



# TAITA COLLEGE

*"Pride through Success ♦ Honour through Service"*

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Titiro Whakarunga Ki Nga Puke

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Kia ora, Talofa Lava, Malo e lelei and a warm welcome back to Taita College for the final term of the 2015 academic year!

I would firstly like to comment on the settled and positive end to Term 3 and, by doing so, acknowledge three events which I believe contributed to this tone at Taita College. Firstly, the Poly Club's performance at the Tu Tangata festival was a proud night for the staff, students, parents and board members who attended this prestigious Wellington Pasifika event. The groups chosen to represent their schools and their Pacific culture did so with honour and pride, and Taita College was applauded with great enthusiasm by the entire Wellington community.



Another event on the last day, the success assembly, was aptly named and students left the grounds feeling proud of the numerous sporting, cultural and academic achievements which were acknowledged over the term. Joni Araitī, Community Facilitator, and Ken Laban, Hutt City Councillor, enjoyed a fantastic morning of song, dance and celebration from our young and talented students. Thirdly, our Taita College examinations were taken very seriously by senior students and this will give them a strong platform for success in external examinations starting on Monday 9 November.

Congratulations to Neyla Masima on his appointment as the student representative on the Board of Trustees. Neyla, who is only in Year 10, has also won a position on the 'Spirit of Adventure' sailing from Nelson in January 2016 as training for this leadership role. Victoria Ford, Nathan Cross, Koli Bower, Peter Talaoia and Falcon Kangaroo are congratulated for winning university scholarships from Victoria and Otago Universities next year. Victoria Ford receives a Victoria University excellence scholarship; Nathan an Otago University alumni scholarship (\$6,000); and Koli, Peter and Falcon - Pasifika & Māori scholarships to Victoria University of Wellington. The Taita College community is extremely proud of these young scholars and congratulates them and their families for reaping the rewards of their hard work. I invite you and your family to Senior Prizegiving on Monday 2 November and I look forward to celebrating the successes of many young people that evening.



On Friday 16 October I had the privilege of attending the opening of the Walter Nash Centre. We took a group of students and members of the Poly Club to this fantastic event. Our head students, Rosalina Sitagata and Nathan Hermans spoke with distinction on behalf of the school and the Poly Club gave its usual outstanding performance. This will be a wonderful facility for the community and we look forward to using it in various ways in the years ahead.

As you can see from the dates below, Term 4 is a tightly packed flurry of events and processes, including booster programmes and study classes in preparation for NCEA. We also have a number of exciting and worthwhile experiences for Year 9 and 10 students including integrated projects, some of which will use the new Walter Nash Centre; our umu and hāngi unit; sport tournaments and activity week. Within these events lies valued student and staff celebration and just reward for the year's efforts and hard work. I look forward to a purposeful and positive term.

In short, I am excited about what Term 4 this year has to offer our young people. We have a school community brimming with talent and we must remember that our greatest asset is our people. The power of our school relies on the way teachers, students, and parents relate to one another. As Michael Fullen, a world leader in education, explains "when relationships improve, schools move forward; when relationships remain the same or deteriorate ground is lost; it's as simple and complex as that!"

I look forward to seeing you in and around the school this term.

Tuesday 20 October	Gateway Prizegiving and Dinner
Monday 26 October	Labour Day
Wednesday 28 October	Sports Prizegiving
Monday 2 November	Senior Prizegiving
Tuesday 3 November	Teacher only day - no classes that day
Wednesday 4 November	Senior school booster programme commences
Friday 6 November	Volleyball Regionals
Monday 9 November	NCEA exams begin
Friday 13 November	Year 10 Umu/Hāngi Project
Wednesday 25 November	BEAMS trip to Auckland for selected Year 10 students
Friday 27 November	Tai taunga wai nae Sports Tournament
Monday 7 December )	
Tuesday 8 December )	Junior Sports Tournament
Wednesday 9 December )	
Thursday 10 December )	Activity Days
Friday 11 December	Junior Prizegiving and Final Assembly for the year Last day of school

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish our senior students every success in their NCEA external exams and I look forward to reviewing their results in January. Term 4 is also an important one for junior students as their final results for the year will determine their NCEA Level 1 studies in 2016.

Wishing our students, whanau, staff and community an enjoyable and successful Term 4.



John Murdoch  
Principal