

# 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

We are now well underway with our timetable and routines, and students have made a positive start to the year.

In February, teachers conduct testing to assess where students are in their learning and to plan accordingly for each student. Currently, we are in the midst of a major curriculum change, and there have been some teething problems with the online resources provided by Oxford. Students are also learning new terminology as we transition from levels in maths to phases. At the Intermediate level (Years 7 and 8), we are working within Phase 3. For all other areas, we will continue using levels, which for these year levels should be Levels 3 and 4.

This is a significant period of change in education, and our staff continue to deliver excellent teaching across all curriculum areas while making the necessary modifications for the new maths curriculum. A reminder that the English curriculum has not yet been extended to Years 7 and 8, unlike the maths curriculum. This will be introduced next year, with the remaining curriculum areas set to change in 2027.

Next week, all our classes will be visiting Ōrewa Beach to participate in our beach safety activities. This is part of our Health and PE programme, designed to support water safety and develop essential skills around water. This event was a huge success two years ago and is not only highly educational but also extremely enjoyable for the students.

Thank you for returning the necessary information on time. We also greatly appreciate those who are assisting us at the beach—your support is invaluable to the success of this event. Let's hope for fine weather!

Have a great week!

Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou





# IMPORTANT NOTES

## FRONT PAGE

Mr. Allen Roby, pictured on the front page, visited TAI this week to check on the Kauri tree he planted on our grounds in 1941 as a 5-year-old boy! Back then, the school grounds were part of his family's poultry and cow farm, and the school was a full primary, known as Te Atatū School (we became an intermediate-only school in 1966).

Mr. Roby shared that he was the youngest at the school, so along with his aunty, who was the oldest, they were selected to plant the tree on Arbour Day. The original building of the school now resides at Roby Park (named after Mr. Roby's family, as is Roby Street). At 88 years old, Mr. Roby was pleased to see his majestic Kauri tree still thriving—much like himself, though he jokingly mentioned that the tree stands much straighter than he does these days!

## POKÉMON EUROPE

Sebastian R14, has just returned from a quick trip to London, where he had a successful run at the Pokémon Europe International Championships 2025. Competing against 280 players from 24 countries, he achieved an impressive 10th place finish! His performance shows that he is now competing at the highest level in his age group. We look forward to following his Pokémon Trainer journey as he sets his sights on the 2025 World Championship. Congratulations, Sebastian!

## BEACH AND SURF EDUCATION

As mentioned on the first page, next week, all our students will participate in a specialised Beach and Surf Education programme at Orewa Beach as part of our Health and Physical Education curriculum.

[If you haven't yet completed the permission form for your child, please click here.](#)

We'd love your support on the day! If you're available to help, please let your child's teacher know.

Programme Schedule:

- Monday 3rd – Rooms 1, 3, 7
- Tuesday 4th – Rooms 2, 4, 10
- Wednesday 5th – Rooms 6, 15, 8
- Thursday 6th – Rooms 9, 11, 12
- Friday 7th – Rooms 5, 13, 14

We're looking forward to a fantastic week at the beach!

## GIVE IT A GO MUSIC NIGHT

It was a great turn out last night from our school community to the "Give It a Go Night". Our students were excited to try out every instrument on offer which proved to be a big influence on choosing a favourite. Many applied to learn an instrument on the night so we are keen to get our year 7's started on learning. However it is not too late to sign up so please do so before the 4 March so we can process all the applications. We are looking forward to an exciting year of music making.

[Please click here to sign up now.](#)

VOLUNTEERS  
NEEDED

## WHĀNAU SUPPORT NEEDED

### STUDENT KAI & GARDEN TO TABLE

If you can spare an hour in the morning, whether daily or on a rotating roster, to help prepare lunches for students in need, we'd love your support! All food is generously provided by the Te Atatū Food for Schools group—we just need extra hands to make them.

Alternatively, our Garden to Table students need support during lunch breaks in the veggie patch and gardens.

If you're able to help with either, please contact Kohle in the office—we'd love to have you on board!

## THE IMPORTANCE OF REGULAR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

From the Ministry of Education - Regular school attendance is closely linked to academic success. Students who attend school consistently are more likely to achieve higher educational outcomes, which can lead to better health, higher incomes, increased job stability, and greater community participation. In turn, this strengthens and connects society as a whole.

Ensuring consistent attendance is a shared responsibility among schools and kura, parents and whānau, iwi, hapū, communities, and government agencies. Collaboration among these groups is essential to support student engagement and learning from the moment they begin school.

Regular attendance is defined as a student being present for more than 90% of the school term. To improve attendance rates, the Government has set a goal: by 2030, 80% of students should be attending school regularly. By working together, we can help ensure that every student has the opportunity to succeed and reach their full potential. At TAI - our aim is to work steadily towards this goal. This also includes students turning up on time in the morning - please note that students should be at school before the 8.45am bell to set themselves up for the day.

## P.A.C.E. - PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES, ARTS, CULTURE & EDUCATION.

P.A.C.E. is 21st-century learning in action, designed to extend traditional subjects into more authentic, real-life experiences. Students have selected from a range of electives, which began today and will run every Friday afternoon for the rest of the term. Some of the exciting options include Robotics, French, Spanish, Sign Language, Cultural Creation Art, Hoop-La, Lawn Bowls, Wrestling, and more!

Have a chat with your child about which P.A.C.E. activity they're taking part in this term

## DIGITAL LEARNING

At TAI, we use Linewize to support our digital learning. Linewize helps schools provide a safe online platform by filtering and monitoring online activity whilst using devices at school. On our school website, you will find Family Zone in the top right corner of the homepage. Clicking on this will take you to our Online Safety Hub, where you can access resources, videos, and other useful information to help families keep their children safe online. There is a wealth of valuable information available, and we encourage you to explore the great material provided.





## SPECIALIST & TECHNOLOGY

### ENTERPRISE DAY

TAI students will be introduced to our new Enterprise Day over 8 sessions throughout the year.

The Intention of this programme is to:

- Build interest and proficiency in Technology
- Show students how design thinking can be applied to help improve their communities.
- Learn basic financial literacy skills
- Use practical skills to provide a solution to a potential problem of the future.

The first sessions will take place this term. These involve establishing the needs in our community and ways that we could solve them.

Session two involves a taster of each of the technology subjects offered at TAI.

Sessions during Term 2 will primarily focus on solving the need that each student has established, by creating prototypes, developing business plans and following technological processes to try solve the need that they have established.

Students will prepare a presentation for a school-wide expo later this year.



## CREATIVE MEDIA WITH WHAEA DEB

There has been a buzz of creativity in Creative Media for the first two weeks of class. Students have been inspired by the photographs of artist Paperboy (Rich McCor) and have taken many interesting photos using paper cutouts, all while learning about camera angles, composition and size and scale. Students are now moving onto learning how to use the green screen room for special effects in video.



## VISUAL ARTS WITH WHAEA STACEY

In art this term we are working on Wings of My Whakapapa. Students in the Mātātātā art groups were required to do homework based on their culture so we could design these beautiful Kuaka birds. Next week we will be dyeing them with colour. Once completed Whaea Stacey will be selecting 20 students to paint these onto wood for the 'Sculpture on the Shore' Exhibition in November.

### Artist Statement: Wings of My Whakapapa

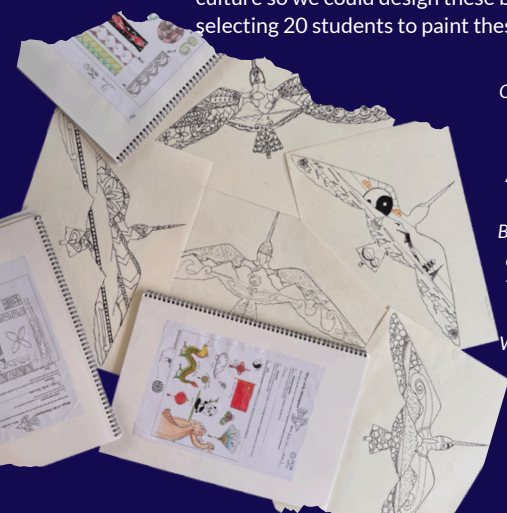
Our kura's work explores the profound connection between whakapapa (genealogy), pepeha (introducing ourselves), and the migratory journey of our tīpuna (ancestors) to Aotearoa. By drawing our personal pepeha inside the form of a kuaka bird (migratory bird in our local taiao), we symbolise the freedom and resilience of our ancestors as they traversed vast oceans, guided by the stars, birds and the land's call.

A pepeha is a traditional Māori way of introducing oneself, deeply rooted in Māori culture. It is a format that identifies a person's connections to the land, ancestors, and community. The format we have used is visual.

Birds in te ao Māori are sacred kaitiaki (guardians) and navigators, carrying stories across generations. Each bird in our flock represents both an ancestor and a journey—echoing the flights taken by our tīpuna as they migrated, bringing with them their knowledge, language, and tikanga. The intricate patterns within the birds are not just expressions of pepeha, but symbols of connection to land, sky, and identity. They remind us that our stories are not static but constantly in motion, as we are part of a continuum that began long before us and will continue beyond.

We have chosen the silhouette of the kuaka bird, which is significant to our kura and Te Atatū Peninsula. The kuaka, or bar-tailed godwit, has a strong sense of place. This resilient bird undertakes one of the longest known migrations from Alaska to New Zealand, and returns to the Peninsula. The outstanding and unique wetlands of our local te taiao (environment), attracts migratory birds to return each year.

Through this artistic representation, we seek to honor the flight of our tīpuna, whose legacy lives on in us, while also recognising the shared journey we all undertake in rediscovering and reaffirming our place in this land, Aotearoa.





# SPORTS / HAKINAKINA

# #Creating Healthy Communities

The admin department is feeling the pressure—the sheer amount of paperwork from students exploring opportunities at TAI has been exhausting! Why?

41 signed up for TAG  
45 signed up for Year 8 Boys' Football  
55 signed up for Year 7 Boys' Football  
58 signed up for Water Polo  
60 signed up for Ki o Rahi  
61 signed up for Netball  
68 students represented TAI in the first week of Orienteering!!

It's been fantastic to see so many students trying new things! A standout moment this week was at the TAG trials—I asked a student if they had played before, and hearing that it was their first time giving it a go was incredibly rewarding.

TUMEKE! A huge shoutout to our TAI whānau who helped transport 68 students to orienteering on Monday. It's truly humbling to be part of such a supportive community.

Ngā mihi nui, TAI Community—Kotahitanga Hard! - Matua Tony



## RUNNING CLUB

Our Running Club is off to a fantastic start, with our Year 7s hitting the streets every Wednesday and our Year 8s every Friday morning from 7:30 am. Students are welcome to join in at any time throughout the term - contact Whaea Nicola for more information.

This Sunday, 30 of our runners and 5 staff members, will be representing TAI at Round the Bays - Putting the fun in fun run!



## OCEAN'S 25

Matilda R1, competed in the Ocean's 25 (Junior Surf Lifesaving Nationals) at Mt Maunganui last week (20th-23rd February), where she made it to the beach sprint finals, finishing 9th out of 83 girls! Her team also earned a silver medal in the beach sprint relay. Earlier this month, she competed in the Northern Region Championships, where she earned two bronze medals—one in the beach sprint and another in the Cameron relay—along with a silver medal in the beach relay. Not bad at all for someone who had open heart surgery just last April! Truly inspiring, Matilda!

## WHANAUNGATANGA

What does Whanaungatanga look like?

Before the bell even rang, a group of wonderful students came into the hall to help set up the wrestling mats for Period 1. Their willingness to pitch in and support each other truly reflects the strong sense of community we have at TAI. Ngā mihi nui, whānau—this is what Whanaungatanga at TAI looks like!



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**JUNIOR  
MUSTERS**

**FRIDAY 28 FEB & 7 MARCH:**  
U11 - U12 MIXED: 5:30 - 6:30 PM  
U13 - U15 MIXED: 6:30 - 8 PM  
U13 - U16 GIRLS: 6:30 - 8 PM

**SUNDAY 2 & 9 MARCH:**  
U9 - U10 GIRLS: 4 - 5 PM  
U9 - U10 MIXED: 5 - 6 PM  
U17 - U19: 6 - 7:30 PM

**FRIDAY 14 MARCH:**  
U9 WFP: 5:30 - 6:30 PM

