

# Wellington High School

## TE KURA TUARUA O TARAIKA KI PUKEAHU

NEWSLETTER FOR APRIL 2015 FROM THE PRINCIPAL



### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Kia ora koutou, nga mihi nui koutou katoa. Greetings to you all

You will be aware that in the last week Anne Grimmer, our Careers Counsellor, passed away after a short illness. Anne arrived at Wellington High School in June 2002 to take up the role of careers advisor. She was responsible for creating and developing employment studies courses and overseeing the transition of literally thousands of students to the workplace or further training.

Anne had a wonderful presence in our staff room enlivening any room with her smile and laughter. She was a highly valued, well-respected colleague. She will be greatly missed.

The school was well represented at her funeral as staff and students paid tribute to her enormous input into the career planning of many students, and to show their support to her family. As a school community we offer our condolences to her partner, her daughters and her many friends.

Learning Conversations have become an integral part of our connection with families. The ability to have a conversation focussing on each student's goals and targets is very valuable. I thank all families for their attendance at these important meetings. The feedback I receive about them is always positive and it is recognised how relationships are built by these connections.

As a school we put a lot of effort into promoting the need for good attendance patterns, and I know that many families check the portal to be assured that their young person is at school. In this regard, I need to comment about the coding of absences so that any misunderstanding can be avoided.

We are bound by Ministry of Education guidelines in the coding of absences. The Ministry provides schools with 24 categories to code student absences. Following these protocols **justified absences** are those where a young person is "required" to be away from school. These absences may include family observances like funerals, or representative sports fixtures where the young person needs to be away from school.

**Explained absences** are those where a family "chooses" to have

their youngsters away from school, like holidays or overseas travel. These may be deemed to be at the family's discretion rather than a requirement. While the school might see value in such opportunities we are unable to justify them as absences.

Students have been very active both within the school context and in the community. The Stage Challenge crew are practising hard for this year's competition and the Shakespeare Society are in full rehearsal mode for *Macbeth* which is on in Week 3 of Term 2. Both of these productions involve considerable numbers of students and energy levels are high.

A number of students also participated in Dragon Boating in the last few weeks and our staff crew took to the water as well. The school also supported the Relay for Life to contribute to cancer research. All of these activities involve both staff and students and I thank them for their input and support.

Of course, as well as all these enriching activities, classroom programmes are moving forward through their year's plan. I was asked recently what I thought families could do to support their youngster's learning. Research has shown that the single most effective input parents can have on their child's learning is to take an interest in what is happening at school, know about the assessment schedule, what is due in and when, and ask questions about class work and progress. These simple strategies engage the student and the family in "at home" learning conversations which are encouraging and productive.

I know students and staff are all ready to have a break. I wish everyone a safe and relaxing holiday and look forward to the challenges of Term 2.

Best wishes  
Tena kotou katoa

Nigel Hanton  
Principal

### SENIOR SUBJECT PARENT EVENING WEDNESDAY 22 APRIL 2015 3.30PM TO 7.00PM

This is an opportunity for you to meet with your student's subject teachers for a brief 5 minute interview. Bookings can be made online for this event.

There is a link to the school interviews website from our school website (<http://www.whs.school.nz>) under the Whanau tab or you can go directly to <http://www.schoolinterviews.co.nz>. On the School Interviews home page enter the school code **8RWD6** then follow the instructions to book your interview.

### SPANISH CULTURAL COMBO NIGHT

Wellington High School

Come help us fundraise for our 2016 trip to South America! A donation of just \$25 will win you a great night complete with a Spanish movie, music and food!

**MUCHAS GRACIAS AMIGOS!**

Like The Big Earthquake page on Facebook!

Date: Friday April 24 2015  
Time: 7.30 PM-10PM  
Place: School Hall or Marae

[www.whs.school.nz](http://www.whs.school.nz)  
(04) 385 8911  
[admin@whs.school.nz](mailto:admin@whs.school.nz)



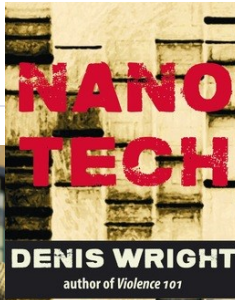


## BOOK LAUNCH

WHS Library set the scene for the launch of the young adult novel *Nanotech*. Written by Wellington High School English teacher, Denis Wright, *Nanotech* touches on contemporary concerns in both society and science.

A select group of staff and students, directed by Alison Hodge (Drama Teacher) performed an excellent dramatisation of Chapter 7 at the launch.

*Nanotech* can be purchased from the Children's Bookshop in Kilbirnie or online at <http://tinyurl.com/p6xdgz8>.



## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SCHOOL DONATION

Each year the Board of Trustees asks families to support their children's learning in the school by contributing a family donation. These funds allow the school to provide additional resources so that we can deliver and maintain our rich, varied and vibrant learning programmes.

Please also remember that we offer automatic payment facilities that can make this almost painless and it is also tax deductible.

The Board would like to thank all those families who have paid their donation this year and encourages all families to prioritise this valuable support for 2015.

## STUDENT DRAGON BOATING

The 2015 WHS Student team was mostly made up of international students and was coached by Charlene Aramoana and Peter Whiting (sweep). A team of 18 students pulled together for the Festival Day and the Secondary School Dragon Boat Festival 2015.

Thank you to Peter Whiting for his patience and coaching tactics. Patricia Reily for collecting the paddles after training, Suzanne Meijer, Michael Neville, Julia Stephenson, Dominic Killalea, for coming down to watch the students race even though they spent a whole day racing the day before in the adult races. Also thanks to Juliana Ranginui, Nerissa Ranginui, Keijahan Ranginui, Keri Ranginui for all your support.



Thank you to Hezren Carter (captain), Zara Feeney (captain), Claudia Worrall for all your help and also to Ashlyn Feeney who was asked on the day to drum (caller) for us.

## STAFF DRAGON BOATING

The WHS staff put together a team for the Corporate Dragon Boat Festival which was held on Saturday 14 March 2015. Eight trainings down and competition day arrived. After 5 races and a tight final they came 3rd in the final and won a bronze medal and a trophy paddle.

Thank you to the wonderful coach Ben Freat and sweep Peter Whiting for their expertise. Thank you to the team of staff members, new and old, that dedicated their time after school. Thank you also to the Ranginui whanau, Michael Neville (who was our tent security guard for the day). Mel McGrath, Trudy Harvey, the Murphy whanau, and all our supporters. Nga mihi.

*Charlene Aramoana (Captain)*



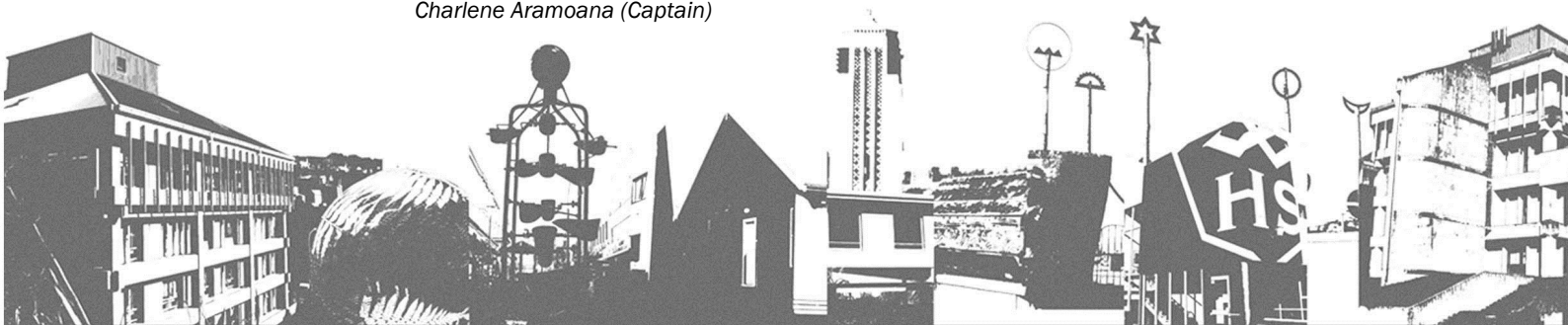
## COMMUNITY EDUCATION

A wide range of courses and one day workshops start next term - check out our website [www.cecwellington.ac.nz](http://www.cecwellington.ac.nz) for more information.

### UKULELE MAKING WORKSHOP

We're running another one of our popular workshops during the July school holidays (13 to 19 July). This is a unique opportunity to build a concert ukulele and learn a range of woodworking skills, from working from a technical plan to professional finishing. The workshop (open to everyone from Year 11) is limited to twelve enrolments.

Enrol at the CEC office next to the WHS car park or register online at [www.cecwellington.ac.nz](http://www.cecwellington.ac.nz).





## BARISTA COURSE

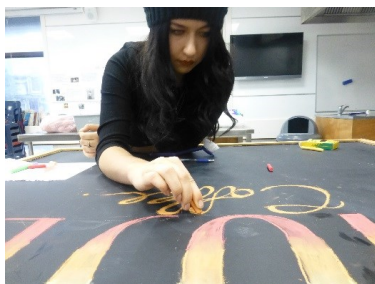
This is Wellington High School's first year of running a Barista course. Students learn everything from the origin of coffee, coffee styles to operating the Espresso machine. Students are tutored by coffee specialists from Co-Ed Coffee Company. The course to date has been running smoothly and a hum of enthusiasm is ever present.

Our Barista team represented the school at the annual Caffeination event held in Wellington and did the school proud.



Currently our students are working on setting up a Coffee/Hot drink corner for students. Hopefully students can enjoy a hot chocolate/ coffee this coming winter in our local coffee club made by our own Barista class.

This is also good news for parents; you can expect to buy an outstanding cup of coffee on your next visit to WHS.



## DUKE OF EDINBURGH-HILLARY AWARD

This Award operates in 134 countries and encourages young people to take on personal challenges. The programme provides young people the framework for personal discovery and growth through service, skills, physical activity and adventurous expeditions, developing perseverance, self-esteem and responsibility to self and community.

A journey to Nepal is offered to Year 13 students each year, which contributes towards the Gold Award.

Students have to be motivated, enthusiastic about taking on new challenges and be prepared to get out of their comfort zone.

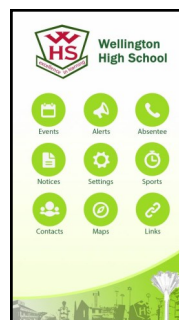
I would encourage students to enrol for this Award if you think they have the above attributes and will be accepting registrations for this award until the end of the second week in Term 2.

See Bharat Pancha, for a registration form if you are interested



## WELLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL APP

You can now download an app from the iTunes App Store. Includes daily notices, absences, alerts and other information.



Android Play Store:

<http://tinyurl.com/m3yp5c2>

iTunes App Store:

<http://tinyurl.com/k44zgtb>

## YOUNG PHYSICISTS NATIONAL TOURNAMENT SUCCESS

At the national finals of the New Zealand Young Physicists' Tournament, held in Wellington on 21st March, a very strong Wellington High team won silver medals.

Shakked Noy (captain), Jack Tregidga and Tess Breitenmoser were outstanding, winning the regionals against arch-rivals Onslow only to be beaten by the same Onslow team in the final. Auckland Grammar were third followed by Christchurch Girls', Riccarton and ACG Parnell.



Jack and Tess have since been selected for the New Zealand squad of nine top physicists, the final five of which represent their country at the international finals in Thailand at the end of June.

## FUNDRAISING WITH ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS

Order your new Entertainment™ Books and Entertainment™ Digital Memberships from us today, and 20% of your Membership goes towards our fundraising! Order online at <https://www.entertainmentbook.co.nz/orderbooks/104r121>

For only \$60 Entertainment™ Memberships are packed with hundreds of up to 50% off and 2-for-1 offers for the best local restaurants, cafés, attractions, hotel accommodation, travel, and much more!

Available as a traditional Entertainment™ Book -or- Digital Membership on your smartphone, your Membership gives you over \$20,000 worth of valuable offers valid through to 1 June 2016!

Order either Membership type **before 20th April 2015**, and you'll receive **over \$150** worth of **Early Bird Offers** which you can use straight away!





## OUTDOOR EDUCATION AT WHS



Wellington High School Outdoor Education students made the epic 87 kilometre paddle down the Whanganui River for Year 12 Outdoor Ed.

Part of New Zealand's Great Walks network, the journey winds through deep gorges, past sheer cliffs and multiple waterfalls. The students took full advantage of the opportunity to paddle hard, laze in the sun, cliff jump, mud fight and camp with style.

\* \* \*



Base 1 students had an Outdoor Education day at Worser Bay. The day was planned and run by International students who are taking Outdoor Education. The students kayaked, swam, built sandcastles and a fabulous time was had by all.



## ATHLETICS CARNIVAL FULL RESULTS



You can find the full results from our athletics carnival at the following link. <http://www.whs.school.nz/wp-content/uploads/Athletic-Carnival-Results-2015.pdf>



Congratulations goes to Christina Gardner and Hope Robyns-McKay, who both broke school high jump records in their respective age group.

## VOLLEYBALL

At the Volleyball Nationals held at the ASB Sports Centre our Wellington High School Senior Boys Volleyball team had an outstanding result by placing third. To top that off we had three of our team made the Tournament Team. They are James McInnes (Best Passer), Lawrence Webster and Thomas Gibson

This week our Senior A Volleyball boys were in Palmerston North for the NZSS Volleyball Nationals. They had some very tough, hard fought games this to finish third in their pool.

During the crossovers they won all their games to finish top of their new pool, they narrowly missed a semi final spot but saved their best for last and won against Takapuna Grammar, 3-2 to finish 5th in Division 4.

A big thank you must go to Kurt Stewart for being a fantastic coach and mentor and to Clare Pasley, Katherine Gebbie and Lis Ellison-Loschmann for being the tournament mums.



## BEGINNERS FENCING COURSE

Wellington High School has a long history of offering fencing to its students and we are keen for this to continue.

A new beginners class starts on the first Saturday of Term 2, 29 April 2015 in the old gym and runs from 9.00am - 10.15am and everyone is invited.



If a sport that combines speed and agility with tactics and strategy sounds like you, come along and try it out, it's a sport for everybody.

All the equipment needed to start is provided and you get to try it out for a couple of weeks before you sign up. Just wear track pants, trainers and t-shirt. And of course any returning fencers are always welcome.

There is a charge of \$110.00 when you sign up and this covers your own personal fencing glove which you get to keep, and fees so you can compete in local, regional and national competitions.

*Any queries, please contact the WHS Sports Co-ordinator, or Vicci Lamb (Coach) on 970 7496 (evenings).*

## YEAR 10 TOUCH TOURNAMENT

The Year 10 Physical Education teachers ran a touch rugby tournament for all students in that year group this week.

Thirty-six games were played over two hours with Howell 1 coming up the champions.

A fantastic afternoon for all involved.

