

Softball Girls, Regional Champions

What an outstanding result for our girls softball team who represented the school at the CSW Regional Softball Tournament held at Fraser Park on the 9th of March. The girls had an outstanding day beating out HVHS, St Mary's and finally hot favourites Sacred Heart to take the Regional title.

It was a special moment when captain, Teagan Tautala-Hanita, received the Naomi Shaw Cup on behalf of the team. Naomi, who is a past student of Taita College presented the Cup.

Teagan, along with team mate Jasmine Horne, is a member of the Softball NZ U17 Emerging Sox squad for 2017.

The girls and boys teams went on to represent the college at the Division 2 National Secondary Schools Tournament held recently at Fraser Park 28th - 31st of March. both teams did the school proud, with the girls reaching the grand final and finishing 2nd in their division.

The Principal's Message

Talofa lava, Malo e Lelei, Ni Sa Bula Vinaka, Kia Orana, Fakaalofa Lahi Atu, Taloha ni, Tena Koutou katoa.

We have had a fantastic start to the year and I wanted to thank you all for your wonderful support in ensuring your children are at school on time, in perfect uniform and ready to learn. It is wonderful to have our new year 9 students become a part of our Taita College family. Our 2016 results indicated some of our best ever recorded merit and excellence endorsements over the last 5 years, and that is a

testament to our staff and students, indicating that hard work does pay off and contribute to success. We have had so many instances of our students shining with their NCEA results and sporting achievements. Most recently our Boys Volleyball team were placed 11th in New Zealand. This is an outstanding accomplishment and shows the talent that we have here at Taita.

We are offering some fantastic new initiatives that demonstrate the power of collaboration and partnership, and encompasses an integrated approach to learning

where student voice and leadership is at the forefront. I feel very privileged to be working alongside such talented staff and students at Taita College – we are well on the way to making our new vision a reality.

New Curriculum Initiatives:

Yr 9 Inquiry programme (focus on reading, writing, grammar, and student choice)

Yr 9 & 10 sports classes (integrated approaches to learning)

Yr 9 Identity – culture counts programme (focus on whakapapa, identity, self-belief, and ensuring students to feel welcome and learn about our marae and Taita College culture)

Yr 12/13 photography

Yr 12/13 meaningful pathway programme (students are at school for 2 days working on individual education programmes, they have 2 days at courses at Weltec, and do one day's work as part of the gateway programme)

As a school we all have a collective goal for all students to successfully complete at least one assessment in Term 1 and one assessment in Term 2. We want all student to experience success, and be active learners – knowing they are capable and can succeed. It is so exciting for me as Principal to hear about the learning conversations that are happening around student achievement. I can feel a “buzz” around learning and success that is contagious.

I wanted to take this opportunity to discuss a couple of new initiatives with you, as we need your assistance to make them work. This year we

We have just established a new vision which is very exciting for us as a school, and I wanted to share this with you so that together we can continue to build on success here at Taita. Our vision was created through consultation and hearing the voices from our board, staff, students, parents and whanau. Our new vision is going to be our leading mantra for the next three years. It is inspirational and will guide us in our decision making and direction – where student outcomes and success is key.

Part of our vision emphasises the importance of offering meaningful curriculum that meets the needs of our students. In order to allow our students to be the best that they can be, we are working hard to offer dynamic learning programmes, and ensure that student centred learning is a priority. A key focus for us in 2017 is to establish a culturally responsive environment, where active learning is our focus.



are introducing a new attendance system. All research indicates that when students are in class, their ability to succeed and reach their academic goals is enhanced significantly. We want to work alongside you to provide the best learning opportunities that we can, which means our communication needs to be effective. We have a new attendance officer (Yvonne Iti) who will be monitoring all student attendance. We know that excellent attendance translates to better academic outcomes, and see it as a critical component that can enhance achievement at all levels.

The New Attendance System:

Please call the school if your child is going to be absent for the day, or for any period of time

Check the KAMAR parent portal to view attendance

Each Friday, if your child has an unexplained absence from the week prior, parents will be emailed or sent a demerit letter (this can be changed if a legitimate reason for absence is provided)

If your child is away period 1 & 2 with no explanation from you as parents, you'll receive a text from us as a school. Please make sure your contact details are up to date

If your child is away for 3 days, with no explanation – expect phone calls or a visit from us.

If we have no response from you as parents in respect to unexplained absences, we will activate our truancy services to get involved immediately.

Demerit Points:

One of the biggest changes with our new attendance system is the introduction of the demerit points for unexplained attendance. The pastoral care team will be tracking any student who receives a demerit point, and as a means to inform you as parents, you will receive

either an email or letter. We believe this will assist us in communicating effectively with you. Collectively we want to discourage any student from getting a demerit point. Demerit points may lead to further consequences if repeated. Please note that demerit points can be deleted from a student record, if a legitimate reason is provided. By working together we achieve together, and we thank you for your support with our attendance system. Demerit letters will be activated at the start of Term 2, so please help us by working with us to ensure you communicate all absences to the school.

After School Pick Up:

As a means to ensure your child's safety we did some work at the end of last year to create a safe pedestrian crossing on the internal roads within the school, so that all students could move to the Eastern Hutt road pedestrian in an orderly manner. The students have been fantastic, and used the crossing extremely well. The issue we have now is that parents are driving into the school, and this is causing traffic to build up to a grid lock situation, which then continues out to the main Eastern Hutt Road. This is not safe, and we need your support and help with this please.

We are asking that you do not drive into the school, but rather pick up your child from further down by the field, or alternatively park across the road where there

are parking areas available. We realise this will be a bit of a change, however, we must make safety our priority. If it is grid locked, buses are not able to enter, which is a concern a students need to be on the buses to get home.

As a next step we are going to close off car access to ensure that the internal car park is safe for our students, and that buses can easily come in and out of the school. Please support us with this initiative.



Reports:

This year we have developed a shared language in order to report to you as parents about how your children are achieving. We will be using NCEA language at both senior and junior levels, which means student success will be graded and recorded as achieved, merit or excellence with all assessments and tests.

In Term 2, reports will be online and available to view through the

parent portal. Reports will be a little different from the past, as all assessment in every subject area will be uploaded as soon as they are marked and completed. What this means for you as parents, is that you will be able to see instantly exactly how your child/children are doing in every subject. At least once a term, every teacher will write a comment related to an assessment, and this comment should indicate to you information that indicates strengths and feedforward.

Parent Portal:

This is going to be a main avenue for all communication. It is important that you start using this to access relevant information about your child/children's achievement and success. Through the portal you can also check attendance, get the latest school notices and most importantly be connected with what is happening here at Taita College. I would strongly encourage you to start using our online services, as it will allow you to have all relevant information and be able to have robust discussions at home around learning.

Thank you for your ongoing support. I am really looking forward to a positive year.

I leave you with our school motto:

Titiro whakarunga ki nga puke.
Look upwards towards the hills.

Nga mihi ki a koutou
Karen Morgan



New Faces on Taita's Staff

Left-to-right:

Mr Morgan,

English.

Mr Taeao,

Music.

Mrs Herman,

Knowledge Hub Co-ordinator



Volleyball Regionals and Nationals

Congratulations is due to both the Senior Girls and Boys Volleyball teams who represented the school at the **CSW Regional Volleyball Tournament** on the 3rd & 4th of March at ASB Stadium Kilbirnie.

The Girls team had some great games and placed 5th overall after facing Tournament winners Sacred Heart in the Quarter finals.

The Senior Boys team had a fantastic second place finish. They went through the preliminary rounds without dropping a set and played outstandingly well in the final, unfortunately just losing narrowly to Mana College.

Special congratulations to Tim Tofilau and Akelise Foaese who were named in the Top 6 Tournament Team.

The **NZSS National Volleyball Tournament** was held in Palmerston North between the 27th & 31st of March. Both teams travelled to represent Taita College with pride and achieved outstanding results. The Senior Girls finished 1st in Division 4 and the Senior Boys were ranked 11th in New Zealand out of a total of 114 teams. That's a supreme effort! Especially considering the small size of our school in comparison with many of the opposition.

Thanks to coaches Jesse Mainu'u Linno Tuitama and Rose Tuita'alili for making it all possible.

ELL



Taita College Students Excel at AWD Athletics

Five Taita College students competed in the annual AWD Wellington Athletics at Newton Park on Tuesday 28th February.

The highlight of the day was Ocean Iraia breaking the AWD Wellington record in the shotput event with a throw of 7.6m. Both Ocean and Jeremiah Kepa won their heats of their 100m and 200m sprints. Ocean placing 2nd in the 100m and 1st in the 200m overall and Jeremiah 9th in the 100m and 4th in the 200m and 3rd in the long jump. Both athletes have now qualified for Regional CSW Championships on the 23rd March.

Other students to compete were; Danni-Lee Kokiri, Ryan Nickel and Brogan Godtschalk, who competed in the shotput, 100m sprint and long jump.

We would also like to thank Lupe Setefano and Elizabeth Sims for helping the team on the day.

PAM



Taita Representatives

Congratulations to the following people who have been representatives or selected for regional or national events in their chosen sports. We are very proud of them and their achievements!

Ariki Hohepa, Tre Wainui-Teepa and Sharvana Waikato who represented Wellington at the Touch New Zealand National Tournament.

Tayne McKinnon who has been selected to travel to Las Vegas, Nevada, as a member of the New Zealand Basketball Academy U14 Girls Basketball team. The team will travel in July and will play at the Las Vegas Classic and Las Vegas Live Tournaments.

Congratulations to Penny Tekira who recently won the Junior Section of the Charter North Island Darts Tournament. Well done also to Jasmine Horne who placed third at the same tournament.

ELL



Taita College Athletics Day



Wellington Regional Athletics

Following a successful Hutt Valley Athletics meet – a small but competitive team of TC's finest Athletes qualified through to the Regional event. It was an absolute pleasure accompanying this team and witnessing their athleticism and competitiveness amongst the very best athletes in the Wellington, Wairarapa and Kapiti regions.

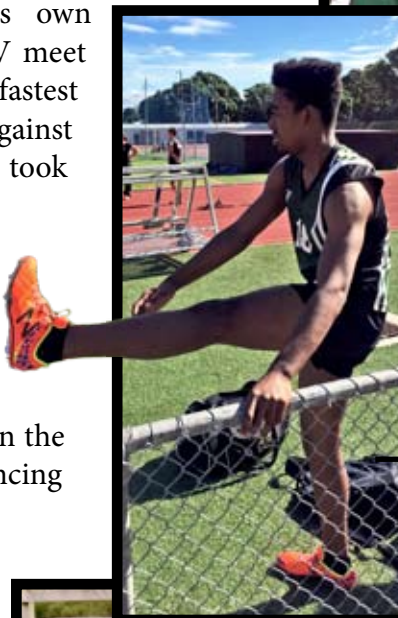
In the glory event of the 100M Sprints, Elijah Lakai triumphed over his own outstanding performance at the HV meet by officially earning the title of the fastest intermediate boy in the region. Against an exceptionally fast field, Elijah took out 1st place in a photo finish. His heat time was the fastest with 11.73 seconds and although the final time was slightly slower (11.81seconds) it was enough to see him win the title.

Tupou Mulikiha'amea placed 2nd in the Junior Girls shotput with a convincing throw of 10.45 metres which means that both Elijah and Tupou now qualify to go through to the North Island Championships in Inglewood, Taranaki on the 8th & 9th of April.

TC is very proud of you both.

Congratulations to all our athletes who represented themselves and Taita College with the pride and honour. Competing amongst the best and being the best that we can be.

Well done - Teagan Tautala-Hanita, Tevita Malafoou, Penina Sitagata, Stani Foley, Te Hani Foaeae, Fiaga Utulolo, Fale Toelau-Faifua and Jeremiah Kepa. Ocean Iraia also qualified in the AWD but was unable to attend.



Officiating in our Community Tui Glen Danish Rounders Tournament

Last year on the 9th of November Jovie Andrews, Nathan Fa'apusa, Dianna Revell, Roketi Misa, Rua Te Aotonga, William Bower and Faith Leo all had fun assisting one of our favourite neighbouring schools, Stokes Valley Primary.

Our students were most useful officiating at the Year 8 annual Danish rounders tournament which took place at Delaney Park in Stokes Valley.

In true collaborative style, ten teams were configured mixing year 5 & 6 students from across three schools; Koraunui, Tawhai and Tui Glen.

On a picture perfect day in the valley some serious batting, pitching and fielding skills were on display.

Student volunteers from 9SiE (Sport in Education) worked alongside the Tui Glen Year 8's in managing and officiating a brilliant event, well done Tui Glen we are glad we could help!

MUR



Taitaungawainae 2016

Taita College hosted another fiercely competitive Taitaungawainae tournament on the 1st of December 2016. Each of the 4 co-ed schools from Taita, Heretaunga, Wainuiomata and Naenae College brought 14 of their top junior sports men and women to compete in this annual clash of the co-eds.

Our team consisted of Jordyn Herewini, Crychton Comp, Lori Kiwha, William Bower, Esera Andrews, Dianna Revell, Toby Oliver, Margaret Hopoi, Alysha Brownie, Jovie Andrews, Kayla Faitele, Jayden Savea, Faith Leo, and Kyle Maresca.

The day started with team relays which saw Taita taking an early lead. They showed their speed but didn't perform as well as they may have liked in the first round of Netball. Taita only managed a 3 all draw against Naenae. Lori Kiwha performed well in her sport of choice in the mid court.



Futsal was a completely different story with Taita taking 3 wins from 3. With stand out performances from Kyle Maresca, Toby Oliver and Alysha Brownie, who all made great contributions to the team.

Heading outside in the heat and wind Taita again only managed a 2 all draw against Naenae in the Touch. Heretaunga and Wainui scopped all the touch points. Kayla Faitele and Esera and Jovie Andrews showed off some smooth skills on both attack and defense but we couldn't quite finish off on the try line.

After hosting a BBQ lunch for our visting schools we headed into Volleyball and Basketball. Unfortunately we weren't able to secure any wins but played some entertaining sport. William Bower and Dianna Revell put their bodies on the line in Volleyball and good calling and communication came from Margaret Hopoi and Faith Leo. It was exceptional to see given these students were then still Year 9s. Crychton and Jayden showed us that scrimmage pays off and landed some great shots on the basketball court, followed up with strong defense and leadership by the girls captain, Jordyn.

The overall results didn't quite favour TC. As anticipated the competition was incredibly tight at the top end.

Final Results were:

Competition: Taita 25. Heretaunga 28. Wainui 33. Naenae 34.

Fairplay: Taita 7. Heretaunga 8. Wainui 5. Naenae 9.

A big thanks to Tiana Tikimoe for taking on the coaching role and to all the officials who made this tournament possible: Maureen Turley & Lupe Fetaui (Netball), Rosco (Touch) Linno & Leva (Volleyball), Lischa & Jonathen (Basketball) Mr White for the BBQ and the BBQ Crew. Shonetelle Schuster, Rua Te Aotonga & the score bench for their assistance.

Thanks everyone!

MUR





Authentic Learning In Geography

The year 12 Geography class has recently spent 4 days in the Tongariro National Park conducting research to discover why the vegetation and landforms vary in different locations.

The students learned the theory in class but the opportunity to actually feel how the climate changes with altitude and see the effects on the vegetation really brings the learning to life.

A highlight of the trip was walking to the Tama Lakes. Two beautiful lakes that have formed in the explosion craters of Mt Tongariro.

The students are now putting their research to good use creating graphs, statistical tables and diagrams to demonstrate their learning. PEK



Sir Edmund Hilary Outdoor Pursuits Centre

Mrs Peek, the year 12 Dean recently took 9 students from Year 12 to attend a week long course at OPC in the Tongariro National Park.

The boys completed many challenging activities including rock climbing up Mt Pukekaikio, kayaking and water rescues on Lake Taupo and finding their way through dense bush using only a compass for direction.

The boys worked as a group to achieve their goals with some showing great leadership and others great initiative as they overcame every challenge that was thrown at them.

We were very lucky to receive a grant from Pelorus Trust to cover the cost of this trip. PEK



Civil Defence Training

On the first training day at Civil defence we learnt how to get people out of crushed buildings. While we were working on moving over debris the tutor got me to sit in a cave sort of area and bang with a stick for help. I was very surprised how far the sound traveled. We also learnt many different types of knots including the Alpine Butterfly, Round Turn-Two Half Hitches and the Figure of Eight.

Shania Thorn.



N.C.I.S. Taita

The year 9 classes; 9SciM and 9SciI, are currently studying forensic science.

They are enjoying a range of crime scene investigations. This forensics unit covers many scientific ideas and is an engaging way to spark our students interest in science.



Sport in Education Project

Over the past 3 years the Sport in Education Project has been getting young people learning in and through sport. Experiencing and developing attitudes and skills such as resilience, perseverance, self-discipline, teamwork and leadership, which are transferable to achieving success in all aspects of life – including the classroom.



In 2016 Taita College was invited to become part of this project initiated by the Head of Physical Education at the college Alissa Murdoch being awarded a Peter Sharp Scholarship from the New Zealand Secondary School Sports Council (NZSSSC). This enabled her to visit the pilot schools and project leaders around New Zealand, learning about the impact that putting physical education, active learning and sport front and centre in schools was having on student engagement and the results were quite phenomenal.

Sport in Education is not about putting more sport into all the other curriculum areas, it's about using sport, the values of sport and active education to engage students. Taita College took one Year 9 class and began integrating their 5 core subjects (English, Math, Science, Social Studies and PE.)

Instead of learning about energy transformation in Science via diagrams of circuits, 9SiE looked into the significance of nutrition in professional sports people and how athletes utilise and transform energy to maximise performance in an integrated unit during the Rio Olympics. It's not about teaching more sporty content, but rather engaging learners in things they enjoy and have prior learning and knowledge of.



The 9SiE team also participated in a range of exciting EOTC experiences and leadership opportunities over the year. Acting as ambassadors for Sport in Education during Open days and evenings, speakers at community sport clubs, officials for sports tournaments at contributing schools and possibly the highlight of the year, The two day Big Deal excursion. This summated an integrated Obesity and Diabetes unit where students got the opportunity to plan two days out of school looking at healthy lifestyle options and activities that



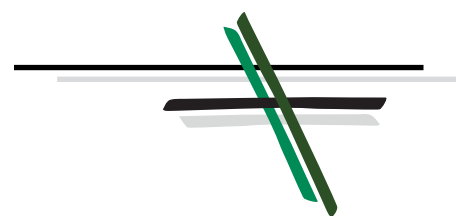
young people could access in the community. This included healthy eating where they shopped (online first to ascertain value for money) then prepared and shared the meals. They had a combat session at Les Mills Hutt City, swam at SV pool, got active at Maidstone Max Park, and completed an Amazing Race that led them to Frank Kitts Park in Wellington where they indoor climbed then kayaked out in the lagoon. These activities were

selected and planned by the students using the Design Thinking process to show other young people in the region the type of healthy lifestyle options that exist.

In 2017 Taita College brings on



another SiE class at year 9 while continuing with the original group at year 10. More teachers are being brought into the mix and the spreading and embedding of good and effective teaching practice is being shared. MUR



Our Knowledge Hub

This year has brought great changes to Taita College with the renaming of the Library to (Drum roll please...) ...The Knowledge Hub!

The Knowledge Hub has been a hive of activity with classes booking the space for I.E.P. (Individual Education Programmes) and students coming in at break times to play board games, use the computers and browse the abundance of books available for loan. We have over six thousand books in our catalogue with one hundred and thirty new books hitting our shelves this term alone! Our dedicated team of Student Facilitators have been busy creating spaces within the hub to display their recommended reads, we also have a space for our learning community to display books that they recommend to other readers. So you too could have Knowledge Hub fame by recommending your favourite title.

We expect that this year will bring lots of new and exciting things to the Knowledge Hub. The first

being what you would like to see in the Hub. We have started this year by placing a suggestion box on the issuing desk so if you have any ideas that you would like considered for our fresh and enlivened Hub then we want to hear them! Just pop into the Knowledge Hub and place your ideas in the suggestion box on the issuing counter or email **knowledgehub@taita.school.nz**. Your input into creating the right space for our learners is very much valued.

We promise that the Knowledge Hub will be an amazing supportive learning environment that supports the needs of our people, with new innovations and technology planned as well as high interest clubs, competitions and interactive displays...

...WATCH THIS SPACE...

We look forward to supporting your learning,

The Knowledge Hub Team,
Mrs Lydean Herman, Esther .Y. Zeta, Loria, Marshall, Cruz, Zakary, Esther .D. Penny and Ella Rose.



I tērā tau i whakahoahoa te tumuaki i tētahi māhere hōu mō ngā whare o C. I te timatanga o te wāhanga tuarua o tēnei tau i hūnuku ai te whaitua pūtaiao ki te whaitua o C. Kei waenganui i tō mātou kura.

Ka kuhu te tangata ki te roro matua, he whānui te whaitua. E hia ngā rūma taiwhanga pūtaiao i roto i tō mātou whaitua hōu ki ōu whakaaro? E toru ngā rūma taiwhanga pūtaiao. E rua ngā rūma pātaka. He maha ngā kūaha karaehe, he maha ngā matapihi, he maha ngā papa maitai tawaukore hoki. Kōtahi te uwhiuwhi nō te mea e tika ana mō te hauora. E pātata ana te whaitua pūtaiao hōu ki te kōti pāhikete pōro.

Ki ōku nei whakaaro, he pai te whaitua nō te mea he hōu, he mā, he nui anō hoki. Ka whakaoti mātou i tā mātou mahi pūtaiao i roto i ngā rūma taiwhanga pūtaiao. Kāre e whakaaetia kia oma, kia kai, kia inu, kia mau pāraerae anō hoki e kīa rā he mōrearea. Heoi anō, e pai ana kia here i ō makawe, kia pātai ki te kaiako, ki mau hū anō hoki.

E ai ki te kōrero, “ka mate kāinga tahi, ka ora kāinga rua.” Ki ōku nei whakaaro, kua kitea te kāinga hōu mō te whaitua pūtaiao.

Nāku, nā Hera Pihema



Meeting The Prime Minister

Again this year the Prime Minister invited selected senior students from the area to attend an annual meet and greet. Taita College's peevillaged few included: Josh Tollison, Kaisa Fa'atui, Bree Jensen, Olive Sua, Tamara Howie, and Tiana Tikimoe. They were accompanied to Boulcott Farm Heritage Golf Club by the principal Mrs Morgan and deputy principal Mrs Pye.

Over nibbles, new to the job PM Bill English was grilled by students on issues both small and large ranging from humourous ponytails to summarising his job so far. He responded by comparing himself to someone holding a magic wand. Whatever issue he chose to point it at could either be fixed or broken. It's the Prime Minister's responsibility to choose wisely.

This brush with fame and power is sure to have had an effect on the futures of our own school leaders.



International Women's Day

On Wednesday 8 March Tamara Howie, Jonnie Tiaki, Anna Trethewey and Vavao Leafa joined Assistant Principal Linda Pye and Principal's Secretary Jill Marsden, at a breakfast to celebrate International Women's Day.

The keynote speaker was Annabel White, Manager of TradeAid in Petone, who highlighted the disparity between the working conditions and pay rates that many female workers around the world are subjected to, compared to those in New Zealand.



Common Leaders' Day

On 13 March Kaisa Fa'atui, Matilda Faifai, Bree Jensen, Bronwyn Kumeroa-Bell, Gloria Leauga, Olive Sua and Tau Timu represented Taita College at the Common Leaders' Day in Wellington. Students immersed themselves in a series of workshops that aimed at providing them with practical skills they could use to define and enhance their personal leadership style. They also learnt about the importance and purpose of the Commonwealth and its values in an ever-changing world.



Up Coming Events:

First Day of Term 2	Mon 1st of May
Learning Conferences	Thurs 11th - Fri 12th of May
Cue Sports Champs	Tues 16th of May
Prem 1 Netball Tournament	Thurs 18th of May
Civil Defence Team Training	Mon 22nd of May
CSW Cross Country	Wed 31st of May
Teacher Only Day	Fri 2nd of June
Year 9 & 10 Revolution Tour	Tues 6th of June
Open Evening	Wed 14th of June
Civil Defence Prizegiving	Thurs 15th of June
Stratford Sports Exchange	Mon 26th - Tues 27th of June
Junior Badminton Champs	Wed 28th of June
CSW Indoor Bowls	Thurs 29th of June
Fia Fia Evening	TBC
CSW Badminton Singles &	
AWD 10 Pin	Wed 5th of July
Last Day of Term 2	Fri 7th of July



Learning conversations – these will be on held on Thursday 11th and Friday 12th of May in the second week of Term 2. This will mean there is no regular school over these two days whilst interviews are being held. I would strongly encourage you all to make an appointment and attend these meetings with your child (children). These discussions are critical, and there is a real strength when your children discuss their learning plan with you as parents and us as a school. In the past we have had excellent attendance by families – and I look forward to seeing you all there. Partnership promotes success – and builds on our vision of whanaungatanga.

Nga mihi ki a koutou
Karen Morgan



Taita College appreciates the sponsorship of Konica Minolta, who kindly print this newsletter free of charge.

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