



Titiro Whakarunga Ki Nga Puke

# TAITA COLLEGE

*"Pride through Success ♦ Honour through Service"*

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

As we are midway through Term 1, students are now settled into the academic focus at Taita College. Senior students should be looking at their Term 1 assessment calendar to prepare for internal assessments this term. As you are aware, Mr Murdoch is on a sabbatical this term researching junior curriculum and assessment practices. He has visited several schools around New Zealand that demonstrate good practice in this area and we look forward to his return next term where he will share back his findings.



## Learning Conferences

These will be held on Thursday & Friday, 19 & 20 March and classes will not run on these days. Learning conferences are a 20-minute meeting with your child's tutor teacher to discuss progress year to date and set important learning goals for the year. The focus for Years 9 & 10 is on literacy and numeracy, as well as discussions about course options, and for Years 11-13 the focus is around NCEA progress and achievement as well as career pathways.

Your child's tutor teacher will have been in touch with you regarding an interview time. Last year 80% of parents and whanau attended these conferences and we aspire to increase this.

It is important to remember that these learning conferences do not substitute the regular and ongoing dialogue with subject teachers. If you have any questions regarding your child's learning, please ring the office and leave a message.

## Athletics

On Thursday 5 March we had our school Athletics day. A great day was had by all and it was excellent that so many students participated in the various athletics events. The day was an excellent display of athleticism and having fun. The house system is still going strong at Taita College and it was great to see so many students and staff dress up for the Taita College version of the 'Sevens'. On Wednesday 11 March we will be sending a group of students to represent Taita at the Hutt Valley Athletics Championships.



## **Year 9 and 10 PE & Health**

A reminder that all Year 9 students need the red PE & Health book available for purchase for \$20 from the student admin office, and that all Year 10 students need the yellow PE workbook \$10 – also available from the student admin office.

Thank you to all those that have done this already!

## **Lunchtime Music Concerts**

On Wednesday 25 February, we held our first Taita College Summer Jam. It was an open stage for students to get up and celebrate the good weather by playing some good music in a lunchtime concert. We had a great turn out, with some of our senior music students completing their performances for NCEA. There were also a number of students and teachers who got up and gave it their best. Thanks to everyone who participated and came to support their fellow students! Due to the success, there is another one planned soon... watch this space!



## **MaiBiz – an Inspired Entrepreneur Experience**

Taita College and the Maori Woman's Development Incorporated ran a three day business programme on 11-13 February 2015. It was an informative 3 day event where students utilised skills gained from all their subjects while gaining new essential skills like the creation of the business plan, negotiating, leadership and teamwork (from a business prospective), delegation, time management, and many other areas. The students performed a business presentation in a 'pressure cooker' situation. The outcome of the business presentation allowed the judges to determine the winning team and which team receives the gold medals! The image is of the winning team with their medals!



## **Netball Trials**

We will be holding netball trails at the Taita College netball courts on the following days

### **Trial One: Saturday 7 March**

Year 9 and 10 – 10.00am till 11.00am

Year 11, 12 and 13- 11.00am – 12.00pm

### **Trial Two: Saturday 14 March 10.00am – 12.30pm**

Players selected to trial for Premier One only

### **Trial Three: Saturday 21 March 10.00am – 12.30pm**

All players except Premier One

### ***Netball fee: \$65 per player for Saturday teams / \$95 for Premier One players***

Fees are waived for students whose parents / caregivers etc volunteer to coach or umpire.

If you are unable to come to trials but want to be put in a team you must speak to Mrs Peek, Ms Morgan or Mrs Elliott.

## **School Cross Country - Wednesday 1 April**

Our students have been doing **amazing** preparation for the upcoming school cross country. **2.4km** Run for Years 9 &10 (we will be taking a team to the CSW Cross Country Champs on 27 May)

**4km** assessment Run for Year 11 PE Classes

**7km** assessment run for Year 12 PE Classes. Preparation for Year 13's 10km run.

## **Avalon Intermediate Sports Expo**

On Saturday 14 March a sports expo is being held at Avalon Intermediate from 12.00 pm - 4.00 pm. A range of clubs and associations will be there showing what they offer and doing membership promotions. This is a joint venture between the school, Sport New Zealand and the Hutt City Council. Enjoy bubble soccer, bubble bullrush, zumba, football, rugby, cricket, tennis, basketball, netball, league, hockey and much more! There will be food, prizes to be won and the opportunity to meet local sports heroes. This will be an afternoon of fun for the whole family. If wet, will be held on the Sunday.

## **Payment of Fees and Activity Donation**

We expect 100% effort every day from our students and in turn we pledge to put 100% into their learning. We have seen remarkable achievements from our students in NCEA results in the past two years and we aim to continue. This success is the result of excellent teaching and learning which includes providing our students with resources over and above those funded by the Ministry of Education. The reality is that the government does not provide us with enough funding for what we want to provide for your children.

The fees are for workbooks that become the property of the students and materials for some subjects such as woodwork, metalwork and food courses.

We're extremely supportive of our students and keen to offer them every opportunity for a well-rounded education. This includes exposing them to musical, cultural, drama and sporting activities, providing them with more resources in the library, transport in the school van, the provision of the year book and leadership opportunities. These activities are funded by the activity donation. We provide receipts for activity donations in April for the tax year so that you can claim a third of it back from IRD.

The easiest method for paying the fees and activity donation is through automatic payment. A payment of \$10 per child per week would, in most cases, more than cover these charges. Once the costs are met the money is held against the respective students and can be used for uniform and other expenses. At the end of the child's education, surplus money is refunded to you. We strongly recommend that you start an AP if you don't have one so you can meet these commitments. You can also pay online into our ASB account 123142-0297835-00. Please ensure your child's name is entered in the reference fields appearing on our bank statements. Your support is greatly appreciated.

## **School Phone/Bus Money**

We have an increasing number of students coming to the office asking to make phone calls or borrow money for bus fares. Students should arrive at school with their lunch or lunch money and all the books and gear they need for that day's classes and after-school activities. This will reduce the need for many phone calls. Please ensure that your child has sufficient money for their lunch and bus fare.

## **Opening Hours:**

### **Health Clinic**

Monday:	12.30pm – 3.30pm
Tuesday:	8.30 am Morning clinic (HEADs assessments)
Wednesday:	9.00 am – 12.00 pm (doctor on site)
Friday:	9.00 am – 1.00 pm

## Uniform Shop

Tuesday: 2.00 pm - 3.30 pm

Thursday: If you wish to make an appointment please ring 567 8728 ext 235

## PB4L (Positive Behaviour for Learning) - R3's

The college has been part of the PB4L programme for three years as we continue to improve the learning and social outcomes for our students. We teach and support behaviours that enhance the 'engagement levels' of our students. Teachers hand out R3 tickets to students who show these behaviours and attitudes, and there is a weekly draw for prizes. Our school expectations or rules revolve around one thing - 'RESPECT', and we know that if students get this right they get more out of school. The three expectations are:

- Respect our Learning
- Respect our People
- Respect our Place

An important part of 'Respect our Learning' is for students to be on time. Classes start at 8.50 am (first bell rings at 8.45 signalling class is about to start). Being on time and prepared for work is a life skill that we want to reinforce and develop in our young people. Thank you for your support with this.

## Being on Time - Tips for Students

1. **Understand the importance of being on time.** Students who are always on time are the people who earn the best grades, win scholarships, and get offered more opportunities. In the working world, the people who are always on time are the people who get promotions.
2. **Get enough sleep.** If you have trouble getting out of bed in the morning, then make a serious effort to get to bed earlier. Sufficient sleep is essential for maximum brain function anyway, so you really don't want to ignore this aspect of your scholastic habits.
3. **Give yourself a realistic amount of time to dress and groom.** You can do this with a simple exercise: Get up early one morning and time yourself (moving at a normal pace) to see how long it takes you to get ready. You may be surprised at the time it takes, especially if you find you have been trying to squeeze forty minutes worth of grooming into fifteen minutes each morning.
4. **Know exactly when you need to be at your destination** and subtract ten or fifteen minutes to establish your arrival time. This will give you time to go to the bathroom or chat with friends. What time are you expected to be seated in your first classroom? If class begins at 8.50, you should arrive at the school by 8.30 and be in your seat at 8.45.
5. **Communicate any problems.** If your bus is always late or you have to take your little brother to school and it always makes you late, just explain this to your teacher.

## Key Dates for the Term:

<b>12 March</b>	School Photographs
<b>19 - 20 March</b>	Learning Conferences
<b>22 - 27 March</b>	Summer Tournament Week
<b>1 April</b>	School Cross-Country
<b>2 April</b>	Last day of Term 1
<b>20 April</b>	First day of Term 2

Linda Pye  
Acting Principal

