



NUA NEWS

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Brenda Burns

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Greg Cvitanovic Ext 722

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Tēnā koutou e ngā Mātua me ngā Whaea

Nov/Dec 2013

Dear Parents and Caregivers

It is hard to believe that the year is at an end and that we are already preparing next year's timetable and the planning is well under way.

When you look at the world we live in today and the global problems we face, it is clear that there has never been a greater need for a more educated society. The speed with which the business environment changes in this second millennium demands that today's students must be capable of working in tomorrow's society and that will demand higher education standards and advanced problem solving capability. Many of the students at our senior prizegiving will not only take part, but will be leaders in, all parts of the New Zealand economy and will drive the future success of New Zealand.

A recent article I read asks the question, Is education today ready for tomorrow?

Traditional learning is what we have always known, it is what we have always done and it was never seriously challenged until technology came along and flipped the classroom, for better or for worse, on its head.

Knowledge and information can now be obtained at the click of a button and can shape our ability to learn and grow; it's effective, social, interactive, accessible anywhere, anytime and can be used individually or in groups. Technology is improving the way we learn. In 2013 we can't imagine a learning environment without it.

Our college, like many across the country, believes that BYOD, which stands for Bring Your Own Device, is the way of the future. Hence, in 2014 all Year 9's are expected to bring an electronic device to college. Of course we will cater for those who are not able to do so but having one of your own, that you know well, is obviously the best option.



A Word From Our Principal

We want our students to be ready, confident and up to date with electronic technology. Although implementation of BYOD won't be without teething problems and will undoubtedly be resisted by some, we must educate students, whanau and ourselves in its use. Students, who are digital natives, will probably find it easy, but it may be challenging for many of us who are novices in comparison.

Another change that has been signalled for some time is Vocational Pathways which is part of a bigger initiative called Youth Guarantee. This is about changing the approach to teaching and learning. It is designed to give wider options that will keep students engaged in education for longer and thereby ensure that the work force of the future has the skills it needs for the work that will be required of them.

As the Prime Minister said: "High quality education is vitally important, so young people can make the most of their lives, irrelevant of their background, and so we can raise living standards for future generations. It is an essential requirement for a skilled and creative workforce, which is in turn essential for creating a more productive and competitive economy," and we in Horowhenua are on to it!

Change in education has become the norm and in the Horowhenua we are developing a vast partnership between schools, tertiary providers, local employers, the Council and new businesses in the community. It is essential we work closely together to forge the strongest network and build collaboration to ensure that the students of the Horowhenua have an education and pathway to employment that is second to none. We have begun the journey and are developing programmes in collaboration with Manawatu and Waiopahu Colleges, working with the Construction and Health sectors. The Horowhenua District Council and Ministry of Education are working with us to ensure that our students have the best of experiences for the most ambitious futures.

In order to ensure that students have every possible opportunity we extended our "stay on at the end of the year" plan to include Y12 and 13 as well as Year 11. We granted study leave to students who had a large number of external examinations, whilst those who had more internals stayed to complete unfinished work and the related assessments. Study leave is a privilege and not a right and it must be earned. Once students have achieved the qualification they are aiming for, or have achieved all the credits available to them, then they have earned it. Our seniors who needed support to complete standards or do extra studies to enable easier progression to 2014 courses have been attending classes on a regular basis until 29 November. There have been some enormous gains for these students who have enjoyed the more individual tuition of the smaller classes of motivated students. 24 students who were close to achieving Level 2 were mentored by staff members in Term 4 and they are being successful with 18 out of the 24 successfully completing their qualification. We know from the statistics of previous years that approximately 93% of the students who stay on at college beyond 16 years of age achieve Level 2 and 97% will have at least Level 1. So we can almost guarantee that those leaving after Year 13 will have Level 1 and almost certainly Level 2. We are working hard with all students to ensure they achieve the qualifications and skills they need for the world ahead of them and their future employment.

I take this opportunity to congratulate the staff who, for the most part, have embraced the changes and I thank them for their acceptance of the never ending new initiatives that have come our way.



Senior Prizegiving

It has been an interesting and varied year and a successful one with a second place in Stage Challenge; a win at the Shakespeare Festival; sports successes with high achieving individuals Brydie Hodge – golf champ and Morgan Searle – gold medallist at the Taekwon Do World Championships, Jotham Harris 3rd in NZ for the spelling bee; and netball and soccer wins over Waiopahu to mention but a few. The students are outstanding and Never Under Achieving at NUA is as strong as ever.



Pictured: Jotham Harris

It is important to remember that for every student who receives awards there are years of work that produce these excellent young ambassadors of Horowhenua. We must acknowledge the hard work, support, love and commitment shown by parents, whanau and community who have all contributed to their success. Thank you for all you have done.

As always at the end of the year there are farewells and this year we farewell Staff Tews; his directorship of the Services Academy for the past three years has taken it to new heights. We thank him for his work at the college and wish him well in his new position at the Military School in Palmerston North.

Mrs Staniford who joined our Senior Leadership Team this year is also leaving us to join Opihi College in Temuka as Deputy Principal. We thank her for her dedication to her students, her expertise with NZQA, timetabling, HOF of Mathematics and the many other contributions she has made in her three years at NUA.

The 2013 Prefects are also leaving us and Head Girl Kate and Head Boy Max, assisted by Gemma and Lawrence the deputies, have led the prefect team who have been an exceptional group of Young Leaders. Well done and thank you all for the contribution you have made.

Our Prefects for 2014 are: Back Row: Robert Galea, Patrick Berry, Finn Madison, Alex Whiley (Head Boy), Roha taiapa, Sam Larmer (Deputy Head Boy). Front Row: Tyla Porteous, Gretta Hansen, Renee Bacon, Laura O'Sullivan (Deputy Head Girl), Lisa Williams, Nicole Young, Luana Moala, Hannah McMillan, Samarah Harris, Chanelle Hill (Head Girl). Mr Tong Year Level Dean.





A Word From the Principal

To those who leave us at the end of the year and head off on the journey called “the rest of your life” Norman Vincent Peale, the author of the Power of Positive Thinking offers this advice: “Believe in yourself! Have faith in your abilities! Without a humble but reasonable confidence in your own powers, you cannot be successful or happy”. Self-confidence is one of the most attractive quality’s a person can have. How can anyone else see how awesome you are if you cannot see it yourself. And for those who are hesitant about their future he said: “If you put off everything until you are sure of it you will never get anything done.” Always remember, Life is short, live it. Love is rare, grab it. Anger is destructive, dump it. Fear is awful, face it. And finally, memories are sweet, cherish them.

We at the college have enjoyed our year. Well done NUA – another successful year of student participation and success. Our Motto Essayez and Never Under Achieve at NUA serve to describe us well.

And finally on a more personal note. This will be my last year at Horowhenua College. I have decided that after a career of more than 45 years in the teaching profession it is now time to seek new challenges and pursue some of my other interests. I will therefore be retiring at the end of term 1 next year.

I am confident that the changes I have made over my 12 years as Principal of Horowhenua College have positioned the College to provide the range of quality education that will see Horowhenua students succeed in whatever their chosen careers may be. In addition, the management and staff now have the skills, capabilities and flexibility to meet any of the new challenges that the college is bound to be faced with over the next decade. I thank each and everyone who has been part of my journey through my career.

It just remains for me to wish you a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy holiday .

Brenda Burns





Senior Prize Giving



Our Senior Prizegiving was held last week and it was wonderful celebration of the academic achievements of our Year 11, 12 and 13 students. 142 students were presented with certificates and/or prizes and 90 Year 13 students received graduation certificates. Over \$40,000 dollars worth of scholarships were awarded to Y13 students who are heading off to tertiary studies next year. Many of these scholarships are sponsored by local businesses and organisations and we are very grateful to them for continuing to support our students in this way.

We congratulate all prizewinners and in particular those who were top of their year level. Laura Wedlock was the winner of the Past Pupils Association Prize for top student in Year 11. She was 2nd equal in Art and Mathematics, and 1st in English, Fabric Technology and Science.

The top students in Year 12 were Jessica Freire and Audrey Livirya. Jessica was 2nd in Design and 1st in Digital Technology, Graphics and History. She won the Thomas Memorial Prize for 2nd place overall in Year 12. Audrey was 1st in Accounting, Chemistry, English, Mathematics, Physics and Biology. She is an outstanding student who thoroughly deserved to win the Thomas Memorial Prize and the Adult Students Cup as top student in Year 12.

A number of Year 13 students received scholarships, most notably Kirsty Robinson who was awarded the Massey University Vice Chancellor's High Achievers Scholarship worth \$5000 and Kate Forward who won the University of Canterbury Emerging Leaders' Scholarship also worth \$5000.

Our Proxime Accessit for this year is Stasys Kulvis. Stasys was 2nd in Physics and Chemistry and 1st in Biology, Calculus and Graphics. Stasys also shared the Fluker Denton Ltd Prize for Excellence in Mathematics with Shem Harris. As Proxime Accessit he won the Batten Cup, the Thomas Memorial Prize, the Board of Trustees Prize and the Cullinane Steele Prize.

Our Dux for 2013 is Shem Harris. The list of Shem's awards and achievements for this year is impressive:

1st Chemistry, English, Geography, Physics, Statistics

Aroha Sciascia Memorial Trophy for the Best Academic Achievement from a Maori Student

Fluker Denton Ltd Prize for Excellence in Mathematics

Horowhenua Scholarship for Academic Excellence worth \$750 per year for 3 years

Victoria University Vice Chancellor's Excellence Scholarship (awarded to the 20 highest achieving applicants) worth \$20,000 over 3 years

As Dux he won the Jansen Cup, the Ward Cup, the Thomas Memorial Prize, the Board of Trustees Prize and the Cullinane Steele Prize. It was fabulous to see Shem, who is of Ngapuhi descent, being acknowledged for his achievements with an inspiring haka from the senior students.



Junior Prize Giving

At 11am on the final school day of the year, our Year 9 and Year 10 students gathered in the hall to be part of the process of drinking from the chalice of opportunity. We had already issued just over 200 *Graduation with Distinction* certificates at a practice assembly earlier in the morning, and this represented the highest ever success rate in our graduation programme since the system was started several years ago.

With all this in mind a team of organisers under the aegis of Mr Smith produced and presented 5 categories of prizes: Core Class Awards, Subject Awards, Essayez Awards (for effort and determination), Graduation Awards and the Supreme Awards for Academic Achievement.

The 90 minute ceremony was presented by Mr Smith and his team of Year 10 representatives; Megan McKenzie, Sia Muliaga, Jordan Sue and Maia Kiriona. Guests on stage included Mr Ian McKenzie (Board deputy Chairman), Pirihiira Tukapua (Horowhenua District Council) and the 2013 head students, Kate Forward and Max Mason. Mr McKenzie reported on Board initiatives during the year and Mrs Burns gave her final Principal's speech in which she illuminated some of the initiatives that she had introduced to the college since her arrival in 2002.

The high point of the ceremony was the presentation of the Supreme Awards, accompanied by one of the most vigorous haka seen in the hall for quite some time. The awards for Service to the School were gained by Sia Muliaga and Joshua Anderson. The two top graduates were Marianne Hyslop in Year 9 and Aimee Dustin in Year 10. The mystery prize from the morning's Gold Slip Draw – an I-pad – was won by Ruth Siania, to great surprise and joy.

The top students for 2013 were, for Year 9, Alexa Bryant (with Jotham Harris and Poppy Bussell as equal runners-up); and for Year 10, Monique Lang, pictured below, (with Anna Newman as runner-up). With that, the students (now, of course, elevated into Year 10 and 11) dispersed until Wednesday February 5, with the cheers still ringing in their ears.

Simon Smith





Congratulations

Morgan Searle

Morgan won gold at the International Taekwon Do World Championships in Spain and now holds the 2013 Junior Female Power Breaking title. This was one of the biggest Championships with over 1000 competitors from 116 countries. She was the only one out of 72 female competitors in both the senior and junior divisions to successfully complete a 3 board side kick break. Well done Morgan.



Brydie Hodge

Congratulations to Brydie who has had a great year. A few of her sporting achievements include:

- Manawatu Secondary Schools Golf Code Winner
- Manawatu Wanganui Eagles Golfer of the Year
- Levin Senior Women's Club Champion
- Manawatu Wanganui Senior Women's rep team - captain and number one.

Well done Brydie.



Service Academy March Out



On Tuesday 10th December the Services Academy had their March Out. It is a pleasure to see the pride with which these students perform their drills and display their skills.

The students ran through a series of exercises, marching, Taiaha and fitness which delighted the parents and whanau who had assembled to congratulate them on their successful year.



We were joined by Staff Tews as our special guest as he has now taken up his new position at the Military Academy in Palmerston North.

A big thank you to Staff Tews and Staff Hohopa who have worked with these students and encouraged them to be the best they can by. They are now an awesome team of upstanding young people many of whom look forward to a career in the New Zealand Armed Services.





Year 10 Spanish Trip



On 6 November the Year 10 Spanish class and I, assisted by Señora Peters, went to Wellington for the day.

In the morning we visited the Embassy of Chile where Mr Sebastian Molina Medina, the Deputy Chief of Mission, received us. He spoke to the students about NZ's many links with Chile and what there is to see there as a holiday destination.

Following the embassy visit, we had lunch in a food court that included a Mexican food shop which several students opted for.



In the afternoon, we went up the Cable Car to Victoria University and visited their Language Learning Centre. The enthusiastic staff welcomed us, talked to us about the great value of studying other languages, and let the students do some fun learning activities in their IT lab.

It was a very worthwhile day for showing the students some of the opportunities that exist if you learn Spanish and the students were all excellent ambassadors for the college.

Señora Jones



Senior Drama Wrap Up



What a year!

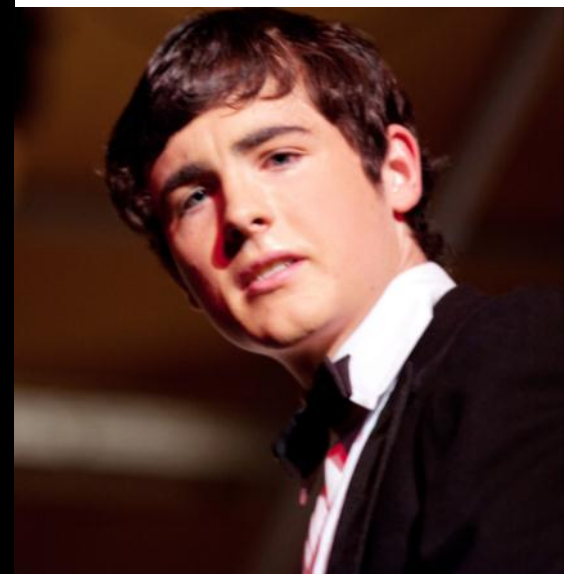
Congratulations to Roha, Hannah, Finn and Gretta for making the prefect team and best wishes for 2014! As I keep telling the juniors, Drama teaches both leadership and teamwork.

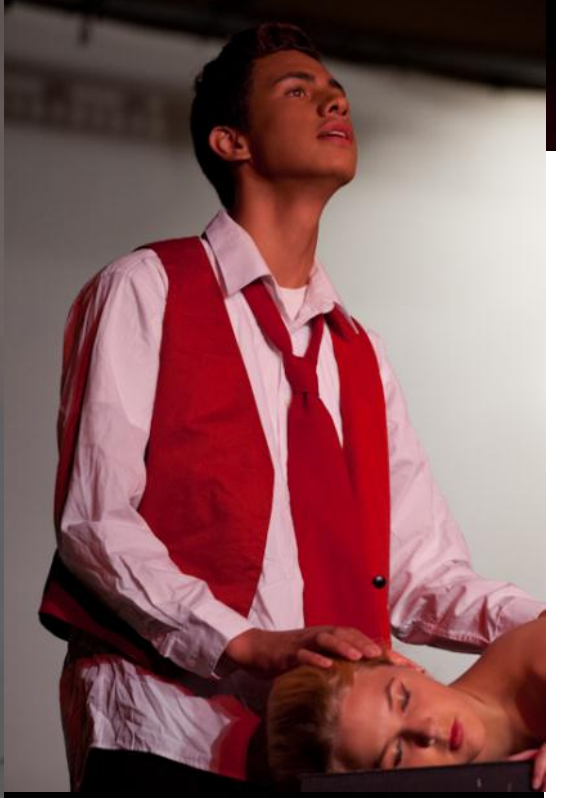
Thanks to Finn for his contribution to the Shakespeare Festival and to all my senior drama students for their creativity, commitment and service to the school. Whether it be Stage Challenge, Shakespeare Festival, Roadshow, Pasifika Fusion, Rockquest, Cultural Awards or the many other activities you support, this year you have given your all to performing arts.



Congrats also to Vikatolia Finau for being the first Year 11 student to win a cup for Best Dramatic Performance. Finally, a special thanks to Ryan Dustin for his awesome contribution to performing arts at the college. Well done team! Let's take a look back at some of our best moments...

Miss Perry







Junior Drama

Drama students like to dress up for every possible occasion. Here we have the Year 10s giving their old uniform a makeover before moving into the senior school. Farewell junior blues! Year 10s, you have been awesome and Year 9s you are amazing and talented and heaps of fun. Thanks for a great year!





Year 13 Theme Day



As always the Years 13's for 2013 were incredibly enthusiastic about Theme Days!





A Letter from Harriet

Harriet Boyle was our Head Girl for 2012. She has spent the last year in Scotland having a gap year. Here are her thoughts on her visit to Auschwitz to her Level 3 English teacher, Mrs Northern.

Hi Mrs Northern

I'm in Poland at the moment and have spent the day at Auschwitz concentration camp and the whole time I kept thinking about studying 'Night' by Eli Weisel in Year 11 so I thought I would send you an email about my impression of actually being in the place we studied.

Auschwitz is made up of three camps. I went to Auschwitz 1 and Auschwitz-Birkenau. These camps were places of unbelievable cruelty and horror and it seemed completely out of place seeing it in the beautiful autumn colours and sunshine.

We had a video in the van playing on the way there which showed the perspective of one of the photographers who filmed the liberation and all their findings, which was a very emotional but good lead up to actually seeing the camps. I think one of the most emotional parts for me was hearing about a girl who was just a bit younger than me who in the 'selection' was put on the right hand side while the rest of her family (mother and two younger brothers) were put on the left hand side to go to the crematorium. Just thinking about being separated from anyone in my family and to go through such a horrible situation alone was enough to get the tears flowing.

We walked through some of the barracks where the prisoners would have lived which had displays set up of all the possessions of the prisoners which had been sorted and grouped together. Mum and I couldn't believe the absolute mountains of shoes that had been taken off people and one of the most emotional parts was seeing all of the suitcases which had peoples names written on them. It just made it so personal.

Another of the barracks had photos which had been taken of each prisoner when they first arrived so that the SS could keep a record of them. The walls were covered, but that was still just a small portion of the 1 million 3 hundred thousand people who were murdered (90% were Jewish).

Even though I have studied the holocaust and I knew that Night was a first hand account from one of the prisoners experiences, actually standing in the gas chambers was a whole other level of emotion and seeing the railway line where the people travelled by cattle cars and their living conditions was so sobering and there are just no words to describe it really. The cruelty of it all is what makes it unbelievable.

It is definitely a place where people should visit or any of the other concentration camps because we cannot forget that this happened.

It seems so crazy to think that I was making a static image about this just a few years ago, when I was making it, it felt like just a story, but today was so real and personal.

Harriet :)





School Information

Dates For Your Calendar

Term 1 2013

January

Friday 31 Prefect Leadership Training Day

February

Monday 3 Senior Peer Support Training 8.40am-3pm

Tuesday 4 Year 9 Students Induction Day with Senior Peer Support buddies
8.40am Year 9 Powhiri

Wednesday 5 8.40am - 3.05pm All students in.

Thursday 6 Waitangi Day - School closed.

Friday 7 8.40am All students in.

Tabloid Sports for Year 9 & 13 Period 5.

Wednesday 12 Year 9 students and parents sausage sizzle 5.30pm at the college

Tuesday 18 Heats for Swimming Sports

Thursday 20 Year 9 Welcome Dance

Friday 21 Swimming Sports Finals Day

March

Thursday 6 Athletics Sports Day

April

Wed - Thur 2&3 Parent Conferences

Tue-Thur 15-17 Year 13 Camp

Thursday 17 End of Term 1

Friday 18 Good Friday

Term 2

May

Monday 5 First day of term 2

School Contact Information

Telephone: 06 3686159 or 0800 467694
Dial 1 to report a student absence
Dial 2 for the Executive Officer
Dial 3 for the Principals Secretary
Dial 4 for Property Matters
Dial 5 for Reception

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