



# Hutt Valley High School News

## Te Kura Tuarua O Te Awakairangi

### Dear Parents and Caregivers

This week I attended the school musical *Songs of Love and Hate*. This is a show, as the lead teacher and libretto writer Bernard Beckett said to the audience, where everything bar one song was created here at Hutt Valley High School. The songs are written by students, the choreography is in-house, the staging and setting all come from within. The comedy and reflection about who we are was uniquely "kiwi". The pure creativity involved in this exercise is a compelling part of its worth. Such a show also speaks a great deal of the sustained hard work and the sheer resilience that is needed to see such a project through to its conclusion. In his thank yous to staff earlier this week, Bernard pointed out that many people have to make sacrifices for such an undertaking to occur. Those sacrifices often include home life and they also affect partners and family as late nights and weekends at school for cast and crew mean their absence for others. The same applies to the students, who juggle sports, club and academic commitments as well as those to their families and friends. It's a big thing and it absolutely cannot be taken for granted.

When I saw the musical, the audience was totally absorbed and by the time of the clapping and foot-stomping finale there was nothing but pleasure on everyone's faces. For 75 or so students in the cast this may well be the highlight of their year and even their time at school. In previous schools I have seen such events trigger theatrical ambitions in students that have led to careers where their names are now, many years later, nationally known. That's a great by-product, but even greater is the more general affirmation of the performing arts that happens. Dance, drama and music are brilliant aspects of our lives and in a world of digitised and pre-packaged entertainment the reminder that "this is ours" has a rawness and urgency that is totally about what it is to be human; what it is to be us. In many respects, creating such a show is the purest of pure education. The life lessons learned and absorbed are huge. Thank you to the staff and parent volunteers who made this happen; from the performing and visual arts areas, from kapa haka, from the cheerleaders, and thank you to students from across the school. This show is something of which to be enormously proud.

The thoughts here about resilience and the style of a

wider education have been resonating in the wider school in recent days. Our school wellness goals have included a variety of aspects during this year and one of those has been the Victoria University Wellness Survey that I have mentioned previously. We are approaching the end of the survey exercise and the spin-off has already included referrals to our guidance staff by students who want to discuss aspects of their lives with someone professionally trained to help. That's a good thing, as we know from recent media discussions that our nation has issues around youth wellbeing that are markedly higher than notionally equivalent countries overseas. We see this at school in a range of ways that I do not propose to enlarge on for concern about identifying individuals' circumstances. Broadly, however, they range from pressures in family life through relationship issues and the pressures of the ordinary business of growing up in a world much different and more extraordinary than that which their parents experienced. Having good data about the stresses on our students is vital for us as a school. So too is working closely together as school and home to do everything we can to help. Thanks again to those who have given consent for students to take part in the surveys.

Finally, this week, a note from our Service Captains. This term they want to run a Mufti Day this coming Monday but with a local help emphasis rather than a donation. They would like students who wear mufti to bring a canned non-perishable item which will be donated to the Lower Hutt Food Bank. Service Council members will collect the cans from mentor classes on Monday 14th August. Michaela and Jack also note that if students prefer to give a cash donation they will happily accept that and they will go shopping for more Food Bank goods later in the day. It's a good cause. We know families are struggling in our wider area. It's a chance to send the message that their local high school cares, is an active force for good in the area and is willing to help.

Ross Sinclair  
Principal

## Congratulations to:

- ★ Congratulations to **Gary Wilby** who was presented with the Marie Vandewart Memorial Award at the NZCT Chamber Music Contest National Final last Saturday. This is in recognition of his outstanding service and commitment to fostering the love of chamber music.
- ★ Congratulations to **Henry Griffiths 13KS** who is in the NZ Men's U19 underwater hockey team who got a bronze medal. Beating Australia, Canada, USA, Brazil, Argentina and South Africa.
- ★ A huge congratulations to our newest Wellington Rugby Representatives:  
U18 Girls: **Lavinia Lea 11FE**  
U16 A Boys: **James Winter 11ST**  
U16 Development: **Loketi Afu 11FR** and **Nathan Tanuvasa 12AV**
- ★ Congratulations to **Charlotte Galloway 11KL** for winning the CSW Girls Squash Championship on Wednesday.
- ★ Congratulations also to **Tegan Bennik 10HRRI** who came 2nd having played Charlotte in the final.
- ★ Congratulations to our Badminton Junior Girls 7 Team who won the CSW Junior Badminton Division 3 Final this week: **Sangita Reddy 10MXTM**, **Billie Ihaka 10HRRI**, **Mikayla Pickens 9MCCA**, **Olivia Palmer-Smith 10DPDY** and **Millie Bramao 10TANB**.

## To Year 10, 11 and 12 Students, Parents and Caregivers

As part of our Careers Week we are holding a Subject Selection and NCEA Information evening next Wednesday 16 August from 6.30pm - 8.00pm in the school hall.

During the evening there will be:

- An introduction to the NCEA system and how it works
- Information about our subject selection process and timeline
- Information about alternative pathways and programmes in the school.
- An opportunity to talk briefly with relevant Heads of Department about the courses they offer.

## Looking Ahead

### August

<b>14-18</b>	<b>Careers Week</b>
14-18	Service Week
<b>14</b>	<b>Mufti Day</b>
14	U15 Boys Hockey Tournament
<b>14</b>	<b>Year 12/13 Dance Trip</b>
15	Whanau Hui, 6.00 pm
<b>16</b>	<b>NCEA and subject selection evening for parents, 6.30 pm</b>
17	Year 12/13 English and Dance Trip
<b>18</b>	<b>Day of Silence</b>
21	Bridge Building Competition
<b>23</b>	<b>Regional Geography Competition</b>
25	Year 12 Geography Trip
<b>28-29</b>	<b>Year 12 Cycle Tour 1</b>
29	Whanau Hui, 6.00 pm
<b>30-31</b>	<b>EPro8 Science Challenge</b>
30	Board of Trustees Meeting, 5.30 pm
<b>31-1 Sept</b>	<b>Year 12 Cycle Tour 2</b>

## Mufti Day - Monday 14 August Bring a can for the Foodbank

This term Mufti day will be a bit different. Instead of donating a gold coin to donate to a charity we would like to give a canned non perishable item to the Lower Hutt foodbank.

Cans will be collected at mentor time.

## Crossing Safety

We have had contact from a local resident asking us to reinforce with students the dangers of not using the road safety systems in place. This person says:

*I write with some concern at the number of your students not using the crossing on Woburn Road directly outside your school's entrance. I have now experienced many students crossing the road in a dangerous and reckless manner resulting in a few near misses not only with me but other drivers in the busy morning and afternoon traffic. This is totally unnecessary as there is a crossing and traffic lights installed specifically for the students, just metres away. I see this as a serious if not fatal accident waiting to happen.*

We remind all students to use commonsense when crossing the road outside school. Use the crossing provided and remain safe.

## NCEA Fees

NCEA fee 2017 is due for payment before Tuesday 29 August 2017.

With a Community Services card and a completed financial assistance form the charge is reduced. The form can be collected from the Resource Centre.

Should you have any questions, please ring the Resource Centre, Phone: 04 570 3551.

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## HVHS School Triathlon is coming!

This popular event is going to be held on Friday September 22 (Week 9).

The triathlon is Run: 4.2km; Bike 13km; Swim 300m. There is also an aquathon option available which is Run 4.2km; Swim 300.

People can enter as individuals, or in a team (a triathlon team requires 3 people, an aquathon team requires 2 people).

House points are available! Enter via the google form link!

Family members and ex-students are welcome to enter, with a \$10 entry fee that is donated to Martin Charitable Trust.

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## 2017 Hockey Quiz Night Fundraiser

Friday 25 August  
HVHS Hall 7.00-10.00 pm

Gather a team of up to 10 and come and join us for a night out testing your general knowledge and contributing to helping our Hockey Teams get to Blenheim and Whanganui for Tournament week. \$10 per person, nibbles provided and BYO.



Email [amanda.wilson@hvhs.school.nz](mailto:amanda.wilson@hvhs.school.nz) if you are interested in putting a team together.

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## Resource Centre Survey

We are surveying our student, parent/caregiver and staff experience of our school Resource Centre for 2017.

The survey is anonymous and helps the school to be a continuously improving organisation and we thank you for your willingness to participate. The survey closes on 14 August.

Please follow this link: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe3d9fseZ3PXT-Sb8RTZmJcJByImPPNk6SbQzSic2EdYaubJQ/viewform>

## Gary Wilby, HVHS Music Teacher, recipient of the Marie Vandewart Memorial Award

Gary Wilby has taught in many schools in the Hutt Valley since 1977 as a secondary school music teacher and itinerant music teacher. He gained a M.A.(Hons) in Music from the University of Canterbury. Introduced to chamber music by his cello teacher Ellen Doyle, who was the first recipient of the Marie Vandewart Award, Contest in the 1960's as a pianist and cellist. His involvement has continued as a teacher, tutor, reviewer, parent, audience member and a composer having been the Department of Education "Composer in Schools" in 1995. He has held many administrative positions in music organisations - WSME, NZSME, CANZ and WITMA - and is a former conductor of the Capital Performing Arts Orchestra, the Island Bay Festival Orchestra and the Wellington Chamber Orchestra. Gary still plays in the latter as well as in chamber music groups. With support from CMNZ and Chamber Music Hutt Valley, he has been involved in the establishment of residencies in the Hutt Valley, which create links between the profession, schools and community.

Here is the interview with Gary: <http://www.radionz.co.nz/national/programmes/standing-room-only/audio/201853727/a-lifetime-of-inspiration>



### SCHOOL DOCS

The school is scheduled to review the policy and procedures for - Students with Special Needs/Learning Support.

Please follow these instructions if you would like to review this document and give feedback.

1. Log into School Docs - <http://www.schooldocs.co.nz/>
2. Search for HVHS ( Username hvhs; Password Adalta)
3. Click on Policy Review
4. Click on Students with Special Needs /Learning Support.
5. Click the red Policy Review icon at the right-hand top corner of the page. A new screen will appear.
6. Select your role (board member, staff member, or parent/caregiver) from the drop-down list.
7. Enter your name (optional).
8. Submit your ratings and comments.
9. If you don't have internet access, school office staff can easily provide you with printed copies of the policy and the [review form](#).