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Whāia te ara tika | Pursue the right path

Term 1 Week 3 Newsletter: Rāpare 19 ō Hui-tanguru | Thursday 19 February 2026

Tēnā koutou, Mālō 'e tau lava, Talofa lava, Kia orana, Fakaalofa lahi atu, Kamusta, Ayubowan, Salam.

Kia ora e te whānau! What a brilliant start to the year it has been. We have warmly welcomed 28 new learners and their whānau to our kura, and it has been wonderful to see new friends settling in so quickly.

New Staff

We are also pleased to welcome three new staff members to our team. Ms Teves has joined us as the kaiako in Te Whānau Manukura Years 6-8, Matua Te-Rangihouhiri has joined Te Puna Wairua as a learning assistant and Ms Helu will join us as a release teacher for TALAMUKA-'A-TONGA Senior this year. We are delighted to have each of them with us and extend a warm welcome to our wider school whānau.



Property Update

Over the school holidays, our kura received a much needed refresh, including a building and roof wash and a fresh coat of paint, helping to keep our learning spaces clean, welcoming, and well cared for. As our beautiful kura is 75 years old and can be very hot in summer and cold in winter, we are now working on the installation of air conditioning/heat pumps to create healthier, more comfortable learning environments for our tamariki and staff, supporting regular attendance and learning throughout the year. We thank our School Board for their governance and support of this important work.

School Uniform Update

Our school uniform polo shirt is now all navy blue and made from an easy-wash, fast-dry fabric. This has been chosen to better maintain its appearance over multiple washes and regular wear. The cost has also been improved, with smaller sized polo shirts now priced at \$27, compared with \$32 last year. Our school uniform supplier Wayne from EmbroidMe worked closely with the school to improve quality, appearance and price. Wayne advises parents to buy multiple uniform items: one to wear, one for the wash, and one spare, to help prolong the life and appearance of school uniforms.

At school, we ask that you ensure **ALL** school uniform items are labelled with your child's name, including shorts or skorts, polos, jumpers, and hats. School uniform items without names are the largest source of lost property at our school. If items are named, we can return them to their owners. Please support us with this.

Parent and Community Consultation

Thank you for the strong voice you shared through our community consultation in December 2025. You told us that culture and identity are a real strength at Tāmaki Primary School, that your children feel proud, safe, and a strong sense of belonging, and that sport, music, and wellbeing play an important role in building confidence and engagement. You also told us that relationships between home and school are trusting and positive, and that the next step is to use these strong relationships more intentionally to deepen shared understanding of learning, progress, and how whānau can support success at home. This feedback affirms what we are doing well and helps guide our focus as we continue to grow as a culturally grounded, learning-focused kura together.



Attendance

Attendance has started positively across the first three weeks of Term One, with daily attendance generally sitting between 89–94 percent. Tuesdays and Wednesdays have been our strongest days, while Mondays remain our lowest attendance day. This is a solid start and reflects the shared effort of whānau and staff to support tamariki to be at school, on time, and ready to learn.

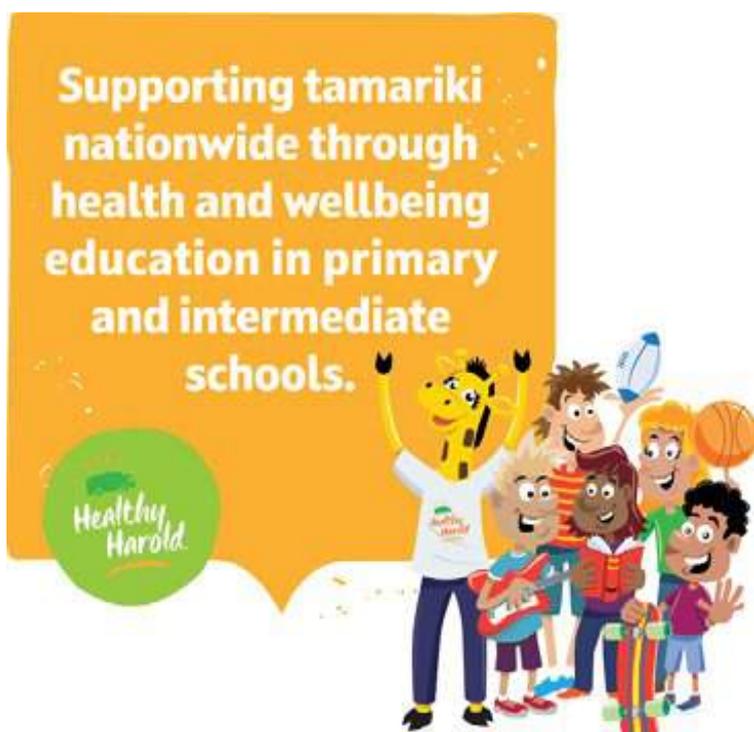
We know regular attendance is not always easy, and family circumstances can sometimes make this challenging. Being at school every day supports learning, wellbeing, confidence, and a strong sense of belonging.

In 2025, 55 percent of our learners attended school at least 90 percent of the time, while some students experienced higher levels of absence. In response, our 2026 Attendance Management Plan focuses on early support, partnership with whānau, and addressing barriers before they become bigger challenges.

If your child is well, every school day matters. If you are experiencing difficulties that affect attendance, please reach out. We have a nurse onsite every Monday and a Social Worker onsite on Mondays and Tuesdays, and we are here to support you.

Life Education Caravan Learning

Last week, our tamariki had the opportunity to learn in the Life Education Caravan, with learning focused on **Hauora**, Wellbeing, and personal safety. This programme supported learners across the kura to deepen their understanding of caring for their bodies, minds, emotions, and relationships.



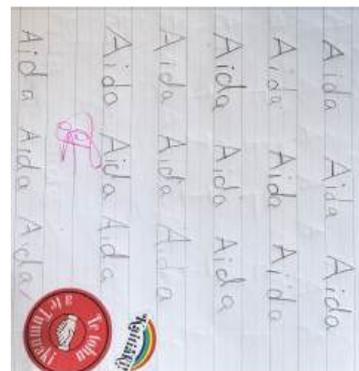
Across Te Puna Wairua, Leo Moana, and our English Medium classes, through age-appropriate lessons, students explored topics such as basic body care, feelings and emotions, stress management, relationships, and physical safety. A strong focus was placed on helping learners build confidence, make positive choices, and develop the skills to look after themselves and others.

For our Year 7 & 8 learners, the learning connected closely to **Te Whare Tapa Whā**, with particular emphasis on **Te Taha Whānau** and the importance of building and maintaining healthy, respectful relationships. This aligned strongly with the everyday teaching already happening in classrooms, reinforcing values of manaakitanga, communication, and belonging.

The Life Education programme is a valuable part of our health curriculum and supports our shared goal of growing confident, resilient learners who understand how to care for their overall wellbeing, now and into the future.

TALAMUKA-'A-TONGA Fundraising

TALAMUKA-'A-TONGA will be hosting a Bunnings Sausage Sizzle on Sunday 1 March at Bunnings Mt Wellington. Please come along and show your support for this important fundraiser. The *Back to the Roots* school tour to the Kingdom of Tonga is an amazing learning opportunity for our TALAMUKA-'A-TONGA learners, strengthening language, culture, identity, and connections to whenua and kāinga. We warmly encourage our community to support their efforts as they work towards raising funding to make this journey possible.



The explicit teaching of handwriting is a priority in

Assembly

Last week, Te Puna Wairua (Rumaki Reo) led our first Friday afternoon assembly for the year. It was a powerful celebration of te reo Māori, hītori, waiata, culture, learning, kotahitanga, and identity. Our students presented their learning with pride and growing confidence, and it was wonderful to see our tuakana, **Manaia** and **D'Angelo**, stepping up as assembly MCs and leading so confidently. Strong learners, proud identities, and a hall full of whānau. When learners, language, culture, and identity are centred, everyone shines.

Congratulations to Leo Moana, our Pacific Bilingual team made up of Penina o Tāmaki and TALAMUKA-'A-TONGA Junior and Senior, who received our Outstanding Attendance Award with an impressive 100 percent attendance across all three classrooms. A fantastic achievement and well deserved recognition.

Congratulations also to the recipients of our school values certificates, and thank you to the whānau who came along to celebrate with their tamariki. We will continue to text parents of weekly assembly recipients so you can join us at assembly throughout the year.

This week, TALAMUKA-'A-TONGA will lead our whole school assembly, sharing their learning, language, and culture with us. We will also present school values certificates, acknowledge our T-Ball and Softball teams, and welcome new students and staff. Please join us. Assembly begins at 2:00 pm this Friday 20 February.

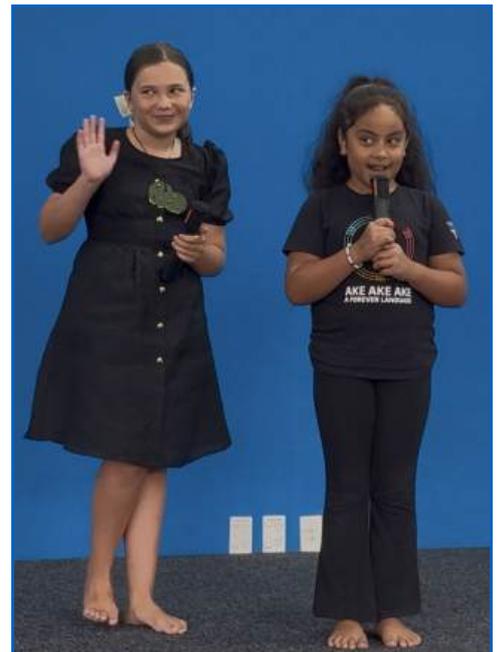
Tāmaki Cluster Sports: T-Ball and Softball

Our T-Ball and Softball season has been a real highlight, with awesome kids, amazing weather, and positive participation across the teams. It has been a joy to see such positive sportsmanship, teamwork, and enthusiasm on display, with our tamariki supporting one another and giving things a go.



A big thank you to our coaches, Matua Bismarck, Ms Hani, Matua Te-Rangihouhiri, and Matua Andrew, for their commitment to ensuring sport is coached well, is inclusive, and remains fun for our learners. Your time, energy, and care make a real difference.

Our MVPs for the tournament are Anthony, Tace and Jaziah. Our Most Improved players are Maree and Rahera. The tumuaki award for Player of the Day is Te Kotahitanga aka TK! Ka mau te wehi!



Meet the Whānau 2026

We warmly invite you to our annual Meet the Whānau afternoon at Tāmaki Primary School.

This relaxed, whānau-friendly opportunity to come to school, connect with teachers, visit your children's classrooms, and enjoy time together as a community. There will be sports activities, a bouncy castle, ice blocks, sausage sizzles, and space for tamariki and whānau to enjoy being together at kura.

Last year was a blast, we had fun getting to know each other, we filled up on sausage sizzles and played sports together. Most of our whānau attended or engaged by making contact and arranging a follow-up visit. We appreciate the many ways whānau connect with our kura and thank you for taking the time to build these important learning partnerships.

We look forward to welcoming you, strengthening our home-school partnerships, and celebrating the whānau that make Tāmaki Primary School such a special place.



Upcoming events

School Board hui: Wednesday 4 March @ 3:30 pm in the boardroom (upstairs). School board meetings are open to the public. If you would like to join us at the next board meeting, please contact our Presiding Member Mr Paula Toloke-Fakalata at pfakalata@tamakiprimary.school.nz

Fire Drill: Friday 20 February 10:45 am Whole school practice drill.

Whole School Assembly: Friday 20 February 2:00 pm – 2:45 pm Led by TALAMUKA-'A-TONGA. All whānau welcome.

Meet the Whānau Evening: Wednesday 25 February 4:00 - 5:30 pm Come and connect with classroom teachers.

Trip 1 to Kelly Tarlton's Sea Life Aquarium: Friday 27 February 2026. Room 1, TALAMUKA-'A-TONGA Juniors, and Room 7. Parent notices have been shared with relevant classes.

TALAMUKA-'A-TONGA Bunnings Sausage Sizzle Fundraiser: Sunday 1 March at Bunnings Mt Wellington.

Trip 2 to Kelly Tarlton's Sea Life Aquarium: Tuesday 3 March 2026. Penina o Tāmaki, Te Whānau Manukura, and TALAMUKA-'A-TONGA Seniors. Details to follow.

Te Puna Wairua Haerenga ki Ihumātao: Wenerēi 11 Maehe 9:00-3:00 pm. Our learners will experience the rich history of Te Waiohūa and Ihumātao through a guided hīkoi, creative workshops, and purākau.

Whole School Assembly: Friday 13 March 2:00 pm – 2:45 pm Led by Penina o Tāmaki.

Carparking fundraiser for AIMS Games 2026: We are selling Pacific Tag Senior Cup carparking on our school field. The event will run from Friday 13 - Sunday 15 March. Roads will be congested on Friday 13 March, please park carefully during pick-up time.

Houses Day: Friday 20 March 2026 the annual tug of war challenge. Who will win? Wear your house colours.

Drowning Prevention and Water Safety Lessons at CLM St Johns: Monday 23 – Friday 27 March. All classes, all students are participating. 100% free. Make sure you have togs ready, please.

Tāmaki Cluster Volleyball Tournament Year 5-8: Tuesday 31 March at Bruce Pulman Centre

Year 7–8 Technology at Tāmaki College: Weekly (Thursdays) The bus leaves at 9am - Be On Time!

Staff Only Days: On Thursday 2 April and Friday 25 July 2026 Tāmaki Primary School will be closed for Staff Only Days for professional learning and development for the refreshed Mathematics and Statistics curriculum.

Our kura is strong because of the people within it ❤️❤️

I want to thank our Tāmaki Primary School staff for the care, professionalism, and commitment you bring every day to our learners and our community. Your work matters.

Thank you also to our whānau for the trust and partnership you place in us, and for your manaakitanga, commitment, and care for our tamariki and kura.

Enjoy the rest of your week. Stay blessed.

Carol Leota Tumuaki | Principal

Joke of the Week

This week, Caleb asked me if I wanted to hear a joke about peanut butter.

Naturally, I said yes.

He then told me he could not share it.

Why? Because I might spread it.

Well played, Caleb.