

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

What a fantastic stretch of weather we have been enjoying lately! I hope you have all had the opportunity to soak up the sunshine and beautiful autumn days with your whānau, especially with the winter months just around the corner.

A sincere thank you to all the whānau who attended our recent Hui ā-Ako parent-teacher meetings. We were thrilled to achieve an outstanding 87% attendance across the school. These conversations are invaluable for strengthening the partnership between home and TAI, ensuring our ākonga are beautifully supported in their learning, and we trust you now have a clear picture of your child's current achievements, progress, and next steps.

In other news, the Ministry of Education has recently confirmed an adjusted timeline for implementing the remaining areas of the refreshed New Zealand Curriculum. The rollout for Science and Social Sciences has been moved to 2027/2028, while the Arts, Health and Physical Education, Technology, and Languages curriculum will follow in 2029. This extended pace is welcome news, as it gives schools the breathing room to embed the current curriculum changes thoughtfully and effectively.

Finally, we want to extend a massive thank you to KidsCan for generously supplying winter jackets for every single student at TAI. These are going to make a huge difference in keeping our kids warm and cosy during the colder months ahead. A special shout-out also goes to our wonderful office admin Kohle Rooney, for organising this amazing support for our school community.



IMPORTANT NOTES

TEACHER ONLY DAY

Friday, 29th May

A quick reminder that TAI will be closed for a Curriculum/Teacher Only Day next Friday, leading into the King's Birthday public holiday on Monday. While our ākonga enjoy a four-day weekend, our staff will be dedicating the day to professional learning, focusing on strengthening our Structured Literacy practices and fully implementing the refreshed English Curriculum. This ongoing training is an important investment in our teaching team, ensuring we continue to provide the very best learning experiences for all our students. Enjoy the extra-long weekend with your whānau!

HUI Ā-AKO CONFERENCES

Last week saw a return to our traditional parent-teacher format with our Hui ā-Ako conferences. Thank you to all the whānau who took the opportunity to meet with our teaching staff. We had a fantastic turnout, and it was wonderful to see the students so excited to share their learning and collaborate on goals for the remainder of the year. Please remember that if you ever have any questions, concerns, or would simply like an update on your child's progress, you are always welcome to email their teacher. All staff email addresses can be found on our school website.

2027 ENROLMENTS

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

Our Open Night for new whānau will be on Tuesday 11th August, 6:30 - 8:00 PM - Save the Date!

COLOUR RUN

Wednesday 27th May

Next week, we are holding our highly anticipated Colour Run event! All funds raised by individual students will go directly towards offsetting the cost of their own camp experience. If a student fundraises beyond their individual camp expenses, the surplus will be used to support another student facing financial constraints, ensuring everyone can participate in the Carey Park Camp experience. A big thank you to the caregivers who have volunteered to help throw colour powder! You should have received a confirmation email from Kelly Clarke with further details.

A few reminders:

- Please wear old clothes (preferably white), to maximise the colour vibrancy!
- While only adults will be throwing the powder and aiming strictly for torsos, some powder may still get on students' faces. For extra safety, students are welcome to wear sunglasses or goggles to protect their eyes.
- *A \$5 fee can be paid via Kindo to cover the cost of the colour powder, alternatively, your child can bring in cash to the office.*

PINK SHIRT DAY REVIEW

Kōrero Mai, Kōrero Atu, Mauri Tū, Mauri Ora - Speak Up, Stand Together, Stop Bullying!

TAI truly shone last Friday for Pink Shirt Day! It was fantastic to see our school community come together in support of such an important cause, raising over \$300. In addition, our Kaunihera (Student Council) did an amazing job with their bake sale, raising over \$500, with all proceeds going towards their leadership team shirts. A huge thank you to everyone who supported and contributed to making the day a success!

KIDSCAN JACKETS

You have hopefully noticed your child coming home from school on Monday with a brand-new jacket, arriving just in time for the winter season! We would like to extend a massive thank you to KidsCan for generously providing these jackets for every single TAI student. Every child was fitted for their size earlier this term, and every jacket has been clearly named. These jackets are fleece-lined, water-resistant, and navy blue, matching our school uniform perfectly. Students are welcome to wear them as part of their daily uniform throughout winter—whether as their main jacket or a handy backup option. We also want to thank the handful of whānau who reached out to let us know their child didn't need one, allowing us to keep those jackets aside for future students in need.

If you would like to give a simple koha for the jacket your child received, you are welcome to do so via the "Every Help Counts" section on Kindo. Alternatively, donations can be made directly to KidsCan so they can continue providing their amazing services to schools across the country.

LOST PROPERTY

Our Wednesday after-school Maths Club is off to a flying start, averaging 10 students a week! Perfect for students who find maths challenging, offering a low-pressure, supportive environment where they can learn safely without the stress of tests or the fear of making mistakes. Everyone is welcome, so please feel free to reach out or have your child come along if you think this might be a good space for them to get some extra support.

Please Note: Ms Harrington is away for the next two weeks, so Maths Club is taking a short break. She will resume in Week 8 on Wednesday, 10th June. See you then!

CELEBRATING OUR AMAZING SUPPORT STAFF

Last week was Support Staff Week. At TAI, we are incredibly lucky to have eight dedicated kaiāwhina in our kura, thanks to our Board, who prioritise our students' learning needs. The role of a kaiāwhina spans a wide spectrum. Whether they are working one-on-one with a student who requires extra care or guiding a small group, the rest of the school simply could not function as smoothly without them. We also extend a massive thank you to our office administration team—who truly are the heart of our school—and our caretaker, the backbone of our grounds and facilities. Together with our kaiāwhina, they make up an amazing support staff team. We appreciate everything you do for our kura!

CONGRATULATIONS TO WHAEA BARBARA MUGUERZA!

We are absolutely thrilled to celebrate a wonderful milestone for one of our own. Whaea Barbara has been a valued part of the TAI whānau for the last three years as a kaiāwhina. Before moving to Aotearoa eight years ago, she spent 13 years sharing her passion as a geography teacher in Argentina. Two years ago, Whaea Barbara decided to take the leap and complete her Graduate Diploma in Teaching (Secondary) so she could return to doing what she loves most in the classroom. We are so proud of her hard work and dedication, and we look forward to seeing her continue to inspire our ākonga. Combined with her experience running our volleyball programmes, we know she will continue to be a fantastic asset to our teaching team. ¡Enhorabuena, Whaea Barbara!



Te Aiaitū Intermediate Presents

AUTUMN MUSIC SHOWCASE



Gold coin on entry

Thursday 4th June | 6:00pm
Te Aiaitū Intermediate School Hall



ORIENTEERING: AUCKLAND CHAMPS

On Wednesday, May 13th, our orienteering teams headed to Western Springs Park for the Auckland Championships. The course took them all the way around the lake, competing against 22 schools from across Auckland. Each team had to have at least four students (with an average of six per team), so the competition was fierce!

Year 8 Boys: 1st Place out of 20 teams (Auckland Champions!)

Year 7 Boys: 6th Place out of 19 teams

Year 8 Girls: 7th Place out of 22 teams

Year 7 Girls: Unfortunately didn't place due to a missed punch on the course, landing them in 21st, but they put in an amazing effort!

It was a really fun day out, though they had to dodge more than just the competition, as some of the local wildlife weren't too happy to see them! The geese, especially, were a bit angry and did plenty of honking as they ran past. There were also lots of members of the public enjoying the park, so they had to be really careful when speeding around corners.

A special mention goes to Jones R6, who clocked the fastest time for TAI, crossing the finish line at an impressive 15:15.

"I absolutely love the challenge of running with a map and having the opportunity to visit different places, and I definitely plan on continuing with orienteering next year. A huge thank you to all the parents who drive us to these events so we can partake, and to the school for supporting the sport and making this awesome day possible!" - Jones R6

NORTH VS SOUTH

Today, 70 of our students are out representing TAI in the long-standing North vs. South tournament against Rangeview!

Organised by Rutherford College, this annual event is a wonderful opportunity for our students to connect with our neighbors over the bridge and build great relationships with the Rutherford College student coaches.

We wish all our competitors the best of luck today and look forward to sharing the results and photos with you in the next pānui!

LUNCHTIME INTERSCHOOL SPORTS

Last term kicked off our brand-new lunchtime interschool sports competition! Classes have been competing in a round-robin format against other rooms in their syndicate, with the top teams fighting it out in the semi-finals and finals. Our very first tournament was T-Ball, and a huge congratulations goes to Room 6 for taking out the overall championship title!

"I enjoyed participating in T-ball because it was a lot of fun. Room 6 competed against Room 1, Room 3, and Room 7, beating them all through teamwork and determination. Soon, the finals rolled around, and with our excellent hitting and catching skills, we beat the opposition by two points. T-ball was a very enjoyable sport, and I loved playing with my friends and winning the competition."

Up next for this term's lunchtime competition is One Touch, followed later by an Uno Tournament - proving that sports and competition come in all different shapes and sizes!

Well done to all students who put their hand up to represent their class!



TERM 2 SPORT DATES

Friday 22nd May - Girls' Football Zones

Tuesday 26th May - Girls' Football Zones

Wednesday 27th May - Colour Run Fundraiser

Thursday 28th May - Boys' Football Zones

Friday 5th June - Basketball Zones

Monday 15th - Friday 19th June - Sports Camp @ Totara Springs

Tuesday 30th June - Netball Zones

KĪ O RAHI: ORANGIHINA TEAM CROWNED CHAMPS!

Wednesday, May 13th, was also a massive day for our Kī o Rahi players, who headed down to Rutherford College for the annual local schools' tournament. Now in its sixth year, the competition was tougher than ever, with Henderson Intermediate joining the mix alongside longtime rivals Rangeview Intermediate.

Our Orangihina team didn't have the easiest start to the day, facing some tough early losses. However, a friendly clash against our other TAI team sparked something special, setting the players off on an unstoppable winning streak!

After a fantastic win against Rangeview, the team advanced to the semi-finals, where they earned sweet redemption by beating Henderson 1. This landed them a spot in the grand final against the second Henderson team. The final was an absolute masterclass in teamwork. Our players worked beautifully together, locking down the defense with crucial tags and scoring consistently. It all came down to the final play of the game: the team moved perfectly to find open space and executed a brilliant pass to Lucas (R6), who scored the winning points to secure the championship title!

It was an incredibly fun day of sportsmanship and connection with our local schools. Kī o Rahi is such a great sport for bringing people together, and we are so grateful to Rutherford College for organising it and to our teachers for making it happen.

Most of all, congratulations to the Orangihina team for bringing the trophy home! It was a particularly sweet victory for Kōka Amorangi, who was incredibly relieved to finally win the title back from Rangeview—and her mum—for the first time in four years!



NETBALL WAITAKERE ROUNDS 2 & 3 RESULTS

It has been an action-packed fortnight on the courts for our netballers at Netball Waitākere! Our teams have put in immense effort over the last two weeks, delivering some dominant wins, high-scoring spectacles, and hard-fought battles.

A massive shout-out to both the Te Atatū Onyx and Te Atatū Opals, who have maintained perfect back-to-back winning streaks over the last two rounds! The Te Atatū Rivals have also been on an absolute shooting tear, racking up an incredible 64 goals across their last two games. Keep up the amazing teamwork, TAI!

Here are the official results from the last two rounds of Wednesday night netball:

TE ATATŪ PULSE

Round 2: Won 14 – 7 against Tainui KIS
Round 3: Lost 6 – 33 to GEIS 7A

TE ATATŪ ONYX

Round 2: Won 19 – 3 against GBS Gliders
Round 3: Won 16 – 6 against SPS Seven Stars

TE ATATŪ TOA

Round 2: Lost 5 – 6 in a defensive nail-biter against HIS Raptors
Round 3: Won 13 – 5 against ACG Sunderland

TE ATATŪ OPALS

Round 2: Won 11 – 7 against St Dom's 8 Gold
Round 3: Won 18 – 11 against 8C Paratutae HIS

TE ATATŪ RIVALS

Round 2: Won 35 – 5 against St Dom's 8
Round 3: Won 29 – 15 against GEIS 8D

TE ATATŪ TOKI

Round 2: Lost 13 – 21 to AIS Storm
Round 3: Won 16 – 5 against GEIS 8F

TE ATATŪ MARVELS

Round 2: Won 11 – 4 against GBI Midcourt Madness
Round 3: Lost 6 – 9 in a close clash with SPS Shooters

TE ATATŪ VIPERS

Round 2: BYE
Round 3: Lost 0 – 25 to BBI Pulse



WATER POLO: PLACEMENT ROUNDS & SEASON OPENER

Our water polo teams have put in some fantastic effort over the last two weeks during the grading and placement rounds, showing great skill and teamwork in the pool as they prepare for the main competition.

Here are the results from the placement weeks:

TE ATATŪ NAVY

Week 1: Won 15 - 1 against GEIS Warriors Black
Week 2: Won 9 - 3 against Green Bay

TE ATATŪ TEAL

Week 1: Won 10 - 1 against Liston/St Doms
Week 2: Lost 1 - 7 against GEIS Warriors Green

TONIGHT'S GAMES!

The official competitive rounds kick off tonight, and we have some great matchups ahead:

Te Atatū Navy vs. GEIS Warriors Green

Te Atatū Teal vs. Pasadena Intermediate

Grading rounds are all about learning and building chemistry, and both of our teams have shown they are ready for the challenge. Swim hard, play fair, and give it your all in the pool tonight. You've got this, TAI!

BASKETBALL: TAI KNIGHTS TUESDAY LEAGUE

Our TAI Knights basketball team has been facing some incredibly tough competition over the last two weeks at the Henderson Valley league. Going up against some exceptionally tall teams, our Knights may be on the shorter side, but what they lack in height, they more than make up for in heart, determination, and grit!

Two weeks ago, the team fought hard through a very physical game against Valley Green. Despite the tough matchup, Johann R3 put on an outstanding performance and was deservedly named Player of the Game!

The team faced another big challenge this week against the Henderson Hoopers. While the final result didn't go our way, the score doesn't show just how much this team is improving. Every single player is stepping up, and a special congratulations goes to Carrence R11, who was named Player of the Day for an awesome effort on the court!

In the true spirit of *Tū Tangata*, our Knights keep standing tall, trying their absolute best, and getting better with each passing week. We are super proud of your attitude, team—keep grinding!

BASKETBALL: TAI KNIGHTS TUESDAY LEAGUE

Our TAI Thunder basketball team is on an absolute roll with back-to-back victories! Two weeks ago, they showed great composure under pressure to edge out Waitākere Mana in a tight 20-15 battle. They backed that up this week with a dominant 33-13 win over Rangeview. It is the perfect confidence boost ahead of their big North v South clash tomorrow! While the team has been shining on the court, their biggest strength has been their team spirit. Toby R1, who was unfortunately injured early in the season, hasn't missed a beat supporting the squad from the sidelines. Great whanaungatanga, Toby!



WEB WISE @ TAI: DIGITAL WELLBEING & ONLINE REPUTATION

For our Year 7 and 8 students, the online world isn't just a tool—it's a digital playground where they seek connection, validation, and identity. However, navigating the social pressures of these spaces can have a massive impact on their self-esteem, body image, and relationships.

This week, we explore three key areas of digital wellbeing and how you can support your child at home.

THE PRESSURE OF THE "LIKE"

Between the ages of 10 and 13, the brain becomes highly wired for social approval. On platforms like TikTok, Snapchat, or Instagram, "likes," "views," and "streaks" act as a visible digital scoreboard for popularity.

- Students frequently judge their own personal value by the amount of digital engagement their posts receive, which often drives them to delete posts that they feel have underperformed.
- Constant exposure to curated, heavily filtered images can severely distort reality for young people, often leading to a negative body image and unrealistic lifestyle expectations.
- When a young person is left on "read" or "seen" without an immediate reply from their peers, it can trigger intense social anxiety and sudden feelings of rejection.

MANAGING "FOMO" (FEAR OF MISSING OUT)

FOMO is the overwhelming feeling that your peers are having fun, sharing inside jokes, or hanging out without you. In the digital age, this fear is amplified 24/7.

- Many students experience a compulsive need to check their phones every few minutes because they worry that disconnecting will cause them to lose social status or be left out of the loop.
- This persistent anxiety often keeps them trapped in fast-moving group chats late into the night, which drains their energy and significantly impacts their sleep quality.

TIPS FOR WHĀNAU

- Diversify "Identity Buckets": Help your child build up "offline" buckets—like sports, creative arts, or family time—where there are no digital scoreboards or "like" buttons to define their success.
- Normalize Disconnecting: Remind your child that a friend not replying instantly doesn't mean they are mad—they might just be away from their device or busy with family.
- Lead by Example: Establish phone-free zones at home (like dinner times) and keep the "Bedroom Rule" active so that the temptation to check late-night notifications is removed entirely.

The TAI Online Safety Hub has dedicated sections to help you navigate these specific challenges: teatatu.onlinesafetyhub.nz/parent-advice ("Digital Wellbeing" and "Social Media" tiles).



APP SPOTLIGHT: TIKTOK

EXPERT RECOMMENDED AGE: 16+

WHAT IS TIKTOK?

TikTok is a highly popular social media platform centered around creating, sharing, and discovering short-form video content. Users can scroll through an endless, algorithmically tailored feed of videos that often feature music, dancing, comedy sketches, and viral challenges.

WHY IS IT RATED 16+?

The Online Safety Hub recommends this higher age limit for TikTok due to several distinct environmental factors:

- The Algorithm Design: The platform relies heavily on a highly personalized algorithm that serves content based on user engagement patterns, which can quickly pull young users into negative loops or "rabbit holes" of inappropriate content.
- Adult Content Exposure: Because it is an open global platform, users can easily encounter mature themes, explicit language, drug or alcohol references, and content referencing self-harm or eating disorders.
- Data and Privacy: The app tracks extensive user behavior and by default encourages public sharing, which can make it easy for intermediate-aged students to inadvertently broadcast their location or private details.

KNOWN RISKS

- **The For You Page (FYP):** The default feed automatically plays content from accounts your child does not follow, making exposure to unvetted or disturbing videos a frequent occurrence.
- **In-App Direct Messaging:** If privacy settings are not altered, anyone can send direct messages to your child, opening up potential avenues for unwanted stranger contact.
- **Viral Challenges:** Some trending challenges encourage risky, dangerous, or illegal behavior that young teenagers may attempt due to intense peer pressure.

TIPS FOR WHĀNAU

- **Enable Family Pairing:** This built-in tool allows you to link your own TikTok account to your child's to remotely restrict content filters, set screen time limits, and turn off direct messaging.
- **Switch to a Private Account:** Ensure your child's account visibility is locked to "Private" so that only approved friends can view their videos, comment, or interact with them.
- **Turn Off 'Suggest Account to Others':** Disabling this setting stops TikTok from pushing your child's profile out to classmates, strangers, or mutual acquaintances automatically.
- can message them privately.

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