



Taita College

May 2007

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Dear Parents and Caregivers

Over the next few weeks staff will be writing the mid-year reports for all students. These are scheduled to be posted home at the end of May, with **Parent Teacher afternoons on 19 and 20 June.**

On the topic of study, it is not uncommon for students to claim to parents that they have 'no' homework or that they have 'finished' it. It is probable that most students have considerable work to finish, but that they have not remembered it as a result of their being disorganised. The alternative scenario is that the student 'cannot be bothered'. The system of NCEA expects students to work consistently and well throughout the entire school year.

A handy hint for parents is to ask to see the homework book or diary, in order to check what has been entered. It should reveal tests, assessment and assignment due dates at the very least.

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We will host an Open Evening on **Thursday 7 June** for parents of students intending to enrol at Taita College in 2008. 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 through the new technology block and computer classrooms to the hall to view student displays and supper will be provided in the student centre afterwards. Student executive members will act as hosts for the evening.

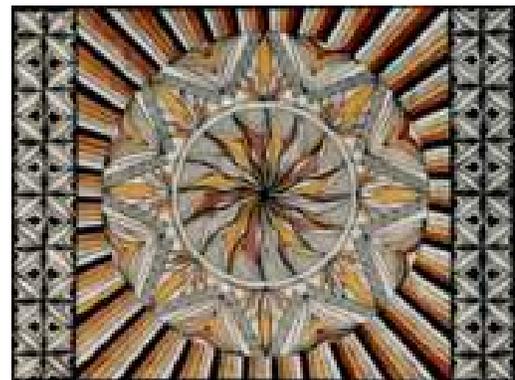
Mentoring Programme

Every Tuesday at nine-thirty in the morning fifteen senior Pacific Island students from Year 11 to Year 13 make their way to college in their own time to attend the Victoria University mentoring programme. This is hosted by Everard Halbert, a law student at Victoria University, who takes the hour-long sessions that involve both motivational and informative topics, as well as practical exercises.



The objective of this training is to enable our senior Pacific Island students to navigate their educational journey so as to achieve their full potential. The students who did the course last year - and are carrying on with it this year - have said that they found the course to be very encouraging and instrumental in widening their horizons to understand the options that are available to them.

The programme also organises social events that allow Pacific Island students from the Wellington area to connect, to discuss experiences and encourage one another to persevere with their goals. The benefits of the experience are that this facilitates students being able to buddy up once they get to university. This training is a wonderfully supportive tool for our Pacific Island students in that it empowers them to commit to, and continue with, their studies at tertiary level.



SADD Conference

The 'Students against driving drunk' North Island conference was held 19—22 April at St Patrick's College Silverstream. Taita College representatives Sara Samuelu and May Tuliloa attended the three-day training and are now positively influencing other Taita College students on the issue of drink driving.

The SADD programme aims to focus on high risk areas for youth drink driving as its primary target group. This programme supports schools in areas within New Zealand and provides greater opportunities for student membership, such as a passive website membership where students can access information and tools to develop and improve SADD programmes run within schools.

I believe SADD is working well alongside student representatives all over New Zealand. The programme is life changing and life saving and it raises awareness amongst students by sharing useful skills and ideas in an interactive way. The knowledge that Taita and ex-Taita College students have been lost already means the futility of past accidents ought to be a reminder for the future to keep our roads safe and always have a 'sober driver'.

SADD 'believes in the capacity of our youth to take action and to create change'. Our mission is simple—to reduce road deaths and injuries from drink driving by promoting positive behaviour changes in 13 – 17 year olds.

May Tuliloa



Supreme Art Experience

Henry Ene and Kimberley Carlton have been awarded places on the Tautai Contemporary Pacific Arts Workshop, which was set up by Fatu Fehu'u for emerging artists. They will attend the studio workshops from 21-25 May and will be tutored by artists such as Micheal Tuffery, Dagmar Dyke and Fatu Fehu'u. These artists are prescribed for study by NCEA and normally seen in art books on New Zealand artists. Only a very few top students are admitted to this workshop so we look forward to hearing and sharing their experiences.



Tech block update

There has been a complete refurbishment of the school's workshops, which included the cooking room being moved into the new technology block. At the start of Term One this year the college took possession of the new cooking and graphics rooms.

Students were able to move into the refurbished wood and metalwork areas at the start of Term Two. A feature of these areas is the separate machine area and the creation of additional new space. Extra storage rooms have been added, which will facilitate better organisation of materials and space for students' work.

The contractors are on target to complete the workshop and facilities fully by the end of May. The final area to be completed will include office space, new students' toilets and the creation of a senior seminar room.

It is the intention of the Board of Trustees to have **an official opening** as part of our 50th Jubilee celebrations to be held over Labour weekend. See details on the website.

Our website—www.taita.school.nz — you can access information at any time, or students can study online.

Model UN

It was quite an early morning start and we met at the railway station and walked to the cable car, then from there to Victoria University Student Union buildings.

Our designated country names were set out for us in long rows of desks and in alphabetical order just like in the real United Nations. We were the proud delegates for a range of countries including Bangladesh, Italy and Kazakhstan! Delegates were split up into two groups for the first resolution, which was about weapons of mass destruction (WMDs), so that we got used to the processes and points of order and so that more people had a chance to speak.

We continued to debate our second resolution as a whole group after an excellent lunch. The second resolution was about Fair Trade: its limits and restrictions. After hours of debating and voting on amendments, the resolution did not pass. We all learned a lot about how the United Nations works and were made more aware of the prominent issues we are facing on an international scale right now. Our thanks to Mrs Mullan for her support. The next step is Wellington in June for the National UN and the Hague in September for the International Model UN. Anna Tregaskis



Student Youth Reps

Susana Malaki has been chosen to be on the Activate Youth Parliament set up by the Ministry of Youth Affairs. Our congratulations on this exciting appointment.



Rotary Leadership Programme



Mani Tuki and Dylan Hemopo were selected to go on a Rotary Scholarship Leadership Training Day.

Aoraki Programme – 2007

Aoraki is an enrichment and mentoring programme that furthers the knowledge and attainment of individual students.

Axton Daniels: Physical Education (PE)

Ellen Jackman: Academic Excellence
(2nd in Year 9)

Ariana Kauri: PE, Academic Potential

Vincent Parry: PE, Academic and
Leadership Potential

Jamal Peneha: Design skills and
Academic Potential

Penina Stephenson: Dance and potential
in PE, Leadership

Brandon Vaaulu: Academic Excellence
(1st in Year 9), Art and
design

Bianca Waikato: PE, Academic Potential

Carlin Wakeham: Drama

Isaac Wharewera: Music and Artistic
Excellence

Adult Community Education (ACE)



We *know* which classes are going well: social/ Latin dancing, Quilting, cake icing, floral art, wax card art, stained glass and Excel computing.

What we *don't* know is which classes you would like to attend, but we don't know it.

Contact us:
gill@taita.school.nz



**Pride through Success-
Honour through Service**

Anzac Day—Hutt

Taita College was represented at the central Lower Hutt Anzac Day ceremony by Mr Hawke, Amy Jackman, Head Girl and Mark Vonder, Deputy Head Boy. The ceremony was held at the Lower Hutt Cenotaph in fine weather.



The event was a moving one as each year fewer and fewer war veterans arrive to commemorate significant war service during the South African War, World War I, World War II, Korean War, Malayan emergency, Vietnam and recent peacekeeping initiatives.

More and more relatives are arriving in recognition of the sacrifice that these men and women made during these wars. This acknowledgement is also for the post-war period because of mental and physical injuries suffered as a consequence of war and the impact this has subsequently had on their families.

Our head students conducted themselves impeccably and laid the school's wreath on the cenotaph, pausing respectfully before returning to their seats.

IN REMEMBRANCE



Anzac Day—Stokes Valley

At the Stokes Valley Returned Services Association clubrooms our college was represented at this Anzac Day commemoration by Mr Candasamy, Principal and staff with Taka Kauri, Head Boy, and Sara Samuelu, Deputy Head Girl. It was impressive to see other students were there voluntarily in school uniform with James Tunnell and Alana Ellison proudly wearing their grandfathers' war medals.

Our students' behaviour was exemplary. The ceremony was very moving.



Science Fair

The Science Fair is a good way of raising the profile of science in the community as well as recruiting parent help, support and involvement with the projects of their young people.



Read the following extract as an example of what could be achieved.

Students' juicy discovery lands Ribena producers in court

“KERRY O'BRIEN: And now to a story about the power of persistence, a story that began as a science project at a New Zealand high school and ended up embarrassing one of the world's biggest pharmaceutical and health care companies. GlaxoSmithKline has been forced to admit it has misled consumers on both sides of the Tasman about the Vitamin C content of Ribena blackcurrant fruit drinks. Tomorrow in Auckland, the company will face charges brought by New Zealand's corporate watchdog, and a fine of up to \$3 million. A sour taste potentially for GlaxoSmithKline, but a sweet victory for the teenagers the company tried to fob off three years ago. The ABC's New Zealand correspondent Peter Lewis reports:

ANNA DEVATHASAN: We were in a juice phase. We were, like, let's test juice for our science fair, just because it's fun.

JENNY SUO: We never did it seriously

ANNA DEVATHASAN: We were playing around and just stumbled upon it.

PETER LEWIS: Like a lot of consumers, these kids had grown up assuming Ribena was chock-full of Vitamin C. The syrup based fruit drink has been around in one form or another for 70 years, its nutritional and health claims unchallenged and, apparently, untested until three years ago.

ANNA DEVATHASAN: We chose our topic by chance. We did everything by chance and suddenly it just came up.”

Australian Broadcasting Corporation Broadcast (ABC) 26 March 2007 Reporter: Peter Lewis

GlaxoSmithKline recently filmed and aired a television and print advertisement to state its position on the Vitamin C issue.



So Taita College, here's our chance to discover something REALLY interesting!!!

Circus Challenge

On Tuesday 24 April Taita College was fortunate to host two excellent performers from Circus Challenge Australia. They came here to work with our junior dance and drama students to introduce them to a new world of movement and performance ideas, and with our senior dance, drama and level two NCEA physical education students to help motivate them and send them on the path of 'clowning' their way through the achievement standards that they will be challenged with soon.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the explosive, energetic workshops and we are very grateful to Clint Hawke for setting up this wonderful experience for our students!



Stage Challenge 2007

We are only six weeks out from our performance date at Queens Wharf Event Centre and things couldn't be more hectic! There is a great turn out to all rehearsals and we look forward to a fantastic evening where once again one hundred Taita College students will make their mark on the Performing Arts stage!

The confirmed final date is Friday 22 June and tickets have now gone on sale at the student office at Taita College. They will be on sale until 4 June then tickets will be released to the public via Ticketek, although the seats will not be as good! Prices are \$26.50 for adults and \$21.50 for children under twelve.

We look forward to having a great support crew as always and we'll see you all when the curtain goes up!

Old Boy Success

Kevin McManus has been elected to be a Fellow of IPENZ for his contribution to the advancement of engineering knowledge and practice, specifically in recognition of his contribution to advancing pile foundation design.

He currently chairs the New Zealand Geotechnical Society. He also chairs a working party considering geotechnical matters related to the updated New Zealand Loadings Standard.

We salute his fine achievement.

GO-4-12 YOUTH ADVENTURE RACE

Daniel Hardie, Jason Hodge, Sam Morrissey and Warrick Cocker competed in the Go-4-12 Youth Adventure race held on 28 April in Hastings with the assistance of Henry Ballantyne (HOD PE) as chief support crew assisted by Pip and Mary Huffadine.

This 12 hour event required a high level of physical fitness and some technical ability with regard to mountain biking, kayaking, rope work (ie climbing and abseiling), map reading and orienteering. It was important that students knew how to repair a bike tyre in case of a flat en route.

The students needed to train by combining both running and biking every second day to build or maintain their fitness prior to this event.

The day started with breakfast at 4.30am and the race commenced at 5.30am in wet drizzly conditions and finished at 5.30pm. In between, the extremely challenging events were many and varied.

Although not placed in the top three, the boys showed considerable spirit and determination to complete this event and we are proud of them.

Daniel Hardie, Jason Hodge, Mr Ballantyne,
Sam Morrissey Warrick Cocker





Swimming Sports

On the last day of Term One, the annual Taita College swimming sports were held at Naenae pool between 9am and 12.15pm, 5 April. Eighty-two keen students involved themselves in an exciting and enjoyable event.

There was a staunch 'chant-off' at the pool, particularly between Bear and Narraway House, and the intensity built throughout the day to reach a crescendo with the pyjama relay at the end of the meet.

It was an excellent chance for the swimmers of Taita College to shine, and also an excellent chance for all others to swim alongside those who have put hours and hours of time into their chosen sport. On the same note, it was superb to see students who may not be future 'world champions' slogging their way down the pool for their houses. Congratulations to all those who found themselves out of their comfort zone on the day!

Sarai Hemara, once again, was a stand out performer, as were Kylie Vidot and Bradley Shields, with big totals next to their names at the end of the day. The senior boys title was so closely contested that you could hear *rapid inhalation through the teeth* around the poolside whenever the three main contenders were close to a 'photo finish' on a number of races. Congratulations to all of the swimmers who made it into the top three in their respective grades.

Swimming House results:

- 1st Narraway 658 (including 166 participation points)
- 2nd Charles 556 (including 160 participation points)
- 3rd Bear 278 (including 60 participation points)
- 4th Jamieson 250 (including 60 participation points)

It goes to show that performance AND participation are the desired combination if you are going to win the House competition in these types of events. Well done to Narraway on your victory!



Champions

Our Taita College swimming champions for 2007 are:

U14 Girls

- 1 Kylie Vidot 74 (Charles)
- 2= Ashley Cole 40 (Narraway)
- 2= Abby van der Burg 40 (Narraway)
- 4 Kayla Bedlington 30 (Bear)

U14 Boys

- 1 Jordan Taurima 48 (Jamieson)
- 2 Logan Blackburn 34 (Jamieson)
- 3 Tommy McLaughlin 28 (Narraway)

U16 Girls

- 1 Sarai Hemara 60 (Narraway)
- 2 Ellen Jackman 42 (Charles)
- 3 Megan Render 30 (Charles)

U16 Boys

- 1 Bradley Shields 70 (Narraway)
- 2 Sam Brodie 30 (Jamieson)
- 3 Michael Kainga 28 (Bear)

U19 Girls

- 1 Sara Samuelu 28 (Bear)
- 2 Lauren Lum 26 (Jamieson)

U19 Boys

- 1 Stevan Stojanovich 36 (Jam.)
- 2 Jason Hodge 32 (Bear)
- 3 Josh van der Burg 28 (Charles)



What sticks in the mind is the level of participation from those who put themselves forward, the level of support that students gave each other throughout the day, and also the level of enjoyment that was obvious around the pool. We would strongly encourage all students to continue to get involved in the swimming sports next year, so that it continues to feature as an important and fun aspect of the school calendar.

For the second half of the House competition the current points stand as follows:

Charles House—still in the lead on 2,915 points; **Bear** House back up to second placing on 2,881 points; **Narraway** House on 2,595 points and **Jamieson** House on 2157. With just over 10,000 House points still available, it still looks like anyone's competition to me.

Netball

Congratulations to the following girls, who have been selected for the Hutt Valley U17 Secondary Schools' Netball team:

Alicia Colledge
Lichelle de Boer
Rachel Savelio
Margaret Scott



Out of the 8 girls who were selected, 4 are from Taita College. Uaea Apu'ula's potential selection is dependent on her recovery from a knee injury.

CROSS COUNTRY – 2007

After two very soggy days in the Hutt Valley, warm sunshine graced the day of the annual cross country, which was held throughout periods 4 and 5 on the afternoon of Friday, 4 May.

Students made the choice to either compete in the challenging championship course, potentially to gain large numbers of House points, or to take part in the less arduous non-championship course which earned every finisher 5 points for their House. All students were required to run up the old road behind the school to specified points, and this is a steep and unrelenting climb, particularly for those who are in the U16 age group or older. Once again our U19 Boys were challenged to make the very top of the road for both laps of the championship course.

There was a buoyant atmosphere throughout the afternoon, with students enjoying the sun and chanting for their Houses.

This year, the school assembled on the small field next to the BRC, and this situation helped all students to see the runners on different parts of the course. Runners could then be 'cheered on' as they passed the crowd, giving them the boost that they needed to finish strongly for their Houses.

It was obvious that one or two senior championship runners had 'navigation issues' as they keenly tried to negotiate a third lap of the course, but they were helped on their way by course marshals near the finish line. The important learning point here is to read the advertised map and course instructions before running!

Congratulations to all competitors, particularly those who made the extra effort to compete in the championship course. It is a 'real' cross country, involving two steep sections demanding high levels of fitness, concentration and determination.

A big thank you to all staff and students for your help with the running of this event. Anything that promotes physical activity is worth the effort, and any opportunity for students to take part in these types of events helps students to think about their levels of personal fitness.



Cross Country– results

Results:

U19 Boys

Sam Morrissey (Bear)
Jason Hodge (Bear)
Daniel Watson (Narraway)

U19 Girls

Alicia Colledge (Charles)
Rebekah Reid (Bear)
Connie Stedman (Bear)

U16 Boys

Norman Donaldson (Bear)
Adam du Chateau (Narraway)
Jared Crouch (Charles)

U16 Girls

Sarai Hemara (Narraway)
Ellen Jackman (Charles)
Megan Render (Charles)

U14 Boys

Tim Stannard (Bear)
Matthew Stannard (Bear)
Jarrad Winter (Bear)

U14 Girls

Sapphire Cavie (Bear)
Zoe Sargent (Bear)



Sixth form Coaching

In Term One our sixth form NCEA students went out and about to coach juniors at Avalon Intermediate and Tui Glen Primary School. This was a great opportunity for our students to learn what it is like from the other side - that is being a teacher rather than being taught.! The sixth formers offered a variety of sports including basketball, touch, rugby, hockey and netball.

Students were very well prepared with warm-ups drills and of course games. Everyone was active and this benefited not only our students in terms of experience but also helped towards NCEA credits for Level Two physical education. This was the first time seniors had done this at Tui Glen and it was a great success with many students signing up for winter sports that they had not previously played.

A big thank you to the principals of Avalon and Tui Glen for enabling us to do this and we look forward to repeating the experience in 2008.



Softball— NZ Champs!

Taita College was acknowledged by the media to have overcome 'big odds' to win the boys' national softball title. Huge thanks go to Mr Nigel Shields who arranged the accommodation at an army cadet hall in Napier. This enabled the team to manage the cost of attending the tournament.

The team was coached by Aaron Hare, a former pupil who played for the school in 2004. He has been a great coach and was ably supported by Linda Byrne, Assistant Coach, who coached the school team for the previous four years. Many thanks also go to the Mrs Elliott, Sports' Coordinator for her hard work.

It was a great achievement to beat a school on its home turf with the whole of the opposition school students there supporting their team.

Prominent former student Darryl Marino was delighted too, on two fronts. He had played in the 1982 and 1983 teams that won the title for those years and he was also proud of his son Bronson who was a team member in the latest victory.

The team played well throughout the tournament and soon became the firm favourites to play in the finals. Their only loss during the round robin play was to Hastings Boys High School, (the school

winners for the previous two tournaments), that they then had to face in the final.

The final was very exciting with the score remaining at 1-1 until the last innings. Eventually our team won through beating Hastings Boys in a thrilling tie-breaker finish. It is exciting that most of the team will return next year.

In a series of coincidences the title was presented to Taita by Naomi Shaw, a softball legend who also attended Taita College. Naomi's late brother Willie played in the 1983 Taita team that last won the title.

Taita had six boys selected in the tournament teams: Hiro Tanaka, Bronson Marino and DJ Imo were selected for the Rest Team; Bradley Shields, Axton Daniels and Corey Timu were selected for the Tournament Team.



Back: Bradley Shields, Ricky Wardlaw, Tyler Cathcart, Caleb Campbell, Jarrod Burnett, Nicholas Shields, DJ Imo, Axton Daniels, Cory Timu, Linda Byrne, Aaron Hare

Softball snippet

Taita College has a long and proud tradition in softball as evidenced from our latest national victory.

Let us also congratulate former Taita College student Tyson Byrne from Hutt Valley, who has been selected to make his New Zealand Community Trust Black Sox debut on tour in Canada in June as part of a 17 man squad full of experience. He was named by NZCT Black Sox coach Eddie Kohlhase.



Cricket Snapshot

Congratulations also to current student Craig James who was selected to be part of a Cricket Wellington Under 16 Boys representative team that will travel to Sydney during the next summer holidays.

The team will play a number of games against First XI teams from Sydney schools and New South Wales age group representative teams.

1st XV Pre-Season Tournament

On 17 and 18 April the first fifteen participated in a pre-season tournament run by the Petone Rugby Club. This was not only an opportunity for our boys to get ready for the season, but also a chance for some of the younger players to trial for the team. There was an excellent level of commitment with more than twenty players turning up each day to compete. This was especially impressive owing to the fact this was in the holidays as well.

The first game was tough as many had not taken to the field since last season, but the game was close right to the end. The best performance of the tournament was against Wainuiomata who had beaten us two weeks before. In a stunning finish with two late tries to Michael Kainga the boys came back to steal the game in its dying seconds. Another outstanding player was Olomaene Tago who carried off the 'player of the tournament' with some great defence and explosive runs.

Thanks to everyone who turned up to help out and good luck to the boys for the season.





Taita College

WINNER OF THE \$500 VOUCHER

CONGRATULATIONS to Judy Young who has won the **\$500 Westfield voucher** for paying her children's activity fee before 1 May 2007. This will be presented at the next available assembly.

Thank you to all the families who have paid their fees and donation. Your donation assists us in many ways, including the purchase of library books, subsidising the school van and yearbook, sporting and cultural activities within the school, prizes for prizegiving, photocopying and extra materials across the curriculum - all areas where we can inject a little extra funding that is outside the normal scope of the government grant.

Your donation will help us to provide the quality of education your child deserves, and is very much appreciated. Please remember the school depends on your financial support.

You make payments to the school at any time and we will issue you with a receipt to claim a rebate from Inland Revenue.

Legal Absence Requirements

The Ministry of Education (MOE) has changed the absentee process to better keep track of truancy.

- > If a telephone message is made prior to the absence, the *reason* for the absence must be stated: sick, family bereavement, medical appointment.
- > When the student returns to school, a note is required detailing why the student has been absent. If no note is received, then we are required to note the absence as TRUANT.

Coming Up

4 June	Queen's Birthday
7 June	Open Evening
17/18 June	Stratford High visit
19/20 June	Parent Evening
22 June	Teacher-only day
27 June	Year 8 open pm
29 June	End of Term 2
16 July	Start Term 3

