



COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



Tahuna School

Learning For Life

Our School Pepeha

Pepeha is a way of introducing yourself in Māori. It tells people who you are by sharing your connections with the people and places that are local to our area.

Ko Tainui te waka
My canoe is Tainui

Ko Mangawara te awa
My river is Mangawara

Ko Hapukohe te maunga
My Mountain is Hapukohe

Ko Waiti te marae
My Marae is Waiti

Ko Ngati Paoa te iwi
My tribe is Ngati Paoa

Ko Tahuna te kura
My school is Tahuna School

Kia ora and a very warm welcome to our second edition of the Tahuna School Community Newsletter,

It's a privilege to lead a school where learning, community, and wellbeing sit at the heart of everything we do. At Tahuna, I'm proud to work alongside a passionate team of educators, dedicated staff, and a supportive community that are all committed to helping every child thrive.

Our vision, 'Learning for Life', reflects our dedication to nurturing the whole child; academically, socially, emotionally, and physically. We strive to equip our tamariki with the skills, confidence, and curiosity they need to succeed in an ever-changing world.

We're proud of the progress and achievements of our tamariki, and of the vibrant, inclusive environment we continue to grow. Here at Tahuna, we create dynamic learning experiences that spark creativity, engagement, and a lifelong love of learning. Within this edition of our community newsletter we share lots of amazing learning experiences that we loved doing!

If you're thinking about joining our Tahuna whānau, I warmly invite you to get in touch. Visit us in person, email me at principal@tahunaschool.school.nz, or call 027 333 6186. We'd love to share what makes our school special.

Tahuna Proud Learning for Life

Ngā mihi,
Phillip Otto



Discovery Class Belonging Poems - Year 5-6

This is my baseball bat
nobody in my family has one
it is light and new

This is my baseball bat
it is handmade and very
smooth

This is my baseball bat
it is way better than a brought
one
it is my lucky baseball bat

By Joe

This Is My Headband

This is my headband
It's red
And it was
mu Mum's

This is my headband
It's warm
And old
From wearing
it so long,

This is my headband
I should
get a new one
But it's the best

MY BEARY

This my Beary
he's very special,
unique and different
with woollen whiskers

This is my Beary
he's my favourite
soft, cuddly head
and easy to cuddle

This is my Beary
gifted it at birth,
helps me sleep at night
and cheers me up when I'm sad
my very special Beary

By Olive Kraenzlin

THIS IS MY CHEVROLET

THIS IS MY CHEVROLET
IT'S A TYPE OF OLD CAR
RUSTED DOWN TO IT'S DECK

THIS IS MY CHEVROLET
IT'S A 1950 ONE
NAVY BLUE, ONE OF A KIND.

THIS IS MY CHEVROLET IT IS
MISSING A FEW BITS AND BOBS
BUT IT'S A CLASSIC.

By Zane



BLUE CHEESE!



In Discovery Classroom, the students embarked on a bold culinary adventure: trying blue cheese as part of a sensory writing lesson. With noses wrinkled and eyebrows raised, the class explored the cheese's sharp aroma and crumbly texture, using vivid adjectives and similes to describe or recount experience.

White plate to table
Mouldy, crumbly look to eyes
Strong, rotting smell to nose
Waxy, rough feel to hands
Strong, yummy taste to tongue
Pale, creamy veins down throat
Satisfactory to stomach
Delighted smile to face
Best thing ever!
Blue cheese!

By Leah



The Most Mouldiest Cheese on the Planet

Eww! There it was, sitting in front of me. The most mouldy cheese on the planet. It smelt like rusty, crusty, dusty old socks as if noone has taken them off since college. Yeah you may be thinking 'Eww Alex that's horrible', but that's how I felt when I saw that crusty plate full of blue cheese. It looked like cheese that had just been smooshed and then blown up again.

Everyone was excited to eat it at first, but I wasn't. It was like it was telling me "Don't eat me! I'm disgusting!" No one would even consider eating this revolting piece of cheese.

But then it only got worse. Miss Craw told the class "You can taste it now". So I did and I regretted it straight away! I ran outside and chugged my drink bottle. I said to myself that I was never eating blue cheese ever again.

By Alex Rasmussen

The Laugh of the Day!

"What is that?" Someone yelled behind me. Sitting at my desk staring at this piece of food. It looked like someone had put bits of mold in it. Little blue dots filled this pale creature. "Looks a lot like cream." It instantly reminded me of the paua shells at my grandparents house by their pond.

I gave it a half hearted sniff: the smell of mouldy old sock washed over me. Sour milk and old vomit rushed to my nose making me want to faint.

Waxy, smooth cheese crumbled in my hands. It reminded me of cooking with Mum putting dry coconut into a cup.

My hand went slowly to my mouth... smooth creamy cheese stuck to the roof of my mouth, strong lumps of cheese disintegrated by all the saliva. The beautiful blue vein cheese was definitely my favourite cheese.

By Jane



Timestables Rockstars - Maths Week

6 of our tamariki received MVP for Tahuna school across Discovery and Adventure. Congratulations to these tamariki who pushed themselves and congratulations to every other tamariki who worked super hard during this week and always put in 100% effort.

We got 8th school out of 294 primary school across New Zealand 😊

Adventure and Discovery had an absolute blast competing in the New Zealand Rock Stars on Timestables Rockstars during Maths Week last week.



Hockey

Hockey for Term 3 is here!

Awesome game between our two teams under our court cover.

Great team spirit and play.

Thanks parents for your support, coaching and refereeing.



Miniball

We have 4 teams playing in the 3v3 competitions in Morrinsville on Wednesday afternoons. 3v3 is a popular and creative variation of indoor basketball with a less formal structure, which means more touch of the ball!



New Enrolments

We love welcoming new tamariki and their whānau into our school, and with our rolling intake, your child can start school on their fifth birthday—no waiting for the next term!

To help make the transition smooth and positive, we offer relaxed school visits on Fridays from 1:15 to 2:30 pm. We usually recommend 2-4 visits before your child turns five, so they can get to know the space, meet their teacher, and feel right at home.

Our school is set in a beautiful rural location, with small class sizes, a play-based environment, and a strong focus on early learning through structured literacy and PRIME Maths. It's a lovely balance of exploration, fun, and learning.

If you or someone you know is interested in enrolling, we'd love to hear from you. Please get in touch with the school office for more information or to arrange a visit!

Tough Guy and Tough Gal Challenge

To our tough guy and gal participants: You faced the mud, the obstacles, and showed huge grit today, coming out stronger on the other side! There is no challenge you can't conquer when you've got lots of heart and a bit of dirt on your face!

You proved that toughness isn't just about muscles, it's about resilience, teamwork, pride and having the drive to keep going when things get messy!

Take a moment to celebrate your victory and you earned every bit of that mud-stained glory. Remember, it's not just about finishing the course; it's about the journey, the laughs, encouraging your class mates and the power of pushing through.

To our parents: thank you for providing transport, help and your encouragement - We appreciate your support!

To Whaea Leasa: thanks for your organising, encouraging our tamariki to get stuck in and being there to enjoy an awesome day!



Netball

Morrinsville Netball gave away 2 tickets to someone from the Tahuna Galaxy team to attend the Magic vs Mystics netball game. Paige was lucky enough to be drawn out, and she had an absolute blast watching this game. Thanks to Morrinsville Netball for this awesome opportunity!



Congratulations on a successful and enjoyable term of netball for 2025!

Tahuna Sparks and Stars have had a fantastic netball season combining to be one incredible team. They have learnt and built upon their skills each week. Each game they have grown their confidence and worked well as a team.

Tahuna Milky Ways have had a fantastic season. They took on the challenge of learning new skills, drills and making a game plan. Fun was had, goals were made and defence was strong. Well done Milky Way!!

Tahuna Galaxy have gone from strength to strength. You all have displayed an immense amount of team work and come to each, and every game with a positive attitude where you've taken on the challenge every team you've faced.

Massive thank you to our coaches - Sarah, Annie-Jo, Claire and Vanessa for supporting our players and coaching them to achieve their goals and learn a range of skills. Another big thank you goes to the tamariki's support crew (their whānau) who came and cheered them on in each and every game.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Mr Otto – Principal

Our junior class enjoyed creating a surprise birthday card for our school principal, Mr Otto, and singing him a happy birthday song!



Awesome Country Rural Disco!

Our tamariki had a fantastic time dancing the night away and it was a night to remember! Huge thanks to our hardworking Friends of the School (FOS) for putting so much effort into making the event a success.

A big shoutout to the Mains for the incredible backgrounds, props, and balloons - the space looked amazing. Also thank you to the Northern Club for the use of your venue.

Another special event and memories made!





Cancer
Society



Daffodil Artwork

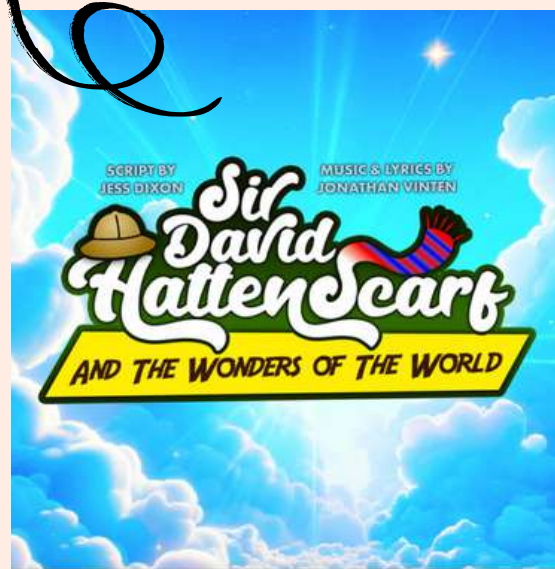


Production Practice

Our tamariki and staff in practice mode for our up and coming school production. Thanks parents who have been able to help out with time, resources and support. We are looking forward to putting on a great show!



Student Councillors



Our student councillors had an amazing time at the National Young Leaders Day held at Claudelands Arena in Hamilton on Wednesday!

They were inspired by an incredible line-up of guest speakers, including: Cam Calkoen - professional speaker and adventurer, Jase Te Patu - leader of Hauora Aotearoa, Elisa Harley - CEO of Enviro Pots and Georgia Lines - talented musician

The day focused on key values such as:

Inspiration

Connection

Student empowerment

Promoting positivity

Motivation

Education

It was an unforgettable day full of energy, ideas, reflection and encouragement, and perfect for growing the next generation of leaders! Thanks Leanne McGrath for helping with transport and supervising.

Inter School Cross-Country

Morrinsville Districts Cross Country 2025 went off with a bang! Beautiful warm weather brought positive energy and excitement to many students across the Morrinsville Area Schools. Our Tahuna tamariki who competed in this did our school proud! They encouraged each other and pushed themselves to their highest potential. Congratulations Tahuna tamariki, be proud of what you achieved in this event!

A big thank you to our Friends of the School for putting on amazing food and drink, your efforts were truly appreciated by all! All food and drink was sponsored by New World Morrinsville, Flow Tech Plumbing & Gas LTD, Angel Bay, Mootown Meats and Briscoe Water Pump Services.

We're grateful to the many helpers and supporters who made the day run so smoothly. A special thank you goes to Sophie Lewis for organising and leading such a well-run and memorable event. Also thanks to the Tahuna Golf Course and Northern Rugby Club for using your grounds and facilities.

Results top 10

7 year old boys - Doug Moore 7th

7 year old girls - Hannah Edward 5th

Anika Hansen 9th

8 year old boys - Toby Vincent 4th

- Archer Scherer 7th

9 year old boys - Marty Edward 1st

- Bruno McNamara 7th

- Aryan Nair 8th

11 year old boys - Zane Vincent 4th

- William Fleming 5th

11 year old girls - Leah Moore 3rd

- Megan Kumar 4th



Junior classroom, Endeavour sharing some buddy reading, daffodil art, and class writing. Along with their extra helper, Milo.. He is the luckiest school cat, or are we lucky to have him?!



Endurance

This term, Endurance has been exploring a range of *Aesop's fables*. We have been focusing on the important lessons behind each story and using the fables in lots of different ways. Students have enjoyed building their vocabulary, creating artwork inspired by the tales, and using the stories as inspiration for their own writing. We have also compared and contrasted the characters, sequenced events, and identified the problems and solutions in each fable.

Our most recent fable was *How the Tortoise Got His Shell*. From this, we delved further into the differences between turtles and tortoises. We then crafted some writing based on what we had learnt. This writing was published and displayed on a special lift-the-flap turtle template. The children loved this activity, especially the "secret writing" hidden under their turtle's shell!



Tortoises have a hard bumpy shell so they don't get hurt. They hide inside. They have thick legs like elephants and they walk on their toes. **Ralph**

Tortoises have cool patterns on their shells and bumps as well. Some have spider web patterns on their shells. They eat vegetables but not meat. Their skin is dry and wrinkly. When it walks, it walks slowly on its toes. Tortoises have feet and legs like elephants. **Zak**

Tortoises have a bumpy shell on their back. They eat leaves and grass. Tortoises walk on their toes. **Sabian**

Tortoises have bumpy, hard shells. This is to protect them from getting eaten. Tortoises eat juicy green leaves. Tortoises walk on their toes. They have legs that look like elephant legs. **Wade**

Tortoises eat juicy leaves that they chew with their teeth. They have big feet and are toe walkers. Tortoises have legs like elephants. They have hard bumpy shells with patterns. **Dixie**

We watched a video of a tortoise and we learnt a lot of things. Turtles have hard smooth shells and they hide inside. They eat leaves. **Emily**

Turtles and tortoises both have a shell. Turtles have a smooth shell and tortoises have a bumpy shell. **Julia-Rose**

Turtles have flippers to swim, they are good swimmers. They eat meat and vegetables when they are hungry. They live on land and in the water. The shell is smooth and hard. Their skin is dry and wrinkly. **Jyrone**

Tortoises are big and turtles are little. They eat vegetables. Tortoises have bumpy shells. They move slowly. **Rowell**

Tortoises like to eat leaves. The tortoises have a bumpy shell and they have dry skin. **Jaxon**

Tortoises eat leaves and they don't eat meat. Some turtles can swim in the water. **Theo**

Some turtles have flippers. They eat meat and vegetables. They have patterns on their skin and some of them swim in water. **Braxton**

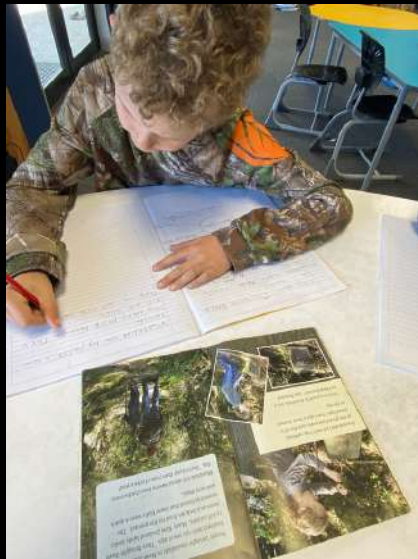
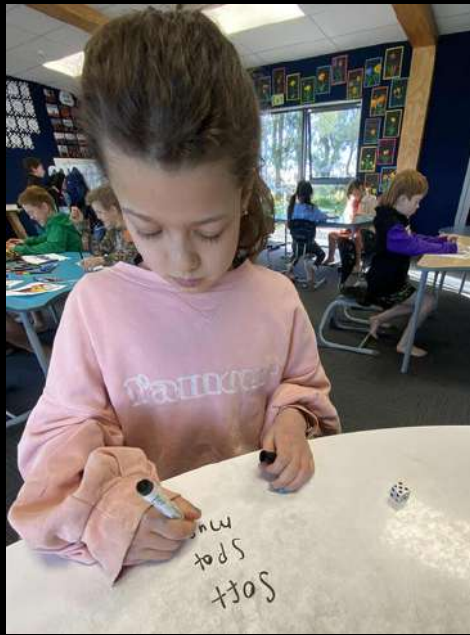
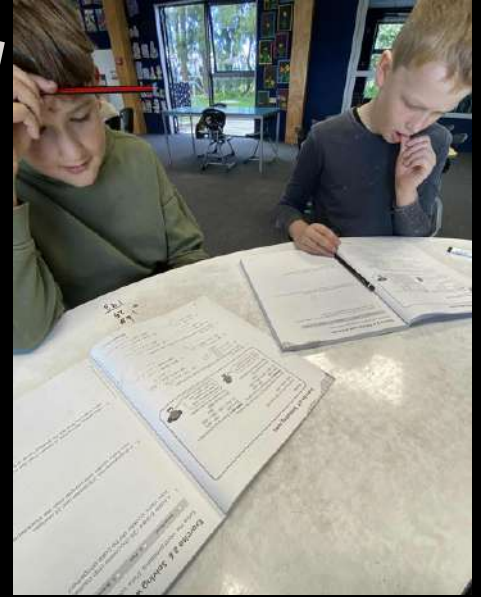
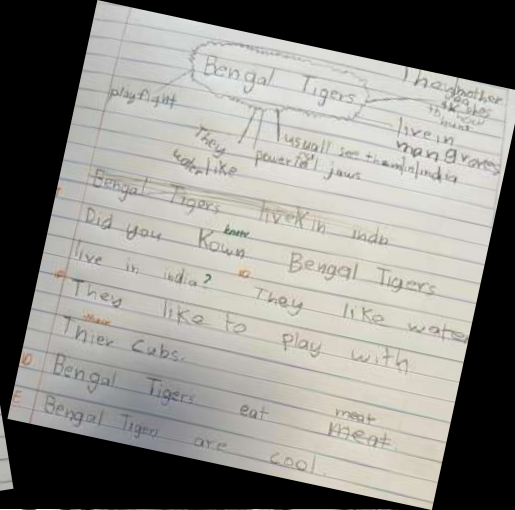
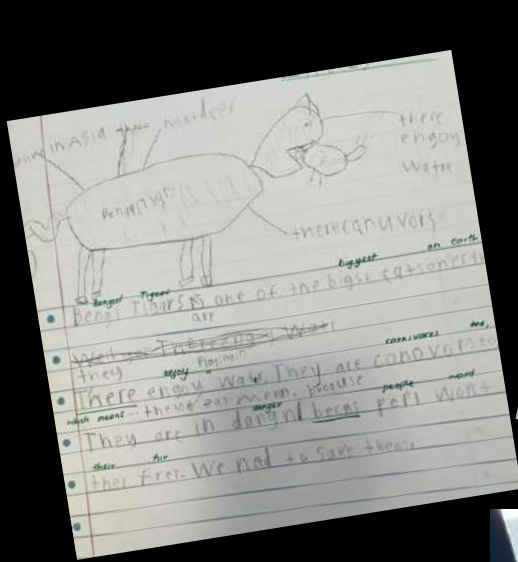
Tortoises have dome shells and patterns on their shells. They have feet like an elephant. Turtles have sharp claws and a shell. Some can swim in fresh water and walk slowly on the sand. **Roman**

Turtles live in their shells and eat meat and vegetables. Some have flippers and swim in the water. Some live on the land. Some of them have spider web patterns on their shells and some have smooth shells. **Kwyn**

Maungaturoto Mahi

Here are some snapshots of Maungaturoto at work, plus one of a very cute visitor...Reign's puppy Delta!

Here are some snapshots of Maungaturoto at work, plus one of a very cute visitor...Reign's puppy Delta!



Milo's Mews: Tails from the School Cat

It's me, Milo, your favourite four-legged staff member, part-time explorer, snack connoisseur, and occasional troublemaker.

This week, I embarked on what I proudly call "The Great Under-the-Deck Expedition." It started with a strange rustle and an irresistible smell. One moment I was sunbathing like a king, the next I was crawling through cobwebs and crunching through leaves like a true wilderness survivor.

When I returned, I looked a little... rustic. Twigs in my fur, cobwebs across my ears, and a lovely leaf crown perched on my head. I expected applause, but got giggles instead. Some very kind students helped brush me down, though I thought I looked fabulous.

Then came the real showstopper. After all that excitement, nature called, and yes, I answered... in the dirt right in front of ALL the 5 year olds! There is no such thing as privacy with me, I have no shame. When you've got to go, you've got to go. Consider it a learning experience!

Of course, all adventurers need a base, and mine is a cosy classroom where I've managed not one, but two overnight sleepovers. It gets cold out there!

And shoutout to my favourite teacher—keeper of snacks, cuddles and a quiet space to hang out in. She knows how to win my heart.

Until next time - paws and whiskers,
Milo 🐾



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Every pie you buy helps raise funds for Tahuna School, with proceeds going toward a new swimming pool cover and playground refurbishment.

Orders and payment due Monday 1 September
Pick up your order from school on Wednesday 10 September
For any enquiries, please contact the FOS team at fos@tahunaschool.school.nz

Tahuna School
Presents...

SCRIPT BY JESS DIXON
Sir David Hatten Scarf
MUSIC & LYRICS BY JONATHAN VINTEN
AND THE WONDERS OF THE WORLD

Matinee: Wednesday 17 September 2025 - 11:30am
Night Show: Thursday 18 September 2025 - 6:00pm
Venue: Tahuna Hall

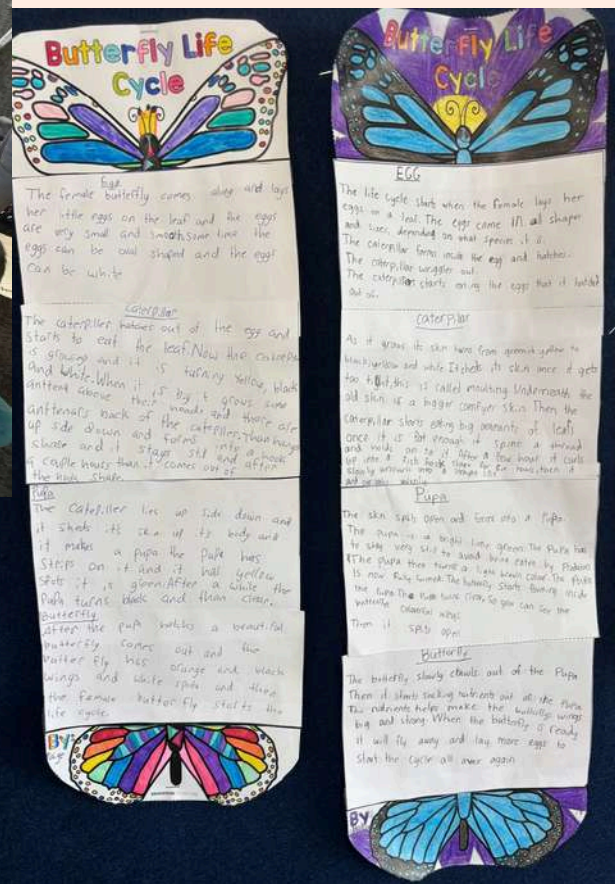
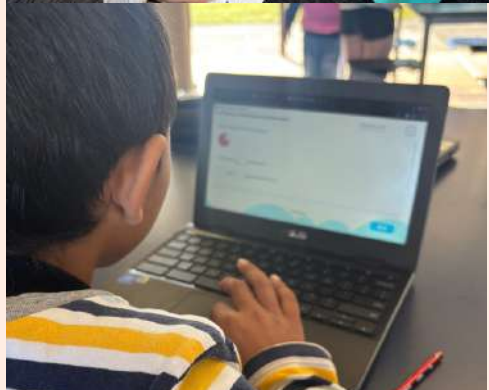
Year 4/5 Adventure Class Mahi for Term 3

Adventure class has been working really hard on their writing and maths this term.

We've been practising writing to inform the reader by explaining ideas clearly and giving interesting facts like explaining the life cycle. We've just begun to learn how to persuade others by sharing our opinions and giving strong reasons like... "Why should every school have a school pet?" - we know how lucky we are to have Milo the Cat.

In maths, we have been focusing on fractions, learning how to recognise, compare, and use them to solve problems by adding and subtracting fractions with common denominators. Now moving into reading analogue clocks using the language 'past' and 'to'

We are proud of the effort we've put in and the progress we've made in our learning!



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**Tahuna
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Learning For Life

Livestock Day
Friday, October 17th
2025

Tahuna Domain
Judging starts @10am



**Tahuna
School**
Learning For Life

- Small class sizes
- Where kids can be kids!
- Committed, hardworking & caring teachers
- A place where childrens growth and wellbeing come first
- Brand new astroturf cover - for year round use

"I feel like I belong here"

"I've so valued the opportunity to be a part of the Tahuna School community; to find a school that empowers my child and that fits them. They have found strength in with you socially and academically!"

Rural ICARE Values:

Integrity
Challenge
Ambition
Respect
Encourage

**Tahuna
Proud!**

Contact 0273336186 or email
principal@tahunaschool.school.nz

