



Hutt Valley High School News

Te Kura Tuarua O Te Awakairangi

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Tomorrow's Pink Shirt Day is a significant event. It is a day focused around sending absolutely clear messages about the school's abhorrence of bullying. To do that, students and staff are asked to wear a pink shirt, or if they have no such shirt, to wear a pink alternative garment or accessory. The idea is to create a flood of pink, showing in the clearest possible way that this school community does not and will not tolerate bullying.

The day originates from a Canadian student's experience of harassment when he wore a pink shirt to his school, and the later response of his school mates who showed their support of him by wearing a similar pink shirt to the one he wore. Internationally, the day has become an emblem of schools' opposition to bullying.

Bullying is imposing one person's will on another person. That can be by verbal harassment designed to humiliate or offend, or it can be by physical coercion, forcing a person to do what they would otherwise not wish to do. It can be by interfering with another person's property in a way that is designed to annoy and make miserable the property's owner. It can be by electronic means, by sending offensive or threatening messages via text, e-mail or social networking site. In its most extreme form, it is violence, where punching someone is used to gain power over a person. All these forms are unacceptable in a community which values each individual, and as I have said at assemblies, it is up to us as a community to send clear signals about the values we want to see dominate by speaking out against and resisting any attempts to bully.

Such resistance begins with being alert to situations that are not okay and speaking out about them. We need to reject the actions of bullies. If they are not spoken out against - as the old cliché says - silence becomes assent, and the bullying goes unchecked.

Any unacceptable incident where someone is imposing their will on another must be reported to a liaison prefect, teacher, form teacher, dean, guidance counsellor or member of the senior administration. Once we know of a problem, we have the chance to solve it. That is an essential step in ensuring that we have a safe school for every person here.

Each of us needs to offer our support to any person who is being treated inappropriately. That support can be as simple as talking to the person and showing them we care. It can be encouraging them to seek assistance with whatever the problem might be. The key thing is that we together create a very clear message that affirms the values of co-operation and the right of every person to go about their business without harassment or difficulty.

None of this is a new message, and it is great to see our student leaders so enthusiastic about Pink Shirt Day as a means of reinforcing core messages in the school. Tomorrow is not a fund-raiser; there is no cost associated with the day. The aim is a simple and powerful visual affirmation of our community's rejection of all forms of bullying.

Ross Sinclair
Principal

BOARD OF TRUSTEE ELECTIONS

Voting closes tomorrow, Friday 7 May
You can either post or drop your
votes in to the school office



Whanau Advisory Group

The Whanau Advisory Group (WAG) invite all Māori students and Whanau to the Te Whanau a Hotuwaipara Hui at 6.00pm. We'd like to encourage all whanau to attend and work to further improve the opportunities for our taitamariki/ mokopuna; as well as strengthening links between HVHS and Te Whanau A Hotuwaipara.

We will share kai, so please bring a plate. We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday in the Hotuwaipara whare.

Stage Challenge

120-150 HVHS students will be performing at Stage Challenge on 28 May at the TSB Arena. Tickets are available at the Resource Centre or Ticketek. Come along and support our students.

HVHS Awhina

We had the launch of the HVHS Āwhina 2010 on Monday night with a hui in the pavilion. It was brilliant to see so many of our local whanau at this event and to hear from the Victoria university mentors regarding what the programme is about.

Some current Āwhina students gave a great insight into what Āwhina has meant to them and how it has helped them to succeed in science at HVHS, so thanks to everyone who came for making it such a wonderful start to what is a great opportunity unique to HVHS. We'll see all the students on Friday for our first sessions (Year 9 spell one in B4; Year 10 spell two in B6).

Pink Shirt Day

Pink Shirt Day is tomorrow! Students can show their support for the HVHS anti-bullying campaign by wearing a pink shirt or pink accessory with their uniforms. This day has been organised by the Respect Team.

World Challenge Book Fair

The World Challenge students are fundraising and urgently need your help with our book fair. Please bring old books, DVD's, puzzles and electronic games to the Office between 8.15 am - 9.15 am next week, 10-14 May.

Come to the Book Fair in the school hall Saturday 15 May 9.00am-2.00 pm. Six items per school family would be fantastic.



Looking Ahead

May

- 7 **BOT Elections - last day for voting**
- 12 Whanau Advisory Group - 6.00 pm
- 13 **Yr 13 Biology Zoo Trip**
- 14 Multicultural Evening
- 18 **Work Choice Day**
- 23-26 Yr 13 Geography Trip
- 27 **Civil Defence Training Day 3**
- 27-28 Stage Challenge

June

- 3 **Civil Defence Awards**
- 7 Queen's Birthday Holiday - school closed
- 9 **Second Gardasil Immunisation (day 1)**
- 10 School Swimming Sports
- 10 **Open Evening for 2011 enrolments**
- 15 Year 12 Tourism Day
- 16 **Horowhenua Sports Exchange**
- 17-18 Winter Sport Photos
- 18 **Second Gardasil Immunisation (day 2)**
- 30 Victoria University Year 12 Event

July

- 3-18 School Holidays
- 19 **First day for Term 3**

14 MAY * MULTICULTURAL EVENING *
6.00 pm - Shared meal - Student Centre
 (Bring a plate of food)
7.00 pm — Performance in School Hall
 (gold coin donation)

Knitters for the Children's ward at Hutt Hospital

Anyone with spare time and wool - would you consider knitting woollen hats for premature babies up to older children? Phone Penny Conway on 569 1963.

Lemons for the Canteen

Do you have any spare lemons on your tree? The Canteen desperately needs lemons to make lemon cordial.

Please drop in to the canteen or the main office.