



# Hutt Valley High School News

## Te Kura Tuarua O Te Awakairangi

### Dear Parents and Caregivers

Welcome to Term 3. Regular readers of the newsletter will be aware that I have been absent on sabbatical during Term 2 and I thank Denise Johnson for her work as Acting Principal and the senior staff who have accommodated the shifts of workload that have been involved.

This is the point of the year where we are both focused strongly on the heavy lifting associated with the academic programme of 2017 while also doing a good deal of planning for 2018. Enrolments for next year's Year 9 out of zone students close at the end of Monday and we are again experiencing strong demand for places with enrolments running 26% higher than the equivalent point last year. Already, with the large "bulge" year group travelling through into Year 13 next year, there are pressures that will need some managing. We are very conscious of the need to keep numbers manageable for our site so that student life here has the space to breathe.

With those numbers are inevitable challenges around property. I'm hopeful that the Auditor-General's report on MOE property practices might hold out hope for schools such as ours. The report authors were amazed that the MOE maintenance grant is funded by area of site rather than age, condition and construction of the buildings. In effect, a new build school of the same size as us is funded the same as us for maintenance, despite our buildings ranging in age back to the 1930s. The MOE has a recently completed national condition assessment for the entire country so change is clearly possible. To be fair the MOE, their property practices have shifted a great deal in recent years and systems are being improved. We look forward to being the beneficiaries of changes. It has been interesting to read of local area schools' sudden property grants and the politicians' chants that these are "deeply cynical" election bribes. All I can say is that I look forward to our school being visited by such cynicism!

Putting property to one side, the school is, of course, a collection of people rather than buildings. Our students are, as ever, engaged in their community in brilliant ways. Penny Clarke tells me that World Vision fund-raising here has produced money that will pay for two classrooms in Syria. There is a resonance there that I love: our students working to provide the means of accessing education to others of their age elsewhere who are in deeply, deeply distressing circumstances.

Earlier this week I had a message from the Lower Hutt police thanking two of our students who had helped them "to facilitate the Tuakana Teina Water Safety Programme run out of Upper Hutt all week. Not only have they been great facilitators, but fantastic mentors and leaders also. They both lead by example, and are held in high esteem by the 20 participants on this course. It is easy to see why these participants all aspire to be where (the two boys) are" they say. That is a lovely message to receive.

The wider community has benefitted from the recent efforts of our students. Service Captains Jack Wellwood and Michaela Judson have organised and run the Shave for a Cure - raising funds for Leukaemia & Blood Cancer New Zealand. Over \$7000 has been raised, the largest amount that the students have been able to raise in recent times.

Meanwhile, last Sunday 30 of our students volunteered to spend nine hours of the last day of their holidays to help Te Omanga Hospice with their most successful ever fund-raising dinner and auction. This is pure altruism on the students' part, and it is a willingness to serve that represents the very best of youth.

Another student making a service impact in the local community is Year 12 student Bhaavya Mylavaru, who is organising student helpers to assist in the running of a welcome to New Zealand Refugee lunch that is taking place in Petone later in August. Her initiative is one that we are only too happy to support.

This is a long piece already, but I need to note the recent holiday trips to Vietnam by a group of Year 10 students and the Dance trip to LA. Both of those activities involved a great deal of work and gave students brilliant opportunities beyond the classroom.

And in the creative arts zone we are within a relatively few days of the opening of the school self-scripted musical. "Songs of Love and Hate" runs from Tuesday 8 to Friday 11 August at 7.30 pm. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students. It's the second self-scripted musical done here. It's a mad, brilliant ambitious thing to do, and for those involved it will be a dominant moment in their school lives. Possibly, just possibly, it will also be the catalyst for one or more students to launch towards a career in the arts shaping the imagination of our country. Wouldn't that be a result!

Ross Sinclair, Principal

*Dear Ross, I would like to congratulate and commend your Year 12 students who volunteered for the Te Omanga Hospice Wideners' Lunch on Sunday 25 July. Not only did they give up a Sunday, the last day of their holiday, they worked throughout the day with such a great attitude, and without even gaining any school credits, or "ticks" towards Duke of Edinburgh Awards etc. My husband and I spoke with some of your students and were extremely impressed by their attitude. I am an ex Primary School Principal, and believe that the students should be applauded for the very positive image they have portrayed of your school. Yours faithfully*



## Congratulations to:

- ★ Congratulations to **Maya Hahn** 12WH who has been selected in the New Zealand U17 Women's Football squad due to compete in the OFC U16 Women's Championship in Samoa in August.
- ★ Congratulations to **Mack Smith** 16014, **William Follett** 11RG and **Thomas Langley** 11RG for their U15 Wellington Hockey Team selections.
- ★ **Terell Monu** 12SU and **Satui Pitolua** 10BAPR who helped facilitate the Tuakana Teina Water Safety Programme during the holidays. We have received feedback from the coordinators that they both lead by example and were fantastic mentors and leaders.

## Looking Ahead

### July

**31** Closing date for Year 9 Out of Zone Applications

### August

**1** Whanau Steering Group, 6.00 pm  
**2** Year 12 Economics Trip  
**2-3** Health and Safety Course  
**8-11** School Production  
**14-18** Careers Week  
**15** Whanau Hui, 6.00 pm  
**16** NCEA and subject selection evening for parents, 6.30 pm  
**23** Regional Geography Competition  
**25** Year 12 Geography Trip  
**28-29** Year 12 Cycle Tour

## St Albans Grove Parking Closure

There will be no parking on St Albans and Iris Groves on Monday 31 July while work is being carried out on the trees in the streets.

Please find alternative parking until the work has been completed (up to one week).

## Year 9 Enrolments for 2018

The closing date for out of zone applications for students in Year 9 in 2018 is Monday 31 July at 4.00 pm.

**If you currently live out of zone and wish to enrol a student for next year, you must apply in the out of zone ballot (even if there are older siblings currently attending).**

## GARAGE SALE BONANZA - FUNDRAISER HVHS GIRLS 1st XI FOOTBALL TEAM

**Saturday 29 July - 8.30 am to 1.00 pm**  
**HVHS Student Centre**

Mega items on sale from all the families of the football team - furniture indoor/outdoor, gardenware, household goods, kitchenware, bedroom items, bathroom items, clothing/shoes, sportswear, books, music, toys, jewellery, bric-a-brac, miscellaneous

Organic sausage sizzle and home baking - cakes and sweet treats on sale.

## Free Legal Advice for Students

Mr Eugene Collins, Partner of Collins and May Law firm will be available to give free legal advice to Year 12 and 13 students each Thursday during lunch time (1.30 pm – 2.15 pm).

Please book an appointment with the HVHS Office.

## Year 13 Waikato University Information Evening

The University of Waikato invites students and their families to come along to the Information Session on Monday 31 July from 6 – 7.30 at The Rydges Hotel, 75 Featherston Street, Wellington.

Please register for this event by phoning 07 838 4007 or emailing [recruitment@waikato.ac.nz](mailto:recruitment@waikato.ac.nz)

## Victoria University Parent Survey

The Youth Wellbeing Study Team at Victoria University are running a survey for parents and whānau. Parents and whānau who complete the survey will be given a movie ticket voucher as thanks for taking part. If you are a parent of a young person, please consider completing this online survey investigating parents thoughts and beliefs about youth wellbeing. This survey will help the Youth Wellbeing Study team better understand the needs of parents, whānau and communities regarding youth mental health. This will inform their resource development, and the community education sessions they provide. You can access the survey through this link: [http://vuw.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_1HAmTFXRTlby11j](http://vuw.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1HAmTFXRTlby11j)