



7 April 2006

PRINCIPAL'S COMMENT

We have come to the end of a very busy term. The year 9 intake has settled in well and our senior students are now fully engaged in their NCEA courses. Our two parent teacher evenings were outstandingly successful with record attendances over the two days. There is no doubt that students who are well supported at home, and where parents and the school work together are more likely to be successful when this is the case. I urge all parents and caregivers not to hesitate in making contact with your child's teachers if you have any concerns. By now all form teachers would have contacted the caregivers of the students and established a link between home and school.

In addition to concentrating on effective teaching we are also emphasising the need for students to arrive at class on time, to have the correct gear for their lessons and to wear the correct uniform appropriately. We do ask for your support in this.

The emphasis is to develop a culture around our school motto of pride through success and honour through service.

Have an enjoyable, safe Easter break.

REUNION

Taita College will be celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2007. If you are interested in being a part of the committee organising the reunion, please contact **Jill Marsden** either through the school office, or e-mail Jill on secretary@taita.school.nz.

STAFF CHANGES

At the end of the term we sadly farewell **Chris Magill** one of our year 9 deans, and a teacher in computing who leaves us to take up a head of department position at Otaki College. We wish Mr Magill all the best and thank him for his time at Taita. **David Bakker**, another of our computer studies teachers, leaves us to return to work in the IT field. **Mike King** (physical education) leaves us at the end of week 1 next term to work for Lifesaving New Zealand. Lastly, **Donna Devaroe** takes a break at the end of this term on maternity leave.

We have appointed **Rachel Anstey** to a position in Dance in Ms Devaroe's absence, and also as dean of year 11 to replace **Mrs Mulligan** who will take over as the year 9 dean with **Mrs Dodds** next term.

REPORTS

The interim reports were posted on 17 March, along with **student contact details for the junior students**. If you still have this form at home we would

appreciate it being returned to school as soon as possible even if it is correct, as it is essential that we know we have correct contact details for you.

The two report afternoons were well attended and we hope worthwhile for parents. The staff certainly enjoy the opportunity to meet with so many parents, and to discuss the progress of students.

OPEN EVENING

We are hosting an evening on **Tuesday 13 June** for parents of students intending to enrol at Taita College in 2007. The format of the evening will be similar to previous years, starting with a welcome in the library at 7.00 pm. Parents will then be taken to the hall to view student displays and supper will be provided in the student centre afterwards. The senior executive members will act as hosts for the evening. Also joining the senior executive as from term two is **Rebekah Reid** – Rebekah replaces a member who left at the start of 2006.

REAM OF PAPER

As a part of the stationary list, we included either a ream of paper, or a \$5 photocopying fee. Students can bring this in to the student administration office over the next few weeks.

SCHOOL FEES - PRIZE DRAW

Once again we have a prize draw of an Air New Zealand Mystery Weekend for two (with a choice of destination) for families whose donations are paid by 13 April, last day of term 1. The fees are \$120 for one child and \$100 per student for families with more than one child.

ABSENCES

Just a friendly reminder that when students are absent we do appreciate a phone call and a note explaining the

absence. The phone call covers the student should there be any sort of emergency during the day so that we are not faced with trying to find a student who is in fact not at school. Also please do not encourage students to leave the school for appointments without letting the office know. We have had a few cases where, via texting, students have left the grounds with their parents during break times, and we were unaware that they had left.

To assist students in arriving at school on time, detentions are being given to those who arrive late and have no note excusing them. If your child is legitimately late for school, please either phone us or write a note for them as the detentions are given on the day of the lateness.

We are also following up on a small number of students who are persistently late for the school day, but who have notes from parents. It is most disruptive to have students come in to class after the start of a lesson and we ask parents to ensure students arrive to school on time every day.

The system for dealing with students who are tardy to class after second break has worked extremely well. Lateness results in the students being kept in for 15 minutes on the day of the absence – we now see students running to make class on time!

UNIFORM

Students are required to wear their blazer to and from school as from term 2, and shoes must be approved **plain black lace-ups**. If you have any concerns about what is, or is not uniform, please ring the school before purchasing any item not available at the uniform shop.

Some students have taken to removing the clip from the new ties, thus wearing what looks like a very short version. This is not a part of the uniform and students will be asked to replace such ties. Ties are not to be written on or coloured in – again replacement ties will be requested if a student has done this.

NZQA FEES

Fee notices will be sent out next term for students to gain NZQA qualifications. These will need to be paid by early September. **Fees may be paid in instalments now to Mrs Bullard, the executive officer.** Most senior students will pay \$75. For those students who are in need of financial assistance, this can be obtained by completing a financial assistance form. These are available on the NZQA website, or from Ms Leaman, here at school as from the beginning of term 2. Please do not leave this application until the last moment.

There is an information sheet from NZQA included in this mail out for senior students.

VALUABLES

Items of value such as discmans are not allowed at school, and we cannot take responsibility for the loss or theft of such things. As in any school, unattended bags are a prime target for thieves. If a student doing PE has an item of value, such as a wallet with them, they must hand this to the teacher for safekeeping. Again, can we remind parents to name all uniform items, including ties as this reduces the attraction for a potential thief, and allows us to return items when they are handed in.

RACE RELATIONS DAY

For Race Relations Day Hutt City Council offered a prize for posters promoting different races in New

Zealand living in harmony. The social studies poster prize was won by Taita College class 3I. Posters were submitted by **Emily Washington, Bradley Stringer and Tamati Mitchell –Hetaraka and Maxine Tuhou.** We received a Whitcoulls voucher which we have spent on felt pens for the classroom.

Steffi Silk, Katie Merryweather and Matiu Workman organized a stunning assembly for Race Relations Day, with **Mrs Mulligan** assisting them. We saw the Kapahaka perform, a Tongan and Fijian dance, and a Samoan item. We had students explain Dutch national dress and saw African dress where we also learnt how teachers are allowed to smack children in Zimbabwe. Our German Student **Jacob Reiff** spoke to us in German, and our Japanese students, **Yuki Furuya and Daisuke Takagi** (pictured with the Lower Hutt Mayor) addressed us in Japanese. **Ms Patterson** explained her kilt and clan



and sang a song in Gaelic about porridge. The assembly finished with **Mr Candasamy** addressing the assembly in the language of his childhood, Afrikaans. Not only did it showcase the different cultures which make up our school community, it showed the wonderful talent we have in our students. The audience should also be congratulated for being so supportive and appreciative.

CELL PHONES

Although cell phones are not yet banned at Taita College, please discuss appropriate usage of them with your child. We are having increasing incidences of text bullying and also incidences of students losing valuable phones whilst at school. Cell phone usage is never permitted in class, and students caught using their phone during a lesson can expect to have the phone taken from them.

HILLARY CHALLENGE TEAM

On Tuesday 28 March, the Hillary Challenge team were treated to an insight into the life of current New Zealand multisport and adventure racing legend - **Richard Ussher**. Ussher has won the Coast to Coast 'longest day' in two consecutive years, as well as being part of the winning team in the Southern Traverse – which also doubled as the World Adventure Racing Championships. Ussher's team 'Team Vector' competed against 45 other national and international teams to win the competition by a staggering 13 hours.

The Hillary Challenge team were noticeably impressed with the tales of racing in Borneo, USA, Sweden and South Africa and they heard of experiences of what can happen when the body is pushed to its absolute limit. Hallucinations including picking up mushrooms thinking they were bicycle gloves, and talking to trees named 'Willie' were some of the moments that Richard recounted to the group.

Questions were asked about Richard's level of training. He mentioned that he trained for around 10 months of the year, and that during the toughest training sessions he would cover approximately 70 to 80 hours in a

week. There was quite a reaction to the fact that he would sometimes go on 100 kilometre runs through the bush, and would also complete 300km in a week when training for events such as the Southern Traverse.

Some handy tips were given to the group about the values needed to be a competitive adventure racer. Among these were the fact that perseverance is essential, and that basic skills needed to be gained (eg navigation or kayaking skills) to make the experience more enjoyable. Richard shared a 1 to 5 rating system that they used in 'Team Vector', whereby if a team member was feeling good they would be around a '4' or a '5', but if they were struggling, they would say that they were a '1' or a '2'. By being honest about your physical (or mental) state, then the team could share the load evenly. This meant that people had to be honest about their condition, putting aside all concepts of ego.

The team enjoyed the experience, and should be able to benefit from the valuable tips that were offered.

Henry Ballantyne



The Hillary Challenge Team with Richard Ussher.

BELL GULLY MENTORING

Taita College have a programme with the Bell Gully law office aimed at encouraging and fostering academic success in a small group of senior students. Applications were received in March for the vacant positions and the following students have been accepted in to the programme: **Susannah Bengree, Jess Brodie, Keleni Hopoi, Amy Jackman, Taka Kauri, Kellie Kirkland, Melody Kirkland, Lauren Lum, Jasmine Mouat, Morehu Rei, Rebekah Reid, Sara Samuelu, Stacey Shields, Connie Stedman, Anna Tregaskis, and Sarah Young.**

The powhiri to welcome the new mentors from Bell Gully to Taita College occurred on 5 April, and the high ropes course, traditionally a huge success, is scheduled for 21 May.

CARS

If your child is currently driving a vehicle to school they need to collect a form from Mr Hawke granting permission to bring a motor vehicle to school. In addition students must have their restricted or full licence. If a sibling is to be brought to school by the driver this must also be on the permission slip. Please ensure that drivers do not take other students in their cars unless written parental permission has been granted in advance.

PROJECT K

Selections are being made for the next group of year 10 students who will be involved in the Project K programme for 18 months. The aim of the programme is to assist a group of 12 students to achieve to their potential in a number of areas, with the support of a community mentor, liaison teacher and Project K facilitators. Pictured are the graduating group from 2005.



STAGE CHALLENGE

Stage Challenge is back at Taita College for the fourth year running and is currently in rehearsals.

Tickets will be on sale at the school for a limited time – details will be available early next term. They can also be purchased from Ticketek.

There will be letters coming home soon for parents of participating students with further information.

CAREERS NEWS

Y12 students have made their choices for Workchoice Day on 16 May. The next step is for the organisers to tell us which workplaces we have been given, we will then make the final selection.

The Senior Maori Students' Day was on 6 April, at Trentham Racecourse. Students who chose to attend this found it most beneficial.

Recently the Navy visited and students were able to go on the bus during 1st and 2nd breaks to receive any information they required.

Victoria University made their first visit of the year on 14 March. They spoke to a highly motivated group of about 40 year 13 students.

Ms Henderson (Careers Advisor) has started a careers education programme with year 11 students in their study

period this term. It is intended that all year 11 students will be interviewed in the next few months to help them forge links between their subject choices and their future beyond school.

FRENCH TRIP

Seventeen Year 9 and 10 French students joined Heretaunga College on 23 March to see Carrousel Theatre. They were very lucky to get to the performance at short notice, after the performance scheduled at Upper Hutt College was cancelled.

The two-person troupe put on a spectacular puppet show based on the classic tale of Aladdin and the Magic Lamp, with a twist. This was performed in a mixture of French and English, which allowed students who are relatively new to French to understand what was going on and to pick up new expressions. It was a valuable experience to be exposed to the language in this context, which the students found both educational and entertaining.

The puppets and sets were beautifully presented in rich fabrics with intricate detail. The students got to appreciate these close up after the question and answer time at the end.

ATHLETICS 2006

After some accurate weather forecasting by Saturn TV's weather channel, the Taita College Athletics day was postponed to Friday 24 February, following a southerly storm that swept through the valley on the original date for the competition.

In terms of the House competition, it was a red coloured storm that made the biggest impression, cleaning up the day in spectacular style. Congratulations to Jamieson House for your winning effort.

The levels of participation in the competition were very high, which shows that Taita College students were keen and willing to run, jump and throw throughout the day for their Houses. It has to be said that a few staff members still have the competitive spirit, which was sometimes barely concealed, as **Mr King** gave **Lidston Ah Wong** a bit of a hurry up in the Senior (or VERY senior) Boys 200 metres. It was good to see a blistering pace set by **Mr Harlow** who was joined by his son and ex-Head Boy **Andrew Harlow** in the teachers versus students relay. Andrew returned under the guise of 'staff' to compete in the athletics day once more.

The relays at the end of the day proved to be a highlight once again, with Houses getting louder and more supportive of their teams every year.

Well done to all students for your efforts on the day. Special thanks goes to all of the year 13 PE students and also those who helped set up the ground in the morning. The House Captains this year proved that they are worthy of the title 'leader' for their contribution leading up to, and including the day.

The overall House points are as follows:

JAMIESON	with 1551 points
BEAR	with 1311 points
CHARLES	with 1254 points
NARRAWAY	with 1200 points

Athletic champions by age group for 2006:

Junior Girls

1	Redab	Mohammed	(J)	36
	points			
2	Nicole	Olivecrona	(B)	26
	points			

3= **Kimberley Gill** (B) and
Jaesyn Lansdown (B) 22
points

Junior Boys

- 1 **Ahmed Jama** (J) 28 points
- 2 **Abdi Hagi** (C) 24 points
- 3 **Vincent Parry** (B) 22 points

Intermediate Girls

- 1 **Amy Collins** (C) 44 points
- 2 **Rachel Savelio** (J) 36 points
- 3 **Teagan Irwin** (J) 26 points

Intermediate Boys

- 1 **Sam Morrissey** (B) 54 points
- 2 **Laman Ah Wong** (N) 48 points
- 3 **Bradley Shields** (N) 38 points

Senior Girls

- 1 **Nicole Edmonds** (J) 36 points
- 2= **Susana Malaki, Joanna Szeto,**
Aubrey Nation (B) 28 points

Senior Boys

- 1 **Lidston Ah Wong** (C) 70
points
- 2 **Bronson Marino** (C) 38 points
- 3 **Dylan Ratana** (B) 34 points

HUTT VALLEY CHAMPIONSHIPS – THE BRABIN-CAMPBELL SHIELD

Taita College was represented by 120 athletes this year at the Brabin-Campbell Shield competition at the Hutt Recreation Ground. Our athletes produced some impressive performances to ensure that one third of the team went through to the next level of competition, to represent the Hutt Valley in the Wellington regional event.

In particular, **Courtney Hawkins** broke the Junior Girls' Discus record by throwing 27.96 metres.

We had excellent results from our relay teams, with wins from our Junior Girls

and our Senior Boys, and second placings from our Intermediate Girls, and both of our Intermediate and Junior Boys' teams.

Athletes placed first were:

Redab Mohammed 100m #1 seeded
race

Angel Davies 100m #3 seeded race

Courtney Hawkins Discus

Malologa Gogo-Oti Javelin

Kafalolo Nefoa Long Jump

Nicole Olivecrona High Jump

Junior Girls 4x100m relay team

Sarai Hemara 1500m

Rachel Savelio Shot Put

Amy Collins High Jump

Susana Malaki Javelin

Laman Ah Wong Triple Jump

Lidston Ah Wong 100m, Long Jump,
Triple Jump

Mana Alafoki Shot Put

Senior Boys 4x100m relay

Congratulations to all athletes who were placed on the day.



Jamieson strut their stuff.

41 athletes went on to represent Taita College and Hutt Valley Secondary Schools in Wellington. Further to this, Taita College were placed **third** overall in the Hutt Valley competition, competing against Hutt Valley High School and Upper Hutt College, both of

which have approximately 1000 more students to select from.

WELLINGTON REGIONAL ATHLETICS

A team of 41 students represented Taita College and Hutt Valley Schools in the Wellington regional athletics meeting.

Congratulations to all those who were placed in this highly competitive environment: **Lidston Ah Wong** 1st Triple Jump, 2nd Long Jump; **Courtney Hawkins** 1st Discus; **Vincent Parry** 2nd 200m; **Malologa Gogo-Oti** 2nd Javelin; **Susana Malaki** 3rd Discus, 4th Shot Put; **Hope Osborne** 4th 100m; **Redab Mohammed** 4th 100m; **Joseph Magawa** and **Laman Ah Wong** 5= Triple Jump; **Jess Pihema** 5th 100m; Senior Boys relay 2nd; Junior Boys relay 4th; Intermediate Boys 4th.

Four of our students have been selected to go to the North Island Championships which are held in April in Hastings. They are: **Lidston Ah Wong, Courtney Hawkins, Malologa Gogo-Oti and Susana Malaki.**

We all wish you good luck and hope that you enjoy the contest in Hastings.

BOWLS

Lawn Bowls continues to be a popular activity for Taita College students on a Thursday afternoon after school, with a total of 7 Taita College teams entered in the Wellington Schools' Lawn Bowls triples competition. For the second season in a row, Taita College will provide both teams in the finals of the Upper Hutt zone of the competition. Taita's 2005 Hutt Valley Triples champion team of **Alex Winter, Michael Sollitt** and **Daniel Watson** (Skip) will be seeking the right to defend their Hutt Valley title when they play off against Taita 2 comprising **Bheki**

Mkandla, Liam Hyslop and **Blair Simpson** (Skip).

In what is a virtual rematch of last year's Upper Hutt zone final, an exciting final is assured if the final bowl, winning shot, of the 2005 final is anything to go by. Irrespective of the outcome, both teams are to be congratulated for winning through to the final by defeating the teams from Silverstream, Heretaunga, and Upper Hutt College.

Best wishes go to the winning team for their Hutt Valley title match that will follow. Sincere thanks go to the volunteers and members at the Silverstream Bowling Club and the Petone Bowling Club for giving up their time and greens each week to enable the competition to be offered.

DEBATING

The Premier A Debaters are off to a great start this year with a win against Samuel Marsden in their first debate. The moot was that "Google should boycott China until the Government allows unrestricted access" and prompted great exchanges between Taita as the negative team and Samuel Marsden Collegiate as the affirmative. Members of the team included **Jasmine Mouat**, (awarded best speaker). **Caitlin Dunham** (awarded third best speaker,) and **Amy Jackman**. All team members debated with intelligence and awareness of issues and won the debate through their excellent arguments. Researcher and timekeeper was **Sarah Young**.

REFEREES

We are desperate to find some referees to help with both home and away games for many of our teams. It is a requirement that we supply a referee for each game and we have so far hit a brick wall when it comes to finding

people available. Please contact **Debbie Elliott**, our sports coordinator, at school if you are able to help or have any suggestions.

ADVERTISING SPACE

We are offering local businesses the opportunity of sponsoring our newsletters. This will mean advertising to over 600 households in the Hutt Valley area. If you are interested please contact Trish Bullard for details on 567 8728 x 205.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION NEWS

Term Two Dates

6 Week Courses Mon. 1 May – Fri. 9 June

8 Week Courses Mon. 1 May – Fri. 23 June

Term Three

6 Week Courses Mon. 24 July – Fri. 1 September

8 Week Courses Mon. 24 July – Fri. 15 September

Term Four

8 Week Courses Mon. 2 October – Fri. 8 December

Greetings, as the new coordinator I thought that term one started well with 5 classes. I had, however, hoped for more because our prices are very, very reasonable in comparison with those of other providers.

Social dancing runs for beginners on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7-9 pm. Intermediate classes run 7.30-8.30 pm on Thursday and everyone is having a great time. I can recommend the beginner's class for exercise and fun.

Quilting runs on Tuesdays from 7-9 pm and is a popular programme. The finished quilts are gorgeous.

Floral Art is a regular favourite and very relaxing I hear. It runs on Thursdays from 7-9 pm.

Other classes that I can personally recommend are the lead-lighting classes. Initially you make a sun-catcher and later a lampshade. A third class on a Saturday can produce a glass bowl, which is then fired. These classes are run offsite in Petone.

We did not have sufficient numbers of people enrolled to run the Excel and Website computing classes, the ESOL (English as a second and other language), Cooking, the Anger Management and Communication courses and others. **If you are interested in any of our courses enroll early to avoid disappointment and to make sure these classes can run.**

Information request

I would be grateful to receive any ideas for classes that you would like to see offered through the school. I am also open to suggestions and recommendations for qualified tutors who would be willing to tutor in their area of expertise.

Jill Berridge.



Yr 12 Biology students **Aubrey Nation** and **Lauren Lum** on the Rocky shore trip.

IMPORTANT DATES

12 April	School Photographs
13 April	Last Day of Term 1
1 May	First Day of Term 2
9 May	Art Display
11 May	Cross Country
12 May	MENZB Catch ups
15 – 19 May	Senior Testing Week
2 June	Teacher Only Day
13 June	Open Evening
18/19 June	Stratford Exchange
21 June	Mid Year Reports Posted
27/28 June	Parent Teacher Afternoon

READER WRITERS

Again we are hopeful that members of the local community might volunteer some time to work with students who are sitting assessments and are eligible for a reader writer. This is a rewarding job, and is greatly appreciated by the students. Please contact **Margaret Dodds**, the head of Learner Support, if you are able to donate a couple of hours from time to time.

Finally, an invitation –

The Art Department welcomes parents to a viewing of pervious years' art portfolios in the school hall on Tuesday 9 May from 4.00 until 5.30. Wine and cheese will be provided, and a gold coin donation is requested.

The following is a piece of work by Brittney Silk submitted recently in English.

Finding Right

Her head rested on his shoulder, a gesture of unconditional trust. He was thankful for this. Perhaps it was a sign – perhaps it meant he was doing the right thing. But how do you find right in a world founded on wrongs?

She had suffered so much. Too much. Her body was the living evidence of this ... her skin, sucked dry of colour but for a few sadistic tributes – bruises in a devastating shade of purple. They opened up as if they were merely flowers meeting the dawn ... yet this, this was no beginning.

He had wrapped a shawl around her head, to protect her and their secret. The cold, the wind, the stares – all were their enemies. The shawl, his grandmother's, retained the faint, natural aroma of lemons. His grandmother had loved them, citing that they were the fruit of the heavens, the smiles of angels, the divine gift.

But his grandmother was dead, and he had only time for the living.

Memories were the pastime of those who did not live, who only remembered when they had. Just as dreams were for those who did not live, who only wished they could. He only had time for what he could see and hear and hold and comfort ... this child, this day, their escape.

She was tired, this he knew. He imagined the whole world was full of tired faces and tired sighs, of eyes open so long they could never close, of feet picked up, put down, picked up, put down ... the thudding music of the weary. How they wanted to sleep.

The wind pulled at the corners of the shawl, lifting the fraying edges; mocking him. He held it weighted with his hand, jumpy. His fear was irrational, he assured himself, they could not find him, even if a stranger glimpsed her naked head. He could not shake the feeling that if a passer-by realised his child had alopecia, they would realise everything. They would realise what he had done.

The alopecia was the side effect of modern medicine – her only chance, the doctors called it. He had read the letters. The letters spoke of a child he'd never known, but should have, the disease she'd developed, but shouldn't have. And he felt the handcuffs of obligation bind his wrists.

And when he saw her, he saw everything that was perfect, and everything that was sacred. A hospital full of sickness and death and sad faces was no backdrop for his daughter's story. So he rescued her.

A part of him thought that maybe he should have left her; maybe he should've walked away. Her mother would be rather upset, after all. Then he looked at her. He saw clearly that he must create a present where words like 'leukaemia' were meaningless. Disease that ravaged a child was the worst kind of wrong.

So he would try to make it right.