

Vanguard News

JUNE 2015

EFFORT BRINGS REWARD

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

ROCKLEY MONTGOMERY

Welcome to the June edition of the Vanguard Military School newsletter.



It is almost with surprise that we find ourselves at the midpoint of this year; the time seeming to have gone by in a flash. It feels like just yesterday we were introducing all our new recruits to the school and now they are hardened veterans of Vanguard, already looking forward to the end of a successful year. A possible reason for this impression of

time flying could be attributed to Terms one and two having been so full-on in all areas. The academic programme has progressed on track and according to plan, with fantastic results for most. In Term two our basketball teams, both the boys and the girls have made us all very proud to be associated with Vanguard. It is not only the fact that these teams are performing exceptionally well, it is more the way they are playing with a never give up attitude, the way they are conducting themselves on the court with a hard but fair approach to play and this all being topped off with amazing support from the parents and fellow recruits; fantastic to have this as part of our education programme.

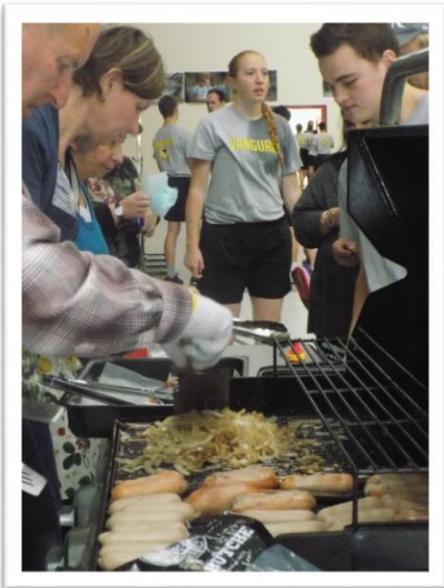
Another very pleasing aspect of Vanguard Military School for us all is the school's multiple exit point system for graduating recruits. This is a system that allows our recruits' to plan the optimal pathway through their secondary schooling and into the real world as a productive citizen of New Zealand. Once a recruit has achieved their academic goal and desired qualification, they do not have to wait around at school until

the end of the year and then compete with the thousands of other students all looking for a job. They can, as soon as their schooling is complete, choose to move on to the next phase of their lives. This could include but is not limited to, a career in the forces, a job in the workplace, higher education or even after developing the required attitudes and behaviours learned at Vanguard, return to their old school to study subjects not offered here.

Term two has seen a number of our recruits achieving their planned goals and qualifications and have moved on successfully. We do miss them not being here, but we wish them all the very best for the future and look forward to catching up with them and their parents at graduation at the end of the year.

It was also a happy/sad moment when we had to farewell Rachel Cowie, but luckily only for maternity leave. Rachel has been a fantastic member of our admin staff and she will be missed around the school by all.

Term two finished on a high note with two extremely successful events. The first event held on the second last Friday

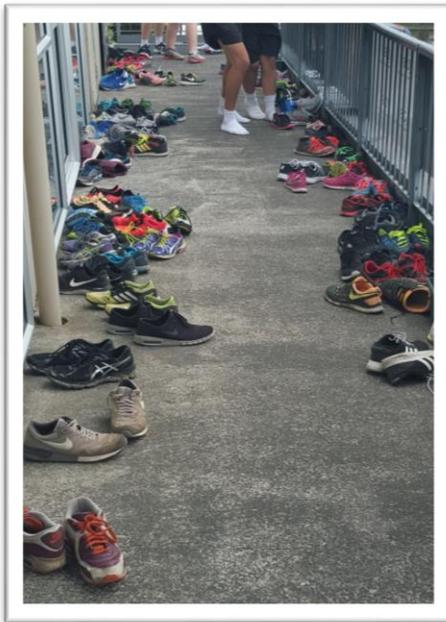


of the term was the Vanguard Fair, held as a fund-raiser for the mother of two of our recruits who is fighting off cancer and the second event held on the last day of the term was the Vanguard Amazing Race.

The fair was a resounding success with the entire school community getting behind the event with innovative ideas, donations and a huge amount of fun on the day. A big thanks to all our recruits, their parents and caregivers, the staff and particularly Staff Wilson the

organiser and driving force behind the whole event.

The Vanguard Amazing Race was the end of term Inter Section Competition organised by Staff Van Stripriaan. Based on the television programme, the recruits in their sections had to get from checkpoint to checkpoint as fast as possible and on arrival at each checkpoint complete a series of challenges. It was a privilege to be part of a team and run along with them. Every section had its amazing stories of how recruits demonstrated teamwork, determination, personal sacrifice, that never give up attitude, intellectual skills cracking codes very quickly and again all



with a huge amount of enjoyment. Well done Vanguard, this is what education is all about.

I wish all the recruits and staff a safe and well-deserved break during the coming holiday.

HISTORY LESSON: ELLIOTT SECTION

Continuing our history lesson, this month we are looking at Keith Elliott, a New Zealand soldier who served with the New Zealand Military Forces during the Second World War.



Keith Elliott

Elliott was awarded the Victoria Cross for his actions in the First Battle of El Alamein.

Born in Apiti, one of nine children of a farmer and his wife. He was educated in nearby Feilding, but was unable to complete his formal schooling because in 1933, he had to drop out to work on the family farm.

Elliott was a farm manager when the Second World War began. He volunteered for service abroad with the Second New Zealand Expeditionary Force (2NZE) and was posted to the 22nd Battalion,

He saw action during the Battles of Greece and Crete and then in North Africa. By now a sergeant, during Operation Crusader in November 1941, he was one of 700 New Zealanders made a prisoner of war when his position was overrun by the Germans. Freed two months later, he was serving as a platoon commander during the First Battle of El Alamein.

At dawn on 15 July 1942, their battalion was attacked on three flanks by tanks. Sergeant Elliott led the platoon he was commanding to the cover of a ridge, during which he sustained a chest wound. He then re-formed his men and led them to a dominating ridge a few hundred yards away, where they came under heavy enemy machine-gun and mortar fire. Sergeant Elliott led seven men in a bayonet charge across five hundred yards of open ground in the face of heavy fire and captured four enemy machine-gun posts and an anti-tank gun, killing a number of the enemy and taking fifty prisoners.

Although badly wounded in four places, Sergeant Elliott refused to leave his men until he had reformed them, handed over his prisoners, and arranged for his men to rejoin the battalion.

Sergeant Elliott sustained only one casualty amongst his men, and brought him back to the nearest advanced dressing station.

After he was awarded his VC, he was promoted to second lieutenant, sent home to New Zealand and discharged from the 2NZE.

Returning to civilian life, Elliott married in February 1944 and had five children. He resumed his farming career, but in 1948 became a priest. He shifted around the lower half of the North Island for the next several years, serving in a number of churches. He was also a chaplain in the Territorial Force.

He retired from the priesthood in 1981 and died eight years later at the age of 73.

Elliott donated his Victoria Cross to his former school, Feilding Agricultural High School, 1972 and it was later loaned to the QEII Army Memorial Museum in Waiouru for display.

FROM THE ADMIN DESK

MARILIZE ERASMUS,
ADMINISTRATION MANAGER



Compulsory attendance

Attendance of students at school is a legal requirement for all those under 16. Parents/Caregivers are liable for prosecution if a student is unjustifiably absent from school.

Our school administrator, Hannah Rasmussen, will contact caregivers of students each morning who have not had their absences excused by note or phone call.

Any student who is absent for 20 days or more without explanation, will be removed from the school roll and referred to "Non Enrolled Truancy Services", a branch of the Ministry of Education.

Please, if your child is absent from school, contact us before 0830 on 09 443 2969.

Unjustified absences

Students are required to maintain their unjustified absence rate below 3%, as per the school's attendance charter.

An unjustified absence is an absence where an explanation for the absence was accepted by the school as the reason for the absence, but the reason does not fit within the school's policy as a justifiable reason to take the student off school. This also includes overseas absence not approved by the principal. A parent's note does not provide justification.

NZQA NEWS

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The purpose of financial assistance is to ensure that fees are not a barrier to participation in qualifications for students in low-to-middle income families.

Each year the government provides limited funding for eligible students enrolled in New Zealand secondary schools who are entering for assessment against standards on the New Zealand Qualifications Framework and for New Zealand Scholarship.

Applications for financial assistance for 2015 has been sent home in May.

If you think that you are eligible for financial assistance, you need to complete and return the form to the school soon as possible or contact the school if you have any questions.

PHOTOLIFE PHOTOS

PhotoLife Studios have visited our school earlier this year and returned on the 17th of June. Individual, Section and Sports Team Photos were taken on these respective days.

Our school made use of the prepaid envelope system which had to be completed and returned to the school before photo day.

All of the prepaid envelopes from all classes were collected and are currently being processed.

Completed orders will be delivered to the school over the next few weeks.

Please note that late orders and payments can be made by contacting PhotoLife Studios directly on 0800 50 1040.

STUDENTS IN ACTION

A number of our Level 2 and Level 3 students were selected to attend a few courses over the past month.

The courses were led by local external providers who assisted our students in gaining additional credits towards their NCEA Level 2 and Level 3 qualifications.

Thank you to **Tectorium, Great Hospitality and Safety 'n Action** for their availability in assisting our students in this regard.

NEW BEGINNINGS



Congratulations and best wishes to Rachel Cowie who is expecting her first baby in July this year.

Rachel is currently taking maternity leave – we wish her well!

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Hannah Rasmussen as the new School Administrator. Welcome to the team Hannah!

BASKETBALL REPORT



The basketball season is well underway and again we would like to acknowledge the hard work of all the players and coaches.

We are pleased to report the following results from the games played during June.

GIRLS TEAM

4 June, 8 – 42 WIN against Westlake, POD Shanaya Corin, 21 pts / 19 rebounds

11 June, 23 – 25 WIN against Long Bay, POD Hope Matatia, 11 pts / 16 rebounds

18 June, WIN Albany Senior High withdrew

25 June, 20 – 21 WIN against Hato Petera, POD Hope Matatia, 12 pts / 11 rebounds and Jamie Coffman, 13 steals and blocks

BOYS TEAM

4 June, 28 – 34 WIN against Westlake, POD Kaylin Robson

11 June, 26 – 37 WIN against Westlake, POD Kaylin Robson

18 June, 23 – 65 LOSS against Kingsway, POD Don Mokoroa

25 June, 26 – 28 LOSS against Rangitoto, POD Isaiah Schwanen

UPCOMING GAMES:

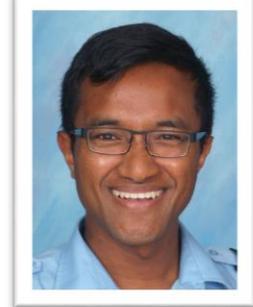
Boys

23 July vs Westlake

30 July vs Rangitoto

RECRUITMENT

Vanguard Military School is very proud to announce that **Kristin Sutherland (Year 13)** and **Mason Peteli (Year 13)** have been accepted to join the NZ Army in July.



Upon completion of their basic training, Kristin will begin core training to become a Supply Technician and Mason a Gunner. Congratulations Kristin and Mason. We wish you all of the best!

STUDENT CORNER

Each month we are providing excerpts from our students about their time at Vanguard. This month, the contribution comes from Elliott Section.

Returning to New Zealand from six years of Australian schooling, my high hopes of university were dashed. Insufficient credits from my last school left me with little to no options of achieving success in my life.

As I look back on my achievements at my previous school, I can't count a single one I am proud of. I was ashamed of being myself, pressured at a young age, and told not to try hard because 'it wasn't my place'. I didn't have anything to live up to.

The staff at Vanguard helped me to change. They always challenged me every time I wanted to throw in the towel.

I really work hard now to live by our honour code. I realize that this attitude improves my chances of success by 100 percent. I have grown as a person and I want to lead myself with pride, knowing I always try my best, because that is what Vanguard has taught me.

- Faith Kerekere

PARENTAL PERSPECTIVES

We'd love to hear your feedback on what it's like to have your child attend Vanguard. Here is a response we've received last month...

One of my nephews lives with me here in Auckland so he can attend Vanguard. He enjoys the school and staff. We think he is making progress with more structure and consequences for decisions made. I know his mum is happy about how he is responding, so thanks to all the staff at Vanguard.

- Gary Davis

If you would like to make a contribution to the next edition, please contact us at: marilize.erasmus@vanguard.school.nz

INTERSECTION LEADERBOARD

SECTION	POINTS	POSITION
HINTON	220	1
LAURENT	204	2
UPHAM	203	3
ELLIOTT	188	4
TRENT	182	5
HULME	174	6
WARD	172	7
TRIGG	157	8
APIATA	145	9
NGARIMU	139	10

UPCOMING EVENTS

13-16 July	Network ICE Course
20 July	Start of Term 3
22 July	Health & Safety Course

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

