



# TAWA COLLEGE

Issue 5

August 2011

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Welcome back to Term 3 at Tawa College. We don't need reminding that we are well over halfway through the year, particularly the senior students. There were 22 weeks in the first two terms. Term 3 is 10 weeks in length and then Year 11 to 13 students will have two full weeks back at school in Term 4 before they go on exam leave. It is crucial that all senior students focus on their academic work. The practice exams are in Week 3 this term and this will be the chance for students who sit subjects that are largely internally assessed to lift their overall credit total. Students in Year 12 and 13 need to aim for at least a Merit endorsement in NCEA Level 2, as most Universities throughout New Zealand are raising their entry criteria. Universities are also offering more Scholarships in 2012, particularly Canterbury University.

The term begins in a hectic fashion. In the first two weeks we have performances of the 2011 Major Production, "Standing Ovation 2". It promises to be an impressive event and throughout the second week of the school holidays all of the students, staff and parent helpers involved with the production have been rehearsing extremely hard. I want to pay tribute to the leadership of our Head of Music, Murray Cameron, and parent Sara Scott with regards to their total commitment and dedication to the show. I encourage you all to come along. It will be a fantastic evening's entertainment.

In Week 3 of this term, as well as the exams we also have the national finals of the



Barbershop competition on Monday 15 August, held in Wellington. Tawa College will be well represented at this event. In Week 4 we have the National Secondary Schools' Tournament Week for Winter Sports. Tawa are competing at the top tournament for Boys' and Girls' Soccer as well as in Netball. Time management will be a challenge for a number of our students this term and it will certainly be useful preparation for their tertiary studies in the future.

In Term 2 we had two reviews. The first was a roll audit conducted by the Ministry of Education. They agreed that our submission was accurate and were impressed with our absence procedures. The second review was an audit undertaken by the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) regarding procedures around assessment at senior level. The report paid tribute to our Principal's Nominee, Anne West and was very positive about our assessment procedures and processes. These reviews have been a real encouragement.

I would like to thank parents who contributed to a very positive strategic planning day last term. A number of students, parents, teachers and Board members were in attendance and provided valuable input from which the Strategic Plan for 2012-2014 will be developed.

There will be two days when the school will be closed this term. The first is on Monday 22 August 2011 which is a mid-term break and the second will be on Friday 26 August 2011 which is a government resourced teacher only day to look at the new Standards for Level 2 NCEA. The reason that this week has been chosen for both days, is the minimal impact they will have on our senior students as a large number of them will be away at Winter Tournament Week. A Victoria University Open Day is also scheduled for 26 August 2011.

At the beginning of this Term we welcomed new Mr David Roberts who replaces Mr Daniel Atkinson in the ICT Department for Term 3.

*Murray Lucas*  
**PRINCIPAL**

## NZQA MATTERS

### School based Trial Exams for Externally Assessed Standards

- Senior Exam Week runs from 15 August to 19 August. This is Week 3 this term. The exam timetable is available for viewing on e2learn.
- It is essential that all students entered for the NZQA exams at the end of the year sit these school exams. As well as being excellent practice, the results are needed for a Derived Grade (Compassionate Consideration) if your son or daughter is unable to sit an NZQA exam at the end of the year.
- Students are on study leave when they do not have a scheduled exam.
- Students who are sick on the day of an exam need to phone the school before the exam.
- Students who have exam clashes need to see Ms West as soon as possible.
- Students must wear school uniform when attending an exam.

## ABSENCE NOTIFICATIONS

To assist us in managing student absences, it would be appreciated if you continue to give the office staff early notification of the reason for your young person's absence, particularly in the case of ongoing illness. You can either ring the college office on 232 8184 or email [absence@tawacollege.school.nz](mailto:absence@tawacollege.school.nz)

If you do receive one of our automatic text /email messages advising of your child's absence, please respond as soon as convenient. It is important to notify the college office immediately if your contact phone numbers or email address has changed.

Absences greater than three days for sports events, family matters or planned holidays still require the prior approval of the Principal. Please either make your request in writing to the Principal, Mr M Lucas or email [mlucas@tawacollege.school.nz](mailto:mlucas@tawacollege.school.nz). Thank you.

## UNIFORM CLARIFICATION YEARS 9 TO 12

**SHOES** - must be flat, black, plain and leather. Canvas is **NOT** acceptable. Boots and hi-tops are also **NOT** acceptable.

**JACKETS** – only the official school jacket (as detailed in the Prospectus) may be worn. Plain black or navy, and all other non-uniform jackets, are **NOT** acceptable and will be removed and passed onto the year level Deans for return.

**GIRLS' SOCKS** – must be white, mid-calf length. Either with or without the single blue stripe are now acceptable.

**SCARVES** – only the striped school scarf may be worn.

Students wearing non-uniform items risk having them removed by their year level Dean in accordance with school policy.

## READER WRITERS

As part of our desire to support students with their learning we require positive people to act as a reader and writer on a volunteer basis for their internal and external assessments. **From Monday 15<sup>th</sup> August** through to **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> August** our Senior students will be sitting their exams and we urgently require people to assist.

The role of reader/writer entails reading an exam paper to a student and writing down their answers.

Please contact Gail Hughes, Administrator, Learning Support on 232-8184 ext 847 if you are interested in helping out in this way. For further information please email Gail on [ghughes@tawacollege.school.nz](mailto:ghughes@tawacollege.school.nz)

## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to year 12 student **Kendall Brown** who as a Corporal in 41 Squadron (City of Porirua) Air Training Corps successfully graduated from his Central Area Senior Leaders Course at RNZAF Ohakea. **Kendall** was promoted to the rank of Sergeant at 41 Squadron on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2011.

## TAWA COLLEGE SPORTS RESULTS

### Havelock North High School vs Tawa College Sports Exchange

Tawa College students travelled to Havelock North on the weekend of 9 July 2011 to take part in the winter sports exchange between Havelock North High School and Tawa College. The exchange was won by Tawa College. All students behaved well and we are thankful to the host families for billeting our students.

Thank you also to all the coaches, managers and teachers who attended the event. Without your help these sporting exchanges would not go ahead. Results from the event are provided in the table below:

Sport	Section	Won By	Score
Badminton	Boys	Tawa	6-0
Badminton	Girls	Tawa	4-2
Basketball	Boys	Tawa	68-39
Basketball	Girls	Tawa	56-50
Bowls		Tawa	4-2
Debating		Tawa	247-246
Football	Boys	Draw	1-1
Football	Girls	Tawa	4-1
Hockey	Boys	HNHS	1-0
Hockey	Girls	Draw	1-1
Netball	Senior A	HNHS	39-35
Netball	Senior B	Tawa	26-19
Rugby	1 <sup>st</sup> XV	Tawa	51-0
Mountain Biking		HNHS	21-15
Squash		Tawa	3-1
Road Race	Cancelled		

The Fair Play Trophy was awarded to **Kirstie Hilton** of Tawa College in the Girls Hockey.

### Swimming - 2011 NZ Div II Competition

Four Tawa College swimmers competed at this swimming meet held in Rotorua during the recent school holidays with some excellent results achieved. Congratulations to the following students:

Name	Event	National Placing
Mikayla McPhee (16yrs age group)	200 back	1st
	100 Breast	1st
	50 Breast	2nd
	50 Back	4th
	100 IM	2nd
	200 Breast	1st
Ruslan Cowley (14 yrs age group)	100 Breast	4th
	50 Breast	12th
	200 Free	11th
	200 Breast	4th
	50 Free	7th
Calvin Jones (14 yrs age group)	100 Breast	7th
	50 Breast	8th
	200 Breast	7th
James McCarthy (14yrs age group)	100 Breast	6th
	200 IM	8th
	50 Breast	10th
	200 Breast	3rd

### Badminton

Congratulations to **Angela Tuason** who was placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Junior Singles in the Badminton Regional Championships held on 14 July 2011.

Congratulations to **Alyse Derby** who was placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the Open Singles at the Badminton Regional Championships. Alyse also recently competed at the National Age Group Badminton Championships and reached the semi finals of both the Mixed Doubles and Singles for her age group.

### Cross Country

Congratulations to **Ryan McAlister** who has been selected for a team to represent NZ in the Secondary Schools Cross Country Championships in Australia, which takes place mid August.

During the recent school holidays Ryan won the Wellington Cross Country Champs (M19) for the second consecutive year, and also competed at the National Cross Country Champs in Christchurch where he came 9<sup>th</sup> (M19), being the first Wellington boy home and part of the four person team who came 2<sup>nd</sup> overall.

### NZSS Winter Tournament Week

A number of our students will be away during Week 4 of this term at the NZSS Tournament Week. This includes our first teams for Hockey Boys and Girls, Football Boys and Girls, Rugby Boys and Girls and Netball Girls. We would like to take this opportunity to wish all of the teams every success and a fun and enjoyable tournament.

### TAWA COLLEGE USA HISTORY TRIP

After almost two years of fundraising, paper shuffling, committee meetings and other tasks, three teachers, one parent and 22 excited Tawa College students embarked on the history trip of their life! That's right . . . a history trip to the United States of America!



Fun was had by all, including the adults. We faced some challenging temperatures (ranging from 30°C – 45°C and 60%+ humidity) while tripping around the East Coast but the students hung in there. Though the purpose of our trip was to learn more about American history there was also plenty of time for other things (e.g. shopping, shopping and more shopping) and for everyone to venture around some of the biggest cities they had ever seen to take in other sites. Some of the highlights were: Boston, New York City and Washington DC and that lovely summer heat! Looking back this early on the trip I think 12 days was enough as the students and some adults were beginning to melt away. I would like to thank the parents, the Board of Trustees and Mr Lucas for allowing us to put this trip together and giving the students an experience I hope they will always remember.



Below is an abridged itinerary.

**Sat July 16<sup>th</sup>** - San Francisco, California: four hour bus tour of the sites.

**Sun July 17<sup>th</sup> and Mon July 18<sup>th</sup>** – Boston, Massachusetts: The Freedom Trail; site of the Boston Massacre, the Boston Tea Party, Boston and Cambridge, Lexington and Concord, the Massachusetts State House, M.I.T. and Harvard University, Salem (Witch Museum, House of Seven Gables).

**Tue July 19<sup>th</sup> and Wed 20<sup>th</sup>** – New York City: Top of the Rock, Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island.

**Thu 21<sup>st</sup> July** Philadelphia: Graff House, where Thomas Jefferson drafted the Declaration of Independence. We also visited the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall.

**Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> July** – Gettysburg: Gettysburg National Military Park. The Battle of Gettysburg was a critical turning point in American Civil War.

**Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> July** – Annapolis, Maryland: US Naval Academy.

**Sun 24<sup>th</sup> and Mon 25<sup>th</sup> July** – Washington DC: Mt Vernon, the home of the USA's first President - George Washington, then onto the Smithsonian Institution/Museums; Bus Tour.

**Tue 26<sup>th</sup> July** – Washington DC/Charlottesville /Williamsburg: Monticello - home of Thomas Jefferson; Colonial Williamsburg, a large outdoor living history village.

**Wed 27<sup>th</sup> July** – Williamsburg/Petersburg: Civil War Adventure camp in Petersburg.



## GATEWAY INFORMATION EVENING

**Thursday 22 September at 7pm**  
**Tawa College Library Annex**

All students and parents/guardians of students wishing to apply for the 2012 Gateway programme are invited to attend the Information Evening to learn what Gateway is, what is expected of the students and what the students can gain from the programme.

Current students, the Gateway Coordinator and Administrator will be present on the night to talk about their experiences and share their enthusiasm for the course. If you would like to attend the Gateway Information Evening please RSVP to Cheryl Robb by phoning 232 8184 xtn 861 or alternatively email Cheryl at [crobb@tawacollege.school.nz](mailto:crobb@tawacollege.school.nz).

## GATEWAY PROGRAMME for 2012

Gateway is a great introduction to the “world of work” for students where they are expected to attend work one day a week in an area of their choice. Students are then expected to complete Unit Standards linked to the knowledge they have gained at their workplace. Many students attain valuable credits towards apprenticeships or obtain valuable work experience and contacts that can be used on their CV.

This year most students commenced work experience in Term 2. Work experience categories range from Early Childcare, Building, Plumbing, Hairdressing, Hospitality, Hotel and Administration work to Health work, Gym work, Automotive and Veterinary. There are many options available for work experience so if your desired career experience is not mentioned above do not discount Gateway as we are open to all suggestions within reason.

## CAREERS DEPARTMENT

Last school holidays Tawa College had two students participate in the NZ Army ACE programme. **Megane Sole**, Year 12 and **Kurt Jago**, Year 11 had a great week experiencing life within the NZ Army.

At the end of Term 2 four Year 13 Tawa College students completed a paper at Victoria University (Computing 102) with great results. Congratulations to **Oliver Greenaway**, **Aaron Craig**, **Avi Mishra** and **Ewan Moshi**.

This term Tawa College students will have the opportunity to participate in a range of careers events, including Junior Pasifika and Maori Days at Victoria University, Universities will be

visiting to assist Year 13s with course selections for 2012, the NZ Defence Bus is visiting for a day and there will be a number of short courses available at Whitireia Polytechnic. All students are encouraged to participate in any events that interest them.

### Information Evenings in Wellington

Whitireia Polytechnic, Faculty of Health, Open Evening, Wednesday 10 August, 6pm at the Porirua Campus.

Canterbury University, Parents Information Evening, Monday 15 August, 5.30pm at the Amora Hotel.

Auckland University, Engineering Futures Evening, Wednesday 17 August, 6pm - note you must pre-register in order to attend this event.

### Important Dates for Year 13

- This year all Universities have instigated a closing date for course applications (some courses are earlier), which is at the beginning of December.
- Halls of residence applications are due before 1 October 2011.
- References for Halls of residence are due mid September 2011.
- Victoria, Massey, Otago and Auckland Universities are booked to visit Tawa College to help students with course planning – students must read the Student Notices for dates.
- Study Link (Student Loans & Allowances) will be visiting the college at the end of September to process applications.
- Scholarships – apply – it is free money – the best place to find information on scholarships is on the 'Breakout' website which you can access at your local library.

### MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

The Mathematics Department would like to remind senior students and their parents that we run a tutoring service on Monday night from 7.30pm to 8.30pm for any students taking MAT111, 101, 102, 201, 202 and

alternating weeks for MAC301, MAS301 and 302. These are advertised in the school notices on Mondays and will continue every Monday until External Exams in November. There is an optional minimal charge of \$5 and students need to bring their mathematics equipment with them including books, although they are usually provided with writing sheets. We have had a lot of requests for advice about tutors and feel this is a worthwhile alternative as it is run by the people who know what your child is doing at the time. Another alternative is "Mathsbuddy". This is an online homework tutoring service which is available to all year levels offered by the Tawa College Mathematics Department. For the last two terms the price of this has dropped to \$21. If you have any questions about either of these please do not hesitate to contact me.

*Lynley MacEwan*

HOD Mathematics

04 232 8184 Xtn 849 or email

[lmacewan@tawacollege.school.nz](mailto:lmacewan@tawacollege.school.nz)

### COMMUNITY EDUCATION

**First Aid** certificates are required by students wanting to take Health Sciences or Nursing in 2012. Two more courses are being offered by Tawa College Community Education before the end of the year. The first will be held on 21 & 28 August and the other on 20 & 27 November. The course also offers NCEA Level 1, 2 & 3 credits for those requiring additional credits or a useful qualification on their CV. Courses are open to students and adults.

**NZ Sign Language** continues to be a very popular class. A beginner 1A class that was not previously advertised in the brochure has been added to the programme starting Tuesday 9 August from 7pm to 9pm for eight weeks. The fee is \$65. There are now a total of six NZ Sign Language classes at different levels held at the college over Monday and Tuesday evenings.

**Preserving with Citrus** is a new course to the programme. During the day you will turn winter citrus fruit into jams, syrups and spreads. The tutor brings everything you need for this course so all you need to do is come along and enjoy the day.

**Disaster Preparedness** is now on 25 August 2011.

### **Family Trusts Wills & Powers of Attorney**

This is a one night course on Thursday 18 August. It is run by a local lawyer who will be able to give you advice and explain the pros and cons of having a family trust and the importance of having a will and a power of attorney.

**Become a Song Writer** is a new course starting on 18 August. It will enable you to learn the craft of song writing and give you guidance to produce your first song.

All courses are advertised on the web site [www.tawacomed.co.nz](http://www.tawacomed.co.nz). The Facebook page Tawa College Community Education has photos of many courses and a recipe from the Preserving with Citrus class.

## **MAJOR PRODUCTION FOR 2011**

### **STANDING OVATION 2**

Just a quick reminder that tickets are still available for purchase from the school office, \$18 for adults and \$10 for children. Performances dates are:

Thursday 11 August at 7.30pm

Friday 12 August at 7.30pm

Saturday 13 August at 7.30pm

## **COMMUNITY NOTICES**

### **Dear Parent/Caregiver**

If your teenager is learning to drive (or about to start), please read on. This can be a stressful time for both of you. But don't worry, help is at hand.

- [www.safeteedriver.co.nz](http://www.safeteedriver.co.nz) is a new FREE website to help parents and caregivers like you
- The resource was put together by the NZ Transport Agency in collaboration with a

parent/teen relationship psychologist and an expert in driving psychology

- The website has lots of great tips to help you connect with your teenager and tools to teach them how to become a safer driver.

The Graduated Driver Licence System (GDLS) is a three-step process. So the things you need to teach your teenager will change as they progress from Learner through the Restricted phase to their Full Licence.

### **At the Learner stage:**

- Teach them the practical driving skills (in a range of conditions and situations) using the tools on the website

### **At the Restricted stage:**

- Young drivers are most at risk during the first 6-12 months of driving solo
- If your teenager has friends in the car with them, they're ten times more likely to be involved in a fatal crash
- Learn how to manage the risks using the tools on the website
- It may be convenient for you to let your teen break their Restricted Licence conditions but:
  - your insurance may be compromised if they breach their Restricted Licence and cause a crash
  - they could be fined \$100 and receive 35 demerit points (licence suspended for three months if they get 100 or more demerit points within two years).

### **Your teenager still needs you**

It can be hard communicating with teenagers. But you're still a positive influence on them, even though it might not feel like it at times. So it's important you get involved with your teenager's driving education and stay involved until they have a Full Licence. Visit [www.safeteedriver.co.nz](http://www.safeteedriver.co.nz) to use the tools and help your teenager become a safer driver.

If you don't have the internet, you can order hard copy resources. For the Learner phase call 0800 772 284 to sign up to Practice. For the Restricted phase call 0800 822 422 for a Safe Teen Driver pack.

### Meet John Marsden

Best-selling author John Marsden, of the [Tomorrow When the War Began](#) series, will be at The Children's Bookshop, Kilbirnie Plaza on Friday, August 12th between 4pm and 4.30pm to meet his readers and sign copies of his books. Everyone, including parents who may have read his novels as teenagers 15 years ago, are welcome to this free event.

### AFS Student Exchange Programme

See the world and experience a new culture by becoming an AFS exchange student. Since 1947 over 10,000 New Zealand teenagers have studied abroad through AFS and a similar number of overseas students have been hosted in New Zealand. If you are interesting in going on an exchange, or hosting an exchange student in your home, check out the AFS website for more information [www.afs.org.nz](http://www.afs.org.nz)

### POSITIVE FEEDBACK

**An email from the Head of Sport at Havelock North High School....**

*A parent rang the school to ask us to pass onto you how impressed she was by the two billets they took from Tawa College. They were absolute gentlemen around the place and a pleasure to have, she said.*

**An email from a school parent ....**

*I am just writing this quick note as a parent who attended one of the drama productions last night at the school.*

*The show we saw was set in Northern Ireland in the 1960's, and dealt with teenagers and the "troubles". All I can say is that the cast and the others involved in this show deserve a fantastic rave, they were in the same class as many productions I have seen at BATS or Stagecraft theatres. The characters were all very real and they all managed to carry off their roles professionally as well as maintain Irish accents.*

*I am not sure if this was a one off, but this play could easily have been put on to a "paying" audience or a wider school attendance, the story is as valid today as it was then, which makes it a bit bittersweet.*

*While I expect the school to focus on academic achievement, I am also very happy with Tawa Colleges also providing a great basis in the arts.*

*Please pass on my congratulations to the Drama teacher, fantastic job and when my 4 year old can sit through the two hours and still say, "that was awesome" – plus lots of questions – then he and the production members have achieved their outcome.*

### COMING EVENTS

#### AUG

- Thu 11 CSW Junior Netball Tournament  
Standing Ovation 2 - Hall at 7.30pm
- Fri 12 Heal the World – Mufti Day  
Standing Ovation 2 - Hall at 7.30pm
- Sat 13 Standing Ovation 2 - Hall at 7.30pm
- Mon 15 Barbershop Nationals
- Mon 22 Mid Term Break**  
Winter Tournament Week begins
- Wed 24 NIWA Science Fair
- Fri 26 Teacher Only Day**  
Victoria University Open Day
- Mon 29 Drama Production (Mon to Thurs)

#### SEP

- Fri 2 Senior Reports posted home
- Thu 8 Senior Parent/Teacher Evening
- Thu 15 CSW Road Race Relays at Trentham
- Tue 27 NCEA & Course Information Evening  
7pm in the Hall
- Thu 29 Studylink here at lunch time

#### OCT

- Mon 3 Year 9, 2012 uniform fittings in the  
PTA Centre 4pm to 7pm
- Tue 4 Year 9, 2012 uniform fittings in the  
PTA Centre 4pm to 7pm
- Wed 5 Year 9, 2012 uniform fittings in the  
PTA Centre 4pm to 7pm  
CS Year 9, 2012 uniform fittings in the  
PTA Centre 4pm to 7pm  
CSW Road Race Championships
- Thu 6 Sports Prizegiving 7pm in the Hall
- Fri 7 Last day of term – Early Closure at  
1.30pm