before the holidays begin to establish clear, predictable boundaries around when devices can be accessed and when it is time to unplug.
- Maintaining the school term's "Bedroom Rule"—ensuring that all phones, tablets, and gaming consoles are charged overnight in a central family area like the kitchen—remains the single easiest win for protecting your child's sleep over the holidays.
- Providing alternative, screen-free family activities and encouraging outdoor time helps ease the transition away from devices, reducing the seasonal digital fatigue that many intermediate students experience during long breaks.

TIPS FOR WHĀNAU

- *Audit the Activity: Take a few minutes to look at your child's weekly screen time report together and talk about whether that time was spent actively building skills or passively scrolling.*
- *The "Earned Tech" System: Consider implementing a simple holiday routine where high-quality screen activities or household chores are completed before any passive social media or gaming time is granted.*
- *Create a Holiday Schedule: Establish clear "tech-free zones" during the day, such as during meal times or family outings, so that everyone in the household can practice disconnecting together.*

Online Safety Advice: Go to teatatu.onlinesafetyhub.nz/parent-advice and look under the "Digital Wellbeing" and "Screen Time" tiles.

APP SPOTLIGHT: INSTAGRAM

EXPERT RECOMMENDED AGE: 16+

WHAT IS INSTAGRAM?

Instagram is a highly popular social media network centered around the sharing of photos, videos, and short-form video loops known as "Reels." The platform features heavily curated user profiles, interactive filters, disappearing stories, and a messaging system that has become a central communication tool for young people.

WHY IS IT RATED 16+?

The Online Safety Hub recommends a minimum age of 16 due to several core social and psychological pressures embedded within the app's structure. First, the culture of the platform heavily highlights aesthetic perfection, which frequently leads intermediate students into harmful loops of social comparison regarding their appearance and lifestyle. Furthermore, the heavily optimized "Reels" video feed operates similarly to TikTok, utilizing an algorithm that serves unvetted global content that can easily expose young users to mature language, inappropriate themes, and toxic user comments. Finally, the app functions with open search filters and direct messaging capabilities, which automatically presents pathways for unwanted stranger contact if privacy boundaries are not strictly managed.



KNOWN RISKS

A primary risk for Year 7 and 8 students on Instagram is the hidden collection of algorithmic content on the "Explore" page, which pushes public posts from accounts your child does not follow and can frequently surface idealized body images or explicit content. Additionally, the feature known as "Instagram Stories" gives a false sense of temporary privacy, as users can easily screenshot or save disappearing media without the sender's knowledge or control. Whānau should also be aware of the intense popularity metric tracking, where visible like counts and video views can dictate an intermediate student's self-worth and trigger significant anxiety if their posts do not receive immediate peer validation.

TIPS FOR WHĀNAU

Parents can utilise Fortnite's robust built-in Parental Controls menu to directly disable voice chat or limit it so your child can only speak with approved real-life friends. It is also highly recommended to set up explicit pin-protection on your console or device marketplace to prevent unauthorised V-Bucks purchases when a new Battle Pass drops. Finally, work with your child to establish a clear "end of match" routine rather than cutting them off mid-game, as a single battle royale round typically lasts between 10 to 20 minutes.

- [Click here for the full expert review: https://teatatu.onlinesafetyhub.nz/parent/reviews/instagram](https://teatatu.onlinesafetyhub.nz/parent/reviews/instagram)

UNDERSTANDING YOUR CHILD'S PROGRESS

A simple guide for whānau



This year, schools are using the refreshed New Zealand Curriculum to report on your child's learning in Reading, Writing and Mathematics.

Reports use five progress descriptors to show where your child is on their learning pathway and how they are progressing.

THE FIVE PROGRESS DESCRIPTORS

EMERGING



Beginning to develop understanding of key ideas. Needs significant support and guidance.

Not yet on track to meet expectations.

DEVELOPING



Building understanding of key ideas. Can use learning in familiar situations with some support.

Making progress towards expectations.

CONSOLIDATING



Growing understanding of key ideas. Can often use learning independently in familiar situations.

On track to meet expectations by the end of the year.

PROFICIENT



Secure understanding of key ideas. Can apply learning independently across a range of situations.

Meeting the expected level for their year group.

EXCEEDING



Advanced understanding and thinking. Applies learning in new and complex situations and explains reasoning clearly.

Working beyond expected curriculum expectations.

WHAT SHOULD I BE LOOKING FOR?



MID-YEAR REPORT

Your child's teacher will report using one of the five descriptors.



CONSOLIDATING, PROFICIENT OR EXCEEDING

by the middle of the year

These students are generally on track to meet expectations by the end of the year.



EMERGING OR DEVELOPING

may require additional support and targeted teaching to help them reach expected curriculum levels.



END OF YEAR REPORT

This shows your child's achievement at the end of the year.

THE LEARNING PATHWAY



EMERGING, DEVELOPING OR CONSOLIDATING

Not yet meeting end-of-year expectations.



PROFICIENT

Meeting curriculum expectations.



EXCEEDING

Working beyond curriculum expectations.



WHAT ARE WE ASSESSING?

Schools use high-quality assessments (PAT and e-asTTle), along with classroom learning and teacher observations to make judgements about your child's progress.



SMART IS COMING

From 2027, schools will use SMART (Student Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting Tool), which is being developed to support assessment and reporting.



MATHEMATICS – ALGEBRA

The 'Algebra' strand will appear blank in the mid-year report as this content has not yet been covered. It will be assessed and reported on in the end-of-year report.



QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions about your child's report, please feel free to contact your child's teacher.