



Titiro Whakarunga Ki Nga Puke

TAITA COLLEGE

"Pride through Success ♦ Honour through Service"

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Kia Ora, Talofa and greeting to parents, whanau and students

We are officially half way through 2013 and as we take a break before Term 3 we should both celebrate and congratulate our students for many wonderful successes and reflect on the year's progress. In particular, we highlight students who have achieved significantly to date in NCEA Levels 1-3. Year 11 students should have finished at least one third of their assessments and passed the 40 credit mark. While credit counting at this time is a rough tool, if your child has less than 40, it is important to contact the school and attend the parent/teacher meeting in the first week of the new term. In reflecting on progress with your child, it is a good time to talk about their learning and how they are succeeding at school.

The role of the school is to give your child the best start to gain important qualifications that will support your child's career pathway. Please remember that if there is something that you do not understand, please simply ask your child's teacher, as there is no such thing as a silly question. The education system, NCEA framework and careers pathways can be filled with jargon at times. Some good reference websites include www.ero.govt.nz and www.careersnz.govt.nz. Please come to parent/teacher evening on **Wednesday 31 July** with questions and thoughts which you have discussed with your child.

As highlighted in the Dominion Post a couple of weeks ago, our college is noticed for our quality practices around restorative practices. Many parents and students will have experienced restorative practices which can be defined as working with people to restore harm which has been done. This is a different way through problems. Many of us are used to the punitive or punishment model. However, while it might feel good, punishment does not change behaviour in the long term. Our restorative approach has many benefits and I have personally experienced how this process works well.

Term 3 also highlights the change in leadership at governance level and I would like to thank members of the Board of Trustees who have stepped down after significant service to the college, including Lorraine Fowlie and Rikihana Samuel and welcome our new Board of Trustees Chairperson, Gil McKenna to this position. Gil is a highly passionate community member who is fully involved in the school and I am personally very excited about his particular style of leadership for the college.

In short, thank you to parents for your efforts and support with your children over the last term, and we look forward to a very important Term 3. We thank our Brazilian students for being part of Taita College and wish them a safe trip home. We also wish students and staff who left on Wednesday for Vietnam a wonderful and safe trip.

Taita College Mural Collective

Taita College is represented through sport, music and culturally, but there is little that represents our college in the form of art. We want students to be proud of who they are and where they come from, and we also want our students to be proud to identify as part of the Taita College community.





The Taita College community is vibrant, passionate and colourful and the murals will reflect this even more. What better way to bring colour to the school than by giving the school community the opportunity to create the colour needed!

Students from Taita College, the Learning Connexion and artists from Wellington City come together each Sunday to sketch, design, create and paint six murals for the school. The murals will reflect the unique Taita College culture.

There will be an exhibition of the murals on Tuesday 10 September at 3.00 pm and everyone is welcome to attend. The exhibition will allow the community to come and celebrate the creation of these murals alongside students and teachers.

If you would like to become involved in their creation or you would like to help in anyway, please contact Alice Wilson at the college.

Stratford Exchange

This year our students travelled to Stratford for the annual exchange on 23 & 24 June. Although we lost 8 - 4 the students had a fantastic time, relished the opportunity to stay in a rural setting and did the school proud by the way they participated and conducted themselves at Stratford. Our debating, football girls, and volleyball (girls and boys) all notched up wins, while the badminton, basketball, football boys, netball and rugby teams lost their games. Overall, it was a wonderful exchange and something our students look forward to each year.

Hook, Line & Singalong

At the end of May the junior school took part in the New Zealand Music Month main event which welcomed Tonga Vaea (Three Houses Down), Dr Calvin Scott (Creative New Zealand), Jeremy Winter (Cultural heritage Ministry) and Stephanie Lees (Education Head for NZ Music Commission). Our thanks to Jhan Lindsay, TIC Music, for her huge efforts in making this event happen. From this we have been offered a music mentor for some of our senior students on a Wednesday during Term 3 which is a fantastic opportunity for them.

Pacifika Beats

On Saturday 15 June a small group of students participated in this annual competition. Our congratulations to Audrey Tupua-Wilson on being presented with the Top Female Singer Award and a scholarship worth \$2,000 towards tuition fees at Whitireia Polytech, and to the girls' band for winning a Vocal Award. Well done to these students and to Jhan Lindsay for her support and work with them.

"Our Country's Good" - Major Drama Production

Last week I had the great pleasure of seeing our major drama production for the year "*Our Country's Good*" by Timberlake Wertenbaker. The acting, design, technical operation and management of the production was carried out by the Year 12 & 13 drama students. The production assessed up to 12 NCEA credits and was a very successful learning experience for them. Congratulations to the cast and crew, led by William Donaldson, TIC Drama, for their hard work and diligence during the weeks leading up to opening night. This was a huge undertaking for all concerned and their hard work paid off with an excellently performed and stage-managed play. Our thanks to parents, students, members of the community and staff who came along and supported the 2013 Taita College drama production. Parents I spoke to afterwards were filled with pride and admiration for this first-rate performance. Well done to students and Mr Donaldson. Plans are now underway for next year's production.

John Murdoch
Principal