



Tena koutou katoa

Our 2021 Blues ceremony took place in exceptional circumstances this week with us unable to welcome parents and whānau on site to share in the celebration. A livestream option was made available providing an online opportunity to share their children's successes; not ideal but the best we could do in the circumstances. Despite the revised format the ceremony still allowed us to showcase the incredible array of talent that we have at Taieri College.

We were very fortunate to have Emily Duncan join us as our guest speaker. Emily is an award winning and highly respected New Zealand playwright and dramaturg. She is the NZ Adam Play Award Winner 2021, the Bruce Mason Playwriting Award Winner 2020 and the University of Otago Burns Fellow 2019. She has a PhD in Theatre, trained at the Lee Strasberg Theatre & Film Institute in America and at RADA in London. Emily writes for stage and screen. Emily's scripts are performed in many famous theatres in New Zealand and in International Film Festivals. She is co-founder of Prospect Park Productions which has produced even more award-winning theatre, podcasts and the Otepoti Theatre Lab which supports new and developing playwrights in Dunedin. Emily is a stunning example of the amazing success creative Dunedin people can achieve and delivered an excellent message to our Blues recipients. Her delivery is found later in the newsletter.

Given the ongoing uncertainty around Covid-19 we have made the decision to present our senior prizegiving in a similar fashion. Current Covid-19 restrictions mean we are unable to run our senior prizegivings as we usually would. This year's senior prizegiving will be held at 2.00pm on Wednesday 17 November 2021 in our Performing Arts Centre. All Year 11-13 students will be present, but unfortunately, we will be unable to welcome parents and whānau to join us. A livestream option will once again be put in place to compensate for this. Our Year 7-10 students will be leaving school early on that day allowing all staff to attend the prizegiving. Once again, we appreciate the support and understanding we are receiving from our community in these challenging times.

School Sport NZ has cancelled over 50% of secondary school sanctioned events this year. This week it made the difficult decision to cancel all its sanctioned summer sports events. This included the Touch Nationals in Rotorua. The Taieri College team had been training hard in preparation for this event and we share in their disappointment at the announcement. Likewise, our victorious Year 7 and 8 cricket team who won their regional final have been denied the chance to play for national glory, with New Zealand Cricket announcing the cancellation of their tournament at Lincoln. Once again, the impending Covid-19 threat had made it impossible for these events to be safely run.

My thanks to everyone who has returned their subject option sheets for 2022. Over 300 students and parents attended our course selection interviews and we are now getting a clear idea of how our timetable will shape up for next year. The immediate challenge for our secondary students is to begin their study programmes in preparation for the rapidly approaching examinations. Being well organised and planned is a good first step to effective study.

Noho ora mai

Dave Hunter
PRINCIPAL

Key Dates

1 November
Enviro Schools
Hui

4 November
TK Cricket
Match –
Oamaru
L2SPR Event

5 November
Year 8 HPV

8-19 November
Year 7
Swimming
Lessons – Just
Swim

8-12 November
Year 8 Camp
No. 1 8FY/8HB

11 November
Year 7 2022
Information
Evening
Literary Lunch

12 November
Taieri College
Sport Council
Golf Day

Senior Assessment Due Next Week

1 November
L3 History 91437

3 November
L2 GEO
AS91246



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Taieri College Blues Awards



Sporting Blue Recipients



Performing Arts Blues

Taieri College Sports Council's GOLF DAY

To be held on Friday 12 November, 2021

Team Entry: Full
Hole Sponsorship: Full
Evening Meal & BBQ lunch: 100% Donated



Sports Council are super excited to be looking to host our annual Golf Day fundraiser. All monies raised on this day go directly back into our students, both within sport & outside of it. Sports Council subsidise teams and individuals' travel and tournament costs. We provide the very popular Sports Academy; we also look to continually support the upgrading of equipment and facilities, plus the purchase of our Transit vans means all students can have had a ride in them to school camps, and other school outings etc.

Thank you to the many families who have already donated food and or dropped raffle/auction items into the school, every little bit helps us deliver a very popular, successful day.

PLEASE KEEP THE DONATIONS COMING IN, and label them Golf Day please.

Thank you in advance
Sports Council

Sports Academy Applications for 2022

A reminder for current Year 7s that the applications for Year 8 Sports Academy close on Tuesday 30 November 2021. This can be submitted online or you can collect a hard copy from the college office. For more information please contact Karen Dunlea (kdunlea@taieri.school.nz) Sports Academy Manager or Ryan Rosevear (rosevear@taieri.school.nz) Head of Sport.

School Magazine \$20.00

We are taking payment now for our annual school magazine which is distributed at the end of Term Four. This is a 270 page colour printed A4 magazine which records our activities throughout the school year and includes form class and sports team photos.

All students have been invoiced \$20.00 for this magazine but if you do not want a copy, or only want one copy per family please email accounts@taieri.school.nz to have this charge removed.

Please make prompt payment of \$20 to confirm your order for your magazine. The supplier needs to know how many to print – we can only order the number of magazines that have been paid for.

Payment can be made by internet banking to 03-1725-0106800-00 using your **name** and **magazine** as the reference, or by eftpos/cash at the office.



Taieri College Blues Talk 2021

Kia ora koutou, ngā mihi nui for the invitation to speak at your Blues ceremony, and heartiest of congratulations to all of today's recipients.

I also want to acknowledge everyone who supports those who have received awards, whether they be peers, parents, staff, or members of the wider school community. It's important to remember that all of us, at whatever stage of our pursuits, have some form of backing or championing that mustn't be overlooked.

Today, rightfully, is a celebration.

However, in the spirit of future-planning – which I know seems a somewhat absurd notion given the current climate – but nevertheless, I have five requests for you all going forwards.

Yes, you may ask who am I to stand before you on your day with a set of tasks?

But I wouldn't ask you to do any of these if I did not ask them of myself. No matter how far or successful you get, none of us is above sweeping the rehearsal studio floor.

Also, these requests are what I come back to when I need to re-find my way and mojo while working in the arts as a playwright, dramaturg, director, and co-director of a theatre company. Whether or not you choose to embark on a professional career in the arts or another field, I proffer them now.

My first request:

I ask you to use your curiosity

Not a soft skill, but as a means to interrogate, challenge, and listen and respond actively.

Playwright Lynn Nottage says:

'I like to replace judgment with curiosity. You tell me your story. I'm going to listen without interruption, and then decide what I think.'

The "how" question of something is just as important as the "why".

Question the suspect surety of "messages" and universal truths, which are misleading and distinct from having an intention or provocation that invites others' curiosity, and in turn can lead us together to a more level ground for constructive dialogue and debate.

Second request:

I ask you to consider space

The space in which we work and the space we create for others.

One of my playwriting heroes, Andrew Bovell says:

'Write with courage. Don't back away from the hard issues. If you're going to seek to occupy public space, make sure it counts. Write about things that matter.'

What matters to you is ultimately your call. Don't be dictated by others' agendas or trends or the loudest voices in the room. Maintain the courage of your convictions and intentions.

If and when you are invited into whatever is deemed the desired space in which to create or present your work, make sure you don't close the door behind you. With enough willpower, we can make bigger more adaptable spaces to include more and diverse people.

If you get a seat at the table – whatever that looks like – I urge you to consider flipping it. Tables are rigid, hierarchical, and have limited capacity. They've been the centrepiece for too much redundant, exclusive, and detrimental plotting for too long.

Also, on the topic of space, think about the space you are creating for others. How will what you create engender Manaakitanga? What is the experience you are offering? Always keep in mind the person who is experiencing your work for the very first time without the strictures of an existing frame of reference. Hold onto that wonder.

Third request:

I ask you to be specific and credible

When I mentor other playwrights, I remind them to never apologise for their characters. Their job as writer is to show their characters' truth, which requires fortitude if it lies outside the posts of our own cultural, ethical, or moral fencing.

When playwright Bruce Mason was asked what he saw as the point of theatre he replied,

'It contributes enlightenment. It contributes coherence. It lays a kind of grid on the disorder of the world and out of this, makes sense.'

It is the truth of a character's situation that is paramount to genuinely empathising with their predicament. Story is not a "big" moment but grounded in authentic specificity. Therefore, don't be afraid to dive deeper. Listen harder. Keep asking, how and why and what if?

Number four:

I ask you to choose your friends wisely

Surround yourself with people who genuinely support and challenge you and your work. Only ask for feedback from:

- People you trust, and
- People whose opinions you value

Remember that mansplaining comes in many guises and you are never obliged to be grateful for unsolicited feedback. If they care so much to express themselves, they can write a review. You will never make everyone happy and it wasn't your job in the first place.

And now, for my final request:

I ask you to remember your place

This is for when you next receive an award or find yourself sweeping the floor.

The arts realm in which I work does not have an independent cultural currency. It's not an addendum to other subjects, pursuits, or units of the economy. This goes further and is more nuanced than adjusting the acronym STEM to become STEAM.

My first lesson in business manoeuvrings, came from studying patronage during the Renaissance in 7th form Art History. That's the sort of integrated, transferable knowledge that gets overlooked in debates about the merits of individual humanities subjects and which qualifications are most valuable and viable. This year. This month. This week.

Last century, when I began my BA at Victoria University of Wellington, I was encouraged by the then Theatre Studies HOD to take an introductory astronomy paper. When I asked why, he responded that studying astronomy is a good leveller; a reminder of where we stand – fleetingly – in this big beautiful wonderful confounding cosmos, of which there is still so much we are yet to comprehend.

I was reminded of this conversation recently while listening to an interview with theoretical cosmologist Dr Katie Mack in which she talked about our innate desire for structure and meaning and our adaptive trait to seek narrative.

Whatever your chosen medium or whether you seek a professional arts career, don't lose sight of this universal human need. Allow whatever you create or partake in going forwards to enable others to question, navigate, and celebrate their world and the multiplicities of worldviews within it.

With this I will leave you with a final quote by Andy Warhol.

'Let everyone else decide if it's good or bad. Whether they love it or hate it. While they are deciding, make even more art.'

Emily Duncan

Human Papillomavirus (HPV)

The **second dose** of the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine will be given to the Year 8 students on **Friday 5 November 2021**. If a student is away that day we hope to offer catch up clinics at school at a later date but you will be contacted if this is unable to be provided.

The Ministry of Health has advised that scheduled childhood vaccinations including HPV can be administered before, after, or at the same time as the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccination.

Any further questions please email Jared Peacock on jpeacock@taieri.school.nz. Or Nicola Ellis, HPV school-based coordinator nicola.h.ellis@southerndhb.govt.nz



Life Education Bus Visit



Te Reo Maori

A couple of weeks ago Miss Tuhega received a message from Chatsford Retirement Village asking if there was any way their residents could learn Te Reo Māori. They wanted to learn Te Reo Māori so they could understand what was being said on the news. As soon as Miss Tuhega heard people wanted to learn Te Reo Māori (especially the older generation), she jumped straight to it and organised for our Senior Kapa Haka – Ngā Piko o te Taiari to go and visit, perform and help teach Te Reo Māori to them. On Wednesday 27 October the Kapa Haka went along with Miss T, Whaea Toni and Mr Martin. They didn't know what to expect especially not a full room of over 40 people. This warmed Miss Tuhega's heart along with everyone else. The Kapa Haka started with a performance singing two waiata-a-ringā (Action Songs) and a haka. The residence from Chatsford absolutely loved the performance. Then everyone did whakawhanaungatanga (Getting to know each other). Everyone introduced themselves whether it be in Te Reo Māori or English. Some said their pepeha and some explained where they were born and where they felt they belonged. It was lovely to hear everyone's stories and the majority of them were from overseas and came to New Zealand when they were young. Miss Tuhega handed out Māori To Go Books to all of the residents and went through greetings and farewells. They were even given out homework to do until next week. Ngā Piko o te Taiari will go to Chatsford for the next six weeks and help teach Te Reo Māori and provide an opportunity for them that wasn't available when they were younger. Ahakoa he iti, he pounamu. Although it is small, it is a treasure.



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Sport

This week the secondary school cricket season begins officially. Our girls 1st XI begun on Wednesday night before the spring weather intervened. The Boys 1st XI and Colts will compete this weekend. There are strong signs of promise for the Boys 1st XI after they competed in the McCullum Cup over Labour Weekend and finished second, after defeating two OBHS teams, St Kevin's 1st XI and a narrow lose to John McGlashan 1st XI.



This evening we have our top Taieri College 7/8 Waterpolo team playing in the South Island Intermediate Water Polo tournament. Students will be looking forward to the opportunity to compete against students from Marlborough, Invercargill, Dunedin and Christchurch. Keep up to date by looking at the Otago Water Polo website throughout the weekend.

This weekend we also have our Senior Mixed Touch team competing in a Quad tournament against South Otago, Wakatipu and St Kevin's. Unfortunately National Secondary School Touch has been cancelled, but in its absence our students will still be able to establish some interschool rivalries.



Lastly, well done to all the recipients of Sport Blues this week. Achieving success at a young age is recognition of our students' talent and potential. As our guest speaker Emily Duncan highlighted, students will need to marry this talent up with hard work, perseverance and humility in their coming years to achieve long term success.



Accounts

Statements of account were issued this week showing school costs owing and, in some cases, the credit balance for those families who are in credit. Payment of the balance owing can be made by internet banking/automatic payments to our Westpac bank account number **03 1725 0106800 00**, by eftpos or cash at the office, or by cash using the envelope system at the office for students.

When making payment by internet banking please include the student's **name** and **ID number** as the reference. If the payment is for a specific cost eg. cricket, please note this also in the reference.

School Magazine - Each student has been invoiced \$20 for our annual school magazine, which is issued at the end of Term 4. The magazine is a great record of the activities throughout the year and includes form class and sports team photos.

Prompt payment is needed to confirm your order, please remember to reference 'magazine'. If you do not want the magazine, or only require one copy per family, please email accounts@taieri.school.nz and let us know so we can remove the charge.

Financial Assistance - Please note that financial assistance is available in some cases so if you have any concerns at all about paying these costs, please email Jared Peacock jpeacock@taieri.school.nz or phone him on 489 3823 extn 101

You can view accounts at any time by logging in to the Taieri College Kamar site via our website and selecting the Taieri College useful links tab. If you have a query about your account, please email accounts@taieri.school.nz or phone the Finance Office extn 206 or extn 129.

Thank you.

Workbridge

Need some help to find work?

Workbridge is a free specialist employment service for people with health conditions – this includes, but is not limited to learning disabilities, Autism Spectrum Disorder, ADHD, disabilities and injuries. We support clients to look for work either part time or fulltime. To find out more about our service and criteria please call or text Sarah 027 282 4169 or free phone 0508 858 858 and select the options for Dunedin.

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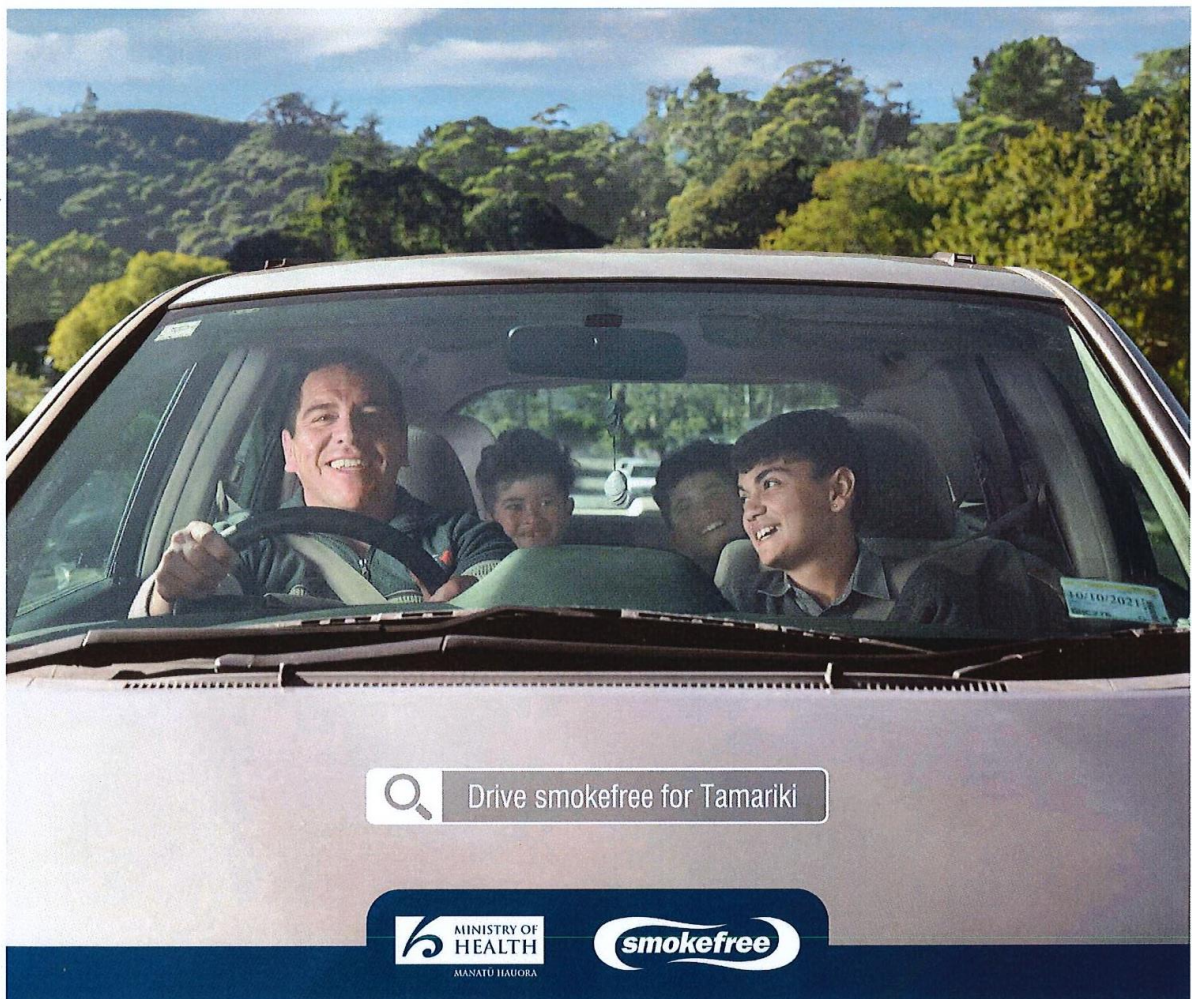
We look forward to hearing from you!



DRIVE SMOKEFREE

— FOR TAMARIKI —

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illegal to smoke/vape in cars with
people under 18 present**



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Street Smart

Highlands Motorsport Park, Cromwell

Wednesday 15 December 2021



"The Street Smart Programme is something that we believe is hugely important and potentially life-saving."

Greg Murphy - Programme Ambassador



Street Smart is a world-class, cognitive-based driver programme that aims to positively influence the lives of young kiwis across the country, and help them to become a safer and more aware driver on our roads.

Offering a practical hands-on learning experience, Street Smart is a one-day event providing young drivers and their parents/caregivers the opportunity to undertake supervised driving practice. There is a focus on developing good decision-making strategies for safe driving, including assessing themselves, reading the road environment, resisting peer pressure, managing or eliminating distractions, and planning ahead.

Street Smart takes place in safe, controlled, off-the-road environments, under the watchful eye of qualified coaches plus the parent/caregiver. This provides the parent the opportunity to also assess themselves, in order to be a better coach and mentor to their teen.

Coming to a venue near you, the Street Smart programme could save lives in your community. To register visit: www.streetsmart.nz

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