



Titiro Whakarunga Ki Nga Puke

# TAITA COLLEGE

*"Pride through Success ♦ Honour through Service"*

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1 May 2015

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

I hope you all had a pleasant Easter break. The students have returned eager to work and achieve. This term we have many events that will take place within the college and the community. Term 2 is always a great term for students as they begin to see their hard work and effort pay off through their achievements, particularly senior students working on NCEA assessments. Mr Murdoch is still away on his sabbatical and we are excited to see his research upon his return. I would like to acknowledge Miss Emma Henderson on her appointment as Acting Assistant Principal for Term 2. We welcome Miss Henderson to the senior leadership team and know that she will bring a wealth of knowledge and experience. On that note, I would like to welcome Rosemary Scott as a fixed-term part-time English teacher for Term 2. Mrs Scott is a very experienced teacher and was the Head of English at Naenae College for a number of years.

## Ki-o-Rahi

Huge congratulations to our Taita College Ki-o-rahi team that competed in the Secondary Schools' national competition in Gisborne during the Term 1 holidays. The students played exceptionally well and represented the college with pride.



Overall our team came 5<sup>th</sup> in the country, which is a great achievement. We are exceptionally proud of Kassandra-Jane Walker and Iasiah Harrington-Bartlett who were selected for the national squad. I would like to thank the team's coaches, Matua Simon Hirini and Rose Tuita'alili-Morelli for all their hard work and for chaperoning our students whilst away. Our students stayed at Manutuke Marae and a wonderful time was reported by all who went.

## Please inform us if your child is going to be absent.

The Ministry of Education requires us to record all student attendance. That's why we contact you if your child is absent. If you know that your child is going to be absent please notify us early preferably in writing. This helps with accuracy and takes the urgency out of a busy daily routine. Absences can be emailed to [maureen@taita.school.nz](mailto:maureen@taita.school.nz) or phoned to the absence line 567 8728 option 1, before 8:30am (if possible). Please speak clearly and say your child's first name and surname and tutor class and the reason for the absence.

### **Frequent Communications by Email and Texting**

Mail costs have become very expensive in recent years. We have embraced the increasing popularity of much cheaper electronic media, with our main form of communication with families being by email and texting. Reports will still be posted. We routinely text parents late morning if their daughter or son is recorded as absent without reason. We email a weekly newsletter to parents each Friday or Monday advising of upcoming events. We also email permission slips for trips and activities, and fee statements.

### **Accurate Email Addresses and Mobile Contact Number**

It's important that we have accurate contact details for our students. Parents without a personal email address may be able to use their work email to stay in touch. Please email [secretary@taita.school.nz](mailto:secretary@taita.school.nz) with the details if you have a new email address or cellphone number. Please include the names of the students that the changes apply to as well as the name of the adult the details apply to.

### **Senior Girls' Volleyball Success**

The senior girls' volleyball team and coach Linno Tuitama attended the New Zealand Secondary Schools' National Tournament in Palmerston North. Taita College played up to 3 games a day over 5 days. They were long days with games starting at 8.15am and last games finishing as late as 12.30am! It was an amazing experience for the newly



formed young team. They have many happy memories from throughout the week and best of all was that they played some great volleyball. Overall the team placed 9th in Division 3. They are looking forward to improving their placing in 2016!

### **Stratford Exchange - June 29/30**

It is our turn this year to travel to Stratford for the annual sports exchange with Stratford High School. The exchange is for our top teams in most of the winter codes and teams participating will be confirmed within the next week or so. The cost of the trip is \$75 and players can begin paying towards this any time now, either by AP or at the school office.

### **Please ensure that Students' Names appear on our Bank Statements.**

A huge thanks you to the families who pay by AP, but please, please, please update the details that are shown on our bank statement so that the student's first name and surname appear. This ensures that money is assigned against the correct student and saves us time when receipting payments.

### **Receipts for 2014/15 Activity Donations**

Certificates for receipts for activity donations paid between 1 April 2014 and 31 March 2015 have been issued this week. These can be used for tax refunds. The tax form IR3 can be downloaded from our website.

### **Receipts are issued for all payments**

Receipts for all payments are given to students in class for them to take home.

### **Statements**

Last week you would have received by email a statement showing the position of your child's materials and activities costs at Taita College. We intend to email these early each month, starting in June.

### **We recommend that payments be made electronically.**

We know that many families find AP arrangements as a manageable way to pay students materials and activities costs at Taita College. It also eliminates potential disputes as to whether a cost has been paid.

The benefits of AP payments are:

- You pay a small fee weekly/fortnightly without it breaking the bank.
- You don't have to give your child money any time a payment is requested for a one-off activity.
- It's an easy way of paying off all school costs, including sports and trips.
- You can buy stationery from businesses who partner with us.
- You will probably have a significant sum available in February to use towards next year's costs, including uniform.
- Surplus money is refunded or available for siblings' costs.

An AP of \$10 each week would give you \$520 over the year which would cover all your costs and give you something towards uniform costs for the next year.

You can set up an AP arrangement via internet banking or ask your child to collect a form from the office. Our bank is ASB Queensgate, 12-3142-0297835-000.

### **Youth wellbeing in our community: Share your thoughts!**

Our school and wider community are taking part in an evaluation of the Prime Minister's Youth Mental Health Project which aims to improve the mental health and wellbeing of youth.

Superu (formerly the Families Commission) has contracted Malatest International to evaluate the Youth Mental Health Project to see how well it is going and to explore what is in place in our community to support youth. The evaluation includes an online student survey as well as interviews with youth, school staff, and members of the wider community. The evaluators would like to hear **your** thoughts about what is and is not working. A short online discussion has been set up for you to contribute at:

[www.youthwellbeing.malatest.net](http://www.youthwellbeing.malatest.net)

This online discussion is for youth aged 12 to 19 years old (both at school and not at school), their parents, caregivers, and any other interested members of our community.

Please visit the site to share what you think about youth wellbeing and youth mental health services in our community. We have a prize draw of **\$100** to give to one of the people responding.

A discussion group will also be held with a group of parents from our school at 6pm Monday 11 May. If you want to be part of this discussion group or if you have any questions about the study, you can contact Jane Godfrey from Malatest International (0800 002 577 or [Jane.Godfrey@malatest-intl.com](mailto:Jane.Godfrey@malatest-intl.com)).

For more about the Youth Mental Health Project see <http://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/mental-health-and-addictions/youth-mental-health-project>.



**Malatest**  
International

### **Noel Leeming Lower Hutt Offer**

We have an exclusive deal for all parents in partnership with Noel Leeming Lower Hutt. An event will be held at your local Noel Leeming Store located in Lower Hutt and Upper Hutt from 12<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> May 2015. Noel Leeming will setup a special screen in their till system especially for this event and a rebate will be generated from all sales processed via the event. This rebate will go back to our school for future purchasing. Please support Noel Leeming and our school with this venture.

## **Winter Sport**

Rugby got under way last week with a Co-Ed cup game for the 1<sup>st</sup> XV against Aotea. Unfortunately we lost this and were knocked out but the boys came back very strongly and beat Naenae soundly in their Avalon Cup game to regain the Cup.

Many other sports codes start their games either this week or next and final teams are being named now. It is important that students have completed the required registration forms and paid the appropriate fees to the office before they play.

We are always grateful for parent support in providing transport and helping out with managing teams so if you feel able to do this please let us know.

## **Basketball Referees**

We would like to have a referee attached to each of our teams for the season. If you are interested or know someone who would like to do this could you please contact the sports coordinator at school. There is a payment for each game.

## **NZQA Fees**

NCEA fees are due by Friday 14 August. For students to be able to have access to their credits each year this fee must be paid. The fee is \$76.70. However if you have a Community Services card the fee reduces to \$20, and \$30 for 2 or 3 students in the same family.

You also qualify for the \$20 fee if you are on a benefit (Work and Income, or Study Link), or if your income is at a level that would qualify you for a Community Services card. See the Income Information below.

If you qualify for the \$20 fee instead of \$76.70 please fill in a Financial Assistance form (available from the office) and return it to school with your payment.

If you have an Automatic Payment operating you can use these funds to pay NCEA fees.

You may be able to get a Community Services card if you are...	And your yearly income (before tax) is...
Family of 2 (1 parent with 1 child)	\$48,549 or less
Family of 3	\$58,793 or less
Family of 4	\$66,940 or less
Family of 5	\$74,919 or less
Family of 6	\$83,837 or less

For families of more than 6, the limit goes up another \$7,857 for each extra person. Please contact us if you need more information.

## **Key Dates for the Term:**

<b>3 - 6 May</b>	Level 3 History Trip
<b>21 May</b>	Workchoice day
<b>29 May</b>	Mid-Term Break
<b>1 June</b>	Queen's Birthday Holiday
<b>3 June</b>	Open day
<b>5 June</b>	School in Action morning

Linda Pye  
Acting Principal