



# Hutt Valley High School News

## Te Kura Tuarua O Te Awakairangi

### Dear Parents and Caregivers

On Wednesday I had the pleasure of accompanying Mr Beckett's drama class to a pre-screening of their film "Last Dance". Through the kind invitation by one of the parents who works at Peter Jackson's Park Road Studio, we were able to visit the studio, have a short tour, a lunch and a screening of the film in one of their somewhat sumptuous mixing rooms (which we would call a full size 50-60 seater theatre with large recliner seats). Thanks to Mr Brian Scadden for the hospitality and the chance to see our students' work on screen in the heart of Wellington's film industry. I mentioned last week that this is the fourth year that Mr Beckett and his seniors have made a full length film. It really is a huge effort and is notable in this credit-dominated age for the fact that it is a voluntary co-curricular task. The finished product, for many students, will be the dominant lasting memory of their senior year at school.

The public showing of "Last Dance" is on Tuesday 4 October at 6-30pm at the Paramount Theatre in Wellington. Tickets at \$10 each can be purchased from the Resource Centre.

On Thursday next week an eagerly anticipated event occurs: the school triathlon. This event is organised by students as part of an assessment, and has grown rapidly in popularity. Last year around 140 students and staff competed in the run/bike/swim involved. The event starts at 1.00pm, with runners travelling along the stopbank, then switching to bikes and cycling to Huia Pool, with a finish time around 1.40pm. It is huge fun, but with a very serious competitive edge for some participants. We have a couple of guests competing, with our Board Chair Peter Stevens running in a team where MP Trevor Mallard will be doing the cycle leg, with a talented swimmer completing the team. Staff from the Hutt Valley Activity Centre, which is operated under our school's governance, will also be competing. Many forms have entered teams, and there is a great mixture of "social" and serious endeavour. One or two staff and several students have been seen doing serious training for this event, so if parents and

caregivers are able to spare the time, you might like to come to the stopbank and watch a really neat event.

This week has seen the election for the 2011-2012 Student Representative on the Board of Trustees. The result is not yet available, but I do want to take the opportunity to thank the current Student Representative Dane Rolton. Dane has had an interesting year, to put it mildly. His year has included developing the five year Strategic Plan with its vision for expanding the student voice in the school; dealing with the circumstances surrounding the recent release of the Ombudsman's Report and the school's actions in response to that document and the process of apology and reconciliation that has involved; as well as the regular work that is the annual province of a board. Dane has been an active contributor to meetings and has very much functioned as a full member of the Board. I have been impressed by the model he has presented as a representative of both his year group and the wider student body. The role has been particularly demanding and he has acquitted himself superbly.

Finally, I do want to express my concern at some senior students' attendance (or more accurately non-attendance). We have some students whose attendance has dropped off at exactly the wrong moment. Most classes are desperately trying to complete course content, and this is absolutely the worst time to yield to the temptation to be diverted by the pleasures of spring weather. This period of time is crucial to student success. We have only next week and, after the holidays, two more weeks of lessons for seniors. I ask for the support of parents in having the necessary conversations to insist that all students are in class and focused, in the interests of their success in the remaining internal assessments and in the NCEA external examinations.

Ross Sinclair  
**Principal**



## Resource Centre Notices

**CASH REFUND** - All hired sports uniform must be returned before the end of term to receive your cash refund, any uniform not returned will be charged to your students account at replacement costs. Any help you can give in getting our team sports uniform back is very much appreciated.

## NCEA Level 1 Science Revision Classes

For students in all 11 Science classes  
Every Tuesday and Thursday 3.30-4.30pm  
Weeks 1 -4 in Term 4  
Genetics (B10) Acids & Bases (A3) Physics (B6)

## Victoria University Information Evening Wednesday 5 October 2011

An open evening will be held for prospective students and their parents on Wednesday 5 October. This event provides an opportunity to better understand the transition from school to Victoria and for students to get better prepared for their First Year Experience. Programme starts at 6.00 pm in the Maclaurin Building, gate 6. Please register by emailing [course-advice@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:course-advice@vuw.ac.nz) or calling 0800 VICTORIA.

## Looking Ahead

### September

30 Year 13 Geography Trip

### October

4 School Film: Last Dance, 6.30pm - Paramount Theatre  
6 School Triathlon - start at 1.00pm  
7 Last day of Term 3  
24 Labour Day Holiday  
25 First day of Term 4

### November

4 Out of Zone applications close  
Years 10-13 for 2012  
7 Year 12 Prizegiving - 9.00 am  
Year 11 Prizegiving - 11.45 pm  
8 Year 13 Prizegiving - 7.00 pm  
10 NCEA Exams begin  
24-29 Year 9 and 10 exams

### December

9 Year 10 Prizegiving - 9.00 am  
Year 9 Prizegiving - 10.30 am

## SPORT CONVENERS PROFILE

**Name:** Jeremy Keane **Teacher:** PE & Health Teacher

**How long at HVHS and Role:** 3 years teaching, 2 years U15 Rugby Coach, 1 year Cross Country Convenor, also involved with Poly Club and taking International Students to OPC – Sir Edmund Hillary Outdoor Pursuit Centre.

**How involved:** Usually three or four afternoons each week for extra curricular activities.

**What do you enjoy about your sport involvement?** I enjoy seeing students achieve and getting to know the students I don't normally teach and building positive relationships with the students.

**Why do it?** I enjoy supporting our school community to ensure students get involved in sports.

**Team achievements:** U15 Rugby this year were the semi finalist Div 1, and won the Annual Quadrangular tournament.

**Yours own sporting/ extra curricular interests:** Biking, Triathlons and Outdoor Adventures

**Did you know:** One of my highlights was climbing to the summit of Mt Ngauruhoe (Mountain of Doom) with our international students and sliding back down the mountain in the snow. Yahoo!

