



TERM 2 HIGHLIGHTS

Term 2 has been a really steady term and it has been great to see students really focused on their studies and working hard to stay on top of their assessments. It has been extremely busy, and a term full of wonderful success stories. There have been so many things happening in the school, I wanted to share a few of the key highlights.

- **Learning conversations**

Over 76% of our families and children attended. This is excellent as there is such strength in us all working together to do all we can to best support your children. Conversations around learning are critical, but in these discussions we are able to develop relationships and build a trust that allows a holistic approach to success on many levels.

- **Open Morning/Open Evening**

These two events went extremely well. It was wonderful to show our



potential new year 8 students and their families the college. Our student guides and helpers were outstanding ambassadors for us as a college. The feedback was excellent, and we are looking forward to their arrival in 2019.

- **Leadership**

We have had selected students at all year levels to be a part of our leadership drive, where they have had the opportunity to go to Tongariro National Park, or to the Hillary Outdoor Pursuits Centre to learn outside the classroom skills that will help to define them, but empower them as leaders. Our Senior Executive have completed three workshops with Ignite sport, and their team building events have included master chef, sailing and horse riding. These opportunities can change lives and perspectives, very exciting!

• **Visitors to the school**

We recently had poet Te Kahu Rolleston, and 3 NASA Astrobiologists come to the school and speak to groups of students. Our students were able to ask questions, have workshops and experience what these very talented people had to offer from their journey and experiences. Students were captivated and their minds were opened to potential possibilities for them in their future.

• **Samoan Language Week**

A wonderful week full of celebration, language, culture, dance, song and traditional food. We had a wonderful week together and both students and staff got to

fierce, and our new V6 cards which represent our values are a huge success to activate points and prizes. It is fantastic to have our assemblies full of fun and laughter.

• **Teacher Only Day**

In our teacher only day we had our students lead us and teach us as a staff. This was very powerful and our student leaders were brilliant. Part of the day was for us to learn our school haka as a collective group. Although we still have a way to go, we are on the waka, and doing all that we can to be practicing culturally responsive teaching and learning on all levels each day – learning our haka is just one example of this.



partake in some wonderful events. We got to experience “aiga” at its best.

• **Lord of the Flies**

Our school production was absolutely incredible. This was a real credit to the students and staff who were involved. Ms Wood worked relentlessly to ensure that the performance was of the highest standard and top quality. What superb commitment and dedication in what was a powerful production. This certainly showcased the depth of talent and capabilities we have here in the college.

• **House Spirit**

We have this back! Ms Henderson has done an excellent job to reinvigorate the house spirit within the school and students are very motivated to get involved and do all that they can to be the winning house. The competitions are



NASA Astrobiologists addressing a select group of students in the Knowledge Hub.

I am reminded every day how lucky we all are to be a part of such a wonderful family and learning community here at Taita College. The staff continually do all they can to best meet the needs of your children, and the students are absolute treasures. It is often the little things that can make a big difference to so many, so we appreciate your ongoing support around enabling your children to get to school on time, be in perfect uniform, have a healthy lunch, and to have all the equipment they need to be ready for each day. This helps us immensely.

I wish you all a safe and relaxing holiday break. Thank you all for a great term!

Kia kaha, kia maia, kia manawanui

Karen Morgan
Principal

PARENTS OPEN EVENING



Our annual Open Evening took place on 21st of June. We started with a stunning performance from our Polynesian Senior leaders to the parents of potential year 9 intake for 2019. The bracket featured songs from Samoa, Fiji and New Zealand Maori. The evening was introduced by our head students Fai and Jasmine. Ms Morgan's presentation emphasized the family values of Taita, our improving NCEA results and the amazing opportunities for students from Leadership to sport, cultural and academic pathways.

Four of our senior students then shared their experiences at Taita. Fai spoke of his passion for music, Josie of her involvement in the Polynesian club, Esther spoke passionately about her academic achievement and then Tevita stole the evening with his heartfelt presentation about his journey.

The parents then formed groups to view activities around the college guided by our student senior executive members. All the departments prepared amazing displays of their work. Food was baked by students in the FNT area, Science attempted to burn down the college with their display and shock the young attendees with their Van de Graph generator. Maths, English and Samoan departments had student presenters assisting. Drama was interactive and reactive. The displays showed the full range of our facilities. The evening was concluded with a light supper.



YR8 OPEN MORNING

Our annual Open day for year 8 students took place on the 20th of June. Students from our contributing schools had the opportunity to take part in activities ranging from bridge making (technology class) to murder mystery crime solving (Science class). Mathematics class showed the tricks behind multiplying numbers by 11 whilst the drama class involved the students in a range of theatre based games designed to extend improvisation skills. Art had the students draw opposites as simple cartoon characters.

Students from six schools attended. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive. At the conclusion, the group was serenaded by our Polynesian club leaders. They presented three songs in Maori, Samoan and Fijian.



BARBERSHOP SINGING



On May 24th, Mr Johnson Taeao and Mr Corey Wills (student teacher from Victoria University) took two groups to the annual Barbershop Secondary Schools Regional Competition, held at Te Rauparaha Arena in Porirua.

Taita was represented by a year 9 Quartet featuring Missy Porter-Samuels (lead), Leontaye Tutahi (tenor), Kohine Te Aotonga (baritone) and Marissa Kelemete (bass) as well as a male chorus of 10 boys. Because this was the first year in a while that Taita College has been involved in this convention, both groups sang for evaluation only and received positive constructive feedback from judges around singing, presentation and musicianship. This event proved



to be a valuable experience for our students. They were able to witness the high level of competition from other schools in the Wellington region and also gauge where their strengths are and what they need to improve on in preparation for next year's festivities, where they will be hoping to earn a placing necessary for eligibility in the National competition.



AWD FLOORBALL TOURNAMENT



THE MEANINGFUL PATHWAYS CLASS

The Meaningful Pathways Class was introduced at Taita College last year and continues to be very successful. Students selected for this class attend Weltec Trades Academy on Thursday and Friday each week in their chosen area of interest, ranging from construction, hairdressing, animal care, hospitality, health and fitness and creative media. Students also go to work experience placements every Tuesday. Students only attend school on Mondays and Wednesdays where they work on their NCEA Levels.

Successes so far this year include: Latisha Robinson who recently won the National Secondary Schools Culinary competition. In her hospitality placement at Weltec, Latisha is now working towards the next National Competition being held in Auckland in September.

Emily Morete-Norgren and Sophie Fahey are completing the Animal Care course at Weltec and have shown a natural affinity towards the animals they care for during work experience at Kitten Inn and the Upper Hutt Animal rescue.

Manihira Milner, Jay Tofa, Andrew Frost and Jarrod Flitcroft are all completing the Building



Construction course at Weltec and have gained paid employment in the holidays through their work experience at Tracey Smith Construction, Taylor Building Services and Juno Construction. Hopefully this will lead to apprenticeships or further study at Weltec at the end of the year.

We also have students working in gyms such as Les Mills, YMCA and Walter Nash and in Buzz Cafe, Cuba Street Barbers, Mixt, and Red Cross. We are very grateful to these many employers who are willing to give their time to help our students gain valuable work experience.



X-ROADS DAY



In 2014 a Project was launched between the Police and the local City Councils aimed at Looking after Your Mates and Making Good Choices on and around the Roads and was called X Roads (Cross Roads).

This Project was repeated in 2016 and is about to be repeated again in 2018, targeting the year 11, 12 and 13 students who have their drivers license or are getting their license.

On Wednesday May 16th our whole senior school attended a workshop presentation at Walter Nash.

The students were introduced to road safety with a video and presentation about a vehicle crash in Hawkes Bay and the consequences of the poor choices made by the passengers and driver.



After this a range of interactive activities were available. A favorite was attempting to shoot a basketball whilst wearing 'drunk' glasses. First aid and the drivers license stand were also popular choices.

A dramatic presentation came next presented by a theatre group which featured Sarah Pihema who is a year 12 student at Taita.

The event concluded with random prizes. A highlight was a group being given a lift home in a pink Hummer stretched limousine.



NZ INNOVATION CHALLENGE



A group of students from Taita College were among the over 160 students from schools all over Wellington involved in the Growing NZ Innovation Challenge.

The participants were given a challenge drawn from a hat to work on in groups of four. They were then required to research their task, build prototypes and finally present their idea to an audience.

The group featuring Liam Wenger and Aiden Toma won! They received vouchers as their prize.

Liam was runner up 'All Rounder Student for the Day'. He deserved this recognition after working very well throughout the challenge.



CHEF'S DAY



Chef's from Weltec visited senior classes in FNT and HOS on May 22nd this year.

Students had the opportunity to do a wonton workshop with the chef's. They were put under pressure to produce food for their costumers within a limited time frame. Just like it happens in a restaurant.

Students enjoyed the workshop, learnt new skills and some of them even tried using chopsticks to eat their food.



SAMOAN CULTURAL WEEK



Now that Mr Nofoaiga has been appointed to start a new Samoan class at Taita, this year's Samoan Cultural week was stronger than ever. On the Monday a list of Samoan words and phrases were shared with the school. Tuesday saw the display of a Measina exhibit which featured objects and clothing. Wednesday was a school wide cultural dress day, with the cultural group performing at assembly. They were in action again on Thursday at the shared lunch. The food was provided by parents and much appreciated by staff. Friday wrapped up the week along with 15 other schools at Porirua College. The food, sport and performances there were enjoyed by all.





This year Silila Setefano (Year 12) and Missy Porter Samuels (Year 9) competed in the Nga Manu Korero Regional Speech competition hosted by Hutt Valley High School on the 25th of May.

Firstly on behalf of myself and Missy I would sincerely like to thank Whaea Nicole and Matua Hosea for the opportunity and the continuous guidance leading up to the event. To our family and friends that came to support us on the day, we were extremely grateful. I competed in the Senior Maori Pei Te Hurinui Jones Section with Missy competing in the Junior English Sir Turi Campbell Section. The experience was nothing less than inspiring. I deeply acknowledge this event. An event that pushes this Maori generation to have a voice. Although I am not Maori I took so much pride in a culture that isn't mine by blood, but most definitely at heart. This event shows the importance of cultural identity.

The students we were up against were so welcoming, it was so encouraging being able to watch them. Overall, we were so proud and honoured to represent Taita College and our Families.

It was an experience to never forget and definitely one that taught me a lot. Manu Korero toku aroha pono ki a koe!

Nga Mihi
Silila Setefano



RIFLE SHOOTING



Mia Welsh-Duffin, from Year 10 at the Hutt Valley Small-bore Rifle Club Open tournament with her two cups and two prizes for winning her grade. There were 80 shooters competing, almost all were adults. Josh Boyd and David Wright also competed. These three students also won cash prizes at the Wellington Open recently.

They will be competing again with the other half of the team at the Open event in Martinborough, in the Wairarapa and at the inter-college

big bore event at the Trentham Range over 300 to 600 metres. An amazing sport!

If you are in year 9 or 10 and interested to see if this could be for you, then see Mr. Strawbridge and have a try.

Remember that eight girls from Taita have represented the NZ Juniors and are wearing the silver fern on their blazers. Some also shot for the NZ Women's team against England. All before they left college!

SLAM POET



Taita College was visited by working poet Te Kahu Rolleston from Nga Te Rangi. He made presentations to the senior school and then the juniors, and was able to share his life experiences and knowledge, which both proved to be relevant and considerable.

Te Kahu has won the New Zealand Slam Poet Championship and spent time as a resident writer in Banff, Canada. He works reinterpreting people's legal rights into youth

relatable verse. He also tours schools offering writer workshops. It was in this capacity that Te Kahu helped out our English / Humanities class with their spoken word poetry assessment. The topic required students to focus on social issues facing our communities. Seeing a real example of English being used to affect change in this area was a genuine inspiration to the students and has definitely helped broaden their horizons.

HISTORY TRIP



On the 15th of June, 9A and 9M visited 'The Great War Exhibition' as part of their Social Studies Unit on Gallipoli and ANZAC Day. The classes enjoyed a 45-minute guided tour from one of our knowledgeable guides and a 30-minute sensory experience within The Quinn's Post Trench Experience. In this extraordinary re-creation of the trenches at Quinn's Post, these classes got to experience what it was like for the Anzac troops at Gallipoli. A great day was had by all.



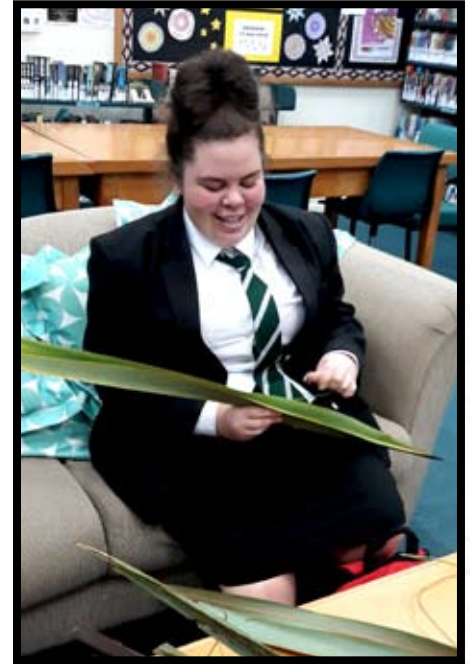
With lots to celebrate this term, the Knowledge Hub has been filled with lots of learning, fun activities, new experiences and culture.

Celebrating Samoan Language Week in the Hub gave many opportunities for people to share and learn about Gagana Samoa. With house points and heaps of super cool prizes up for grabs, the Hub was buzzing with lots of enthusiastic competition entrants, with chances to win their points value in V6 tickets for playing scrabble using Samoan words, to participating in a Samoan upu treasure hunt and finishing up with a Samoan Language Week colouring competition. Congratulations to our competition winners! Jade (12RAL) who won the colouring competition and Chaquita (9NOA) who won the awesome prize of the New Zealand Book Awards finalist Dawn Raid by Pauline Vaeluaga Smith and a big box of Celebrations chocolates for completing the Samoan upu treasure hunt.

We could not let the Royal Wedding pass by unnoticed, so to celebrate we had a News Paper Wedding Dress Challenge. In teams consisting of a model and designers, using only newspaper, cellotape and rubber bands, teams had 25 minutes to design and make a beautiful wedding outfit fit for a princess or a prince, whilst at the same time having Right Royal Trivia questions thrown at them to earn lollipops and chocolate bars. A great effort from all the teams involved produced outfits for Prince Charming, 3 Princesses

and a Terminator. (Because there is always one at every wedding.)

To honour Matariki we had some harakeke weaving sessions, poi making and storytelling. Matariki signals the Maori New Year. It is a time for renewal and celebration that begins with the rising of the Matariki star cluster. We have definitely discovered some Master Weavers in our midst and will look



at starting a weaving club next term. If you are interested in joining, come and see Mrs. Herman in the Hub.

Our read and review competition is still going strong, with heaps of entries this term. Congratulations to our winner! Look out for next terms AWESOME prize and don't forget to read to WIN!





UP-COMING EVENTS 2018

Last Day of Term 2	Friday 6 July
PDF Reports Published	Friday 6 July
Term 3 Starts	Monday 23 July
Deadline for Enrolments 2019	Monday 23 July
Parent Teacher Meeting Tutangata	Wednesday 25 July, 2:00pm – 7:00pm
Year 13 Tourism Trip	Friday 27 July 7:30am – 9:30pm
BOT Community Meeting	Sunday 29 July – Friday 3 August
CSW Table Tennis Individual Champs	Wednesday 1 August, 7:00pm – 8:00pm
CSW Road Race Champs	Friday 3 August 9:00am – 3:00pm
Option Night Careers Evening	Wednesday 8 August, 9:00am – 3:00pm
CSW Badminton Junior Teams	Wednesday 8 August, 7:00pm – 9:00pm
CSW Netball Junior Tournament	Thursday 9 August, 8:30am – 3:00pm
Parent Interviews Year 9, 2019	Thursday 9 August, 9:00am – 3:30pm
CSW Rugby Girls Finals	Wednesday 15 August, 3:00pm – 6:30pm
Sports Photographs	Wednesday 15 August, 3:00pm – 5:00pm
CSW Smallbore Round 1 Keen Range	Friday 17 August, 8:30am – 3:30pm
CSW Rugby Boys Grade Finals	Saturday 18 August, 8:30am – 4:30pm
CSW Football Boys Youth & Div 1 Finals	Saturday 18 August, 9:30am – 4:30pm
Combined Music Concert Taita & Naenae College	Wednesday 22 August, 8:30am – 4:30pm
Mid Term Break	Thursday 23 August, 6:00pm – 9:00pm
CSW Hockey Finals	Friday 24 August
School Ball - Civic Centre	Friday 24 August, 8:30am – 4:00pm
CSW Football Regional Finals	Saturday 25 August, 7:00pm – 11:30pm
CSW Basketball Jnr Zone 3 Tournament	Wednesday 29 August, 9:00am – 4:00pm
CSW Smallbore Round 2 Newtown	Saturday 1 September - Tuesday 4 September
CSW Football Boys and Girls Finals	Saturday 1 September, 8:00am – 4:30pm
Year 10 OPC	Saturday 1 September, 8:00am – 4:00pm
CSW Smallbore Triangular Tournament	Sunday 2 September – Friday 7 September
Father's Day	Sunday 2 September, 7:30am – 4:30pm
Fono Meeting	Sunday 2 September
Option Choices Issued	Wednesday 5 September, 7:00pm – 8:00pm
CSW AWD Bowls Champs	Monday 10 September
Senior Examinations	Monday 10 September, 8:30am – 3:00pm
Ignite On Track Leadership Programme Year 10	Friday 14 September – Friday 21 September
Option Choices Due All Year Levels	Wednesday 19 September – Friday 21 September
CSW Ki-O- Rahi Senior Champs	Monday 24 September
BOT Community Meeting	Tuesday 25 September, 8:30am – 4:00pm
Last Day Term 3	Wednesday 26 September, 7:00pm – 8:00pm
	Friday 28 September

Taita College appreciates the sponsorship of Konica Minolta, who kindly print this newsletter free of charge.

Phone: 04 567 8728
Fax: 04 567 9845
Email: secretary@taita.school.nz



Eastern Hutt Road
Lower Hutt
New Zealand

Compiled, designed and edited by Regan Nicholls.