



Issue 3
June
2009

Taita College

Newsletter

Dear parents, caregivers and members of the Taita College community

You will have recently seen our NCEA results reported in the paper. This year, for the first time, NZQA is reporting the results differently as compared with previous years. The new system is fairer in that it only takes into account the results of students who were in courses which enabled them to achieve the required number of credits needed to gain the qualification at each level. This excludes students who were involved in two-year NCEA Level 1 courses, as well as those who were involved in a combination of Level 1 and Level 2 courses of study. In effect, it means that these multi-level study students are only included in the overall results for the one level of study which they could get, instead of being included in both level statistics.



We are pleased with our Level 2 and 3 results as compared with other decile 3 schools, and in some cases when compared with the national norms. Our NCEA Level 1 results were very disappointing and it confirms our findings that the literacy capability of students on arrival at the college is not of a level which enables them to be fully prepared for NCEA two years later. It is for this reason that we are part of a literacy cluster initiative working in partnership with our intermediate schools and primary schools. A further difficulty exists because we do not have a fully trained, qualified TE Reo teacher which severely restricts the ability of our students to meet the requirement of achieving 8 literacy credits through either Te Reo or English. We hope to remedy this situation for the start of the 2010 school year.

All departments are scrutinising the course content and standards being offered to NCEA Level 1 students in order to improve the levels of attainment of our students studying at this level.

The same pattern which emerged in previous years occurred again in 2008. It is confirmed by the evidence of the results which clearly show that the longer students stay at school the more likely they are to gain NCEA qualifications if they apply themselves whilst being here. The research also confirms that students who do stay at school longer and who apply themselves are more likely to hold secure employment positions, earn better salaries, are happier and make better parents as compared with those who leave school earlier. The crucial requirement is for those who do stay on at school for longer to apply themselves constructively and meaningfully.

With your encouragement and support for your sons/daughters and for their teachers, we can achieve better outcomes for our students. Ensuring that you take an interest in their school work and that they arrive punctually at school at the start of the day is a good beginning.

Saty Candasamy

Contents

Visa expiry dates	2
Important Dates	
Success	3
Cactus/ AFS	
Invitation	4
Careers Trip	5
Tuakana Teina	
Rotary Leaders	6
Health alert	
Basketball/	
Netball Reps	7
Video Competition	
Top Batter	8

Pride through Success
Honour through Service

Visa Expiry Dates

We wish to alert parents and caregivers of migrant and refugee students to renew their student visas **well ahead** of the expiry dates.

It has come to our attention that some of the student visas are now only viable for a year. The college is not allowed to have students enrolled who do not have current visas.

This means that some of our students are losing valuable education time away from school while waiting for their visas to arrive. The process takes a considerable time to process.

You need to apply for new visas at least 3 months before they are due. Please check the expiry date on your child's student visa.



Anzac Day: Some of the Boys' Class 2009 with Kimberley Gill, Trevor Williams and Hamish Buddle.



PRIDE THROUGH SUCCESS

- ♣ Both Jarrod Burnett and Yordan McCahill went away with the Hutt Valley U17 Boys Basketball Representative side that finished 6th in the tournament.
- ♣ Kahu Elliott, Ake Isaia-Hapimana and Urukeiha Isaia-Hapimana were selected for the HV U15 secondary school netball team.
- ♣ Bianca Waikato and Courtney Hawkins are in the U17 secondary school netball team.
- ♣ Ariana Kauri made the HV U17 secondary school netball development squad.
- ♣ Rachel Savelio and Penina Stephenson (see p7).

2009 Dates to Note

June

- 10 Open Afternoon
- 11/12 Stage Challenge
- 11 Teacher Only Day
- 18 Open Evening

July

- 3 Last Day of Term 2



Jason Rapana has been accepted into the New Zealand School of Music Academy, which is a special Saturday music school run by Victoria University for gifted and talented music students.

Jason is an extremely good bass guitarist and was invited to go along for a trial day and was accepted. He is really thrilled about it and so is his family.



Uniform Shop

Tuesday 9-11.30 am
Thursday – appointment only.

Please leave a message on extension 235 or 205, or email

Ronwyn@taita.school.nz

Please make sure that the correct winter shoes are being worn.



Kimberley Gill speaks at the Stokes Valley RSA Anzac Day Ceremony

CACTUS

Combined Adolescent Challenge Truancy Unit and Support (CACTUS) is modelled on similar programmes that have been facilitated by NZ Police in Blenheim, the West Coast, Wairoa and Upper Hutt.

Now, Lower Hutt Police youth services team have taken the idea and believe that with the support of the local community and Taita College, who are welcoming the opportunity to get involved, it could be just as successful in our area.

CACTUS is an eight-week intensive programme run three days a week on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Sixteen year 9 - 13 students are selected for the programme encouraging them to take self-responsibility and develop their leadership skills.

The students, from all spheres of school life, start the day at 6am with a physical workout followed by a hearty breakfast prepared by volunteers and then it's off to school. Responsibility means getting to the gym on time for each and every session. There's a strong element of team building - if a student is late, fellow students will start doing press-ups which they will continue until the student gets there!

The programme, set to start in term 3, culminates in a longest day challenge and graduation dinner where those that graduate will be presented with a CACTUS t-shirt and CACTUS commemorative pin in the school colours. In support of the programme, Taita College has agreed that students will be allowed to wear the pin on their school blazer to show their achievement.

CACTUS is an initiative that project leader Gina Valentic, social worker Kiri Alexander and Constables Colin Odell and Guy Bradley believe in and are passionate about challenging our youth to reach their potential.



Adam du Chateau - taken at the CSW Cross Country Champs.



AFS

Widen your family's experience by **hosting an exchange student**. AFS Intercultural Programmes are looking for volunteer families to host 16 - 18 year old students arriving in July from Italy, Canada, Dominican Republic, the Czech Republic and several countries. If hosting is not possible, you could become an aunt and/or an uncle and invite them round for a regular meal or a weekend.

If you would like to enquire about this opportunity, please phone Judith Baxter on 934 8666.

Thinking of applying to become an exchange student?

AFS Selection Events occur at three main times during the year.

Although students are welcome to apply all year round we encourage them to keep to the following application dates in **2009**:

(round 3) 1st Friday in August (to be considered during September AFS selections)

www.afsnzl.org.nz/nzl_en/focus_on/high_school

Invitation

What: Parents are invited to the farewell to our Principal Mr Candasamy.

When: 7-9pm Wednesday 5 August.

Where: To be held in the college hall

If you intend to come, please respond to Mrs Danielle Shields by Friday, July 24 as space is limited.

Respondents will be sent a ticket for entry. Only ticket holders are able to be admitted.

Our Kapa haka and Polynesian groups will be performing.

AUT AND WAIKATO UNIVERSITY CAREERS TRIP

21 - 22 MAY 2009

Ten high achieving year 11 and 12 Physical Education students were given the opportunity to visit the two significant tertiary institutions of AUT (Auckland University of Technology) and Waikato University. The purpose of the trip was to allow students to see these places of learning 'in the flesh', with the intention of demystifying these (and other) tertiary institutions.

The result consisted of two fun days in Auckland and Waikato, where students were able to talk with lecturers, see actual programmes of study and even see real students go about their day to day studies. Students sat in lecture halls and classrooms designed for tutorials, they experienced some impressive training facilities at Waikato University and even had the chance to explore the majestic Millennium Institute on the North Shore.

The staff at AUT and Waikato University were all extremely accommodating. Students were guided around the campus in both places, and were able to get a feel for student life in the process. The fact that students were able to see where students live was a bonus. Having lunch in the busy cafeteria at AUT and then joining Halls of Residence students for lunch at Waikato University really rounded out the experience and was another way for the students to gain an understanding of student life.

Thanks to AUT and Waikato University staff for going to the trouble of organising this experience for our students.

Further to the careers emphasis of the trip, the teachers took the opportunity to take the group out for a shared meal at Gengys in Hamilton. This was a Mongolian Barbeque where you choose your ingredients to be cooked for you. Through some careful negotiation we were able to organise a meal that satisfied even the 'meanest' of appetites!

Staying at J's backpackers in Hamilton was a hassle-free experience, and thank you to Fiona for accommodating our enthusiastic group.

Rainbow's End was a fun end to the two-day northern trip, and this was nearly as exciting as flying back in to 140km per hr southerly gales as we returned to Wellington!!!



Tuakana Teina

This term (and actually this year) has so far been awesome for both the boys and girls Tuakana Teina mentoring programmes. We have had two outings for the boys to paintball which they loved so much the first time they have decided to go again this term. The boys mentoring has come a long way since the programme first started. Both our boys and girls are doing really well and the students who attended mentoring in the past have matured immensely and are making huge progress academically and behaviour-wise. Overall the programme has, and is, still being very successful in building positive relationships and maintaining them with students and their whanau. A report, recently completed through a Victoria University initiative, was about the mentoring programme and it explained exactly what the mentoring programme consisted of and how beneficial it is to those involved and would have been for those who are not involved.

Arahi Kapa Haka has appeared in a few performances this year including at the Tumeke Taita festival in March, a Powhiri at the Hutt Hospital and at the ANZAC Day dawn parade at the Taita RSA., which is becoming a tradition. Our Kapa Haka roopu has combined with Heretaunga College to compete in the regional Kapa Haka competitions in Masterton on 31 July. We are really proud of our students and think they are doing really well this year. Kia Kaha nga taurira.

Also this year we have a new Polynesian Liaison person, Rose Tuita'alili-Nofeli, who has been working with P.I students and getting them involved in Poly Club, mentoring, barbershop, homework study centre, setting up our PI Parents' Support Group, and the Taita College combined prayer meeting and Polyfest. These activities have been successful in bringing together our students and putting them into leadership roles with great support from the school and parents.

Poly Club has attracted 80+ students which has been overwhelming and a very big task indeed. However, the commitment shown by the students and parents has been fantastic and hopefully ongoing. A homework study group has been set up to help our children with their studies and has been set up as part of the criteria for being in Poly. Hopefully, in doing this, it will help our students balance schoolwork and their chosen activities.

Senior mentoring has been 'awesome' with our senior students taking on responsibility of our juniors. We have sports, barbershop, catering, student rep and poly leadership roles. At the end of last term we had a combined P.I & Maori sports day followed by a cultural feast in the marae. This attracted over 100 students. This was headed by our sports mentors Site Timu and Bridget Smith who allocated jobs to their fellow senior mentors. There were over 12 mixed teams of 15 students battling each other in the gyms but only one could take away the overall prize of "Bragging Rights" and no chores after the feast, and that team was Matua Rawiri's crew...."Nga-Bush!!!" Big up's to all those involved. We are thinking of making it a regular term break up activity ...so watch this space.

Barbershop has been a laugh a minute. We took the boys to the competitions in Porirua and they did Taita proud. It was the first time in Taita College history that we had entered a Chorus Line. We were the smallest group there with only 13 PI boys whereas every other school had 50+ performers. George and Jessie (mentors) played their big brother roles and watched over our boys. Overall, our boys performed and acted as smoothly as their singing. Way to go Miss Ferguson!!! This was not an easy task, but you succeeded!!

Kerry Hirini

Rotary Leadership

Brooke Hanlon and Kieran Connell-Smith attended a "Learning to Lead" Workshop. This was run by the Rotary Club Hutt Valley (Inc) and covered aspects of leadership, public speaking, teamwork and service.

During the day they carried out 'Random Acts of Kindness' within the Lower Hutt community. In the evening they ran the Rotary meeting, putting their skills learned from the day into practice.

DRUG SEARCH

You may have heard that the police and drug dogs were on the school premises on the 2 June. They were here in response to a request from us to visit the school and to carry out a random drug check. Whilst on site we had asked them to visit five classrooms which they did. I am pleased to report that no drugs were found.

The impact of drug usage on the health and well-being of young people is huge and drug usage also impairs their learning greatly. We will continue to ensure that the school remains a safe place and have asked the police drug squad to return next term.

I feel confident that you share the same views about student safety as do we and will be supportive of our actions. However, please do not hesitate to contact me on extension 204 should you have any concerns and wish to discuss them further.

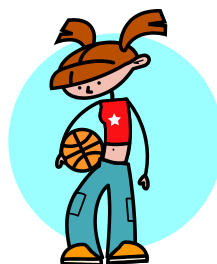
S R Candasamy
Principal

Hutt Valley U17 Girls' Basketball Team

The Hutt Valley U17 girls' basketball team was **successful** at the Regional Tournament in Napier in April.

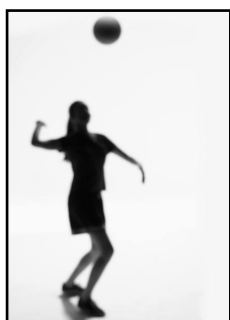
In finishing 3rd, the team qualified for the national tournament held at Palmerston North from Thursday 28 May to Monday 1 June (Queens Birthday Weekend). The national tournament featured the top 16 sides ranked nationally. The team was placed 10th.

Taita College student Penina Stephenson was in this team.



Wellington U19 Girls' Netball Team

Rachel Savelio was selected to represent Netball Wellington Region in the Under-19 team for 2009.



The U19 team will compete at the New Zealand Age Group Championships (NZAGC). This prestigious event will take place in Auckland from Monday 6 July to Friday 10 July.

We wish the team all the best for an outstanding result.

HEALTH ALERT

Media Release

Sunday, 26 April 2009, 1500 (excerpt)

"The best things you can do to stop the spread of any type of influenza virus is to:

- ♣ stay at home and away from others if you are sick
- ♣ cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue
- ♣ put used tissues into a rubbish bin
- ♣ avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth – germs spread that way
- ♣ be careful to wash hands often with soap and dry them thoroughly – **hand hygiene is critical**: even when you start to feel better there is still a risk of infecting others, so keep to the 20/20 rule – 20 seconds washing and 20 seconds drying
- ♣ keep surfaces clean at home, school and work.



Congratulations

to the Drysdale family who won the \$500 Westfield voucher for paying their school fees before 9 April 2009.

Our next draw will be in the last term. More details will be made available later.

The Board of Trustees appreciate any school activity fees received as they allow the school to provide opportunities to students that would not always be available to them. This includes extracurricular activities like sports and academic studies. We can offer students access to activities that are only offered to schools, thereby giving them opportunities to explore experiences they might not get a chance to try elsewhere.

The Drysdales were presented with their voucher on Tuesday 12 May at the school assembly.



Softball Top Batter



Black Sox legend Mark Sorenson presents Top Batter award to Axton Daniels of Taita College.

Boys Pitch Axton Daniels	Taita College	119 km speed.
-----------------------------	---------------	---------------

Axton is in the New Zealand Secondary School Tournament team.

School Newsletter via e-mail

If you would like to receive notification via e-mail of a new issue of the school newsletter when it is placed on our website please e-mail secretary@taita.school.nz and we will place you into our system. Please make sure we have your latest e-address.

Our URL address: www.taita.school.nz

Please send us your news!!!

Editor—Gill Berridge
Gill@taita.school.nz

Thanks go to all contributors and Mrs Jill Marsden.

NZ Syba Star Video Clip Talent Quest

\$5,000.00 Cash Prizes 1st - \$3000.
2nd - \$1,500.
3rd - \$500
and other sponsored prizes.



[Entrants must be age 21 years or younger on 22 September 2009]

Entries Open - 12 noon 1 July 2009...

Entries Close – 6 p.m. 21 August 2009...

Elimination Rounds Start - 25 August 2009.

Syba Star Final - Tuesday 22 September 2009.

For more detailed preview > MAX21NZ < For more information

Syba Star...music, song, dance, writing, painting, sculpture, photography, sport or any self/ group created art or activity

presented by way of a Windows Movie Maker Video – Video for broadband [150 Kbps] – or a cellphone clip - Maximum time – 3 minutes – will be strictly enforced.

**Pride through Success
Honour through Service**

