



.....PARENT/TEACHER

Parent / teacher meetings will take place on Thursday 27 July.

There will be two sessions:

2.30 - 4.00pm and 5.00 - 6.30pm.

Parents can make bookings using the school interviews website:

www.schoolinterviews.co.nz

Use the code **zwjus**

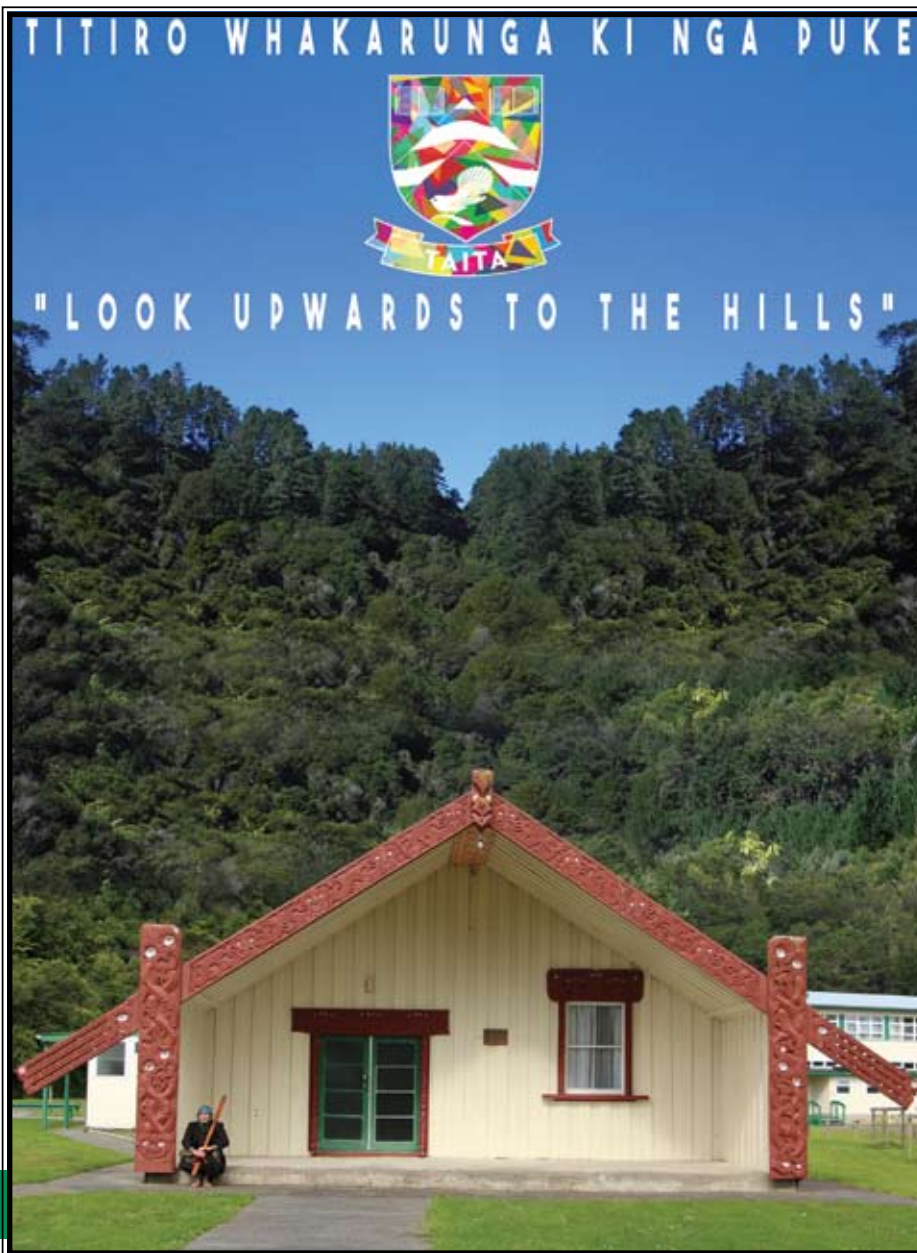
If you are unable to access the school interview site please ring the school office to arrange interview times.

The interviews are an opportunity for you to discuss your child's academic progress with their subject teachers. We look forward to seeing you.

.....NZQA FEES

Year 11, 12 and 13 students need to pay the NCEA fee so they can access their credits. The fee is \$76.70, or \$20 if you qualify for financial assistance. Senior students will be given a Financial Assistance form in the next few days. It contains the details as to who qualifies for the \$20 fee. The form needs to be filled in and returned with \$20.

<Graphic design by Yr12 student Joel Alheit



SPEAKING OF SUCCESS



Our victorious debating team shortly after receiving their trophies in a school assembly
(From left) Olive Sua, Anna Trethewey, Principal Karen Morgan and Kaisa Fa'atui.

Taita College has won the debating competition run by the Pan Pacific Southeast Asian Women's Association on Saturday 20th May. We retained the trophy which Taita won last year also against St Patrick's Wellington.

The moot was 'This house believes that lifelong quality education is the only way to achieve the United Nations Sustainability goals'

Taita was affirming with St Patrick's Silverstream negating.

In addition, Olive Sua was named best speaker.

TERM 2 HIGHLIGHTS

Some of our stand out magic moments for Term 2 include;

- NCEA term targets being met, a real sense of active learning.
- 76% parents/whanau attending our learning conversation meetings.
- Winning the National Impact on Community Award for our work on Sports in Education in conjunction with Avalon Intermediate and Hutt City Council.
- Our new state of the art Science block.
- Music performances.
- Our knowledge hub, 21st century learning in different ways.
- Meaningful pathways, students defining their future.
- New lap-tops and Mac computers.
- Mr. Strawbridge's 40 years service to the school and community.
- Celebrating culture week.

I want to thank you all for a fabulous term. It has been packed full with curriculum activities and opportunities. Staff and students have been working hard to ensure the very best outcomes. It is wonderful to see our students shine and succeeding in so many different ways. As Principal, I have now been here for a year, and it has flown by so fast. I have loved every moment, and know that we are implementing some wonderful changes to keep the school moving onwards and upwards, to enable us to reach our vision. I am very lucky to be able to work in such a positive community. Have a safe and relaxing holiday break, see you next term.

Titiro whakarunga ki nga puke
Karen Morgan,
Principal.



OPEN DAY

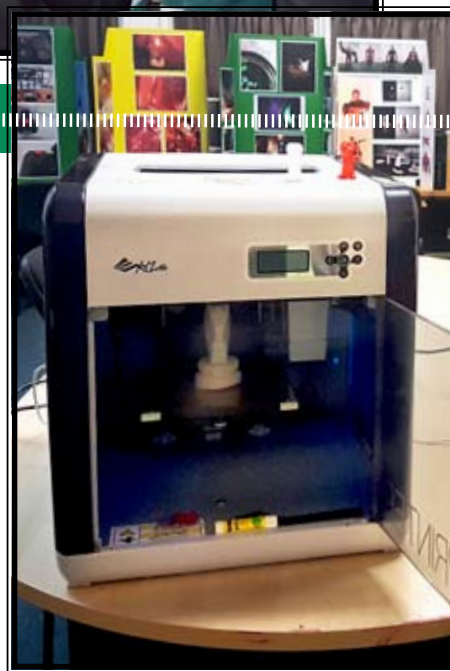
One hundred and thirty Year 8 students from Naenae Intermediate, Avalon Intermediate, St Michaels School, Tui Glen, Wilford School and Maidstone Intermediate spent the morning of Tuesday 13 June at Taita College experiencing a range of activities as an introduction to college.

The Year 8 students were welcomed in the hall by the Taita College principal Ms. Morgan. Then they were divided into small groups which attended four sessions of activities covering the range of subjects offered here at Year 9. The activities were a mix of core subjects – English, Maths, Physical Education and Science and option subjects - Digital Computing, Drama, Music, Workshop and Design.

Some of the 30 minute activities included learning how to use a Bunsen burner while imploding a drink can in science. Fat mat races in P.E. Making a cube box in workshop and drawing the Mitsubishi car symbol in graphics.

Twenty Year 9 Taita students acted as guides and ambassadors for the morning. They were asked a range of questions by the inquisitive Year 8 students about what it means to be at Taita College.

Feedback from the students proved it was a very positive day which they enjoyed immensely.



The Technology Department's 3D printer in operation during the Open Evening.



Year 11 P.E. students playing Bumper Ball for Education Outside The Classroom.

OPEN EVENING

On 21 June we held our Taita College Open Evening and it was an absolute pleasure to meet potential new students and their families. Parents and students were welcomed by our Poly Group, and then members of the student executive leadership team spoke to the audience to let them know about the taonga 'treasures' of Taita, along with sharing all of the incredible opportunities we offer. After the speeches, parents and their families went on a tour of the school led by students, where they got to see the school 'in action'. Year 8 students were able to be actively involved in activities at the different stations on the tour, and experience a hands-on approach to learning. We wanted students to be excited about the learning opportunities available to them at Taita and start seeing themselves in the school and believing in their future.

Even though it was a cold and dark winter's evening, both parents and students relished being able to see our amazing school and all that we have to offer. Viewing a school in the evening adds a new dimension to

the experience. With the inclusion of lights, presentations, videos, the 3D printer, musical performances, building engines, starting up motors, cooking, and games – there was an ambience full of positive excitement.

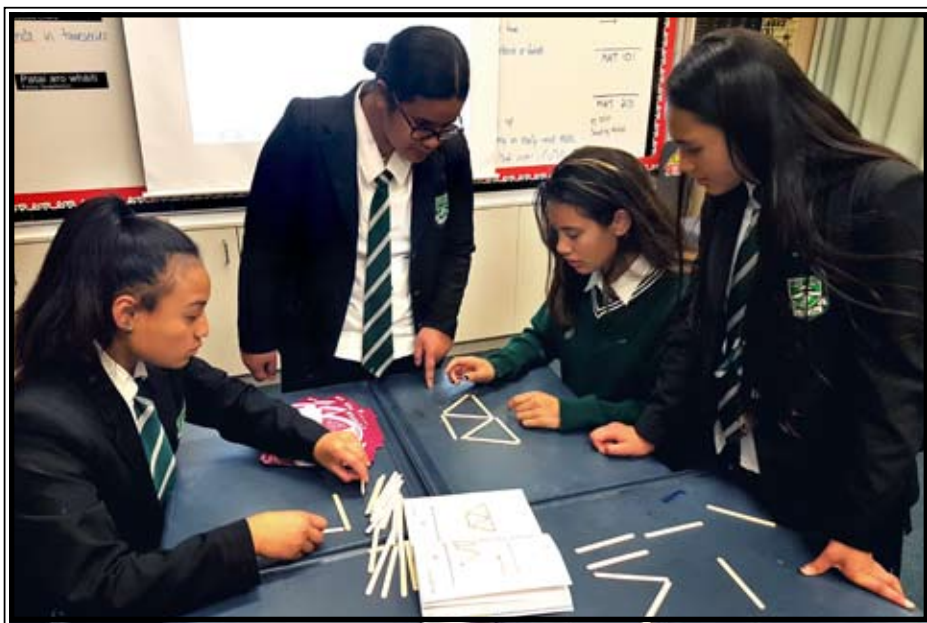
All of our students spoke to our visitors about the importance of whanaungatanga, and that at Taita we are a family, one heart-one beat. Every student will be included, counted and celebrated. We have a diverse community and our aim is for everyone to be the best that they can be!

I was so proud of all of our students who were outstanding ambassadors all evening and led from the front.

I had several parents comment to me about how impressed they were with our students who were polite, respectful, courteous and so helpful throughout the night. The success of the night was due to the hard work of our student body, but also to the fabulous dedication and commitment from our staff. What a team!

I want to thank all of the parents and students who attended. It was wonderful to meet you personally, and I can't wait for your children to become a part of what I know is something really special here at Taita College.

Karen Morgan,
Principal.



LEARNING CONVERSATIONS

Learning conversations have been held at Taita College. This involved parents/whanau coming into school with their children to meet with the tutor teacher and plan their study strategies.

Conversations are about strengths, areas to focus on, attendance, goals, engagement, and offer a holistic approach to building on success. We work collectively to do all we can to help each individual student reach their maximum achievement.

This partnership is incredibly powerful!

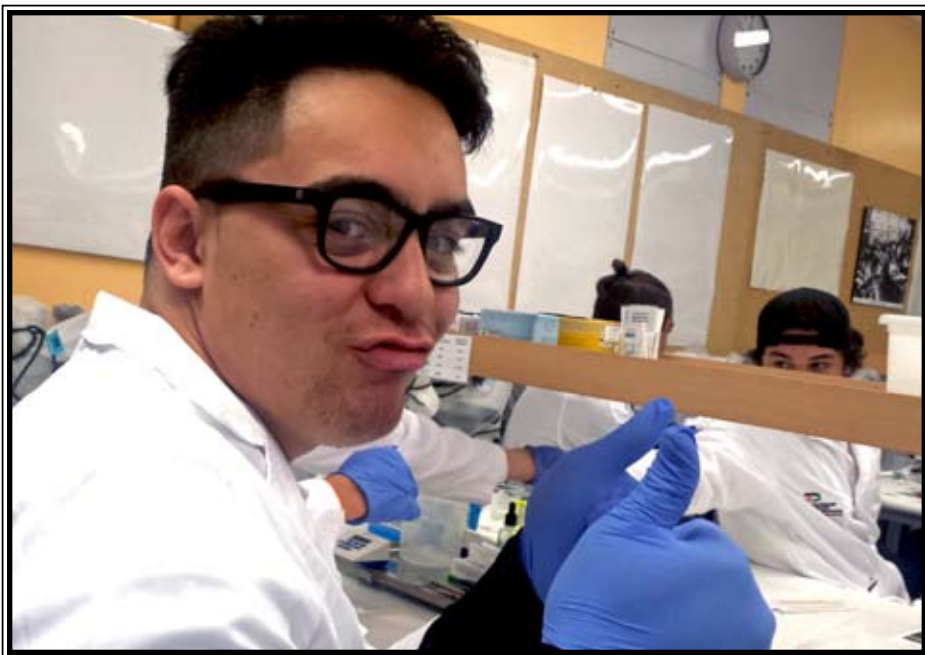
It has proved so successful this year with 76 percent of parents/whanau have attending these meetings with their children. It's all about a partnership for learning, with everyone 'on the same page', working towards a successful outcome for our Taita College students. Owning their learning enables them to love being in school and is crucial for their development.

MICROBIAL TESTING

In association with Partners Trust Collaboration (PTC), twelve Maori students from Year 11 were taken to Victoria University microbial laboratory to test the water quality of the Hutt River. They also tested for different microbes in green lipped mussel.

The water was tested for nitrates, phosphates, acidity and turbidity. It was also tested for cyanobacteria which is caused by the presence of algae.

This practical activity along with a Power Point presentation will earn the students 4 NCEA credits in Level 1 Science.



PHYSICS OUTREACH PROGRAMME



Our Year 12 and 13 Physics students attended a one day workshop on Physics at Victoria University where they were exposed to the science behind atomic structure and the latest developments in regards to Lepton, quarks, neutrinos etc. The students enjoyed these ideas and were excited to see a piece of rock obtained from an atomic bomb explosion. The feedback from the university about our students' curiosity and inquisitiveness was heart-warming. The facilitator Mr. Andrew Ross is quoted as saying "I had the pleasure of lecturing a group of your year 12 and 13 students on a physics experience day last week. They were an animated, polite and receptive bunch and great ambassadors for Taita College. As a lecturer and former teacher I thought you should know how refreshing it was to be with young people who aren't painfully uptight about sticking to the curriculum and genuinely engage in discussion without being prompted. I look forward to working with Taita kids again in the near future."



Taita's state of the art science block is now blessed and open for scientific business. It's shiny and new with all the latest capabilities for our budding young scientists. In keeping with tradition, it will be imaginatively known as... C-Block!



SCIENCE LEADERS

Year 12 students, Eloise Old, Esther Yu, Esther Dahm, and Jasmine Setefano were given the wonderful opportunity to take part in a Women in Leadership programme run by Massey University.

It's core objective was to promote leadership qualities in young women who have not yet experienced such leadership roles and opportunities. To these students, this programme was a great opportunity to gain leadership skills and build up confidence.

The first workshop was held at Massey University on March 24. There the girls met with students from other schools in the region and were allocated different mentors for their projects. They were asked to create a project promoting leadership as well as helping their community in some beneficial manner. With this concept in mind, these students decided to achieve an enterprise where they met students ranging from Year 4 to 8 at St. Michael's School in Taita, carrying out science sessions through experiments every Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons for three weeks. They were motivated to help the younger generation of their community, therefore carrying out their objective of building a

foundation of basic scientific knowledge in younger students. With the motivation and assistance from their project mentor, Rachel Kershaw from Massey University, our students were able to discuss their plans for their chosen project. After planning and further preparation with their mentor, these girls completed their project between the first and third week of term 2. They were then given eight weeks to plan, execute and make a presentation of their project, in order to report back to the university and display their project.

On May 19, the four attended the second workshop at Massey University to display their hard work and effort in front of many other students from the Wellington region, who had also carried out their own projects. Using a display board, they presented their science education project and were very satisfied and appreciative of the opportunity they were given to participate.

Reflecting on this leadership programme, the Taita four say they have learnt 'teamwork and support which has led them to feel more confident. Inspiring them to be the best that they can be'.

Karen Morgan,
Principal.

EVOLUCITY

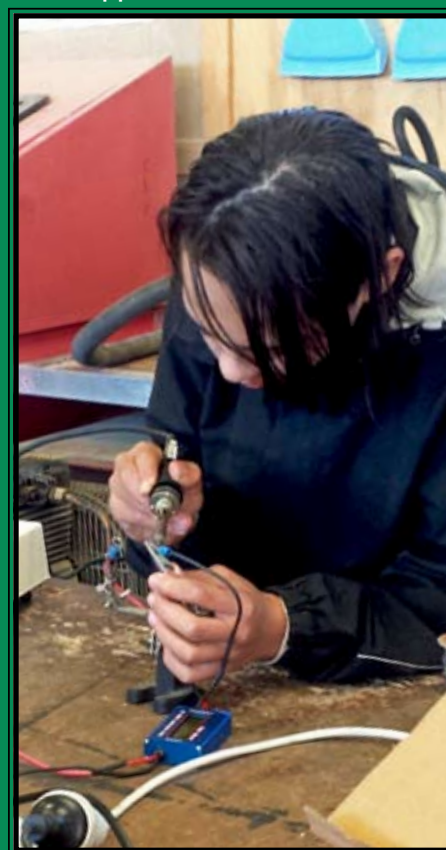
Six Students from Year 11 and 12 are participating in the EVolocity electric car competition. The students are Mathew Hill, Manihira Milner, and Maio Love from year 11. Faipaua Leafa, Godwin Gonzales and Aata Murdoch from year 12.

The aim of this competition is to make an electric car and race it to a maximum speed of 70KM/H. Secondary schools from across the entire Wellington region will be participating in this programme.

As a part of this programme, the students are exposed to programming, making electric circuits and sensory on Arduinos or RaspberryPie. The competition gives the students involved the chance to write a Level 2 Physics internal standard and gain 3 credits.

The race is scheduled for the first week of September. After attending two of the three build-up camps at Weltech the students are looking forward to the last one due to be held in the month of August.

The students work on this project during Tuesday's lunch time with staff support.



CLIMBING TO NEW HEIGHTS



Amongst breathtaking views over Whitireia Park in Porirua, PED 321 took on a 5 credit assessment that epitomized 'reaching for the top' in NCEA. Over two consecutive days they pushed their physical and psychological limits to scale up and down beautiful crags that were completely beyond the comfort zones of many of our city kids.

The assessment required them to be able to identify features of the rock and apply the correct technique when climbing those features.

They also needed to become familiar with the Ewbank Grading system (a numbered system for climbers to identify the difficulty of climbs). As well as being able to identify and manage the hazards and safety risks that come with outdoor climbing, of which there are many real dangers.

Prior to being let loose on natural rock they completed a prep session at Hangdog Indoor Climbing Centre in Petone where they learnt safe belaying techniques.

It was a privilege to spend these days with our Year 13's and watch them not only be prepared to push their own limits but also support and tautoko one another.

Thank you to Mrs A' and Ms Hall who accompanied me and the class, it was quite honestly a breath of fresh air!
Mrs Murdoch

ADRENALIN RUSH

Level 1 PE students took to new heights this term. Putting their safety management and responsible behaviours quite literally to the test in an action packed week of Education Outside the Classroom (EOTC) in order to complete a Level 1 assessment. The Wellington weather played it's part well and we had a beautiful week to take our learning to the outdoors.

Students were challenged to play six-a-side football in giant sized bubbles in Bumper Ball. Climb, jump and fly (via flying fox) their way around a multi-levelled aerial obstacle course more than 20 metres in the air at Adrenalin Forest. They worked together in teams, with members tied together, to complete an Amazing Race around the school. Amongst the adventure and adrenalin, they were assessed on how they demonstrated responsible safety behaviours that positively affected both the physical and emotional safety of themselves and others.

Whew!

All in a week's work for these Adrenalin Junkies!



Both staff and students meeting their fitness challenges.

10KM RUN

The end of term one saw the culmination of a term long training programme that level 3 PE students undertook in preparation for their 4 credit performance standard assessment – a 10km off road race at the Great Forest Event at Waitarere Beach, Levin.

There's no eloquent way to describe how challenging training to run 10km against the clock is, particularly for novice runners. It's absolutely killer! So the fact that EVERY year 13 PE student attempted this challenge is awesome – well done guys, you might not all have met the required time but you certainly met the challenge and for that you should feel proud of your efforts!

It was also great to have teacher participation in this event with Miss Hall, Mr L Morgan and Mrs Murdoch running the 10km 'race' with the students and Mrs Longhurst and Miss Henderson competing in the 5km race – a great teacher team effort!

CHEFS' DAY



Food & Nutrition students helping out on Open Evening

During Chefs Day the senior hospitality classes were involved in creating a meal. The visiting chefs were Derek Yee and Robert Vansverry from WelTec. Seeing these professionals work up close helped give students a taste of working like a chef for a day. They thoroughly enjoyed it and their work went towards earning NCEA credits.



PLANTING ROOTS

Senior Class students have prepared, planted and cared for a small vegetable garden outside the student admin office as part of a Unit Standard on gardening.

The focus has been on soil preparation and care of seedlings. As the plants flourish, Senior Class students are using them in their weekly Food and Nutrition classes.



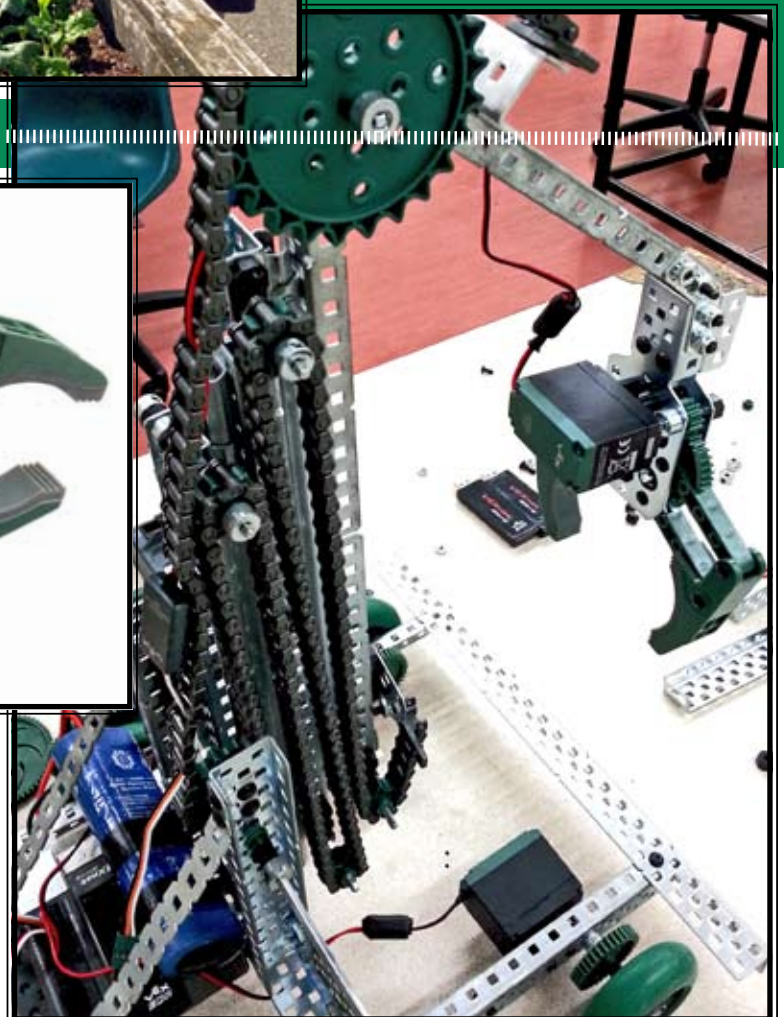
THE ROBOTS ARE COMING



Beware puny humans, the Robots are set to take over Taita College with the return of the robotics club starting up again next term.

The machine-minded minions will probably be meeting during lunchtime, once per week, somewhere in E-block.

Prepare yourselves people!





LEADERSHIP DAY

The mayor's office extended an invitation for a group of senior students to experience a tour of the newly refurbished Hutt City Council buildings and to meet with Mayor Wallace.

The senior executive took up this opportunity and were hosted by the Mayor in the council chambers where they were able to experience first hand the council meeting environment. Some great questions were asked of the Mayor and he responded by taking a real interest in capturing the views of the city's youth.

NEPP AWARD

We are delighted to announce that on May 29 the Hutt City Council's North East Pathways Project (NEPP) which Taita College is a key partner in alongside Avalon Intermediate was awarded the Community Impact Award at the New Zealand Sport and Recreation Awards in Auckland.

This award celebrates collaborative projects which have a positive impact on the community and community sport.

The North East Pathways Project grew from a desire to improve outcomes for students and families in the Taita/Pomare/Stokes Valley district of the Hutt Valley – where harsh socioeconomic conditions prevail and students can face a range of distractions to their learning.

Taita College's part in the project



ANZAC DAY

Every year members of our senior executive attend ANZAC day services at the Lower Hutt Cenotaph, Taita Cemetery and the Stokes Valley RSA to honour the men and women who dedicated their lives to protect future generations of New Zealanders.

This year's service at the Taita Cemetery, Tamara and Wiramu Howie laid floral tributes on behalf of the college and Chris Hipkins, MP for Rimutaka. At the Stokes Valley service the poem 'In Flanders Field' was recited in English and Maori by Joshua Tollison and Kaisa Fa'atui, while Jonnie Tiaki, Anna Trethewey and Tiana Tikimoe represented the college at the Lower Hutt Cenotaph.



Mrs Murdoch receiving the NEPP Award in Auckland

was introducing two Sport in Education classes at Year 9 and 10 where student learning was contextualized across core subjects using sport, the values of sport and active learning to engage learners and improve academic and social

outcomes. These classes place a strong emphasis on team work with strong teacher teams playing a major role in cross curricular delivery.

Students in these classes report that they "Enjoy learning in and through sport" and that they "Understand things better when they are doing something they really enjoy and are good at."

It is affirming that the governing body of this project-Sport NZ has recognized the work that has gone on in this collaborative project.

We are grateful for inclusion in the initiative and the support that the Hutt City Council and Sport NZ have given Taita College.

THE KNOWLEDGE HUB

This term in the Knowledge Hub we have had some awesome new changes. Along with the HUGE amount of new books and web sites available, we have changed the layout of the Hub and included a lounge space where students can work together corroboratively in a relaxed and comfortable atmosphere.

Sofas, a long low table, floor cushions and a floor mat provide a homely, yet very functional and practical modern learning space.

Because learning and knowledge comes from experiences and not just from information gathering, we have provided a Creative Space within the Hub where students and staff can have a go at knitting or weaving.

New jigsaw puzzles and games have been donated by staff, for use at break times, and have been a



huge hit with our students. Scrabble is very popular and during Samoan Language Week the challenge was to play Scrabble using Samoan words. A team of dedicated students and staff have devoted their break times to completing a 1000 piece Jigsaw puzzle and now have another puzzle on the go.

We have made time and space for High Interest clubs and currently



have an Anime Club and a Book Club running. Anime Club runs three lunchtimes a week and Book Club meets once a month. We are still really keen to know what you would like to see in our knowledge Hub and our suggestion box still stands on the issuing counter, alternatively you can email the Knowledge Hub Facilitation Team on:

knowledgehub@taita.school.nz

ANIME CLUB

This term we started an Anime Club in the Knowledge Hub. Anime is a style of Japanese hand drawn or computer animated film and television that is very popular worldwide as an art form and has millions of fans around the globe.

Taita College Anime Club is made up of a group of talented Anime fans who share their love of the art and stories that come from the animations. Our meetings are casual and student led and we meet Monday, Wednesday and Friday at lunchtime in the Knowledge Hub.

Some of our Club members were lucky enough to attend The Wellington Armageddon Entertainment Expo over Queen's Birthday Weekend, where they got to meet some of the characters and designers who inspire them.

When we meet we share, watch and discuss our favourite films and episodes as well as design and draw



Drawn by Laurance O'Meara

our own characters.

We draw Manga and are working towards putting together our own journal of works called a Doujinshi that we can share in the Knowledge Hub. The Club is currently working on a story board for our own animation.

Laurance uses a computer program called Paint Tool SAI to draw anime as well as freehand drawing and Racheal Judge likes to draw in pencil freehand. We have a range of drawing tools and several step by step Manga drawing books and watch Manga drawing tutorials as we work.

Later in the year we hope to have some Cosplay and "Sing Like Miku" interactive challenges in the Knowledge Hub. All students and staff are welcome to come along and share and gain Knowledge about Anime. We look forward to sharing more of our work with you.



Everybody here at Taita and also a (significant) number of former pupils and past teachers in the wider community recognise the name Strawbridge. That's because Mr Dave Strawbridge has been a fixture here, teaching generations history and social studies in his indomitable anecdotal style.

The date of when he first started teaching at Taita could've been lost in time if it wasn't for the Principal's Secretary, Mrs Marsden uncovering an important artefact. She found the telegram (!) that was sent to confirm the appointment of a young fellow named David Strawbridge, stamped with the date 2 May 1977.

That makes this year Dave's 40th teaching at Taita College. Which is a fact that even seemed to confuse the great man himself.

It was left to some members of the senior staff to have the telegram printed on icing and lay the cake in waiting to surprise him in the staff room.

This was not the only cake to come Mr Strawbridge's way. Both he and Mrs Marden were the cause of another celebration held during a break in the teacher's only day on 2 June.

The knowledge hub was festooned with decorations proclaiming happy 70th birthday. After speeches from former staff members Warwick Johnston, Trevor Williams and Val Whisker everybody was treated to the delicious baking provided by Mrs Pye.



Mr Strawbridge surprised by 2 cakes in the same term, steadies himself with Mrs Marsden.



Miss Wooding congratulating the long standing Principal's Secretary Mrs Marsden.



Warwick Johnston and Trevor Williams both recounting Strawbridge related memories.

PINK SHIRT DAY

On 31 May Taita College celebrated Pink Shirt Day, which is about working together to stop bullying by celebrating diversity and promoting positive social relationships.

It supports the school's vision to create a community where all people feel safe, valued and respected, regardless of age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability, or cultural background.

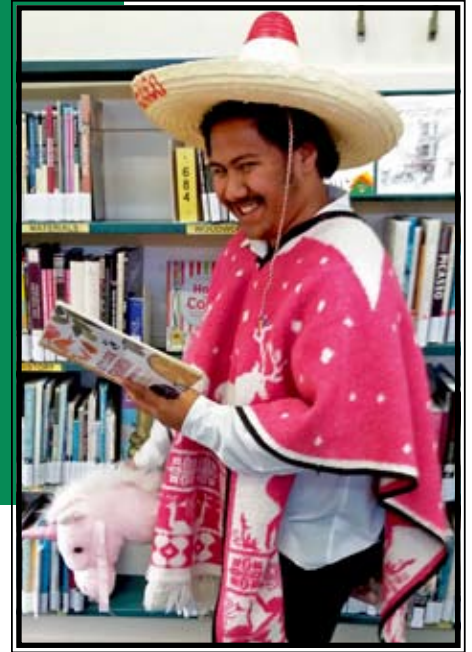
The original event was begun in 2007 by David Shepherd and Travis Price from Canada. They bought and distributed 50 pink shirts after a male Year 10 student, Jadrien Cota was bullied for wearing a pink shirt on the first day of school.

The word got out online and hundreds of students showed up in pink, some from head-to-toe, to stand together against bullying.

New Zealand has been celebrating Pink Shirt Day since 2009 and the campaign grows stronger and larger every year.

Pink Shirt Day is led by the Mental Health Foundation, with support from: The Peace Foundation, RainbowYOUTH, InsideOUT, New Zealand Post Primary Teachers' Association, Youthline and Family Works.

Speaking-up and giving voice to a problem is the first step towards addressing it. Having conversations with your friends, family, whanau, children, parents, teachers, students and wider communities is a great way to come up with ideas and strategies to address bullying. Speaking up is also about asking for help when you need it. This can be scary, and sometimes the first person you ask can't or won't do anything to help you. Keep asking. Pink Shirt Day shows that there are many people who care about supporting you.



Bullying behaviour is influenced by the actions and values of friends, families and whanau, schools, workplaces and whole communities. Real change happens when we stand together, sending a strong message that there is no place for bullying in New Zealand. Bullying often makes

people feel alone, but Pink Shirt Day shows that many people care. Many people want to play their part in making New Zealand a safe, welcoming and respectful place for everyone, regardless of age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability, or cultural background.



CULTURAL MUFTI DAY

To culminate Samoan Language week, Taita College held a cultural mufti-day on Thursday 1 June. Students were encouraged to come to school dressed in clothes that reflected their own cultural background. It's hoped that occasions like this offer an accepting environment for our young people to build a firmer picture of their own identities and also gives them a chance to recognise the diversity that makes up our community.



Once upon a time...

The Year 12 & 13 senior ball is fast approaching! This year it will be held at Aston Norwood, Kaitoke, Saturday 2 September. Tickets cost \$80 and can be paid for at the front office. Tickets must be paid in full by 15 August.

UP-COMING EVENTS

First Day term 3	Mon, July 24, 2017
Tu Tangata	Tue, July 25, 12:30pm – 11pm
Parent Teacher Evening	Thu, July 27, 2:30 – 4pm & 5pm – 6:30pm
Tourism EORC Trip	Mon, July 31, 7am – Fri, August 4, 5pm
CSW Table Tennis Singles	Fri, August 4, 9am – 3:30pm
CSW Squash Open	Wed, August 9, 9am – 3:30pm
Careers Expos	Wed, August 9, 11am – 4pm
CSW Badminton Junior Team	Thu, August 10, 9am – 3:30pm
CSW Junior Netball Tournament	Thu, August 10, 9am – 3:30pm
CSW Table Tennis Teams	Fri, August 11, 9am – 3:30pm
Sports Photos	Fri, August 11, 9am – 3:30pm
CSW Road Race	Wed, August 16, 9am – 3:30pm
Mid Term Break	Fri, August 25
Drama EOTC	Fri, August 25, 10am – 2:30pm
EPRO Science Challenge Year 9 Team	Wed, August 30, 9:30am – 12:30pm
Year 10 EPRO Team Challenge	Thu, August 31, 4:30pm – 7pm
School Ball TBC	Sat, September 2, 7pm – 11:30pm
Junior Basketball North Island Tournament	Sat, September 2, 9am – Tue, September 5, 5pm
Winter Tournament	Sun, September 3, 9am – Sat, September 9, 5pm
League Nationals	Mon, September 4, 6:30am – Fri, September 8, 5pm
Football Nationals	Mon, September 4, 8am – Fri, September 8, 4:30pm
Netball North Island Champs	Mon, September 4, 8am – Fri, September 8, 4:30pm
Hurricanes U15 Boys Rugby	Wed, September 6, 8am – Sat, September 9, 4pm
Senior Basketball Tournament	Thu, September 7, 9am – Sat, September 9, 5pm
AWD Indoor Bowls	Mon, September 11, 9am – 3:30pm
Kio Rahi Senior Tournament	Wed, September 13, 9am – 3:30pm
CSW Student Coaching Course	Tue, September 19, 9am – 3pm
Last Day term 3	Friday, September 29, 2017

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

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