



Taitā Central School Newsletter



Ako tahi Tātou, Tipu tahi Tātou
Together we Learn, Together we Grow

14 March 2025
14 Poutū-te-Rangi 2025

Number 4
Wha

Term 1: Week 7
Wāhanga 1: Wiki 7

Principal: principal@taitacentral.school.nz

Office: admin@taitacentral.school.nz

Website: <https://www.taitacentral.school.nz/home>

Coming Events:

Fri 14th Mar – Whānau Back to School Celebration

Tue 18th – Fri 21st March – Y5 & 6 Camp

Wed 19th Mar – Ako 7 trip to Te Papa

Mon 24th Mar- BOT Meeting

Tue 25th Mar – Community Responce Practice WREMO
4pm – 7pm

To Action:

Important Dates to remember...

Absence TXT Line: 022 351 2655 - Text child's first & last name, Ako/class, absence reason, sender's name

Kia ora e te Whānau – Tēnā Koutou, Talofa, Malo e lele, Bula vinaka, Hello,

Whānau Back to School celebration – Friday 14th March 3:00pm – 6:00pm today

We are inviting all our ākonga/students and their families, whānau and aiga to join us at school for an active, fun afternoon at our Back to School Celebration.

This will be a great opportunity to informally meet and chat with your tamaiti/child's teacher and catch up with friends and family.

We hope that all our ākonga/students and at least one person from their family, whānau, aiga will be able to attend for some part of this celebration.

Keeping Kids Safe Online

We want our school and our community to be a safe place for all children. Our tamariki are growing up in rapidly changing times, and the risk, frequency and severity of online harm are increasing. We need to tackle this as a community.

As such, we have organised to share *Filmmaker and Author Rob Cope's Keeping Our Kids Safe Online presentation with our parents, caregivers, Whānau and Aiga over a series of dates.*

Please note this presentation is for adults only and is not suitable for children or teens to attend.



The presentation will cover:

- Cyberbullying - How bullies can reach our kids 24/7
- Social media - How social media is affecting the mental health in 3 out of 5 children. FOMO, depression, anxiety
- Gaming and the developing brain – An oversupply of dopamine leading to dopamine deficiency, synaptic pruning, and the underdevelopment of social skills and empathy
- Naked Selfies - The pressure to send nudes from intermediate up through high school
- Online predators - The methods they use, how to spot them
- Online porn vs healthy sexuality - How consuming online pornography as a child or teen can create a sexual template where violence, aggression, and dominance are seen as normal and consent can become very blurry.

Solutions

- Filters - Which filters are best and how to install them
- Smartphones - How to lock down a smartphone to make it a safe phone
- Boundaries - How to put good boundaries in place around device use
- **3 golden rules - The 3 golden rules that will keep your kids safe**
- **Talking to your kids - How to have difficult conversations with your kids**
- **Challenging our own phone and device usage - Reconnecting as a family.**

Here is a promotional video for you to watch [Our Kids Online Parent Evening](#).

You only need to attend one session – we will be repeating the presentation on a number of different dates and timeslots, so we can cater for as many of our parents, caregivers, Whānau and Aiga as possible.

Our goal is to have at least one person from each family/whānau come to one of the presentations.

Presentation Dates - Light snacks will be available. ***Please note this presentation is for adults only and is not suitable for children or teens to attend.***

- Tuesday 18th March 1:45pm – 3:15pm
- Thursday 20th March 9:00am – 10:30am
- Thursday 27th March 9:00am – 10:30am

*When you attend one of these presentations you will be eligible for a **one-year complimentary subscription** to "Parenting in an Online World 101" from Rob and team at Our Kids Online. This is a cybersafety parenting course, designed specifically for NZ families. It usually costs \$99 per family. So show up and get it for free! Course details can be found here [Parenting in an Online World 101](#)*

"We need to tackle this as a community so that all of our kids are safe. When I protected my kids online, I also protected yours, so please, please protect your kids online so that you are also protecting mine" Rob Cope

Attendance, Engagement and Achievement

I have been reviewing our Regular Attendance rate for Term 1 and it is pleasing to see that at this stage of the term our Regular Attendance is slightly higher than Term 1 last year. Thank you to all our families, Whānau and Aiga for supporting your tamaiti/child to get to school regularly.

Taitā Central School - current attendance data 29th January 2025 to 14th March 2025.

Term 1	Regularly attending	Irregular attendance	Moderately absent	Chronically absent
Number of students	69	22	7	11
Percentage	63%	20%	6%	10%

Stepped Attendance Response - STAR

Responding to all absences

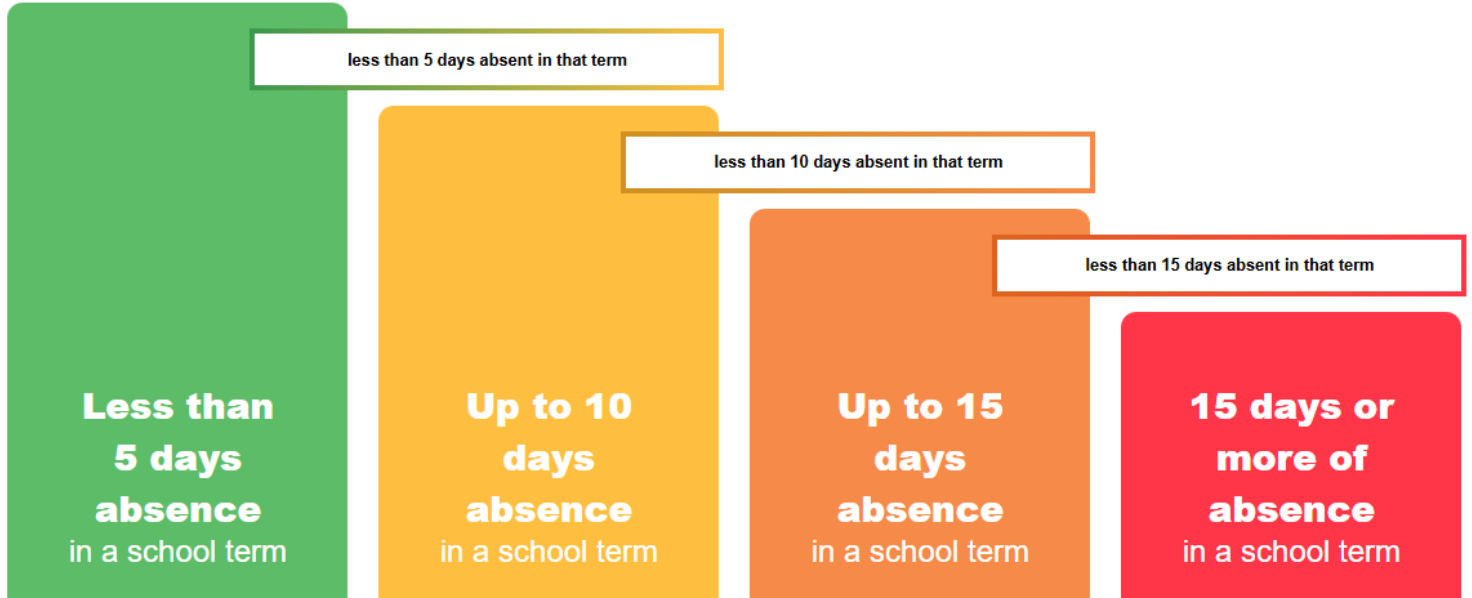
The Government's target is for **80% of students to attend regularly**, that is to attend school more than **90% of the time**.

GOOD
Good chance of success

WORRYING
Less chance of success

CONCERNING
Hard to make progress

SERIOUS CONCERN
Very hard to make progress



Year 5 & 6 Camp Brookfield, Wainuiomata – next week

Our Year 5 & 6 ākonga need to be at school from 8:30 – 9:00 am on Tuesday, 18th March with your child and their gear. The plan for each day is as follows;

Tuesday 18 th March	Wednesday 19 th March	Thursday 20 th March	Friday 21 st March
Arrive and settle in. Explore, set up, and team bonding games.	Activity day from 9am <i>Abseiling,</i> <i>Confidence Course,</i> <i>Kayaking,</i> <i>Raft Building,</i> <i>Orienteering</i>	Tramp/Nature Walk. Evening Camp Concert.	Clean up, pack up, and head home to whānau - Arrive back at school approx. 2:00pm

You are very welcome to visit on any of the days and attend the **CAMP CONCERT**. Please let us know if you and your whānau would like to come. If you need transport, we may organise a van if the need arises.

If your tamaiti/child has any personal medication this must be given to your tamaiti/child's teacher, clearly labelled with their name and the instructions for the medication.



Movin' March 2025

Keep on walking or wheeling to school and getting your

Ka hīkoi, ka wīra rānei hei whakaatu i tā mātou atawhai ki te taiao / We walk or wheel to show our care for te taiao

I walk or wheel because...

Week 1 – He pai mō tōku toiora! It's great for my well-being!

Week 2 – Ka hono ahau! It makes me feel connected!

Week 3 – He pai ake mō te taiao! It's kinder on the planet!

Week 4 – Ka piki ake te māia! It builds my confidence!

Week 5 – He ara mātātoa! It's an adventure!



Whānau Photo Competition

This competition is all about whānau sharing their experiences of walking and wheeling. In 2024 we have calendars for whānau that link to the weekly themes of the competition to encourage everyone to get on board.

Using these tools alongside our classroom resources (see page 6) will help teachers, whānau, and students make connections between Movin' March and the benefits of active travel.



Parents share their experiences by posting photos and comments on Facebook, responding to weekly themes on the benefits of walking or wheeling.

Be in to win an amazing Micro Scooter and helmet or a Family Pass to Zealandia or Staglands!



You could win one of 5 x Micro Scooters and helmets or 10 x Family Passes to fun Wellington destinations.


*Competition runs February 26th-31st March.**

* Just for 2024



SCHOOL NEWS

New Enrolments – Nau mai, haere mai ki to kura o Ngā Hau e Whā, ngā mihi maioha - A warm welcome to our Taita Central School community: Welcome to Taita Central School, Sami Ako 1, Prezz Ako 7, Cory Ako 9.

	P	Perseverance / <i>Whakapau Kaha / Onosa'i</i> - give it a go and keep trying, even when it gets hard.
	O	Outstanding / <i>Kei runga noa atu! / Matua <u>silisili</u> ona lelei</i> - always being the best that you can be.
	W	Whakawhanaungatanga / <i>Te toa takitini / So'otaga</i> - we come together as one.
	E	Empathy / <i>Aroha - Ngākau aroha / Lagona Alofa</i> - trying to understand how others feel.
	R	Respect / <i>Kiritau - Whakamana -Whakaute / Fa'aaloalo</i> - treating others how you would like to be treated.

POWER Values - Our value focus for Week 5 & 6 across the school is **Whakawhanaungatanga / Te toa takitini / So'otaga – we come together as one**. The New Zealand Falcon (Karearea) is our mascot for our values.

Assembly. Thank you to Pohutukawa Block and our hosts Izzy, Nia-Grace and Bella Visuals Toby and Fa'amaga

Congratulations to our Ako Award Winners:

Ako 1: Trinah, Panapa

Ako 3: Tolué, Lomakina

Ako 4: Ryder, Dilan

Ako 7: Prezz, Manisoni, Jericho

Ako Waru & Iwa: Noah, Fa'aeteete, Cory,

Akomanga Māori: (A7) Zeta, Bella

Principal Awards – Week 5

Ako 1: Faith for showing the value of Perseverance with your Maths learning and showing the value Outstanding by always trying your best.

Ako 3: Shalom for always offering to help with all those little jobs that make our room run so much smoother. You are a thoughtful and positive class member. What a great beginning to your year.

Ako 7: Cren for always taking responsibility, and stepping up to try your best at all times. Cren you always show the POWER values, well done!

Ako Iwa: Stehlin for working hard in every subject and participating in all activities this week. You are always trying to make the right choice!

Principal Awards – Week 6

Ako 4: Ahrie for showing POWER values and supporting others in the class.

Ako Waru: Bella for consistently showing our POWER Values and being super helpful and welcoming to our relievers in Ako Waru and Ako Iwa.

Special Nomination - Akomanga Māori - Arieta - for showing all her Power Values and for her amazing Whākawhanuatanga and being a role model for Kowhai Akomanga Māori. Tino pai rawe

Congratulations to our POWER Award Winners:

Fa'amago, Jericho, Niko, Katnissime, Shalom, Suntroyden, Londoni, Paea, Warren

Mana Moments

Matua Dylan and Merehana's Waitangi Fonu



On Wednesday 5th March members of the Taita Stokes Valley Kāhui Ako travelled up to the Hokianga for a self review retreat hosted by Tautai O Le Moana (ToIM). Principals in the Kāhui Ako have been participating in Professional Mentoring provided by ToIM and felt that the experience they had up in the Hokianga with ToIM in the past would be a perfect setting to help them review how well they have been catering for the needs of Pasifika students, staff and whanau. The group consisted of Principals, Senior Leaders and Teachers from Avalon Intermediate, Tui Glen, Pomare, Korauui, Taita Central and St Michaels Schools. The 3 day retreat was facilitated by Karl Vasau (ToIM Facilitator/ Principal Rowandale School), Sepora Mauigoa (ToIM Facilitator) and Helen Varney (CEO ToIM).



Huge thank you to all our schools and Kāhui Ako for investing in us and trusting us with this important Mahi ...



Ako 3 Amazing ākonga caring for our environment

Kowhai block had an awesome trip to Kaitoke Regional Park on Tuesday. We walked over the swing bridge and then through a small bush walk. We saw the sky garden, very tall trees, ferns and lots of spider webs. We had lunch on the grass and it was really funny when the wind blew our box of chippies away and everyone had to chase them along the grass. We went down to the river and collected a rock to bring home and paint. A big thank you to all those wonderful parents who came and helped us.

Some sentences from the children:

Praise: I walked the wiggly bridge with my sister.

Caleb: I was eating my food at the campsite.

Jeconiah: I went bush walking with my class and we went on a wobbly bridge.

Mirai: I was throwing rocks in the river.

Freja: I went on the bus. The swing bridge was so wobbly.

Alex: I saw a big rock in the river.



Yesterday Kowhai Team went to Kaitoke regional park. First we came to the river. It was very fun. Second we went to the swing bridge. We walked to the other side and on the other side is a bush walk. I saw a fungi in a log and a face in a tree. I also saw a tree that had roots like a spider.

By Sujith. (Ako 3)



Kowhai Team went to Kaitoke. We went to the river and we collected some rocks. The swing bridge was fun. We were there the whole day. We had a picnic. My Mum came too. There was a bush walk. It was a loop walk. I enjoyed it. We saw two types of fungus. There was a fairy house. We got there by a big bus. I looked at a pink rock. The rock was cool as. I want to visit kaitoke again.

By Eva (Ako 3)



Te Reo Māori Phrase of the Week.

To increase the use of Te Reo Māori at Taitā Central School we are continuing our Te Reo Māori phrase of the week. All our Kaiako/teachers and Kaiawhina/Support staff are trying to make sure we use this phrase throughout the week. You may hear your tamariki using these phrases at home.

The phrase we are using in Week 7 is... Hei āpōpō / see you tomorrow

The phrase we are using in Week 8 is... Kia pai ō rā whakatā / have a good weekend.

Board News

Mr Little, our school caretaker has resigned from his position and is no longer working at Taita Central School. Our Board and staff would like to acknowledge the work Mr Little has done since starting in June 2022 to care for our school environment and to repair, replace, improve and enhance our school, our playgrounds and our wider school environment.

Whakatauki

Tangata ako ana i te whare, te turanga ki te marae, tau ana

A person who is taught at home, will stand collected on the Marae (meeting house grounds)

A child who is given proper values at home and cherished within his family, will not only behave well amongst the family but also within society and throughout his life.

Ngā mihi maioha - warm greetings

Whaea Shell / Michelle Picard and Taitā Central School Staff

Tel: 5677214

Taitā Central School – Te Kura O Nga Hau E Wha

Ako tahi Tātou, Tipu tahi Tātou – Together we Learn, Together we Grow

Skylight Trust

Counselling for young people

Counselling offers a space for young people to explore any concerns and get support from a trained mental health professional during uncertain times.

Skylight Trust is an organisation based in the Wellington region offering short-term counselling services for tamariki and rangatahi (**aged 5-18 years**), and their whānau. Our kaupapa aims to support those who have experienced or are experiencing grief, loss, bereavement, or trauma.

Counselling can improve young people's mental health and wellbeing. We offer young people a non-judgemental and supportive environment to express themselves.

Contact Us

☎ 0800 299 100

🌐 www.skylight.org.nz

Our Services

We deliver a range of therapy modalities:

- **Talk therapy**
- **Music therapy**
- **Creative Arts therapy**

Our Locations

- **Wellington**
- **Porirua**
- **Petone**
- **Lower Hutt**
- **Kāpiti**

