

Hutt Valley High School News

Te Kura Tuarua O Te Awakairangi

Dear Parents and Caregivers

In recent days we've been dealing with a number of students who have let themselves down, as well as the school, and that's never a great thing. There have been a series of restorative meetings involved and I thought it worth mentioning what these are. They are full formal meetings involving anyone affected by inappropriate behaviour or actions, the person whose judgment has slipped and their family. They are incredibly powerful meetings, as the impact of actions is teased out in detail, and the impact on others is identified in depth, with each person getting the chance in a mediated setting to say their piece. The meetings take many hours of work, but the time spent leads to a real impact. There are often tears involved and at times the conversation spreads out into family relationships and how those work and how they might work better. It's very rare that we don't see significant change from such meetings, for they are emotionally gruelling and very much a wake-up call. In the time we as a school have travelled the restorative route, we've seen a major shift in school culture and I firmly believe that RP (restorative practices) has a lot to do with that.

Meanwhile, of course, the vast majority of students are in a much more positive space. Yesterday, the Blood Service staff were here at school taking voluntary donations and they tell me that after a quiet first hour they were flat out. They were set up in the hall and when I went in to chat with them all stations were full. These donations are incredibly important to them, at the immediate level because a single donation can help three people, and in the longer term because the Blood Service hope to connect with people who are willing to become long term donors. Thank you to the students and staff who donated yesterday.

Those are large scale acts. At a smaller but equally important level are actions such as those told to me in an email I received this afternoon: I park up by the High School most days and walk down to my workplace in

Market Grove. Yesterday morning there were two very well dressed young gentlemen from your school who greeted me with a very lovely "Good Morning" as I walked past them by the High School. This put a smile on my face for the rest of my walk.

As a parent of a teenager myself, I find that far too often people are quick to criticize and not compliment (hence my email). I found it really lovely of them to acknowledge me as I was walking past. Big tick Hutt High for pupils with such outstanding manners!

Thank you to the two students mentioned here and to those others about whom I may never hear, but who have similarly taken the time to offer small random acts of kindness and so brightened others' days. You are the people who build a school culture that is positive and strong.

The final thing I want to speak of this week is rowing. Parent Andrew Bird is one of several people associated with the Petone Rowing Club who have put huge hours into hideously early morning sessions with rowers, many of whom are our students. Andrew tells me that the Petone Novice Eight recently won the NZ Championship Novice 8 title in Twizel. The boat had five HVHS students in it: Mia Weber 12NI, Hannah Moffatt 11BE, Sydney McLean 10ELFL, Geena Burns 11OA and Ashley Manson 13PL. Separately, Poppy Newall 12NI featured in the title winning Club Women's 8 crew. Next up after the Wellington Schools regatta is the North Island Secondary Schools on 10 March at Karapiro. The success comes after a very patient and sustained period of years of effort and it's brilliant to see such excellent results. Congratulations both to the girls and to Andrew and others who mentor and coach them.

Ross Sinclair Principal



Looking Ahead

March

mai on	
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

Netball Trials - lower gym

SENIORS:

Sunday 5 March 10.00 - 11.30 am for Prem 1 and 2 11.30 am - 1.00 pm for rest of seniors

Wednesday 8 March 4.00pm - 5.30pm

Equestrian Team Fundraiser

Hutt Valley High School has an equestrian team for the first time for many years. We are starting from scratch to buy matching saddle blankets for the horses



and uniforms for the riders so we can proudly represent the school at events around the North Island.

You can help by purchasing an Entertainment Book from one of the team members. Please click on the link to purchase - free delivery around the Wellington Region.

https://www.entertainmentbook.co.nz/orderbooks/9a27709

Term dates - 2017

Term 1 Monday 30 January - Thursday 13 April

Term 2 Monday 1 May - Friday 7 July

Term 3 Monday 24 July - Friday 29 September

Term 4 Monday 16 October - Tuesday 12 December

Congratulations to:



Congratulations to **Poppy Newall** 12IN who competed at the Ruataniwha Rowing National Competition last week. Her crew won Gold in the Club Women's 8.

More school athletics records broken

3 more records broken in the 3000m:

Senior boys - Jack Hammond 13RS

Intermediate Boys - Reuben Goldingham-Newsom 12SU

Senior Girls - Jayme Maxwell 12CR

University Visits in Term 1

Canterbury - Friday 10 March, 8.30 am

Otago - Tuesday 14 March, 8.30 am

Victoria - Friday 17 March, 8.30 am

Auckland - Friday 24 March, 8.30 am

Massey - Friday 24 March, 8.30 am

