

# 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**

*Happy Diwali and Fakaalofa Atu as we celebrate Niue Language Week!*

It's another big week in education, with the mega strike action on Thursday 23 October and significant changes being introduced to the new English and Mathematics curriculums. I don't often like to get political; however, the current Mathematics curriculum—which we have already begun implementing with support, templates, and professional learning—has again been changed without meaningful collaboration with schools or principals, with implementation expected 2026.

These new curriculums will now cover Years 0–10 in both English (previously Y0–6 and an expected Y7–13) and Mathematics (Y0–8 begun this year). Further changes are also planned for Years 11–13, with our current Year 8 cohort likely to be the first group affected by the new senior-level curriculum when it is introduced. These constant changes with limited implementation time are causing frustrations within the education sector.

This makes our upcoming Teacher Only Day on Thursday, 21 November, even more important, as we focus on upskilling all staff in these new curriculum changes and the structured literacy approach. As a school, our priority remains to plan, teach, and assess effectively to support quality learning for all students. We aim to balance current best practices with the evolving expectations set by the Ministry of Education.

Thank you to everyone who has already completed our consultation form to support the school's review process. We have received a small number of responses so far and would love to hear from more of our community. Your feedback helps us celebrate what's going well and identify areas where we can strengthen or adjust our approach. The link to the form is provided below.

Wishing everyone a relaxing Labour Day weekend—a sure sign that summer is on its way! We look forward to seeing all students back on Tuesday, refreshed and ready for the final exciting 7 weeks of the year.

Ngā mihi  
Lloyd Evans -Principal /Tumuaki





# IMPORTANT NOTES

## TEACHER ONLY DAY

FRIDAY 21 NOVEMBER

With the new Year 7-13 English curriculum being implemented in 2026, and the focus on structured literacy, TAI has combined with Evaluation Associates, who will be providing our school with upskilling and development for staff around the new curriculum. We are required to complete 3 curriculum staff only days between now and the end of term 1 2026.

Therefore, we will be holding a curriculum teacher only day for the implementation support required for English on **Friday 21 November**.

This is the second designated Ministry of Education curriculum day given to schools this year for upskilling staff.

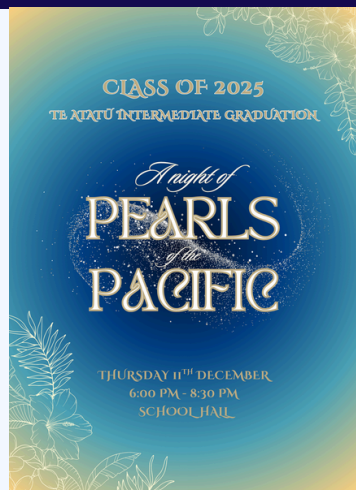
## HAKINAKINA DAY - CHANGE OF DATE

Please note that our Hākinakina Day has been rescheduled from next Thursday to **Week 5, Monday 3rd November**.

Students are encouraged to come dressed in their Waka colours:

- Aotea – Blue
- Tainui – Yellow
- Takitumu – Red
- Te Arawa – Green

Please remember: no paint, thank you!



## YR8 GRADUATION BALL

Our annual Year 8 Graduation Ball will take place on Thursday, 11th December, from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm in the school hall.

This special event is exclusively for Year 8 students.

Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased with cash only from the office.

**Date: Thursday, 11th December**

**Time: 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm**

**Dress Code: Formal Attire**

**Entry Ticket: \$25 – 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.

**Please click here to complete the permission slip**

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



## ANNUAL PARAKAI TRIP

On Wednesday, 10th 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.**



## SCULPTURE ON THE SHORE – VOTE FOR TAI!

We're excited to share that 20 of our talented students will have their artwork exhibited as part of this year's NZ Sculpture OnShore Schools Exhibition! NZ Sculpture OnShore returns to the stunning clifftop location of Ō Peretu Fort Takapuna from 8–23 November. This incredible outdoor exhibition features over 100 sculptures by both well-known and emerging New Zealand artists, as well as garden art, an indoor gallery, and the Schools Exhibition in the underground fort. If you visit the exhibition, please remember to vote for our Te Atatū Intermediate display! We'd love your support in celebrating our students' creativity.

To access discounted tickets for you and your whānau, head to [www.nzsculptureonshore.co.nz](http://www.nzsculptureonshore.co.nz) or [iticket.co.nz](http://iticket.co.nz) and follow these steps:

### Adult + Child Pass – 25% off

1. Click on Day Pass
2. Select 1 adult + 1 child ticket
3. At checkout, scroll down to the Schools Discount box
4. Enter our school's discount code "TeAtatū" and complete your transaction

### Family Pass – Special Offer \$60 (2 adults + up to 3 children)

1. Click on Day Pass
2. Select 2 adults + 3 children
3. At checkout, scroll to the Schools Discount Family box
4. Enter our school's discount code "TeAtatū" and complete your transaction



## TAI REBELS - BNZ COURT OF DREAMS

The TAI Rebels basketball team had an unforgettable day on Sunday 12 October, after winning the BNZ Court of Dreams experience.

The team, along with some enthusiastic supporters, travelled by bus to Spark Arena where they were treated to VIP hospitality – including a VIP room with food and drinks and courtside seats for the NZ Breakers v South East Melbourne Phoenix game. Before the main event, the Rebels played the curtain-raiser match against the Birkdale Intermediate Bulls and then had the honour of welcoming the Breakers players onto the court. It was an amazing afternoon and the team represented TAI with pride. A big thank you to all the parents who came along to support our players.

## NSW SOFTBALL CHAMPS

In September, Cooper (Room 9) travelled to Sydney, to represent NZ at the New South Wales State Championship alongside some of the country's top U13 softball players.

Cooper's team went undefeated in the round robin, only losing their final game to the other NZ team! Cooper said he learned what it takes to compete at a high level and improved his batting skills. He also felt proud wearing "New Zealand" across his chest. Cooper now looks forward to the 2025/26 season with his Roosters Softball Club and trialling for the North Harbour Rookie Sox team. Congratulations, Cooper, on an awesome achievement and experience!



# WE NEED YOUR FEEDBACK *\*Be in to win a \$50 fuel voucher!*

## SCIENCE AT TAI

### [PLEASE CLICK HERE TO COMPLETE THE SCIENCE SURVEY](#)

Over the last 18 months, Te Atatū Intermediate has been working to enhance the teaching and learning of science across both our specialist and classroom programmes. This term, we are carrying out a review of Science at TAI to help shape future plans.

In the Science Specialist programme this year, students have been learning about the Nature of Science and developing their science capabilities. In the Material World (Chemistry) strand, they explored mystery powders, states of matter, oobleck, dissolving, and the pH scale, including making sherbet, and were introduced to the periodic table. In the Physical World (Physics) strand, students have been – or will be in Term 4 – investigating forces and speed, bungee jumping Barbies, and designing and testing foam rollercoasters.

In the classroom programme last term, students explored Navigation and Wayfinding and learnt about the importance of observation, culminating in the Waka Hourua STEM Challenge. Congratulations to Room 1 for designing the Winning Waka, and a big thank you to Matua Jeff, Ms Harrington, Mr Dempsey, and Whaea Stacey for their support with the Grand Final!

This term, our classroom focus shifts to CSI Forensic Science, where students will become forensic scientists – investigating fingerprints, fibres, chromatography, spatters, and more, while learning about the importance of evidence. A big thank you to Constable Jude, our School Community Officer, for lending us resources.

Alongside these programmes, our Enviro Kaitiaki Leaders have been out at Orangihina, connecting with scientists Dion Pou and Chez Panapa from the RiverCare Group – Te Wai o Pareira and with Grant Routen. Their mahi continues to focus on protecting and monitoring our local te taiao. On the last Friday of Term 3, they took part in a coastal clean-up with Peninsula Primary School as part of the Keep Te Atatū Peninsula Beautiful campaign. Next Friday, students will continue the annual Marine Metre Squared monitoring work that Te Atatū Intermediate has been carrying out since 2018 – mahi which was also proudly showcased at the EcoFest community event earlier this year.

As part of our review, we would love your input. Please take a few minutes to complete our short survey – your feedback will help guide the next steps for Science at TAI.

## COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

### [PLEASE CLICK HERE TO COMPLETE THE SURVEY NOW](#)

Every three years, schools review and develop their strategic plan for the following three years.

We are currently in this review cycle and, as part of our planning, we would love our school community to share their feedback. The short survey is anonymous, and your input will help support the incoming Board as they begin developing the new strategic plan for 2026–2029.

