

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 conclude another term, I reflect on the past 10 weeks. It has been another packed term filled with learning, cultural experiences, musical achievements, athletic prowess, social initiatives, and a collective sense of belonging—perfectly exemplifying one of our core values: whānaungatanga. Today's newsletter summarises the diverse range of activities we've had, and I think it's safe to say that both staff and students deserve the upcoming holiday break to rest, relax, and recharge in preparation for our final busy term ahead.

I also want to highlight our recent Fiafia Night, which beautifully showcased the culmination of our term's learning context, 'My Story, Your Story, Our Story,' and celebrated the diverse cultures that make Te Atatū Intermediate such a special place. A heartfelt thank you to the staff and students for making it a memorable evening and to the parents and whānau for your unwavering support.

Finally, I'd like to share some insights from my recent attendance at the New Zealand Principals Federation Conference. A standout moment for me was hearing from Gilbert Enoka, the renowned psychologist for the All Blacks. His 'Magic 4' pyramid really struck a chord with me. At the base is Belonging—fostering a strong sense of identity; next is Environment—creating a supportive space; followed by Values—building core principles; and, at the top, Vision—defining our ultimate goal. This framework reinforces my commitment to providing a space where our students can belong, thrive, and succeed.

Have a wonderful two-week break, and we look forward to welcoming all students back for the final term on Monday, 14 October.



IMPORTANT NOTES I

STARTING DATES 2025

There was an error with the dates published in our last email

Monday 3rd February - Pōwhiri & Orientation Day (Y7 Only)

Tuesday 4th February - Whānau Hui (book a timeslot to meet the teacher)

Wednesday 5th February - School Begins (Y7 & Y8, full school)

Thursday 6th February - Waitangi Day

Friday 7th February - Normal school day

TEACHER ONLY DAY

Term 4, Friday 25th October

Our Ministry of Education designated Teacher Only Day is scheduled for Term 4 on Friday, 25th October, the day before Labour Day. All schools in the Kahui Ako will be observing this day as their designated Teacher Only Day. During this time, we will focus on developing our science implementation, alongside integrating literacy and numeracy into our curriculum.

HONOURS BAND FESTIVAL

A huge amount of energy went into the organisation for the King's College intermediate Honours Band Festival. The Advanced Band was fully committed to the event and under the direction of Chad Davenport they worked hard to perfect their pieces. Playing in Holy Trinity Cathedral was amazing and playing with another 100 or so musicians created an epic sound. The Advanced Band represented TAI brilliantly. A huge thanks to the parents who helped out with transport, without our band whanau support none of this would be possible.

You can view/listen to their beautiful performance by clicking [here](#). Image is blurred for privacy.

RUTHERFORD COLLEGE 2025

Whānau of Year 8 students planning to attend Rutherford College next year, if you haven't already completed the enrolment form, please do so as soon as possible. They are beginning to organise class placements for next year, and your child may miss out on their preferred options. [Please click here for more information.](#)



GAGANA SAMOA SPEECH COMPETITION

Colleen R4 and Geovannah R4 participated in the APPA Gagana Samoa (Samoan Language) speech contest on Friday, 6th at Finlayson Park School. The theme was 'Tautua i le alofa, manuia le lumana'i - Serve in love for a blessed future.' For both girls, this theme represented the importance of their service out of love to God, family, and friends. They went into the event feeling excited yet a little nervous, as the majority of participants came from bilingual or language nest schools. Geovannah impressively came 2nd overall in the Year 7 category. Malō Le Taumafai, Malō le tauvii! Vi'ia le Ali'i!

T-SHIRT DESIGN COMP

Twenty of our students were selected to participate in a T-shirt design competition organised by the Te Whau Pathway Project, centered around World Car Free Day. The students were given a week to brainstorm their ideas. At the end of the week, two representatives from the Te Whau Pathway Project visited our school and conducted a one-hour workshop where students completed their designs. These final designs were then submitted for judging. In total, approximately 100 designs were entered from various West Auckland schools. We are thrilled to congratulate Hazel R5, who earned 2nd place, and Hanna R7, who secured 3rd place! Both students will have their designs printed on T-shirts and receive prize money as part of their achievement.



AUCKLAND MIDDLE SCHOOLS ART EXHIBITION

Nine students' artworks from TAI have been proudly selected for the Auckland Middle Schools Art Exhibition.

Congratulations to: Annaka R6, Damin R5, Suri R5, Hazel R5, Halo R13, Mila R10, Cassie R7, Jeremi R13 & Amelie R9!

Be sure to pop along and see their beautiful creations, along with many more impressive pieces. Check the poster for event details! FREE EVENT!

FIAFIA NIGHT

TAI's first-ever Fiafia Night was an outstanding display of collaboration, dedication, and teamwork from the teachers, highlighting their commitment to teaching and nurturing our students. The diversity and integration across the board—spanning arts, drama, music, dance, and oratory skills—created a vibrant fusion of creativity and expression. Each element complemented the other, showcasing a rich tapestry of talent and unity.

The connections formed with our community were a significant achievement. A heartfelt thank you to the Te Atatū Community Centre and Library for providing such a wonderful venue and being so accommodating. Massive thanks go to Jess and Moana, especially, for their unwavering support in making our Fiafia Night a success.

And finally, a huge thank you to all of our whānau for your dedication in preparing your children for the show and for showing up and being present. Your support meant the world to our students, who were so proud to perform for you. Your presence made the night even more special!

Fiafia means happy in Samoan, and it was definitely a happy night! This is only the beginning, and we look forward to more opportunities to celebrate and acknowledge the diverse cultures we represent at TAI. Fa'afetai Lava!



IMPORTANT DATES TERM 4

Monday 14 October First Day of Term Four
Friday 25 October Teacher Only Day
Monday 28 October Labour Day - Public Holiday
Tuesday 29 October Athletics Day
Monday 4 November Volleyball Zoneday
Monday 4 - 5 November Year 6 Orientation Days
Saturday 9 November Jump Jam North Island National Competition
Tuesday 12 November Touch Zoneday
Friday 15 - 22 November Year 8 Girls Self-Defence

Friday 29 November Rainbows End for Sports Monitors
Sunday 1 December Aquabots Nationals Competition
Friday 6 December eSports Competition
Wednesday 11 December Parakai Trip - free, school wide
Thursday 12 December Year 8 Graduation Ball
Tuesday 17 December Year 7 Half Day (Finish at 12pm)
Tuesday 17 December Year 8 Prize Giving & Last Day
Wednesday 18 December Year 7 Prize Giving & Last Day (Finish 12pm)



IMPORTANT NOTES II



P.A.C.E INDIGENOUS SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

Twenty-two TAI students from Matua Tony's P.A.C.E activity 'Science and Engineering experience' attended Auckland University to explore opportunities in the fields of science and engineering. They participated in a variety of activities linked to STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics). A massive thank you to Ashleigh Fox and Steven Roberts from Auckland University for hosting our students and providing them with such an excellent experience!

-Written by Josephine R4
On Wednesday, we got to experience something that many of us had never done before—we had the opportunity to visit Auckland University. For me, it was my first time ever going to the university, and from what I've heard, even our parents didn't have this chance at our age. My favourite part of the trip was seeing the small robots that could move around based on colour coding. After visiting Auckland University, I started thinking about attending university myself, even though I hadn't considered it before. Now, when I grow up, I feel like I might want to pursue it, as I could learn so much, especially in fields like science and engineering. The thought of going to university feels like a huge opportunity, especially since our parents didn't have access to the same experiences we do today.



LEGO LEAGUE: ASIA-PACIFIC CHAMPIONSHIP

In July, Daniel R7 participated in the FLL (FIRST LEGO League) Asia-Pacific Championship, a global competition originating from the United States for young robotics enthusiasts aged 9 to 16. With nearly one million participants from over 70 countries each year, the Asia-Pacific Championship is a major event in the FLL calendar. This year's competition, held at Macquarie University in Australia, brought together nearly 60 teams from 34 countries, including Germany, Italy, the United States, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Japan, South Korea, China, Turkey, Honduras, and more. Daniel's team, 'All Bricks,' made their debut at the competition with an average age of just 10 years old. Despite being newcomers, they achieved an impressive 8th place in the 'Alliance Innovation Challenge.' The four-day event included not only the intense robotics competition but also a variety of cultural exchange activities, such as quizzes, a visit to a reptile park, cultural showcases, circus performances, and a glow night. These experiences allowed children from around the world to connect and create lasting memories. Daniel and his teammates had an unforgettable time. Also in July, Daniel participated in the 2024 New Zealand Robot Olympiad, held at the University of Auckland, where he won a silver medal in the Cyber Robot Intermediate category. Awesome work, Daniel!



E-PRO 8 CHALLENGE

The EPro8 Challenge is an inter-school science and engineering competition designed to promote science, engineering, and problem-solving skills. Each year, over 25,000 students from across New Zealand participate. This year, the competition began with an internal series at TAI, where 56 students competed. From this group, 28 students advanced to the school final. Congratulations to the two winning teams from this round will now move on to the interschool heat on 6th November.

First place: Oliver R11, Evan R7, Archer R14, and Liam R14.
Second place: Delilah R6, Neeve R14, Caitlyn R6, and Scarlett R9.



-Written by Delilah & Caitlyn R6
It's a really cool opportunity to be part of this competition. As a team, you have to work together to create quirky mechanical contraptions using aluminium rods and joiners. Each team is provided with a kit that contains identical items, and you receive a booklet with different build options. It doesn't give you exact instructions, so you have to figure it out using problem-solving skills. On the final day, the girls' team completed 2.5 designs, scoring 380 points and finishing second, just behind the boys' team, who scored over 400! We're really looking forward to the interschool competition—it's going to be so much fun, and we're excited to represent TAI!

NASA AT AUT

-Written by Timi R14

Neeve & Timi, both R14, had the amazing opportunity to attend an engineering trip to Auckland University, where they got to hear from a NASA representative about the four rovers on Mars. They even saw a scale model of one of the Mars rovers! The presentation covered landing technology, including the balloon system used to cushion the rover upon landing and parachutes to slow its descent onto the Martian surface. With several other schools present, each bringing 30-50 students, it was just the two of them representing TAI, along with Neeve's dad for support. Despite being a smaller team, they had a lot of fun and did really well, even being the fastest in coding a robot to solve a maze! They also got to use CAD to design something for 3D printing and won a prize for coming first in a Mars-themed Kahoot! quiz. Both are grateful for the experience and found it fascinating to learn about NASA technology.

BELLYFUL

Amazing mahi from a star team of cooks! Yesterday, 35 students prepared a total of 105 meals: 25 lasagnes, 38 portions of bolognese, and 42 servings of soup. These meals were made for Bellyful, an organisation that supports whānau with babies or young children who may not have others available to help by cooking and delivering free meals. A big thank you to our local Countdown for donating some of the ingredients used. This was our first time being involved in this initiative at TAI, and we're incredibly proud of everyone who contributed!



SPORTS/HAKINAKINA

Though often considered the quietest term for sports, 111 Sports Badges tell a different story, with students competing across six sports: cross country, hockey, Tough Guy and Gal, rugby league, flag football, and wrestling. Every sport was well-represented by TAI, but a few deserve special mention.

In Flag Football, we secured a credible 5th place. While this may not seem noteworthy, the competition is high-stakes, with the winner representing the Auckland Region in Wellington for the chance to compete in Las Vegas.

In cross country, TAI placed second behind Glen Eden Intermediate, with 8 of our runners qualifying for the Auckland Championships. With many of our runners coming from Year 7, I'm excited to see what TAI will bring next year.

A special shout-out to our wrestlers who represented TAI at the National Wrestling Championship held at Rutherford College. While there's so much more to be said about their incredible efforts, I'll summarise by saying the school is incredibly proud of how they upheld the 'Tu Tangata' motto.

They walked away with the following accolades:

Best Wahine/Female School

Best Intermediate

Top School of the Competition

As always, I extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who has given their time to support our tamariki in these sporting opportunities.

Hockey – Whaea Stacey, Mrs McKeown, Kate Pilot, and Gill Bloxam (Rutherford College)

Cross Country – Mrs Nicola Harrington, Leonie Parrant, and Joe Carter

Tough Guy and Gal – Whaea Tere

Rugby League – Whaea Ngaire

Flag Football – Koka Amorangi, Courtney Le'auanae, and Steve Collins

Wrestling – Ruth Minton and Mike Nola (Rutherford College)

Thank you for supporting the journey of our 111 Sports Badge achievers!

And of course, a massive thank you to the whanaungatanga from our whānau and parents who supported Sports Camp. Sports Camp is filled with so many valuable learning opportunities and experiences, and it simply wouldn't be possible without the help of our parents. Ngā mihi nui to Shaun Chun, Krystal Moke, Hollie Colegate, and Jaclyn Margules for your tireless commitment to giving our tamariki an excellent experience.

-Matua Tony

BRAXTON AT AIMS

Congratulations to Braxton from R13, who proudly represented TAI at this year's AIMS Games, competing solo in BMX racing. Braxton achieved an incredible 3rd place in the Year 7 boys BMX racing finals, bringing home the bronze medal!

He was thrilled to secure a podium finish, especially amongst a group of boys he races against regularly. This time, he came closer than ever to some of New Zealand's top riders, finishing just behind the current NZ1 and NZ6 racers in this final.

Braxton also placed 4th in the individual time trial event, missing 3rd place by only half a second. But he clawed his way back to take bronze in the racing final, where it matters most. His hard work and dedication truly paid off, and we couldn't be prouder!



NFL AUCKLAND REGIONALS

Earlier this month, ten students represented TAI at the NFL Auckland Regionals, competing against seven teams from various Auckland schools. The competition was intense, with the winning team earning the opportunity to advance further.

Our team played five games, securing victories in two. The experience highlighted the importance of strong defense and effective communication, areas we aim to improve in future matches. Participating in this event provided a valuable introduction to a new sport, and we are grateful for the opportunity to have been involved.



TAI BASKETBALL SEASON

This was TAI's 4th season playing in the Henderson Valley Basketball competition at Henderson High School on Tuesday nights. For the first time, our TAI Knights competed in a highly competitive U16 league. Despite facing older and taller opposition, we showed great resilience and finished 3rd overall. A big thank you to Michael De Guzman for coaching!



SPEECH COMPETITION 2024

This term, students were given the opportunity to deliver an oral presentation based on our term's learning context, 'My story, your story, our story.'

Presentations could take the form of a speech, slam poem, or other oral formats.

While primarily in English, students were encouraged to incorporate elements of their mother tongue or Te Reo Māori.

From the syndicate finals held earlier in the term, twelve students progressed to the finals, which were held yesterday, with a variety of diverse and engaging presentations shared.

Éire R9 - "That Cold Irish Air"

Amelie R9 - "Baby Birds"

Alex R2 - "The History of Philippines Food"

Oliver R11 - "Music"

Rachel R6 - "Who am I?"

Anna R6 - "Comparing cultures"

Nova R14 - "What is my story?"

Sonaya R7 - "My cultural identity"

Joshua R15 - The difference between Kiwi and Philippine culture

Daniel R12 - "Not brown enough"

Penelope R5 - "Celebrations around the world"

Evie R5 - "Unique Eating etiquette around the world"

Congratulations to Daniel from R12 for his winning slam poem, 'Not Brown Enough.'

Second place was shared by Oliver from R11 and Nova from R14.

NOT BROWN ENOUGH

Written by Daniel R12

Slam poetry on tough times

Not brown enough

I'm a rebuff ... and call you a bluff!

How can you be Samoan and Maori?

I'm feeling angry

I've had enough

I'm fed up

like grow up

Are you me? Do you know me?

NO!!!

Those questions you pose I don't even want to disclose

It's none of your business how rude to impose ... On my identity!

Man, what an obscenity you're a disgrace to society definitely and don't disagree with me.

That was crappie of you

Boo you for saying that about me and how I look

Now open up a book and read it

I would recommend the one on respect 'cause you need it

All you do is chit-chat on people's identity who gives you the rights to make people feel empty

You're dried to the core with negativity and insensitivity. That's right you can't talk back to me

you better fly away like a bee

you better pay the fee for talking to me like that.

Stop being a nosy rat

quite the chit-chat and don't talk back and one more thing

I am Ngapuhi

Te Mahurehure

Samoan from Tu-la-el-e

I am the great-grandson of Te Kuri O te Wao and Gogosina

I hear their voices in my blood

Yes I am Scottish, Irish, Norwegian and English too

But these are the voices I hear when I haka

My ancestors they stand behind me

They define me

I want to be connected

It hurts when I'm rejected

And I'm proud of my identity I'm proud of who I am

I won't stand by and let you say that about me. Now I'm tired of people saying not brown ... enough.

He aroha whakatō, he aroha puta mai

Kindness is sown than kindness you shall receive

CAMP - STUDENT VOICE

My favourite moment at Sports Camp was when we had free time and got to relax in the pool. I also really enjoyed supporting our school during the sports events. One sport I played at camp was ultimate frisbee. Everyone was really supportive, and we all had a lot of fun. I would definitely recommend other students to go. It's a great experience to make new friends, try new sports, and have a lot of fun

- Alice R1

My favourite moment from sports camp was when I was playing mini golf and I got a hole in one and all of the students that came to support cheered and made me feel so pleased with myself.

One of the sports I played was frisbee golf and it was so much fun!!! It's so fun but you need a heavy frisbee or the wind will affect your throws. It's such an easy sport to pick up and so much fun to play with friends.

Sports camp was awesome!!! I definitely recommend coming along, I just wish I trialled last year. I such a rewarding experience and you a guaranteed a fun time.

-Ava R10

My favourite moment from Sports Camp was playing in the basketball finals. Every time TAI scored, the whole school would cheer loudly, and I loved hearing people shout my name when I had the ball.

One sport I played at camp was basketball. I would encourage others to give it a go by showing how much fun it is once you improve and how good you can get with practice.

I would definitely recommend others to go along because it's such a fun experience.

You're with your friends, the food is amazing, and you even wake up to a jug of hot Milo!

-Jakob R10

One of my favourite moments from Sports Camp was our cheer night. I loved seeing all the other schools showcase their creativity in their performances, and the vibe was amazing. As for sports, I enjoyed them all, but if I had to pick one, it would be hole-in-one golf. I had never played it before or knew much about it, but it turned out to be really fun and interesting. I'd definitely recommend it if you're looking to try something new and have some fun. I would 100% recommend students go next year. It's a phenomenal experience—not just for the sports but for the overall environment, the staff, and everything in general. It's an amazing way to develop your sporting skills and make some awesome, and sometimes silly, memories.

-Sharlott R6

I don't have just one favourite moment, so here are my two: The first and most memorable was when our school won both the girls' and boys' indoor football. We all screamed our heads off, lost our voices, and had massive headaches afterward! The second best moment was when the boys won their basketball game, getting sweet revenge against Mount Roskill—the team that had beaten us in almost every sports final that day.

One sport I played was basketball, and it was an amazing experience. I remember the feeling of competition and determination as soon as I got on the court. In my opinion, basketball was the most fun sport I played at camp, and I would definitely recommend it to others. It wasn't just about winning—it was about seeing everyone smile and have fun. Sports Camp was one of the best experiences this year, and I encourage others to give it a go. Even though it was just a week, everyone who went had a blast and learned so much from each other. Sure, every single person lost at some point, but we all gained valuable lessons from it.

-Hanna R7

My favorite moment at sports camp was when we won indoor football. Everybody was cheering so loud and they all ran onto the court. It made all the training and practice all worth it, as well as the fight we went through to win.

I played volleyball at camp and I would encourage others to give it a go. It's really fun to learn how to play, and once you get the hang of it you can play for hours without getting bored. I strongly recommend playing it because it's a great way to hang out with your friends, pass time, stay active and generally just have fun.

I would DEFINITELY recommend trying out for sports camp. You don't get many opportunities to do awesome things like this. You get to try out different sports, and play the ones you love. You also get to make new friends and build relationships with your teammates. Such a fun experience.

-Mila R9

My favourite moment at Sports Camp was during the indoor football finals. It was intense, but the energy was amazing, and when TAI won, everyone jumped onto the court. It was such a beautiful experience.

One sport I think you should try is swimming. It's underrated but a great sport—you don't have to be a professional, just bring a positive attitude.

I would 100% recommend trying out for Sports Camp. It's an incredible experience, not just for the sports but also for making lifelong friends off the field or court.

-Amber R6

My favourite moment at Sports Camp was during the indoor football final. The atmosphere was absolutely epic, and when we won, everyone rushed onto the court and celebrated like crazy! It even turned into a moshpit, with everyone falling over in the excitement!

I played football at Sports Camp, and it was by far my favourite sport. The group games were fun and fairly easy, but everything changed in the semi-final. It was a neck-and-neck match that finished 0-0, setting us up for a lunchtime penalty shootout. I arrived just in time, and after five intense penalties, we won!

I would 100% recommend students go to Sports Camp. It was one of the best experiences of my life! There were sports to play all day, every day, and the memories I made there will stay with me forever.

-Luke R8

My favourite moment in sports camp was when we had night sports. I loved the commotion of 9 other schools shouting at the top of their lungs. Then our school jumped up and down cheering so loud your ears would ring. I screamed so loudly that I lost my voice for a while! The best part would be when accomplished something big like; winning a final or getting into a semi. Like a tsunami our whole school would rush into the arms of the players and chant. I remember being one of the people first to hug them and then a stampede came and jumped on top of me. The energy the hall would bring and the excitement all packed in this sports hall was unreal and that's a moment I will never forget.

Foosball is a well known game played by many. A football game that you can control with your hands, played on a table and brings buckets full of joy. Team sports give you a chance to make friends, communicate better, build your social skills and boost your energy. Human foosball; a sport where you play as a team and move around on lengthways poles. You play foosball and it's relatively active. so when you combine the well known game and working as a team you really only have one option... give it a go! I certainly enjoyed it, when I played it this year. I encourage you to give it a try; you'll never know whether you like it until you give it a try.

Sports camp is one of the best experiences I've had in my lifetime, you build stronger relationships with people you already know, get to know other schools, learn teamwork, builds your confidence and pushes you to try new things. It is amazing and I would never go back and do it any differently.

-Tilly R7



SPORTS CAMP