



# Papanui High School Alumni Association Newsletter



Jeff Smith  
Principal

We are coming to the end of a busy term. We were all very grateful to be able to return to school, sooner than many of us possibly expected.

It took a good couple of weeks for everyone to feel they were slowly returning to 'normal' routines. We are all aware of the challenges that come when our everyday freedom is taken away (in this case for good reason), and therefore also what we would take for granted. In our latest assembly I talked to the students about the need to prioritise all the opportunities that school provides, and I think that is a message we must all remember in our own everyday lives.

With the school holidays fast approaching it is important that over the break both staff and students take the opportunity to rest, and hopefully the weather will allow an opportunity to get out and do some outside activities.

## Community News

### The Recently Departed

- Jenkins, Mark
- Lambie, Joan
- Liddell, Bruce

### Papanui High School Community Newsletter

<https://www.papanui.school.nz/our-school/school-newsletter>

### Papanui High School Night Classes

**Papanui High School**  
Adult & Community Education

## Night Classes

Photography, Music, Stone Carving, Woodwork, Millinery,  
Exercise, Crafts, Art, Languages, ESOL English, Upholstery,  
Dressmaking, Cakes & Cooking, Beekeeping...

• Term 3 begins 27 July 2020  
• Weekly evening or weekend classes • Pricing from \$99  
See our range of courses on [www.papanui.school.nz/adult-education](http://www.papanui.school.nz/adult-education)  
**Enrol Now!** Email [rpb@papanui.school.nz](mailto:rpb@papanui.school.nz)  
or phone 03 352 0701

### **Papanui High School Alumni Association**

**30 Langdons Rd, Papanui, 8053 Christchurch, New Zealand**

**Tel: 64-3-352 6119**

**Fax: 64-3-352 6117**

**Email: [alumni@papanui.school.nz](mailto:alumni@papanui.school.nz) [www.papanui.school.nz](http://www.papanui.school.nz)**



## Recent Papanui High School Alumni Successes

### Grace Burrows



#### **What house were you in and what are your memories of the house activities?**

I remember when I was first placed in Kowhai house. We had an amazing group of house leaders who planned these great house assemblies which incorporated competitive games to help us bond as a cohort. I became a house leader after my first year. I enjoyed sitting down with my fellow house leaders and coming up with ideas of activities - such as constructing the house chant and the big house day where houses versus each other in various competitions such as tug of war.

#### **Who was the teacher who inspired you the most? And why?**

Can I mention two? The Dean for my year group at the time. Miss McConnel supported and helped me in navigating a lot of the uncertainties that were presented during my final year. Her caring nature, and the relationships that she establishes with her students, helped me as an individual, a student, and as a teacher establishing my career.

The second teacher being Mr. Joe Holland. I remember him as one of those teachers that, again, genuinely cared about his students. He always had high expectations of all his students and believed every single one of them could achieve. And I found myself constantly wanting to meet those expectations. When I was there, he had this jar that he would fill with our names in it and would pull out when he was asking questions. I remember being this introverted, shy student praying that he would not pull my name out. But reflecting upon this, his driving contributions helped me in becoming a greater learner. He also did a mean karaoke and air guitar to Avril Lavigne's 'Girlfriend' before class one time – could not forget that!

#### **What did you most enjoy about your school days, the highs and the lows?**

I enjoyed the learning experiences that my teachers provided me – especially in subjects such as History, Classical Studies, Astronomy, and English. Lows? Truthfully, I was trying to think of some kind of low to give you and I genuinely could not come up with one. I enjoyed my time immensely. I was surrounded by exceptional teachers and my friends who I cannot thank enough.



## **What was your motivation to go into your chosen degrees? And what course of study did you undertake when you left school?**

I was lucky in the respect that I grew up always wanting to be a teacher. There was never a backup career option. I had these exceptional teachers in school who just inspired me from day one. After my final year at high school, I undertook an OE in London for a year. Then I came straight back and enrolled with the University of Canterbury in a Bachelor of Teaching and Learning (Primary).

## **How has your life in respect to your chosen career changed since you left school?**

My life has changed a considerable amount since I left school. I have been able to develop and grow further as a person. I get to go on placements in schools that have helped me in figuring out my own identity, as well as enable me in making a difference through building lasting relationships with hundreds of students.

## **A moment when you bombed? (Because we all have them)**

Probably when I was giving my speech for the role of Head Girl. Despite having rehearsed my speech numerous times and having cue-cards right in front of me, I completely just froze. I managed to get through my speech, but I look back on that moment and cringe just ever-so-slightly haha!

## **A moment you're most proud of?**

One moment I am most proud of was my third placement during my Bachelor. I was placed in a class where forming a relationship with some children was quite difficult as I was not sure how to best meet their needs. But by the end of the placement, these children were expressing that they did not want me to go. I am so proud of those kids and myself. I will always remember that as one of my most favourite moments in my career and constantly think back to them during moments of adversity.

## **What has been the biggest thing you have learnt about life so far?**

That it is one big continuous learning experience and that you should trust the process – both the good and bad parts. If you want something, really go for it. Don't give up. Life is about learning so do not be afraid to make mistakes. Just give it all you have got. One of my teachers told me once that you get out of it what you put into it, and I have carried that with me ever since.

## **What words of wisdom do you have for the new alumni who might still be finding their feet since leaving school?**

That it is completely okay to still be finding your feet. Everyone leaves school just taking their best guess at what path is right for them. Some get it right and some learn that the path they chose is not for them. And that is okay. Start exploring possible pathways and opening conversations. It is a discovery process and so don't be afraid of not getting it 'right'.



## **What would you like from your Papanui High School Alumni?**

I would like us to continue to build a large network. We have had the opportunity to spend a large quantity of time with one another and form connections -being able to strengthen and further these would be great through events and get-togethers. Being able to be one big community would be fantastic.

## **Do you see a way you can help enhance the profile of our Alumni here at Papanui High School?**

I would love to be provided with any further opportunities to help or enhance the school in any way I can. If someone was needed in the future to discuss further study within the University of Canterbury, especially along the lines of the educator sector, I would be more than happy to help and encourage students. Additionally, through further promotion, if events are planned, I would love to ensure that my cohort, and further cohorts, are enthusiastic in joining.

## **Sharquel Khan**



### **What house were you in and what are your memories of the house activities?**

I was in yellow house Taahika and back in year 9 and 10 was the best time because they allowed the entire school to participate in athletics day for fun and not competitively.

### **Who was the teacher who inspired you the most? And why? What did you most enjoy about your school days, the highs and the lows?**

Teacher who inspired me the most was my form teacher Mrs World. One of the sweetest and most helpful people to get me through school. The good thing about Mrs World was that she cared for everyone which is so inspiring. One of the best feelings at school was winning 'Thomson Trophy' through Tuesday night league with the school basketball team. Now although it was division 2, it still meant a lot to us. Exact same for touch as well, coming top 3 for South Island tournament was one of the craziest things as well, considering we were the underdogs at the tournament. We then went to nationals and got a hiding haha, but it was all about the experience and how we got so far in our journey. When I try think of lowlights for Papanui high school I find very hard to think of any!



## **What was your motivation to go into your chosen degrees? And what course of study did you undertake when you left school?**

I had actually failed level 3, simply because I got really lazy and incredibly unmotivated. I knew I could do the work but I simply just did not do it which was bad from me. Because of this I failure, I completed the Certificate of University prep, which got me into University, then I started the Bachelor of Sport Coaching, majoring in management and leadership and minoring in strength and conditioning. I started this the year after I failed level 3, by going in at the start of semester 2 of the university year.

Knowing that I had failed level 3 always motivated me to change and do better.

## **How has your life in respect to your chosen career changed since you left school?**

It's made me a lot more organised in terms of my university life and has showed me a lot about how to take care of my body more often.

## **A moment when you bombed? (Because we all have them)**

Definitely year 13 when I never went to school and just woke up every day at like 12-1pm. When I realised I was not going to pass, I just stopped trying because I thought it was a waste of time.

## **And a moment you're most proud of?**

Even though it's small I was so proud of this. So after failing level 3 and doing Certificate of University Preparation I started my Bachelor's Degree. In my very first ever test which was for management it would determine if I was prepared enough for this degree because it showed if I can actually work under pressure etc. so I did the test and ended up getting an a+ which was one of my most proudest moments.



**What has been the biggest thing you have learnt about life so far?**

Never give up and work hard until the end.

**What words of wisdom do you have for the new alumni who might still be finding their feet since leaving school?**

Keep trying and never ever give up. No matter what your situation is.

**What would you like from your Papanui High School Alumni?**

I would like for them to never give up and to keep trying. Strive for what you want.

**Do you see a way you can help enhance the profile of our Alumni here at Papanui High School?**

I advise them to attend school and go hard, but still enjoy it as much as you can.