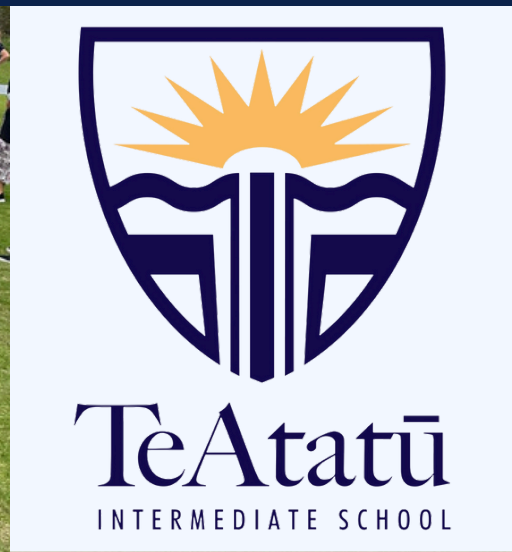


TE ATATŪ INTERMEDIATE

Tū Tāngata

Equipping our students to stand tall: To be the best people they can be and, by becoming life-long learners, reaching their best potential.



MESSAGE FROM MR EVANS - TUMUAKI

Tēnā koutou katoa o Te Atatū Intermediate whānau

As mentioned in the last newsletter, our focus at TAI this term—emphasized from myself to the students—has been to accentuate the positive and make the most of their learning opportunities. This week, our focus value has been ātawhai—caring, kindness, and consideration for others—which is especially vital at this time of year.

At our recent assembly, I was proud to acknowledge the many students who have participated with passion and enjoyment in school events over the past week.

Our Kapa Haka group delivered an outstanding performance at Te Kahu o Te Rehia on Saturday. Their presence on stage was inspiring, showcasing the dedication and hard work put into their practice and training. Our school placed 2nd overall, and with the promise shown by our Year 7s, the group is in excellent shape for 2024 as they step into leadership roles as tuakana.

Yesterday, ten students represented TAI at the Auckland Champs for athletics, about a third of our competitors. The high standard of excellence and sportsmanship was evident, and we are proud of their achievements.

A huge congratulations to Matthew R11 and Xavier R14, who competed at the Australian ESports competition on the Gold Coast last weekend. Against all the Australian states, they secured 2nd place overall! A special thank you to Matthew's dad, Phillip, for accompanying and supporting the boys during this competition.

Last night, we celebrated the talent and hard work of our beginner and advanced bands and violinists in our Spring Music Concert. Year 7 students and Year 8 students (who have been dedicated for two years) showcased their skills to whānau. It was a heartwarming event, featuring Rutherford College students returning to play alongside their former bandmates and special performances by our amazing tutors: Evelyn Boyack, Antonina Marriott, Chad Davenport, and our incredible Head of Music, Bronwyn Chalmers.

It was a wonderful evening and a testament to the strength of our music department.

Looking ahead, the next newsletter will be the final one for the term and the 2024 school year.

Ngā mihi!



IMPORTANT NOTES

ANNUAL PARAKAI TRIP

On Wednesday, 11th December, TAI will spend the day at Parakai Pools, continuing a tradition that has been an annual event for over twenty years. This free trip is a fun way to celebrate the end of the year, and swimming is optional. We will leave school at 9:30 a.m. and return by 2:30 p.m. [Please click here for more information and to complete the permission form.](#)



YEAR 8 GRADUATION BALL

Our annual Year 8 Graduation Ball will take place on Thursday, 12th December, from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm in the school hall. This special event is exclusively for Year 8 students. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased with cash only.

Date: Thursday, 12th December
Time: 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm
Dress Code: Formal Attire (contact Whaea Ngaire if unsure)
Entry Ticket: \$20 – Cash only
Photo Booth Ticket: \$5 (this is optional, 4 photos per ticket)

Tickets can be purchased from Ms. Rooney in the office before school starts each day. Note: A permission form must be completed before a ticket can be purchased. [Please click here to complete the permission slip](#)

GIRLS SELF-DEFENCE

For several years, we have been fortunate to offer our Year 8 girls self-defence classes. Each class enjoyed a full day of learning various strategies to keep themselves safe. Students found the day informative, fun, and highly beneficial.

"It was a really good experience and lots of fun to learn self-defence. I think it's important for girls to be able to defend themselves in case they ever find themselves in a difficult situation. I also enjoyed sharing what I learnt with my sister, who is in Year 7." - Hypatia R1

BALL CLOTHING AVAILABLE

Whaea Amanda R8 has some ball gowns and dress shirts available for any Year 8 students who would like to borrow something for the graduation ball. A small \$10 holding fee will be returned once the garment is returned clean. If you're interested, please email her or have your child speak directly with her.

HEALTH STATEMENT FOR TAI

Every two years, schools must update their Health statement based around community feedback and consultation. Our draft statement is ready for publishing to our website. We have taken on board core feedback around information received from this year's survey and in 2025, we will be introducing Mitey to our school. Mitey is the Sir John Kirwan foundation, supporting mental health for students built around the NZ curriculum. This will become part of our Health programme in 2025. [Please click here to view the Health statement.](#) Any feedback can be directed to office@teatatu.school.nz

KAUNIHERA 2025

This year, we had over 130 enthusiastic Year 7 students put their names forward to be Kaunihera for 2025. Kaunihera are the leaders of our school who strive to lead by example and embody the Te Atatū way through service to their peers, school, and wider community. This week marks the end of Step 2, where candidates are interviewed by senior teachers. Next week, we will find out which 20 students will make up the Kaunihera team for 2025. Those students will then go on to be interviewed by Mr Evans and Mrs Clarke to determine who will give a speech in front of the whole school to vie for the position of head prefects. The final decision will be made through a school-wide vote by students and staff. The head prefects will be officially announced at the Year 7 prizegiving.

TE KAHU O TE RĒHIA

This year was TAI's third time participating in the community event, which involves 15 schools from primary and intermediate across the Te Atatū area. Leading up to the big day, they put in a huge amount of work, practising every two days a week during lunch, through Period 4, and after school every Wednesday until 4.30 pm. The preparation time was really short—with only five weeks to learn the bracket, which consisted of eight items. The rōpū were lucky to have support from tutors from Rutherford College—Samara, Noah, Talesha, and Shantelle (Year 11–13 students)—who helped Matua Jeff and Kōkā Amorangi get them ready for the big day. Whaea Tere also worked hard to sew all of their uniforms in time. As Kaitātaki Wāhine & Kaitātaki Tane, Caprice and Leon (both R3) say "We felt a lot of pressure to say things correctly and uphold a high standard, especially as the leaders. We believe we achieved this and made our whānau and school proud. On the day, we felt scared and nervous at first, but once we got on stage, our confidence grew—especially after the second item. We think our Whakawātea was our strongest performance." Overall, this year's rōpū has been TAI's biggest and strongest group yet and we're proud of our placing!

Tēnei te mihi ki ngā whānau o te roopu, ki ngā kaiako e arahi ana i ō matou tamariki. Tēnei te mihi hoki ki o mātou tamariki i tū maia i tū rangatira i runga i te ātāmira. Ka mau te wehi!



IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE REMAINING YEAR

Wednesday, 4 December – Annual WAKA Wars

Saturday, 7 December – Te Atatū Santa Parade

Wednesday, 11 December – Parakai Pools Day

Thursday, 12 December – Year 8 School Ball

Friday, 13 December – School Rock Bands Performance

Monday, 16 December – Reports sent home

Tuesday, 17 December –

Year 8 Prizegiving at 1:00 PM

Year 8s conclude for the year at the end of Prizegiving (Year 7s finish school at 12:00 noon)

Wednesday, 18 December –

Year 7s only at school

Year 7 Prizegiving at 10:00 AM

School concludes for the year at the end of the Yr 7 Prizegiving.

SPORTS/HAKINAKINA

Science is a wonderful vehicle for learning because of the many questions it can generate. So, here's my science question:

How much can TAI squeeze into two weeks?

A St Dominic's football experience, Athletics Zones and Auckland Champs, dodgeball, the amazing TAI Blues Crew, and whanaungatanga at the Cross Country Cluster.

Once again, thank you to our lovely community for donating more to our Backyard Programme.

The hākinakina gear is well-used and very much appreciated!

ST DOMS FOOTBALL

Written by Kiyona R9, Ashley & Zoe R5

We travelled to St Dominic's to play a football game with 30-minute halves on a full field. It was a fun and challenging experience to play against another school outside of zones, especially since we only took a Year 8 girls' team to Zone Day. This gave the keen Year 7 girls a great opportunity to get involved in football.

We played really well as a team, dominated possession, and had plenty of shots on goal. We won 6-0! St Dominic's were very positive and supportive of both their team and ours. They even shared juice with us afterwards, which we really appreciated.

A huge thanks to Mr. Vale and Kaia's mum for helping transport us, as we couldn't all fit in the school van. We hope to see more games with other schools in the future!



ATHLETICS ZONES

What a great day! The feedback from the lead teachers was that they felt immense pride watching the students deliver their best selves at the event.

Of the 40 students who attended, they not only represented themselves and their whānau with distinction, but also supported each other to achieve their best.

Year 8s showcased the TAI value of Ako by helping out the Year 7s during the relays.

Congratulations to:

Braxton R13 (Yr 7): 1st in 200m, 2nd in 100m, 2nd in long jump

Hanna R7 (Yr 7): 1st in long jump, 3rd in high jump, 2nd in 100m and 200m

Evie R5 (Yr 8): 1st in long jump, 3rd in discus, 6th in long jump

Bevan R10 (Yr 7): 1st in 100m

Oliver R7 (Yr 8): 3rd in high jump

Kiyona R9 (Yr 7): 5th in 1500m

Mila R9 (Yr 8): 4th in 800m, 6th in 400m

Frank R6 (Yr 7) and Quinn R5 (Yr 7): 4th equal in high jump

Sam R1 (Yr 7): 6th in shot put

In the 4 x 400m relays our Y8 Girls came 2nd & our Y7 Boys, 3rd!

AUCKLAND CHAMPS

The Auckland Champs, run by AIMS at Go Media Stadium, is a prestigious event that filters down from 40,000 athletic students across Auckland to the final Auckland Champ Day. We were proud to have 10 TAI students represent us with distinction!

Our representatives:

Abigail R1: Relay

Evie R5: Discus and Long Jump

Quinn R5: Relay

Oliver R7: High Jump

Braxton R13: 100m, 200m, Long Jump, and Relay

Hanna R7: 100m, 200m, Long Jump, and High Jump

Nevayah R13: Relay

Evangeline R14: Relay

Harrison R15: Relay

Bevan R10: 100m and Relay

It was such an achievement to get there! We competed against schools that had teams of 30-40 students representing them. Despite tough competition, our Year 7 boys made it to the relay finals and placed 5th overall. Evie achieved a personal best in Long Jump and came 4th overall.

What a wonderful opportunity for our students to represent our school! We've also gathered some great ideas to develop athletics at TAI in the future. It was fantastic to see our waka values in full force throughout the day.

A big thanks to Ms Harrington for treating the students to frozen Cokes after a hot and long day—well deserved!

DODGEBALL

Written by Manase & Austin R6

Three weeks ago, on Saturday, five of us competed as a team at the community centre: Manase, Ryan T, Sharlott, Austin R6, and Ben R12 as the "Dirty Dodgers."

We came first in the intermediate-aged division,

playing against seven other teams.

We had lots of fun and won all our games! We love dodgeball because it's a real team sport where we have to communicate with each other - it's definitely something we're keen to continue outside of school.

We're grateful to all the parents who supported us and to Michael for organising the competition, giving children in our community the chance to enjoy this awesome sport.



FUSE CUP ESPORTS – GOLD COAST

Written by Matthew R11 & Xavier S R14

On 13 November, we travelled to the Gold Coast, Australia, to compete in the Fuse Cup Esports playing Rocket League. We were the only kids from New Zealand to make it into the competition.

We've been playing Rocket League for about 2-3 years, with Xavier joining a little later. Since we enjoy football and cars, a game that combines both is awesome. We had played together as friends before, so when Sonny couldn't make it, Xavier stepped in.

The competition featured teams from across Australia in the intermediate section. It was a 2-3 hour event where an Xbox was connected to two TVs for gameplay. The format was round robin, and we played every team in the warm-ups. Thanks to winning the New Zealand competition, we went straight through to the grand final.

The grand final was against the Australian Nationals winner, a team from Queensland. It was a best-of-three match, and although we played well, they won both games by just one goal each time.

It's amazing that esports is now an option for TAI students, offering opportunities to participate in a new sport and even travel overseas. We're super grateful to our parents for taking us over and supporting us, and to the organisation for inviting us. We're keen to continue with esports through high school.

FILL THE THE **BLUES BUS**

**LAST
CHANGE!**

WITH **MORE FM**

SUPPORTED BY **RITCHIES**



TAI BLUES CREW FOOD DRIVE

Written by Charlotte & Chloe R6

This year, the TAI Blues Crew has set an ambitious goal to collect **5,000** non-perishable food items! Last year, we successfully gathered over 3,000 presents for children across Tāmaki Makaurau, and this year, our focus is on non-perishable foods to support families in need. These donations will go to three charities:

The Village Community Trust (West Auckland)

South Seas (South Auckland)

Whakaora Kai (Northland)

Students are encouraged to bring their contributions to their classrooms, where collections take place every Tuesday and Thursday.

The class with the most donations by December 4th will be rewarded with a pizza lunch, ice blocks, and a Fuze voucher for their teacher!

How can the community help? Create a 100's Club!

Collect 100 perishables from your street, your family, your workplace, your community group etc. take a photo we can share in our newsletter and go into a draw for the TAI Blues Crew to do a community service of your choice!

Drop-off points in the community: TAI, Fuze Cafe, Community Library, Mr Illingsworth and Harveys Real Estate.



FILL THE  THE **BLUES BUS**

WITH **MORE FM**
SUPPORTED BY **RITCHIES**

THE BLUES ARE COLLECTING FOOD FOR FAMILIES IN NEED THIS CHRISTMAS!

**DROP OFF YOUR FOOD HERE BETWEEN
4TH NOVEMBER - 4TH DECEMBER**

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT
WHERE YOU CAN DONATE ONLINE
BLUES.RUGBY/FILL-THE-BUS