Taita College

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Tītiro Whakarunga Ki Ngā Puke

Kia ora koutou

This term has flown by, packed with exciting EOTC activities for our students! Highlights included the Tourism trip to the Gold Coast, the Stratford Exchange, a visit to the Police Museum, the Mathswell competition, Books Alive, the Astrobiology trip, and the Girls NZSS Basketball tournament. To wrap up the term, 30 of our students set off on 7th September for an unforgettable 17-day trip across Europe.

Congratulations to the Girls NZSS Basketball team that have made it through to Nationals. Karly-Belle Mitchell-Pita was the number 2 shooter for the whole tournament - awesome work Karly-Belle!

These out-of-classroom experiences offer memorable, often life-changing opportunities, which is why we actively encourage every student to get involved.

Please see below for photos and a recap of both the Gold Coast Tourism trip and the Astrobiology trip. We look forward to sharing stories and photos from the Europe trip upon their return!

We are hosting the Education Review Office (ERO) during the second week of term 4.

BOT
We are thrilled to announce that Rachel Lauina has been appointed to the Taita College Board of Trustees. Thank you to all the applicants.

Building Update
It's nearly here! We are excited to be moving into the new administration block which will be operational from 14th September. The visitor entry is from the South, student services are at the North end of the building.

Please use our lovely new carpark - inside the balustrades and chains is a car free zone

Our new marae build is due to begin at the beginning of November and will take approximately 30 weeks to complete.
The new Satellite school, Kimi ora, is on a similar start timeline but should be completed by March 2027.

CAA's
The second round of CAA's begin on the 7th September
Monday 7 September - Numeracy
Tuesday 8 September - Reading
Wednesday 9 September - Writing
For students who are wanting additional help or lunchtime practice for the Literacy CAAs please reach out to Mr Grgec directly or email him at - Petar.grgec@taita.school.nz

Senior Prizegiving
Please save the date! This year we are hosting the Senior Prizegiving (Yrs 12 & 13) at the Little Theatre in Lower Hutt on the 28th October 7.00pm.

Health & Winter Wellness
During this term we have seen quite a few students away with various winter illnesses and the flu. It is important to keep unwell students home so that we minimise the risk of spreading germs.

- **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

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.**

Upcoming Dates

07- 23 September	Europe Trip
10 September	BOT Meeting - 5.30pm
25 September	Last Day of Term 3 - Early finish at 1.30pm
12 October	First Day of Term 4
22 October	BOT Meeting - 5.30pm
28 October	Senior Prize Giving at the Little Theatre in Lower Hutt - 7pm

Regards
Taita College

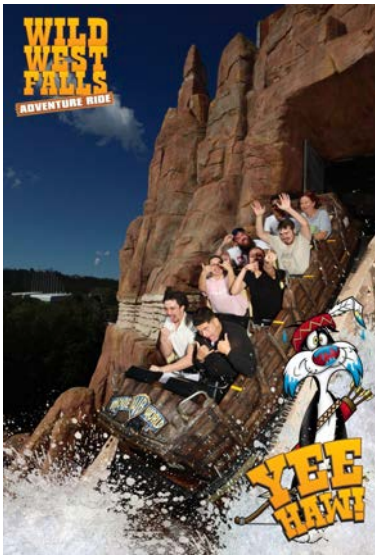
Tourism trip to Gold Coast, Australia

In the second week of term three, Mrs Peek's tourism class packed up their things for a once in a lifetime opportunity to explore the beautiful city and theme parks in Gold Coast, Australia.

We stayed in a luxurious Air BnB in Shailer Park, Logan. The house had a massive swimming pool accompanied by a sauna and a hammock where you could just chill, relax and sun bathe.

Over the next three days, they explored the fun and thrilling theme parks. On our first day, we ventured to Movie World to go on the very fast, adrenaline rush rides— on the second day, students got wet during the pirate ship battle at Sea World. And on day three we went to Wet'n'Wild, where students got soaking wet and then spent the evening adventuring at Surfers Paradise with some of us stepping up to do the Sling Shot ride.

Thursday was dedicated to shopping at Harbour Town and the Hyperdome Shopping Centre, ending with a visit to see the Kangaroo's and Koala's. Of course, we participated in the famous TC's MasterChef challenge and some of our class had the opportunity to catch up with their whanau and friends while over there.



Astrobiology Trip:

It was a very interesting lecture from Doctor John Priscu about his experiences in Antarctica (where he has been over 40 times!) learning about the microbiology found in the lakes under the ice sheet, and how this could help us find life in extraterrestrial worlds.

One thing each student found interesting:

Sasi: How they decontaminate the ice cores, spending millions of dollars on getting them and cleaning them.

Emily: The potential for life in different environments.

Denver: Finding life in the sediment under and in the ice.

Long: The types of bacteria found in the ice.

Mathilde: How thick the ice is on Europa (they guessed around 40km, but could be more!).

Norah-Vae: Watching the trailer for “The lake at the bottom of the world” and hearing their perspectives.

Empowering Our Rangatahi Māori in STEMM with Pūhoro: Te Urunga Tū

We are excited to share an incredible opportunity for our **Year 10 Māori tamariki/rangatahi** through **Pūhoro: Te Urunga Tū**.

Pūhoro is a dedicated kaupapa created to inspire, support, and empower rangatahi Māori to excel in STEMM—Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Mātauranga Māori. By weaving Mātauranga Māori into modern science and technology, Pūhoro helps students build strong academic foundations while standing confident in their identity.

What the Programme Offers

- **In-School Sessions & Mentoring:** Weekly interactive sessions and one-on-one catch-ups during the school day to support academic goals, build confidence, and explore future career pathways.
- **Academic Tutorials:** Regular, subject-specific tutoring supported by expert tutors and resources to boost NCEA success.
- **Annual Regional Wānanga:** Full-day events where students engage in hands-on STEMM activities, connect with industry partners, and meet other inspired rangatahi from across the region.

Proven Impact Rangatahi participating in Pūhoro consistently outperform national NCEA attainment averages across Levels 1, 2, and 3, while also achieving significantly higher rates of University Entrance. Most importantly, it opens doors to tertiary scholarships, internships, and exciting careers in science and technology.

Getting Involved There is **no cost** to families or students to participate in the Pūhoro programme.

If you have any questions or would like to learn more about enrolling your Year 10 student, please feel free to reach out:

Contact: Mrs. S. Rajagopal (Head of Department – Science) - sujata.rajagopal@taita.school.nz