



# Upper Hutt College

August 2011

Kia ora tatou

The recent polar blast provided an interesting respite from the usual day-to-day routine. The school itself looked amazing with its blanket of snow, and it was lovely to see the students' reactions of delight and playfulness to the snow. Closing the school for the two days was not an easy decision, but the health and safety of students, the weather, road and travelling conditions and the availability of teachers were prime considerations. I've included some photos of the school over the three 'snow days'. (see back page)

With that time off though, comes a little more pressure on teachers and senior students to make the most of the available time before school exams and external exams at the end of the year. For seniors, by the time this newsletter is published, there will be fewer than 40 school days until their study leave for NCEA exams begins. It is really important that these students are getting themselves organised, are working on a revision schedule and making the most of the study and tutorials that will be on offer in the coming weeks.

These online sites are very useful for students:

- [www.studyit.org.nz](http://www.studyit.org.nz) for NCEA mathematics, science and English
- [www.nzqa.govt.nz](http://www.nzqa.govt.nz) for past external papers and assessment schedules
- [www.tki.org.nz/e/community/ncea](http://www.tki.org.nz/e/community/ncea) for information on a range of resources for NCEA

We are starting to get students passing NCEA Level 1 now as their credits accumulate – congratulations to those students. Many others with a good number of credits from internal assessments are in an excellent position to achieve NCEA Level 1 before reaching the external examinations. Many students will also be focussing on their goals of achieving subject endorsements and solid preparation for the externals is needed.

The building work around the school has been making great progress. The Main Gym was demolished in the holidays and this has made quite a difference visually to the school by opening up a very large space. The concrete framework of the new administration and classroom block is slowly taking shape and it's exciting to see our new teaching and learning areas appearing.

Even as this is being built, we are discussing the fine details of the next stage in the project – the Creative Arts Centre that will house the Art, Drama, Dance, Music and Media Studies rooms in what is presently the Administration Block.

Students continue to be busy in a number of activities outside of the classroom. Winter sports have almost finished and students in Badminton, Basketball, Football, Netball and Rugby have had mixed blessings with results and weather. Several teams are competing during Winter Tournament week – Boys and Girls Football, Boys and Girls Hockey and Senior Netball – and we wish them a successful and enjoyable week.

At the end of last term the Kapa Haka group performed at the Hutt Valley- Wairarapa Regional competition and finished a very creditable and close 4th. We also hosted a visiting rugby team from Stansbridge Earls School in England, who played our 1st and 2nd XV teams.

Finally, we welcome new staff to the school – Willemyn Hoeck and Cameron Smith into the PE Department, replacing Alex Alesbrook and Nathan Wooding. We also welcome 22 International students, most of whom are from Japan and who are here for a few weeks on a short term visit.

Kind regards

Judith Taylor  
Principal



*Upper Hutt College is a community, passionate about learning  
that encourages pride, participation and excellence.*

# Congratulations

## Certificate of Achievement

As with every other year, the Year 10 students are currently working towards gaining their Certificate of Achievement. This is a recognition of the work ethic and study skills that they display as part of their normal learning programme throughout the year. All students must gain a minimum of 600 credits in order to gain entry into a full Year 11 course in 2012, and 800 credits to receive the Certificate of Achievement. In addition to this, the students who gain between 1100 and 1199 Credits will receive an endorsement of Merit on their Certificate of Achievement, and those who gain 1200 or more credits will gain an endorsement of Excellence on their Certificate of Achievement.

I am pleased to acknowledge the following students who are, as at the end of Term 2, tracking towards an Excellence endorsement of their Certificate of Achievement:

- Mekhala Anjaria (B-CL)
- Anthony Godfrey (J-RB)
- Marcus Griffin (J-RB)
- Riaan Labuschagne (B-CL)
- Ryan Malin-Curry (T-TA)
- Campbell May (J-JO)
- Connor McLeod (H-MC)
- Jeli Mendoza (H-MC)
- Luana Steere (J-PS)

## Environmental Forum

A number of Year 12 students recently represented Upper Hutt College at an Environmental Forum at HVHS. Upper Hutt College was well represented by the awesome Tasha Taylor, Leigh Bathgate, Michael Badart, Alex Papp, Stephen Stern, Manuela Miville-Fogliani and myself, Alex Stopforth. The forum covered various environmental issues such as climate change, environmental politics and environmental leadership. We all left inspired and heartened by like-minded people. We were impressed by the passionate perseverance of protesters and pioneers that we learnt about. A great day was had by all of us involved.

## Parent Meeting

Parents and caregivers are warmly invited to attend the Upper Hutt College Maori Students and Parents meeting. This will be held in the Marae, on Tuesday 23 August starting at 6pm.

## Dates to Remember

26 Aug	VUW & Massey Open Day
29-30 Aug	Yr 12 Drama Production
1 Sept	Yr 10 Market Day
6 Sept	Auckland University Liaison 1.30 - 2.15pm
9 - 14 Sept	Senior Exams
23 Sept	Australian Rugby Tour
23 Sept	Massey University Liaison 1.30
7 Oct	Term 3 Ends

# Sports

## Hockey Representatives

Congratulations to the following students who have qualified for representative teams in hockey; Sam Robbins(U18 girls), Nicolette de Haan(U15B), Etienne de Haan(U18B), and Michael Ackroyd(U18B).

## Junior Netball Tournament

The 9A and 10A college netball teams are competing this week in the annual college sport tournament for top junior teams.

## Sports Photo Day

This will take place on Wednesday 31 August. Order envelopes will soon be available via your form teacher.

## Basketball Regionals

The Senior A girls team recently competed in this tournament at Te Raupahara Arena in Porirua during the last school holidays. This was a big learning curve (we did not win a game) for the girls as this is the first time we have entered a team into this event which features the top premier school teams from around the region. Hats off to the girls for competing hard! "What doesn't kill you makes you stronger"!

## Table Tennis

With the 4 new tables the college has purchased this year there has been regular table tennis at lunchtime in the River Gym. We have sent a small number of students to the recent individual and team championships at the Empire stadium in Petone.

## Winter Tournament Week

The following teams will soon be competing at these events;  
Football Boys-Ashburton  
Football Girls-Wanganui  
Hockey Boys-New Plymouth  
Netball Premier 1-Wellington  
Good luck and preparation to all!

Badminton Racquets, all students who borrowed a racquet for use in this year's badminton competition are reminded that these are now due in to Mr. Marshall. ASAP please!

## Cricket Pre-season

This programme will begin soon at the Indoor centre at TMP. Further information to follow. The new college cricket training nets will be in place for the start of term 4

## Volleyball Winter Training

This season is around the corner and this has been taking place every Monday night from 7-9pm. All welcome. No charge.

## Summer Sport Teams

Term 1 summer sport will soon be rolling over into term 4. In most cases teams and league tables will simply continue although there is limited senior sport in term 4. Your fee for term 1 covers term 4 as well. Listen for more information in the daily notices.

## Senior Music Trip to New Zealand School of Music.

On the last day of Term Two, some of our senior music students made their way into Wellington City to spend the day at The New Zealand School of Music.

Their day began with a tour of the Classical Campus at Victoria University where they were shown around the lecture theatres, practice facilities, recording booths and performance venue that students at the campus use. They then sat in on a lecture by NZ's own world famous composer John Psathas, (whose music they have studied in their own music classes at Upper Hutt and who composed, among other things, the music for the opening and closing of the 2004 Athens Olympic Games). Finally they got to watch a piano concerto given by world renowned Polish pianist and Doctor of Music, Anna Kijanowska. And that was just the morning session!!

After a brief walk across to the Massey campus, they met up with the Head of the Jazz department, Nick Tipping where he answered questions about the courses available at Massey. Some of the students were able to meet and talk with the instrument teachers to get the scoop on what to expect when they come to university and then they watched a performance workshop given by the Massey students. After that they were free to go and enjoy their holidays!

What an awesome way to finish up for the term! Those students that attended had a really great day and learnt a lot about where they could go with music and what other opportunities for study are out there for them after they leave school.

Thanks to Jill Owen and those students who came along!

By Mike Jensen



## Enrolments 2012

We are pleased to advise that we have been able offer places to all out of zone enrolments received before August 8th. We welcome further enrolments, but advise that applications from out of zone will go on a wait list until September 8 when we will see whether a ballot is required for those applications from out of zone. Students in zone have admission as of right.

## Olympics of the Mind 2011

This annual house competition has started with 40 teams aiming for the top position. The first day of competition was enjoyed by all, especially since the hall was warm and dry with the snow falling outside.

At the time of writing Jackson Seniors - Shaun, Vinura and Cameron - and Te Kanawa Juniors - Marshall, Ryan and Holly - are in first spot, but with two days of competition, left watch this space!



## 50th Jubilee

Costs have been finalised for the 50th Jubilee activities (Easter 2012). A registration form is now attached to the college website and may be downloaded, completed and posted in. Look on the 50th Jubilee Page for details.



## Senior Exams September 10-14

Students studying subjects in years 11, 12 and 13 have an assessment week coming up from Friday September 10 to Wednesday 14 September inclusive. Over these 4 days, many subjects are running practice exams in preparation for NCEA externals. Some others may be running internal assessments and some practical subjects will offer times for students to come and work on projects. Other subjects will have no assessments over this period. Senior timetabled classes do not run over this period.

Senior students will be issued with the programme of assessments in week 5 and we will have the programme up on the web site under CURRICULUM so that caregivers can check! These are important assessment opportunities which can significantly affect a student's success towards NCEA.

Juniors continue classes as usual while senior classes resume on Thursday 15th. Junior students can look forward to exams in week three of Term Four.

## ATTENDANCE

A reminder to parents and caregivers that attendance at classes is vital if students are to be successful at college. There is a clearly established connection between attendance and achievement. We are conscious of a small number of students who miss classes with no valid reason and who are falling behind with their learning.

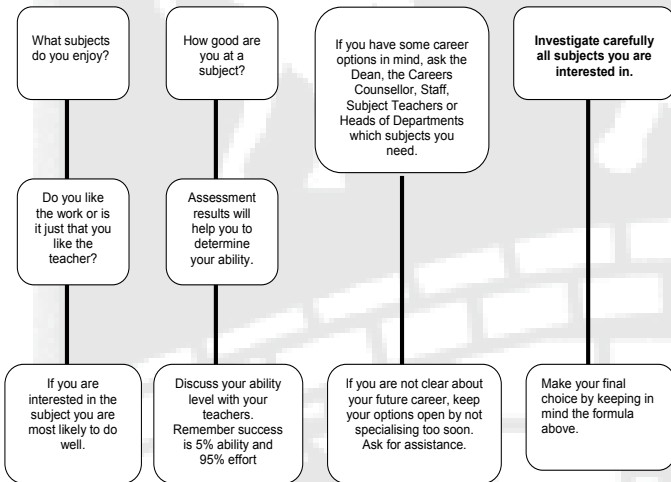
We appreciate advice in advance when students are sick or have other valid reasons for absence; otherwise we text messages home when students are away at particular check-points in the day. If you need to update your contact phone number or have other attendance concerns, please ring the college and ask for the attendance officer, Liz Hume.

## Senior Course Selection 2012

All Year 10-12 students have been given information to assist with selecting their courses of study for 2012. (Year 9 information will be provided at a later date). It is very important that they take the time to think ahead and begin to plan their future pathways. All students should also read the introduction pages of the Course Selection Handbook so they are aware of the qualifications and structure of the curriculum in 2012. Caregivers can download the course selection booklet from our website, off the Curriculum Page.

The diagram below will help students with the decisions they need to make with subject choices:

**INTEREST + ABILITY + OCCUPATION = SUBJECT CHOICE**



**Reminder: your choices are your future. Keep in mind the formula at the top of the diagram:**

**INTEREST + ABILITY + OCCUPATION = SUBJECT CHOICE**  
Do not take a subject just because your friends are taking it – or because you like the teacher!

## Upper Hutt Kapa Haka Group at the Hutt Valley- Wairarapa Regionals



## August snowfall at the front of the college. (photos by Karen Huaki-Feaver)

