



## NEWSLETTER - TERM 1 WEEK 2



# 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 Hapuakohe te maunga**  
**My Mountain is Hapuakohe**

**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 Tahuna School parents and whaanau,

### Principals Message

Welcome to our 1st newsletter of the 2026 school year!

I hope you all enjoyed the great weather with your families during the Summer break. Our tamariki have quickly settled into their learning routines and it's awesome seeing them re-connecting with their friends. We would like to welcome our new tamariki and their families to Tahuna School - Maggie, Arley, Jax, Hinemaurea and Te Atairehia.

Our School Vision is 'Learners for Life' and our mission is 'To develop dynamic learners who make a positive contribution to our community.' Our vision and mission is underpinned by our Rural ICARE Values of Integrity, Challenge, Ambition, Respect, and Encourage. Our Value focus for term 1 is **Challenge**.

### Survey

The Board of Trustees are interested in your views about learning at Tahuna School. We appreciate your time and ask that you give detailed feedback where possible. This gives the School Board guidance on how might improve, and focus on positive outcomes for your child. If you complete this survey your family will go in the draw to win \$50 New World Voucher.

Please click on the link to respond to our survey:

<https://forms.gle/PLktiWDBhSyncitM8>

### School Start Time

School starts at 8.45am. Children are allowed at school from 8am and we encourage every child to be at school by 8.35am at the latest. Coming to school with time before school starts helps every child reconnect with their peers and help them get settled before the day of learning begins.

### Tractor

A huge thank you to Claire Edward who organized and found the new tractor for our school. I would like to extend thanks to Jeff Shewry who freshly painted the tractor. Looks great in our Tahuna colours.



## **Introducing Our Proud Tahuna Team**

Principal - Mr Phillip Otto

Deputy Principal - Leasa Craw

SENco - Dionne Holt-Pedersen

Endeavour (Yr 0-1) - Miss Jaime Herkes

Endurance - (Yr 1,2,3) Mrs Dionne Holt-Pedersen

Maungaturoto - (Yr 3-4) Miss Caron Purvis

Adventure - (Yr 4-5) Mrs Sophie Marshall

Discovery - (Yr 5-6) Miss Leasa Craw

Release Teachers - Mrs Gill Constantine, Mrs Alana Simmonds

Learning Assistants - Ms Julie Shewry, Kimberley Slooten

Office Administrator - Ruby Takai

Van Driver - Martin Foster

Cleaner - Racquel Candilosas

## **Meet the Teacher Evening**

On Monday the 23rd February we are having a meet the teacher afternoon.

This will be a great opportunity to meet your child's teacher in an informal setting. You are most welcome to bring a picnic afternoon tea and the school pool will be open.

## **Important - Specific Guidelines for safety in the use of Digital Technologies**

**Social Media:** The legal age to sign up for social media accounts such as Instagram, Facebook and Tiktok is 13 years. Our children cannot access social media accounts on our school devices or use their school email to access or join a social media account. They do not have access to social media at school.

Any issues that arise within our school playground or classroom that stem from social media will be a parental responsibility to address.

On the 24th March we will have John Parsons who is a cybersafety and assessment consultant. John works with education, health and private sectors, providing specialist advice and direction on the safe and ethical use of Digital Communication Technology. John will work with our tamariki, staff and will run a parent evening. More information to be provided closer to the time.

## **Attendance and Engagement**

The ministry of education's Attendance and Engagement strategy focuses on children being present, participating and progressing in their learning. According to MOE regular attendance is being present at school 90% or more (less than 5 days absence in a school term) We all have our roles to play and it's so important for your child to attend school regularly. Please give our school the best possible opportunity to progress your child's learning needs and social needs by regularly attending school. If your child is sick or has an appointment out of school during school time please contact the office and give the reason for their absence. The ministry of education will be collecting attendance data daily therefore it is important that we know why your child is absent therefore we can code correctly according to the attendance system on the day. Thanks to the many families who get in contact with us when their child/children are away from school on the day or give us notice.

To support and recognise our tamariki who are present at school for 95% attendance or higher will receive an attendance award at the end of the year.

## **Ako Tahi (Learn together) - Home and School Partnership**

We would like to let you know about an update to our home learning approach. From this term, we will no longer be issuing **Tahuna Mahi Tahi Reading Logs**. Instead, we are excited to introduce **Ako Tahi Books** across the school. Each class will have a take-home Ako Tahi Book, which will include a learning sheet tailored to the students' ability level. These activities are designed to help consolidate learning in a meaningful and manageable way, supporting students to reflect on and consolidate what they are learning in class.

Ako Tahi Books are intended to be accessible for all learners, encouraging shared learning between school and home. To help motivate and celebrate engagement, there may also be some small in-class reward system for completion. Remember, most learners will also have access to their online learning platforms from home as well.

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to support our learners. If you have any questions about Ako Tahi Books, please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher.

## Student Councillor Speeches

On the 20th February all tamariki who are aiming to be a student councillor will give a speech to our children and teachers on why they would like to be a school councillor. The student councillor position is a very important leadership role in our school. Some of the things they do are run and organise fundraisers, monitor break times and role model our school values. We look forward to hearing their speeches.

## Swimming

Swimming is an important focus in Term 1 and our classrooms will swim most days. Our tamariki will be developing both their swimming and water safety skills. Therefore, it is important all our tamariki bring their togs and a towel to participate in their class swimming lessons. Please ensure they have their togs and towel each day (named) regardless of the weather. If your child is unable to swim please notify your child's teacher. School will provide goggles that were kindly paid for by our FOS, but children are also welcome to bring their own.

## Sunsmart

As the sunny days continue, we're reminding everyone about being **SunSmart** at school. We provide all our tamariki with a school hat. Please ensure your child has **sunscreen applied before school** each morning. Shoulders should be covered - no thin strapped singlets dresses - encourage your child to pop a t-shirt over top of these to be sunsmart. We also have sunscreen available at school, and staff support tamariki to reapply during the day as needed. These simple steps make a big difference in keeping our children safe, healthy and comfortable while they learn and play outdoors. Thank you for your continued support in helping us care for our tamariki.

## Music Lessons

Lessons with Joe Mac!  
Guitar, Drums, Piano, Ukelele.  
\$25 per 20min weekly session.  
lessons@joemac.co.nz

Ngaa mihi  
Phillip and staff

## Optional Shirt

Please contact the office  
for an optional Tahuna  
school polo shirt form.  
Sizes 4-16, \$40 each.  
Size 8 sample available in  
the school office.

## School Policies – SchoolDocs

Our school policies are on a website called SchoolDocs. SchoolDocs provides us with policies, which have been researched and follow the Ministry of Education guidelines. The website is:  
<https://tahuna.schooldocs.co.nz/>  
The username is: tahuna and the password is: cares

## Term Dates

**Fri 6<sup>th</sup> Feb- Waitangi Day (no school)**  
**Fri 13<sup>th</sup> Feb- Assembly**  
**Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb- Meet the Teacher**  
**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March - John Parson's Cyber Safety**  
**Wed 25<sup>th</sup> Feb- Swimming Sports**  
  
**Wed 4<sup>th</sup> March - Interschool Swimming**



**TERM 1**  
**ASSEMBLIES**  
*WILL BE HELD IN DISCOVERY ROOM*  
Friday's from 1.55pm  
Week 2  
Week 4  
Week 6  
Week 8  
Week 9 (End of Term Assembly):  
Thursday 2nd April @1.45pm

# CHALLENGE EKE PANUKU

SHOW *I have respect for  
others' mana*

MANAGE *Conflict & different points of view*


BE COURAGEOUS *In learning & keep  
trying when it's hard*

COMMUNICATE *Collaborate and be a  
problem solver*

APPROACH *Things with a positive mindset*

TRY *New things and give things a go*

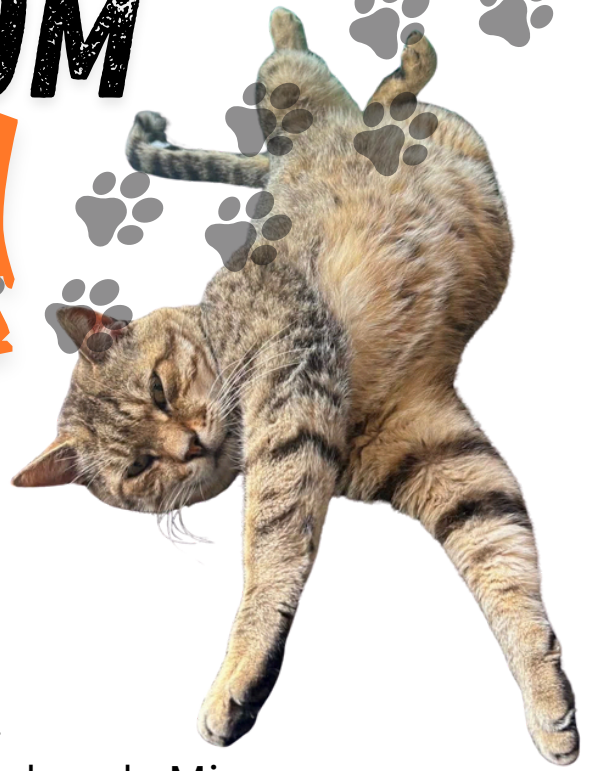
Try new things and  
not/never give up

**Tahuna  
School**   
Learning For Life



# MESSAGE FROM

# MILO!



Hello everyone!

I hope you all had a wonderful holiday break. Mine was very relaxing and unusually quiet! I took my role as school caretaker very seriously, keeping a close eye on the place while you were away. I did notice a few visitors coming and going, with teachers popping in and out from time to time. I made sure to supervise... mostly from a sunny spot.

A big thank you to my lovely friend Ana for feeding me every morning - I don't know what I would have done without her. To keep boredom at bay during the long, quiet days, I also managed to catch a few snacks of my own (a cat has to stay entertained somehow!).

Now that school is back, I am absolutely loving the hustle and bustle, the sound of busy feet, and all the pats and cuddles I'm receiving. It's good to have my people back where they belong. I have noticed, however, that my food supplies are running a little low. If anyone would like to donate some cat food, I would be most grateful - trust me, I'm not fussy!

Purrs and whiskers,  
Milo







# 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 with you socially and academically!"*



**Tahuna Proud!**



**Rural ICARE Values:**

**Integrity**  
**Challenge**  
**Ambition**  
**Respect**  
**Encourage**



**Contact 0273336186 or email [principal@tahunaschool.school.nz](mailto:principal@tahunaschool.school.nz)**



# Save The Date!!



A chance to strengthen the home-school partnership and ask any questions you may have. We look forward to working together to support a positive and successful year of learning for all students.



## Saturday 7th March 2026

**Gates Open 8am**

**Morrinsville Recreation Grounds**

Adults \$10 – Children (12-16yrs) \$5 – Under 12 FREE – Family Pass \$25

- + Live Music and Highland Dancing
- + Strongman Competition
- + Vintage Cars & Machines
- + Apacas, Beef & Dairy Cattle, Goats & Dog Trials
- + Teddy Bears Picnic
- + Petting Zoo
- + Children's Entertainment
- + Equestrian
- + Pig Racing + Pig Auction with proceeds going to child cancer
- + PLUS MUCH MUCH MORE!

~Trade & Food available~

**FREE ONSITE PARKING**

Ph: 027 294 3153,  
PO Box 284, Morrinsville 3340

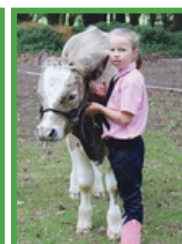
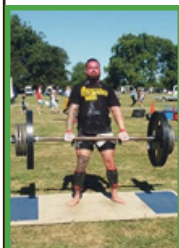


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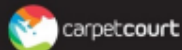
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