



Titiro Whakarunga Ki Nga Puke

TAITA COLLEGE

"Pride through Success ♦ Honour through Service"

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Kia Ora tatou, Talofa lava, Malo'e lelei, Kia Orana, Ni Sa Bula and welcome to the 2016 academic year.

It was a pleasure to greet new Year 9 students, new students at other levels, and see familiar faces returning to school at the beginning of February. I understand that at times your teenage boy or girl may not be overly chatty about how school life is, however the news from our Year 9 Dean is that students are settling in well and enjoying the new environment. Please feel free to contact your child's tutor teacher by email or through the school office. The school app is another way of contacting various people. Go to the App Store on your Apple or Android device and search Taita College to download the App to your phone or tablet. You can also select the 'Alert Subscriptions' so that you can receive alerts about areas of interest to you.

A special welcome to teachers Heidi James, Kiko Mataele, Isimeli Tukua and Julian Vickers, and to Samantha Scott, our Gateway/Transition Administrator. I am excited to have this group of inspiring and professional staff with us at Taita College.



School Vision - One Heart, One Beat

The Taita College Board of Trustees has contracted 'Our Learning Network' to develop a strong vision for the future from 2016-2018 and onwards. A group of students, whanau and all staff at Taita College began to develop this vision in a two-day workshop on Thursday and Friday, 28 & 29 January. Many great questions were posed and answered around what the school does well and what we need to do more of for our young people. Thanks to all parents and staff who were involved. The vision statement is enclosed at the back of this newsletter. Please feel free to read, think and share your thoughts with me about these statements by sending an email to murdoch@taita.school.nz or coming in for a chat.

Senior Executive Leadership Camp Tongariro National Park

This year our student leadership team consisting of Year 13 students spent a week at Hillary Outdoors in the Tongariro National Park. Student were divided into two groups and learnt to work effectively as a team through physical challenges such as abseiling, river crossing, white water kayaking, high ropes and overnight tramps.



Linda Pye, Assistant Principal, and Emma Henderson, HOD English, led this group of talented young stars and commented on the way that they supported each other throughout the week. The challenges were different for each individual but they definitely met these head on and climbed every obstacle together. We are excited to see how this leadership group will transfer the skills learnt into the school environment. They have already run a successful full school assembly exploring the theme "being the best that we can be".



MaiBiz

Thanks to the Maori Women’s Development Incorporated over 50 Year 12 students were able to participate in the MaiBiz three-day workshop. Students worked together in teams to prepare a business plan to develop and promote a new product for today’s market, culminating in presenting their project to a team of business people from the community. Ideas included innovative ways to charge electronic devices and new apps. Taita College students showed their strengths in collaborative learning and designed amazing products, they impressed both the presenters and judges. Well done to all the students who participated.

Some students have applied to be part of the Te Wero Pakihi conference in Auckland later in the year. The MaiBiz Coordinator, Mark Douglas, will be in contact with the successful candidates. He expressed that it would be very difficult to choose as all the students were fantastic and would be great ambassadors for the college. The winning team ‘Vision’ was made up of **Topaz Robinson (group leader), Suey Anderson, Eden Korewha, Glen Misa, Paul Sauila and Kross Tekira.**



(Photo of **Tui Tuila’alili-Moreli** and **Mateo Setefano** receiving their participation and outstanding leadership certificates.)

Achievement in Sport



Congratulations to **Teagan Tautala-Hanita** and **Jasmine Horne** for their respective selection in New Zealand softball teams. Teagan has been selected for both the NZ emerging White Sox team 2016 and the NZ Junior White Sox Squad 2016-17 and will travel to Australia for the series in July. Jasmine has been selected to play in the Developing White Sox team which travels to Melbourne in April. Teagan had already received her



achiever’s tie for her New Zealand selection last year and Jasmine was presented with her tie at this week’s assembly.

Congratulations also to **Chiquita Pene-Stevens** for her selection in the Wellington U15/U16 representative touch team. Chiquita recently travelled to Christchurch to participate in the national tournament at Hagley Park.



At last week's assembly six students received an Achiever's tie for their academic achievement in 2015 - all received Excellence endorsements for their NCEA Level 1 results. Congratulations to these young scholars and we wish them well for the future.

Cullum Barker



Brooke Crichton



Ruby Reid



Jonnie Tiaki



Tiana Tikimoe



Anna Trethewey



Learning Conferences

Taita College has used learning conferences for the last 4 years to prepare and plan for student success, and this year the learning conferences will take place on Thursday and Friday, 17 & 18 March.

For those new to the school, a learning conference is a hui where the tutor teacher, the parents or caregivers and the student get together to:

- check in for the year
- set academic, sport, cultural and participation goals
- form a plan which will be reviewed regularly

The conference is an essential part of planning for the year. Last year we had around 75% of all parents attend on one of these two days, and we want to make this 100% this year. Tutor teachers will be in touch with families in the next week to organise a time during the day.

Athletics Day - Thursday 3 March

Another popular day in the Taita College calendar is Athletics day. This house event promotes house and team spirit, by supporting participation in track and field events. While the day is a lot of fun (photos from last year), the school also uses this event to select our athletes for the Hutt Valley trials on Tuesday 8 March.



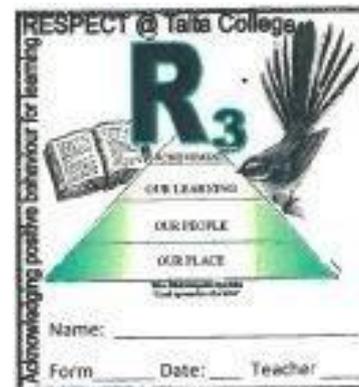
Parents and whanau are most welcome on the day and we will provide a BBQ at 1.00 pm for family members who want to be part of the day.

PB4L (Positive Behaviour for Learning) - R3's

The college has been part of the PB4L programme for four 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 values encourage the behaviour we expect from students at Taita College and as members of the community.

Restorative practice is an important word in our school's language and Taita College uses a restorative approach to behaviour management. Restorative practice encourages students to take a greater ownership for their own behaviour and be part of a problem-solving approach.

RP or restorative practice focuses on relationships and a relational approach to learning. One key phrase is about 'making things right', particularly when harm has been caused.



Health Clinic - Opening Hours

Monday: 9.00 am - 12.00 pm (Nurse Leeanne)
Tuesday: 9.00 am - 11.30 am (Dr Beena)
Wednesday: 9.00 am - 12.00 pm (Nurse Leeanne)
Thursday: 9.30 am - 12.30 pm (Year 9 HEADS assessments)
Friday: 9.00 am - 12.00 pm (Year 9 HEADS assessments)

Students make appointments to see the nurse or doctor through the student administration office. If you have any health concerns about your child, please contact the clinic on 567 9850.

KAMAR

Parents and caregivers are encouraged to use the KAMAR portal to check on attendance, progress and costs associated with learning, sport or cultural activities. If you are unsure of your log-in address, please contact the main office.

Road Safety

A reminder that parents should pick up students from Eastern Hutt Road and avoid driving into the school at 3.15 pm. The school entranceway is designed for bus access. This is a very busy time of the day with students catching buses or leaving via the front gate to use the pedestrian crossing. I would also like to remind students that they should use the crossing at all times when entering or leaving the school.

Key Dates for the Term 1:

29 February Board Meeting
3 March Athletics Day
8 March Hutt Valley Athletics
6 - 9 March Year 12 Geography Trip
10 March Class Photographs
16 March Wellington Regional Athletics
17 - 18 March Class Conferences
21 March Board Meeting
24 March Cross Country
25 March Good Friday
30 March Teacher Only Day
4 - 8 April Summer Tournament Week
15 April Last Day of Term 1

John Murdoch
Principal