

# Newsletter



## From the Principal

Dear Parents/Caregivers

We have had a busy term. This week our year 7 & 8 students went to camp at El Rancho. Learning outside the classroom brings many opportunities for students to experience outdoor activities.

I want to, once again, thank you all for your support given to me as a Principal.

The Principal position was advertised recently, and it is exciting to let you know that your new Principal is Renee Taipari.

The students are very excited to have Ms Taipari as their new Principal.

## 2024 Term Dates:

Term 1: Wednesday 31 Jan – Friday 12 April

Term 2: Monday 29 April – Friday 5 July

Term 3: Monday 22 July – Friday 27 September

Term 4: Monday 14 October – Monday 16 December (tbc)

## What's Happening in Term 1

- **Term 1 – Swimming Lessons**
- **Tuesday 26 March – School Photos**
- **Wednesday 27 March – Meet & Greet teachers 3.15pm – 4.15pm**
- **Friday 29 March – Good Friday**
- **Monday 1 April – Easter Monday**
- **Tuesday 2 April – School Easter Holiday**
- **Friday 12 April – End Term 1**

Please remember to notify the school if your child is going to be absent. You can do this by phoning the school office on 368 7658, or by clicking on the 'Report Absence' tab on the Taitoko School Website.

PH: 06 368 7658  
Email: [office@taitoko.school.nz](mailto:office@taitoko.school.nz)  
[www.taitoko.school.nz](http://www.taitoko.school.nz)



# Newsletter

## Meet the Class Rooms

### Whare Manaaki 1



Whare Manaaki 1 are learning all about the kaupapa of our new environment.

We are learning new routines, making new friends and best of all... having fun.

We are learning about the names of letters and what sounds they make and learning to identify numbers.

One of Whaea Jess' favourite things to do is reading books with the class...especially if they make us laugh.

### Photos from end of year 2023

At the end of 2023 we said good bye to Matua Livi and Kuini



### Whare Manaaki 2

In Whare Manaaki 2 we have been focusing on developing our sense of belonging in our new class and for some tamariki, school as well.

We explored places around Levin to deepen our awareness of our local connections. Forming friendships with each other and learning about kindness has been empowering and enjoyable.

We have started swimming in the afternoons which has been a real highlight.

*Here we are doing our number exercises with Whaea Maria and Deb*



**Breakfast Club**  
**Monday - Friday 8.15am - 8.45am**



# Newsletter

## Meet the Class Rooms

### Room 2

An awesome start to the year by Room 2 students - learning routines and settling into being a safe, respectful learner.

Come in and read our cut up stories about what we like as part of our Term 1 Inquiry 'Who Are We All - Ko Wai Tātou?'

As a class we have been reading 'My Name is Laloifi' and Greedy Cat stories - we have drawn and displayed some pictures about what Greedy cat likes, as well.

Over the next couple of weeks we will be beginning our Home reading and so look out for these in their bags. Looking forward to meeting all our Room 2 whanau.

MS Donna Kjestrup  
Room 2 Teacher



**Belinda Whyte**

Tēnā koutou,  
I am the Resource Teacher of Literacy for the Horowhenua region, covering a cluster of 16 schools.

My office is based here at Taitoko School. I work with children who are referred to me by their school for extra literacy support.

### Trish Balloch

Kia ora koutou. Ko Trish ahau.

I am the Learning Support Coordinator at Taitoko School.

My role is to work alongside our kaiako (teachers) to support the identity of and help plan for the inclusion of learning support needs of all tamariki (children) and young people in our kura, including those with moderate needs. I am available to support learners, their parents and whānau to empower our tamariki to be connected and empowered learners



# Newsletter

## Meet the Class Rooms...

### Room 3

Kia Ora, Malo, Mauri

A huge thank you to all the hardworking parents for helping to get your children to school and happy and ready to learn.

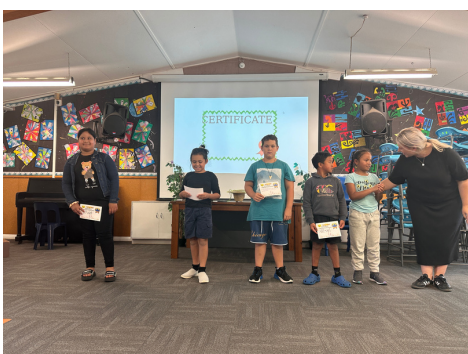
Room 3 has had a very busy start to the year and we have had a lot of laughs. What an amazing bunch of students! We are building some great learning attitudes and routines in the classroom and the students are really trying to give their very best.



We are having a few trips later in the year so please let me know if you are able to provide supervision.

Ngā Mihi  
Jade Cullen

## Middle Assembly Awards 2024



### Room 4

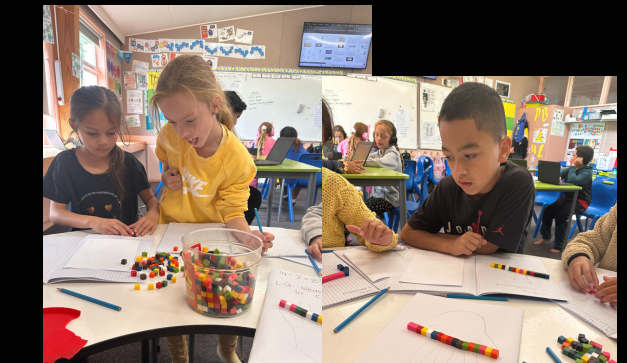


My name is Morgan Burke.

I am the teacher in the year 4-5 room 4. I am the head of ICT and work on the Digital Technology side of Showquest.

In my class, we work a lot on devices and become deeply immersed in the technology world.

In my spare time, I like to make jewellery, 3D print, and go to the local markets. I am also am into fitness and go to boot camps in Foxton 5 nights a week.



# Newsletter

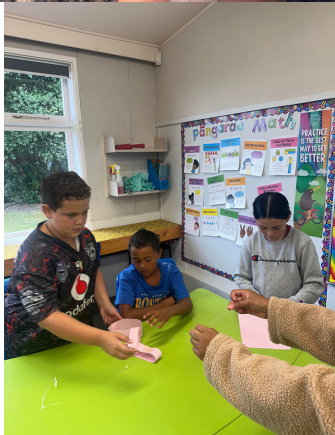
## Meet the Class Rooms...

### Room 5

Kia Ora,  
I am Whaea Emma and I am new to Taitoko School this year. I am the Kaiako for Room 5 and Team leader for the Middle school.

We have had a great start to the year getting to know each other through team building games, Pepeha art and sports.

For Math we have been enjoying hands-on activities and challenges that are teaching us about Measurement while also working on our times tables.



Our Inquiry this term is 'Ko wai tatou? Who are we?' We have been learning about the importance of Waitangi Day in Aotearoa and our own pepeha. We are presenting this through art and writing that is displayed in our classroom, we welcome you to come in and check it out.

### Room 6

*Hello, Kia Ora, Talofa, Malo e lelei from Room 6!*



Hello, Kia Ora koutou whanau and welcome to any new students at Taitoko.

We are a Year 7 and 8 class with 25 students.

I am Lizzie Kiriona and have been teaching for over 30 years. I am married to Max Kiriona, and have 3 adult children.

Our class has made a wonderful start to the year. We are setting our classroom culture by exploring Te Tiriti O Waitangi and Ko wai tatou, working collaboratively and exploring individual strengths.

Feel free to pop and say hi!

### Skateboarding fun on Fridays



**REMINDERS TERM 1 :**

- *Technology Day is Wednesday*



# Newsletter

## Meet the Class Rooms...

### Room 7

Ko Taranaki te maunga e rū nei taku ngākau  
 Taranaki is the mountain that speaks to my heart.  
 Ko Kaupokonui te awa e mahea nei aku māharahara.  
 Kaupokonui is the river that alleviates my worries..  
 Nō Mt Maunganui ahau  
 I am from Mt Maunganui.  
 E mihi ana ki ngā tohu o nehe, o Taitoko e noho nei au.  
 I recognise the ancestral and spiritual landmarks of  
 Levin where I live.  
 ō reira, tēnā koutou katoa.  
 Thus, my acknowledgement to you all.  
 Ko Whaea Wendy toku ingoa

I am the teacher in room 7. We are a busy classroom. This term we are working on getting along together and ensuring that all Taitoko values are being followed so that all of us in our room can be safe and successful learners. There is always a lot happening in our room and at the moment we are learning to design and make a mini treehouse. This is part of learning area and perimeter. Please feel free to drop in any time.

### Senior Camp Fundraising



The senior school have been busy raising money for their camp. This has included sausage sizzles and pizza lunches. We would like to thank the whole school for making these days a success.

Kayden helped Dwayne with the sausage sizzle.

# SPORTS

## TERM 1

### HK CRICKET

Yeah Girls Competition

### BASEBALL

Year 7/8 Inter School Competition

### SWIMMING

In-Class Sessions

## Coming Up in Term 2

### BASKETBALL

Years 3 - 8

### RIPPA RUGBY

InterSchool Sessions  
Tournament

### INDOOR BOWLS

# Newsletter

## Meet the Class Rooms...

### Room 8

**Hello, Kia Ora, Talofa, Malo e lelei!**

Kia Ora koutou whanau,

It is great to have the children back for 2024 and I welcome those that are new to our school. My name is Kirk Watson and I am teaching year 6 & 7 seniors this year in room 8. I have been part of the senior team at Taitoko school for the last few years teaching the year 7 and 8's and I am looking forward to supporting the 6 and 7's this year with their learning journey as well as getting to know the families better.

We are now well into term one and the children have been settling back into class routines and working hard on their learning tasks.

Our writing focus in room 8 has been creative writing and the students have been learning about how to use words to make their writing more interesting. We have also started reading journals with a focus on comprehension and have incorporated read theory as an online resource into our programme.

For Math this term, we will be looking at measurement as well as our focus on number knowledge and strategies. We are also being supported by Stacey with Manaikalani who has been teaching a range of digital skills on Thursdays with the class and Shane on Friday with Mana Potential, a strength based programme to support positive behaviour.

Students have been enjoying a range of fun games for P.E such as Irish Soccer, Gorilla and Goldenchild which incorporate many skills found in traditional games. We have also been enjoying swimming in our school pool, just a reminder that students must have swimwear to participate.

Our focus in room 8 has been "Respecting everyone" and we have talked about how like any team we need to work together to be successful. If you could please emphasise the importance of being a learner, respectful and safe that would be greatly appreciated.

I look forward to a great year. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

No reira tena koutou katoa

Kirk Watson



PH: 06 368 7658

Email: [office@taitoko.school.nz](mailto:office@taitoko.school.nz)  
[www.taitoko.school.nz](http://www.taitoko.school.nz)



# Newsletter

## Photos from 2023

Soccer teams



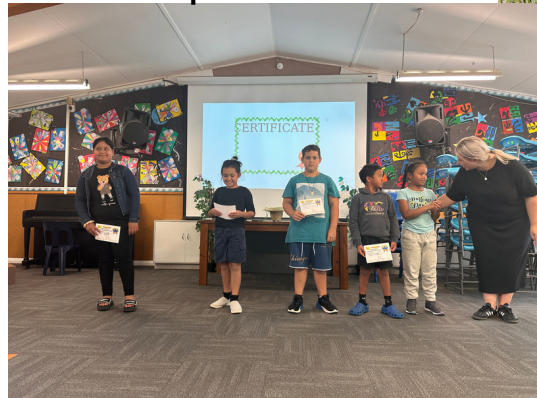
School Murals



Nga Manu trip



End of Year photos



Harold Visit

