



Hutt Valley High School News

Te Kura Tuarua O Te Awakairangi

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Welcome to Term 2.

Thank you to the large number of parents and caregivers who flocked to the school on Wednesday evening for the first of the two parent-teacher evenings. While these are long days for all concerned, they are also an important part of the communication between school and home as we work together in students' best interests. In a curious way the days are energising, for they are so firmly focused on core business.

The kind of good will that exists in our community is fundamental to our ability to thrive. I've spoken before about the parlous state of school funding and the pressures the money demands create for schools. Thank you to the many families who have heeded that message and made voluntary donations (what used to be called fees) to the school. Those funds allow us to offer a breadth of programmes both in and out of class and were we to rely only on state funds, the look and style of our daily events would certainly have to change. For those who have contributed infrastructure donations, you will see some practical benefits beginning to emerge. There are several new water fountains and new attractive recycling and rubbish bins dotted around the site, and these are paid for with those donated funds. The high level presentation of these new units is due solely to the fact they are funded by "local funds", the euphemism for donations.

This is a first small step in a series that will over time see the site standard lifted. Work has just begun on an upgrade of the D Block toilet area, with a product that will provide mall quality hygiene for our mall quality students! Readers might wonder why I'd spend a newsletter talking about such things as loos, but the issue is fundamental for students and in almost any survey about changes is the first item on students' responses. Finally, we are in a position to provide a completely new and appropriate level of service to students. I have never thought it good enough that students have to make do with old breeze block rudimentary facilities. Before long, they will have better. The toilets are being built to a modern inclusive design with access both from within and outside the

building so they will offer a flexible, efficient and comfortable level of event. They will make a big difference to students.

Meanwhile, we have work going on with two other projects that will also lead to changes. One is a signage project to improve the ease of navigation around the site and the second is an extensive survey to look at energy use within the school and how that might be made more efficient. Broadly, we are setting about long term steps to lift the style and nature of the Hutt Valley High experience to a new level.

At present we are enjoying strong community support and we are keen to see that nurtured, so that the school is increasingly the essential educational experience in the Valley. As part of that, there is work going on to build alumni connections with the school to increase the links between those here now and those whose lives have been shaped at some stage by the school and whose friendships were often begun here. Over time, we hope this side of school life will grow as a feature of who and what we are. I'm a firm advocate of state education, and believe that state education for modern New Zealanders should be of the best possible standard. I'm pleased to see Minister Hipkins taking a similar view and hope that future national budgets will act on the resourcing to make that continue. The reality is that there will always be the need for additional support. Thank you to families who have made a financial sacrifice in order to help the school. It makes a huge difference to what we can do and while the property process sometimes seems to move at a glacial pace, improvement is under way to match the wider academic and whole-school gains that so energise us all.

Ross Sinclair
Principal

Looking Ahead

May

8	Senior Parent Teacher Interviews
9-11	Class Photos
9	Board of Trustees Meeting, 5.30 pm
14	Civil Defence Training Day
16-17	Health and Safety Course
19	Rockquest
20-23	Year 13 Geography Trip
21-25	Student Cultural Week
23	Multi Cultural Evening
24	Blood Bank Drive
24	Student Teacher Debate
25	Regional Nga Manu Korero
25	Tough Guy and Girl Challenge
29-30	Year 13 PE Trips

Life Skills at School

Readers of the Hutt News may have noticed an article in April on equipping teenagers for the pressures of life outside the classroom. At HVHS we address the majority of these life skills at Year 11, Spell 1 Friday in a compulsory class called "Skills". Over the course of the year, students will learn about Financial Literacy, Caring for Toddlers (run by Plunket), Relationships (through a programme called 'Mates & Dates' presented by Vibe), the Law (facilitated by Victoria University Law students), as well as Study Skills, Handling Stress and sessions on preparing a CV.

As parents/caregivers your support is appreciated in ensuring your student makes it to class for this lesson and in discussing these topics in the home.

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 drama group (pictured below) who won the Wellington Sheilah Winn Shakespeare Competition. They have now qualified to attend the National competition in June.



- ★ Congratulations to the team of eight students from Year 10 to Year 13 who came third in the Victoria University Mathematics Challenge, competing against teams from across the Wellington Region.
- ★ **Pierce Collins** 9BKH broke two New Zealand Age Group Records at National Age Groups held in Auckland over the school holidays:
13yr old Boys 200m Butterfly 1st - 2:13.92
13yr old Boys 100m Butterfly 1st - 1:00.63
Pierce also received the following results:
50m Butterfly - 1st
200m Freestyle - 1st
50m Freestyle - 4th
100m Freestyle - 6th
- ★ **Alexander Unstead Joss** 11TM also attended National Age Groups (Long Course) where he received placings in the top 10:
15yr old Boys 200m Breaststroke 6th
15yr old Boys 100m Breaststroke 5th
15yr old Boys 50m Breaststroke 11th
15yr old Boys 200m IM 13th

- ★ Congratulations to **Lily Trompeter** 9KGOV and **Sophie Waters** 9DBMO who have been selected in the Wellington Orienteering Team to compete in Auckland on Queens Birthday weekend.

- ★ Over the holidays the National Under 15 & Under 17 Fencing Championship was held at Wellington High School, over 80 fencers from all over the country took part in the events. **Timothy Wong** 10MCCA competed and produced some great results:
3rd Place in U15 Men's Foil
3rd Place in U17 Men's Foil
6th Place in U17 Mixed Sabra