

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

Thank you parents for your support around our Teacher Only Day last Friday. All staff spent the morning investigating citizen science and place and environmental science with support from Chez who is connected with Rivercare, and Dion, who is also connected with Rivercare as well as the Te Atatū Marae Whanau Committee, learning about the diverse ecosystems and bird and marine life right on our doorstep at Orangihina. We thank them and others within their organisation for supporting our mahi.

The rich connections that science learning practically connected with reading/writing/ maths etc were great for all staff to see how we can increase our science content within our school programme, across all the areas of the curriculum.

The afternoon was spent discussing and planning learning contexts and follow-up activities that will benefit student learning. This time taken for staff development was 'gold' and will create positive classroom learning benefits across the wider school.

Upon students return to school on Tuesday after the long weekend, we were fortunate to get through our revamped Hakinakina (athletics) day for our students with just a sprinkle of rain. Amongst the traditional running and high jump, were team building and fun activities to encourage positive interactions and involvement for all. The core disciplines of discus, shot put and long jump will be done through PE sessions next week to select our athletics team to represent us at the Waitakere zones coming up. Congratulations to Te Arawa, who was the winning waka on the day - most importantly, all students participated admirably and made it a really great day.

Ngā mihi
Lloyd Evans



IMPORTANT NOTES



YR6 ORIENTATION DAYS

Next week, on Monday, 4th and Tuesday, 5th November, we will be welcoming our incoming Year 7 students for 2025 from our local primary schools for their orientation days. Each session is a 1-1.5 hour visit, providing them with an opportunity to tour the school, meet some of our current students, and begin familiarizing themselves with their future learning environment. It's always a pleasure to see old friends from primary school reconnect here, sharing in the excitement of this new chapter.

SCIENCE SURVEY REVIEW

Thank you to everyone who completed the Science Survey; sent out last term. The results showed that our school community values science. We have used your feedback, along with insights from student and teacher surveys, to set goals for enhancing science teaching and learning at Te Atatū Intermediate. Our goals include providing students with more opportunities to observe and engage with science in action, develop the 5 science capabilities (gathering & interpreting data, use evidence, critique evidence, interpret representations and engage with science), and learn more about our outstanding local environment at Orangihina and empower students to take action to help protect it. For teachers, we will focus on professional development related to the Nature of Science, the 5 science capabilities and learning more about our local environment, connecting to place and incorporating Mātauranga Māori into units. Our recent Teacher Only Day was a valuable step in this direction, allowing staff to explore Orangihina, connect with scientists and community groups, participate in citizen science, and learn more about Mātauranga Māori. We also plan to host a science community event in the future.



ANNUAL PARAKAI TRIP

On Wednesday, 11th December, TAI will spend the day at Parakai Pools, continuing a tradition that has been an annual event for over twenty years. This free trip is a fun way to celebrate the end of the year, and swimming is optional. We will leave school at 9:30 a.m. and return by 2:30 p.m. [Please click here for more information and to complete the permission form.](#)



YR8 GIRLS' SELF DEFENCE

In weeks 5 and 6 our year 8 girls have the opportunity to take part in a Girls' Self Defence Project course run by Kia Haumarū - Personal Safety Education. The course is open to all girls and gender-diverse students in year 8. The facilitator is a qualified and experienced Personal Safety Educator, and has run several successful courses at TAI in previous years. She will help the students to learn ways of dealing with unsafe people, situations, and threats to their safety- such as dealing with stranger attacks, being followed, and issues relating to cyber safety. The course will emphasise how students can 'think' their way out of a threatening situation, and how important it is to tell a safe adult if something happens. [If you would prefer for your child to not participate, please email their classroom teacher.](#)

YR8 GRADUATION LEAVERS CLOTHING

Our annual Graduation Leavers' Hoodies and T-shirts are now available to order for our Year 8 students! As a special way to mark their time at TAI, we are offering '2024 Leavers' clothing for purchase. Congratulations to Cassie from R7, whose awesome design was selected as the final design for 2024!

To place your child's order, [please click here](#). Payment can be made via the KINDO shop, and both the order and payment must be completed by Friday, 22nd November.

Please note: This offer is only available to our Year 8 students. Any orders submitted for Year 7 students will not be processed.

LION'S CLUB SPEECH CONTEST

Each year, the Lion's Club of Henderson-West Auckland invites local West Auckland Intermediate Schools' speech winners to a special dinner in their honor. This year, the event took place on Tuesday, 22 October, with Nova R14 and Daniel R12 attending alongside their whānau. The purpose of the evening is to provide an opportunity for whānau to see their children present their speeches in a relaxed atmosphere. A delicious dinner and dessert were served, and Nova, Daniel, along with two students from Henderson Intermediate, delivered their speeches. Nova and Daniel did a wonderful job, making their whānau and our school proud.



LIBRARY BOOK RETURN

Our school library is preparing for its end-of-year stocktake, and we currently have 106 overdue books. Your child should have been notified this week if they have a borrowed book under their name. Please check with them and return any overdue books to our library as soon as possible. Any fees for lost books will be available to pay via KINDO by the end of next week.

SPRING MUSIC FESTIVAL

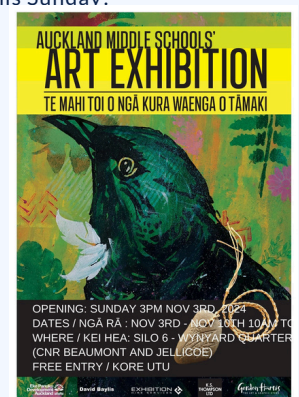
On Thursday, 28th November (Week 7), our talented musical students will host their Spring Music Festival, featuring our beginner and advanced bands, violin groups, and students who take private instrument lessons at school. The students have worked incredibly hard this year and are excited to showcase their progress and achievements! Everyone is welcome to join us in the school hall from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm.

YEAR 8 GRADUATION

Our annual Year 8 Graduation Ball will take place on Thursday, 12th December, from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm in the school hall. This special event is exclusively for Year 8 students. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased with cash only. [Please click here to complete the permission slip.](#) Additional details can be found later in this newsletter, with more information to be shared on Tuesday following a meeting with the Year 8 students and Whaea Ngaire.

ART ROOM - NEWSPAPER

If you do a paper run or have newspapers lying around at home, the art room urgently needs some for printmaking. Please send them to school with your child and ask them to pass them on to Whaea Stacey. Thank you! Additionally, a friendly reminder that the Auckland Middle Schools' Art Exhibition, featuring artwork from nine talented TAI students, kicks off this Sunday!



LIFECHANGERS PROGRAMME

This coming Monday, the LifeChanger team, who has been with us since the start of this term, will complete their final workshop with the last four classes. Over the past three weeks, they have facilitated two workshops per class each week, covering a variety of mental health themes and equipping students with valuable information and strategies to overcome adversity and build resilience.

The time they have spent at TAI working with our students has been both empowering and inspiring, and we're confident that each student who participated has taken away at least one valuable lesson that will help them navigate adulthood and beyond.



"The LifeChanger program is a preventative mental health and wellbeing non-profit that empowers young people to live empowered, resilient, thriving lives. LifeChanger believes that many of the challenges and alarming statistics that face today's youth are preventable through pre-emptive, early intervention programs that build self-esteem, self-awareness, positive self-identity, and resilience. LifeChanger's evidence-based program, expert facilitation, and trained community mentors develop young people with the emotional and social skills to live empowered, resilient, thriving lives."

I really enjoyed the different activities in LifeChanger, which helped us work together and grow closer as a class. Through the sessions, I discovered my own passions and interests, and I learned that feeling down or even being in a "villain" state isn't a bad thing—it's part of a process that can actually help me grow. The first session stood out because it introduced the basics and set a solid foundation for the journey ahead. LifeChanger taught me that emotions like sadness or anger are normal and can even benefit us, showing that even when you're at a low point, you can only go up from there. It's a message many young people don't know, and LifeChanger made sure we understood this valuable lesson. - Adrian R5

I just wanted to say a huge thank you on behalf of myself and my whole class for the LifeChanger sessions. We all truly enjoyed having you spend time in our classroom, guiding us through these incredible lessons, and creating such a positive experience. We learned so much from each session, and we're so grateful for the care you put into making sure we had a meaningful and fun time.

One lesson that especially stood out to me was "Finding Our Inner Hero." I loved the chance to be honest with myself, recognizing both the positive and challenging traits I hold, while also celebrating the strengths in my peers. It was really special to reflect on the qualities I admire in others and to hear what they saw in me. We're all so grateful you took the time to come into our school and teach us such valuable skills. These sessions taught us more about ourselves, helped us understand one another better, and gave us tools we'll carry with us for life. From all of us in Room 6, thank you so much for this unforgettable experience!

- Anna R6

The LifeChangers program was really fun and I really enjoyed doing the games like the 'two add' and 'the grid' game. I learned that I have to listen to my opinion and that I need to follow my passion and I learned how to control my Villain and Hero state. I will definitely continue to pursue my dreams and listen to my passion. My favourite session was definitely the session where we did the Grid Box game. I think it was really important to participate in the LifeChangers program because I learned to control my emotions, be resilient and never give up.

I think kids my age should definitely join or participate in the LifeChangers program because I think we need to learn about the importance of our lives and to follow whatever we think is right for us. - Gautam R1

I really enjoyed the LifeChangers program because we got to learn new things about ourselves and our mental and physical health in a supportive environment. The people who ran it were kind and made sure we felt comfortable throughout the sessions. Something I learned was about our 'hero and villain' states, which refer to how we feel on good and bad days; we even got to name our villains and heroes and draw what they looked like. Something helpful I learned how to create a bucket list, where I wrote down interesting aspirations like traveling to a new country, going on a shopping spree, or designing something on the sewing machine. My favorite workshop was the first one, where we explored the pillars of well-being while engaging in outdoor talks with my classmates. Participating in this program was important because it helped us discover new ways to care for ourselves and understand our emotions better. I would recommend it to other students my age, as it's so important for us to learn about health and safety now that we are entering our teenage years and soon off to a new environment at high school.

-Halomitra R13

"Remember you are better than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think." That's what the LifeChangers say and definitely display.

What they also say is that "Courage + Heart + Tribe = Infinite Possibilities".

I really love both their sayings and encourage us to follow them. They have helped me and probably my classmates a lot too. They help us make a goal and the LifeChangers lesson helps us build on it. They also teach us about possibilities we could reach and that we can achieve something if we focus on achieving it.

The lesson helped me find my hero and villain state and how I can improve what I do in those states, like what activities I can do to not harm anyone in my villain state and how I can help someone in my hero state. Health is also a really important topic and how we manage ourselves can result in impacting our health in a good or bad way.

I got to know what positive things people think about me and if I make a difference.

Overall, the LifeChangers lessons helped me out a lot and changed my mindset.

Moreover, I found out more about myself and my 'superpowers'.

-Arnav R9

We really enjoyed LifeChangers because of the kind teachers and fun activities. During LifeChangers we learned to embrace ourselves (be yourself) no matter what, we will use this skill for the rest of our life. We also enjoyed the skills workshop because we got to be active outside. LifeChangers was an amazing experience and we would highly recommend it to others.

- Harry & Elliot R10

SPORTS/HAKINAKINA

HAKINAKINA DAY

OMG! The day started with a nail-biting question – do we go ahead or not? Weather threatened to scuttle our plans, but Mother Nature smiled just enough to let us give the green light. And the rest, as they say, is history! Our students arrived ready to represent their WAKAs in full color, kicking off with the waka chants to get the blood flowing. The day unfolded into an incredible event with five rotations: Sprints, High Jump, Standing Leap and Spears, American Football Challenge and Gumboot Throwing, and Problem-Solving activities (Rob the Nest, Three-Legged Races, and Octopus). Students gave it their all, with one parent sharing, "My child came home pumped because he tried his very best and was proud of himself." Congratulations to the following students for their top results:

Sprints:

Year 8 Girls: 1st Evangeline R14, 2nd Abigail R3, 3rd Evie R5 | Boys: 1st Bruce R7, 2nd Ryder R8, 3rd Jakob R10

Year 7 Girls: 1st Hanna R7, 2nd Madison R5, 3rd Sara R8 | Boys: 1st Braxton R13, 2nd Bevan R10, 3rd Harrison R15

High Jump:

Year 8 Girls: 1st Evie R5, 2nd Mabel R9 | Boys: 1st (tied) Oliver R7 & Alfie R6, 3rd James R14

Year 7 Girls: 1st Hanna R7, tied 3rd Indianna R8 & Penelope R5 | Boys: Frank R6, Bevan R10, Quinn R5

Long Jump, shot put, and discus events are scheduled for next week. I'm particularly excited about the new format we're using for shot put and discus—stay tuned! A big shoutout goes to our dedicated TAI staff, the true top performers of the day! Their hard work and enthusiasm made Hakinakina Day an incredible experience for all our students. Thank you for making it a memorable event!

GETTING ACTIVE AT TAI THIS TERM

- Under the theme #BeingTheBestYouCanBe, NRF will be running futsal workshops over the coming weeks. Futsal is one of the fastest-growing sports globally, and students will get to enjoy our court behind the library.
- The TAI Running Club will continue meeting every Wednesday at 7:30 am. This Sunday, a group of runners will be taking on the 5km event in the Auckland Marathon! If your child would like to participate, they'll need written permission and should see Whaea Nicola in Room 2.
- Touch & Athletics Zoneday

TAI BLUES CREW CHRISTMAS DRIVE

It's that time of year again for our TAI Blues Crew! This year, they've set an ambitious goal of 5,000 non-perishable food items for the Blues' Fill the Bus campaign, with 20% staying in our local community. Every family deserves a hearty meal this Christmas, and we're asking for your help to make this goal a reality. If you'd like to support or donate spot prizes to reward student participants, please email me at tony.n@teatatu.school.nz. I'm incredibly proud to walk alongside these young kaitiaki. Let's help them reach their goal!

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thanks to Evie R7, Tilly R7, Peyton R2, and Phoebe R2 for their excellent work in selecting next year's TAI Backyard Programme leaders! The Backyard Programme has been phenomenal this year thanks to their mahi, and we'll be introducing the new leaders in our next newsletter.

Next week, we begin welcoming our incoming Year 7 students from local primary schools, who will get a sneak peek at life at TAI. Special thanks to Evie and Hazel R5 for their leadership in organizing welcoming activities!

-Matua Tony



VOLLEYBALL ZONE DAY

Last Monday, 18 students represented TAI at the Volleyball Zone Day held at Glen Eden Intermediate. Although both teams didn't secure any wins, we gained valuable experience, working on our skills in setting, passing, and communication throughout the day. The girls played three games, and the boys played four, facing teams with more practice, game knowledge, and often a height advantage. We're grateful for the opportunity to trial and for making the team—the highlight for everyone was playing together and bonding as a team. We believe TAI's volleyball can only improve, and with earlier team selection and more practice, we'll be ready to challenge the best at future Zone Days!

- Written by Evie & Hazel R5

WAKA AMA

A huge mihi to Waitakere Outrigger Canoe Club for organising waka ama coaching for Te Atatū Intermediate! We are extremely grateful for this opportunity and are excited to begin training for the annual memorial event. This year, the event will take place in West Auckland at Taikata Park on Te Atatū Peninsula on Saturday, November 23rd. We look forward to paddling and racing against other Te Atatū schools participating in the same program!

"Every Wednesday, a group of students heads down to the Waitakere Boat Club to participate in waka ama. On our first Wednesday, we visited Peninsula Primary for a safety briefing and to learn the basics of rowing. The following week, we had our first session on the water in a waka, where we learned about the different seats and how to turn the boat. Initially, it was challenging, but once we got the hang of it, we found it really enjoyable. Overall, I loved this waka ama session, and I'm excited for the next one!"

- Written by Sonaya R7





HAKI NAKI N DAY

CLASS OF 2024
TE ATATŪ INTERMEDIATE GRADUATION

NIGHT IN CANDYLAND

Date: Thursday, 12th December

Time: 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Dress Code: Formal Attire

(NO SHORT SHORTS/SKIRTS, DENIM JEANS, OR RIPPED CLOTHING ETC. PLEASE CONTACT WHAEA NGAIRE IF UNSURE)

Entry Ticket: \$20 – Cash only

Photo Booth Ticket: \$5 (this is optional, 4 photos per ticket, 1 ticket per person)

TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED FROM MS. ROONEY IN THE OFFICE BEFORE SCHOOL STARTS EACH DAY.

Note: A permission form must be completed before a ticket can be purchased.

5:50 PM: Doors Open

DROP-OFF AREA: GATE 1, TEACHER'S CAR PARK

6:00 PM Photo Booths Open (until 8:30 PM)

6:30 PM: Class Photos

7:00 PM: Dinner

8:00 PM: Cake Cutting

8:15 PM: Final Dance

Parents are invited to join at this time

8:30 PM: Pick-Up

CAREGIVERS MUST COLLECT STUDENTS INSIDE THE HALL

NO EXCEPTIONS

IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

FORMAL WEAR ONLY: REFER TO DRESS CODE DETAILS.

NO CELL PHONES: TO RESPECT STUDENTS' PRIVACY.

SCHOOL VALUES APPLY: THIS IS A SCHOOL EVENT, SO ALL TAI
EXPECTATIONS AND VALUES ARE TO BE FOLLOWED.



SPRING MUSIC SHOWCASE

TE ATATŪ INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL HALL

THURSDAY 28TH NOVEMBER 2024

6:30 PM - 8:00 PM



FEATURING
BEGINNER & ADVANCED BANDS
VIOLIN: JOGGERS, RUNNERS & SPRINTERS

