

# 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 have reached the end of another busy term. As we reflect on the term that has been, I would like to take the opportunity to thank all our TAI hardworking staff, who have provided many opportunities for students to thrive. Each week has provided opportunities across a wide range of sporting, academic, cultural and musical activities and the number of TAI representative badges awarded this term is testament to that.

This Friday, reports will be emailed to whānau, outlining your child's academic progress across all curriculum areas. For our specialist and Technology areas, students would have only completed half of these areas - next semester, they experience the other half. This is a great opportunity to discuss your child's goals, how they have progressed, and what they need to do for the 2nd half of the year. Year 8 whānau, this discussion is important as they prepare towards high school next year. Term 3 is the term for open nights and enrolling for College - Rutherford College will be visiting TAI to share to all Year 8 students on Friday 18 July, prior to their open day/evening.

Sports camp this week has seen 63 students and 9 supervising adults head to the chilly Waikato to participate alongside 6 other schools in a week of sport. The schools represented are well known, large Intermediates, which means the challenge for our students has been evident. All students have put in a huge shift across the week, competing in multiple sports. A huge thanks goes to Matua Tony, Matua Shaun, Mrs McKeown, and Mrs Aratema, as well as the incredible sports camp parents who have been coordinating the week. They will be sleeping well this weekend!

Finally, I wish all students and whānau a relaxing holiday over the next two weeks. We hope students take the time to relax over this time. We look forward to seeing you all back again on Monday, 14 July.

Ngā mihi

Lloyd Evans -Principal /Tumuaki



# STAFF FAREWELLS & WELCOMES

## **AMORANGI NGATA ATKINS - ROOM 11**

Amorangi joined us as a beginning teacher in 2021 and over the last 4 years has developed and grown into an exceptional teacher, known for her passion towards Kapa Haka and sport - particularly Flag Football. We are going to hugely miss Amorangi from our school, however, she will still be connected with our Kapa Haka group, and we will follow her Flag Football progress with pride - We hope to see her representing NZ at the LA Olympics in 2028 - for which Flag Football is included. Thank you Amorangi for your commitment and enthusiasm, staff and students will miss you very much. Best of luck with Flag Football!!

## **BIANCA NESS - ROOM 13**

Although Bianca has only been with us a short time, we would like to take the opportunity to thank her for the time and effort she has put in this year within the Hapori teaching team. We wish her all the very best for the next part of her journey.

## **CHRIS GOOLD - ROOM 5**

Although Chris is leaving for the remainder of this year, it's not goodbye, as he will be returning to TAI in 2026. Chris is spending time in Austria with family for the second half of the year. Known for his competitive maths mind and taking out all the maths badges on offer, we look forward to seeing him back in 2026. Travel well Chris!

## **DAWN HAURAKI - ROOM 11**

Dawn will become the Room 11 teacher from the start of Term 3. Dawn is a very experienced teacher, who taught at TAI previously (some of the parents of current students Dawn has taught) and will be a huge asset to the school. We look forward to Dawn rejoining the TAI team.

## **THOMAS MELVILLE - ROOM 5**

Thomas (Tom) will be taking over from Chris Goold in Room 5 and has been working within the classroom this week with Chris for a smooth transition. We look forward to Tom starting with us and utilising his skills within technology as an ex TV3 cameraman.

## **JORDAN VALE - ROOM 13**

Fresh from representing Auckland City FC at the Fifa World Club Championship ( in which he was on the field for the amazing 1-1 draw with Boca Juniors) Jordan will be continuing the high life with being the Room 13 teacher for term 3 (and hopefully beyond) It will be great to have Jordan's abilities back in the teaching capacity.

## **KAIIAWHINA**

This term we welcomed three new Kaiiawhina to our staff — **Shaun Chun**, **Tony Setu**, and **Tania Watene**. Starting next term, **Presheen Sukdhoe** will also be returning after two years away. With the many challenges and needs students face both in and out of the classroom, being able to expand our team of Kaiiawhina is a real blessing. They are the backbone of the school, supporting the students who need it most, every single day.



*TAI artwork is currently on display at the Te Atatū Community Centre as part of their Matariki exhibition, running until the end of the school holidays.*

*Be sure to pop in and check out the fantastic mahi our students have created, alongside pieces from other local schools!*



# IMPORTANT NOTES

## TE ATATŪ MATARIKI FESTIVAL

Last Thursday, TAI was proudly represented at the Matariki Festival hosted by Matipo Primary, who did an outstanding job bringing our community together.

Our Kapa Haka and Pasifika groups performed with incredible mana, passion, and ihi. Their performances were powerful and moving, and we were incredibly proud to see them on stage. Ka mau te wehi!

A huge thank you to Matua Wiremu, Whaea Samara, and Kōkā Amorangi for their tireless work supporting our biggest rōpū ever, after weeks of hard mahi and dedication practising every Thursday after school for the past eight weeks, often right up until 5pm! Ka rawe, team! We also had an amazing showcase of student creativity, with outstanding wearable arts pieces created under the guidance of Whaea Mariee, and stunning artwork coordinated by Whaea Stacey. If you haven't had a chance to see these yet, they're currently on display in the foyer of the Te Atatū Community Centre, well worth a visit!



## INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

During term 3, we are having two groups of international students joining us for the term. For weeks 1-4 - we will have 13 Korean visitors experiencing NZ schooling, and our students are well known for providing a rich and welcoming experience for these students - so much so, that we are now receiving students who have been last year - who enjoyed the experience so much. Weeks 3-4 we also have 15 Chinese students who will be having a shorter international experience.

## FOOD GATE TRIP

On Thursday afternoon 8 of the Whakapakari Kai students ventured to the Chelsea Sugar Factory on Auckland's North Shore.

We got to explore the factory - seeing machines in action, the sugar mountains and the combination and washing of sugars. We learnt about the different processes and refining of how white, raw, brown and icing sugars are made. We got to try all of the sugar syrups including the just released caramel maple syrup.



## MOANA JNR - COSTUMES NEEDED

If you have any white pea/puletasi, shorts or shirts, or shell necklaces that you no longer need, we would love to give them a new life as part of our production.

## 40-HOUR WORLD VISION CHALLENGE

*Written by Cape R6*

'The 40-hour World Vision challenge was an eye-opening experience that changed how I see the world. During this time, I had to give up many comforts and really think about what life is like for people in other countries who don't have easy access to things like food, clean water, and shelter.

As I went through this challenge, I realized how much I often take for granted in my own life. Activities like going to the store or taking a hot shower became stark reminders of how different things can be for others. Each hour helped me understand the struggles many people face every day and made me more aware of my own privileges. Talking with others who were also participating made me see how important it is to raise awareness about global poverty and support organizations like World Vision that are working to help. This challenge pushed me to think about my own habits and how they affect others. In the end, this experience was more than just about the challenge itself; it was about connecting with the bigger picture and realizing that even small actions can make a difference. It inspired me to look for ways to help and take part in making the world a better place.'

TAI students set a goal of \$2000 - and actually raised \$2453! Awesome work, team!

## PHOTOLIFE PHOTOS

The first lot of Photolife photos have arrived and have been distributed to students.

If you haven't received a keycode for your child/ren, please contact Kohle in the office.

## BARFOOT & THOMPSON BOOK BATTLE

On Friday 6 June, two teams proudly represented TAI at the annual Barfoot & Thompson Book Battle, a competition based on a set list of novels. Competing against 28 teams from 14 different schools in the Year 7 and 8 division, both TAI teams did an outstanding job. TAI Team A came first equal, while TAI Team B placed a strong 8th. Their impressive performance earned a big box of brand-new books for our school library and individual prizes for the winning team. A fantastic event and a great achievement—ka pai to our readers!



## 2026 ENROLMENTS

If you have another child starting with us next year—or know of an in-zone family with an upcoming enrolment—please spread the word. Enrolment forms are available on our website or by clicking here.

## SAVE THE DATE

### OPEN NIGHT

Tuesday 12th August, 6:30–8:00 PM.

### TEACHER ONLY DAY

Friday 22nd August.



*What a massive term of sport we've had at TAI!*

*Alongside our after school teams representing us in netball, basketball, water polo and orienteering, we've seen students compete in a huge range of events: Orienteering Auckland Champs, Te Puni Reo Netball Comp, Girls' and Boys' Football Zones, Rugby Zones, North vs South Competition, Cross Country Zones, Football Auckland Champs, Hockey Zones, Chess Tournaments, Gymnastics Zones, and over 60 students just this past week at Totara Springs Sports Camp!*

*It's been a full-on term of hākinakina and we couldn't be prouder.*

*A massive ngā mihi to all the staff and whānau who give their time and energy to coach, manage, transport and cheer our tamariki on in the sports they love. It truly takes a village, and we couldn't do it without you!*

## POKÉMON NORTH AMERICA INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

After another successful run at the Regional Championship Tournament in May, Sebastian -R14 placed 6th out of 73 top competitors from across the Oceania region.

Just this week, he went even further, placing 21st out of 330 competitors at the Pokémon North America International Championships in New Orleans.

With this incredible result, Sebastian has officially secured his place as the No.1 ranked player in Oceania for the 2025 season.

Next stop: Pokémon World Championships 2025 in Anaheim, just seven weeks away.  
Ka rawe, Sebastian, gotta catch 'em all!

## AUCKLAND GIRLS CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

*Written by Meliz R4*

Rita (R4) & I represented TAI at the Auckland Girls Chess Championship on Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> June and we each played 6 games. When we arrived at the Memorial Hall, there were tons of people and an uncountable amount of chess boards—there must've been at least 100 people (or more!). Despite knowing that in more than a 100 people we might not have a chance for a prize, both of us were extremely excited since this was our first time coming to an all-girls Chess event. In the end, (and even though one of us had to play against 15-17 yrs old) neither of us won - but at least we had fun and were really lucky to get the opportunity to try out the event.

## HOCKEY ZONES

Two teams represented TAI at the Hockey Zones held at North Harbour Hockey Stadium: one boys' team and one girls' team. It was a busy, crazy and awesome day with plenty of rain and action on the turf.

The boys had a great run, making it through to the semi finals before being knocked out. Our girls played incredibly well, winning all their games before a heartbreaking loss to Glen Eden in the final seconds of their last match.

The students did us so proud. It was amazing to see their teamwork, resilience and skill on display. Awesome to see how hockey continues to grow at TAI.

## FOOTBALL AUCKLAND CHAMPS

On Tuesday 10th June, our Year 7 boys football team represented TAI at the Auckland Champs.

They played hard through three tough matches — a 0-0 draw against Remuera Intermediate, a narrow 0-1 loss to Pukekohe Christian School, and a 0-2 loss to Northcross Intermediate. Unfortunately, these results meant the team did not progress beyond the group stage.

Although the boys were disappointed, they showed great determination and sportsmanship throughout the day. They're already looking forward to another shot next year as Year 8s!

## TAI RUNNERS CLUB

50 proud members of the TAI Runners Club can now be spotted in their flash new personalised singlets, beating the streets every Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday morning, running 5kms to the motorway sign and back! If you see a blur of colour, sweat and determination zooming past with suspiciously high energy for that time of morning — that's us!

## GYMNASTICS ZONES

*Aalia - R5*

Earlier this week, 11 students including two boys proudly represented TAI at the Gymnastics Zones held at Waitākere Gymnastics. Four other schools were present, some decked out in very flash uniforms, but it was the TAI crew who came through with some awesome results!

Our Year 7 girls took out 1st, 2nd and 3rd in the Flyers category, while our Year 8 girls placed 3rd in the team Twisters routine and also claimed 1st and 2nd in Flyers. Not to be outdone, our Year 8 boys also secured 1st and 2nd in their Flyers division.

It was a super fun day, full of strong competition. Despite witnessing some unsportsmanlike behaviour from a few other schools, our students did us proud, staying true to our WAKA values throughout.





# GET ON BOARD!

Elections for the Te Atatū Intermediate School Board will be held on September 10th.  
Our election will be managed by Schooled.

## WHAT ARE SCHOOL BOARDS?

All of New Zealand's state and state-integrated schools have a school board which is the Crown entity responsible for the governance of the school.

- The board:
- ensures every student can reach their highest possible standard in student achievement
- is the employer of all staff in the school
- sets the school's strategic direction in consultation with parents, whānau, staff, students and the wider school community
- is responsible for overseeing the management of personnel, curriculum, property, finance and administration.

## WHY JOIN A SCHOOL BOARD?

School board members are active leaders in our schools.

They have an important role of supporting strong professional leadership and ensuring effective teaching for all students through informed governance.

Parents/caregivers and people in the wider community can be parent representatives. School boards need to represent the diversity of their school communities to ensure a bright future for all our children.

The school board elections are the opportunity to vote for candidates who will make a positive difference for children's education. We need more people willing to use their skills and experiences for the benefit of students!

## DIFFERENT TYPES OF SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

Three types of representative members are elected onto the board. These "representative" board members are elected by the parent community, staff members.

There are also other types of board members, including the principal, co-opted, and appointed board members.

A standard school board's membership includes:

- 5 parent elected (or selected) representatives
- (Board can change to any number between 3 & 7)
- the principal of the school
- one staff-elected representative

The board can co-opt additional people onto the board for gender, skill or ethnic balance, and the Minister of Education can appoint an additional board member.

## WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE ON A SCHOOL BOARD?

Our communities need great boards to help build great schools!

The board has overall responsibility and accountability for the school/kura. School board's legal responsibilities are determined by the Education and Training Act 2020.

The Act sets out boards' four primary objectives.

These are ensuring student achievement for all of its students, including for those of differing needs, making sure the school is a safe place for all, and giving effect to the Treaty of Waitangi.

As part of its focus on these four objectives, boards' responsibilities include:

- Setting the strategic direction for the school
  - Protecting the school's values
  - Monitoring and evaluating student learning outcomes
    - Approving policies
    - Financial stewardship
  - Building community engagement and support
- It's important to note that the board does NOT get involved in the day-to-day running of the school.

## WHAT SORT OF SKILLS DO BOARD MEMBERS NEED?

Every board member brings their own unique set of skills and experiences to the board.

As a member of your school's board, you will need to work well in a team and have good communication skills. It can help to have an understanding of the education sector.

You may have financial skills and experience in managing people, knowledge and understanding of particular communities within your school, or experience working within your school and wider communities.

Every school board member is well-supported by NZSBA's range of learning and development opportunities, our Advisory and Support Centre and our regionally based team of advisors.

## THE TIMELINE FOR ELECTIONS IS AS FOLLOWS

Main School Roll closed: *Wednesday 16th July*  
Nominations called for by: *Friday, 18th July*  
Supplementary roll closed: *Monday 4th August*  
Nominations closed (12pm): *Wednesday, 6th August*  
Voting forms issued by: *Wednesday, 13th August*  
Election Day: *Wednesday 10th September*  
Accept postal votes: *Monday, 15th September*  
Count votes: *Tuesday, 16th September*  
Elected Board members take office: *Wednesday, 17th September*

## The bus stop

*Written by Scarlett - R1*

The rain falls and trickles down the back of my neck. The clocks have not changed so the sky still seems like night. The clouds that cover it aren't helping either.

I can smell wet pavement. It's an oddly good smell.

The crossing lights start flashing and beeping, a flare in the dark. The flashing person atop the yellow pole tells me I am allowed to walk across the dark road. The green light bounces off of the shiny tarmac and my same coloured shoes, slick with water. It reflects and creates a beautiful painting. I take out my phone to snap a memory of this day.

I know that most people don't but I actually enjoy the rain. I don't like it when I'm wearing my flimsy, thin uniform and it's slightly too small jumper. I don't like it when my legs are exposed and covered in goosebumps, fighting against the cold and wetness because of the silly skirt. But right now I'm appreciating the non uniform day my school is throwing, bundled up with a jacket, a jumper, long baggy jeans and my heavy purple backpack settled on my shoulders.

I pull the ends of my blue jeans up so they don't get wet. Wouldn't want to be too soggy for the rest of the day. I jump over the puddle that is on my way to the bus stop and speed my walk to a gait. The ends of my hair drip water over the front of my already soaked jacket and I tuck it away in the hood that covers the rest of my face.

As always my sister lags a little behind me. Right now I'm not too worried about that though. I just want to get to the slightly dryer safety of the bus shelter. I can see through the sheets of water that there are already five people in there. Two teenage boys in blue uniforms, a woman huddled in a jacket, a girl in a black and white uniform and a man in a polo shirt, a blazer and tight jeans.

I duck in on the edge, breathing heavily. The rain drips down the back of the shelter, splattering on the already wet metal bench. No one sits on it and instead everyone stands, eagerly looking round the corner in the hopes that a heated bus is on its way. I shiver.

My phone beeps in my pocket and I grab it out of the inside pocket of my Kathmandu. The notification informs me that my friend is just beginning to walk up her road to her bus stop. By my calculations that means that I'm going to have to wait ten minutes. Maybe even fifteen. I groan, thinking about the fact that I'm going to have to miss the next bus and maybe even the one after that. But it's worth it, I remind myself, because taking the bus by myself is worse than waiting in the rain for a dozen extra minutes.

I open up the phone and take a moment to smile at the decoration my friends did for me with the coloured apps and the pinterest ocean background. I tap on the docs app-The only thing that works without internet and without wasting the mobile data that always runs out too early- And begin to type out words like I'm sending a text to someone.

In general I hate writing like this but it's the only thing to do other than people watch. I'm in too close proximity to my objects for that. Unfortunately.

The sky lightens insubstantially. The bus passes and collects its friends along with my sister. I don't even bat an eyelid knowing that this bus does not contain the person I'm supposed to go with. The lights from the windows in the bus, a little obscured by heads, pull away and when it does the sky finally is light enough to be called morning.

With everybody else gone I feel like it's okay for me to take more pictures of the cars with their headlights blaring and edit it dramatically. That quickly gets boring though and I go back to typing things on my phone.

Just then someone pops out in the bus stop as if from nowhere. A funny little old man with fluffy white hair and a wrinkled pink face. He can't be much taller than me and even though the weather isn't warm he wears only a pair of khaki shorts and a button up shirt with- of all things- a bucket hat. The funniest part though? Definitely the socks with sandals.

Or maybe it's the fact that he goes straight up to a woman that I hadn't noticed before and starts babbling away to her. She doesn't look confused at this and instead her miserable face brightens and she returns the chat. How odd.

For a moment they are talking too quietly for me to hear any legible words. Then something one of them says catches my attention.

"...Is it a girl or boy...?" The lady murmurs brightly and the man smiles.

"...A girl yeah"

"Oh well that's wonderful!..." More stuff I can't quite hear. Is he talking about grandkids? He jerks his thumb over his shoulder at the alleyway he must have popped out from. He talks incomprehensibly to the lady about his wife or something so I can't hear.

I'm very confused. Was the girl he was referring to a dog or was it his baby? I imagine a grandkid because he must be in his seventies at least. I'm frowning at the possibility of this when another bus whizzes past and picks up the woman. The old man doesn't get on.

I scan the windows for a familiar face but don't see her so I remain where I am.

The man heads out of the rain and sits on the bench, only a foot away from me. I clench my jaw and don't move an inch. It's not like he's a problem but you can never be too cautious.

To my surprise after a few seconds of gazing wistfully at the other side of the road (which I doubt he would find interesting; all there is is little shops) he turns and faces me.

"So whereabouts do you live?" He asks casually. Even though the question is simple it sends my heart racing. I feel ever so slightly dizzy for a moment,

trying to think through something to say.

"I have two homes" I eventually settle on.

I know it isn't anything but I still hear my Mum's voice in my head. Don't talk to strangers. But I am older now. That was when I was very little and probably would have been away with the faeries with this question.

I add on just in case he thinks this is strange. "One out that way" I say, randomly pointing in the direction I wanted to head on my bus. "One's a little closer" I smile. He nods, his head bobbing a little on his fragile neck.

"Is that where you're headed?" He asks. I wonder for a moment what he means before just saying

"No I'm headed to my school but it's in the same direction" we briefly chat about my school. Then the silence falls and while I can tell he doesn't really mind, I do. It's my worst fear; having run out of anything to talk about with a person I'm not too familiar with.

"How you liking the weather?" I could smack myself in the forehead.

Really? I'd gotten to the point where I was talking about the weather?

"I don't mind it. I used to live in England so the cold isn't much to me compared to there" He replies, unfazed. I want to ask more about that but I feel it would be intrusive and instead just let the silence fall again.

After about ten seconds of this awkwardness I feel a buzz from my phone.

Coming your way.

That's what the text says. I nearly breath a loud sigh of relief.

I smile as the big navy bus rounds the corner and gets caught at the traffic lights. I swing my bag around to pull out my bus card.

"This is my bus" I tell the old man, just in case he thought we were going to chat for longer.

I stick out my arm and the bus slows down at my stop. My friend and my other friend (unexpected but certainly not unwelcome. The more the merrier) laugh at me as I stumble on the step up. I tap the card to the scanner and greet the driver, a burly man with a mustache.

The heating is on and the rain slashes against the windows. I'm dripping everywhere and the floor of the bus is covered in muddy footprints and wet ones.

Just as the doors are about to close behind me I look back. The man is gone. The doors whirr closed and I look again, trying to see where he has gone. I spot him, a good twenty metres away, serenely walking in the rain towards the corner of the road.

Where is he going? The shops? Does he just walk around, meeting people? Finding someone to talk to? Is that because he is lonely?

I don't get an answer because the bus driver gives me a look and I find a seat next to my friends.

I'm still looking out the window at his retreating back when I say

"I just met the strangest old man"

# PRIZES WANTED

KNOWLEDGE-ATHON

THANK  
YOU  
TO:

BASE  
MENT



Early next term we will be running a school 'Knowledge-athon' fundraiser.  
As part of our initial set-up we are now looking for prizes!  
If anyone in our community has any contacts or may be able to help us out  
by gifting a prize, we would love to hear from you!

CONTACT KOHLE IN THE OFFICE

[KOHLE.R@TEATATU.SCHOOL.NZ](mailto:KOHLE.R@TEATATU.SCHOOL.NZ)