



# Hutt Valley High School News

## Te Kura Tuarua O Te Awakairangi

### Dear Parents and Caregivers

In school newsletters I often tell of students' efforts to help others in the community. This week, we were the recipients of another organisation's work in that volunteering role. On Wednesday 23rd, BNZ branches around the country were closed so that bank staff could do their "Closed for Good" project. This is where the bank staff work on community-focused projects for a day, as a contribution to the wider well-being of those around them. This week we had several BNZ staff arrive, among whom were several of our parents, and they got stuck in doing a spruce-up of the area around the canteen and adjacent parts. This involved water-blasting some sections and painting others. The BNZ staff did a great job and on behalf of the school I thank Wayne Ihaka and his staff for making a difference for our students. The BNZ are strong supporters of the school, including by lending their facilities for our staff to use for training sessions off-site, and Wednesday was another instance in which we benefited from their civic-mindedness. Thank you all.

On Monday this week the Music Department presented its annual Music Festival at the Little Theatre. There is a huge amount of work that goes into such an event, and the uplifting evening was a strong reflection of that. Students and staff can be very proud of what they are achieving, and it's right to recognise also the parents and caregivers who put so much into the musical upbringing of those who embrace the performance of music. This was a huge thing to carry off at this point of a term which has also seen so many musicians involved in the school musical. What a busy, busy time. It's incredibly rewarding, and I admire the ability of our musical fraternity to cope with such a heavy series of commitments.

Meanwhile, last week we celebrated International Languages Week at HVHS. Head of Languages Jairo Trujillo-Ramirez says:

*Students are very privileged to have the opportunity to study a variety of languages including French, Spanish, Japanese and Maori. Learning a language helps our students foster a greater understanding and acceptance of other cultures and it also helps them develop empathy which is an important attribute that employers value. As global citizens it is highly important that our students are prepared to interact responsibly and respectfully with other cultures and understand that there are different ways of thinking and working.*

*Throughout Languages Week and beyond students have been trialing a website where they enter a real world where they talk with native speakers in France, Japan and Spain and order food or ask for directions and then get a response. They have found this an interesting and valuable learning experience where they put their language into use, even though the Baguette, Las Tapas or Obento they order is not real!*

*By coincidence some of our Year 9 and 10 Japanese students also had the opportunity last week to be buddies with exchange students from Japan. This was a fantastic opportunity for them to make connections with native speakers and build friendships. Some of these students are now texting back and forth in Japanese, using the language they are using in class to communicate. This highlights the importance of making connections globally and building relationships beyond the classroom and into the wider world.*

Jairo is immersed in the languages world, of course. I'd like to add a few comments of my own. Some of our attitudes around languages learning have a long way to go. It is common to hear a person being labelled as an ESOL student; it's interesting that we don't call them bilingual. One is a deficit label and the other is not. In the New Zealand Curriculum document languages belong to an Essential Learning Area, along with Mathematics, Physical Education, Technology, English, The Arts, Social Sciences and Science. Yet languages are often referred to as options, rather than an essential learning area. Why is that? What attitudes are implied by the use of the labels here?

There seems to be in New Zealand an under-valuation of languages learning compared to some other countries. In Australia, for instance, some universities have a points-based system for entry where totals are added, and then they add an extra 10 points to students' tallies where they have studied languages to the equivalent of our Year 13. Clearly, they see a language learning background as a strength. The reason they do is simple: there is a strong correlation between learning a language for 4-6 years and successful graduation from a degree programme in any subject. In a funding system that rewards graduation percentages, these universities are keen to attract languages students because they succeed in tertiary study irrespective of their field of endeavour. Interesting.

Meanwhile, in New Zealand, many languages are "in trouble" for numbers of students nationally. There are several reasons that might be contributing to that, and they include the huge irony of the fact that NCEA language standards do not count for University Entrance literacy credits even though language learning is one area where it can be guaranteed there is consistent and thorough literacy learning. There are reasons in behind that state of affairs, but it doesn't help language learning to be treated so. My hope is that out of International Languages Week might come some reflection and perhaps some small shift in our attitudes.

Ross Sinclair, Principal

## Congratulations to:

★ Congratulations to our students who have been named in the NZ Mens and Womens U20 Ultimate Frisbee teams for the test series against Australia in September:

### Girls

**Emma Doile** 13MZ  
**Elizabeth Thompson** 13CA  
**Hillary Sheridan** 12AV  
**Helena Cvitanovich** 10HLYN  
**Bridget Forsyth** 10SPPF

### Boys

**Tane Rolfe** 13KN  
**Russell Syder** 12CR  
**Jack Doile** 11ED

★ Last Friday the following teams won their divisions at the Senior Badminton Finals:  
**HVHS 1 Boys** won Regional Premier Boys  
**HVHS 5 Boys** won Division 3  
**HVHS 5 Girls** won Division 2

## Looking Ahead

### August

**28-29** Year 12 Cycle Tour 1  
 29 Whanau Hui, 6.00 pm  
**30-31** EPro8 Science Challenge  
 30 Board of Trustees Meeting, 5.30 pm  
**31-1 Sept** Year 12 Cycle Tour 2

### September

3-8 Winter Sports Tournament Week  
**4** Mid Term Break - school closed  
 5 Dance Trip to DanceNZMade  
**6** Year 11 and 12 Geography Trip  
 7-11 Tactile Design Showcase - Dowse Museum  
**11-15** Year 13 Drama Production  
 12 Whanau Steering Group, 6.00 pm  
**14** Winter Sports Photos  
 16 Year 13 Leavers Ball  
**20** Gateway End of Year Function  
 22 School Triathlon

## Sports Finals

### Netball Premier Girls Final

Monday 6.30 pm  
 HVHS vs Tawa at ASB Sports Centre Court 10

### Football Girls 1st XI Final

Wednesday 6.30 pm  
 HVHS vs Wellington Girls Petone Memorial Turf

## Reader/writers wanted

### Term time for October and November exams

The school is looking for large numbers of volunteers to support senior students with their internal assessments, practice and external exams.

A small donation will be given for the October exams. NZQA will pay for your services in the NCEA exams.

Very good reading and writing skills required as well as clear spoken English.

Training will be provided and acceptance is subject to a satisfactory Police check.

Please contact:

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**CHRIS BISHOP**  
 NATIONAL LIST MP BASED IN HUTT SOUTH

Dear Mr Sinclair

Last Friday night I attended a performance of the Hutt Valley High School musical, "Songs of Love and Hate." I have been to many school productions over the years – and even been in a few! I can honestly say that this was the best school production I have ever seen. It was absolutely amazing and I was blown away.

I was intrigued and surprised to discover that all but one of the songs performed in the show were written by students. That added a special something to the show, I think, and was very impressive.

The show was funny and genuinely heart-warming. I know it connected with the audience. You should be extremely proud of all the students and staff involved in such a wonderful production.

Kind regards

Chris Bishop

Chris Bishop, National List MP

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