

Remembering Tessa Hawes: A dedicated teacher and inspiration to us all

Dear Papatoetoe High School community,

It is with heavy hearts that we inform you of the loss of a beloved member of our school family, Tessa Hawes. Tessa, a vibrant and talented young teacher, passed away yesterday morning, February 8th, 2024, at the tender age of 25, after bravely battling leukemia.



Tessa made a lasting impact during her time with us as a dance and drama teacher in 2023. Her passion for her craft was infectious, and her dedication to her students was unwavering. She brought creativity, energy, and enthusiasm into every classroom, inspiring her students to explore their artistic talents and express themselves freely.

On 09th February, the school came together to reflect on Tessa's life and the indelible mark she left on each of us. Her absence will be deeply felt by her colleagues, students, and all who had the privilege of knowing her.

As we mourn the loss of Tessa, let us also remember to celebrate her life and the wonderful contribution she made to our school community. Her legacy will continue to inspire us all, and her memory will forever be cherished.

Our deepest condolences go out to Tessa's family and loved ones during this difficult time. May they find comfort in the memories shared and the knowledge that Tessa's spirit will live on in the hearts of those she touched.

The funeral is on 14 February at 1:00 pm at the Manukau Memorial Gardens (also known as Manukau Cemetery).

If you want to know how to get support in grief or loss, please refer to:

Lifeline for adults: <https://www.lifeline.org.nz/>

Youthline for the youth: <https://www.youthline.co.nz/>

Grief and Loss: <https://mentalhealth.org.nz/conditions/condition/grief-and-loss>

Phone or txt 1737 if you want to talk with someone <https://1737.org.nz/>

Sincerely,



Vaughan Couillault
Principal



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