



# TAITA COLLEGE

*"Pride through Success ♦ Honour through Service"*

Eastern Hutt Road  
Lower Hutt 5019  
New Zealand

Phone: 04 567 8728  
Fax: 04 567 9845

Email: [secretary@taita.school.nz](mailto:secretary@taita.school.nz)

Titiro Whakarunga Ki Nga Puke

25 February 2013

Dear Parents & Caregivers

A warm welcome back to students and families for the 2013 academic year, and a particular welcome to our new Year 9's. I can't remember such a positive start to the year! Firstly we returned to record results in NCEA at all levels, higher than all national school averages. Level 1 rose to 80%; Level 2 at 65%; and Level 3 a staggering 90%. My congratulations go to these senior students for their outstanding results. There is certainly a buzz around the school which reinforces what we know; that Taita students can achieve at the highest level.

It should be remembered that these results go together with a range of initiatives over a number of years and of particular significance is the mentoring, monitoring and tracking of students who we believe can achieve. This belief in ability and high expectations is becoming infectious around the school. It is testimony to the people and attitudes of teachers, students and community members. The effect is that we know how to act as a school and continue to sharpen our focus on factors for student success.

## **New Staff**

I welcome Brenda Brownie (Gateway/Transition Administrative Assistant), Leonie Hall (Performing Arts and Social Sciences), along with Joe Cuce and Reagan Harper who are relieving in Technology and Computing for one term while we await these positions to be filled by overseas applicants to the staff at Taita College.

## **International Students**

At the start of the year we welcomed 15 Brazilian students who come from the state of Pernambuco under a programme called 'Programa Gahe O Mundo' or 'Win the world' for two terms. This exchange is designed to enable students from Brazilian public schools to study English for half a year in Canada, Australia and New Zealand, with all expenses paid. Organisers plan that these students will improve their English language skills and provide a life-changing experience for young people before the World Cup in 2014 and the Olympics in 2016. This is a privilege for these students and they had to go into a ballot to be selected for this opportunity. We also welcomed Daiki Tanaka who is here for one term from Japan. We wish these students a very successful and enjoyable time at Taita College.

## **A Focus on Learning-Tutor Time**

As you may be aware, form time this year has been replaced with tutor time. The concept brings together the successful mentoring and conferencing of students. Tutor teachers have a small group of students and will develop learning plans with students and families and share their school success with them. This will evolve as the year progresses.

On 27 & 28 March there will be no classes while tutor teachers meet individually with students and their families. Please highlight these dates on your calendar. Your child will be issued with a letter requesting interview times.

## **Timetable Change**

This year we have moved staff professional development to a Tuesday afternoon which means school begins at 8.50 am each day, with a bell at 8.45 am to remind students to be on time to their Period 1 class. School finishes each day at 3.15 pm, expect for Tuesday when students are released at 2.15 pm.

## **Canteen**

The Board of Trustees has taken over running the canteen and our thanks go to Libelle for their efforts over the past few years. The change will allow more flexibility for school projects and canteen staff to develop a new menu and offer a range of services to students and staff. We are working with the Health Foundation to provide an exciting new menu and a copy is included at the end of this newsletter.

## **Health Clinic**

As part of a Ministry of Health initiative, we have been given increased hours for health professionals to be on site. Every Year 9 student will receive a health assessment under the HEADSS wellness check which the Ministry of Health is promoting to all primary care practitioners. The health clinic is available to all students and is open on a **Monday and Wednesday from 11.30 am - 3.30 pm and a Thursday (doctor in attendance) from 8.30 am - 1.00 pm.**

## **Dental Bus**

A dental bus is on site until mid-March and all Year 9 students will have their teeth checked. Students at other levels are also able to access free dental care and appointments can be made through the student office.

## **Homework Club - Wednesday & Thursday, 3.30 pm - 5.00 pm**

We encourage all students to use this facility to their advantage as we strongly believe that this can only enhance and strengthen their learning. We offer one-on-one time with teachers, group sessions with fellow students and senior engagement with juniors. Students have access to computers, library, academic student executive members and their own teachers, depending on availability. Parents are welcome to come and see the students in action anytime and/or come have a coffee while you wait for child. You may even want to try your hand in helping to tutor our students.

Please talk to your child about the importance of balancing their academic, cultural and sporting activities. We especially encourage our juniors to use this facility, which helps to transition and prepare them for the high demands asked of them in their junior years in preparation for NCEA, and also prioritising the workload that is required in order to be involved in other extra-curricular activities that they intend to participate in. We need to work together as a school and a community to ensure that our students have every opportunity to succeed in all areas and this is one way we can all assist in that. A roll is taken each afternoon. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Rose Tuita'alili at the school on extension 253 or email [rose@taita.school.nz](mailto:rose@taita.school.nz)

## **Sport**

It is our expectation that all students will participate or contribute to the life of the school through sport, debating, music and cultural events as this is a really good way of making friends and leading a healthy life style. Along with a very successful athletics day last Wednesday and 50 students representing the college at the Hutt Valley Secondary School championships this week, many summer sport codes have started. If your child has not put their name down and would like to be involved, they can speak with their tutor teacher or Debbie Elliott, our sports coordinator. We are anticipating that Softball (Boys & Girls), Volleyball (Boys & Girls) and Waka Ama will attend national competitions during tournament week (18-22 March) and the Ki o Rahi team will be involved in a national competition early April.

## **Activity Fee/Donation**

I would like to encourage payment of the school activity fee which is used by the Board to pay for the literacy initiative, photocopying for students, library books, subsidise sport and cultural activities, and provide extra materials across the curriculum. The fee is \$150.00 per year or \$120.00 per student for two or more which can be paid in full or by instalments. The money we receive is greatly appreciated as it enables us to provide students with extra resources over and above the operations grant received from the Ministry of Education.

## Uniform


It is pleasing to see that, in most cases, students are wearing their uniform with pride. Please remind your son to tuck in his shirt before leaving home. As the weather is hot, students are exempt from wearing blazers and jerseys this term. However, blazers should be purchased from the uniform shop if you have not already done so, ready for Term 2. We are looking to stock up on school uniform which can be on-sold in the uniform shop. From time to time we have families who find it difficult and we would love to be able to support them. If you have any items which you would be willing to donate or have the school sell second-hand on your behalf, please ring the school office. Uniform shop hours: Tuesday 2.00 pm - 3.30 pm and Thursday 3.00 pm - 4.00 pm.

## Parent Elections for the Board of Trustees

We will be calling for nominations for this year's triennial elections towards the end of Term 1. Being on the board is a rewarding experience at this school, especially given the huge progress we make with academic achievement and I ask you to consider putting your name forward. The board governs the school and is responsible for student achievement, staff and property but not day to day management. If you would like more information about becoming a board member, please contact me on extension 204, or our current board chair Lorraine Fowlie on 563 5231. We are very happy to discuss the board's role with you.

I look forward to a positive term that will culminate in students and parents meeting with their tutor teachers to discuss learning plans for 2013. If you have any questions, please contact me on extension 204, or your child's tutor teacher.

Yours sincerely



John Murdoch  
Principal

Milk 300ml **\$1-00** Hot Apple Pie **\$1-50**

Garlic  
Bread  
Cookie  
**\$1-00**

Coke Zero  
Sprite Zero  
L&P Zero  
300ml  
**\$2-00**

Moosies  
**\$1-00**

Juicies  
**\$1-20**

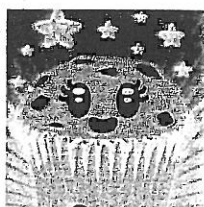
Caramel Slice  
Choc Fudge Slice  
French Fries (baked)

Muffin  
**\$1-20**

Noodles  
Spaghetti Volcano

Paddle Pop  
Icy Twist  
**\$1-50**

Hotdog  
**\$2-00**



Primo  
600ml  
**\$3-00**  
  
Pump &  
Pumped  
Water  
**\$3-00**

Pork Riblet  
**\$3-00**

Chicken Burger  
Beef Burger  
Chicken Wrap (Sweet  
Chilli Sauce or  
Mayonnaise)  
**\$3-50**



**Nothing is over \$3-50!**