



A Message from the Principal

Dear Parents

Welcome to our newsletter where we are reflecting on our school successes to date this year. In the week 13-17 June 2011, we were visited by a team from the Education Review Office. We have received their draft report which is very pleasing and the confirmed report will be published on their website within the next few weeks. I would like to share their thoughts with you.

- *There is a wide range of academic, cultural, leadership and sporting opportunities for students to succeed.*
- *Success in all endeavours is valued and celebrated.*
- *Caring and supportive relationships are evident between students and teachers.*
- *Very good quality teaching across the school promotes high levels of student engagement and positive learning experiences.*
- *The school has a positive and high profile in the local community.*

Education Review Office – June 2011

While here, the team took the opportunity to speak to many students and found them to be our best advocates. That is not to say that we don't appreciate the huge level of support we receive from you, as parents, as well.

One of the hallmarks of our school is the huge range of activities available to our students both within and outside the classroom and it is my pleasure to share some of our highlights to date in this newsletter.

Mathematics Success for Georgia Lock



We were delighted to learn that Year 9 student Georgia Lock was the highest ranked girl nationally in the recent

National Bank mathematics competition. This is a very challenging competition as it focuses on problem solving skills. Prior to enrolling at Hastings Girls' High School, Georgia attended Clive Primary School and Havelock North Intermediate. We have interviewed Georgia because you might be interested in her responses to our questions.

What did you think when you realised you were ranked so highly nationally?

Really happy as I found the exam quite challenging and I didn't think I had done that well.

How old were you when you first had an interest in mathematics?

I have loved maths since primary school. I did an extended maths programme in Years 4 and 5.

Have you entered any other maths competitions?

Yes. At Intermediate I entered the New South Wales exams, the Otago University Problem Solving competition and the New Zealand Mathematical Olympiad and gained the following results:

New South Wales

High Distinction in Year 7 and Year 8

Otago University Problem Solving Competition

Year 7 23/25

Year 8 25/25 Received the 'perfect score' award.

NZ Olympiad Competition

Year 8 25/25 Received the 'perfect score' award.

University of Otago Olympiad Final Challenge Competition

Year 7 3rd place

Year 8 9th place (Distinction)

What do you want to do in the future?

Not really sure. Possibly something to do with mathematics.

NZ's Next Top Model

Members of our school family have been finding TV3 on Friday nights compulsive viewing as we have watched round after round of New Zealand's Next Top Model!

Rosanagh Wypych of 13By has, until the time of printing, maintained her place in the final eight. Rosanagh herself is of course sworn to secrecy about the events beyond what has already been aired on television. She could however, share some of her thoughts with us on her experience. Although initially homesick, eventually Rosanagh settled down to life in the model house. Her personal confidence increased hugely as she learnt to deal with different experiences and different personalities. She was able to enhance her personal stocks of make-up and other products and she has made some lifelong friends.

We are very proud of Rosanagh and feel that she has conducted herself with dignity throughout the series. Staff and students at Hastings Girls' High School send their best wishes to Rosanagh as New Zealand's Next Top Model approaches the final episode.



This photograph enabled Rosanagh to win the Goddess competition in week 4 of the series.

College Day Netball 2011

College Day Netball was held on 9 August 2011 at the Onekawa Courts in Napier. We had two teams representing Hastings Girls' High School, one in the Year 9A grade and one in the Year 10A grade. The competition was hard and it gave the girls a great opportunity to play against some of the Napier schools.

Our Year 9A team made it through to the finals against Napier Girls' High School. Unfortunately the team lost by three goals, finishing runners up in the 9A grade.

The 10A team started the day with a tough game against Gisborne Girls' High School, which ended in a draw at full time.

The remainder of the games were tough but our girls played some beautiful netball to finish at the top of their grade, 1st equal with Gisborne Girls' High School. When the officials looked at the scores and worked out the points for and against, Hastings Girls' High School won the grade by one point over Gisborne Girls' High School.

It was a great day for netball and the girls were a credit to their school.

We welcome Students from L'Externat des Enfants Nantais, Nantes, France

Clémence Meynial, Anne-Sophie Creach and Valentine Torres have been studying in our school since the beginning of June over what is their long summer vacation. They are with us until the end of August when they will return to their own school. Later in the year, they will welcome their host sisters (Harriet Wolk, Agrani Ratnayake and Sarah Baldwin) to their school for a period of three months. Our students will have their second winter of the year, spending Christmas with their new families.

Over the recent school holidays our French visitors have done a variety of activities including trips to Auckland, Wellington, Wanganui, Palmerston North, Rotorua and Tauranga.

While the girls have been with us, their English has improved dramatically. Here are the girls' reflections on their time in New Zealand.

Clémence Meynial

'When I will go back to France, lots of things will remind me of your country. First of all I was impressed how New Zealanders are welcoming and friendly. Moreover your country is wonderful with many beautiful landscapes. I particularly enjoyed walking along Queen Street in Auckland because of the pleasant atmosphere.'

Anne-Sophie Creach

'For me a big change was the food! I think I will miss spaghetti on toast, boysenberry icecream and of course pavlova and so much other things I appreciated the nice winter weather, which allowed us visiting and enjoying places all over the North Island. Therefore I discovered such a nice country, very different than mine in which I spent a great time.'

Valentine Torres

'I really, really, really liked New Zealand and especially my new Kiwi friends. The first thing I thought when I came here was people are so friendly, so nice! It's incredible! New Zealand is incredibly multicultural and people are really open. I find it fantastic! When I will come back to France I think I will miss a lot of things such as milo, noodles... and people!!'



l-r: Valentine Torres, Anne-Sophie Creach and Clémence Meynial

Hockey News

The HGHS 1st X1 hockey team are having a very good season and are currently top of Division 1 in the Hawkes Bay competition. The team heads to Dunedin this month to compete in the Marie Fry Secondary Schools' Hockey Tournament. This is the 2nd ranked national tournament in the country and one which will have very strong teams competing from all over the country.



Jaydean Strickland and Rebecca Williams at the hockey tournament fundraising car wash at Park Island last term.

A great deal of fundraising for the tournament has occurred since the end of 2010 and our thanks goes to Heather Saywell for coordinating this. We would like to acknowledge the Infinity Foundation, the Endeavour Foundation and the NZ Community Trust for their generous contributions to our fundraising efforts.

Congratulations to Amy Barry for gaining selection in the NZ Tiger Turf Squad (NZ U-18's). A test series will be played against Australia later this year. Amy was also selected for the Central Under 21 team and Brearna Wiig was selected as a reserve.

A number of players made selection into the Hawkes Bay age group representative teams this season. Those players are Brearna Wiig, Romy Goodfellow, Deborah Waerea, Catherine Cater, Amy Barry, Sarah Baxter, Anabelle Waerea, Jayne Wilton and Ashley Webb. Well done girls.

Highland Dancing Success!!

Isabelle Merwood 10Em, has been crowned the 2011 Under 16 New Zealand champion at the recent NZ Highland Dancing Championships held in Christchurch in July.

Hastings Girls' High School has a proud and long history of New Zealand highland dancing champions and Isabelle is the latest of our students to have taken out a national title.

Isabelle overcame many obstacles in her quest to take out this title, having been injured last year and losing her luggage on the way to the championships.

We wish Isabelle every success in her future endeavours!



Photo courtesy of HB Today

Talented Basketball Referees

Natasha Greville and Danika Whittington are up and coming basketball referees. These girls are qualified to referee age group regional games and regional secondary school games. The pair are travelling to referee the Under 15 regionals this weekend, the Secondary School nationals in Palmerston North for tournament week and either the Under 13 or Under 15 national championships later this term. The girls are evaluated after each game and given feedback on their performance.

Hastings Girls' High School congratulates Natasha and Danika on the contribution they are making to the sport of basketball. We wish them well for their performances.



Debating

Debating continues this term. We have 30 students actively participating with two teams at each year level. Hastings Girls' High School is organising the Year 9 and 10 Hawkes Bay Interschool Debating Competition. All teams have debated four times and will have two more debates this term.

They are embarking on change debates which involve the affirming team challenging the status quo, setting up a model and arguing how the change will be an improvement. The negating teams must argue against this.

All the girls are looking forward to dealing with this challenging aspect of debating.

Year 10 Food Technology Wattie's Enterprise Challenge

Three classes of Year 10 Food Technology students have been taking part in the Watties Enterprise Challenge since it was launched in May this year.

After forming 15 small businesses the girls have designed and developed a range of interesting products that use tomatoes.

Trialling and testing have taken place around the school and now most groups are manufacturing and selling their products.

The products range from lots of relishes and salsas, to Tomato and Chilli Jam and Tomato Salt.



HGHS Barbershop

Best wishes to 'Massive Action Barbershop Chorus' and the 'Out of Eden' quartet as they travel to the national Young Singers in Harmony competition being held in Wellington this weekend following their recent success at the regional competition held in Napier.



'Out of Eden' Barbershop Quartet
l-r: Levinia Stanton, Chelsea Sheehan-Gaiger,
Melody Letfus, Hannah Rorrison

Concord Concert & Symphonic Bands Hastings Girls' High School & Lindisfarne College

The golden glow of musical success that Hastings Girls' High School and Lindisfarne College have enjoyed over recent weeks at local and provincial contests such as Smoke-free Rock-quest, Chamber Music New Zealand and the Barbershop Festival continued for these schools at the New Zealand National Concert Bands Festival held in New Plymouth on 7-10 July 2011.

The Concord Symphonic Band conducted by Lindisfarne College's Director of Music John Snowling received a coveted Gold Award at this prestigious event.

The National Festival Gold Award is the second won by the Concord Symphonic Band this year after their success at the Feilding Festival of Bands. Future concerts include a performance at St. Matthew's Church during the Blossom Festival, an exchange visit to Gisborne and at the Lindisfarne College Performing Arts Concert to be held in the Hawke's Bay Opera House in October.



New Plymouth 2011

Gold Award

Photo courtesy of Jenny Forbes Photography

Careers Department

It has been a busy year for the Careers Department with a number of visiting speakers and site visits for senior students. At the end of last term we had the fourth of our 'Incubator' sessions. The 'Incubator Programme' is run by the Hastings District Health Board, the aim of the programme being to raise awareness of the breadth of career choices available in the health service. The students were introduced to Melissa who works in the Special Care Baby Unit and Andi who is a Clinical Psychologist in the Child Development Service. Both women provided us with a detailed insight into their work and career pathways.

Recently, selected Year 12 science students visited Watties as a follow up to talks by two female engineers. Next week a group of Year 12 chemistry students will be visiting the Ravensdown plant to witness first hand the job of a chemical engineer.



Year 12 students visiting Wattie Industries

We have also had speakers from NZ Institute of Chartered Accountants and a lecturer in Development Studies from Victoria University.

Year 10-12 students will soon be choosing their subjects for next year and it is important they make informed choices. There is a wealth of information for students on the NZ Careers Website (www.careers.govt.nz) and Year 10 students will be having a series of careers sessions later this term to help them with their subject selection.

GATE Careers Visits

The GATE (Gifted and Talented Education) girls are preparing for the informative speech part of their New Zealand Speech Board examinations by making visits to selected professionals this week. They are researching careers in aerial mapping, veterinary, aviation, health and research science. The girls are both excited and impressed by the opportunities they have been given and the school is grateful to those individuals who have willingly shared their expertise to give the girls an insight into less conventional careers.

G B L Travers
Principal