



TAIRANGI SCHOOL

RESPECT · DETERMINATION ·
CARE · IDENTITY · CONNECTION

Principal's Message

**"Ko te reo te tuakiri; ko te reo
tōku ahurei; ko te reo te ora"
(Language is my identity;
language is my uniqueness;
language is my life).**

Whanau who identify as Maori, Samoa, Tokelau and Cook Island Maori will receive an email inviting them to a talanoa about beginning a bilingual Education journey here at Tairangi School. We will hold this hui in the library on Wednesday 26 November from 6pm. Kai will be provided and all aiga are welcome.

We will begin with a general short presentation before breaking into preferred language based groups for discussion.

On the back of this newsletter is more information about the benefits of bilingual education as well as research and Government Policy statements and frameworks.



Room 4 had fun processing left over coconut shells and repurposing them for a different use. Room 1 is making some Christmas presents. We melted the soap in the microwave, added our colours and smells. Then we mixed it up and poured it into the moulds. Year 5 and 6 students participated in the Pedal Ready training programme, which taught best skills and it was fun.

Newsletter Week 7 Term 4 2025

News and Updates

Homework Club

15 Oct- 26 Weds Nov

Looking Ahead

18 Nov Yr 5-6 Pedal Ready Training

19 Nov Road Patrollers Celebration

26 Nov School Lawn Bowls

28 Nov Yr 8 College Transition Visit

5 Dec Language Classes Ake Runga

9 Dec Aotea Transition Visit, Reports Go Home

10 Dec Play Trailer Sports Day

11 Dec Leavers Assembly and Dinner

12 Dec Last Day of School

2025 Term Dates

Term 4: Mon 6 Oct - Fri 12 Dec
Staff Only Days Mon 15 -Tue 16 Dec

2026 Term Dates

Office open Thurs 29 and Fri 30 Jan

Term 1 Mon 2 Feb - Thurs 2 April

Term 2 Mon 20 April - 3 July

Term 3 Mon 20 July - Fri 25 Sept

Term 4 Mon 12 Oct - Fri 11 Dec

Understanding Bilingual Education

Government Policy statements and frameworks for Bilingual Education can be found here: [The 'Afa' Framework \(ERO 2025\)](#), [Action Plan for Pacific Education 202-2030 MOE](#), [Tapasā MOE 2018](#), [Pacific Languages Government Action Plan 2022-2032](#).

What is bilingual education?

Bilingual education is where education is delivered through 2 languages. The most effective ways for students to learn English and to succeed academically is when the first language is included directly in the teaching and learning process..at least 50% of the time (May, Hill, Tiakiwai 2004).

As we learn new knowledge, it is explored in a students first or heritage language and in English.

Did you know...

Students in sound bilingual Education... develop stronger English skills than those in English only programmes... despite having less time learning English? (Esera 2001)

The more (heritage language) schooling, the higher English achievement (Thomas and Collier 2002).

Why is this?

- If a child is able to continue their dominant home language at school, they can transfer knowledge between both languages.
- Bilingual or multilingual brains draw on all of their languages. All of your languages support your thinking and knowledge development.
- Ideas in one language can be transferred or translated to your other languages (Cummins 1979, 1987).
- These findings are supported by 60 years of research on the relationship between bilingualism, cognition and language learning (May 2020).

How do we get the best out of bilingual education?

- Teaching and learning...should focus on two way cross-lingual transfer to maximise the academic benefits (Tamati 2016).
- Start from the earliest possible age.
- Provide more than 50% immersion in the first language.

What are the benefits of effective bilingual education? (Fox, Corretjer, Webb 2012-2019)

- **Ageing and Health** [Being bilingual delays ageing, but being multilingual is even better - study](#) (Dr Etu Ma'u 2025).
- **Thinking skills** include the ability to plan, focus, adapt, remember information and do more than one task at a time.
- **Employment Opportunities** as they can work with a wider range of people (seen as a preferred skill in 93% of roles).
- **Academic Achievement** as learners make greater understanding in both languages.
- **Cultural Competence** including inclusion and connecting with people of other cultures, including those they are unfamiliar with.
- **Creativity** in thinking, design and output.

