



Hutt Valley High School News

Te Kura Tuarua O Te Awakairangi

Dear Parents and Caregivers

This week a group of our students attended a very busy event for the performing arts at Parliament. As a school, we are very proud of the explosion of talent right across the performing arts and this was a great opportunity for our students to celebrate their involvement. Rockquest celebrated its 30th Year, Tangata Beats its 20th and it was also the launch day for the replacement of Stage Challenge for 2018. The launch was held in Parliament, hosted by the Minister for the Arts, the Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern. There were performances from some past Rockquest winners: Julia Deans (Fur Patrol), Jason Kerrison (OpShop) and Sonatane Kaufusi. Among the guests were musicians, educators, politicians ... and 30 of our students. It was an evening that all in attendance will not quickly forget. For those interested, Rockquest Heats are on at Sacred Heart on Saturday 19 May, with 45 of our students performing in 13 different bands.

Also coming up this next month are Jazz Festival, Chamber Music Festival, and Big Sing. Multicultural week is fast approaching with a variety of activities planned throughout the week, with the annual Multicultural Evening occurring on Wednesday 23 May at 7.00 pm in the school hall. The regional Manu Korero competition is also happening in the school hall on Friday 25 May.

And for those who want just a taste of the talent here - and with thanks too to St Oran's - check the link below to see the Royal Blue Jazz Band performing in the street during the national DisCovered competition. Band members are Leroy Paton-Goldsbury 11RI, Simon Buxton 12BT and Grace Ashworth-Lawson from St Oran's College. They won the weekly \$500 Rockshop voucher in the competition and that's great, but it's not the point, for me. Check the music. It's great! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V3Oe7FkXiBA&feature=youtu.be>

Looking ahead to next week, our point of focus is the fact that it is Bullying Free New Zealand Week starting on Monday 14 and culminating with Pink Shirt Day on Friday 18 May. Pink Shirt Day is celebrated annually around the globe, having begun in Canada in 2007 when two students took a stand against homophobic bullying, mobilising their whole school, after a peer was bullied for wearing a pink shirt. In New Zealand, Pink Shirt Day is celebrated at the end of Bullying Free NZ week and aims to create schools, workplaces and communities where all people feel safe, valued and respected. These are key initiatives, reminding all of us that we have to work actively to prevent

bullying, and do so by ensuring that our own attitudes are respectful of ourselves and of others. I repeat often that our school code is "always look after the person alongside you whether you know them or not" and that serves as a simple test that can steer us to positive behaviour. If we are active in guarding each other's rights, bullying struggles to get any purchase.

Each year at our full school assembly on the lower field I lay out our core message about bullying. I repeat it because it's a bottom line:

Bullying is never okay.

Bullying is imposing on others verbally or physically or online in a way that makes them feel uncomfortable, embarrassed or threatened.

It is never okay.

If any person sees or experiences bullying they must take action by reporting it to a subject teacher, a mentor teacher, a liaison student, dean, counsellor, or senior staff member. They will take steps confidentially so that we can work to shift attitudes and fix the problem. **Bullying thrives in silence** and we ask every person to speak up where it exists.

Research in this field is very clear and it is apparent that there is damage done to the bully as well as his or her victim. Bullying indicates fundamental problems with relationships and damages everyone. For schools - and it is an issue for every school in the country - the challenge is to promote strong relationships, to have effective services to work to repair harm where it occurs and to educate bullies about the damaging impact of their actions and words. It's a core part of the teenage years to learn to be able to deal with differences in society without that being a challenge to them, and next week focuses on one aspect of that.

In this respect we are fortunate that our school is large and diverse, and generally our students "get" the business of getting along together. Next week is a chance to remind ourselves of that and I hope that on Friday 18 May on Pink Shirt Day many, many students will wear pink shirts - or pink clothing - to send a strong visual signal that our community is all about tolerance and respect for each person's right to be themselves.

Ross Sinclair, Principal



Looking Ahead

May

- 11-12 48 Hours Film Competition**
- 14 Civil Defence Training Day
- 15 STEMM Quiz**
- 16-17 Health and Safety Course
- 17 English Trip - 9TADN**
- 18 Pink Shirt Day
- 19 Rockquest**
- 20-22 Year 12 History Trip
- 20-23 Year 13 Geography and Tourism Trip**
- 21-25 Student Cultural Week
- 23 PPTA Union Meeting - early close at 12.15 pm**
- 23 Multi Cultural Evening, 6.00 pm
- 24 Blood Bank Drive**
- 24 Student Teacher Debate, 6.00 pm
- 25 Regional Nga Manu Korero**
- 25 Tough Guy and Girl Challenge
- 28-1 Jun Drama Production**
- 29-30 Year 13 PE Trips

June

- 1 Teacher Only Day - school closed
- 4 Queens Birthday Holiday**
- 6 Board of Trustees Meeting, 5.30 pm
- 7 Open Evening, 6.00 pm**
- 8 Jazz Festival
- 9-10 Chamber Music Festival**
- 13-14 Dance Benefit, 7.00 pm

School Photographs 2018

INDIVIDUAL PORTRAITS are available online using your unique ID number including the two alpha characters on the end – to view yours click here - <https://inphotography.nz/store/inschool/hvhs-individual-portraits-2018/#>

CLASS PHOTOGRAPHS are scheduled for 8/9/10 May in the school hall. Please refer to the school notices for the timetable in the new term. We will inform you when they are available online. (They are not required to be pre ordered).

Optional SIBLING PHOTOGRAPHS will have scheduled sessions on 8/9/10 May. (timetable to follow). Pre orders will take priority. Walk in orders will be accepted with cash or eftpos payment on a first in first served basis. To pre order click here - <https://inphotography.nz/store/inschool/hvhs-sibling-portrait-order/>

Congratulations to:

- ★ Congratulations to the band Royal Blue who won a weekly award of \$500 Rockshop vouchers in the national DisCovered Competition. Well done to **Leroy Paton-Goldsbury 11RI, Simon Buxton 12BT** and Grace Ashworth-Lawson from St Oran's. If you would like to watch them in action, click on this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V3Oe7FkXiBA&feature=youtu.be>

Uniform Price Increase

Due to an increase in cost from our suppliers, the prices on all uniform items will be increasing from 1 June 2018.

There may be limited amounts of stock available at current prices until the end of Term 3.

Office and Resource Centre closure

The Office and Resource Centre will be closed on Wednesday 23 May, 20 June and 4 July between 8.30 and 9.30 am due to whole school professional development.

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

Blood Collection Day 24 May

Sign up at First Aid Officer's office, must be over 16 and in good health.



Rockquest Launch



Photo taken at the launch for Rockquest's 30th year, Tangata Beats 20th the replacement Stage Challenge for 2018.