

# NGĀTI TOA SCHOOL

## INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES

February 2019



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## The story of Ngāti Toa

This is the story of how the Ngāti Toa name came about.

The two most important people in the story were **Tupahau**, the chief of a section of the Tainui tribe in the Waikato, and **Tamure**, the Tohunga or High Priest. One day, Tupahau had occasion to correct the Tohunga Tamure in the course of priestly rituals.

The Tohunga took this as a deadly insult to his prestige and authority, which he immediately planned to avenge with a raid—intending to destroy Tupahau and his followers.

The Tohunga planned his raid for a time when many of Tupahau's warriors were not home. With as many as 2,000 warriors, Tamure marched to battle against Tupahau, whose available forces numbered only 300 warriors. Because of his larger force, Tamure, the Tohunga, marched boldly, believing he had no need to hide his approach from his supposedly weak adversary.

Thus when Tupahau realised his enemy was coming, and the terrible odds against him, he divided his warriors into three sections. Two sections were ordered to attack from either side of the enemy and try to lead as many warriors away from the Tohunga as they could. Then, at an opportune time, Tupahau planned to strike at the central group led by Tamure, the Tohunga.

The plan succeeded so well that the battle had hardly started when the cry was heard that Tupahau had captured the Tohunga. The Māori was a chivalrous warrior and, in battles of this kind, it was usual for the fighting to cease if either of the leaders was killed or captured. So, in the traditions of their fathers, the warriors stopped fighting and gathered around to watch the great Tupahau kill the Tohunga. However, when all had assembled, Tupahau put his arms around Tamure—his kinsman—and gently bit his right ear; a token of complete forgiveness and friendship.

Then Tupahau said, "Return home, oh great Tohunga; my interference with your priestly functions was the action of an ignorant man."

Hope, confidence, and life itself showed again in the Tohunga and, in deep gratitude and respect, he said, "Tena koe, Tupahau te Toarangatira." ("Hail Tupahau, the chivalrous warrior.")

A few days after this event, Tupahau's daughter-in-law presented the chief with a grandson who was called Toarangatira. When he reached manhood, Toarangatira—or Toa, as he was called—became a great warrior whose descendants were known as Ngāti Toa or the "Tribe of Toa".

The Tribe of Toa extends from Otaki to Wellington, the Hutt Valley, Marlborough and Nelson, but the heart of Ngāti Toa is in this locality.

Many of Toa's descendants are associated with this school—along with their Pakeha brothers and sisters—both as pupils and parents. In calling our school "Ngati Toa", we perpetuate not only a name that is closely associated with the history of our country and district, but also symbolises the common interests and nationality of the Māori and Pakeha people whose children are being educated together at this school.

**Hohepa Wineera**

Chief of Ngāti Toa

December 1956

# Naumai Haere-mai Kia-orana Talofa Welcome

Ngāti Toa School, which opened in 1955, is a contributing school catering for children from years 1-6. The school comprises two large blocks of classrooms, a playing field suitable for major summer and winter games, two netball courts, a basketball court, a swimming pool, a bike track and a hall. It also incorporates a class from the Mahinawa Specialist School.

We pride ourselves on delivering a balanced curriculum and a broad education—In July 2017, the Education Review Office reported: *“There is an inclusive and welcoming school culture. Student and whanau aspirations are sought, and responded to through a range of well-considered strategies. This contributes positively to children’s wellbeing, engagement and learning.”*

Our aims are to:

- have a positive, happy environment that fosters good work habits, positive relationships and self-esteem, and excellent attitudes;
- develop skills and attitudes in our children to enable them to become proficient and fluent readers, speakers, writers and mathematicians;
- reflect the culture of our children, celebrating the bicultural heritage of Aotearoa/New Zealand and supporting the development of te reo Māori.
- provide opportunities and teaching that will enable our children to develop the skills to operate in a digital world;
- enhance the performance skills of our children through participation in many cultural and artistic activities such as Artsplash, Kapahaka, school concerts and other public performances.

## Staffing 2018

Principal:	Kaye Brunton		
Associate Principal:	Nicole Avatea	Kōtiri	Y 4–5
Teachers:	Melanie Clubley	Titiwai	Y 1
	Judith Nieland	Korekoreko	Y 1
	Maree Dargan	Whakawhetu	Y 2–3
	Kathryn Pierre	Hahana	Y 2–3
	Erena Latu	Kōtiri	Y 4–5
	Judith Cross	Tūrama	Y 5–6
	Pearl Freemantle	Part-time	
	Kiri Weir	Part-time	
Office Manager:	Kiri McKelvey		
Teacher Aides:	Joan Adam		
	Melvina Martin		
	Ivy Reedy		
	Rangi Arthur		
Caretaker:	Glen Robinson		

### Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees is elected by the parents every three years. The trustees are responsible for the governance of the school. The current Board members are:

Chairperson:	Trina Kapene
Secretary:	Kiri McKelvey
Chief Executive Officer:	Kaye Brunton
Staff Representative:	Nicole Avatea
Members:	Helen Hotai
	Michelle Chappell
	Charles Ryman
	Paul Pearson

## School times

Children are encouraged to come to school from 8.30 a.m. If your children need to be at school earlier than 8.30 a.m., please make an arrangement with their classroom teacher. We do not encourage children to be in their classrooms before 8.30 a.m. unless their teacher is present to supervise them.

**8.55 am .....Learning Block 1**

*10.40 am.....Morning Interval*

**11.00 am .....Learning Block 2**

*12.10 pm .....Lunch Break*

**12.30 pm .....Learning Block 3**

*1.30 pm.....Afternoon Interval*

**2.10 pm.....Learning Block 4**

*3.00 pm..... School Closes*

## Being at school and being punctual

Children learn by being active participants in the many opportunities school provides them to engage with each other, and with new ideas and information. To make the most of the learning opportunities provided at our school, we expect children to be punctual and regular in attendance.

The Ministry of Education requires us to record every absence and audits our school roll each year. Accordingly, whenever parents anticipate their child will be absent for any reason, we require either a phone call or note to explain the reason. Frequent, or long term, unexplained absences will be reported to truancy services as a Ministry of Education requirement. Our greatest concern is the children's safety and for this reason, we will always follow up any unexplained absences as soon as we are aware of them.

Unjustified absence for three consecutive days can result in referral to the Attendance Service.

## Office hours

The office is staffed between 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. daily.

## Staff availability

Parents are welcome to visit their children's classrooms at any time providing teachers are aware of the arrangements. Teachers will endeavour to make themselves available to talk to parents, however, it may be necessary to make an appointment with the teacher to discuss any significant issues. Similarly, the principal will always endeavour to be available for parents but making an appointment will guarantee her availability; phone the office manager to make appointments with the principal. For any visits to school personnel, or to pick up children out of normal hours, please ensure you sign in at the office.

## The curriculum

It is not possible to provide a comprehensive outline of the curriculum in this information booklet; however, it might be helpful for you to know a little of the scope of our programmes—all of which are in planned and delivered within the New Zealand curriculum. These include:

- the language arts (reading, writing, speaking, listening, spelling and handwriting and visual literacy) and Te reo Maori;
- mathematics;
- social studies;
- physical education (including ball skills, swimming, dancing, gymnastics, athletics, sports, and fitness) and health, (which includes physical, social, mental and emotional health);
- the arts (art, drama, dance, music, kapahaka);
- science;
- technology.

All aspects of our programmes are underpinned by the key competencies of:

- managing self;

- relating to others;
- participating and contributing;
- thinking;
- using languages, symbols and texts.

The junior area of the school is heavily influenced by learning through play to create exciting opportunities for young children to socialise and learn to cooperate with others and build their oral language skills. Learning through “place” is also prominent in our school and teachers seize opportunities to take children out and about in our local community to experience real-life contexts for learning.

Assessment is used to inform children’s learning and teachers’ planning. A variety of methods is used to gather information on children’s progress and achievement including:

- informal teacher observation and judgement;
- class testing;
- children reviewing their own and others’ work;
- standardised tests.

Our reporting processes are reviewed regularly. There will be a parent information evening in term 1 to inform you of our methods of reporting progress and achievement. Parents are welcome to make an appointment to see their child’s teacher at any time they wish.

The principal is also available any time throughout the year to see parents about any concerns.

## Reading

When children start school they are eager to learn to read. We ask parents to support their children and the teacher—building on the children’s enthusiasm by praising and encouraging their efforts. Like learning anything new, practice is needed to embed the new skills, so regular reading at home and at school make a lot of difference to children’s achievement. Reading is a complex process and children learn at different rates, even within the same family. If you are concerned about your child’s progress, please see the classroom teacher as your first port of call.

Parents will help their children best by showing interest, listening to the child read, talking about the story and reading with the child at every opportunity.

In the first year or so at school, children will be bringing home books to read and there will be instructions included with these books to help parents.

Don’t panic if your child seems to have learnt a book ‘by heart’. This is an early stage in the reading process and builds confidence.

## School lunches

Lunches are available for purchase every school day. The office takes lunch orders in the morning before school. To order lunches, send the money with your child.

We have Subway available for order every Tuesday and Thursday. Order envelopes can be collected from the school office or from the child’s teacher.

## Canteen

A canteen operates on Fridays at 1.30 pm selling lemonade ice blocks and popcorn at a cost of 70 cents each.

## Stationery

The children will receive stationery packs at the start of the year. Please either pay at the office or online (see below for school bank account details)

## School bank account details

For any online payments, our (ASB) account name and number is:

Ngāti Toa School Board of Trustees **12-3254-0191023-00**

For online payments, please include the child’s name in the **CODE** field and what payment is for as a **REFERENCE**.

## Communication

A school newsletter is published fortnightly online on the school website ( [www.ngatitoa.school.nz](http://www.ngatitoa.school.nz) ) and is also sent via email. Paper copies are available if required. The school Facebook page ( <https://www.facebook.com/ngatitoa.school/> ) is updated regularly.

A Ngāti Toa School “app” is available through Google Play and Apple’s App Store (search “Ngāti Toa School”)

## Kai and Korero evenings

We hold “Kai and Korero” whanau evenings throughout the year in order to hear your views and share with you our ideas and vision for the school. These will be notified well in advance.

## Accidents and illness

In cases of accidents or illness at school, we will administer first aid and, if necessary, contact parents. For this reason, it is essential that our records of home and work phone numbers are accurate; please advise us of any changes, as it is very important for us to have an emergency number. We also ask parents to inform us of any health or associated problems their child might have so we can provide for their needs. Should it be necessary (including instances where we are unable to contact parents), we would take a child to a doctor or to Kenepuru Accident and Medical Centre,.

## Sports

We are proud of our successful sports teams. In addition to general sport and physical education in school throughout the year, children also play in school hockey, netball and indoor soccer teams, and participate in the cross-country competition.

## Swimming pool

During term 1—weather permitting—children will participate in a swimming programme in our school pool. They will need to bring named swimming togs and towels in a swimming bag. *(We are grateful to Bunnings Porirua and Water Safety New Zealand for refurbishing the school pool environs to provide this valuable resource for your children.)*

## Lost property

Parents are asked to make sure all personal property is clearly labelled. We discourage children from bringing valuable or “precious” items to school, such as special toys or electronic equipment. The school takes no responsibility for anything that goes missing.

## Money and valuables

If children bring money to school, they should ask their class teacher to take care of it for them until they need it.

## Telephones

Only in emergencies will children be allowed to use the school telephone. If a parent needs to contact a child urgently, the office will pass the message to the child/ren concerned.

## Health

### ***Dental clinic:***

We share the dental therapist with several other schools. We will advertise in the newsletter when the therapist and mobile clinic are coming to the school. To speak to a dental nurse, or to make an appointment, please ring the dental clinic at Titahi Bay School on 0800 825 583 and press option 1 to leave a message.

### ***School health nurse:***

The public health nurse calls at the school every Wednesday to examine any child on request and follow up any matter of concern. The nurse also conducts interviews with the parents of new entrants to discuss any health needs. All new entrants undergo a hearing and vision test during their first year at school. Permission for this service is sought from parents when they enroll their child, or a request is sent home with a child before a visit.

### ***SunSAFE:***

During terms one and four, we endeavour to keep our children safe from the sun by providing shade and shelters for use at playtimes, and by requiring children to wear a hat when outdoors at lunchtime. We also use sunscreen on school trips or outdoor activities. Please let us know if your child has any allergy to sunscreen products.

We have spare sunhats at school that children may borrow if they forget their hat, but it is better that they bring their own to school. Please name your child's hat.

### **Head lice:**

Unfortunately, these are now a fact of life in New Zealand schools nationwide. We have anti-lice treatment products at the office.

## **Road safety**

Children are not allowed outside the school grounds during school hours without permission from a teacher, or with a note from home.

To reduce the possibility of children being hurt while walking to and from school, traffic patrol monitors are placed on Whanga Crescent and Piko Street after school. Children are expected to obey these monitors who are there for their safety.

**For the safety of all the children inside the school, it is school policy that parents do not bring cars into the school grounds.**

Also for the children's safety, we ask parents **not** to use the widened section of road outside the school gate for turning or parking, as the footpath here is very busy with lots of small children walking in and out of the school.

## **After school care service**

The supervisor is Trina Kapene. This service—which adheres to school health and safety policies—is connected to the school but is an independent private business and all financial transactions are between parents and the service's supervisor.

The service operates in the old dental clinic at the east end of the junior block (see attached map of the school); it runs from 3.00 pm–5.00 pm daily.

For any enquiries about this service, please phone Trina on: 027 694 4723.

## **Kids Can**

The school participates in the Kids Can programme, which provides raincoats, trousers, shoes and head-lice treatments for families upon application.

## **Photographs**

A photographer visits the school once a year. Purchase of the photographs is optional.

**Mai i nga ra o nehe ra**

*From the touchstone of our heritage*

**Ohore ana te mura**

*Sparks the flame*

**Kapu ana i roto i nga ringaringa aroha**

*Cradled in the hand of love*

**Mo te iwi whanau**

*Fanned by the breath of love*

**Kowhiuwhiu an ate matauranga**

*Fuelled by knowledge*

**Mo nga whakaaro-nui**

*Sustained by wisdom*

**Kei te mahana mai nga mura o te marama**

*Fire warms, enlightens*

**Hei awii ia tatou katoa**

*and serves us all*

**We hope you and your children will enjoy your time at Ngāti Toa School and that living and learning here will be a really positive experience.**