



TAMATEA
HIGH SCHOOL

Ngā Pitopito Kōrero



E tipu e rea, ka tipu koe hei tangata—Growing good people for a changing world

Te Whakaputanga — March/Poutū-te-Rangi 2026

April/Paenga-Whāwhā

Wednesday 1st

Driving with Ignite

Cultural Evening at 5pm

Thursday 2nd

Period 5 – End of Term Hui

End of Term 1

Monday 20th

Term 2 Begins

Senior Constable Mark Johnson in week 1 and 2 for mentored driving practice

Tuesday 21st

Maia Dreams – Kaupapa Māori Leadership development workshops

Thursday 23rd

Waikato University Scholarship presentation

Tuesday 28th

Te Ara Whai Mahi – Careers workshop

Intermediate students - Pasifika Day

Macfitness Gym Rōpū

Wednesday 29th

Driving with Ignite mentors

May/Haratua

Tuesday 5th – Thursday 7th

Year 11 Business Experience

Tuesday 5th

Te Ara Whai Mahi – Careers Workshop

Horticulture Day Out

Wednesday 6th

Driving with Ignite mentors

Friday 8th

9T to Guthrie Smith Education Centre

**Please check the Skool loop app,
Facebook page or our website
for up-to-date notices
www.tamatea.school.nz**



Secondary School Waka Ama Nationals

Parekura Aaron Matehe, and Whaea Chanel Atkin took our girls' waka ama team (Nahvaeaa, Ngawari, Mamor, Te Ahorangi, Rongomai and Maia) to Nationals at Lake Tikitapu (Blue Lake) in Rotorua. They have been training hard over the last year and competed in the Regionals at Pandora Pond in Napier earlier this month.

What a fantastic few days they have had. Nahvaeaa competed in our single waka ama, Pōkai Whenua. She came 5th in the W1 Takere final which took place on Tuesday before the team's W6 250m race, an awesome achievement.

The team then competed and qualified for the Te Takere semi-final for 250m and the turn race on Wednesday. Great results but it made for a big day for the last day. The girls had two races, turns 500m and semi 250 Te Takere division. They exceeded expectations and are looking forward to coming home. Fantastic photos of the girls digging deep.

Massive thank you to Parekura and Chanel for training, driving, feeding, supporting and returning our girls.



East Coast North Island Secondary School Athletics

Three of our students qualified to compete in the ECNISS Athletics held at Hastings Sports Park. They all competed well in their events, congratulations to Nahvaeaa who came 3rd in her Discus event.



Left to right, Jarvis, Nahvaeaa and Hunter



Ngā whakaaro o te Tumuaki

Tēnā koutou katoa,

This term, the P in our PRIDE values, kia whakauru, participation, has really shone through at Tamatea High School. And I don't just mean turning up. I mean students stepping into things that challenge them, trying something new and getting involved in what is on offer at our kura. It has been genuinely exciting to watch.

So much has happened. On the sports field, our students competed at School Athletics Day and a group went on to represent us at the East Coast North Island Athletics Championships. A special congratulations to Nahvaeaa, who earned third place in Senior Girls Discus. Ka mau te wehi! Our Girls' Waka Ama team made the journey to Lake Tikitapu in Rotorua to compete at Nationals, a huge achievement for our kōhine, and well deserved.

Beyond sport, it's been wonderful to see learning come to life outside the classroom this term. Year 11 Science students explored our environmental taonga at the National Aquarium right here in Ahuriri. Year 10 students got out to Tikokino for Farming and Beyond, discovering industries and pathways they may never have imagined for themselves. Our Year 12 and 13 PE students took on the Tongariro Crossing this term, and nature had other plans. Wet, windy, and cold conditions meant some tough health and safety calls had to be made along the way. While that wasn't what anyone had planned for, it turned out to be the most authentic learning of all, making real decisions in real conditions, exactly what we prepare our students for. Our Year 13 students spent time at Moteo Marae, preparing kai for manuhiri, a meaningful experience connecting them to local marae and each other. Year 9 students took part in The Great Escape Ahuriri with Hawke's Bay Tai Ahuriri, exploring identity and the stories of the places around them right here in our own backyard. For our senior students looking ahead, we welcomed presentations from Waikato and Otago Universities, and our Year 12 and 13 Māori students received a visit from the Whakapiki Ake team from the University of Auckland, looking at pathways within the health sector. Add Cultural Night and the many students involved in Driving with Ignite and career programmes, and this has been a busy term.

To our whānau who came along to Hui Whāinga, ngā mihi. Sitting down together to talk about our students' futures and what they are working toward makes a real difference. We are grateful for your support for our kura.

What a term it has been. To every student who showed up and gave it a go, thank you. To our kaimahi and whānau who backed them every step of the way, thank you. We head into the Term 1 break proud of the progress of our ākonga.

Ngā manaakitanga,

Matua Jesse



Supporting our Community

Collecting for the Solomon Islands

Bostocks employs Solomon Islanders for their seasonal work, they are about to return to their home. We were able to help towards filling a container with books and clothing destined for the Solomon Islands.



Greenmeadows Rotary 50th Anniversary

Students recently helped Greenmeadows Rotary by waitressing and washing dishes at their 50th Anniversary event.



International Students and Buddies Trip

On Friday the 6th of March we took our internationals on a trip to Mohi Bush and two other locations. Mohi Bush and all of its glory kept our internationals hooked on its history and beauty as they walked through, although the huffs and puffs from them may have varied their enjoyment. Despite the fatigue from the day before (Athletics' Day) they powered through.

One of our internationals - Ryuta - commented on how tightly bound the track was on our walk, he said "*It was kinda scary but it was good.*" Not in those exact words, however he seemed happy enough I didn't want to press him any further. Mr Hugh Forlong Ford - our guide - told us about its origins, residence and dangers.

According to him Mohi Bush is one of the most authentic forests in New Zealand; all that is within has either been here for decades or longer. What lies in the bush is even more magnificent. The beauty of fern roots, young and old, the kawakawa chilling around us, listening to the trickling water running along the creek bend, the ti-kouaka, just being his staunch self despite the unappealing English name it was given (cabbage tree is the name, which I found weird considering it looked nothing like a cabbage). And the horoeka or the "lancewood" that Mr tried desperately to find "a good one." It amused me in a way. However where there is beauty in everything, "beauty" can be dangerous, with one of the most poisonous plants accompanying us. We knew not to touch the notorious ongaonga that sat just ahead of the sitting area.

After much bickering, laughter and a few of us tripping (whether it was purposefully or an accident we'll never really know) we finally made our way back to the sitting area and sat for a lunch break.

The internationals found great comfort and unsettledness from the bush, comfort because of how close the wildlife was and unsettled *because* of how close the wildlife was. Either way, they all enjoyed their time and learned something new about Māori culture, that is what we were there for. Rongomai Ngawhika



Year 11 Science

Our Year 11 Science students enjoyed a rich day of learning out in the places around us, connecting classroom science with the stories, environments, and knowledge systems of our local area. From celestial navigation at Ātea a Rangi, to learning about tuna ecology at the National Aquarium, to visiting significant local sites around Ahuriri, Bay View, and Mataruahou, students were able to see that science is deeply connected to te taiao and to the people who have known and cared for these places for generations.

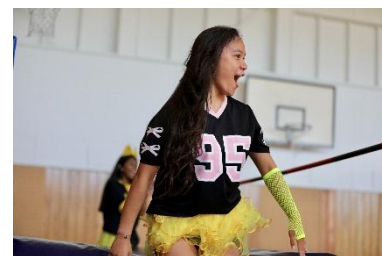


The trip helped students explore how local history, ecology, and mātauranga Māori all contribute to our understanding of the natural world. As they learned about tuna, estuary and coastal environments, and the stories connected to our landscape, students were encouraged to think about how science in Aotearoa is not just about facts and experiments, but also about place, identity, relationships, and responsibility. Experiences like this help bring learning to life and show students that understanding our environment also means understanding the perspectives and knowledge of tangata whenua.



Athletics Day

A day of fun and competition. Hard fought events where some tried to beat a school record and hoped to compete at the East Coast North Island Competition. Fun events where house points were everything. Thank you Mrs Macfarlane, as always, your photos are wonderful.



Dairy Farming and Beyond



Dairy and Beyond is designed to give students a hands-on introduction to dairy farming and the wide range of careers connected to the dairy industry. Students attended from schools all over Hawke's Bay. During the day students observed a milking demonstration and calving discussion. They rotated through six interactive industry modules and visited a static milk tanker display. They also heard from people working in the dairy and wider primary industries.

The students were placed into colour-coded groups which meant that they were able to meet students from other schools. They then rotated around the activities with their assigned mentors throughout the day.

Ngā mihi nui to Kahlia Fryer who organised the experience, and to Raquel Matiaha who drove our students there (leaving at 7am!), and supported them throughout the day.

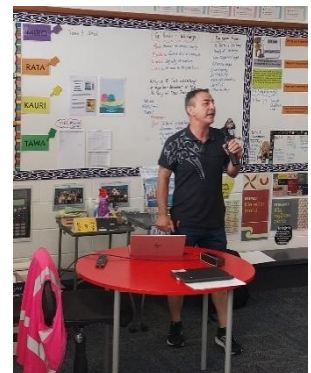


The Great Ahuriri Escape

Our Year 9 homerooms recently took part in "The Great Ahuriri Escape", led by Denise from the MTG; Napier Museum Education Team. Ākonga worked together to uncover the stories and histories behind local landscape features, exploring te reo Māori place names and pūrākau from across Hawke's Bay. This interactive experience strengthened their understanding of our term focus: Te Tuakiri – Identity, while building teamwork and problem-solving skills.

We were also fortunate to welcome Matua Nikora from Te Kahu Amohia-Fairhaven School, who shared the history of Ahuriri and the mōteatea *Te Pepehā o Tamatea Pōkai Whenua*.

Next term, we look forward to taking this learning beyond the classroom and visiting these significant sites in the mōteatea.





Te Ara Whai Mahi – The Pathway to Work

Our new Careers workshop started this term – these photos show students using teamwork to complete tasks. The students will put together a list of worksites to visit to experience some different local businesses.



Health and Safety

Some of our senior students took part in a Health and Safety workshop. Part of the course was to learn how to warm up their backs before correctly lifting weights.

The Reid O'Leary Charitable Trust – Promoting Student Wellbeing

The Reid O'Leary Charitable Trust was created five years ago following the loss of our friend's son Reid, to suicide. We honour his memory by working to strengthen mental health support for young people.

We are proud to fully fund the R.E.I.D Wellbeing Programme (Pulse by Linewize) in your school. R.E.I.D stands for Reach, Empowerment, Insight and Development. The programme helps schools better understand how students are feeling, supporting early identification and timely care. Currently operating in 28 Hawke's Bay schools, our vision is to extend this support to all New Zealand school aged students.

On May 9th we will host the 'Run for Reido', a community event focused on bringing people together and encouraging open conversations around suicide awareness and mental well-being. Please come along.

To learn more about our mission please visit: <https://reidolearycharitabletrust.co.nz>

If you would like to support our work, donations can be made directly to: Reid O'Leary Charitable Trust 12-3145-0305490-00

Together we can make a lasting difference in the lives of our young people.

Tumuaki
(Principal)
Jesse Te Weehi
Principal@tamatea.school.nz

Tumuaki Tuarua
(Deputy Principal)
Whaea Kat McNicoll
katm@tamatea.school.nz

Tumuaki Tuarua
(Assistant Principal)
Whaea Josie Burdon
josieb@tamatea.school.nz

Tumuaki Tuarua
(Assistant Principal)
Ms Meredith Ellingham
meredithe@tamatea.school.nz

BOT CHAIRPERSON
Ms Rewa Dawson

International Dean
Ms Meredith Ellingham
meredithe@tamatea.school.nz

Kauri Dean
Whaea Cheryl Pohlen
cheryl@tamatea.school.nz

Miro Dean
Matua Devon Turi
devont@tamatea.school.nz

Rata Dean
Whaea Renata Lander
renatal@tamatea.school.nz

Tawa Dean
Whaea Emma Neal
emman@tamatea.school.nz

Careers Advisor
Mrs Cindy Morgan
careers@tamatea.school.nz

Business Manager
Mrs Vicky Bowie
accounts@tamatea.school.nz

Principal's PA/BOT Secretary
Mrs Hayley Hodson
enquiries@tamatea.school.nz

Board of Trustees (BOT)

Rewa Dawson (Chair), Taiatini Lepaio, Stacey Reading, Janine Melville, Mariska Asu, Devon Turi (Staff Representative), Shona-Ann Faiga (Student Representative)