

Wellington High School

NEWSLETTER FOR APRIL 2013 FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Kia ora and Greetings



Principal Nigel Hanton

Term One is coming to an end and it is timely to reflect on the last 12 weeks. We were excited to welcome so many new students to the school this year, and have worked to successfully transition them into the school. The citizenship process has been highly effective in supporting students to get to know people, places and processes. This engagement with the school was also very evident in our recent Learning Conversations. I found the process very useful in goal setting with my roopu as it is hard to find an uninterrupted half hour for students and their teachers to meet, talk and reflect on goals and aspirations. Thank you for your participation in this important process.

There is a lot happening in the cultural and sporting life in the school. I am a strong advocate of this holistic approach to education, but also realise that while busy kids are successful kids, they often need help to manage their workload. Please take the time over the holidays to chat to your youngster about their academic goals as well as their ability to manage their commitments. Enjoy the holidays!

Winning Poster for Youth Week



WHS art students scored a great success with all the finalist posters for National Youth Week being done by our students.

Bailey Price's poster was winner by popular vote throughout NZ. The other finalists were Mathew Burke, Violet Pruden, Lily Carter and Elizabeth Davies.

Stage challenge 2013



Stage Challenge 2013 has kicked off to a great start! We have 80+ talented dancers this year and a large production team. This year we are hoping to do really well in the competition. Our performance is on 31st May and we really encourage everyone to support us! Tickets for our performance night are available through Student Services. Over the holidays we have set construction and costumes workshops, and have practices for all the dances. Please check the notices for further details. If anyone is interested in helping out with anything, please contact us. The more hands the better!

WHS Futsal Successes



WHS Futsal teams at CSW Regionals

WHS has competed in all levels of futsal in term one with some outstanding results. We have been represented in the weekly College Sport Wellington intercollege competition, in CSW Regionals and in the Nationals. CSW Intercollege Competition – 4 GOLDS won by Girls Senior A & B, Girls Junior A and Boys Junior B CSW Regionals – 2 GOLDS won by the Boys and Girls Senior A teams Nationals – Senior Girls Runners up, Senior Boys 4th

Huge thanks to Carlos Junca, Alex Rothman, Matthew Townsend and Sean O'Connor for their coaching and support of the WHS teams and congratulations to all of the players.

Year 12 Geography Field Trip



This year's Year 12 Geography field trip was to the Tongariro National Park. Students were great, weather was perfect and Mt Tongariro let off a bit of steam for us.

WHS Athletics



Dom Faherty and Sean Russell at North Island Athletics

There has been a very strong athletics programme in term one. Results have been notable:

18 records broken at the WHS Athletics Day; 49 athletes entered into Western Zone; 14 athletes qualified for Regionals; and 3 students qualified for North Island: Elise Forman, Dom Faherty and Sean Russell.

Congratulations to all athletes and particular thanks to Murray Chisholm and John Edwards.

www.whs.school.nz
(04) 385 8911
admin@whs.school.nz





Elise Forman in hurdles at CSW Regionals
Young Physicists



Murray Chisholm, Liam O'Neil, Gareth Jones, Lily Mason Mackay and Gavin Jennings (chair of IYPTNZ)

The young physicists of WHS were again in the medals at recent NZ JYPT championship. The senior team of Lily Mason Mackay, Gareth Jones and Liam O'Neill won bronze medals, having beaten Westlake Girls College, ACG Parnell and Christchurch winners Riccarton High School. Lily is in the New Zealand squad and is hoping to be chosen for the team for the IYPT in Taipei in July. The junior team for the JYPT (under 16) is Katya Sellen, Shakked Noy, Joseph Ivory and Jack Tregidga.

Youth Parliament



Daisy Cadigan

Daisy Cadigan has been selected to represent Annette King for the Rongotai Electorate in the Youth Parliament. She submitted an essay and then had to present a speech at Parliament. She was competing in the final selection

against students from St. Patricks and Scots College. Her chosen topic was "Child Poverty". Daisy will now spend two days in parliament debating issues with and against other students from around the country.

Year 11 trip to Orongorongo Valley



Ten students and four teachers enjoyed an overnight tramp to the Orongorongo Valley on April 6. For some students it was their first overnight tramp and some were completing this as part of the Bronze Duke of Ed. award. This involved a 3 hour tramp on Sunday over the Cattle Ridge and back to the Catchpool car park. Students enjoyed the cosy Waerenga Hut, a club hut owned by the Tararua Tramping club. This was a great venue for this trip. Thanks to Bharat Pancha for leading this trip.

Year 9 Camp



Noall on the water at Kaitoke

Week 11 saw the last Year 9 camp for this year. While Noall didn't have the splendid weather that earlier camps enjoyed, all the students and teachers participated in a variety of activities and made new connections with each other. Many of the Year 9 students have already gained their school "citizenship" and it is hoped that the remainder will do so early next term.

Year 12 Drama students perform original plays

10 April 2013 was the 45th anniversary of the sinking of the inter-island ferry, Wahine. Year 12 Drama students collaborated with historians from the Museum of Wellington, City and Sea to

create stories inspired by the events of that day. They were privileged to meet and interview survivor Shirley Hicks, Evening Post photographer Ian Mackley and Harbour Pilot Captain John Brown. The works the students created brought a personal perspective to a day embedded in our collective memory.



Henare Quaife, Bella Austin and Carlos McQuillan

Recreation Boxes On



Year 12 Recreation class with Billy Graham

The Year 12 recreation class were fortunate to have the opportunity to visit Billy Graham's boxing academy in Naenae. The intent of the visit to Billy's gym was to foster personal development and have an introduction to boxing.

From the get go Billy was full of energy, startling the class as he opened the front door by jumping out and greeting them with an extremely loud 'hey!' At first the class were taken aback but were lifted by his enthusiasm. Billy began by sharing his experiences in life and the values he expects in his gym and in all aspects of life. He emphasised key values such as respect and integrity, particularly respect for the gym and the environment. It wasn't long before Billy had the students up and active with a relatively easy warm up (by his standards). Billy had the students skipping, shadow boxing, lifting medicine balls and grinding out press ups. Some of these activities were unfamiliar to the students, however, he had them working hard. After the circuit, Billy treated the students to some of his musical talents, pulling out his guitar and harmonica, which was quite unexpected. As the class left the gym it was easy to see the students were lifted and inspired by their visit.



Wellington High School Notices – March 2013

Report Evening for parents and caregivers - Thursday May 9 from 3.30pm to 7pm – This is the Thursday of the 1st week back next term. Bookings can be made online for this evening. There is a link to school interviews from our new school website (<http://www.whs.school.nz>) under the Whānau menu or you can go directly to <http://www.schoolinterviews.co.nz>. On the School Interviews home page enter the school code **G5XBN**. Follow the steps to book your interviews with your student's teachers. Note that teachers are grouped in faculties. If you do not have internet access please get in touch with Jude at reception (385 8911) or your student's roopu teacher and they can organise interviews for you.

Year 9-10 Whiwhinga Reports

With this newsletter will be a whiwhinga report so you can see how your student is progressing with their development of learning skills and behaviours, and an attendance print out.

Attendance Printouts

Printouts tell you if your student was present (P) and this is the important data. Justified (J) absences, Overseas trips (O) and Unjustified (U) absences are all absences and should be avoided – if they are not in class they are hindering their learning and their ability to succeed in their chosen courses. Unjustified absences should be discussed and may indicate truancy.

Maximising attendance will help maximise achievement!

New School Website - <http://www.whs.school.nz>

The school website has a completely new look and is still a work in progress. As part of this work we have added a menu for Whānau with all of the useful links from our moodle page. We will be removing the links from moodle in the near future. Have a look at the new site and let us know what you think!

Parent Portal

There is a direct link to this on the new Wellington High School web site (<http://www.whs.school.nz>) under the Whānau menu. The portal gives you access to some of the information we have on our system: daily notices, student details and timetable, student attendance, NCEA summary, assessment results, extra curricular groups, reports, pastoral items, awards, fees and Fees with Flo2Cash (there is a secure facility where you can pay all or part of your fees), Careers (containing a record of your learning conversation interview in the 'Interviews' section, course selection (this will be needed later in the year for Y9-12 students). Usernames and passwords were sent home and emailed in term 1. If you would like to gain access to the portal, email helpdesk@whs.school.nz with your name and your student's name.

Neighbourhood Thanks and Warning

Wellington High School would like to thank Jala's Dairy for NOT selling synthetic cannabinoids. Unfortunately, most of the other dairies close to Wellington High School do have these products available for sale and we are unsure to what extent they are following the R18 age restrictions in place.

New Zealand doctors are warning of the dangers of synthetic cannabis after three young people were hospitalised this month with severe kidney injuries. Two of the three needed intensive care. We encourage all our families to talk to their students about this issue and reinforce the message that they are receiving from the school about the serious risks that these products pose to health.

Reminders From the Admin Team

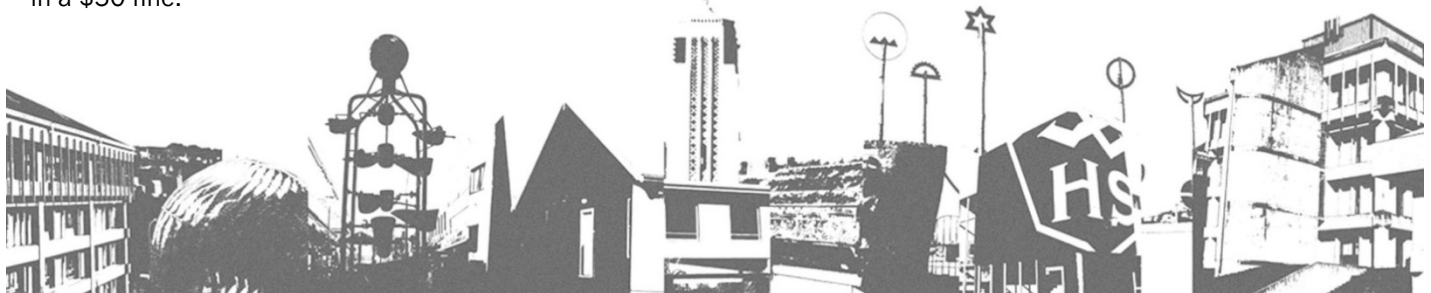
Absences – You can notify the school about any absences by either phoning 385 8911 and pressing 2 to get the Absence Line or emailing absences@whs.school.nz

Student Sign Out - Year 11, 12 and 13 students:- If leaving school grounds for any reason apart from lunch, please report to the attendance window to sign out.

Year 9 and 10 students: Must be signed out by a caregiver

Phoning the school - When phoning the school, if you know which extension you want, please remember to dial 1 before the extension number.

Parking – You must register your car at Reception whenever you are visiting the school. Failure to do so could result in a \$50 fine.



Snapper Cards - Any students who have either a school snapper card or a red or green snapper card, you must register your card to Snapper. Txt your 16 digit nos to 3467 or Click Snapper.co.nz/register or Call 0800 555 345

HOMESTAYS NEEDED FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS from BRAZIL, CHINA, GERMANY, BELGIUM- and USA. \$245 per week. We are looking for inclusive, caring and supportive homes. Contact Pamela Braddell: 385 8911 x781 pamela.braddell@whs.school.nz

Job Opportunity

Wellington High School Canteen is looking for a part-time kitchen hand to work 3-5 hours per day (between 9am-2pm), Monday to Friday, excluding school holidays. The job involves the preparation and cooking of food, baking and sandwich making, serving and till handling, and any other kitchen duties as required. We are looking for someone who is a team-player and willing to learn and do whatever necessary to get the job done. Please send CV to: info@asiana.co.nz by 26th April.



Short-term Courses for Life-long Learning

The Term 2 Community Education Centre programme starts on Saturday 11 May - choose from a wide range of courses, ranging from food to pottery to photography, plus lots more.

Check out the full programme at www.cec.wellington.ac.nz and take advantage of the Early Bird discounts (if you enrol up to three weeks before a course starts). For more information, contact the CEC office on 04 385 8919.

