



NEW ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL TO JOIN OUR TEAM



FRANDA ZONDAGH

“I feel honoured to join Taumarunui High School and become part of this proud kura and community. I am looking forward to getting to know the students, staff, whānau, and wider community, listening carefully, and working together to build on the many strengths already here so that all ākonga can thrive.”

The Board Appointments Committee, consisting of Acting Principal Erika Lerm; Board Chair/Presiding Member Blair Bacon; Board member Kuru Ketu and; *Limited* Statutory Manager Kevin Palmer, are delighted to announce that Franda Zondagh has been appointed as the new Assistant-Principal at the school.

Franda joins Taumarunui High School from Rototuna Senior High School in Hamilton, where she has held a range of teaching and leadership roles, including Specialist Classroom Teacher, Restorative Practices Team Lead, Teacher Representative on the School Board, and Pouarataki (Leader) of Puna Wānanga, the school's innovative Impact Projects curriculum.

She is known as a warm, relational, and highly capable educator who values strong partnerships with students, staff, whānau, and the wider community. Franda believes every young person deserves to feel supported, challenged, and able to succeed, and that schools play an important role in helping students see positive pathways for their future.

Over recent years, Franda has built strong experience in curriculum leadership, teacher development, restorative practice, and whole-school improvement.

As Specialist Classroom Teacher, she has supported school-wide professional learning through coaching, mentoring, and collaborative teacher development focused on strengthening classroom practice and student outcomes.

She also brings valuable experience in curriculum implementation, assessment for learning, NCEA developments, and the wider changes occurring across New Zealand education. Franda has presented nationally at conferences including the New Zealand Assessment Institute (NZAI) and the National Association of Secondary Deputy and Associate Principals (NASDAP), sharing leadership practice and innovative approaches to professional learning.

As Pouarataki of Puna Wānanga, Franda helped lead future-focused curriculum programmes that connected students with real-life projects, community partnerships, and opportunities to develop creativity, teamwork, problem-solving, and entrepreneurial thinking. In this role, she guided staff, supported programme development, and helped create meaningful learning opportunities for young people.

In 2024, this work gained international recognition when Franda received a Global Scholarship from Young Change Agents (YCA), one of only four educators selected worldwide. Through this scholarship, she represented New Zealand in Tasmania, Australia, where she presented and visited schools to explore innovative approaches to entrepreneurial education and preparing young people for the future.

Alongside her curriculum strengths, Franda has also held important pastoral leadership responsibilities through restorative practices and Positive Behaviour for Learning (PB4L). She is recognised as a calm, fair, and caring leader who works closely with students and whānau while maintaining high expectations and a strong focus on wellbeing, engagement, achievement and success.

Franda values culturally responsive practice and strong partnerships with whānau, iwi, hapū, and the wider community. She has completed formal study in tikanga Māori through Te Wānanga o Aotearoa and remains committed to ongoing learning in this area.

A lifelong learner herself, Franda is continuing to work towards her Master's in Educational Leadership through the University of Waikato and has also completed a postgraduate certificate in Mental Health and Wellbeing in Schools through the University of Auckland.

Outside of school, Franda enjoys creativity and the visual arts, particularly painting, ceramics, and sculpture. She also enjoys being outdoors and spending time with whānau and friends. Franda, her husband, and their three children are very much looking forward to becoming active members of the Taumarunui community.

We congratulate Franda and look forward to her joining us towards the end of Term 2 on Monday June 22nd, and we are sure that she and her whanau will receive a very warm welcome here at school and throughout the whole of the Taumarunui community.

School Assembly – Celebrating Attitude and Leadership

Our recent school assembly reinforced the importance of Attitude, one of our school's Four As alongside Attendance, Appearance, and Achievement.

The whakataukī *He oranga ngākau, he pikinga wairua* reminded us that positive thoughts and intentions lift both individuals and our wider school community.

Assemblies are also valuable opportunities for student leadership, and our student leaders played a key role throughout the programme. Our Head Students addressed the school, while student leaders also shared sports news, general notices, and supported the smooth running of the assembly, building confidence and visible leadership in front of their peers.

A highlight of the assembly was the presentation of Principal's Awards, recognising students who have consistently demonstrated the Four As through their everyday choices.

The recipients of the Principal's Award were *Teina Kaea, Lucan King, Zoe Ng, Cailin Owen and Miami-Li Tahere*.



MAUY THAI

Muay Thai & He Ara Whakamua Makes Its Debut at Taumarunui High School!

Term 1 saw an exciting new addition to learning at Taumarunui High School with the introduction of Muay Thai for all students wanting to give it a go. More than just a physical activity, Muay Thai brought energy, discipline, and confidence into each session, giving students the chance to challenge themselves, learn new skills, and build resilience. Alongside the physical training, students also took part in the He Ara Whakamua programme and bookwork, supporting their Hauora, mental health, and overall wellbeing. This powerful combination helped students connect movement with mindset, reinforcing positive habits, self-reflection, and wellbeing both in and out of the classroom. A strong start with powerful lessons - inside and outside the ring!

Supported by Active AS



KEA WORK EXPERIENCE



This year, we are incredibly proud to share that six of our Kea students have been approved by Chris Martin, owner of our local New World supermarket, to take part in a meaningful real-world work experience programme. This opportunity is helping our students build the confidence, connections, and practical skills they need for greater independence beyond high school.

Time Management

Arriving on time, following a schedule, and keeping pace with a working environment are all skills being developed each visit.

Workplace Safety

Above all, students have learned how to stay safe on a work site — a vital life skill that will serve them well in any future setting.

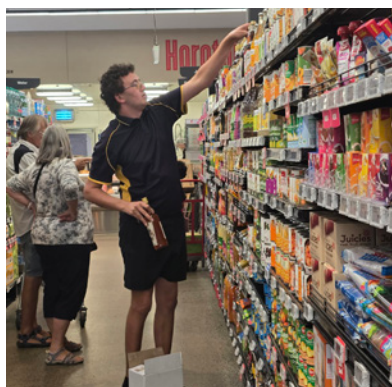
Practical Skills

Students are learning to stock shelves and assist with bagging groceries — hands-on tasks that build focus and responsibility.

Social & Community Connections

Students are engaging with staff and customers, building social confidence and meaningful ties within our local community.

A heartfelt acknowledgement to Chris Martin and Steve at New World, whose generous support and patience have made this invaluable experience possible for our students. Thank you!



KEA WORK EXPERIENCE

Big Picture Learning in action

Emma Jacobs has been actively participating in work experience at Rata Street Preschool under the guidance of Yvonne Higgs - building real-world skills that will carry her well beyond high school.

Communication

Strengthening professional communication with colleagues and supervisor Yvonne, including the responsibility of notifying her when unable to attend.

Morning Tea

Helping to prepare and serve morning tea — contributing meaningfully to the daily rhythm of the preschool environment.

Learning Activities

Setting up and preparing the tamariki for their learning activities, supporting a nurturing and structured start to each session.

A genuine real-world learning experience that is shaping Emma's confidence, reliability, and care for others.



UPCOMING DATES

18 - 28 May - NZQA Common Assessments

19 May - Year 10 Marae Trip

19 May - BOT Meeting

22 May - Waikato Uni Open Day

19-20 May - Bartending Course (non-alcoholic)

1 June - King's Birthday

8 June - Careers Expo

9 June - Photolife Class & Sports Photos

25 June - Exhibitions of Learning begin

26 June - Learner License Course

3 July - End of Term 2

20 July - Beginning of Term 3

22-23 July - Snow Sports Starts



Netball: our Junior A team started the local season on Wednesday 22nd April. Special thanks to student Coaches Miami-Li Tahere and Mikayla Davies, who coach this team at lunchtimes. There are 3 weeks of grading games, before Round 1 starts. Many other THS netball players are playing in Club teams.

Rugby: THS Boys' U16 Rugby team are playing in the Waikato competition. First game Saturday 2nd May against Cambridge 2nd XV at the Te Kuiti Rugby grounds. The team had been diligently practising over the holidays, and Coach Matt Lord is very pleased with the progress and continued commitment of the players.

THS Girls' Rugby at Te Kuiti Sunday 3rd May, first game against Te Kuiti, second game against Taupo. The calibre of the two teams played was exceptional, our girls did us proud, getting better and better as the games progressed.

THS Girls' Rugby at our school Wednesday 6th May, against Te Kuiti, our team was tenacious, gave it their all and kept getting up and pushing on.



Soccer: Mixed junior soccer team (Coaches Teore Tamehana & Rachelle Kerkhof) Mixed senior soccer team (Coach Inneke Cumming). Some of our juniors are playing in the senior team to even out numbers. Teams are playing grading games in the Waikato Competition, & as mixed teams, are playing mixed or boys' league. First grading games were on Saturday 2nd May, our junior team travelled to Mangakōtukutuku College to play them. Our seniors played a home game against Putaruru Thunder. Next grading games were held Saturday 9th May, junior home game winning 7/5 against St Peters, seniors winning 5/2 against Te Kuiti.

Badminton: Badminton (Coach Whaea Sheay) practices are after school on Thursdays in the THS gym. Four teams plan to go away to the South Waikato competition in Tokoroa on Friday 15th May.

Volleyball: (Coach/Manager is Awhina Te Awa). Our senior team continues practising on Thursdays after school, with the aim of entering one day competitions as they become available.



Basketball: Basketball (Coach Tahi Turu) for our Boys team continues practising on Wednesdays after school, and the Girls (Coach Danny Woods) on Fridays after school. The girls' basketball team travelled to Te Kūiti on Tuesday 12th May, where they played the Te Kūiti Girls' Junior team and came away with a strong 39-19 win.

They will now be travelling weekly throughout the term to compete in the Waitomo basketball competition.

CAREERS

Term 2 is a particularly busy period for careers-focused activities, featuring a range of presentations both onsite and at external events. On the 23rd of April, we had Otago University Liaison Alysha Bentley present to 15 senior students in the library. Students found the presentation both informative and engaging, with several remaining afterwards to ask further questions.

On Monday May 4th we had two presentations at school: In Session 2, Staff Sergeant Rob Wismans from the New Zealand Defence Force delivered an informative presentation in the library, outlining the wide range of career opportunities available across the Army, Navy, and Air Force. The session provided valuable insight into the diverse roles within each branch, the entry requirements, as well as the comprehensive benefits associated with a career in the Defence Force.

In Session 3, a representative from Pāmu (Landcorp Farming Ltd) delivered a presentation to Farming Academy students, outlining the range of career development opportunities available within the agricultural sector through Pāmu initiatives. The Studylink presentation which was to be held on the 7th May, has been postponed until further notice, due to the Awakino Gorge closure.

Events still to come this term include: Waikato University Open Day (22nd May), Careers Expo in Hamilton (8th June) and Girls with Hi-Vis event at The Lines Company depot, Taumarunui (18th June)



PEER SUPPORT CAMPS



Year 9 Peer Support Overnight Camps

Recently, year 9 students attended one of two Peer Support Camps at the school's lodge on Mount Ruapehu, with support from our year 12 and 13 Peer Support Leaders.

Over the two days, there was plenty of fun, laughter, and positive energy as students took part in a range of activities designed to build connections and strengthen relationships across the school. The games and challenges focused on creating a supportive school community where students feel connected, respected, and supported by one another. Activities included a fashion show, teamwork challenges, and an obstacle course where students guided a peer through while blindfolded, encouraging trust, communication, and cooperation.

Our senior Peer Support Leaders did a brilliant job organising and running the activities, demonstrating strong leadership and care for our Year 9 students. Their enthusiasm and encouragement helped create a welcoming and inclusive environment, making the experience both meaningful and memorable for all involved.

WAIOURU ARMY MUSEUM

Waiouru Army Museum

Year 10 students recently visited the Waiouru Army Museum. Students experienced aspects of military life during World War II. They practiced drill to understand discipline and teamwork in the New Zealand Army and took part in cooking army ration packs, learning how soldiers prepared meals in the field. The visit also helped them learn about New Zealand's role in World War II and the experiences of Kiwi soldiers who served overseas and at home.

