



# Hutt Valley High School News

## Te Kura Tuarua O Te Awakairangi

### Dear Parents and Caregivers

Thank you to staff and parents/caregivers who have taken part in parent-teacher meetings for senior students in the last two weeks. These are opportunities to meet and discuss progress at a point of the year where there is time to congratulate and reinforce where things are going well, or to plan and support where there is help needed. I've already noted that attendance in the school is up this year, and that signifies step one for the process of ensuring success. The meetings of these last two weeks should offer information that reinforces that provided by online access to Kamar, the school's student management system. If parents/caregivers/students think longer conversations are needed those can be arranged in the next days or weeks. The most important thing is that we check that the right support is in place and that the future path is clear.

For some students, there can be a reality that school is not working for them. That can be challenging for them and for parents, as the moment approaches when the best path is actually a different one from continuing at school, and where other continuing learning is a better solution. The key here is that conversations occur about pathways that are appropriate and purposeful for a student. WelTec offers a series of mid-year (July) entry courses and for some senior students those courses – whether full time or part time while continuing at school part time – can be a solution that re-energises and clarifies a student's direction. Penny Clarke is the person to contact if you need information about what possibilities exist.

While these two weeks have been about the academic side of school and student progress, an abiding wider issue is the social education of young people approaching adulthood. One aspect of that is personal relationships, and next week a major aspect of that is focused on nationwide in Bullying-Free New Zealand Week. This is bedrock stuff; we have all read about or experienced the awful impacts of bullying and we know of bullying's deeply destructive power in young people's sense of themselves. Next week we will join with what I hope is an ever-increasing national rejection of bullying.

The week, for us, will culminate in Pink Shirt Day. This now global event began in 2007 in Nova Scotia, Canada, when a young student wore a pink shirt to the first day of school. He was bullied throughout the day, and when two other

students heard of this they decided to act. They purchased 50 pink shirts from a local store and encouraged friends and acquaintances to wear them for an effect they called the "Sea of Pink". The idea was to provide a vivid visual support for the Grade 9 student and it worked. Since then, the idea has been taken up around the globe as Pink Shirt Day, where the wearing of such shirts is a positive statement against bullying and bullies, and a clear visual statement that says as a community, we say clearly and loudly that bullying is not okay.

Next Friday, 20 May, our normal uniform may be varied with pink items, whether of shirt or jersey or socks; whatever helps to convey the message. The day is not a mufti day, and it's not a fundraiser. We're a magnificently diverse community of 44 different ethnicities and our marker is a tolerance and embracing of difference. Next Friday is a chance to show that we believe in supporting each other, and in affirming who we are. That can also be done by sending this strong visual signal that bullying is never okay.

Another practical method of support for our wider community is under way as I write this. I'm referring to nominations for our school's Board of Trustees. The nominations close on Friday 20 May at noon, so there is just one more week to ensure that we get the names of those willing to help us with their skill and time. We've been very lucky to have a very strong Board, but several are stepping down as their children have completed their time at secondary school, so we need an infusion of the new. Do please take the step beyond merely considering helping us in this way and allow your name to go forward. It's one of the most practical supports your child can receive as they enjoy their high school years.

For anyone who wishes to discuss what is involved in service on the Board, please feel free to contact a current Board member, or contact the Secretary of the Board of Trustees, Mrs Jodie Murden.

Ross Sinclair, Principal



## Congratulations to:

- ★ Congratulations to **Maya Hahn** 11MA who has been selected for the NZ Secondary Schools Under 15 Football team to play in Australia in July.
- ★ **Mikayla Lewin** 12CV has been selected for the NZ Junior White Sox Squad travelling to Hawaii.
- ★ **Caitlyn Lewin** 10GEKL has been selected for the NZ Junior White Sox Emerging Squad travelling to Sydney. Both tournaments in July.
- ★ Well done to **Thulacksha Thayarooban** 13TV and **Mary-Florence Bleasdale** who have been accepted to take part in the NZCGS Global Citizenship Conference in Wellington 12-13 May 2016.

## Term dates - 2016

- Term 1** Wednesday 3 February - Friday 15 April
- Term 2** Monday 2 May - Friday 8 July
- Term 3** Monday 25 July - Friday 23 September
- Term 4** Monday 10 October - Wednesday 14 December



## HVHS 90th Reunion

Please join us on 12-13 August 2016 for a time of sharing memories with old class mates and friends.

Initial plans include a Friday evening Decade Mix and Mingle at a local venue, School Open Day on Saturday with displays of memorabilia and decade photo opportunities, drinks and canapes in the school hall followed by decade dinners.

Tickets are now available. Please go to our website for more information and ordering: <http://www.hvhs.school.nz/about-us/hvhs-90th/>

Sign up to receive more information.

## Looking Ahead

### May

- 12 Senior Parent/Teacher interviews, M-Z
- 12-13 **Student Mediator Training Days**
- 13 Art Design Trip to Massey University
- 16-18 **Year 12 Sport Camp 2**
- 16-17 Level 3 Health and Safety Course
- 17 **Whanau Hui, 6.00 pm**
- 18 Year 12 Dance Trip to Porirua
- 25 **Year 13 Business Studies Dragons Den**
- 25 Board of Trustees Meeting, 5.30 pm
- 26 **Year 13 Sport Trip**

### June

- 2-3 Stage Challenge
- 3 **Staff Only Day - no classes**
- 6 Queens Birthday holiday
- 6-9 **Year 13 Geography Trip**
- 8 Year 12 and 13 Art Design Trip
- 8, 10 **The Jazz Project**
- 9 The Big Sing
- 9 **Open Evening, 6.00 pm**

## Board of Trustee Election 2016

Nominations are invited for the election of five parent representatives to the Board of Trustees.

Nomination forms have been sent to all eligible voters. Complete the nomination form, including the necessary signatures and post or hand deliver the form to:

Jodie Murden  
 Returning Officer  
 Hutt Valley High School  
 Private Bag 31 909, Lower Hutt

## Entertainment Books are now on sale



Support Hutt Valley High School by buying through this link <http://www.entbook.co.nz/9a27709> or by contacting Suzanne Edwards, [suzanne\\_edwards@xtra.co.nz](mailto:suzanne_edwards@xtra.co.nz).

All profits made go directly to the school!