



• Taitā Central School Pānui • Term 1 Week 6 - 12th March 2026 •

Kia ora, Talofa Lava, Kia Orana, Bula Vinaka, Malo e lelei, Malo ni, Fakatalofa atu, Namaste, Mingalaba, Kumusta, Marhaba, Sawatdee, Xin chào, Choum, Reap, Sour, Assalamu alaikum, Hello, Greetings!



**Vision**

**"Te tu pakari tahi, te whakamana i nga ākongā katoa."**

Standing strong together – enhancing the mana of all learners

**Mission**

**Ako tahi Tātou, Tipu tahi Tātou**

Together we Learn, Together we Grow



Last week I spent 2 days at a Principal's Retreat in the Wairarapa with the Principals of Koraunui, Tui Glen, St Michael's, Pomare, Avalon Intermediate and Taitā College. We spent the 2 days discussing the amazing feedback from the Taitā / Stokes Valley Kāhui Ako (TSVKA) Revisioning 2026 and beyond survey which was sent out to schools and whānau earlier this term.

Our 2 day retreat was extremely productive, as a group we made clear decisions about our new Strategic Goals, our Levers and work priorities, we identified ways we can continue to work together and created a new name and vision for our cluster of schools, as we navigate our journey together following the Government's decision to stop funding Kāhui Ako and redirect the funds into other educational initiatives.

**Emergency Contact update forms**

Yesterday your child should have brought home a letter with the details we hold for them. Please double check these to make sure all medical and contact information is correct. Cross out anything that is wrong and write the correct details. If everything is correct, just tick and sign it. Please send forms back with your child tomorrow if you haven't done so already. Thank you.

**New Enrolments – Nau mai, haere mai ki to kura o Ngā Hau e Whā, ngā mihi maioha** - A warm welcome to our Taitā Central School community:

**Ako 4** – Poe

**Ako 8 & 9 Ruma Kererū** – Cynthia & Lorry

**Coming Up**

Tuesday 17 March – Kī-o-rahi Tournament 9:30am – 1:30pm

Friday 20 March – **Whānau Back to School Celebration** 3pm – 6pm

Thursday 02 April – Last Day of Term 1 – School finishes at **3pm**

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April – First day of Term 2 8:55am start

**POWER Time - Art**



## School Attendance

**What are the new Attendance Services?** New Attendance Service providers (providers) have been contracted to support students who are in the 'very concerning attendance' STAR category (chronically absent) based on referrals from schools and kura. They also support all non-enrolled students.

**What do new Attendance Service providers do?** Attendance Service providers deliver a wide range of support, in partnership with schools, to help improve attendance for all students referred to them. They support students through individual case management activities and can also provide support for schools and groups of students.

Awhi Attendance Services will continue to work with our to offer support to ākongā/students and families, whānau and Aiga.

**Dan Harper** has two years' experience as an Attendance Advisor. His iwi is Ngāti Raukawa and he has a strong understanding of and commitment to Te Ao Māori. In his twenties Dan was a professional rugby player and since then he has held several roles working with youth. Dan has significant experience in working in an educational setting and with the community.



Dan was the Director of Boarding at Hato Paora College for six years, worked for ten years at an Alternative Education programme and two years working at an Oranga Tamariki residence as a Youth Worker. When Dan was first employed at Awhi Attendance Services, Taita College had a severe attendance problem and no rugby teams. Dan has worked tirelessly to start and coach a rugby team at the college. Most of the team had very low attendance at school when they started coming along to training.

Dan has now established three rugby teams at the college, including a girls' team. The teams have played away games with Hato Pāora, Te Aute and Kuranui College. Afa helps with first aid and strapping while Mandi (see her staff profile below) helps to manage the teams. Having rugby at the school has made a big difference to the attendance percentages for those involved and has meant some rangatahi have stayed at school instead of dropping out. Dan has become a hugely respected person in the Taita community.

## Akomanga Māori

At Taita Central School we offer our Akomanga Māori classes to tamariki Māori only.

The kaupapa of our Akomanga Māori programme is for our Māori ākongā to learn in Te Reo Māori and to gain greater confidence with Te Reo, to be guided by Tikanga Māori through the experiences that are provided such as raranga (weaving), kapa haka, poi making and use, purakau (local stories), environmental projects to enhance our school and local area, marae visits and more. Our tamariki Māori then become leaders within their classrooms and can guide and support the other ākongā and teachers in their learning. Merehana and Manihira work with our Year 4 to 6 from 9:00 am until 10:40am every Thursday and our Year 1 to 3 ākongā from 11:25am – 11:55am.

We are committed to Ka Hikitia and its 30-year educational vision and objectives; **Whakamaui te pae tata kia tina** – Take hold of your potential so it becomes your reality.

We are descendants of explorers, discoverers and innovators who used their knowledge to traverse distant horizons.

Our learning will be inclusive, equitable and connected so we progress and achieve advances for our people and their future journeys and encounters Ka Hikitia will be successful when:

- Māori learners are engaged and achieving excellent education outcomes,
- Māori whānau, hapū and iwi are active partners with our education services in defining and supporting excellent outcomes for Māori learners.



## Te Reo Māori Phrase of the Week.

This year we are continuing to focus on using te reo Māori within our classrooms and school.

We now have a Te Reo Māori phrase of the week which we are all learning and trying to make sure we use. You may hear your tamariki using these phrases at home.

The phrase we are reviewing for Week 6 was,

***Kia pai mai hoki! That's fantastic!***



## Taitā Central School Ki-o rahi preparation

Te Rua facilitator from Nuku Ora / Healthy Active Learning was at school today to train our Year 5 & 6 Ki-o-rahi team in preparation for our kura hosting the tournament next **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March between 9:30am and 1:30pm.**

*Nuku Ora are keen to run a Kī-o Rahi tournament for our tamariki in the Stokes Valley Taitā Kāhui Ako, giving them a chance to showcase their skills, connect with other schools, and celebrate kaupapa Māori through sport and movement.*



## School Policies – SchoolDocs

Taitā Central School has adopted a Generative AI Policy and new Acceptable Use Agreement Form for ākonga/students and Parents/caregivers to sign.

You can access our school policies through our Taitā Central School Website <https://www.taitacentral.school.nz/our-people/our-board-of-trustees/>

### School Doc Reviews

From time to time, members of our school community are asked to participate in reviews, with the intention of strengthening current school policy. Taitā Central School uses SchoolDocs to administer our policy reviews. To Access the SchoolDocs website go to:

<https://taitacentral.schooldocs.co.nz>

User name: **taitacentral**

Password: **power**

Then do the following:

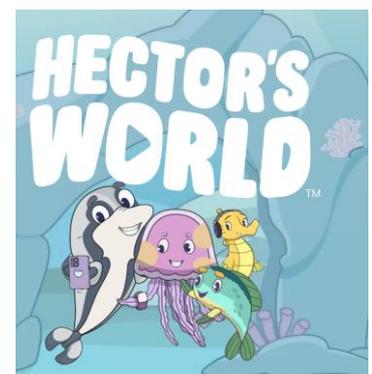
If you don't have internet access, school office staff can provide you with printed copies of the policy and a review form.



## Netsafe

Hector's World

<https://www.hectorsworld.com/>



## Community News

Tūhura Tech are an award-winning non-profit that operates in the greater Wellington area. We're currently running free tech classes at the Walter Nash Hub on **Thursdays from 3:30pm - 5:30pm for ages 8 - 13**, we provide all necessary materials including laptops, all students need to bring are themselves. We teach everything from game development, to website creation and robotics with a focus on real skills. There is not and never will be any cost to students, schools, or venues.

If you feel like this is something your child might be interested in, I've attached a poster, or you can learn more on our website at

<https://tuhuratech.org.nz/>

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

Ngā mihi,

Lillian Hide-Tobin (She/Her)

Lead Mentor

<https://tuhuratech.org.nz/>



## Whakatauaiki

***Ki te kotahi kākaho, ka whati: ki te Kāpuia, e kore e whati.***

When we stand alone, we are vulnerable; but together we are unbreakable.

Ngā mihi maioha - warm greetings  
Whaea Shell and Taitā Central School Staff

**Taitā Central School – Te Kura O Nga Hau E Wha**

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