



## Our School Maybe Broken But Our Spirit Lives On!

Shirley Boys' High School has been badly damaged as a result of the earthquake which struck at 12.51pm on February 22. A member of the football team who was training on the school field at the time described a wave coming across the field towards him, a wave of earth that created havoc wherever it struck.

All grass areas throughout the school have been damaged forcing sports teams to practice at different sports grounds all over Christchurch. Shirley Boys' High School rugby teams are currently trying their best to prepare for the busy winter season ahead by practicing in the early mornings and evenings at alternative rugby grounds- not ideal but a necessity to keep the Shirley spirit alive!

The schools hard surfaces have also been badly damaged including the old and new tennis courts. The schools main administration block filled with a noxious combination of liquefied material and raw sewerage to a depth of over a foot in minutes before flowing into a number of classrooms and the library.

The major classroom blocks did not escape the earthquake with damage to the foundations as well as major damage to the foundations of one of the gymnasiums.

Beyond the actually property damage, the Shirley Boys' High community has also endured its share of pain. One student lost his mother after the building she was in collapsed in the city. A staff members wife was also seriously injured after being in another collapsed building.

Currently all students and staff from Shirley Boys' High School have shifted site and are now sharing with another High School in Christchurch, working and afternoon shift from 1pm to 6pm. We are very grateful to Papanui High School for their willingness to share their school with us.