



Hutt Valley High School News

Te Kura Tuarua O Te Awakairangi

Dear Parents and Caregivers

There is a lot to cover this week.

For the staff a major event has been having the Education Review Office team in the school and, while their report is not yet completed in its written format, their verbal report to the Board was extremely positive. Our community will know that there have been a lot of changes in all facets of the school as we have worked towards trying to fit the education to the student rather than making the student fit the school and ERO certainly saw the positive impacts of that work. Their two major recommendations amount to endorsing the existing direction of our work, so that is very encouraging. Next term, the Board will be launching the Strategic Plan review exercise - details of which will be in future newsletters and that will provide a series of opportunities for the wider school community and beyond to be part of the conversation around next steps and that will shape the next few years' points of focus.

While that big picture work has been going on the rest of the school's busy life continues apace. Events this week included our Whanganui winter sports exchange, with us travelling to them this year. This exchange is perfect for us. The schools are of similar size and the competition is broadly even. The overall result was in our favour 6 to 4 with one drawn, which illustrates my point.

I'd also like to add a word of praise to the First XV. They played a strong game in the weekend to defeat the Silverstream seconds and constructed some beautiful tries in the process. They're a well-coached and focused group of players, and the narrow loss to Whanganui would have been frustrating for them, and a tough ask for both teams playing twice in four days.

Meanwhile on the academic front there have been excellent results from the Language Perfect World Championships held in May 2018. Two students, Izza Armand 11RI and Vibhav Ammanamanchi 11TM were in the top 0.2% of 350,000 world-wide competitors, Imali De Silva 11NB was in the top 2% and Milly Kneale 10MZ was in the top 5%. Izza and Vibhav now have the opportunity to apply for a scholarship to go on an overseas exchange for three months as a result of their great results. Congratulations to all four students.

Another academic event this week is this morning's visit by three NASA astrobiologists to speak to Year 9 science students, organised through library manager Anne Stephenson-Piper and the Hutt City Library. Following the talk there will be a workshop with a group of students. The three scientists work with NASA's Mars exploration missions. The three are very much front and central in the Mars programme and our school's current and continuing push for more females in STEM subjects Valley-wide can't be hurt by the fact that two of the visitors are female leaders in their field.

This week has also continued the frantic series of performing arts events we've seen recently. Big Sing was a great night out and our two groups came away with four awards, including the individual highlights of Esther Sopoaga's (12VE) Best Performance of a Student Composition and William Berry's (11RI) Best Performance by a Student Accompanist. On the same night, Year 11 Drama curriculum productions were happening back here at school. Their production had come about after they had seen the touring Year 13 show "Two Nights" and wanted to develop a production based about the issue of consent and keeping themselves and their friends safe, and is very much within the broader framework of telling hopeful and important stories and is a lovely example of student-led initiatives. More Year 11 curriculum drama continues in the next two weeks. Drama and music were not alone, however, and our dancers were also in action this week. On Wednesday 24 dancers performed in front of 700 people at the TSB Arena as part of the Wellington Sportsperon of the Year Awards, doing two routines and relishing the chance to deliver on a big occasion.

Then there is also, tonight, the regional finals of Rockquest, where six of the twelve finalists are groups from Hutt Valley High School. We have some incredible musicians in the school at present and we wish them well for this key event in their year. The Smokefreerockquest Finals are at Sacred Heart College: \$10 student and \$19 adult entry; and a 7pm start.

All of this activity is incredibly powerful as part of students' educational pathways. That fact is illustrated in the latest PISA in Focus report, live on the

PTO

[OECD website](#). It will not surprise most people that the report found that 15 year old students who are physically active, engage in social activities outside of school and help out in their household have high collaboration skills. The study highlighted New Zealand, Australia, Japan, Korea, Singapore and the USA as countries with the highest relative performance in collaborative problem solving on average. Students from these places are among the world's best in working together with others. Our students continue to show across the wide range of activities they enjoy that this is a live process here at the school. Thank you to the staff and community volunteers whose generosity of time, spirit and energy make all of this possible. It's a huge, complex, busy and wonderfully uplifting thing and it simply could not occur without people willing to give of themselves to help our students explore what they are capable of.

Ross Sinclair
Principal

Looking Ahead

June

- 22 Rockquest Regional Finals
- 22 **Japanese Schools Trivia Quiz**
- 23 Chamber Music Centrals
- 25-29 **Year 11 Production**
- 25-29 Year 13 PE Camps
- 27 **St Marks Lunchtime Concert**
- 27 CSW Junior Badminton Champs
- 28 **Year 13 Chemistry Trip**
- 28 Year 10 English Language Trip
- 29 **House Kahoot Competition**
- 29 Japanese Regional Speech Competition
- 30 **French Trip Departs**

July

- 2-6 Year 11 Production
- 4 **CSW Open Badminton Champs**

Big Sing Results

The Big Sing choirs were awarded the following on Monday night:

Boys in Treble won Adjudicators choir for their performance in Category 1 with Talia Maia Ita Nei

HVHS Class won a Category 3 Certificate for excellent performance of a Popular Work with Bridge Over Troubled Water

HVHS Class won best performance of a Student Composition with Esther Sopoaga's E ai ta Ihoa

William Berry won best performance by a Student Accompanist with Bridge Over Troubled Water

Watch the performances on YouTube:

HVHS Class

Locus Iste <https://youtu.be/UGU1lIKeSiY>

Bridge Over Troubled Water <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CYDqa7EKFcI>

E ai ta Ihoa (Evening Performance) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uau1dRKLgVs>

Boys in Treble

Sing Your Way Home <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XhEJ6kW2NOU>

Talia Maia Ita Nei https://www.youtube.com/edit?o=U&video_id=EOJhiVUMpKY

I want you back <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=78GDof4sXxE>

I want you back (Evening Performance for those who want a smile) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dUWZkoEnSiE>

Whanganui High School Sports Exchange 19 June - Results

	WHS	HVHS
A1 Netball	49	24
A2 Netball	29	28
Boys Basketball	63	81
Girls Basketball	48	79
1st XV Rugby	31	24
1st XI Boys Hockey	4	0
Girls Hockey	2	2
1st XI Girls Football	0	1
1st XI Boys Football	4	5
Girls Badminton	1	7
Boys Badminton	1	8

Overall Results
HVHS - 6 Wins
WHS - 4 Wins
1 - Draw

Congratulations to:

★ Congratulations to **Jackson Gray 10ZIFY** who has been selected to represent New Zealand and compete in the World Championships of Performing Arts in Long Beach, California, USA in July 2018.