



Taita Panui

Term 1 2012 Issue 1



Titiro Whakaarongo Ki Nga Puke

Term 2 Events

- 7 Tourism Trip – Queenstown
- Senior PE at OPC
- Level 3 GEO/HIS Trip
- Smokefree
- Rockquest Heats
- Manu Korero Speech Competition
- Slave Day
- Queen's Birthday/ Mid Term Break
- School Production – *An Ideal Husband* by Oscar Wilde – Week 8
- Open Evening

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Principal's Comment

Kia Ora, Talofa Lava, Malo e Lelei and greetings to all at the end of a very successful Term 1.

This newsletter signals a positive shift in the way students learn at the college, with our Media Studies class producing this year's newsletters under the guidance of Mr Donaldson. Last year's ERO report clearly indicated that student leadership and student voice were two powerful factors in the positive changes to school culture. This newsletter is another example of this change - a school paper, written by students for students. I'm sure you will agree, it's a testimony to the ability within the school.

One positive problem for our editors is how to capture all the academic, sporting and cultural success in one edition. Our students pack so much in through a term and this becomes a lesson in balance and good planning. These are key ingredients for success for our youth and areas which need to be explicitly taught and focused on. The end of a term allows us to reflect on the way we have worked so we can make improvements in the way we work and learn together.

I trust you enjoy reading through this issue. I look forward to seeing you at sports events and exchanges, at our major production, and other school events during Term 2.



Volleyball Success

Friday 16 March is where it all started, the senior boys and girls waking up early in the morning, all ready to go out and carve up in the Wellington Volleyball Regional Tournament, held at the ASB sports centre in Kilbirnie. It started off with the girls playing first against Chilton St James, following with the boys' first game against Naenae College. Overall the Taita College senior girls' volleyball team came 4th in the tournament. As for the boys, they breezed through the tournament dropping no sets throughout all their games until it came to the finals Taita College vs Porirua College. Porirua won the first set, but with phenomenal support from Naenae College, Sacred Heart, Heretaunga and the Taita senior girls' team, the boys were ready to finally put Porirua College in 2nd place. Everybody was screaming and clapping for the Taita College boys winning the Wellington Volleyball Regional Tournament. At prizegiving Caroline Sio, Starr Masae and David Isopo were told that they made it into the tournament team. *Written by Ana Tofanaeno*

Homework club

Did you know we have an awesome homework club?

Come join us on a Tuesday and Thursday afterschool in the computer block, starts at 3:30 ends at 5pm, you never know who your going to see there...

Calling All Singers...

Come and join the Taita College Choir. We have practice every Thursday morning starting at 7:30am...free breakfast afterwards, start your day with a positive song!

Leadership @ Taita

Bell Gully, a law firm in Wellington, will be mentoring 21 Taita College student this year. On Thursday 22 March, the mentees and their families welcomed the mentors with a powhiri.



The programme is aimed at students intending to study at a tertiary level. The goals of the programme are to promote self-confidence, raise awareness of a range of career pathways, being connected to the community, and to broaden our horizons as individuals.



The programme involves a number of exciting activities throughout the year, including a high-ropes course, a fireworks evening and other events.

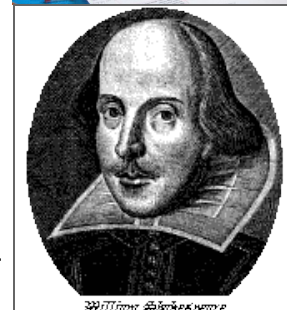
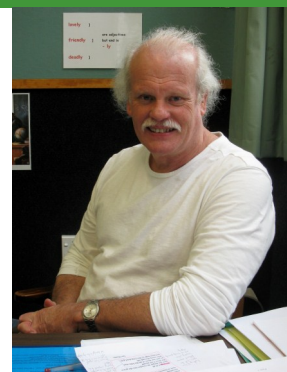
Written by Daniel Brownie

Shakespeare By Mr Williams

The New Zealand International Arts Festival was a marvelous opportunity for anyone who enjoys theatre, music and dance. Shows upon shows were piled between 24 February and 18 March for all sorts of viewers to come and see what the world has to offer. Some Taita College students and teachers were lucky enough to experience some astonishing and awe-inspiring performances. An interview with Mr Williams, shows us how he felt about two shows in particular—*Henry V* and *The Winter's Tale*—both Shakespearean dramas.

Henry V received 4 of 5 stars from Mr Williams. He was impressed on the high quality of the actors and how the actors were always doing something; they never let the energy "drop". He especially liked how the show was performed with an all-male cast, because it was not sentimentalised and how they maintained seriousness with a somewhat comedic leek incident. He believed the director energised the text for modern theatre. His only true criticism was the lack of modernised weaponry. Good but not great. *The Winter's Tale* received a mere 2 of 5 stars. He described it as a difficult play to perform; he "didn't see the magic of the theatre" that Shakespeare invokes so he was unconvinced and unimpressed. The abstract theme and the meaningless moon symbolism lead to a bit of a let-down. He pondered the reasoning behind pairing the strong *Henry V* with the weak *The Winter's Tale*.

Written by Corey Spence



Dragon boating

On Saturday 17 of March Taita College's dragon boating team, the Taita Taniwhas, had an early start to the morning, ready and eager to compete in the secondary schools' Wellington Dragon Boating Festival. On the day of the regatta the Taita Taniwhas had somehow miraculously come up with 21 of the finest paddlers Taita had to offer. Callum Bennache was their coach and sweep who worked wonders with his unique teachings turning them all into paddling machines throughout the previous weeks of training. Their hopes were raised; their confidence boosted with Shinji Tanaka winning the coin toss vs Newlands College for Callum to accompany them on their boat. Taita needed their morale boosted as much as they could, seeing all the other colleges with flash paddles bought with sponsors and funding that they did not have. Taita's first race came and went in a heartbeat, as did their second race. Unfortunately, they did not do well in either of these. It was the final race, the Grand finale where the team put all their passion into rowing in perfect harmony. Taita managed to cut 5 seconds off their previous times, coming third in the B Grade Final. Madison Barriball had this to say "*I felt that the strength and unity within our team had risen to the occasion as we overcame our fears and triumphed in our final race.*" *Written by Shinji Tanaka, Sports Captain*



Year 12 Geography and Earth Science Trip

*Two muffins are in an oven.
One muffin says, "Wow, it's really hot in here."
The other jumps and says, "Yikes! A talking muffin..."*

This is funny because:

- Muffins do not talk.
- I am sane enough to know that.
- Mount Tongariro (as in, one of the three active volcanoes that dominate the landscape of the central North Island) would probably look like a muffin if it exploded, right? Wrong.

I bet with 100% certainty that any of the Taita College Geography or Earth, Space & Science students could tell you that. In fact, on Sunday 11 March these privileged students packed a bag (or two) and took off to hike the beautiful mountain itself. The purpose of this trip was to study the landscape, and get an on site experience with the scenery, which is needed for oncoming class work. I'm positive that not only did students learn from the opportunity, but also had fun too. *Written by Pearl Hiraka*



Netball Fundraiser

All netball players are currently fundraising. Please make sure you help them by purchasing a delicious bag of lollies from them. The profits go towards new gear and tournaments. All donations are greatly received.

Netball Coaches

We still require a number of coaches for our 5 Taita College netball teams. If you are able to assist, please contact the Netball convenors - Ms Alissa Morgan or Mrs Cathy Peek here at the college. Thank you to those coaches who have volunteered for the season.

Taita College Athletics

Wednesday 22 February 2012 was when it all started. One gusty morning at the hour of 8am, we all woke up to grey sky, green grass and pale people. People walked around the school hoping and praying that this day will never happen due to weather but it DID. This is when people all started to moan and groan about how this day would turn out to be;

here is when it all starts. Four houses (Narraway, Charles, Bear and Jamieson) had battled it out for the house shield. On the day of Athletics, each individual from each house participate in events to increase their House points. The bigger



the participants participate in these events, the more points that these students will gain for their house. The aim of this event was to compete against other houses for the House Shield, to prove who the best house is. Charles house was crowned the Athletics champions! We held a very successful day and congratulations to the students who represented Taita College at the Wellington Nationals on Wednesday 14th March 2012. Big Congratulations to Rebeka Kiwara who was qualified for the North Island Nationals for 100m and 200m sprints. *Written by Jesse Harrison*

Sheilah Winn Shakespeare Festival



The Wellington Regional Sheilah Winn Shakespeare Festival is a yearly event that brings schools all around the Wellington region together for three nights to perform Shakespearean scenes. Taita College has taken part in the competition for the last three years and this year we entered two fifteen minute excerpts. *Titus Andronicus*, a tragedy directed by Mr Donaldson, and *The Comedy of Errors*, a comedy directed by me. I have acted in Sheilah Winn for Taita over the last two years in *As You Like It* and *The Taming of the Shrew*. But this time around I am not acting, instead taking the 'behind the scenes' seat and giving directing a go. So far I've learnt that directing is quite a tough job. It has been a completely different experience to acting. It has been enjoyable giving it a go and I would definitely do it again. I would definitely recommend getting involved because it is such a great atmosphere on performance night and it is a ton of fun! *Written by Oliver Greening-Walker, Arts Captain*

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