



25 July 2006

Dear Parents/Caregivers

We are now about to begin the third term. This is traditionally an exceptionally busy term for senior students. We have the major set of internal examinations starting in week seven (7 September – 15 September), followed by the internal NCEA summary for senior students at the end of the term.

Term 2 was another busy term, with a number of highlights which are included in this newsletter.

We are offering the opportunity for businesses from the local community to assist the College in this way from 2006. Please contact Trish Bullard if you are interested.

STAFF CHANGES

At the end of week four this term we farewell **Ms Joanna Leaman** who is leaving Taita College to take up a position as assistant principal at Tawa College. We thank her for her contribution to the school over the last five years, and wish her well at her new school.

We welcome **Ms Debbie Moore** as a new staff member in the mathematics department, and also **Mrs Awhina Hunt**, who takes over as the teacher of Te Reo. We also welcome **Mr Reed Jeffrey** who replaces **Ms Rachel Smith** while she is on maternity leave.

Replacing **Ms Henderson** as the year 11 dean we welcome **Mr Anthony Grace** to the deans' network.

Mrs Morgan-Ziorgas left on maternity leave at the end of week one, and her classes will be taken by **Mrs Agalawatta** until her return.

PRACTISE EXAMS

Exams will take place for Y11, Y12 and Y13 students from 7 - 15 September. All senior students will have study leave during this time. No senior classes will run during the exam period, with the exception of special tutorial sessions which are offered in some areas. The examination timetable is included in this mail-out, and students are expected to attend all

examinations for the subjects which they are taking. If an examination is missed, the student will be required to sit the assessment in their own time. However, any assessment completed after the set date may be ineligible for contribution toward an actual NCEA qualification, unless a medical or acceptable reason is given for missing the examination.

It is from this time on that we would like to suggest that part time jobs are carefully monitored to ensure students have sufficient time to complete the necessary study. After all, a focus on study today will pay large dividends for the students in the long run.

HOMEWORK CENTRE

We are trialling a homework centre for students from 3:30 to 4:30 Tuesdays and Thursdays. At this stage there has been limited response, which will mean that the centre will not run past the middle of this term. Staff and senior students are present to assist students with their problems, and this is a free service! Please encourage your child to make use of this, especially with Senior Exams only weeks away.

SCHOOL BALL

Senior students are busy arranging the school ball which has now been confirmed for 19 August, at the Duxton. We remind everyone that attendance at the ball is a privilege and not a right. Students wishing to attend the school ball will be required to complete a ticket application form and return it to the student office – tickets will be issued once the application has been approved. Students whose attendance, discipline or work records are less than satisfactory will be required to convince the Principal that they should be permitted to attend. The tickets will cost \$75, and this money is payable to the student office from today onwards.

CAREERS EXPO

Taita College has arranged for all year 11 & 13 students to attend the Careers Expo on Wednesday 16 August between 10:00am and 1:00pm.

Enclosed with this newsletter is a permission form which we request is signed and returned to Form Teachers by Tuesday 8 August.

Other students wishing to attend the Expo can do so on Wednesday evening from 5 – 8pm. We will not be giving permission for this during school time.

UNIFORM

The introduction of the new black school jersey for senior students was very popular and so we have now introduced a similar green jersey for the junior students. These are currently in stock at the uniform shop in Lower Hutt.

We are again concerned by the number of students who are not wearing their blazers to school. These are compulsory, and jackets are to be worn over the blazer, not instead of the blazer. We would appreciate it also if all uniform items could be clearly named. Please dissuade students from wearing non uniform attire as it will be taken off them if worn at school.

From time to time a student arrives at school unable to wear their uniform due to exceptional circumstances. Permits are **never** written for jeans. Other tidy trousers are accepted, however, where possible we do try to provide items of uniform from our second hand supply.

READER/WRITERS

Students who have a learning disability are able to access reader/ writer assistance for assessments. Taita College has a number of students requiring this assistance, particularly for examinations coming up. You need to be able to read clearly and fluently, write accurately and be compassionate. This is a voluntary

commitment, but a very rewarding experience. We would very much like to hear from you if you are interested in providing this assistance for our students. Please contact Margaret Dodds, HOD Learner support, if you would like more information.

UNIVERSITY INFORMATION

Universities are in the process of sending out information for the 2007 academic year. If you require any information re courses, halls of residence or scholarships please contact **Mrs Pye**.

NZQA FEES

These need to be paid to the **Executive Officer** by Friday 1st September at the latest. Please note that payment may be made by instalments. All students received a financial assistance form with their senior report; and this needs to be completed where applicable and sent to school as soon as possible - if financial assistance is approved, a new invoice will be sent home. Financial assistance also applies for families with more than one child studying NCEA (either at Taita or another school) - the maximum amount payable is \$200 per family. Otherwise the fee is \$75 per student.

NIGHT CLASSES

The Adult Community Education night classes are slowly increasing in both the number of classes and

the students. The coordinator **Gill Berridge** (Gill@taita.school.nz) welcomes queries about any class currently running or any ideas for classes.

This term the new cake icing class is proving to be very popular along with the quilting classes, computer courses and social dancing. Floral art classes are already being booked for Term 4. It is a pity that to date we cannot quite muster enough students for a Spanish class.

SCIENCE FAIR.

Last term we had a very successful junior school science fair with both yr 9 and 10 entering close to one hundred entries. The work was of high standard and a vast improvement on last year's work. It was good to see a number of parents come in and have a look at the displays and supporting their child's effort.

The following students came in the top four for their year level.

Year 9

Bacteria fights on

Ashley, Bianca and Georgia

Transition lenses

Mathew Nauschutz

Fruit powered light bulbs

Mark Sanhnikone, Brandon Vaaulu

Year 10

Catapult

Sarah Segessemen, Roshie Handke

Inclined plane

Sarah Alabaster Melinda Lord

The Toy car

Adam Ellis

Absorbency

Amiee Wicht and Marichelle Daniels

PowerPoint presentations

Mouse trap powered cars

Sandra Ivanov and Hayley Young

Well done to these students.

SUBJECT CHOICES FOR 2007

All students who are returning to school in 2007 will need to select their intended options by Friday 22 September. Students will receive their option choice sheets on Tuesday 5 September. To assist parents in helping students with this task, we have an **Option Choice Evening** planned for **Wednesday 20 September** in the school hall. At this time, HODs and TICs will be available to speak with parents on the best pathways for students. The completed forms are due in to deans by Friday 22 September. Please encourage students to give their option choices serious thought over the next few weeks, and to discuss their choices with their teachers.

PROJECT K



Our latest Project K group (year 10) returned from their 18 day wilderness expedition on 20 July. They experienced the New Zealand winter at its best in the Tararua Ranges. Cold southerlies, rain, snow etc were all integral to the experience. A photo evening was held with parents mid expedition showing the activities and the scenery the students had experienced.



Our group was reported as being the first ever in the Project K Hutt Valley group to have all completed the bridge swing. The group is now undertaking their community challenge program and will then move into the mentoring program.

The group would like to thank the Project K team for giving them the opportunity to take part and all the liaison staff at Taita College.

BASTILLE DAY



The French Department hosted early Bastille Day celebrations on the last Thursday of Term 2. The French national day on 14 July is important because the storming of the Bastille prison, and subsequent guillotining of King Louis and Queen Marie Antoinette, marking the beginning of the French Revolution. A morning tea for the Year 10 French class was followed by lunchtime activities, which included a paper Eiffel Tower making competition (won by **Mike Ludlam** and **Alexis Dykman**), sampling of French pastries, puppet theatre, and a mock beheading.

Thanks to the Senior Executive for their help in running this event and to all the students who participated. Vive la France!

FEATS OF FANCY

The Footnote Dance Company visited us and took a workshop for NCEA dance students. Director of Footnote Dance, Deirdre Tarrant, places huge importance on the interface between students and professional artists. "Meeting and working with young role models who are outstanding in their field such as the company dancers has a very large impact on students as they not only see highly skilled performance but they develop their own technical skills and composition ideas alongside professionals" *Cutting the Mustard* was the repertoire dance that the students saw and then they developed their own choreographies. *Cutting the Mustard* is danced to music by Craig Denham, Recloose and Break Co-op, all New Zealand musicians. The dance takes a very physical look at the subjective assessment of excellence and at activities that we value in society. Stepping up to the mark and doing our best, achieving goals that we set as well as those set by our lives. There was a lot of energy, imagination, teamwork and very positive results performed at the end of the session. Rachel Anstey, the dance teacher at Taita College, reported excellent feedback from her students. "It was really inspiring!"



Taita College students dancing with Footnote dancers, Justine Cooper and Hannah Stannard. From left **Aroha Samuel, Laura Mackay, Justine Cooper, Hannah Stannard. Front Patricia Goffe and Milica Legotich.**

TEXT BULLYING

A survey of our students was taken last term to ascertain the extent to which text bullying was an issue at Taita College. The results of the survey have now been collated. Twenty three percent of students indicated that they had been subject to inappropriate text messages. When asked if they had told someone, a friend, a teacher or parent, about the message(s), 76% indicated that they had done so. When asked if the message(s) had stopped as a result 82% reported that the message(s) had ceased.

This overwhelming result is a message to our school community – if a student tells an adult, and the culprit is spoken to, generally the messages stop.

Enclosed with this newsletter is a NET Safe pamphlet which we hope will assist you in discussing this issue with your child.

REPORT EVENING

My thanks to the parents who attended the report afternoons toward the end of last term. Teachers appreciate the opportunity to discuss a student's progress with parents and it is invaluable in ensuring the needs of students are being met at school and at home. If you have a concern, please do contact us so the matter can be addressed.

OPEN EVENING

Our open evening for parents of prospective students went well. We had 100 parents with many of these from out of zone. The Board has set the year 9 intake for 2007 at 190. I thank the year 9 students and senior executive members who acted as guides and answered questions from parents about the school.

FRENCH TRIP

Fourteen year 9 students headed into Wellington with **Mrs Tollenaar** on 22 June to explore the French Cultural Centre, called the Alliance Francaise, and to experience French culinary delights at the Bordeaux Bakery in Thorndon.



Students completed a number of activities including a quiz about France, French culture and Francophonie (French-speaking communities)

Having had a taste of France, they now look forward to the next French trip – maybe Tahiti or Nouvelle Calédonie; who knows!”

Congratulations year 9 French students on a great half year's work, which was worth celebrating.

VICTORIA UNIVERSITY SCIENCE EXPERIENCE

During the holidays five year eleven students attend the Victoria Science Experience. This is a three day workshop that exposes students to a whole range of Science activities and experiments that would not be usually available in a school laboratory. The students were John Rayner-

Whittaker, Tim Mulqueen, Rebecca Lord, Mele Tonga and Imad Ahmed. It was great to see students prepared to sacrifice holiday time to challenge themselves. These students came back enthused and fired up. We were indeed fortunate to get these students on this workshop with no cost to the school or the students. It was fully funded by Victoria University and is an ideal opportunity for students who are keen and interested in extending themselves in science.

CONGRATULATIONS

An ex-student **Bronson Marino** was part of the New Zealand U19 Men's Development Softball team which won both the Friendship series and Test series against Australia in Sydney last month. Well done.

Renee Stone-Nepia represented the Hutt Valley in Darts in Christchurch earlier this month, coming runner up in the pairs section of the competition. Ex-student **Krystal Daly** took out both the singles and pairs championships.

James Melville took out the winner of the best vocals award for the Smokefreerockquest last week. He is the lead singer for Kreaflly.

WINTER SPORTS UPDATE

Most teams have just begun their championship rounds for the winter season.

Hockey

Both teams played well at the recent Stratford exchange with the boys losing narrowly in a tight game. The first round has gone well and we hope they can retain their title as winners of their grade this season.

The girls' team have fundraised to attend the secondary schools' winter tournament but unfortunately, for a number of reasons, have had to withdraw. Any funds raised will be put towards next year's tournament.

Rugby

There has been a mixed bag of results for our teams to date. After the first round our U75 and U55 teams have maintained their division 1 status. We hope that the weather will improve so that more games can be played as many teams have missed several games in a row and it may be difficult to play through to semi-finals in each grade. If this is the case then the top two teams on points in each grade will become the winners and runners-up.

Basketball

We are very pleased that, despite a drop off in players, our Premier boys' team has remained in the top

division. They have had one win and two losses in their championship round including an exciting game against top ranked Wellington College and a win over Hutt Valley High school. The team will be playing in the NZ Secondary Schools' Basketball Premierships during tournament week. The tournament is being hosted at the Walter Nash Stadium by Hutt Valley Basketball this year so there will be lots of opportunity to watch some great basketball.

The senior girls and junior boys teams are currently second on the points table in their divisions. The junior girls had a great run through the first round and are equal leaders of division 2 along with St Oran's college.

Soccer

The senior girls team is well clear of the field in Division 2 with 24 points on the table and the junior girls' have had three wins from five games to put them second at this stage.

The senior boys are also leading the points table and we are hopeful that they can go all the way to winning the grade this year. We are currently waiting to see if they have been accepted for a winter tournament this year.

The junior boys team has struggled along this season despite everyone's best efforts.

Well done to the coach and those players and who do make the commitment to turn up to each game. Too many players are not making it to the games and this makes for a less than rewarding experience for the boys who do make the effort.

On that note it has been very disappointing this season that quite a number of students who have registered for various teams are not making the effort to turn up to practices or games. Teams are entered based on the names given at the time of sports registration and coaches allocated to teams. Draws are produced by College Sport, coaches take practices and the sports coordinator tries to make sure that everyone gets the resources and information needed for the games to go ahead. If players drop out during the season it makes it difficult for all those involved in this organisation. It makes it hard for coaches, who give up their precious time, and the other members of the team to stay motivated and enjoy their games when they are not sure how many will be there each week.

We would like to encourage all players to register for teams with the understanding that they must be committed to all practices and games for a full season.

Netball

During the holidays **Uaea Apu'ula, Alicia Colledge, and Lichelle de Boer**, made the starting line-up of the final for the Hutt Valley U17 secondary schools tournament against XXX at Napier. This is the first time HV has been in the final and congratulations to Alicia on being selected in the tournament team.

SUPPORTERS

We love to have a big crowd of supporters at our sports fixtures and our players appreciate the positive comments and cheering made from the sideline. Unfortunately at some games the emotions can run high and we would like to reinforce our parents/caregivers and supporters fairplay policy.

We hope that our supporters can show restraint even when provoked by others and turn away from any conflict.

HOUSE NEWS

Year 9's battle it out for House points

While the rest of the school finds a warm spot in the student cafeteria at lunchtime, on Monday's and Friday's Year 9 students can be found in the BRC battling it out for House points in games of indoor hockey and indoor basketball. With the event organised and run by the

year 13 Physical Education class, many of whom are House Leaders, the competition has been earnest. The Houses winning through to the finals will be announced in the next few weeks with the points won by the year 9 students likely to make a real difference to which House wins the House Shield in 2006.

The start of the third term also signals the final term of the 2006 House Competition. In addition to the finals of the year 9 PE Challenge, the other events that will determine whether Bear House can maintain its current lead and put together back to back wins of the House Shield, are the House Spelling Bee Challenge, scheduled for week 3, and the House Finale in the final week of the term. Don't forget to check out the next newsletter for an update on how the Narraway, Charles and Jamieson Houses are getting on in trying to chase down the Bear House lead.

PART TIME WORK

Vacuum Cleaner Specialists in Woburn are keen to employ a student for after school work. This involves both clerical and cleaning duties. If interested please see Mrs Pye for contact details.

IMPORTANT DATES

14 August	Winter tournament week
16 August	Careers Expo
19 August	School Ball
5 September	Option Choice Forms Distributed
7 September	Mock exams begin
18 September	Senior students return to classes
20 September	Option Choice Evening Sports Photos
22 September	Senior NCEA Summaries Posted Option Choices for 2007 due in from all students except year 13.. End of Term
12 October	Senior Report Evening

Notices:

TE AROHA COLLEGE

50th JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

23-25 March 2007

Past pupils and Staff – Contact

lheron@tearoha-college.school.nz

S R Candasamy
Principal