

# TALKING TAOROA

The official newsletter of Taoroa School



## Important Dates

**18th December**  
Leavers Breakfast

**19th Prizegiving**  
Community get together

**20th December**  
Last Day

## 2024 Term Dates

**Term 1**  
7th Feb-  
12th April

**Term 2**  
29th April-  
5th July

**Term 3**  
22nd July-  
27th September

**Term 4**  
14th October-  
20th December

## Principal's Report

Kia ora koutou,

As we approach the end of another very cool year here at Taoroa School, I find myself reflecting on the incredible achievements and growth we have experienced.

This year has been one of substantial milestones and successes. Our school has witnessed remarkable roll growth and we have really enjoyed welcoming so many new whānau to our learning community. I want to acknowledge the hours that go in behind the scenes by our wonderful kaiako to provide our ākonga with authentic, engaging and personalised learning opportunities both inside and outside the classroom.

Some of you may have seen our feature on 7 Sharp a few weeks back. How special was that?! It was a very proud moment for us all to showcase the innovative educational opportunities happening here and our tamariki did a wonderful job of sharing our story. The feedback we have received from people all over the country has been so positive and we hope that it has an impact on how other schools might approach learning outside of the classroom.

This term also marked a personal milestone for me as I returned from maternity leave after having my little boy Albie. I am immensely grateful for the warm welcome back and for the support extended by everyone during this transition. Being back among our incredible ākonga and staff has been truly rewarding, and I'm excited about the opportunities that lie ahead for our school.

Most importantly, the success of our learners remains at the heart of everything we do. Their achievements, resilience, and love for learning continues to blow us all away. It's a privilege to be a part of the learning journey of all of our tamariki and I commend each and every student for their hard work and dedication day in and day out!

Here's to an awesome holiday season and a well-deserved break. I can't wait to see what awesome things the next year brings us.

Ngā mihi nui,

Lara Stevens

# Equine Experience

This year, we were given access to a well being grant through the ministry. We were very firm on wanting to make sure that this funding was used in a way that aligned with our school values, and that it was something that all of our learners benefited from. This is where the idea of Equine Experience was born. Throughout the last year we have been working closely alongside equine provider Tui Gower to provide our learners with an experience that involves all things equine from mucking out, to grooming, to riding, to making horse treats. This has been an evolving programme that will continue to develop as we progress. We have been granted funding for this to continue in 2024.





## Tennis Court Upgrade

Calling all Roger Fed's and Serena Williams! Our court is now complete and we are thrilled with how it has come up. We hope that our local community make the most of this awesome resource over the summer break!

## Mara Kai

Our mara is absolutely flourishing and it is wonderful for our tamariki to be able to harvest the kai they have grown from seed to share with their whānau.



## Nau Mai Haere Mai

Welcome to Pai-Manawa Crow who has joined us Room 1 this year. Pai-Manawa joins her sister Ava and Unity Rose. She has fitted in to school life beautifully and we have loved getting to know her!

## Swimming Pool

Our pool has a new pump, a fresh paint and is currently being refilled. We will post details when the pool is ready for use and how to get a key on our school facebook page. Huge thank you to the Churchwood whānau for providing water to fill our pool!





## Kapa Haka

This term our tamariki performed for the first time ever in the Mokai Patea Kapa Haka Festival. We couldn't be more proud of the outstanding performance our tamariki put on. A huge thank you to Leah Dehar from Ruapehu Reap who has lead our Kapa Haka for the last 2 years. We can't wait to see what the future has in store for our group in this space. Also a very sincere thank you to Liz Taylor who kindly donated our beautiful new kākahu and rāpaki

## Haere Ra

Next week marks a bittersweet milestone for our beautiful tuakana Annabelle Walker. We will be farewelling her as she embarks on her high school learning journey at Taihape Area School. We have enjoyed the company of Annabelle for nearly 4 short terms, however it truly feels like she has been here forever. She is a natural leader who loves doing things for others and our staff often joke that she deserves to be on the payroll. Thank you JJ and Margo for blessing our school with such a kind hearted, outgoing, wonderful role model who loves to learn. She is one of those kids that really leaves a mark on anyone lucky enough to know her and while we are in a state of denial that she is leaving us, we are excited to see what the future has in store for our girl! All the best Annabelle



# Students Corner

**Pet Day:** It was the day we had all been waiting for: Pet Day! It was a great day for all. There were many awards and congratulations to all the people who won awards. Especially Rigby Haitana winning overall best pet. There were many dogs and lambs, one calf, one goat, one pony, 2 pups and to top it all off a pig. Also congratulations to Whaea Arzjah for winning the dog-sticle course. It was such a fun day!

**Seven Sharp:** “ Taoroa School isn’t like any other school’ Said Hilary Barry from 7 sharp. Friday was a great day because not only was it gumboot Friday but 7 sharp was coming to OUR school! We were all geared up and the theme was Fred Dagg. There were some killer outfits.

**Life Education:** On Thursday November 23rd Taoroa School had the amazing opportunity to go to Mangaweka School to see Harold the giraffe. Whaea Memory offered us a day at Mangaweka School. Mangaweka had great weather for us, let me tell you something, it was HOT! We had a great time and Harold had some hilarious jokes.

**Waka Takaro:** “Look at it!” Shouted Room 2. Kayla and her awesome crew brought a new trailer to our school. It was called the Waka Takaro which translates to Play Trailer. There was gutter board, frisbee golf, Stilts, Hula Hoops, Yoga Ball and a parachute. We had a lot of fun. Kayla gave us drink bottles and some of us got some cool sunglasses.

**Leaders Trip:** Kalana Wipaki, Annabelle Walker and Rhayne Gardiner were lucky enough to go on an extraordinary leaders trip only year 7 and 8s could go to. The schools included were Taoroa, Mataroa, Mangaweka, Papanui Junction and Pukeokahu. There were about 12 people who attended. We took a walk through the Te Ngahere iti bush. You can’t forget the remarkable lambs tails and marshmallows. We also had to make this type of bread and you put the dough on a stick. You make it out of flour, butter and milk. It was a bit bland but it was very good in a way.

**Kapa Haka:** On Friday the 1st of December our tamariki attended the Mokai Patea Kapa Haka festival in Taihape at TAS. Taoroa was the 4th to perform and we did a great job. It was so fun and we are all very proud of our amazing kura. Thank You Miss Stevens for cheering us on- you were our number 1 fan.

By Annabelle Walker and Kalana Wipaki-Munro



# Papanui Sports

Last week our tamariki had a fantastic day in the sunshine, competing at the Papanui Athletics. We were so proud of every single student, they all tried their best and competed with a smile on their face! Huge congratulations to our relay team who took out the Relay Trophy for the first time in history. Thank you to our wonderful Fundraising Committee who very kindly donated our flash new sports uniforms-our school looked so smart!





## Pet Day

We had another very successful Pet Day at the start of the term and it was wonderful to have so many locals from our community join us, whether it was to judge, to bid on an auction or to check out the entries. Thank you to our judges, our auctioneer and our whanau who came along to help. Special mention to Jimmy's Nan Christine Brown ran workshops for the floral arrangements. We saw huge progress in the quality of our craft entries this year

## Taoroa School Board of Trustees Report

Tēnā koutou katoa,

The Taoroa School BOT is incredibly proud of the year Taoroa school has had and would like to extend a huge thank you to the Taoroa community, tamariki and school staff for all contributing to such an enriching learning environment.

The BOT has had it's last meeting for the year, where the final policy review was completed, we reflected on the school's strategic goals and also overall student achievement for the year.

Our school is experiencing huge growth. This more than likely reflects, the huge strides Taoroa is taking in prioritising literacy / numeracy but the incredible extra curricular activities on offer along with the emphasis on student well being and social development.

Our teaching team is hugely dedicated, committed and passionate - Special mention to Lara and Whaea Arzjah, who are both back from maternity leave, juggling babies, yet like our other kaiako - go above and beyond for Taoroa Tamariki.

The BOT and school will likely look to the community for feedback around the school's growth, so watch this space. Meanwhile, Merry Christmas and have a safe and happy New Year.

Bring on 2024!

Ngā Mihi,

Taoroa BOT.

# **TAORO A**

## **TIKI TOUR**

**SCENIC SIDE BY SIDE AND ATV RIDE**

**Saturday 17th February 2024**

**9.00am to 4.00pm**

**Scenic ride through the Taoroa region, east of Taihape**

**Great views, up to 1000 meters above sea-level**

**Fundraising for the local Taoroa School and community**

**Prices: (lunch included)**  
**\$140 side by side (2 people)**  
**\$60 extra passenger**  
**\$90 ATV (no passengers)**  
**No two wheelers/racing bikes**

**Driver 18+**  
**Passengers 12+**

**Limited Tickets**

**Expected to sell out, secure your spot now**

**This ride is through working farms,  
limited speed will be required**



**Taoroa**  
**SCHOOL**  
Connected • Engaged • Empowered

**[ctaoroa@gmail.com](mailto:ctaoroa@gmail.com)**

