Taita College

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Tītiro Whakarunga Ki Ngā Puke

Kia ora koutou

It has been a bitterly cold start to Term 3. We hope that everyone stayed safe and warm over the break. While winter is well and truly here, we are looking forward to a productive, engaging, and successful term ahead.
During the last 2 weeks of this term and into the holidays the asbestos removal of the current Administration Blocks will be removed. This means that we will be in our new administration area which is currently well under way construction wise.
It was wonderful to see so many of our whānau at the parent/teacher interviews this week in our newly renovated and warm hall.
Taita College is very fortunate to have the wonderful support of our community. This week we have had a lovely donation of shoes from Rod at Athlete's Foot, Lower Hutt. These were kindly dropped off to us by Mike Scrivener from Shoes for Planet Earth.

On 26th July, 15 students and 2 staff jetted off to the Gold Coast for our annual tourism trip. They enjoyed beautiful weather and spent 5 days visiting various theme parks. A big thank you to **Cathy Peek** and **Sheen Joseph** for being our staff in charge!

Our netball semi finals are this weekend. We have 3 teams playing for positions in the finals for the following weekend. Despite some cold and rainy Saturdays, players have worked hard this season, showing great Taita sportsmanship, determination and commitment. Thanks to coaches, umpires and supporters who make the games possible.

We have our annual Stratford Exchange, here at Taita College, on Monday 10th August and Tuesday 11th August. It is always an honor to host other schools and we know that our students' behaviour, both on and off the sporting fields, will be excellent. It is fantastic to see a large number of supporters at our sports games! While we encourage whānau to attend all sporting activities, we do expect all spectators to follow the spectator guidelines from College Sport:

Parents Code:

- Positively encourage and support all players
- Make an effort to understand the rules of the game
- Refrain from criticising or abusing officials
- Focus on genuine effort over victory, and encourage players to accept the outcome of all games, regardless of the result
- Recognise and appreciate good play from both teams, and avoid ridiculing any individual player
- Ensure that any form of violence is actively discouraged and in no way acceptable

Supporters Code:

- Encourage all participants to play within the rules
- Display self-control and good sportsmanship on the sidelines
- Show appreciation to coaches and officials who facilitate the game
- Remember that young people participate in sports for their enjoyment, not yours.

Health & Winter Wellness

With the cold weather, we are seeing quite a few students away with various winter illnesses and the flu. Keeping our kura healthy takes all of us:

- **When to Stay Home:** If your child is unwell, please keep them home to recover and help prevent the spread of germs.
- **Guidelines:** For guidance on knowing if your child is well enough to attend school, please refer to the Health New Zealand Te Whatu Ora Guidelines.
- **Absences:** Please remember to notify the school office at **04 567 8728** or email absentee@taita.school.nz if your student will be absent.

REMINDERS

Communication Reminder: Staff Well-being

As part of our school's commitment to supporting staff well-being and ensuring they are fully prepared to engage with students during school hours, we are now kindly requesting that our students, parents/whanau communicate with teachers during their specified working hours 8.00am – 5pm, term time only.

Parking

We have had a few instances where ambulances were unable to access areas due to parents illegally parking. If you are attending any sporting activities or dropping off and collecting students from school, please make sure that you are parked properly. **Do not block any driveways.**

Energy Drinks

We've recently noticed an increase in students bringing **energy drinks** to school. While these bright cans and catchy slogans are heavily marketed to young people, we want to remind our school community about the health and behavioural risks associated with high-caffeine energy drinks.

Why Are We Concerned?

Unlike standard soft drinks or juice, energy drinks contain exceptionally high levels of caffeine, taurine, and added sugars. For growing children and teenagers, regular consumption can lead to:

- **Disrupted Sleep Patterns:** Difficulty falling asleep or staying asleep, leading to chronic tiredness at school.
- **Mood & Behavioral Changes:** Increased anxiety, jitteriness, hyperactivity, or sudden energy "crashes."
- **Physical Health Risks:** Rapid heart rate, elevated blood pressure, stomach upsets, and tooth decay from high sugar content.
- **Impact on Learning:** While they promise a quick surge of alertness, the resulting caffeine crash often impairs concentration, memory, and focus in the classroom.

How You Can Help at Home

1. **Talk About the Ingredients:** Have a quick chat with your child about what's actually inside these drinks and why they aren't suitable for growing bodies.
2. **Check Drink Choices:** Encourage water, milk, or natural fruit juices for school lunches and after-school activities.
3. **Monitor After-School Purchases:** Many students buy these drinks on their way to or from school, so keeping an eye on what choices they are making can make a big difference.

Students are not permitted to consume energy drinks in class.

Please take the time to read this article by clicking on the link below:

Monster under the bed

Upcoming Dates

10 - 11 August	Stratford Exchange
07- 23 September	Europe Trip
10 September	BOT Meeting
27 September	Last Day of Term 3
12 October	First Day of Term 4
22 October	BOT Meeting
28 October	Senior Prize Giving

Regards
Taita College

Te Puna Whare Mātauranga ā Kura

SLANZA

School Library Association of New Zealand Aotearoa

School libraries are essential to ensure that the building blocks of structured literacy are strengthened by developing the joy of reading, increasing reading comprehension, empathy, and the capacity to learn.

"EVERY child deserves the benefits of a school library programme"

IFLA-UNESCO School Library Manifesto 2025

School Libraries TRANSFORM

Essential Learning Infrastructure

School libraries are not optional extras, they are critical infrastructure required for equitable student achievement and Māori and Pasifika learner success.

Every student in Aotearoa deserves access to a well-resourced school library and specialised librarian, to ensure that they have equitable access to resources needed to achieve their reading and learning potential.

From 'Learning to Read' to 'Reading to Learn'

School librarians cultivate a culture of reading for pleasure, essential for students to consolidate the fundamentals of literacy.

Sanctuary for Well-Being

School libraries provide safe and inclusive spaces that are vital for supporting student mental health.

Future-Ready Learners

School librarians are research specialists who teach students critical thinking, how to navigate AI, find information, and evaluate sources.

The Power of School Libraries