



Hutt Valley High School News

Te Kura Tuarua O Te Awakairangi

Dear Parents and Caregivers

We rounded off last week with the Aquathon, which was the school's triathlon with the bike leg deleted because the weather was so awful and the dangers too great. The run/swim event on Friday had 186 competitors and just a brilliant atmosphere. Students – and a few hardy staff – were highly competitive about the event but within a boundary full of laughter and mutual support. It was lovely to see and feel. Congratulations to the PE staff and senior students (for whom this was an assessment exercise) who produced such a well-organised event despite the last minute change in format.

On Friday evening last week the Cultural Concert suffered a little from the weather in that the crowd was slightly smaller than usual. That didn't stop there being a really enjoyable evening and some great voices there with the potential of a future in music. There was real talent on show, and it was a thoroughly good concert. Congratulations to those performing and to the cultural captains who were the organisers.

Last night was one of the highlight evenings of the year. It was the School Speech Contest, organised by the English Department. There were 10 speeches, with the sequence shifted so that one of our seniors could do her speech and still perform in her Year 13 Drama production on the evening. Mad pressure, but a reflection of how busy things are. Congratulations to the finalists, who were all very strong. Nobody envied the adjudicator Trevor Mallard his task, as the standard was so good. Finalists were Lulu Jansen 9LANV; Zac Langridge 9TVDR; Kaylee McConnachie Williams 9HYGW; Emma Kelly 11MA; Lisa Philipsen 11MO; Finn Connell 12EE and Billy Robinson 13KN with the winners Eva Oliver 9SPPF (Junior); Meli Pitolua 11SR (Intermediate) and Bonnie Jansen 13KN (Senior). This was a terrific night's entertainment.

This weekend also has its key events. For a group of Year 12 students, it's the V48 Film Competition, which requires them to script, plan and film a short film in the space of 48 hours. It's exhausting, runs on pure adrenaline for much of the time and is one of the most rewarding and memorable experiences of the year for our film fans. On that

topic, I'd like to thank the parent who this week donated \$500 towards the HOSCARS film evening that is coming up. I'm not sure whether he wants to be named, so I won't go there, but I'd like him to know that he has given a real lift to the scope of the planning for the evening.

The big event this weekend for the school is the Leavers' Ball at Te Papa on Saturday evening. It's a big night for Year 13 and we're determined to keep it a strong and safe event. That's why we are very clear in telling the students that they will be tested for alcohol on entry and it's a zero tolerance process. We've had considerable support for this over the years, and have enjoyed parents' co-operation in not holding pre-ball events and especially not with alcohol. This process ensures a safe event where there is no peer pressure to be involved in behaviour that threatens the prospect of a good night out for all who are at the event. We look forward to this event each year, and it's important that it is truly fun for all.

Finally this week I do need to address the Year 11 MCAT examination held on Tuesday. This was the first high stakes external assessment for the country's Year 11 students this year and NZQA got it wrong. The examination was set at a level that was far too difficult – by one account two curriculum levels too high. It has caused strong Mathematics students to doubt themselves, has undermined students' confidence in both the examination process and their (good) teachers, has reduced students to tears in the exam room and made several have doubts about whether they have a Mathematical future. As Chair of the Greater Wellington Secondary Schools Principals' Association I have been asked by other principals to prepare a formal letter of protest to NZQA. Each of our schools has experienced the same dismayed reaction from our students. We will make that clear to NZQA. They got this wrong, and for those of our Year 11 students who read this, be assured that this was a poor examination and not your (or your teachers') failure to prepare adequately and well for this exercise.

Ross Sinclair
Principal



Congratulations to:

- ★ Last weekend 5 HVHS swimmers participated in the NZ Secondary School Swimming Championships held at the Wellington Regional Aquatic Centre. The event involved 552 swimmers from 150 schools throughout NZ and our HVHS Boys' Team were ranked 27th out of all the schools. Below are the results for our swimmers:

Jessica Edmonds 9BKTS - 50m Bk - 40th, 50m Fly - 29th, 100m Bk - 39th

Patrick Langley 12CV - 50m Bk - 22nd, 50m Fr - 4th, 100m Fly - 21st, 100m Fr 24th,

Ryan Leman 13EL - 50m Fr - 45th

Anton Piters 12NS - 200m Br - 9th, 50m Br - 18th, 100m Br - 9th

Alexander Unstead Joss 9MXTM - 200m Br - 8th, 50m Br -14th, 200m IM -22nd, 50m Fr - 19th, 100m Br - 8th, 100m Fr - 11th

HVHS also came 8th in the 16 & Over Boys 200m Fr Relay and 200m Medley Relay.

- ★ Congratulations to **William Rua** 13HF who is representing Wellington in the U17 Orcas Rugby League team in September in Rotorua.

Young Enterprise Company Success

Ease is run by Megan Rea 13AE, Eireanne Millikin 13BA, Ella Steele 13LY and Zara Badrick 13BR. The girls have produced and sold a Vegan Coconut Milk Belgium Chocolate Drink at locations around Wellington, including Saturday and Sunday markets, Hotel Waterloo, Backpackers and The Chocolate Story Cafe in Petone.

2016 NZQA Information

NCEA fee payment direct to NZQA

- Payment of NCEA fees via the school had closed
- NZQA will accept 2016 fees directly from candidates. Candidates can log in to the NZQA website and pay their 2016 fees online using the learner login.

Late fees and reminders

- Any NCEA and New Zealand Scholarship payments made after 1 December 2016 will incur a late fee of \$50
- NZQA will send a letter to all affected candidates by late October reminding them they have unpaid 2016 fees.

Admission Slips to the Nov-Dec NCEA Exams

- Students will receive their NCEA Exam Admission Slips after they complete their school exams in weeks 1-2 of Term 4
- These slips will have the exams that students are entered into, the date and the time.

Looking Ahead

September

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| 16-18 | 48 Hour Film Competition |
| 17 | Rugby 7s Competition |
| 17 | Year 13 School Formal |
| 20 | Perth Sports Exchange |
| 23 | Last Day of Term 3 |
| 27 | Year 8 and 10 STEM Day |
| 28 | Board of Trustees Meeting, 5.30 pm |

October

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| 10 | First Day of Term 4 |
| 10-18 | Senior Exams |
| 19 | HVHS Hoscars, 6.30 pm |
| 20 | Hotuwaipara Maori Awards Evening |

School Office and Resource Centre Closure

Wednesday 21 September - 8.30 - 9.30 am

Learning Disorder Support Group

The Parents' Support Group for Students with Learning Disorders will have their next meeting on the 20 September at 7.00 pm in the HVHS staffroom.

Please contact Kirsten Edie if you would like more information: kirsten.edie@hvhs.school.nz

Winter Sports Photographs now online

The Winter sports photographs are now available:

inphotography.co.nz/store

The password is HVHSSPORT

You may download the photographs for your own electronic record keeping or professional printing purposes. Or if you would like prints delivered to your door simply add them to your cart.

Useful study site

A useful study site: <http://www.studyit.org.nz/>

Results from Winter Sports Tournament Week - correction

Basketball Junior Boys: 11th place