



Hutt Valley High School News

Te Kura Tuarua O Te Awakairangi

Dear Parents and Caregivers

I write this from home, having succumbed to the winter ailments that are part of this time of the year. In being absent this week, I have missed one of the lovely times of the year, in the end-of-term assemblies that recognise student achievement. I thank Mr Fox for taking over at short notice to deputise for me in congratulating those whose efforts and successes are applauded in these assemblies. It is so gratifying to see young people whose lives are very much not those of the sometimes unfortunate media stereotypes of selfishness and idleness. We have so many fine young people who are working with ambitious goals and within ethical frameworks that clearly show their family backgrounds are those that offer a grounding which matches the school's aims: striving towards excellence, while being involved in a life that is balanced in terms of the academic, sporting and cultural elements of school, and imbued with the service ethos which offers help to others less fortunate than ourselves.

I have today finished reading and signing over 650 junior reports which also are a delight. There is so much excellent work occurring in Years 9 and 10 that it is clear we can look forward to continued outstanding successes when the students' time comes to sit public assessments.

I do also need to acknowledge once again that in a large school, there remain a few people who are reluctant to take on the messages they need to understand, and so I do want to repeat a few of our givens. They are there for all to read in the Code of Conduct, but it is well to restate them. Students who engage in acts which threaten this being a safe place for all do so with the risk they will be removed from this community. Key areas here are centred on bullying, violence and drugs, all of which threaten the safety that must be a given in this or any school. I have had to suspend a student for bringing drugs – synthetic, in this instance – to school and offering such substances to others. The supply of drugs to another student or students is totally unacceptable. Students should be in absolutely no doubt that drugs and school don't mix. They must not, for students under the influence of substances are a danger in laboratories and workshops, and they are clearly not in the state of mind to learn. It is disappointing when such things occur, for there is so much at school that is positive and productive,

and such moments are an absolute failure in terms of what we are trying to achieve here.

We farewell three staff this week. Mr Williamson (Mathematics, Physics and Science) leaves to take up his scholarship to study at Harvard University in the USA. Ms Montgomery (Guidance) leaves her temporary position covering while Mr Shearer is on study leave, and takes up a permanent position as Guidance Counsellor at Newlands College. Both these two are beginning teachers, but with such outstanding qualities that we are loath to see them go. The temporary position held by teacher aide Ms Love also comes to an end. She is a highly qualified person who has been able to teach our teaching staff a great deal about understanding and working with students whose intellectual processing is affected by various conditions. All three of these people have the gift needed to be successes in teaching; they all care passionately about what they do and about the people they work with.

My thanks to Mr Chapman for the workload he has carried for me this week, doing his own job and much of mine. It has been a demanding term for all, staff and students, and there is considerable tiredness in the school. It is a tiredness born of effort and achievement. As we move into the holidays, I wish you all a relaxing and recharging break.

Ross Sinclair
Principal

Yr 11 Study Skills Seminars

All Year 11 students have this week participated in a two hour seminar on Study Skills. Students covered at least 10 tips and each have a scrapbook with these noted.

Please discuss study tips with your son/daughter. We want them all to have strategies to help them succeed.

There will be some follow up courses available. If you have any queries Please contact: Lyn House
Lyn.house@hvhs.school.nz

Congratulations to:

★ Congratulations to **Matthew Harris** 12WL, who took part in the Secondary Schools Clay Target Shooting tournament (round 2). Matthew gained a silver medal for the “points score”, and a bronze for the “single rise” event. Overall, out of 80 competitors Matthew finished in 3rd place with a score of 96 out of 100. The winner of this round scored 98 out of 100. There are 3 more rounds and at the end of the circuit there will be an overall NZ Secondary Schools Champion – so we wish Matthew well in the last 3 rounds of competition – obviously a close event.

★ **College Sport Champs 2011**
 Congratulations to all our squash players:
Girls - Competitive
Rebecca Barnett 12MH - WINNER
Sophia Gambitsis 13SR - 4th
Shani Bennik 9EE - Special Plate
Hema Govind 10KE - Special Plate Runnerup
Girls - Rookie
Neroli Smith 10PL - Runnerup

Boys - Competitive
Jonathan Barnett 12MH - Runnerup
Myles Price Moor 11WG - Classic Plate
Tyler McBride 13GN - Consolation Plate
Peter Newman 13VY
Manan Acharya 12GM
Tony Gill 13BT
Angelos Gambitsis 13GS
Logan James 12GM

★ On Saturday 2 July four students travelled to New Plymouth to compete at the TUNZ North Island Taekwondo Championships.
Tayla Styche 10GB won gold in the Individual Junior Black Belt under 15 yr age group for Poomsae/Patterns.
Staci Knox 13TS won gold in the Individual Junior Black Belt 15-17 yr age group for Poomsae. She also won gold in the Black Belt Pairs Poomsae with her brother Hayden Knox (ex HVHS). She backed this up with gold in the Black Belt team’s Poomsae event with her sister, Samantha Knox (ex HVHS) and then won silver in her sparring division.
Joshua Styche 12BL won gold in his Junior Black Belt sparring division while **Karl Tuarau** 13NB won gold in his Senior Black Belt sparring division.

Looking Ahead

July

15 Last day of Term 2
 16-31 School Holidays

August

1 First day for Term 3
4 Year 10 Parents Evening
5 UNSW Maths Competitions
5 Victoria University Planning - Year 13
9 Wairarapa Sports Exchange - home
10 Year 9 Parents Evening
11 Year 12 Geography Trip
12 NCEA Support Teacher Only Day
15-19 Year 13 Drama Production
 15-19 Careers Week
19 Otago University Visit - Year 13
 22-26 Sports Tournament Week

September

2 Teacher Only Day - school closed
 5-9 Senior Exams
17 Year 13 Leavers Ball
 26-30 School Production Week

More congratulations...

★ **Euan Wong** 13VY and **Belinda Bui** 13VY who finished Runners Up in the recent CSW Indoor Bowls Pairs Championships. It was a close final, losing out to an experienced Newlands pair.

Office Closure during holidays

Please note the school office will have reduced hours of 9.00 am to 3.00 pm during the school holidays.

There may be other occasional closures during these hours.

Normal office hours will resume on Monday 1 August.