



# Taita Panui

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- NCEA Exams
- Junior Exams
- Sports Prizegiving
- Senior Prizegiving
- Junior Prizegiving

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## Principal's Comment

As usual, Term 3 at Taita College this year has been packed with a whole lot of things, including the Stratford exchange, the school ball, Celebration of Sound, winter tournament week, and of course the senior exams. The students seem to be managing this pressure so well on top of their social lives and possibly after school jobs, that it just amazes me and I am truly proud. I think the main thing is time management and to balance everything revolving around their busy lives. The highlight for me this term would be the winter tournament week. As well as this, seven sports teams (out of 15) made it into the finals, which is a huge success and I'd like to say congratulations to all those students, as it is such a difficult thing to get into. Another highlight was the Celebration of Sound, a wide range of music was played from violins to the vocals of the students. Careers week has raised a number of interesting points. It used to be that students will have a clearer idea of what they want to do as a career before they leave school, but now it's starting to mix in with the Year 9 courses and making them have to decide earlier on what they want. This can be quite difficult for the majority of students everywhere. Overall, Term 3 has been quite successful and all the students have been working really hard and I am very proud and can't wait to see what happens in Term 4.

*John Murdoch interviewed by David Lindsay & Manuela Astorga da Costa*



Principal John Murdoch

## Tu Tangata Festival

The Tu Tangata Festival is an opportunity for our Pasifika and Māori students to display their cultures and leadership skills. Taita College has for the previous four years sent a group to perform at the Wellington Opera House to entertain the crowds. This year has been no different with the guidance of our senior Year 13 students; we have completed a striking bracket which includes Samoan, Tongan, Tokelauan, Cook Island and Maori items. This reflects, in essence, Taita College and our student population. This year's Tu Tangata performance group are especially proud of the items and their school. The theme that they have chosen for this year is 'Our Journey'. It is a metaphor for the group's development and transition to becoming a recognised Tu Tangata school. The members have worked hard to build an inclusive and supportive environment. Senior students take leadership roles and mentor the junior students in the group. It is with much appreciation that we thank the leaders who have dedicated so much time to the bracket. This year Taita is looking at becoming one of the Tu Tangata schools. Should this happen we will be the first co-ed state Hutt Valley school. This is a significant achievement in an illustrious event which has been running since the 1970s. Well done Taita.

*By Ana Tofaeono*



Tu Tangata 2011



Tu Tangata 2011

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## Celebration of Sound

On 23 August, Taita College hosted the annual Celebration of Sound; a large concert where performances were put on by Taita's music students, our stage band, Arohanui strings students from St Michael's primary school, a Year 9 guitar ensemble and NCEA performances by the talented Audrey Tupua-Wilson, Pat Taafua, Tamati Turi-Kahu and Aotahi Beach.

The performance night was blessed with massive community support. Along with this support, Kahui Beach, Aotahi Beach and Tamati Turi-Kahu gave up their time to assist in any way they could. Their assistance enhanced the success of the night. To our hosts, Emma Hopoi, Burwood Lilomaiaava and Eliota Uiloa, thanks to Mr Murdoch and the Board of Trustees for allowing us to put on this night.

Hard work and determination went hand-in-hand in making this event the success that it was. Not only did we display our love of music, but were able to deliver a diversity of performances to their audience. Our main goal was to highlight the success and talent of our students and to celebrate their success and passion for the art of music.

*By Michael Metcalfe & Corey Spence*



## Senior Exams

A humorous insight into the mind of a Year 13 student sitting the Taita College exams...

Friday 14 September 2012: It's now 2am and words do not explain how badly I am trying to cram before my English exam in 6 hours, 20 minutes and 35 seconds. I'm just kidding. I am sleeping like an endangered baby panda. I believed the key to success in exams was to sleep lots, eat nothing and do minimal study. I was wrong. I hated each and every second the necessary evil that is the senior exams. I may or may not have been caught sleeping several times while taking part in these exams but admit to nothing. It is not a fate I wish upon any of the fellow students. Thursday 20 September 2012: I am so tired from "studying" I'm glad that I can stay in this exam for three hours. I left after the first hour. So glad it's the last day of the exams. Apparently I didn't do badly on my exams, passing most if not all of them. Everybody believes these "mock" exams are pointless but according to the teaching staff of Taita College these "practice" exams are important for the end of year NCEA exams just in case we are unable to attend for some unknown reason like I don't know... you were to die we would receive the marks from these exams.

*By Kahui Beach*



## Winter Tournament Week

On 2 September, 4 teams made their way to 3 various destinations up north to participate in the North Island winter sports' tournament. There were our girls' and boys' Football teams, girls' Premier Netball team and the boys' Rugby League team.



Boys' Rugby League Team

The two girls' teams, Football and Netball, travelled up to Palmerston North where the football girls tried their hardest but narrowly lost every game. It was a good learning curve for these girls who are hoping to take their skills to a serious level later on in life. The Netball girls played hard and well, managing to muster a couple of wins and were able to bond together as a team and build on their teamwork skills.

The soccer boys went to Wanganui and had a good run. Although they only won one game through a penalty shootout, they were able to play very hard considering they had to leave some good players behind due to injuries.

Last of all our league boy went all the way to Auckland with a very good attitude and respect for our school and was complimented on their manor of behaviour, well done boys! They also did very well they placed tenth out of 24 teams.

Overall a great week was had by all this year. Plans are already being made for next year.

*By Jarom Guillonta*

## Stratford Sports and Cultural Exchange

Once again the annual sports exchange went well. Our teams went into battle and came out with some wins. The debating team crushed their opposition, the badminton teams had good wins, the soccer girls won their bout against Stratford for the first time in 20 years and the basketball boys had an amazing game ending in a draw in the third overtime due to delaying other games. The main event, rugby, didn't go ahead this year because



The Boys' Football Team



The Netball Team unfortunately lost

of Stratford having too many players injured. Overall, the event was a success and we had wins from a range of teams and sent the Taranakian's home with some kai in their stomach. The day was fun and we appreciate all the support and the people who billeted.

*By Chevron Hassett*

### HEALTH CLINIC HOURS

#### Physio

Mon and  
Thurs 1:30pm – 5pm

#### Doctor

Thurs 8:30am –  
12:30pm

#### Nurse

Mon 8:30am – 1pm  
Wed 1pm – 3pm  
Thurs 8:30am –  
12:30pm



## Student Representative on the Board of Trustees

Congratulations to the new student representative for the Board of Trustees, Matthew Booker. "I hope to represent the voice of the school in an appropriate and confident manner," says Matthew on his new role. We wish you all the best and hope you will represent the school well in your new role.

*By Kathleen Baker*



## Taita College Ball—A Night in Vegas

From Maneula's heels, to Sinead's dress, the Taita College Ball was a night of highs. On Saturday 11 August, senior students prepared for the night of the year, with girls getting hair, make-up and amazing dresses, and the guys scrubbing up in their suits. Held at Trentham Racecourse, the theme was 'Las Vegas Casino Night', and the room was full of cards, laser lights and even Elvis. It was overall a great success, with people dancing, having photos, and playing the ever-important casino games. A big thank-you to the Ball Committee and Miss Henderson for all their hard work in organising the event, Mr McGillicuddy and Miss Harris for helping to make the decorations and the Patersons for organising the casino games.

*By Daniel Brownie*



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