



Hutt Valley High School News

Te Kura Tuarua O Te Awakairangi

Dear Parents and Caregivers

This is the final newsletter of the year, and still we are congratulating students for their successes; what a great way to end the year. We congratulate Ruby McGruddy 13ED who has been awarded a Victoria University Te Aro Scholarship (Academic Excellence) for 2012, worth \$4000. Ruby's is the eleventh scholarship awarded to 2011 Year 13 students by universities. That level of award is great to see, and the recognition provides a real incentive for other students to perform to their best ability.

This week the school magazine is produced, and it has been a real labour of love for Ms Abraham. She has worked hard to produce a document that reflects the energy and success of 2011, and has selected a revised format to produce a magazine that is styled as an item to be read rather than one to be filed on a shelf. The inclusion of a wide range of student-produced material is intended to celebrate the creativity of our students, and definitely conveys that well. The magazine is a huge task, and I thank Ms Abraham for her commitment to and success in the task.

As we move into the final days of this term we are farewelling a number of staff, who have been thanked in the senior prizegivings. On Friday, we will be farewelling Mr Chapman, our Associate Principal. Mr Chapman has told me that after 18 years in total at the school, he has decided to leave. This was a shock to me and to the staff. I have worked with Mr Chapman at a previous school as well as for three and a half years here at Hutt Valley High School and he has been a wonderful colleague throughout. He has great respect around the school, from students and staff, and that has been conveyed to me during the difficult times of this year. It has been a tough year, and I can understand his desire for a change. Even so, it is with a genuine regret that I see him leave. He is a man who always has time for others, who has worked incredibly hard for the school, who has spent many, many hours at the sidelines of fields and gyms encouraging our students to excel, and who has helped launch many of the steps that we have taken to work on improving what our school offers its students. He has an encyclopaedic knowledge of students and their families and his personal touch will be missed. He leaves a staff who are sad to see him go; we wish him all the very best for the next phase of his professional life.

At the prizegivings on Friday we will recognise our outstanding Year 9 and Year 10 students. They have done well, individually and as a group. The Year 9 group, who have been at the centre of a great deal of our staff Professional Learning time this year, have produced aSTTle reading results that are very rewarding. I shall be detailing those results in the annual report, but the core data shows a shift of 48 in male scores and 44 in female scores on average across the whole year group. This is on a scale where a shift of 20 is the expected level in the course of a year. The data shows that work done in the Year 9 Hubs, in the Secondary Literacy Project, in restorative practices and in the ongoing very thorough and individually-focused learning support tuition is all combining to make a major impact. If we can carry that gain through into the senior school, there will be a major lift right across the curriculum areas in the learning experienced by our students.

I do want to thank the students for their effort, energy and humour this year. The school has made some real gains, and that only happens when the relationships between students and students, and between students and staff, and between the school and homes all work in the right direction. There will always be challenges of course, but it is great to see the gains. To the staff, I want to say thank you for a very tough year's work; one where the focus on rethinking the way we do things that has been at the heart of the school's strategic plan has been taken up in a very full and engaged manner. Thanks to the many, many volunteers who make our school function. Thanks to the Board for huge hours of your time, to the parents and caregivers who have attended meetings, cheered and encouraged, who have coached and managed, who have been the drivers to events and the cherishers before and after triumphs and defeats alike. It is a real joy to be part of this community. Thanks so much for all that you do. Best wishes for a wonderful Christmas. I wish you all the kind of rest and peace that allows us to take stock of our year and value fully that most important of things: our families.

Ross Sinclair
Principal



Congratulations to:

★ The HVHS #1 Boys team had success at the College Sport Regional Junior Teams Finals played last week. The team (**Tyler Titov-Smith** 9TT, **David Silcock** 10MS, **Jordan Musgrave** 10KE, **Hamish MacLennan** 10GB and **Matthew Fyfe** 10BD) beat HIBS 6 matches to 0 in the tie. All the players continued the good form which has them undefeated this term. Special thanks to their Manager, Mrs Anne Silcock, and the other parents who have assisted them this season.

Starting Information for all students 2012

Monday 30 January

11.00 am Year 12 course confirmation, Hall
1.00 pm Year 13 course confirmation, Hall
All day Liaison training

Wednesday 1 February

8.45 am Year 9 only Day - begin in the Hall
8.45 am All **new** International students
9.00 am Powhiri for all students (Yr9-13) **new** to the school - in the Hall

Thursday 2 February - All year levels

8.45—3.15 pm Full school timetable

School Office Holiday Hours

The school office will close on Friday 16 December at 3.00 pm.

We will reopen on Monday 16 January with reduced hours of 9.00 am to 3.00 pm. Normal office hours will resume on Tuesday 24 January 2011.

HVHS Sport 2012

Is now seeking coaches and managers for our 2012 Sports teams. If you are interested in volunteering next year, or just have enquiries about what this might entail, please contact:

Jude, Heather or Meghan in the Sports Department on 04 566 4584, or send an email to sport@hvhs.school.nz. We are always looking for willing volunteers for ALL levels of school sport. Please contact us!!

COACH

PREMIER 1 NETBALL (2012)

We are seeking any 'Expressions of Interest' for the above role, please e-mail your interest to sport@hvhs.school.nz, by Friday 16 December, 2011. Please include coaching experience and qualification details.

Looking Ahead

Holidays

January

30 Course confirmation for seniors
11.00 am - Year 12
1.00 pm - Year 13

February

1 Year 9 Only Day
Powhiri for new students at 9.00am
2 First day whole school - Full timetable
6 Waitangi Day Holiday

Uniform Shop/Resource Centre

The Resource Centre will close at midday on Friday 9 December 2011

2012

Closed Monday 23 January—(Wellington Anniversary)

Tuesday 24 January to Friday 27 January
10.00 am – 4.00 pm

Monday 30 January – normal hours resume
8.00 am - 4.00 pm

Senior Course Confirmation Day 2012

All current Year 11 and 12 returning students must come in to school on Monday 30 January 2012 to confirm their subjects for 2012. Please bring your results slip from the NCEA examinations.

Times are as follows:

Year 12 2012 - 11.00 am in the school hall
Year 13 2012 - 1.00 pm in the school hall

NCEA Results Publication January 2012

- Results notices show NCEA results from previous years.
- Students can order their own results documents from their Learner Login by the end of December 2011 to receive in mid January 2012.
- NCEA results notices will only be sent to those who order one.
- Students who will not have computer access at the time results are released in January and require one, can order a printed result notice (for NCEAs) from their Learner Login.
- Scholarship result notices will be sent to all students.