

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

As we passed the halfway mark of the term this week, it has been great to see all students involved in the activities that are now fully underway.

It has been pleasing to see the large uptake in students trying new opportunities, such as music and sports. Over 60 students have been regularly orienteering and over 20 students from our Running Club and 5 staff members participating in Round the Bays 2025.

A large number of students have also taken the opportunity to participate in tennis, ki-o-rahi, swimming, tag, cricket, and more.

Keen new Year 7 musicians who had selected an instrument should now have attended their first instrument lesson, while our Year 8 advanced band has been back at it for a few weeks.

Individual classrooms have also had their own exciting adventures, with Rooms 2, 6, and 8 experiencing sailing at Ponsonby Sailing Club this week, and Room 14 headed into the city to Aotea Centre to watch the Lula Washington matinee, followed by exploring the Auckland Art Gallery.

A big thank you to all the teachers, coaches, and parents for their support in getting these events underway.

Last week was a great week of learning and fun in Ōrewa for our Beach & Surf Education Day, made even better by some superb weather! A huge thank you to the parents who supported the teachers at Ōrewa throughout the week – it was much appreciated. A special thanks also to our DP, Mrs. Clarke, for organizing this fantastic event through NZ Surf Academy.

Looking ahead for the remainder of the term, we have more sporting events, class activities, and student-led conferences in Week 10. Please read on for more information.

Have a great week!

Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou



IMPORTANT NOTES

STUDENT-LED CONFERENCES

In Week 10, on Monday 7th and Tuesday 8th, we will hold student-led conferences. These conferences are a three-way discussion between students, whānau, and teachers, led by the student. The conferences will focus on the individual learning goals of each student, where they currently are in their learning journey, where they need to get to, and how they will get there. More information will be coming home in the next few weeks on how to book these conferences – again, this will be through the online school interviews site. Please note that school will finish earlier than normal on Monday, 7th April, to allow enough time for conferences to occur.

CELEBRATE DIVERSITY ROCK YOUR SOCKS

wear your most colourful, mismatched and unique socks to celebrate
WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY
21 MARCH
#rockyoursocks #aucklanschool #wds25



ROCK YOUR SOCKS FOR WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY!

FRIDAY 21 MARCH

Mrs. Chung, Emma and Room 9 are raising awareness for World Down Syndrome Day by inviting students and staff to "Rock Your Socks!" Wear your craziest, most colourful, mismatched socks to show your support! This special day was inspired by the way socks resemble chromosomes—and people with Down syndrome have an extra one! **Please note: This is not a full non-uniform day—students still need to wear their school uniform.** Gold coin donations to support children with Down syndrome through the Auckland Down Syndrome Association is encouraged. Let's show our support and rock those socks, TAI!

STRATEGIC PLAN / ANNUAL

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

At TAI, our strategic and annual plan revolves around four core areas:

- **Culture** – celebrating who we are and our values
- **Curriculum** – learners at the heart
- **Community** – the power of partnerships
- **Compliance** – a secure and nurturing environment

These four areas, when focused upon, create a safe and inclusive environment conducive to learning for all students. Please refer to the following links for this year's strategic and annual goals.

Additionally, you will find our Health Statement, based on community consultation and feedback from 2024. As a result of this feedback, in which creating positive mental health and wellbeing for children was an overwhelming comment, TAI has commenced and is running the Mitey programme this year. Details for this programme can be found later in this newsletter. Over time, we look forward to this programme growing and supporting students with skills and strategies to support their wellbeing and provide positive mental health tools.

LOST PROPERTY

Any lost property found is washed and placed in the **Whare Ako** room, located behind Room 6. This is an unattended space, so students are responsible for checking the shelves for their lost belongings and keeping the area tidy for others. If the room is locked, they will need to ask the Room 6 monitors for access. To help ensure lost items are returned, students should clearly name all belongings.



MITEY

Teachers, parents, and experts all agree: mental health education has never been more crucial for our children. Mitey is an evidence-based, school-wide approach to teaching mental health education, which is built around the NZ Curriculum and aligned with the Mental Health Education Guidelines. Mitey targets New Zealand children from Years 1–8 to help them build the necessary and age-appropriate skills, knowledge, and understanding they need to nurture their own emotional wellbeing and that of others.

The last few years have brought increased awareness of the alarming number of children experiencing mental health issues in New Zealand. Teachers know that anxious and unhappy children find it difficult to learn. If children are mentally and emotionally healthy, they are better equipped to face the challenges life brings.

As children work through the different levels of Mitey, the learning builds. Mitey aims to increase knowledge and understanding of those experiencing difficulties, remove misconceptions, and replace them with an atmosphere of positivity and acceptance. And that's exciting.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2025 WAKA LEADERS!

We are proud to announce our new WAKA leaders for 2025! Each waka is represented by four students, chosen by their peers after delivering a speech in front of their waka group. Our four waka—Tainui (Yellow), Te Arawa (Green), Aotea (Blue), and Tākitimu (Red)—represent four of the seven waka hourua that journeyed from across Polynesia to Aotearoa.

This year's leaders are:

TAINUI - Jackson R9, Sophia R9, Davin R9, Kenzo R7

AOTEA - DeAndre R7, Isabella R11, Caris R3, Kingston R15.

TĀKITIMU - Panaash R2, Jack R13, Izabella R7, Bayleigh-Grace R10.

TE ARAWA - Maheu R4, Matilda R1, Malakai R15, and Tupou R11.

We look forward to seeing these students lead, inspire, and uphold the values of their waka throughout the year. Ka mau te wehi!

If your child rides a bike:

- Ensure they wear a helmet.
- Remind them to walk their bike across pedestrian crossings rather than riding it.

For children walking to and from school:

- Walk on the Footpath
- Cross at Designated Areas
- Stop, Look, Listen, and Think
- Never Run Across the Road
- Stay Alert and Avoid Distractions.

We appreciate your cooperation in helping us keep all of our students safe on the road.

ROAD SAFETY REMINDER

The office has recently received several phone calls from members of the public expressing concerns about students' road safety.

To ensure the safety of all, please take a moment to remind your child of the following road safety guidelines

SCIENCE BADGES

Science Badges encourage students (Years 7-10) to engage in hands-on science activities, promoting initiative and independent learning. Students choose a badge, purchase an activity sheet, and complete 20 out of approximately 47 tasks (except for the Investigation badge, where all tasks must be completed). Teachers mark and sign off on completed tasks, and students receive a badge and certificate as a reward.

Activities can be done at home, ideally within 12 months. Students are expected to work independently but may receive occasional guidance. The activity sheets offer a variety of tasks suitable for different ability levels.

Please [click here for more information](#)

SCIENCE/PŪTAIAO WITH MRS. ARATEMA

This term in Science/Pūtaiao, we are exploring the Nature of Science through the Material World. Students have been developing their science capabilities by gathering and interpreting data (observation and inference), using evidence, and interpreting representations. So far, they've identified mystery powders, had an

introduction to the periodic table, used models to show the three states of matter, and investigated oobleck. Currently, we are investigating dissolving. Still to come this term is learning about the pH scale, investigating indicators and indigestion tablets, and making sherbet.

-If your child is keen to work on a Science Badge, please ask them to see Mrs Aratema for a full task sheet.



SOFT TECHNOLOGY WITH WHAEA MARIEE

Soft Technology is a new Technology subject this year. We have learnt how to do some basic stitching onto leaves! And then explored how to create new fabric using the power of the sun - making connections to Science and how dyes can react and leave a print on the fabric. We are now moving on to learning how to cut our own pattern pieces and sew on the sewing machine. Students are finding challenges in pattern making and excitement in the sewing machine.



BEACH & SURF EDUCATION WEEK - STUDENT VOICE

Our second bi-annual Beach and Surf Education Day was a huge success! Run by NZ Surf Academy, Aotearoa's premier surf education provider, the programme operates across Northland, Matakana, Ōrewa, and Mount Maunganui, giving every child the opportunity to experience the joy of surf education through hands-on lessons. A huge thank you to the amazing instructors and the whānau who helped out on their child's day—it wouldn't have been possible without you!

The Beach and Surf Education day was really fun because you got to connect with your classmates and learn new things. At the start I was feeling nervous but excited because I had never surfed before but the instructors made it so much easier for everyone while encouraging us along the way. - Alana R5

I really enjoyed being with my friends and having fun in the water with them. I was really excited to attend because I already knew how to surf I'm grateful for all the teachers and the surfing instructors. It was a great learning experience while also being fun.

- Coco R14

I feel I had one of my coolest memories with my friends and I crashing and riding the waves! We all had smiles on our faces and I loved the beach even though it was really sandy. The surfing instructors, Diego and Finn were really cool and helpful. Thankyou for looking after us, teaching us how to surf and helping us catch waves if we couldn't make it fast, - it was just amazing! - Julian R4

Surfing
-Claire & Dahra R6

Surfboards lay across the gleaming sand,
Underneath golden summer rays
Resting, waiting, overlooking the horizon
Fluffy clouds stretched across the sky
I could smell the salty sea
Natural aromas fill the air-
Grass as soft as a sheep's coat,
Dandelions dance in the cool summer breeze,
A mix of earth and salty notes swirl around the coast
You look out towards the shore.

What I enjoyed about the beach and surf education day was that I got to learn how to surf. At first I was feeling a bit nervous before giving surfing a go but once I did, I felt really happy. I would definitely recommend it to other students my age because it's fun and you get to learn new things. I was grateful for the opportunity to go the beach, play games and learn how to surf. - Salman - R5

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On the waves that crash down to the bank
Ready... set... go!
Enough waiting-
Where has it taken you?
Above and over the curling surface-
Bang! Your body rams against the sand,
Extra water goes up your nose;
Around you, your friends laugh and point.
Carrying your board back into the water,
you grin.
'Help me next time, maybe?' you ask.

I really enjoyed that we had other activities to do before surfing. My favorite part of the day, other than surfing, was sand sculptures.. At first I was feeling nervous because I've never surfed before. Once I did it though - I'm so happy!! I still can't believe I surfed!! It was such a fun experience & something I will always remember. - Carter-Rose R7

I enjoyed a lot of things on the day, swimming with my friends, burying each other with sand, riding on the bus, chilling at the beach, wandering around, scaring the birds away, making sand balls and of course - surfing! I was lucky enough to do the same experience back in primary school so I was excited to get to do it again. I feel a bit sad now that the whole thing is over because it was so fun and exciting - I wish I could do it again! - Carrence R11

The thing I enjoyed most about the day was watching my friends all ride the waves like pros! Before giving it a go, I was actually really nervous, and was contemplating whether to even do it, but Matteo and Elliana persuaded me to try and I am glad I tried because once I did, I FELT SPECTACULAR! I felt like I had accomplished something big, I am really glad I did it! I would recommend it to students my age because everyone should get a chance to leave school and experience the joy of surfing. I know in many countries, they focus more on school work and their students never get to experience anything like this. I am grateful for all the teachers and parent helpers that helped us on that day, and also Mr Evans and Mrs Clarke for organising this for us. Thank you! -Kelly R7

I enjoyed learning how to surf, and playing with my friends in the sand - building a sand volcano as well! At first I was embarrassed because I didn't want to wear my togs without a T-shirt. I was also nervous because I was thinking that it wouldn't be a good day and I wouldn't be good at learning to surf. That changed once I gave it a go and I was really proud of myself because I had pushed myself through those negative thoughts in my head. That was probably the best experience for me! I would highly recommend it for students my age because it is a fun sport and it is an easy and fun way to get yourself up and active. Especially, for girls my age who do not participate in other sports. I'm grateful to the parent helpers who had taken their time off work to come on the trip with us as well as the Surf Education teachers who taught us how to surf, if it wasn't for them all, we wouldn't have done this fantastic trip. - Izabella R7

During the Orewa surf trip, I enjoyed playing football and American football with my friends. I also enjoyed the surfing experience. Before the surf lesson, I had low expectations because other students had said the waves were small, but it was actually a lot of fun - except for the fact that the sea was a bit cold. I would recommend this experience to others because it was a great learning experience and it was lots of fun. I am very grateful for all the parent helpers who took time off work to support us with our trip. - Davin R9



ŌREWA BEACH & SURF DAY

Love love love our community. Over the last two weeks, I have had the pleasure of watching our tamariki explore many active spaces. Ngā mihi to the following for their support - He Waka Eke Noa!

✦ **Mabel from Waitakere Cricket Club** for organising Smash Cricket for our wahine! Every Wednesday after school, our students take part in a mini Smash Cricket festival alongside Glen Eden, Henderson, and Te Atatū Intermediate Schools. After just a few weeks, we're already seeing incredible growth in confidence and skill!
A special shoutout to Jessica R7 for her support of the teams and to Quinn R5 for always encouraging everyone on the field—including the opposition. Ka mau te wehi, team!

✦ **Chris Bright** for giving up his time to run our hockey trials! With so many students keen to develop their skills, we truly appreciate the support from our whānau. Your help makes a huge difference—thank you!

✦ **Danni from Swimstation Te Atatū**. With so many students eager to make the the Swimming Zone team, we held two trial sessions to meet the qualifying times set by the Zones committee. Swimstation kindly opened their doors to TAI, and over 40 students took part in trials on Tuesday and Thursday. While some were disappointed not to qualify, it was fantastic to see students stepping up for their first-ever swim time trial and giving it a go! *Just quietly—we even had a dad keen to test himself, swimming the 50m freestyle to see if he could qualify. He didn't quite make the cut, but it was great to see whānau getting involved and supporting their kids!*
Ngā mihi to Mrs Aratema, Whaea Stacey, and Dr Perry for their support.

✦ **Amy James from the Te Atatū Tennis** for their generosity in allowing us to use their fantastic facilities! With 75 students signing up for tennis, it was invaluable to walk our students to the local club and run trials there. For many, this was their first-ever tennis trial, their first time at a club, and in some cases, even their first time playing tennis. What an awesome opportunity for our students—thank you for making it possible!

✦ **Pam Munroe and the Jack Pringle Bowling Club** for supporting our students in PACE on Fridays! With 18 students now developing their skills in indoor bowls, and eventually moving to outdoor, it has been an exciting learning experience. Some have found the bias of the bowl tricky to master, and learning to control the weight and precision has been a challenge—but they are embracing the opportunity, improving each week, and most importantly, having fun!

✦ **Mike Nola** an incredible advocate for wrestling and its many benefits. Wrestling is a sport that I believe is often undervalued, yet it offers so much in terms of physical well-being, discipline, and skill development. Mike runs a free wrestling programme at Rutherford College every Wednesday after school, generously providing students with the opportunity to give it a go. If your child is interested, I highly recommend they take advantage of this fantastic experience!

Apologies to anyone if I miss you out - the list is big. - Matua Tony



TAI RUNNING CLUB TAKES ON ROUND THE BAYS 2025!

Twenty TAI Running Club members and seven adults proudly represented TAI at the Southern Cross Round the Bays Auckland 2025! The energy, community spirit, and incredible effort from everyone made it a day to remember.

With almost 30,000 participants, runners took on the 8.4km challenge, starting at Quay St/Spark Arena and finishing at St Heliers Bay. The entire team felt a huge sense of achievement, proudly wearing their well-earned medals at the finish line.

A special shoutout to Gustavo R2, who led the pack with an impressive time of 46 minutes and 57 seconds! Reflecting on the experience, he shared:

"Round the Bays was the longest race I've ever run, and I'm really proud to have represented the TAI Running Club as captain. I'm also proud of everyone who stepped up to take on the challenge—it was a tough race because you had to pace yourself to keep running the whole way."

I'm really happy with my time and grateful to have experienced an event like this through school. Next time, I plan to focus on bettering my time!"

Ka pai to all our runners—bring on the next challenge! - See photos on the next page!

2025 ZESPRI AIMS GAMES

Registrations for the 2025 Zespri AIMS Games open today, Friday 14 March!

If your child is interested in competing, please get in touch with **Matua Tony**.

[Click here for a list of the sports students can compete in.](#)

Please note that while the school fully supports students' participation, we are not responsible for fees, transport, or accommodation. However, we are happy to assist with the administration of entries.

BRAXTON'S R13 AIMS EXPERIENCE (2024):

"Last year, I entered the AIMS Games independently in BMX, and it was an awesome experience! My parents took me down to Tauranga, where we stayed in an Airbnb with a friend who was also competing, along with his family. I was there for around three days, competing on the second and third day, and there were heaps of other kids from all over the country involved. What I loved most was seeing so many athletes enter and witnessing the incredible skills across different sports. I would 100% recommend AIMS to other students who are passionate about their sport and have the opportunity to compete. It's a fantastic way to meet new people, challenge yourself, and be surrounded by others your age who share the same passion and dedication—whether in your sport or others!"





ROUND THE BAYS