

# TALKING TAORO A

The official newsletter of Taoro a School



## Important Dates

**30th March**  
Moawhāngo Athletics

**1st April**  
Taoro a Tiki Tour

**5th April**  
Whānau fun day

**27th April**  
Country Netball Team muster

**11th May**  
Teacher Only Day

## 2023 Term Dates

**Term 1**  
7th February-  
6th April

**Term 2**  
24th April-  
30th June

**Term 3**  
17th July-  
22nd September

**Term 4**  
9th October-  
20th December

## Principal's Report

Kia ora friends and whānau,

Welcome back to 2023! We have had an awesome start to the year with lots of cool things taking place already. Our learning programmes are in full swing and our ākonga have settled back in to their routines with ease.

Our school roll continues to grow and we have had some fantastic additions to our classrooms this term. We currently have 12 learners in our junior class and 18 learners in our senior class.

The fundraising committee have been working incredibly hard this term prepping for our upcoming 'Taoro a Tiki Tour' and as a school we are so grateful to have such an awesome team of whānau putting in the mahi and making a difference for our tamariki. We are sure the event will be a raging success!

Recently I attended a Principal Hui where we were talked through the new expectations around planning and reporting- particularly strategic planning. It was a great feeling sitting in that room (as a relatively new Principal) and realising that our little school and community are well and truly ahead of the 8 ball with the work we put in to our collaborative planning process during 2021 and 2022. As a result of this I am looking forward to sharing our journey with other schools and boards to support them in their strategic planning. Definitely a proud Principal moment!

As many of you will know, this year will look a little different for myself and my partner Tyler with the arrival of our little man later this year. We are really excited for this next chapter and looking forward to boosting the Taoro a School roll when that time comes. Please see the note below from Taoro a School Board for more information around my maternity leave.

Ngā mihi nui,  
Lara Stevens

## Plum Fundraiser for Cyclone Gabrielle

Earlier in the term we ran a hugely successful fundraiser, which allowed our tamariki to make a donation to a charity of their choice to support those affected by the devastating effects of Cyclone Gabrielle. We were humbled by the support of Taihape and Taoroa locals who helped us raise a whopping \$800 that was donated to the KidsCan 15 for floods appeal. Thanks to Amanda Collier for reaching out to us and offering us this opportunity.



## Weeds Hui

At the end of February, we were invited to a weeds hui in Mangaweka, put on by EnviroSchools and the Rangitikei Council. Our ākonga learnt all about different pest plants and biological control agents. It was a fun, engaging day that was topped off by Taoroa School winning the War on Weeds Award after competing in a range of different challenges.

## Tennis Court Upgrade

Our new tennis court is officially under way with the first coat complete. Weather has not been on our side but we are hoping this will be finished in the next few weeks- it is looking FANTASTIC and we can't wait to put it to use!



# Taoroa School Board of Trustees

Kia ora Friends + Whānau,

We are sure you will all join us in congratulating our Tumuaki / Principal Lara Stevens and Tyler in welcoming their first baby, due in July. Also, huge congratulations to our senior teacher Arzjah Flavell and Mitch on the safe arrival of Vann who is now 5 months old. To the rest of our school whānau expecting babies over the next few months, we wish you all the best - bring on the next generation of Taoroa tamariki!

We are excited to share that the board has accepted a return to work proposal from Lara, to return to Principal / Tumuaki duties from term four. The board has spent considerable time and sought extensive outside advice, particularly from NZSTA considering this.

The school is currently advertising for a Principal for Term Three only - while Lara is on maternity leave.

From Term Four, Lara will return to work in a part time capacity to fill the Principal component of her role while Arzjah and Caitlin will team teach to cover the teaching component! Arzjah will also 'act up' as Principal during some of the days she is teaching, as the school is required to have the Principal role filled at all times. Further details are still being worked through, but please be assured a huge amount of work is going into providing the best outcomes for our school, staff and community. These things are often a work in progress and we appreciate your support.

Between Miss Stevens, Miss Taylor, Mrs Henry, Whaea Arzjah and Mrs Cahill, we believe Taoroa tamariki are in very good hands and feel lucky to have such a talented group of teachers. Special thanks to Hannah, Fitz and Steph for all you do too.

As for BOT matters, a resolution has been passed to fill a current board 'casual vacancy' . The board is seeking more expertise in property and maintenance and Tom Glendinning has expressed interest in joining the board to give particular assistance in this area.

Please visit the school website for the official notice relating to this.

Likewise, we have identified a number of other knowledge gaps and we are continuing to look for advice on how to deliver best for the school. Through this transition, Sarah Wells has stepped into the role of Presiding Member while we navigate the best path forward.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to any of us to make a time to answer questions, talk about any concerns or just to have a chat.

Have a safe and happy Easter.

Ngā mihi,

Taoroa School Board of Trustees

# Students Corner

## Peanut butter and jam on toast

“HAHAHA,” went the crowd.

1 day earlier... “So I need you to write a set of instruction on how to make pb and j on toast for an activity we are doing”

The next day... Miss Stevens asked if she could use Ava’s recipe to make pb and j on toast and oh how she mucked it up! In the instructions it said to spread butter, peanut butter and jam everywhere, so Miss Stevens took that quite literally and spread the peanut butter and butter on our class treaty and the jam on her face!!! It was hilarious, but we must admit it did teach us how to be specific in our instructions. Learning is so much fun in our classroom!

On the 28th of March Taoroa School went to Rangitikei river and learnt about bugs, the water and the environment wellbeing. We had to go on a long walk down the hill and up the hill but it was totally worth it.

We have started Tuakana-Teina time and its when the senior class organise an activity to do with their buddy in the junior class. This week the seniors have been making really fun maths games to play with the juniors to help them work on addition and subtraction to 20.

Taoroa is an exciting place at the moment.

-Julz and Mel have made a beautiful new Tennis court for our school but they are being held up by this annoying weather. It has a green middle and will soon have a different green on the outside- all the cracks are GONE. When it dries out we are going to love it!!!

-We have a new teacher, Mrs Cahill. She is very sporty and active. She teaches in Room 2 a few days a week and we love having her as our teacher. She has 3 children Kaia, Tighe and Aofie.

-Next Wednesday we are having a whānau fun day at the Rec from 3pm to 5pm. Make sure you are there, it’s going to be great!

-Our beautiful, kind teacher (Principal) is having a cute, baby boy and we are really excited to meet him so we can have lots of cuddles. Some of us have some names we think Miss Stevens should consider: Zion, Richard rawiri Jessie, TJ, Bruce, Alexander, Alex, Kenny, CJ, Bryce, Riley, Cleo, Ezra, Henley, Zane, Zeke, Zayn, Zaiden, Zacharia and Zander.

## Unity Rose Crow (9) and Sammy Walker (9)



## Equine Lessons

This year we have been lucky to secure some funding to support the development of a trial initiative where we focus on the well being of our tamariki through the use of horses. Our learners have been attending sessions with trainer Tui Gower where they have focused on developing a relationship with a range of horses, as well as learning about all things equine. The delivery of this initiative is evolving as we go on and we are looking forward to seeing where this takes us as well as the opportunities this may provide for other schools in the future.



## On River Day

Earlier in the week we were lucky enough to throw on the gummies and head down to the Rangitikei river for a day of learning with the Rangitikei River Council Collective. Harriet, Lou and Julie facilitated a selection of activities that helped our learners to find out more about different bug life that exists in our waters, assess water quality and explore the impact our environment is having on our precious awa. We look forward to seeing the authentic learning and actions that come as a result of this experience!

# Nau Mai Haere Mai

Our School is growing!!!

This term we have welcomed 3 new whānau and one returning whānau to Taoroa and they have been such a great addition to our school. In Room 1 we have Ngahaki Ngamoki (Y1), Millie Williams (Y3) and Ema Haines-Winiata (Y3). In Room 2 we have Annabelle Walker (Y8), Samantha Walker (Y5), Tom Walker (Y5), Kadie Walker (Y5) and Bailee Williams (Y5). Thank you for choosing our school and we hope you are enjoying your learning journey here at Taoroa School.

This term we were also lucky enough to employ the wonderful Caitlin Cahill as our Room 2 Principal release teacher. Caitlin comes from a secondary background, specialising in Health and Physical Education. Caitlin joins us with her partner Tama, and three tamariki Kaia, Aoife and Tighe.



## Call for help

Our vege gardens are in need of some green fingered expertise! We are hoping there might be someone in the community that would be happy to come down and spend some time with our learners once a week to help us improve our gardening skills and produce some delicious kai. Please reach out if you are interested!

## Get in touch

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Scan this QR code to follow  
our facebook page- Taoroa  
School and community

