

# TALKING TAORO A

The official newsletter of Taoro a School



## Principal's Report

Kia Ora Taoro a Whanau,

It is quite unbelievable that we are now into Week 8, and rapidly approaching the end of Term. The arrival of Spring is keenly anticipated every year, and after the non-summer, and wet dismal winter of 2023, it has been nice to be able to enjoy the new life and hope that Spring always brings.

It really has been a special privilege for me to spend this Term here. Taoro a is my third Emergency Staffing posting, and each School experience has been memorable. Small Country Schools have a unique, special character, and fulfill a crucial role in rural New Zealand. As is the case here, these Schools are the hub of the Community, and enrich the lives of everyone living in that Community.

There have been many highlights. I have loved Teaching Room 2, and Job Sharing with Caitlin. These children are an enthusiastic, lively, and hard working group, with a keen enquiring attitude towards their learning - they are highly motivated, and enjoy learning about new things.

Something particularly striking about these young people is their amazing manners, the way they support each other, how respectful they are, and the confidence they have to look you in the eye, and hold a conversation. Very impressive actually!!

The Staff are a very welcoming, united and cohesive Team, who work tirelessly to ensure the children are safe, cared for, and focused on learning. They more than go the extra mile - results speak for themselves.

Lara and the Board of Trustees, are to be congratulated for the way all parties are now so strongly invested in the growth, and life, of the School.

Taoro a School is located in a stunning location - the outlook across the valley is second to none, particularly on a clear day when Ruapehu makes an appearance. It has to be a healthy experience for children to be growing up in this natural environment.

This is truly a special time to be involved in the life of Taoro a School.

Thank you everyone for being so welcoming, and supportive. I have thoroughly enjoyed the experience - exceptional things are happening in this School.

I wish everyone ongoing health and happiness, and the children every success as they continue on their life journey. Kia Kaha!!

Nga mihi nui

Richard McMillan  
Acting Principal

## Important Dates

### SEPTEMBER

**Friday 22nd**  
Assembly  
End of Term 3

### OCTOBER

**Monday 9th**  
Start Term 4  
Keeping ourselves safe programme  
begins

**Wednesday 11th**  
Craft Day

**Thursday 12th**  
Pet Day

**Friday 27th**  
Huntermville Cross country

### DECEMBER

**Friday 8th**  
Athletics Papanui Junction

**Thursday 19th**  
Prizegiving

**Friday 20th**  
End of School year

### 2023 TERM DATES

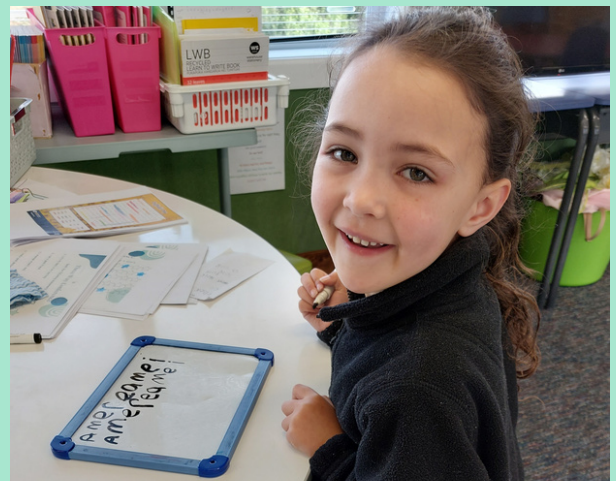
**Term 3**  
17th July-  
22nd September

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



## Nau Mai Haere Mai – Welcome

This Term we have welcomed Kalana Wipaki-Munro (Year 7 - Room 2), and Amereamei Lacy (Year 0 - Room 1) to Taoroa School. The School Roll now stands at 33.



## Daffodil Day

We held a very successful Mufti-Day to support the annual Cancer Society Daffodil Day Appeal and raised \$85. Thank you everyone for your support.



# Mokai Patea Cross Country

On Friday 1st November, the Mokai Patea Interschool Cross Country was held at a new venue, the Mangaweka Camping Grounds. It was a very special day, great weather, a spectacular venue, and outstanding racing. Our Athletes excelled, with a number of top placings. However their contribution to the day went beyond that. The support, encouragement, and care they showed each other was truly impressive.

We also had a large turn-out of whanau supporting the children. Thank you for your support, and also to those who helped with transportation - a special thanks for Margo Walker for assisting with the Marshaling.

## Results

Year 0-2 Boys Jimmy Brown 3rd  
Year 3-4 Girls Ava Crow 6th  
Year 3-4 Boys Ted Wells 9th  
Year 5-6 Boys  
Rigby Haitana 3rd  
Tom Walker 9th  
Year 7-8 Girls  
Annabelle Walker 4th  
Kalana Wipaki-Munro 7th



# Rangitikei Tough Kids

The Rangitikei Tough Kids event was held in glorious conditions on Friday 25th August. This is a huge event with Schools from all over Wanganui, Manawatu, and the Rangitikei taking part. 19 Taoroa Students participated, and performed extremely well with a number of top 20 placings in very large fields. The highlight was Annabelle Walker's 5th placing in the Senior Girls Race





# Class Programmes

Both Classes have worked very hard this Term. Room 1 has focused on the core areas of Maths, Reading, and Writing, and has begun implementing the Aotearoa New Zealand Histories Curriculum.

Room 2 Students have delivered Speeches to their Class, and have completed a Unit on New Zealand. As well Listening, Maths, and Literacy have been a focus.



# School Gardens

Work on the School Garden has continued. This has involved preparing the raised gardens, planting some early vegetables plants ready for the Spring, and adapting a number of Car tyres to become

Huge thanks to Evelyn, Paul, and Gemima for their enthusiastic support, and expertise, in leading this project.

# Students Corner

## Winter Sport

Kia Ora, I'm Annabelle Walker, and I play for the Taihape Under 13's (Year 7 and 8) Rugby Team. We have around 18 players all together, but we have only had a full team at 1 game. Our coaches are Matt Gilbert, and Matt Totman. I play for the Taihape Vets, and I play Blindside Flanker. I didn't score a try but I set a few up. Our team is very successful. We usually win but the one team we can't beat is Ruapehu. There were 2 different grades for the under 13s, and about 8 - 10 teams. Based on our skills at the open day, we were put in the lower grade with: Ruapehu, Kairaoa and Marton. Our biggest win was against Kairaoa in Taihape, and the score was 71 - 17! There have been 2 serious injuries during our games. The first one resulted in one of our props having a cast on his knee. The other one was one of our backs who broke his ankle.

I love playing Rugby and I would like to turn it into a career.

For our last game we played Kairaoa, at the Kairaoa Country Club. We won and at our try line there were huge puddles about 10 - 15 centimetres deep! At the end of the game, we all lined up, and ran up and dived through the water sending a huge tidal wave up. It was awesome!!

I can't wait to play next year - By Annabelle Walker.

## My Rugby Season

My name is Ted and I play rugby. I play Rugby for Taihape Thompson Shearing. Rugby is my favourite sport, and it has been for a long time. This year has been my best year.

In our first game we played Ruapehu we unfortunately lost 20-8 but it was a good game.

The next time we played Kiro we smashed them 20-5 and I scored 2 tries. We were very happy with that.

Next we played pirates. It was a very good game. The score was 30-32 and I scored 2 tries.

We played Ruapehu and won. I scored 2 tries and 2 interceptions. The score was 9-10 and we were very happy.

Then we played Ruapehu again, and we lost 20-5.

Then we played the other Taihape team. We just lost 6-5.

In our last game we had a draw with Ruapehu.

## Ski Day

On Friday 4th August Taoroa School went on their Annual Ski Trip to the Turoa Ski Field, on Mount Ruapehu. My dad Brandon John Munro, took me, Unity-Rose Crow and Ava Crow in our car. We went in my Dads 4WD because it would be easier to get up the hills. Or so we thought...

However everyone had trouble getting up the hills, even 4WDs like my Dads truck. We took at least 3 hours to get up the hills. We gave two lovely strangers a ride because even they were struggling to get up.

Every 3 minutes we would stop and we would stop for ages. Eventually we made it up to the Ski Field.

When we got there we met up with Matt, Jimmy, Rigby and Everson. Then we went inside the building and put our waterproof pants, and our skis on. A few moments later we met the Instructors - even though we were an hour late. We went down to the Learning Space, and had some practice. We had loads of fun and funny times.

About 3 hours later the people that were in the vans finally got there.

They had probably only had an hour to ski because it was nearly time to go at 4:30. Most people got home at 6:00-6:30 pm.

On the way home my dad stopped at the dairy, and got me Ava and Unity an ice block, and some m&ms. One of the m&ms were green, and the other two were yellow - Report by Kalana Wipaki -Munro.

Today is **Ski Day**. At quarter past six we all have to meet up at the Public Toilets. Then we all got into the vehicle that our parent is driving. My sister Unity-Rose and I were going with Brandon, Kalana's Dad.

We stopped at the Ohakune Carrot Park. We played until we had to carry on. Halfway up the Mountain we got stuck in traffic. The road was very icy. Miss Taylor got stuck in traffic. After 30 minutes of waiting, we were back on the road. People had to put chains on their tires. But we didn't get stuck. Kalana, me and my sister played in the snow. It was lots of fun.

After an hour we made it. I got my ski boots and skis, and rushed to my lesson. It turned out that WE WERE LATE - all of the traffic made us late. After we finished the lesson, we could ski by ourselves. At lunch I applied sunscreen., and had something to eat.

Me, Rigby and Annabelle. were about to go on the chair lift, but then there was another lesson.

After that it was time to go home. We packed up and left - by Ava Crow.

## Ski Trip

When we were driving to the mountain, we had to stop because there was so much traffic. While we waited we got out of the van to play in the snow. We had to put the snow chains on the tires of the van.

The ice on the road was very slippery. Once we got to the mountain, we started skiing.

It was so exciting, and we had so much fun. I can't wait for next year - by Sophia Fawthorpe.

## Ski Day

On Friday the 4th of August, 2023, the Kids and Adults of Taoroa School went up the Maunga. We went to the Ohakune Carrot Park for a toilet and play break. I felt good.

Then after we headed off and up the Maunga. There was some slipping from the buses. Some were late, some were 5 minutes late.

When we got there they said that the cards wouldn't print, so we asked to just go through on the magic carpet. But the helpers switched positions, so we had to go on the Pamos. That was sad. 5 Minutes before we left Matt Brown hurt his nose. When we left, mostly everyone went home normally, but some of us had some fun getting home. Annabelle Walker, Neave Totman, Annie Totman, Samantha Walker, Mrs Cahill, Hannah Totman, Margo Walker, Marcus Totman, and me, Kadie Walker, all had to slide down a slope to get home Safely.

That was Taoroa School's Ski Trip, 2023. It was an awesome Day- By Kadie Walker.





## Board of Trustees News

The Board of Trustees has continued to work away in the background.

The Annual Report has been received from the Auditor, and has now been signed off, and submitted to the Ministry of Education. There was a Surplus for the Year of \$22,506 - compared with the Budgeted Surplus of \$4,205. There was a Surplus of \$5,334 in 2021. The Report have been uploaded to the School Website for your Information.

Approval has been given for the remodelling of the Room 2 Classroom Space. Work on this is scheduled to begin in March, 2024.

### Quote of the week

*“Every student can learn, just not on the same day, or in the same way “ - George Evans.*

## Kapa Haka

A huge thanks to Miss Taylor who has kindly donated a set of Kapa Haka uniforms to the School.

## Equine Programme

The Equine Programme has continued with Tui and her 4 legged friends. The Children love this activity, and for some this is a first time experience working with horses, something they find very special.

## Get in touch

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