



# Hutt Valley High School News

## Te Kura Tuarua O Te Awakairangi

### Dear Parents and Caregivers

There has been a great deal of press commentary and political focus on bullying in New Zealand schools this week.

This school has had its experiences both in respect of bullying and of publicity surrounding such acts. For every school, a continuing campaign against bullying is a key message. We do still find from time to time that students put up with actions or language that they should not. It is essential that students understand that to speak out against bullying is not being a "nark". That notion is one invented by the bullies to ensure silence around what they do. To speak out is to assert everyone's right to enjoy their days without fear.

Bullying is imposing on others verbally or physically in a way that makes them feel uncomfortable, embarrassed or threatened. It is never okay.

If any student sees or experiences bullying they must take action by reporting it to a subject teacher, form teacher, teacher aide, support staff member, a liaison student, dean, counsellor or senior staff member. That way, we can start to address the problem and to stop it. Bullying thrives in silence and if we don't speak up we give it permission to continue.

Most students know that, intuitively. Certainly our seniors are engaged with sending that message. As they plan for Pink Shirt Day on 14 April, our Year 13 leaders are putting a considerable focus on this idea. The "Bullying Stops Here" message is central to the day, which we have run for the last two years. The day is not a fundraiser; it is a day where we encourage students to wear a pink shirt as a visual cue to their rejection of bullying. It is a particularly powerful day, as the vibrant pink clothing shouts its rejection of bullying. It would be great to see that tide of pink grow even larger than last year, to affirm what this school believes.

There are other student-led initiatives happening at present – lots of them – and two are further requests for financial help.

The first is a Mufti Day on Monday 4 April. The day is being organised as a national mufti day in support of Christchurch, initiated by students and promoted by the New Zealand School Trustees' Association. Students wearing mufti will be expected to make a

donation; that is the "contract" that applies. We hope that people will be generous. While there has already been significant fund-raising, including here at school, the need is enormous.

The second event is linked in spirit. Our Year 13 Japanese language students want to raise funds to send to aid Japanese disaster recovery. They understand that at one level there is a "clash" with other appeals, but the message of offering international good will and support is one that they are determined to make. On Tuesday 12 April they will run various Japan-themed events here at school, centred around a lunchtime origami/music/food promotion of things Japanese. They will, with the aid of the International Students, be taking a collection by visiting classes on the morning of the 12<sup>th</sup>. They would love to receive strong support, especially with the appeal itself, as they look to send a message of solidarity and hope to the people of the devastated region of Japan.

It is lovely to see our students so actively engaged with the service ethos. Helping others is a key part to enjoying our humanity and recognising the ties that connect us each to the other. When we truly understand such things, the kind of bullying that I spoke of at the outset becomes totally marginalised as activity unworthy of anyone from within our school.

Ross Sinclair  
Principal

### Congratulations to:

★ **Jordan Mueller** 12MH, played as part of the Wellington U20 Football team in the National Provincial U20's tournament in Auckland on 12/14 March. Jordan has also been named in the U20 NZ National Squad from which a NZ team will be named to compete in Auckland in October.



## Relay for Life

HVHS entered a team for the first year in the Cancer Society Relay for Life which was held on Saturday 26 March at Frank Kitts Park. 26 students participated in the fund raising event along with eight willing staff. The Relay took place from 4.30 pm on Saturday and went through the night until 8.30 am. The students were very enthusiastic and divided the 16 hours up into shifts and enjoyed seeing the sun rise whilst running with the baton round the 600m track. For some students they just had fun participating in a community event but for others it was an issue much closer to home and which stirred up lots of emotions. It was a great experience and I would encourage those of you who have thought about participating to get involved in 2012. A big well done to all those involved and I look forward to a bigger event next year.

## Broccoli plants for sale

Year 11 science students have been raising broccoli plants from seed as part of an assessment. There are now lots of plants that are surplus to the students' needs.

These are large seedlings, in individual small pots. Ask your student to purchase some from B10, or pop into the school office. A donation of \$1 for three is appreciated and the students will give all money raised to the Lower Hutt food bank. Some are being grown on in the horticulture area to supply the food bank with Broccoli in a few months.

## Michaela O'Connor and Devin Glover Deputy Head Girl and Deputy Head Boy 2011

I have been granted the wonderful opportunity to be your Deputy Head Girl for 2011. I always strive to work toward my full potential as a leader, in my school work and throughout my life. My passion lies with the arts in which I love to paint, to act, to write and create. I stress for you to pursue your passions In order to have a fulfilled and happy life.

This year I want to get things happening and push the changes you want to see in the school.

Together, we can make a difference! Embrace the opportunities that you are presented with at high school and aim to be the best and most happy person you can be because of it.

I look forward to getting to know more of you at a personal level as the year progresses.



## Looking Ahead

### March

31 Year 9 Parent-Teacher Meetings

### April

5 Year 10 Parent-Teacher Meetings

6 **Junior Mathematics Competition**

6-7 Summer Sports Photos

7 **Civil Defence Training Day**

8 Year 9 Teamworks Island Bay Trip

12 **School Cross Country**

13 School Cross Country (pstpn)

15 **Last day of Term 1**

### May

2 First day of Term 2

11 **Year 11 Parents-Teacher Meetings**

12-13 Year 11 Geography Trip

17 **Year 12/13 Parent-teacher Meetings**

## Nationwide Mufti Day for Christchurch

A nationwide mufti day is to be held on Monday 4 April. Hutt Valley High School is supporting this fundraiser. A gold coin donation is requested and all monies will be donated to the relief efforts in Christchurch.

I am Devin Glover, Deputy Head Boy this year. Hutt Valley High School has helped me in many ways to achieve things, especially in sport. Having such a range of sports allowed me to play underwater hockey, which last year I represented New Zealand in the U17 Mens team in Australia, and I am now trialling for the U19

mens team to play in the Netherlands at the Underwater Hockey World Champs. HVHS has also allowed me to get involved in the arts. Especially acting, but also musically too.

This year I am helping produce a full school production which anyone can audition to be in. So if anyone wants to ask me about that just look for the guy in the blazer with a briefcase.