



TAITAUNGAWAINAE TOURNAMENT

On Thursday 30 November, fourteen year 10 students from Taita competed in the Taitaungawainae annual tournament.

This is a competition between Taita, Heretaunga, Wainuiomata and Naenae. Each team plays five different sports throughout the day. This year the trophy was taken out by Heretaunga with Taita in 2nd and Wainuiomata and Naenae 3rd equal. Our students made us proud and managed to walk away with the Fair Play award.





Whakataka te hau ki te uru
Whakataka te hau ki te tonga
Kia mākinakina ki uta
Kia mātaratara ki tai
E hi ake ana te atakura
He tio, he huka, he hau hū
Tihei mauri ora!

Talofa lava, malo e lei lei, na
maste, ni sa bula vinaka, kiorana,
tena koutou katoa

2017 - what a year. It is hard to believe we are nearing the end, it has gone by so fast. We started this year launching our new vision which is really exciting. We know exactly where we are headed and what we have to do to get there. Our vision underpins all that we do in the school, and I know that as a team we are going to do all that we can to ensure your children can be the very best. I have the best job in the world, and I feel so privileged to be able to work alongside such a rich diverse group of students, staff and community - collectively we are well on our way to make our vision a reality!

Our vision whakatauki talks about Aiming high for what is truly valuable, to be persistent and don't let obstacles stop you from reaching your goal. In 2017 we certainly did face a few challenges and had to overcome some obstacles, but we were able to work through these together because of our sense of manaakitanga (real support of each other), kotahitanga (that sense of unity,

respect and belief in one another, and of course our commitment to whanaungatanga (Aiga, family) - we are one heart, one beat. These core values that guide us are what help to shape us into being better citizens in our community. People are the most important thing in this world, and by respecting ourselves, each other and our place we continue to ensure Taita college is an incredible place to learn and flourish in so many ways.

This year we have had so many success stories. I wanted to take this opportunity to point out just a few:

- Increased roll
- Increased NCEA results, with a 22% increase at Level 2
- An overall increase in our Maori and Pasifika achievement levels
- Two new computer labs, BYOD, new website, Reports online
- We won a national award for contribution to community with our sport in education programme - in partnership with Avalon Intermediate and the Hutt city council
- New Science block
- Our Boys volleyball team placed 11th in NZ - outstanding
- Several students in regional and national representative teams
- A record number of scholarships
- Mr Dave Strawbridge teaching at Taita College for 40 years

This year we have introduced a number of new curriculum initiatives and programmes - all of which have been aimed at meeting the needs of your children, to increase engagement and success at all levels. Our most noteworthy has been our meaningful pathway programme for year 12 and 13 students. This programme is where students work on individual education plans in a homeroom situation for two days a week, then go to WelTec for two days and then do a gateway work placement for one day of the

week. This programme has and is changing lives. It is so important that we remember that although going to university is an admirable pathway, in today's day and age there are many more alternative meaningful pathways that must be acknowledged as being credible and significant. These vocational pathways lead to success and future employment and must be recognised as viable options. We believe in these programmes, and to see your children excelling and reaching their potential is priceless.

In our vision we also emphasise the importance of connecting and working in partnership, when we work together we achieve together. This year through our knowledge hub we have linked with Hutt City Libraries. This partnership has enabled every student signed up at Taita College to be able to access all resources available from the Lower Hutt Libraries, which includes e-books, e-magazines, and offers an array of sites that can assist with research and knowledge that support all learning and studying. This has been an excellent partnership which has empowered our students to have unlimited online access. The Hutt city council have been unwavering in their support for us, and I thank them for their ongoing support.

We also partnered with the Hutt River and Upper Hutt Rotary as a means to establish and purchase a mac computer suite for our music department. Thanks to the fund-raising and support of rotary, we can now offer our music students the ability to increase their literacy, and use the latest computer programmes to write and compose music. We have so many talented musicians here that will benefit. I would like to thank Phill Newborn particularly and Rotary for their wonderful contribution. It has been said it takes a village to raise a child and community partnership certainly counts!

Partnership is very important to us, and as a school we would not be so successful without the

ongoing support from parents, whanau and families. To the parents; It is an absolute pleasure to work alongside your talented and capable children. We recently had the education review office come to our school and one of their strongest messages to us was that the students are happy, they like learning here and relationships are strong. This is an excellent foundation to continue to build on, to enable your children to reach their potential and climb to great heights.

On behalf of the staff I would like to thank all parents for those important things that you do to support your children's learning; ensuring they are here on time, everyday, in perfect uniform, ready to learn, and that when they get home you are able to check in with them. Those little conversations that you have with your children are very powerful and make a huge difference. The fact that over 76% of you attended our learning conversations this year is testament to the fact of how much you care and are invested. Thank you for your wonderful support and collaboration.

Our drive is to have active life-long learners who love being at school, who love learning. Our aim is to have students who believe; believe in themselves, their capabilities, their identity, their culture and their future. We want our students to say yes I come from Taita, and yes I can do whatever I choose to do in my future!

I would like to take this opportunity to specifically thank my senior leadership team for their wonderful work this year and for their fabulous support. Thank you to our curriculum leaders and deans, who are relentless in offering the best learning environment possible - your work is highly valued. To all of the teaching staff and support staff thank you all for your professionalism, your hard work, dedication, and for caring so much about our people, our place and our learning. Our staff set high expectations, offer continued support, guidance, and encouragement to every student - what an amazing team. To the new staff, you have come in and embraced our kaupapa and immersed yourself in our culture

you all, so keep aiming high. Success is about reaching academic excellence, but it is also about reaching your potential, understanding the importance of morals, values, leadership, and of course obtaining the attributes that give you the life skills you require.

To the year 13's leaving us, thank you for a wonderful year. I hope you will take with you some fond memories of Taita College, knowing that the work of many, has helped you to be ready for your next steps. We wish you well on your new journey. Be confident, be true to yourself, and make the most of every opportunity. Kia kaha, kia maia, kia manawanui.

To the student executive you are all leaders in your own right – thank you for helping to guide our school and students. Never stop doubting the influence one person can have on others, and always remember your actions can have a huge impact on many.



The next chapter for Taita College 2018 is going to be very exciting - where continued success is going to be at the forefront. Next year we are introducing Samoan language for the first time, and we have already started a curriculum review. Curriculum is everything we do in a school and in order to bridge the gap, we need to think outside the square. Move away from traditional models to be culturally responsive and offer a holistic curriculum that is authentic, real and makes sense.



which is wonderful. Thank you to the staff who have left during the year and those that we are farewelling in December, nga mihi ki a koutou. Your contribution has been outstanding and we appreciate that you have had a significant impact on so many.

I would also like to thank the students for being so fantastic and giving us all so many "magic moments". We are proud of you. We certainly want the best for



Titiro whakarunga ki nga puke

Nga mihi ki a koutou
Karen Morgan

Thank you for a fabulous year!

ROTARY CELEBRATION DINNER

Last year local Rotary Clubs were approached by Taita College for any help they could provide in funding additional computers for the school, specifically for use in the music area.

Raising money is a difficult job and Rotary receives many requests. Fortunately for Taita College two Rotary clubs, Upper Hutt and Hutt River Valley agreed to form a tripartite group with the school and applied via their Rotary District organisation for a matched funding grant from the Rotary Foundation.

The Rotary Foundation funds block grants to districts that fund scholarships, projects, and travel which align with the mission of The Rotary Foundation. This enables Rotarians to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through the improvement of health, the support of education, and the alleviation of poverty.

Our scheme fell into the category of supporting education.

Both Rotary Clubs and the school agreed to fund raise \$3000 and put it into a pot that we could then apply to be matched by the Rotary Foundation.

The application was submitted and approved! For an investment of \$3000 the school has received \$18,000 to spend on new music computer equipment.

A celebration dinner took place at the school in November. It was attended by members from both Rotary Clubs, the staff, principal and school commissioner of Taita College, the deputy mayor of Lower Hutt Mr David Bassett, and Adrienne Murray the district Rotary representative who was part of the decision to approve the final grant.

The talent of the senior students from the Taita College music department were showcased throughout the evening. They performed excellent vocal numbers and provided background instrumental jams to accompany the dinner. Their level of skill and performance was appreciated by all.

Following dinner the cheque was presented with a speech by Liam Jensen the president of the Rotary Club of Upper Hutt. He made note of how he'd witnessed the students confidently take charge of the senior prize giving. He described it as being a moving experience at times and congratulated how the community and staff of Taita College nurture the self worth of our young people. The school principal Karen Morgan gratefully accepted the cheque and reinforced that Rotary can be proud of contributing to this growing confidence that we are all working together to build.

Thank you Rotary!



EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Dux 2017, Stokes Valley Rotary Dux Cup & Book Award
Taita College Proxime Accessit Cup 2017 & Paper Plus Book Award

Moran Cup for the Year 12 Girl with the best All Round Academic, Cultural, Service and Sporting Record

Moran Cup for the Year 12 Boy with the best All Round Academic, Cultural, Service and Sporting Record

Valerie Whisker Cup for Attitude

Paul Swain Cup for Persistence in Academic Studies

Taita College Academic Cup Year 11

Taita College Academic Cup Year 12

Anne Le Claire Cup for Loyalty & Service to Taita College

Head Boy - **Faipaua Leafa**

Deputy Head Boy - **Misinala Misa**

Head Girl - **Jasmine Setefano**

Deputy Head Girl - **Lepeti Melesala**

Anna Trethewey

Cullum Barker

Esther Yu

Faipaua Leafa

Christian Ripia

Jazzy Kayes

Daniel Cross

Eloise Old

Jasmine Setefano



SCHOLARSHIPS

Nathan Rossiter Excellence Award

Nathan Rossiter Integrity of Character Award

Hutt Mana Charitable Trust Scholarship

(Awarded to a student who intends to study in an energy related field)

Tu Tangata Leadership Award

(Awarded to a Pacific Leader of the Poly Club undertaking Tertiary study or an apprenticeship in 2018)

The Susan Taylor Leadership Cup & Scholarship

(Awarded to a Yr13 student who shows an attitude that is positive, self motivated and committed to improving their own or other peoples circumstances and who demonstrates a high general academic ability)

Kia Kaha Trophy & Scholarship

(Awarded to a student who shows tenacity in the pursuit of excellence)

Ka Maro te Kaki o te Kotuku Scholarships

(Awarded to students undertaking university study in 2018)

TeAuaha NZ Institute of Creativity Scholarship

Titiro Whakarunga Scholarship

(Funded by the Winton & Margaret Bear Trust)

KPMG Scholarship

Victoria University Pathway Scholarship

Victoria University Excellence Scholarship

Victoria University Achievers Scholarship

Victoria University Nga Hoe a Kupe

Pathfinder Scholarship

New Zealand School of Tourism Scholarship

George Ravenhall

Tegan Tautala Hanita

James Evans

Tara Kerr

Tamara Howie

Matilda Faifai

Vavao Leafa

Gloria Leauga

Christian Ripia

Alex Taanoa

Vavao Leafa

Kaisa Fa'atui

Matilda Faifai

Joel Alheit

Brooke Crichton

Tara Kerr

Anna Trethewey

Brooke Crichton

Mafutaga Faapusa

Tara Kerr

Olive Sua

Bree Jensen

Alex Taanoa



HANGI / UMU LEARNING

In our third year of having an integrated approach to teaching NCEA level one at year 10, the Science hangi and umu unit on heat was strengthened alongside other subjects: Social Studies, Music, Maori, Technology, and English.

The entire year 10 cohort was involved in the project. The day begins at 8.00am in the morning with a karakia in the marae. We were joined by two scientist from Callaghan Innovation, who helped us take

the temperature of the heated rocks and embers, enabling our students to accurately learn about heat transfer in different ways.

This year harakeke weaving was the new addition introduced into our programme, primarily so that our students can be more closely connected to this culture and appreciate its value.

The day ended with a Powhiri to the parents by our students, showcasing their musical talents, followed by the kai.





BASKETBALL

Tayne McKinnon, who recently won the Taita College trophy for All Round Excellence in Junior Girls Sport, travelled to Las Vegas, USA with the NZBA U14 Girls Basketball team to compete in two tournaments called Big Foot and Jam-On-It.

She was selected after attending monthly New Zealand Basketball Academy trial camps. These camps are for players aged between 12 to 18 years old. They are often held over four days which may last over 6 hours long. Only 11 to 13 players per team are selected to attend the tournaments in the USA. This was the second time Tayne has been selected. The point of the trip is to expose players from around the world to scouts from Colleges in the United States.

Tayne's under 14 girls faced some "Big scary teams" but still managed to make it through to the semi-finals. The NZ Varsity Girls in the grade above her won both tournaments and had plenty of scout interest including a coach from Hawaii who seemed very interested in talent from New Zealand. Tayne was able to see a clear pathway in the sport that can lead to scholarships and playing at the highest echelon of the game. She got to meet players from the NBA and attend College games at

UNLV. Apart from these sporting highlights she was also happy that she got to go shopping in Las Vegas.

Tayne can be proud that she is living out the vision of the school. 'Aiming high for what is truly valuable. Being persistent and not letting obstacles stop her from reaching her goal.'



Tayne McKinnon on-the-ball in Las Vegas. (Photos sourced from NZBA's facebook page)

CREATIVE WRITING

I feel the hunger, I feel the chains.
I feel the blood pumping through my veins.

I feel the colour, dark and black.
I can feel the scars on my back.

I feel my brothers' and sisters' tears.
I feel their dreams and feel their fears.

I love to pray, but I don't like the sorrow.
I'd rather die today, than live tomorrow.

Malachi Rangi (Year 10)

October this year saw the retirement of the Principal's Secretary Jill Marsden. She has spent 23 productive years at the College spanning the tenure of five principals: Les Macaskill, Murray Trenberth, Saty Candasamy, John Murdoch, and the current principal Karen Morgan.

When Jill started at Taita College her own children; Richard, Sheralyn and Jenny all attended the school. Things have changed since then and Jill now has seven grandchildren. She's looking forward immensely to becoming more involved with the little ones.

"Bonding with the grandchildren - it is amazing how you get to know them so much better the more time you spend with them."

Jill's witnessed many changes at Taita as well. Including fluctuating rolls and different initiatives designed to improve the school.

"These days it's a college where the students enjoy being together. You go into the playground and the kids are laughing together - it's a nice environment. Teachers are all really caring and do want the students to succeed - they have their welfare at heart. Teacher's try so hard to encourage every student to do their best."

In addition to Jill's role as the principal's secretary she spent ten years being the Netball Co-ordinator which included umpiring games.

"That was a wonderful way to get to know the students."

Jill also served as the Secretary to the Taita College Board of Trustees.

"I have been doing the minutes for committees and boards for over 35 years, ever since my children started Kindergarten." She also served as school secretary for Taita Central and was on the committee there.



On Jill's last day there was a farewell luncheon held in the staff room after school. It was a popular event attended by staff, friends and former colleagues that spanned Jill's entire history at the college.

Many people spoke, and everybody recounted the same sentiments about Jill's amazing efficiency, her vast knowledge of school systems and most importantly the warmth with which she gives-up her time to help others.

Jill's final message to students:
"Get an education , for the world is your oyster."

THE TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT



Vavao Leafa and Bree Jensen present our grounds keeper Tom Mohi with the gifts they made for him in PDT.

Product Design Technology students are required to design and manufacture a solution that meets the needs of a real client.

Level 3 students Vavao Leafa and Bree Jensen both chose to use this opportunity to thank Thomas Mohi for helping them with physical fitness training outside of school.

Tom had no idea that they were working hard in class designing and carving an ornamental spear and taiaha as gifts for him. He was extremely grateful when the girls surprised him during lunch time recently. Bree and Vavao supported each other all through the long process it took to produce such high quality gifts. Having the same goal definitely helped them achieve this happy result. They can be very proud of what they've achieved and the unselfish way they've shared their efforts with Tom.



Level 2 Product Design Technology projects:

Outdoor chair made by Mac Sione. Stand made by Kian Mchardy. Table made by Jay Tofa.



Large hood waistcoat made by Emily Morete-Norgren for her client Dominique Richie



Handbag made by Sara Iosua for her client Kwin Quinn



Kimiora Tana and Rachel Korewha bake and present a cake for Level 2 Food and Nutrition



Mac Sione's presentation of food and vegetables for Level 2 Food and Nutrition



THE KNOWLEDGE HUB

The Knowledge Hub is very privileged to have a wonderful team of dedicated student facilitators who have given up their break times throughout the year to serve in the Knowledge Hub. They support our learners and keep the Hub running smoothly, especially at busy morning tea and lunch times. I would like to acknowledge the service of our committed and enthusiastic team of Student Knowledge Hub Facilitators, their input and ideas have been valued and have been part of creating the triumph we now call the Knowledge Hub. A huge THANK YOU to Esther Yu, Zeta Thickett, Ellarose Lamberton, Loria Mamea, Penny Tekira, Esther Dahm, Marshall Kennedy-Newton, Emily Morete-Norgren, Cruz Campbell, Zakary Hooper-Wills, Mya Kaden, Danni-Lee Kokiri, Adonia MacArthur, Tyrone Clark and Aaron Davies for your service to our school.

We have had a busy year in the Knowledge Hub
Check out some of our stats!

Over 600 new items on the shelves!

Top 10 Books 2017

1. Trains
2. Healthy Food Guide
3. Official NZ Road Code
4. Samoa: Pacific Pride
5. The Help
6. Survivors Club
7. Trayaurus & the Enchanted Crystal
8. Zombie McCrombie from an
Overturned Kombi
9. Wonder
10. Born to Fly

Issued Items 2017

Books	1982
Headphones	905
Playing Cards	283
Magazines	64
DVDs	24

Issued by House 2017

Narraway	592
Bear	435
Jamieson	400
Charles	382
Staff	248

UP-COMING EVENTS 2018

Teacher Only Day	Thu, January 25
New Staff Orientataion	Fri, January 26, 8:30am – 4:00pm
Year 9 and New Students Powhiri	Mon, January 29, 8:50am
Year 9 Orientation Day	Tue, January 30, 8:50am
Year 9 and 10 Timetable Commences	Wed, January 31
Year 9 ID photographs	Wed, January 31
Full Timetable for all year levels	Mon, February 5, 8:50am – 3:15pm
year 10 - 13 ID Photographs	Thu, February 15
Parent Meeting with Tutor Teachers	Thu, February 15, 6:30pm – 8:00pm
NCEA Parent Information Evening	Wed, February 21, 6:30pm – 8:00pm
Athletics Day	Thu, February 22
Parent BOT Community Meeting	Wed, February 28, 7pm – 8pm
Whanau Parent Meeting	Wed, March 7, 7pm – 8pm
Fono Meeting	Wed, March 14, 7pm – 8pm
Teacher Only Day	Fri, March 16
Summer Tournament	Mar 19 – 23
Good Friday	Friday, Mar 30
Easter Monday	Monday, Apr 2
Easter Tuesday Holiday	Tuesday, Apr 3
Last Day Term 1	Friday, Apr 13

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

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