

Hauraki Plains College

Community Newsletter



Community Newsletter

Many thanks to Mr O'Neill's Media Studies class who contributed to articles for this newsletter, giving an insight into school life post lockdown.

Upgrade to the Mangatarata Block

A project to upgrade the Mangatarata Block is underway following the announcement late last year that HPC was to receive \$400,000 from the School Investment Package. The capital injection is a one-off grant intended to bring forward discretionary projects that enhance facilities for current students.

With the green light from the Ministry for the Mangatarata Block project, Business Manager Scott Russell is now working on the project design which will involve a heating and lighting upgrade for the entire block plus a significant redesign of the current Food and Fabrics area.

The intention is to provide a collaborative working space to give students experience in working and learning in the Services Industries sector. The Services sector covers a wide range of employment and pathway opportunities including hospitality, the beauty industry, events management, retail employment, and outdoor recreation. The new facility will enable HPC to offer a range of courses such as hairdressing, beauty therapy, laundry and café work, early childhood, elderly care and retail - all areas reflecting New Zealand's job market.

The Mangatarata Block, commonly known as 'A Block', was first built in 1966 as part of the development of facilities as Ngatea District High School was transformed to Hauraki Plains College. When the Mangatarata (Primary) School closed in 1994, remaining Board funds were given to the college to add a Learning Support room to A Block and so the block was renamed. This began the tradition of naming all blocks after a local area.

It is expected that work will be underway on the Mangatarata Block upgrade before the end of this year.

Whats On:

Thursday 30 July
Blood Drive - College Hall

Thursday 6 August
Junior Reports issued

Tuesday 11 August
Co-Curricular Photos

Thursday 13 August
Te Kuiti Exchange (home)

Friday 14 August
Careers Expo

Thursday 20 August
Mufti Day
Whānau Hui 6-7pm College Hall

Wednesday 26 August
Mahurangi Exchange (away)

**More
Than
A School**



Hauraki Plains College



Board of Trustees Update

During the lockdown period, we all found ourselves at home more than we have ever been since our pre-school life. Hence we were witness to all the activities that make a household work and the practical skills needed to keep things running smoothly. It makes you realise when it comes down to it these life skills are important for us all to know. Away from home we all need a way and means to provide for ourselves and if University is not your calling then you can look to honing business based skills needed in the building, construction, agricultural, technology, manufacturing, hospitality, homecare, wellbeing support, as well as the myriad of other 'hands on' careers pathways.

At Hauraki Plains College we try hard to accommodate those with a wish to head to University and those too that decide upon a Trade based career. We are well set up for diversifying how education is delivered and the job pathways and subjects offered. We are doing a review on what we have available and what could be introduced and strengthened on that involves a balance of academic and practical delivery of the curriculum.

Further to this, in the recent budget the Government announced a funding boost to support trade based training and we are looking at how we can tap in to that resource for our students.

We have about seventy businesses that work along side the college so the students have the opportunity to get practical hands on experience. The school really appreciate the support of these businesses and the time they take with our students.

We are always happy to listen to any ideas you may have so if you have any suggestions or you want to share with us please do so.

Andrew Gordon
(BOT Chair)



Principal's Comment

Above the Line / Below the Line

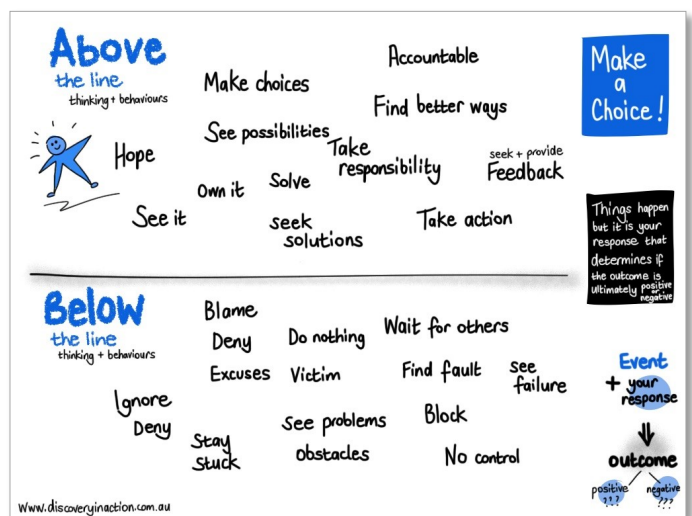
In Monday morning assemblies over this term, we are following the story of Javed Khan, a young British Pakistani growing up in the UK in the 1980s. Javed and his family live in Luton, England during the Margaret Thatcher era that is plagued by massive unemployment and rampant racism. Within this context, the film tackles the immigrant experience and the conflict of ideals between a traditional father and a young man who dreams of being a writer. How Javed maintains hope and keeps his dream alive, in spite of his circumstances is one of the key messages of his story.

Javed is an 'above the line' kind of person. The line represents the choices we make we circumstances, challenges, disappointments happen. Above the line lies owning our behaviour, taking responsibility, understanding accountability and seeing possibilities. Below the line you will find blame, denial and excuses. While we cannot control much of what life throws, we can control the response we make.

Understanding the concept of above the line and below the line is not just about doing the right thing and behaving well. Those choices have significant consequences for how our lives are shaped up.

Despite the economic uncertainty, the blatant racism and his father's opposition to his dream of becoming a writer, Javed maintains a sense of hope and is solution focused. He operates above the line and it makes all the difference.

Ngaire Harris
(Principal)



Showquest going Digital for 2020

By Briarna Dovell-Durrant

"From the top!" shouts student choreographer Sarah Broadbent. *Physical* by Dua Lipa starts pumping from the speakers as the dancers pose in their starting positions, ready to explode into dance for their new routine.

Showquest on Screen is an exciting new addition to the 2020 performing arts calendar. In previous years, Showquest was the number one competition for high school students wanting to develop their dance, drama and musical talents and perform to large public audiences. However, the impact of COVID-19 forced the competition's organisers to cancel the live performance aspect and rebrand it as a video competition.

New Zealand students can create a 7 minute video, utilising a unique story or a theme and combining dance, drama, music, wearable arts and special effects to engage the audience.



News of the new competition format came while the country was in Level 4 lockdown so the teachers in charge of Showquest, Mr Mapuhola and Miss Downing, hurriedly communicated with the student dance leaders over video calls to make new plans for the dances. Videos of dance routines were shared with all the dancers during lockdown so that they could practise over and over. The dancers quickly learned that they had to shorten all of their routines to fit within the seven minute time limit for the video.

Dance leaders, Monique Shirley, Alysha Read and Sam Whittington-Slater have choreographed routines which will demonstrate two different genres of dance: contemporary and hip-hop. They are confident of winning over the judges with their "high energy" performances.

A typical Showquest rehearsal in the Dance and Drama Lodge will see small groups of dance students, each trying to perfect their moves and having animated conversations about how to improve their performance. Since it is getting close to video recording the individual scenes, the performers are also getting ready with their costumes and communicating their vision with the other students in charge of camerawork and directing, such as Year 13 student Levi Dyer.

With the video submission deadline of 28 August fast approaching, all members of the production have been working even harder to ensure that they produce their best work. Once clearance has been obtained from the competition organisers, the final video submission will be shared with the local community via the HPC Facebook page.

Growing in Science



By Sophia McAuley

Are you a fan of science? Do you have green-fingers? Or do you just like eating the food that humans can grow? Mrs Clelland's Year 11 Science class is focussed on all of the above as they delve deep into Horticultural and Agricultural Sciences. "This is a way for them to still learn Science, but in a practical setting and more related to climate, soils, plants and growing them," Mrs Clelland explains.

Last year when Mrs Clelland's students were in Year 10, they planted kumara, rīwai (Maori potatoes) and kānga (corn) as they developed their understanding of crops.

This year they harvested them, receiving some great kumara, but not many potatoes which unfortunately, were all very small. However the corn crop was a great success with an abundance of white and red corn kernels. The kumara was used to create a delectable soup that was enjoyed by the young farmers, their friends and staff.

Mrs Amanda Sayer intends to use the corn to make flatbread and further utilising the kumara to make delicious salads with her Hospitality classes. Further collaboration between the Science and Hospitality departments could be developed in 2021 as students see the value in a Garden-to-Plate learning process.

Yōkoso Ni Nihongo kurabu

(Welcome to Japanese Club!)

"Japan is more than sushi and trains," says Mrs Kylie Pomana, the teacher in charge of Japanese Club. "It has a long history and many traditions that many people don't know about. I want students to learn the beauty of Japan; physically, culturally and in its people."

Mrs Pomana started Japanese Club at the beginning of 2019 as a 'Give It A Go' club, and soon discovered that everyone who attended really enjoyed it. Now 38 students attend Japanese Club each Thursday afternoon. Mrs Kylie Pomana also started Japanese Club to expose students to a different culture and area of knowledge that they wouldn't normally get a chance to learn about in their regular timetabled classes.



One of the club's members, Sophia McAuley, says that Japanese Club is very fun and exciting as she learns many new things each week. She added that her favourite activity was an artistic form of writing. "The first time I participated in the Japanese Club, we did some Japanese calligraphy which I found was so cool to do."

Sophia explained how she has learnt more about the Japanese language; how to speak it, and how to write it. "I've learnt how to greet people traditionally and politely. And I've learnt that learning a new language opens up great opportunities." Having a number of Japanese exchange students at HPC allows our students to practise their new language skills with native speakers on a daily basis.

For those students wanting to further extend their understanding of Japanese culture and language, Mrs Pomana is organising a trip to Japan in 2021. Members of the Japanese Club will visit Shigakukan High School in Nagoya where two of our current exchange students, Seiyō and Misaki, attend. Students will homestay with families and experience Japanese culture firsthand.

The next areas of focus for the club will be continuing to explore Japanese traditions, values, beliefs, and other ways of doing things in Japan.

Digital Technology



By Rhea Quilla

The Year 11 Digital Technology class is back on track. The class of 34 students, taught by Mr Matthew Duncum, had their progress interrupted during the lockdown period, but they have successfully regained momentum with their learning.

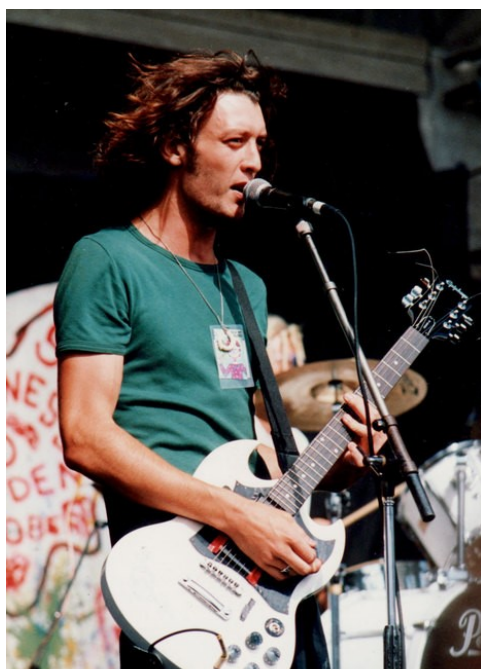
During the lockdown our school was able to loan almost 200 chromebooks to those of our students who did not have their own device. This allowed students to continue with their assignments, which mostly relied on web-based resources. But classes such as Digital Technology also require other software that cannot be installed on Chromebooks. Returning to school enabled the class to gain more experience in coding activities inside the Microsoft Windows environment.

One of the activities that Mr Duncum's class has been learning about is debugging. Debugging is the process of identifying and resolving errors within computers or software. Learning debugging allows an individual to fix and identify errors which are a common obstacle in the field of digital technology. By working together and asking for help, the class learns how to beat the bugs in software components to allow proper program operations. Collaboration with classmates is a key factor for success.

"Working together and getting each other's help if you can't understand a bit of code is encouraged. Maybe the person next to you might be able to help you find a way through a roadblock," says Mr Duncum.

Samara, one of Mr Duncum's coding students, finds debugging enjoyable and interesting. She is interested in coding and is aiming for an exciting career. "I like coding because it is so challenging and rewarding. I want to do that when I'm older so it's good for my career."

Songwriting



By Ruby Forsman

Ever heard of Silverchair? Beastie Boys? How about the Red Hot Chilli Peppers? Well, a teacher from Hauraki Plains College had the exhilarating experience of opening for them in front of thousands of screaming fans. Mr. Joshua Hetherington, a new English teacher at HPC was the lead singer and guitarist for 90s Kiwi band Thorazine Shuffle.

The band had a strong and loyal following amongst the indie rock community, and gradually developed a cult following on student radio. They produced a 4-track cassette called Stir in 1993, selling out of the first run of tapes within a month. Their reputation led to an epic run of shows during 1995 and led them to play at the Strawberry Fields Festival and complete another national tour with Supergroove on the Distortion Tour.

After further developing their profile throughout the rock music community, Thorazine Shuffle had the opportunity to open for a number of popular touring bands and appeared on stage at a few Big Day Out concerts.

So what was it like opening for the Red Hot Chilli Peppers? "It was lots of fun as you can imagine, it was pretty scary because it was such a big crowd," Mr Hetherington explains.

Mr. Hetherington has recently started a songwriting activity as part of the 'Step it Up' programme, so students can learn what it takes to write a great song with the help of an experienced songwriter. When asked why he chose to run this activity he says, "I

guess when I thought about it, it's an opportunity to share what I love about music and about songwriting with others."

A student from his songwriting class, Skye, thinks songwriting is a fun and creative process but can be difficult when finding the right tune for the lyrics isn't going to plan. "When you do find the right tune though, it feels like you have accomplished something amazing."

Kapa Haka

By Emma Thorburn

"Kaua mate wheke mate ururoa."
Don't die like an octopus, die like a shark.

Don't die like an octopus, which is easily captured and killed, die like a hammerhead, which thrashes and bites, even after it passes. This whakatauki is the foundation of our school's newest haka, Mate Ururoa.

After a short period of inactivity, Kapa Haka has returned to HPC with over 50 new students. It was dormant for a couple of years due to a lack of numbers and logistical issues that prevented full commitment from students. Matua Normie Anderson and Whaea Toni Brewer, with the support of other teachers such as Rachael Clelland, have revitalised Kapa Haka at the school. Over the year, Matua Normie and Whaea Toni plan to teach the students a variety of Waiata, such as Nga Iwi E, Waiata ā-ringā (action songs) and Haka including Mate Ururoa.

The group practises together for two hours a week with a mixture of traditional Māori song and dance. Tama (boys) are currently learning a sequence of moves with taiaha (sticks) and Kotiro (girls) are practising a similar routine with patu (clubs) and poi.

Kapa Haka has allowed students to connect with their culture through performance and meet people they would have never met otherwise. Year Ten student, Arnica Mahara-Nathan says that her "favourite part [of Kapa Haka] was learning lots of different actions, songs and meeting lots of new people."

Developing Maori leaders is vital to the ongoing success of Kapa Haka at HPC. Year 13 student Saffron Wickliffe has been a driving force this year during rehearsals; organising and motivating students to give their best effort. The number of junior students taking part in Kapa Haka has also been exciting to see; especially the potential for many of them to become future leaders.

We look forward to our school's Kapa Haka group taking their first steps into public performances. The first will be at our Whānau Hui on Thursday 20 August.

Whānau Hui

Thursday 20 August 6-7pm in the College Hall



Winter Sports

By Summer Warmington

Sport at Hauraki Plains College has finally started back after a sudden break due to the outbreak of COVID-19. Our students were frustrated with not being able to start winter sports at our usual time but are now just happy to resume play.

The winter sports season will be a little different to previous seasons, being shorter and having less of the usual tournaments that we have come to expect. Winter codes can now expect to play through to the end of Term 3, when normally those sports competitions would end halfway through Term 3.

For most codes, National Tournament Week, usually staged annually in August, will now be something to look forward to in 2021. Football was the first code to cancel Tournament Week. These cancellations have been supported by most principals as they felt that students missing another week of school would negatively impact their learning, after finally gaining some momentum with their learning after lockdown. There is still the possibility of some regional tournaments for different codes; some run over a day, instead of a week.

Our sporting codes have adapted in different ways as they respond to their own unique challenges. Football teams have started the season with three grading games in the Waikato competition and will soon begin their round-robin league games. Knockout Cups have all been cancelled around the region and will start up again next season. Player numbers post-lockdown have also suffered in football. Mr Jonathan O'Neill, one of the teachers in charge of Football, says that "around 10% of players decided after lockdown that they would no longer play." Some have decided to focus on their studies or try

a different activity that does not require so much time commitment."

Netball on the Hauraki Plains is still happening this year with the local competition being played on Wednesday nights. A lot of teams around the Valley have come to play in Ngatea due to their own centres cancelling the netball competitions. "This is exciting as there will be some different teams for HPC teams to play as well as the adult teams," says Mrs Angela Forsyth, teacher in charge of netball. The competition will run through Term 3, but unfortunately, there will be no Saturday 9A or 10A Thames Valley competition due to that section being cancelled.

The Thames Valley Rugby Competitions were also forced to start in Term 3. With the shorter season, teams will only have time for a single round, rather than the usual two. Changes to teams over the lockdown has also had an impact for rugby. Some of the boys made a decision during lockdown to stop playing. Mr Herman Harmzen's rugby team lost three players. "I think the hardest thing for them was being part of a social group and suddenly not being a part of a team throughout the lockdown and not being able to communicate with each other," he explained.

It is a different story in Hockey though, as they still have the same number of players they had before the lockdown. Hockey games will still be played on week nights which is great news to those students who want to participate in two winter codes.

All coaches hope that the players will get lots out of this season even though it is different to others. "Just being able to participate and play is the main thing," says Mrs Cindy Berridge, HPC's Sports Coordinator.



High Performance Fitness

By Sam Corbett

Our school has many ways for students to pursue their ambitions and one of the newest options is the High Performance Fitness activity organised by Mr. Dean Wedlake and with the support of professional sports trainer Joe McNicholas.

The course focuses on student fitness and health through activities that require large amounts of energy being expended in short bursts of time, as well as forming really good habits to reach each student's goals. "It's not just about coming in and lifting some weights. It's about your diet and all other aspects of your life," says Year 12 student Joseph Goudie.

The students make frequent visits to a high performance gym in Waihi, owned and operated by Mr McNicholas. Formerly a fitness trainer for teams such as the Penrith Panthers and the Manchester City youth academy, Mr McNicholas now says that he now focuses more on one-on-one training sessions for local athletes.

Having such high quality trainers has enabled our young athletes to gain a more knowledgeable insight into what it takes to reach the highest levels of fitness and performance. Many of the students have been surprised with the jump in intensity from what they have been used to doing with their own fitness programmes.

"I was absolutely exhausted after the first session, but I still came back for more. I know that this will make a big difference with my future sporting ambitions," adds Goudie.



Hayward Farm News



Welcome to **Mr Brett Harris**, the new Agriculture teacher. Brett has taught previously taught at the Taratahi Agricultural Training Centre and managed the Mount Albert Grammar School farm as well as share milking in the Waikato area.



The wet weather has not deterred progress on the Hayward Farm owned by the Haurakian Trust. Students have fenced off 8 acres with 7 wire post and batten fencing which is almost complete. The next step is to obtain 20 pregnant ewes, and raise the lambs for a pasture to plate initiative.



Te Māngai Kōrero o Puhangateuru - Māori Whānau Hui 2020

Te Rā: A te Rāpare Rua tekau o Hereturikōkā (Thursday 20th August)
āwhea te wa: Ono Karaka i te po (6pm) ki Whitu Karaka (7pm)
Kei Whea? Te Kāreti o Hauraki (Hauraki Plains College) Te Horo (In the hall)

Haere mai e nga iwi huihui tatou e piki ki runga ki te waka o te matauranga, hāpainga nga hoe, ko te pono, ko te tika, ko te rangimārie te tata, ko te aroha te puna, ko te toko i werohia e mohi te pou here tangata e

Nau mai, haere mai ki a koutou Ngā Whānau Māori

We would like to send a warm invitation to all our Māori Whānau to attend our first hui for 2020. The kaupapa of our hui is to provide an opportunity for whānau and the school to meet and discuss how best we can support your child's learning. It is also a chance to make connections

and see how we can work together to ensure that the school is providing a learning place that incorporates Maori Kaupapa and values.

Below is an agenda for the meeting -
Karakia Timatanga (Beginning Prayer)
Kapa Haka Performance
Whānaungatanga
Mihimihi (Introduction)
Kaupapa Korero (Discussion)
Next steps (feedback)
Karakia Mutunga (finishing prayer)
Kai Hakari (shared kai)

We look forward to seeing you here and having the opportunity to meet kanohi ki te kanohi (face to face).

Matua Normie Anderson

The O'Brien Legacy



Earlier in July saw the passing of Mrs Noeline O'Brien, the wife of former Principal Mr A.V. O'Brien, also known as Bert, who took over from Mr Jack Allen in 1967. It was a time of tremendous development for the college, both in terms of facilities such as the assembly hall, gym, additional technology rooms, playing fields and new classrooms and a growing roll with a reputation that extended beyond the Valley. Performances in external exams improved significantly, a large school orchestra was created and the range of sports increased including rowing and boys hockey.

Said son Graham who spent his secondary schooling at HPC, "He worked on the principle that if you do the small things properly, the big ones take care of themselves. He succeeded in the job because insistence on maintaining standards will win support with any community of parents, because he was heavily involved with sport, because he was genuine, and because he had an uncanny ability to work out the potential of virtually any teenager who crossed his path as a pupil."

While Mr O'Brien was respected for his disciplined, 'old school' approach, Mrs O'Brien, who taught reading, was well loved for her gracious and kind manner. "Bert wouldn't have got away with some of the things he did and said had it not been for the fact that Noeline was there. I think a lot of parents might have been outraged who couldn't remain that way because Noeline was essentially impossible to dislike. As he did, she cared about the pupils, and their families. She was involved with community groups such as the local IHC branch, CWI and she was a golf club member. She took a keen interest in the young

teachers who came and went, for whom (and this must have affected young wives) Ngatea was not necessarily the centre of the universe.

I do recall people who went to her remedial reading classes, or who had her as a relieving teacher, who would say to me "your mother is so nice" – the implication being perhaps that there was a perceived contrast between her and Bert – or maybe me," reflected Graham with his characteristic wit.

Noelene Charlotte O'Brien passed away at 95 years of age in Geraldine where she had lived for many years.

Son Graham is a practicing lawyer with Insight Legal, working from Ngatea several days each week. He was a founding member of the Haurakian Trust.

Plains Christmas Community Event



The Ngatea Lions Club is considering staging a Christmas event for the Hauraki Plains Community on Saturday 5 December. If there are any organisations or individuals already intending to organise a Santa Parade or similar, we would like to hear from you to provide support. Please contact Stu Green, Secretary Ngatea Lions: Mob 021403373

Proud to support the Hauraki Plains College Newsletter

**ONEVISION
ONEDREAM
ONENAME
ONEAGENCY**
COUNTRIES REALTY



DAVID TWINE

M 021 226 6647

E davidtwine@oneagency.net.nz

Please feel free to contact me for Real Estate advice or for a free property appraisal

ONEAGENCY
COUNTRIES REALTY
Licensed Agent REAA 2008

Contact HPC:



PO Box 44
Ngatea 3451



Phone (07) 867 7029
Fax (07) 867 7020



www.haurakiplains.school.nz
amandaf@haurakiplains.school.nz