



# Taupaki School

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# Newsletter **Week 4** **Term 4**

**Tuesday 31st October 2006**

Dear Students, Parents, Caregivers, Friends and Supporters of Taupaki School.  
Welcome back to the year 7&8 students from their camp at MERC on the North Shore. By all accounts it sounded like a great week of activity and most importantly, really good food. We cannot run amazing experiences like this without the support of dedicated teachers and parents. Mrs Green and her team of parents have worked tirelessly for many, many weeks in preparation. I thank them on your behalf for giving their time and energy to our children.

It is fireworks season again. I urge you all to be safe when handling fireworks. If you want to be really safe, make sure you are at the Fireworks Display this Saturday from 5pm.

Today we farewell Mrs Donna Chapman from our administration team. Donna has been our finance officer for almost 6 years. As a result of external contracting of financial services we have restructured the staffing of the school office. Donna has maintained the highest level of professionalism and support through this process. She has been a wealth of knowledge and has an amazing 'child first' attitude. We wish Donna all the best in her future.

Mr Darren Mathers has secured a Senior Teacher position at Woodhill School starting in 2007. We will miss his quality teaching and great sense of fun. This is an important next step in Darren's career and we wish him well with this new challenge.

We are currently planning staffing for 2007 and there will be some movement of teaching levels for some teachers. I am presently discussing this with staff members. At this stage, nothing is set in concrete and as soon as staff discussions are complete we will notify the community about the shape of the school for 2007. If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact me.

Please be advised that on Thursday the 9th of November those staff who are NZEI union members will be attending a paid union meeting from 1.30pm. Due to a large portion of the staff being union members we ask that you collect your child at 1.30pm. Thank you in advance.

Have a great week of fun and learning.

**Stephen Lethbridge**

Dates	<b>31 Oct</b>	Fireworks Meeting	<b>Weekly</b>	
	<b>4 Nov</b>	Fireworks Evening	<b>This Friday</b>	School Assembly Room 7 9.00am in the hall – you are welcome!
	<b>9 Nov</b>	School finishes at 1.30pm	<b>Next Fri</b>	School Assembly Room 5
	<b>16 Nov</b>	Athletics Day		



## Homework — I bet that last week's focus caused some discussion!

Homework is such a polarised issue. You are either for it or against it. There will no doubt be some parents who read last week's focus and thought "That Principal is against homework — what is the world coming to?" and others of you would have thought "Finally, it looks like the end of those homework battles."

What we need in the coming year is a discussion of the type of homework that makes a difference to learning. As a school we have been discussing what powerful learning looks like and we need to ask this question in the context of school and home. Is powerful learning at home sitting down with a worksheet? Or is it a massive project that eats into your home life? I would suggest not. We need to look at the nature of homework and ask ourselves why we like it or loathe it. We also need to question our assumptions, beliefs and mental models of homework in order to explore what powerful learning looks like at home.

Again... what do you think?

# News from around the School

## News from the Senior School

We had a fantastic week at camp. The weather held off and we were able to do the many water activities that had been planned. Students worked in 4 teams, and rotated around a circuit of surfing, Canadian canoeing, kayaking, raft building, tree climbing, rock wall climbing, survival skills, and lots of team games and challenges. A huge thank you to the parents who took a week off work and helped out, without your support, events like this can't happen. Thanks also to the parents who helped in the transporting of students to and from MERC. This is another of those memory creating experiences, enjoyed at the time and talked about for a long time afterwards....a huge thank you to the students who enjoyed themselves, who worked so well together as a team and willingly encouraged and supported their peers...you were fantastic and we were proud of you. Nicolle Green and Maree Larsen



## **FIREWORKS**

**Tickets-** Pre Sales \$20 per Car load from school office Tuesday and Thursday between 8:30 and 9:15. \$25 at the gate on the night.

Thank you to those who have offered their help. We could do with more so rosters can be done to enable people to have a break. Please phone Janine on 412 6979, many hands make light work.

**Room 1** still need more bottle items for their Mystery Bottle Stall. Collection box in classroom or see Michelle Fraser.

**Room 3** still need more jolly jars- goodies and jars. Deliver to classroom or see Angela Stuart Scroggins.

**Room 5** still need lucky dip items. Deliver to classroom or see Mrs Western.

**Room 6** need sweets. Phone Lucie Hawkins 412 9979 or deliver them to classroom. Make sure Darren does not eat them.

**Room 7** would anyone like to donate some hamburger buns, meat patties?

**Room 8** need vouchers/ donations for their Mystery envelopes.

**Room 10** need lots of cakes to sell, boxes available from classroom. Either bring cakes to school Friday or deliver to 26 Taupaki Road Saturday by 1pm, phone Gae 8109094.

**Technology Centre** organizing the fun Sponge Throwing, need volunteers to put their face forward. Go Mrs. Wilmshurst and Mr. Wattam.

**See you all on Saturday evening for an action packed night.**

Programme as follows-

5:30 Kapahaka

5:45 Marimba

6:00 Karate

6:15 Junior Band

6:30 Senior Band

6:45 Police Dog Show

7:15 Parachute display

Auctions and Quick fire raffles will fit in through the entertainment. Items for Auction so far Home Ventilation System (HRV) to the value of \$3000, Breakfast collection, & Bathroom collection.

8:30ish SHOGUN QUALITY FIREWORKS DISPLAY

## **PTA NEWS**

**SAUSAGES**, drinks, & ice munchies \$1 each. Every Tuesday lunchtime.

**GARDEN TOUR:** this Saturday get your ticket orders to the office or phone Louise 810 9804.

**FIREWORKS MEETING:** Tonight (31st October) 7.30pm in the Staffroom

**Calendar Orders:** The first calendar order has arrived and been handed out. If you still wish to order calendars, we are placing a second order. Please have orders to the office by Thursday 9th November.

**Marquee for Hire:** \$100, 6mx8m with sides. All funds go to the PTA. Phone Tina or Rex Reed on 4128409 for bookings.

**Kiwi Quiz:** Last 2 left, \$30 each. Great for Christmas presents. Come to the school office to purchase these.

# Community Notices

**Cottage for Rent:** 1 Bedroom, rural setting, available from mid November. Contact Carolyn O'Leary on 412-5125.

**Redhills Pony Club Open Ribbon Day:** Sun, 5th Nov., 9:30am start, 3 rings, at the arena grounds, Taupaki Rd, Taupaki. Contact: [BYCullen@xtra.co.nz](mailto:BYCullen@xtra.co.nz) or Sandy 8109235.

**Radius Taupaki Gables Gala:** Saturday 25th November, 11am to 4pm. 116 Taupaki Road, Police car rides, Lucky Dip, Book sales, Car Boot sales, Bric-a-brac, bargains galore and more.

News from around the School continued.....

## **Principals Awards for Week Three, Term 4 2006**

Lana Gosse, Emelina Glavas, Thomas Bosch, Breanna Brown, Wade Malcon, Rosalyn Shaw, Ruairidh MacKenzie-Everitt and Jessie Brown.

## **News from the Junior School**

We are learning about how heat changes things with food as our context. Classes will have a session cooking in the food technology room. We are having lots of fun investigating.

## **Sausage Sizzle**

The PTA are having a sausage sizzle again tomorrow( Wednesday) and every Tuesday until further notice. Sausages, drinks and ice-munchies available at \$1 each.

## **Needed**

Creative parents for face painting on Fireworks night, 1 hour stints, paints and brushes provided— please phone Shona on 8328535.

## **Needed**

Loan of Hay Bales for Fireworks night, will be returned, to be used in hay bale maze. Please phone Shona on 8328535.

# Support our School Sponsors



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