



# Hutt Valley High School News

## Te Kura Tuarua O Te Awakairangi

### Dear Parents and Caregivers

As we move towards the end of the term, we need to recognise the very different structure of this school year and the impact it has on seniors, in particular. Already, we are nearly one third through course coverage time. Term 4, because of the changed structure adopted nationally to accommodate the Rugby World Cup, is extremely short. The effect that it creates is to load course work into the first three terms. It means that the attendance campaign we are running has even greater relevance, as students need to maintain full attendance in order to succeed. We have changed some school systems to monitor attendance even more closely than in the past, and senior staff are doing a weekly check to identify and act on instances where absence threatens to produce failure. The new administration programme installed this year allows us to access instant data on attendance including subject by subject analysis as well as daily returns, giving us an increased ability to act to address absences. The 85% attendance trigger level is proving to be a successful point at which to intervene, and we will be continuing to focus on the fundamental need for all students to be in class to succeed.

Thank you to parents and caregivers, and to staff, for the work done this week and last in parent-teacher meetings for Year 9 and 10 classes. These are valuable meetings where the exchange of information strengthens the co-operation between home and school. They are tiring days, but important ones, and they constantly provide the reminder of the evident truth that we are all here – including the students – for the same reasons. We all want to see our students thrive, exploring and expanding their skills, understanding what it means to be good citizens, and gaining the knowledge and qualifications to be able to enjoy a future that opens the doorways to their dreams.

Part of that process is taking opportunities as they arise, and it is lovely to see the large number of students volunteering to take part in the student drama being written as we speak, and in the Stage Challenge event which is currently in preparation. There is a real buzz around both these events, and the chance to create something that is entirely new is clearly being relished. The leadership of our senior students is also very much in evidence. Thank you all for the energy and commitment you are making to the wider life of the school.

That commitment will also be seen elsewhere in the arts as our Music Department takes up an invitation to take part in May's New Zealand Music Month by arranging three

lunchtime performances in Parliament's Copperfield Restaurant. This is a wonderful chance to demonstrate the talent of our musicians in a setting beyond the school.

We are also fortunate to enjoy the efforts of a large number of students whose commitment and talent in sports continue to impress. Jordan Mueller 12MH was a member of the Wellington U20 Australian Football League Team which competed at the National Provincial U20 Tournament back in March. Jordan was named in the U20 New Zealand National Squad from which a New Zealand U20 team will be selected to compete in Auckland in October. We wish him well for that important next step. Lucy Naik 13TT has been selected for the New Zealand U17 Waterpolo Team to play against Australia in July, and looks forward to a challenging and rewarding next phase of her sports career.

Locally, Euan Wong 13VY, Belinda Bui 13VY, Florence Baker 12GM won the triples at the Regional Lawn Bowls Championships. Euan has already won the national secondary schools singles title in the last holidays. Another team travelling well in local competition is the Cricket 1<sup>st</sup> XI, which leads the Premier Grade. Three of its members have been selected to represent Wellington Secondary Schools in the Frank Gratten Trophy in Auckland this week. Aaron Curtis 13TS, Sushant Balajee 12RI and Mitchell Blucher 11DN have the opportunity to impress at this higher level, playing against teams from Auckland, Waikato and Canterbury.

Congratulations to all of these athletes.

Finally, a reminder of Pink Shirt Day next Thursday. The day is an anti-bullying event which began in North America when friends of a student being bullied for wearing a pink shirt to school demonstrated their solidarity by wearing pink shirts as well. That moment has gone international, and now Pink Shirt Day is a world-wide phenomenon where the wearing of a pink shirt has become symbolic of a stand against bullying. I remind students that this is not a mufti day as such; nor is it a fund-raiser. It is a chance to wear a pink shirt to show your absolute opposition to all forms of bullying. I hope to see many, many students and staff wearing pink shirts and spreading the message that is the day's slogan: "Bullying Stops Here".

Ross Sinclair  
Principal



## Congratulations to:

- ★ Three of our 1<sup>st</sup> XI Cricketers have been selected in the Wellington Secondary Schools team to contest the Frank Gratten trophy in Auckland this week. Congratulations to **Aaron Curtis** 13TS, **Mitchell Blucher** 11DN and **Sushant Balajee** 12RI.
  
- ★ **Matthew Shepherd** 13TI and **James McAnallen** 12BL competed in the New Zealand Secondary Schools Maardi Cup Rowing Championships. They are now ranked 17th in New Zealand for the Under 17 Double Sculls.
  
- ★ **Euan Wong** 13VY, **Belinda Bui** 13VY, **Florence Baker** 12GM won the triples at the Regional Lawn Bowls Championships.
  
- ★ **Lucy Naik** 13TT has been selected for the New Zealand U17 Waterpolo Team to play against Australia in July.

## Looking Ahead

### April

8	Year 9 Teamworks Island Bay Trip
12	<b>School Cross Country</b>
13	School Cross Country (pstpn)
15	<b>Last day of Term 1</b>

### May

2	First day of Term 2
11	<b>Year 11 Parents-Teacher Meetings</b>
12-13	Year 11 Geography Trip
17	<b>Year 12/13 Parent-teacher Meetings</b>

## Holidays

We have had many requests this year from parents to take students out of school during term time.

Parents please note that if students are taken out of school they risk missing assessments. In some cases we are unable to reschedule these assessments and students will have to forgo any credits they may have earned.

Students will need to check with their subject teachers to clarify dates of assessments.

## Jasmine Tso and Hayden Richardson Cultural Captains 2011

I feel extremely privileged to be one of this year's Cultural Captains. I'd like to encourage you to take, as well as create opportunities for yourself inside and outside of the school community. I've been involved in a wide variety of groups including tennis, music, peer mediation, civil defence, Switch (human rights group) and this will also be my third year co-ordinating World Vision 40 hour famine at HVHS.

Hayden and I come from largely different backgrounds within the school, allowing us to cover a wide array of cultures, talents and interests. Some things to watch out for are the annual Multi-Cultural Evening - being held in May, our original full school production "Writer's Block" - something that hasn't been running since our Year 9 in 2007 and a 'Cultural Café' - a Friday lunchtime performance opportunity for students to showcase their various talents. I'd like to encourage you to get as involved as much as possible, enjoy the rest of the year and of course, have fun!



My greatest passion in life is music - jazz, rock, classical, everything. Music is my voice and being cultural captain means I get to spend even more time involved in what I love.

Getting a school production organised this year was a major goal of mine, as I enjoy drama too and think it is time we got our school thespians back on stage.

Auditions are well underway for "Writer's Block", our original, student written masterpiece.

When I'm not hanging out in the music sphere with a ukulele, trumpet, guitar, piano or choir, I can be found playing music somewhere else. A few great things to watch out for this year are the 'Cultural Café' held on the first Friday of every month and the Multi-Cultural Evening on 20 May.

I started playing trumpet when I was eight, my mum taught me. Everyone in my family plays music; we have drums, tuba, saxophone, flugel horn and piano. The neighbours love us!

## Emma Smith and Jacob Paul Sports Captains 2011

I'm Emma Smith, Sports Captain for 2011. At HVHS I have always been encouraged to get involved in school life and strive for my goals. As a result of this I have taken part in lots of good things happening at school, including sport.

My main sports are tennis, athletics and cross country. I am proud to be in a position now where I can influence others involvement in school life so they experience the benefits, the enjoyment and the sense of belonging and pride you gain in what is happening at school. With the help of the student Sports Committee I hope to not only increase the numbers representing us in sport, but get more students participating in sports activities at lunchtimes with their classmates. This year get involved with something you love, and show others what HVHS is all about!



I am Jacob Paul, your 2011 Sports Captain. As students at HVHS we are very privileged to have a school that offers many opportunities both academically and in sports.

Throughout my years at HVHS I have played numerous sports such as football, cross country, athletics, handball, futsal and most recently dragon boating. I believe in doing so I have grown as a person and met lots of people. I encourage you to do the same and make your

years at HVHS something to truly remember. As sports captain my role includes, helping run the sports committee, organise and run the junior interform competition and raise sport participation around school. Make this year different and unforgettable from the rest and try something new.

### Office Closure during holidays

Please note the school office will be closed during the Easter break and on Tuesday 26 April.

There will be 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 2 May.

### HVHS Past Pupils and Friends

Fundraiser to raise funds for scholarships and providing financial support for the school

"Brighton Rock" - A crime thriller drama  
Lighthouse Cinema Petone  
Tuesday 24 May  
Tickets \$20 per person  
Drinks and nibbles at 7.30 pm



Tickets available at the  
Resource Centre

### Spirit of Adventure

#### Half Day Voyage – Sunday 3 April 2011

On Sunday 3 April the Spirit of Adventure Sailing Ship was in Wellington. It was an opportunity for students to experience a hands on tall ship experience. The weather was perfect for five of the sails to be hoisted to set sail. HVHS students and families were hands on helping on the ship. It was a wonderful experience for our students. They were inspired by volunteer crew stories about jumping off the ship into the water for morning showers and the welcoming smells of home cooking wafting from the galley and giddiness of swaying as they latched onto the top of the mast, and the taste of the sea air as they stood on the helm guiding the ship with their crew mates and new found friends. "You walk off the ship feeling ten foot tall and bullet proof. So energised and motivated to give life the best shot". I'm sure we will have more student interest going on Spirit voyages in the future.

