



February 2006

### Kia Ora and Welcome

We would like to welcome you all back to the new school year, and especially welcome those of you who are new to Taita College.

We know how important good communication is between home and school and we invite you to contact us whenever you need to do so. We do ask however, that if it is a particular staff member whom you need to see, that an appointment is made first. We know how frustrating it can be when you arrive and are unable to meet with someone because they are in class. Naturally, our teaching is of primary importance but we do make every effort to meet with parents and caregivers when necessary.

For our part, we do now post both newsletters and reports home. The first interim report will be posted on 17 March, and is followed by parent interviews on 22 and 23 March from 4:00 to 6:30pm. We hope you are able to attend.

We also have a website – [www.taita.school.nz](http://www.taita.school.nz) which you can access for current information, and which students can use for subject information via the intranet also. Whilst we do not post student attendance on the site, please feel free to contact the office if you would like such information.

### NCEA

Next week students in the senior school, and those who are intending to complete external qualifications such as NCEA will

have received the National Qualifications handbook. Please ensure that this document is read and understood as it stops misunderstandings later on.

A part of this involves the fees charged by NZQA. If these are not paid on time (our date is 1 September) a \$50 late fee is charged. The fees for 2006 are the same as for 2005, being \$75 per student, with lesser fees if financial assistance forms are received on time and are duly accepted. These forms will be available to students in late March until May.

There is an **information evening** for any parent who is interested in NCEA, and how it works from **7.00pm on Monday 27 February** in the school hall. The presentation takes about 45 minutes, and senior staff will be available for questions at the end.

### BOB ROSEMERGY CENTRE OPENING



Ms Clark cuts the ribbon, watched by Matiu Workman and Mr Swain.

On Wednesday we welcomed the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Helen Clark, along with

the Mayor of Hutt City, his worship David Ogden, Mr Paul Swain, MP for Rimutaka, Mr Rosemergy, past and present board members, and members of our school community to the opening of the new Bob Rosemergy Centre. Mr Rosemergy taught physical education at Taita College for 33 years and was the guidance counsellor for many years during this time. Students behaved impeccably during the long and hot ceremony and were a real credit to the school.

## NEW STAFF

We are pleased to begin 2006 fully staffed and we welcome the following teachers to Taita College: **David Bakker** (Computing), **Helen Benge** (Music and Art), **Jill Berridge** (Media Studies), **Sala Erika** (English and Social Studies), **Stephen Gibson** (Social Sciences), **Graeme Norman** (Accounting and Mathematics), **Mary Opie** (Social Sciences), **Joanne Parr** (English), and we welcome back **Julie McLennan** from maternity leave, and **Mike Williams** who has been appointed to the position of HOD Mathematics with **Tony Montgomery** taking up the position of assistant HOD Mathematics.

## RESULTS 2005

We are currently analysing the NCEA results from the 2005 school year. Once the national statistics are available (this will be in April), we will include a summary in a future newsletter. Initial indications show improvements in both levels 1 and 3, but level 2 has fallen slightly, which is of concern to us.

The curriculum team will analyse the results of all standards over the next term, and steps will be taken where results fall short of our goals for the year.

## VICTORIA UNIVERSITY ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE SCHOLARSHIP

We would like to congratulate **Georgina Dickson**, our Dux from 2005 who was been awarded this scholarship. This is notable as very few of these are awarded

each year, and each scholarship is worth \$5000 towards tertiary study.



Georgina receives her Dux Cup at senior prize giving.

## HEAD STUDENTS

The head students for 2006 are:

Head Girl: **Jasmine Mouat**

Head Boy: **Matiu Workman**

Deputy Head Girl: **Danielle Cottle**

Deputy Head Boy: **Kuin Lima**

They are joined by the senior executive: **Joseph Coffey, Caitlin Dunham, Nicole Edmonds, Erroll Gibson, Amy Jackman, Katie Merryweather, Kieran Murphy, Morehu Rei, Steffi Silk, Anna Tregaskis, and Josh Simpson**, who is also the student representative on the board of trustees. Congratulations to these students.



Members of the senior executive are pictured with Mr Candasamy, Mr Hawke and Ms Leaman.

## HOUSE LEADERS

Congratulations to these students who take up the positions of house leaders this year.

Bear: Tane Evans (captain), Jamie Vidot (vice); Hope Osborne (captain), and Renee Hayes (vice).

Charles: Lidston Ah Wong, James Melville, Kylie Hewitt and Joanna Szeto

Jamieson: Erroll Gibson, Kuin Lima, Danielle Cottle and Nicole Edmonds

Narraway: Josh Simpson, Andrew Boyes, Caitlin Dunham and Stacey Shields

## ID CARDS

Photographs for student identification cards were taken on Tuesday 14 February. A Taita College ID card will be required by students aged 16 -19 who wish to pay concession fares on buses and trains. They are useful for a variety of other reasons too and now form part of our library distribution system. Students can order ID cards through the student admin office at a cost of \$8.50 per card.



New Yr 9 students listen to the class lists being called out on their first day.

## REAM OF PAPER

As a part of the stationary list, we included either a ream of paper, or a \$7 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. The fees envelope is included in this mail out for your convenience.

## READER-WRITERS

With the start of another year, we ask again for volunteers from the community to assist students throughout the year in the capacity of a reader–writer. This is a hugely rewarding task, where adults assist students with specific needs in completing their tests and examinations. Please contact **Mrs Margaret Dodds** for further information.

## LEARNER SUPPORT

It is very important to us that we have as much information as possible in order to assist all students to achieve to their potential. If your child has had learner assistance in the form of a teacher aide, resource teacher for learning and behaviour (RTLb) or a reader-writer, please make sure we are aware of this. If you have had specialist testing completed in the past, ie by a psychologist, speech therapist, Speld etc, please contact **Mrs Dodds** to ensure this information has been received.

## PICKING UP STUDENTS AFTER SCHOOL

A large number of parents are attempting to drive into the school to pick their children up at 3.15pm. At the same time we have four buses, taxis for students with special needs, cleaners and other staff attempting to enter and find a park. We just cannot cater for any extra cars coming into the school grounds at all.

Please arrange to pick your child up further down the road. Even when it is raining later on in the year your child will need to walk to the pre-appointed spot to meet you, rather than have cars come into the grounds.

We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause, but to stop the congestion and



for the safety of our students we must insist. **No parents are to come into the school grounds to pick up their children after school.**

### **BUS LANES**

Please do not use the bus access lane in the front of the school as an additional car park either before, during or after school. This delays the buses and could result in potential damage to your vehicle.

### **SOME REMINDERS**

**Lost Property:** We are already collecting items of lost property at the student administration office. Please ensure that all clothing items are named, including blazers. Also please remind students not to leave bags and clothing unattended during break time. It only takes one dishonest person an instant to take something.

**Discmans, walkmans ipods and cell phones:** Students are reminded that these items should be left at home. Whilst they are not banned, we cannot guarantee their safety at school and prefer that students leave these items in the safety of home.

**Uniform:** Backless sandals, leather running or skate shoes and sports shoes are not a part of the school uniform. If you are in doubt about the suitability of shoes please contact the college before purchasing these items. The girls' trousers need to be black, without detailing, and hemmed appropriately. As you may now be aware, the uniform shop is now situated in Downer St, Lower Hutt. All uniform items can be purchased there, so we no longer have items at school for sale.

**Jewellery:** Bling, dangling earrings and oversized rings are a safety hazard at school. We advise students to limit piercings to one pair of small earrings and leave other body piercing for outside school.

We do ask for your support in getting the school uniform right. Students who take pride in their appearance do well at school.

### **ROTARY and AFS EXCHANGES**

Students who are interested in the experience of studying abroad either in 2006 or 2007 can see Ms Leaman to pick up information regarding student exchanges. These range from 6 weeks to a full year, and in countries ranging from Australia to Europe.

### **HEALTH CLINIC** (by Annie Harcourt)

Happy New Year and welcome from the Health Clinic staff - Nurse Annie Harcourt and Doctor Sarah Painter.

The Health clinic is a place for students and their families to talk about and get advice, support and treatment for any health issue. The service is completely confidential and free, including any medication required. We are funded by the Hutt Valley District Health Board, and are part of **VIBE** youth health services in the Hutt Valley.

The clinic is open **Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 11.00am-2.30pm.**

Appointments to see the Nurse or Doctor can be made either by dropping in and leaving a request in the letter box at the clinic, or by phoning the clinic on 567-9850.

Up until a child is 18 years old they are entitled to free dental care. We have a list of Dentists in the Hutt Valley who provide free care under the Ministry of Health contract. You need to enrol with one of these Dentists to get the free treatment. Enrolment forms are available at the health clinic, from most dentists or from the district health board. Please contact the clinic if you would like more information.

There is also a free ear testing service for school aged children on the first and third

Wednesday of each month at the Taita Community Centre, in Farmer Crescent. This service operates from 2.00 to 4:00pm.

### **MEDICATION**

Any students who need medication during the school day must have the medication retained at the school office. Please refrain from allowing students to bring such items to school as this can cause problems for them if the medicine is not held in a secure place.

### **ADHD SUPPORT**

Earlier this month there was a meeting of a support group for parents of students affected by ADHD. If you are needing support for an ADHD child, or are interested in finding out more please contact Moira on 567 8786 for further information.

### **SPORTS**

By now all students should have received a booklet outlining the different sporting codes offered at Taita College. The final day for payment is Friday 24 February and in keeping with the schools "no pay no play" policy, students will be unable to play in next week's games if their fees are still unpaid. In most cases, registering for a sport incurs a cost so please make sure your child registers only if they are committed to playing.

We are always looking for parents and members of the local community to assist with coaching and management of teams from the college. If you are able to contribute, please telephone **Debbie Elliott** on 567 8728 x 244.

### **SOFTBALL**

The season has started well with our boys' team qualifying unbeaten at the regional secondary schools' qualifying tournament held at Fraser Park last weekend. They have now qualified to represent Hutt Valley at the National Secondary Schools' tournament to be held in Palmerston North at the end of March. Team members are; **Joel Taylor, Bronson Marino, Bradley**

**Shields, Jean Luc Daniels, AJ Tekira, Axton Daniels, Hiro Tanaka, Ricky Wardlaw, DJ Imo, Anton Marino, Corey Timu, Tyler Cathcart, Todd Wynne and Joel Buick**

### **SOCCER**

Congratulations to **Amy Collins** and **Sam Mercer** who have been selected for the National Under 17 World Cup Development squads this year.

### **GOLF**

The Taita College golf team participates in the College Sport Hutt Valley golf competition in the first and fourth terms of the school year. Games are played on a Monday afternoon and the team remains unbeaten. Congratulations to **Carl Tupangaia, Tipene Po Ching, Callum Stinson** and **Hiro Tanaka** for the sportsmanship and enthusiasm that they display when representing Taita College.

### **SPECIAL OLYMPICS**

**Caitlin Pampalone, Nicola Murphy** and **Rachel Juno** competed in this event and all three achieved placings in the events which they entered. Congratulations to these students.

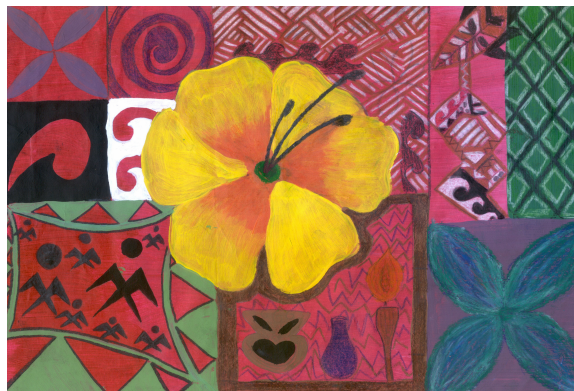
### **DATES FOR THE CALENDAR**

24 February	Sports Fees due
27 February	NCEA Parents Seminar 7.00 to 8:00pm in the hall
28 February	Yr 13 Parents Evening 7.00 to 8pm in the Staff room
10 March	Teacher Only Day
14 March	Wellington Athletics Competitions
17 March	Interim Reports
22 March	Parent interviews 4.00 to 6:30 Surnames A – L
23 March	Parent interviews 4.00 to 6:30 Surnames M – Z
28 – 31 March	Summer Tournament Week
6 April	Swimming Sports
12 April	School Photos
Early May	Financial Assistance Forms Due for NCEA

## **SCHOOL ROUTINES**

We ask that parents help with the smooth running of our school by:

- phoning the office if a student is to be absent, or if this is not possible, writing a note to explain the absence on their return.
- naming all property, especially garments likely to be taken off during the day.
  - ensuring students leave home in time to arrive at school on time.



## **CODE OF CONDUCT**

Staff and students have worked together to develop a code of conduct:

We have a right to:

- learn and teach without interruption
- learn and teach in a safe environment
- be treated with courtesy and respect
  - take pride in our achievements
  - receive help.

We have the responsibility to:

- allow others to learn
- keep our school a safe and healthy place
- treat others with courtesy and respect
- act in ways that build a good image
- keep our school tidy and attractive
  - serve others.

**This code balances the rights of each individual with the responsibility to the group.**