

Kia ora koutou

Welcome to the end of Week 2, Term 1. School has started to settle, as learning kicks off and most of our students have returned. I have really appreciated the friendly smiles and conversations with students who have come over to say hi and introduce themselves. I am looking forward to my first principal assembly on Monday morning.

## Prime Minister's Scholar!! We have one here at school

A huge congratulations to our PE and Outdoor Education teacher, **Dean Wedlake**, for being awarded the Prime Minister's Scholarship for 2023. This is funded by the NZ Government and projects this year needed to be targeted to support learning experiences through Asia and Latin America. Kia pai mai hoki!

## Upcoming Cyclone

The forecast is not looking great for next week. Please make the right decision for you and your family with regards to sending your students to school. You will know what the state of your own roads are. In planning for the worst case scenario - students not being able to get home after arriving at school - please consider these:

- Students can bring a change of clothes/towel to school, these can be dropped off at student centre to store if needed.
- In the event a student can not get home to their residence, staff will organise alternative transport (if safe), or contact alternative family and friend contacts to see if the student can spend the night.
- If the student needs to remain at school overnight, staff will coordinate accommodation and supervision at the Centennial Centre here at school.

## Boarding

A large number of families have come forward with offers of houses, units and rooms available to support students with transport difficulties. If you would like any information on these offers please email me. It has been heartening to see the community coming together through the weather challenges of late. Thank you for your support.

## Facebook

Facebook continues to be a fast one to reach many people. We will always email out important information, including the bulletins, but for a lot of other news - Facebook is the place to be. The recent post sharing 2023 Head Student leadership group reached 6,500 people.

## School App and Parent Portal

If you have not yet installed the school app on your phone then please follow these instructions:

1. On your phone or tablet, open the Play Store app if you are using an Android phone (e.g. Samsung) or the App Store if you have an Apple phone or iPad.
2. Search for 'school apps nz' and download the SchoolAppsNZ app.
3. Open the SchoolAppsNZ app on your device and search for 'Hauraki Plains College' to connect to our school.

When we push out a message via the app, all users will instantly receive a pop-up 'push notification' on their device alerting them to the message. Many parents enjoy the convenience of using the app to notify the school of their child's absence, as well as accessing the daily notices, school map and staff contact details.

The 'Parent Portal' section of the app allows parents/guardians the ability to access their child's attendance and academic results. Caregiver login details were emailed out last week. Email: [studentservices@haurakiplains.school.nz](mailto:studentservices@haurakiplains.school.nz) to request your caregiver login details if you did not receive them.

## Google Classroom

Parents/caregivers of Year 9 students and other new students will soon receive an email inviting them to subscribe to summaries of activity from their child's Google Classroom subject sites. The summaries are emailed out either daily or weekly, depending on individual preference, and provide a snapshot of the learning focus for each week and upcoming assignments. Please contact Mr Jonathan O'Neill [jonathano@haurakiplains.school.nz](mailto:jonathano@haurakiplains.school.nz) if you have any questions.

## Buses

There continues to be issues with the slip near Ōrere Point, in which the Ministry funded bus is not able to drive through. This means a number of parents are driving students around the long way to a spot south of the slip to get on the bus. We will be emailing parents affected directly when we receive Ministry updates.

## PPTA Industrial Action

We have just been informed that the PPTA, teachers union, will be striking on Thursday 16 March. Classes will not be running on this day. If your child requires supervision, they will be supervised by non-union teachers. Another part of the industrial action involves union members not covering for absent teachers during their non-contact periods. We have a great pool of relievers, so things are working fine with this action. Some schools will be looking to roster year levels home as a result of not being able to use teachers for relief. I wanted to let you know that this is the industrial action for Term 1.

## Y11 NCEA Information Evening Thursday 16 February 7 - 8.30pm

This event is for Year 11 students, parents and anyone wanting to upskill on their knowledge of NCEA. There are big changes coming in education and I will be talking about these in our bulletins, events and newsletters. Some of the [major changes](#):

- From 2024 students will need to pass a reading, writing and maths exam (marked by someone outside of school) in order to gain their literacy and numeracy credits for NCEA
- 60 credits are required to pass each NCEA level.
- There is a [new curriculum coming](#) in 2026. The current curriculum has existed since 2007

We also have students from our academic council supporting this event. They will be able to answer your questions from a student perspective.

## Out of Zone Information Evening info

We are holding two Out of Zone Information Evenings on the 2 March and 9 August. If you would like to attend, please email [marya@haurakiplains.school.nz](mailto:marya@haurakiplains.school.nz)  
2024 ballot closes: Midday 23 August 2023  
2024 ballot drawn / caregivers notified: 30 August 2023

## Demerit Points

The Sports Executive would like to inform and remind parents that we will continue to use the demerit points system when it comes to representing our school in sports and activity teams. It is important to us that students are doing the right things within their classes and our school, to then be representing school in their chosen codes. The process will come into effect from the start of Week 3 (Monday 13 February). Please take note of the following:

- Once a student reaches 5 demerit points, the Sports Executive will send a warning letter home.
- On reaching 10 demerit points, a single event stand down letter will be sent home.
- Every 10 demerits from here on will constitute another single event stand down.

Coaches/managers/organisers/TICs will be notified by the Sports Executive in order to put processes in place to accommodate the stand down. Once a stand down has been completed 10 demerit points will be removed from the student's total, which means students can work back to zero. Merit points gained will also be used towards reducing the demerit points total. Should you have any questions please contact [sport@haurakiplains.school.nz](mailto:sport@haurakiplains.school.nz)

## Upcoming Dates

Mon 13 Feb HPC Swimming Champs  
Wed 15 Feb HPC Swimming Champs Reserve Day  
Thu 16 Feb Y11 NCEA Evening 7pm Hall  
Tue 21 Feb Y9 Meet and Greet Parent Evening 7pm Hall

Ngā mihi  
Sharon Moller (Principal)