



# ST PATRICK'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL TAUPŌ

## TE WHAKAPONO ME ANA MAHI - FAITH IN ACTION



ATAWHAI | KINDNESS



TAPATAHI | INTEGRITY



HIRINGA | DETERMINATION



KOTAHITANGA | UNITY

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Thursday 4 September

It was great to return to school yesterday following a period of leave. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the leadership team and all staff for stepping up during this time, especially given it was the winter months and there was much illness circulating. A special thanks to Cath Daignault for so competently assuming the Acting Principal role.

During our time travelling we often reflected on how fortunate we are in New Zealand in so many ways. For me I kept coming back to 'respect' and 'courtesy' and how such values make such a difference when demonstrated and displayed in our lives, particularly by our younger people. However, when not evident it was so very disappointing to witness and be affected by, as these young adults are our future leaders, role models, parents and work colleagues. So what a wonderful breath of fresh air it is to be back at school where these values are intertwined with our Gospel Values of Kindness - Integrity - Determination and Unity. We have a lot to feel very proud about.

We are fast approaching the holidays, which also means we are fast approaching the last term of the year. All school terms are busy and term 4 is no exception, in many ways it often feels even busier. You will have seen today a post around future enrolments and we thank you for getting in touch as we prepare our planning for 2026. There will also be opportunities, next term, to feed in to the refreshing of our school's strategic plan so please look out for your invitations to contribute.

*Continued . . .*

With winter sport drawing to a close, a HUGE thank you to those of you who have coached, managed, supported and encouraged our teams. Without your help it would not be possible for our children to participate and grow in their chosen field.

I am delighted and honoured to be continuing as relieving principal through till the end of 2026 and look very forward to connecting with many more of you during this time.

Enjoy the upcoming weekend and all celebrations taking place.

Vicki  
Principal

A poster with a yellow background and a black border, set against a woven bamboo background. At the top, the year '2026' is written in black on a white banner. Below it, the word 'ENROLMENTS' is written in large, bold, black capital letters. The text on the poster reads: 'We will be starting to look at 2026 class placements soon. If you have a child due to start school next year and you haven't enrolled yet, or you know someone who is wanting to enrol their child at our school for 2026, we need to know. Ring Kylee in the office to start their enrolment.' In the bottom right corner, there is a logo for St Patrick's Catholic School Taupo, featuring a blue cross and the school's name in blue text.

**2026**

# **ENROLMENTS**

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class placements soon.**

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**Ring Kylee in the office to start their  
enrolment.**



# R.E. REFLECTION



Our beautiful tamariki that were acknowledged last week for living out our school virtues.



**Tō Tātou Whakapono – Our Faith**, is our new curriculum for Religious Education. The Year 1&2 programme was finished in 2023 and they will finish writing the Year 7&8 programme next year. The programme centers around four main themes.



This theme focuses on the nature of God as revealed in Scripture and Church Tradition, addressing questions like "Who is God?" and "What is God's relationship with us?" It explores the Trinity (God the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit) and helps students understand that they are made in God's image and loved by him.



This theme delves into the history of the Church and its influence on the world, including New Zealand. It encourages students to see their own lives and stories as part of this larger narrative, connecting the Church's past to their present experience.



This theme is centered on Sacred Scripture. Students learn about the Bible, where it came from, and what its stories mean for their own lives. It highlights the "joy of the Gospel" and teaches students how to read and pray with Scripture.



This theme focuses on what it means to be part of the Catholic Church family. Students learn about discipleship, Catholic Social Teaching, virtues, and how to apply these understandings to their own lives and relationships, exploring what it means to have a "Catholic worldview."

These themes are also supported by five cross-themes that are interwoven throughout the curriculum at all levels.



# R.E. REFLECTION



In our Religious Education curriculum, each phase of learning is guided by a special Touchstone – a simple image of faith that helps children grow in their relationship with God.

Here are the Touchstones for the first four phases:



Phase 1 (Years 1–2): Whakatau – Welcomed

Children learn that God welcomes each of us into His family. We are called to show that same welcome and kindness to others.



Phase 1–2 (Years 3–4): Aroha mai, Aroha atu – Loved

Students explore how deeply God loves us and how we can share that love through forgiveness, gratitude, and everyday acts of kindness.



Phase 2 (Years 5–6): Oho Ake – Inspired

Children learn how Jesus, Mary, and the saints inspire us to live with faith and courage. They are encouraged to see these role models as guides for their own lives of service, kindness, and hope.








Phase 3 (Years 7–8): Oho Ake – Inspired

Young people reflect on how Jesus inspires us to live with courage and justice, and to use our gifts to bring positive change to the world.



**Imagine Peace for All – Sunday, 7 – Saturday, 13 September**

As we enter the final year of our peace-focused journey, Social Justice Week 2025 invites students and schools to explore practical ways to build peace together—inspired by faith, action, and community.

-  Building Peace Through PRAYER
-  Building Peace Through RESPECT
-  Building Peace Through SOLIDARITY
-  Building Peace Through CHANGE
-  Building Peace Through SERVICE

This week's recipients for showing the virtue of determination. Well done kids!





# DIARY DATES

## Term 3 *Upcoming Events*

- Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> September - Pikorua Hub Tuwharetoa Festival
- Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> September - Koru & Toki Hub Tuwharetoa Festival
- Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September - **FAMILY MASS, ALL EXPECTED TO ATTEND**
- Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September - Y 5/6 Rippa Rugby Tournament
- Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September - Y 7/8 Rippa Rugby Festival
- Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September - Big Music Day, BOT Meeting
- Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September - Term 3 Ends

**WE NEED YOU! ★**

★ **GALA  
MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY 10TH AT 7PM  
IN THE STAFF ROOM**

We want to make this gala the best one yet. Come along and tell us your ideas and how you can help.

We look forward to seeing you there! ★



# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST PAT'S...



## HOCKEY

Congratulations to our Jets Y7/8 hockey team who placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in their grade.

L to R Back: Piper Eastwood, India Tait, Luuka Pink

L to R Front: Dan Carson, Finn Ede, Jacob Painuthara, Jayden Comber

## NORTH ISLAND SECONDARY SCHOOLS EQUESTRIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Hannah finished with placings in both her dressage classes: a 4<sup>th</sup> and a 6<sup>th</sup>. Very pleasing given the competition is primarily for secondary school students!

Yuvani rode admirably in her jumping classes against some really excellent combinations; no placings but very pleasing performances.

The girls were great ambassadors for Taupo by exhibiting warm “home turf” hospitality and excellent sportsmanship skills.

St Pats featured in an ESNZ (Equestrian Sports New Zealand) social media video, about how it's the first time our little school has fielded an equestrian team in this enormous event. Our little team of 2 was competing against the likes of Nga Tawa with 42 riders! Here's a link: [https://www.instagram.com/reel/DNzKAEJWuEB/?utm\\_source=ig\\_web\\_copy\\_link](https://www.instagram.com/reel/DNzKAEJWuEB/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link)





# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST PAT'S...



## GYMNASTICS

Anjelie did a magnificent job at AIMS Games Gymnastics this week. She came 1st for Floor, 1st for Beam, 6th on Vault and 6th Overall for Step 4 Women's Gymnastics. Well done Anjelie!

## RUGBY

Congratulations to Max Evans and Vaughan Hector who both recently trialed and were selected to represent Taupo Sports & Rugby Club, U11's, at the Globals Junior Rugby Festival in Queenstown. Good luck boys!



## CROSS COUNTRY

Well done Alana Rathgen, who placed 1<sup>st</sup> Y5 girls in the recent Interschools Cross Country held at Spa Park. Well done to all our participants!





# COMMUNITY NOTICES

**SCHOOL HOLIDAY SPECTACULAR**

**CIRCUS OF ILLUSION**

**MAGIC SHOW**

**CLARENCE STREET THEATRE**

**HAMILTON**

**TWO SHOWS Only**

**WEDS 24TH SEP**

**2PM AND 6PM**

**BOOK NOW // TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM**

**TICKETEK** [www.ticketek.co.nz](http://www.ticketek.co.nz) // Phone: 0800 TICKETEK (842 538)



**Taupo-nui-a-Tia**  
COLLEGE

At Taupo-nui-a-Tia we are currently offering extra transition visits for our Year 8 tamariki & their whanau heading to Year 9 2026. These are for whanau and students who may have missed out on attending our Open Evening or are still making up their mind and want an extra opportunity to visit the College.

We are offering extra visit opportunities at the following dates and times:

Tuesdays 3.15-4pm	Thursdays 3.15-4pm
26th August	28th August
2nd September	4th September
9th September	
16th September	18th September

Please get your families to make a booking with the front office of Taupo-nui-a-Tia College by calling 07 376 1100



## MINISTRY OF EDUCATION ATTENDANCE

Well done, Aotearoa! 🏆 Your hard work is paying off — Term 2 school attendance is back to pre-COVID levels, and rising. Every region has seen an increase.

A special shout-out to Taranaki, Whanganui and Manawatū for the biggest lift — up 7.2% compared to Term 2 last year.  
Keep it up, everyone. Let's finish 2025 strong!



# COMMUNITY NOTICES



## Taupo-nui-a-Tia COLLEGE



### WIN A FREE UNIFORM

Prizes valued at over \$500.00  
two sets to win!

Enrol your year 9 Student  
at Taupo-nui-a-Tia College  
before 6/10/2025  
and be in to win a free  
school uniform

## September is Eclipse Month

Two rare sky events are coming up - perfect for  
inspiring curiosity in our ākonga.

Mon 8 Sept - Total Lunar Eclipse  
4.27am-5.30am  
Watch the Moon turn a deep reddish-  
brown as it passes into Earth's shadow



Mon 22 Sept - Partial Solar Eclipse  
7.00am - 8.00am  
A noticeable bite out of the sun -  
expect unusual light and sharper  
shadows.

Remember never look at the Sun without  
proper protection