



Hutt Valley High School News

Te Kura Tuarua O Te Awakairangi

Dear Parents and Caregivers

As we struggle here to deal with weather that frustrates more than it excites, it all matters little when we see the pressure on Christchurch through this week's fires. Many of us have relatives living in the city and we can only tell for them as they cope with challenge after challenge. Our own fire challenge from the end of last year seems minor by comparison, as severe as it was. The affected building has been demolished and a Foods room constructed by combining Rooms P8 and P9 into a single space and kitting it out. We've put some extra money in to make it better than its predecessor. Officially, it is a temporary solution with a three year life span, but few here expect that to be so. Schools around the country have temporary buildings that remain for decades. That's a reality in what I believe to be an underfunded system.

Meanwhile, we remain resolutely determined to provide the best possible State education despite some funding challenges. We have encouraging signs of approval from our community both in messages from individual families and from the wider demand for places in the school. We have "had the brakes on" for some while and turned down nearly 50 students at Year 9 who would have liked to be here, as well as many more in Years 10-13, another 50 or so. Even with that stance, we have grown further and are currently 83 students more than the Ministry's estimates for 2017. That's a great endorsement at one level for the kinds of things happening here, particularly around student choice in learning and assessment, as we work to increase the extent to which we match what we offer to the needs of the individual.

I don't for a moment mean to sound content here; we have plenty more to do, and while there are always financial and organisational matters that provide barriers, we continue to work to make a large school function for the individual. That was the intent of setting up smaller mentor classes in Years 9 and 10, in order to ensure we make really strong relationships here at school, and between school and home. It's part of the continuing

drive to get all students involved in the 128 sports, clubs, bands, events and groups offered in the school (and all by voluntary labour!). It's reflected in the follow-up phone calls to Year 13 leavers so we track where they are, what they are doing and whether they need assistance to find either continuing study or work opportunities. And it's why we have evenings like Year 9 Meet'n'Greet so we have points of contact where nobody is under stress in the relationship, but where all are discussing how the transition into school is faring and what we can do differently and better.

It's a fun time to be involved in the school. The heart here is strong. A small example was Valentine's Day, both fun for the students with seniors delivering gifts and serenading students in class, and helpful by making a \$430 profit to donate to the (very appropriately chosen) Heart Foundation. On Monday, we'll celebrate our top academics' successes in the whole school assembly on the lower field, and on Wednesday it's dress up day in house colours at the Hutt Rec as we hold the full school Athletics Day with both fully competitive "serious" racing and as novelty events. It's going to be a series of fun events and along the way there will be some both fun and earnest focus in class, too. Thank you to all those who have offered us help to run the extra activities outside the classroom. Without your good will and effort, this would be a smaller and less vibrant space.

Ross Sinclair
Principal

Looking Ahead

February

- 20-21 Student ID Photos taken**
 21 Year 13 Business Studies YES day
21 Whanau Hui, 6.00 pm
 22 Full School Athletics Day
22 Board of Trustees Meeting, 5.30 pm
 23 Year 11 History Trip
27-3 Mar Year 9 Amazing Race Week
 28 Year 12 & 13 Art Photography Trip
28 Year 11 Geography Trip
 28 Athletes with Disabilities Athletics Day
28 Cricket Match vs Wanderers

March

- 2 Year 11 Art Trip to Petone
2 Blood Collection Day
 3 Year 12 and 13 GNS Science Trip
6 Civil Defence Training Day
 6-7 Level 3 Health and Safety Course
10 Hutt Zone Athletics
 10 Year 13 Canterbury University Visit
12-15 Year 12 Tongariro Trip
 13-17 International Trip to Blue Mountains
14 Year 13 Otago University Visit
 16 Year 9 Social
18-19 Relay For Life
 19-22 Year 13 History Trip
20-21 Level 3 Health and Safety Course
 22 Tennis Tournament
22 Board of Trustees Meeting, 5.30 pm
 23 Wellington Regional Athletics
24 Year 13 Auckland University Visit
 26-31 Summer Sports Tournament Week
27 Past Pupils AGM, 7.30 pm

Whanau Hui

The date for the first Whanau Hui this year is Tuesday 21 February at 6.00 pm in Hotuwaipara.

We welcome all whanau to a shared BBQ and mix and mingle. More information is attached to this newsletter.

Blood Collection Day Thursday 2 March

Sign up at Nurses office, must be over 50 kg, aged 16 and in good health.



Congratulations to:

- ★ Congratulations to **Richard Evans** 11VE and **Ariana Gray** 9WSML who represented Wellington at the Touch New Zealand Grassroots Trust 2017 Junior Nationals Tournament in Auckland. Their team, Wellington Under 16 Mixed, was undefeated across the tournament and was crowned as national champions .

NZ Driving Licence - NCEA Credits (Cars only)

NZQA are offering Unit Standard credits for Learner, Restricted and Full NZ Driving Licences. This is part of a recognition of prior learning initiative.

The Learner Licence is worth 2 Level 1 credits, the Restricted is worth 4 Level 2 credits, and the Full is worth 2 Level 2 credits. So if you have your Full Licence you can get 8 credits in total.

A one page application sheet is available from the Deans' Secretary. Students still to complete Level 1 and 2 NCEA should apply. If you have Level 2 already you can still apply if you want to. You must complete the application sheet with the Deans' Secretary.

You MUST also bring in the original licence to be sighted by the Deans' Secretary. The appropriate credits will then be added to your NCEA record ASAP.

Kamar Parent Portal Logon

This is a website that provides a window into our Student Management System. By accessing the KAMAR portal you will be able to view the daily notices, student contact details, student timetables and attendance, results, etc.

If you did not receive the email this week with your username and password, please email principal@hvhs.school.nz.

We will check your email is one we have on our system and then send your logon and password through.

The best way to access the portal is to go to our website: www.hvhs.school.nz and use the Kamar Parent Portal link on the quick links drop down menu on the top right hand corner.

Kamar Parent Portal Payments

This is also an easy way to pay for fees and donations using a credit card. You can select exactly how much you want to pay against each charge.

2016 Scholarship Exam Results

Hutt Valley High School congratulates the following 26 students who won 36 Scholarships in 12 subjects. This included 3 Outstanding Scholarship (top 0.3 to 0.5% in the country).

Outstanding Scholarship

Alexander Calder	Physical Education
Andrea Clark (Y12)	English
Jasper Ford	English

Scholarships

Tama Austin	Calculus
Tama Austin	Physics
Mary-Florence Bleasdale	English
Flynn Cammock-Nicholls (Y12)	Biology
Flynn Cammock-Nicholls (Y12)	English
Flynn Cammock-Nicholls (Y12)	History
Allan Carson	Physical Education
Finn Connell (Y12)	English
Thilini Dissanayake	Geography
Cody Dunstan-Brown	Design
Dhvanil Gandhi	Technology
Jasper Ford	Classical Studies
Lola Hall	Physical Education
Timothy Hay (Y12)	English
Saskia Hazlewood (Y12)	English
Chenchen Huang (Y12)	Biology
Chenchen Huang (Y12)	English
Eleanor Kelly	English
Marguerite Kircher	English
Troix Kokich	Design
Mikayla Lewin (Y12)	Physical Education
Eireanne Millikin	Geography
Holly Newton	Design
Holly Newton	Painting
Matthew Nocete	English
Matthew Nocete	Economics
Victoria Scott	English
Hazel Sisson	Biology
Matthew Tansley (Y12)	English
Thulaksha Thayarooban	Classical Studies
Thulaksha Thayarooban	English

Does your child have a Specific Learning Difficulty (SLD) that makes learning a challenge for them?

Come along to the first Specific Learning Difficulty Parents Support Group (SLDPSG) meeting for 2017. Wednesday, 22 February at 7.00 pm in the HVHS Staffroom. For any further information please contact Jane Knight (jane.knight@hvhs.school.nz).

HVHS APP

HVHS have a Mobile App for notices, events and other important school messages.

To download the app for free on iPhone or Android click this link. <http://onelink.to/w5btdp>



Office and Resource Centre closure

The Office and Resource Centre will be closed on Wednesday 8 March and 12 April between 8.30 and 9.30 am due to whole school professional development.

There will be three closures at this time during each term.

Junior Netball Trials

Sunday 26 February

10.00 - 11.30 am for 9A and 10A teams

12.00 - 2.00 pm for rest of Year 9 and 10 players

Wednesday 1 March

4.00 - 6.00 pm fitness test

Chickenpox

We have had one confirmed case of chickenpox reported in Year 9.

Just a reminder that students must be kept at home until they are no longer infectious.

Students survey opportunity – Little Happynomics Report

Save the Children NZ has given our students the opportunity to have their voices heard in a report to be released early next year measuring child wellbeing in New Zealand.

The report is called Little Happynomics. The survey is available here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LittleHappynomics>

Absence Line

All absences should be reported to **the HVHS APP (details above)**, Absence Line on 560 1568 or emailed to

absences.notification@hvhs.school.nz. Phone calls should then be followed up with a note to the form teacher on the students return. Please state clearly their name, form, date/s absent and the reason why.

