

# Wellington High School

## NEWSLETTER FOR AUGUST 2013 FROM THE PRINCIPAL



### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

I have been Acting Principal for five weeks now and, as always, there has been a lot happening.

I was fortunate to accompany a wonderful group of students for a food and fashion trip to London and Paris at the start of term, I have witnessed our footballers and badminton players having success on the sporting field and I have watched with great admiration the achievements of *Lily Mason-Mackay*, *Ailidh Leslie* and our kapahaka group.

We are also very proud that four of our sporting teams will be representing us at Winter Tournament week and two of our students, *Campbell Tacon* and *Marcella Klap* will swim at the National Secondary Swimming Championships from 6 to 8 September.

Success has many guises but can also be measured in simple day to day activities that are reported to us such as a group of students who stood up on a bus so other members of the community could sit down, a boy who found \$20 and handed it in to student services, two students on a bus who realised that a student from another school was unconscious and performed first aid, called an ambulance which possibly saved his life and a group of year 9 students who are putting together packs of essential items and raising awareness for homeless people.

The recent earthquake reminded us all to continue our emergency planning and we were pleased that our buildings suffered no structural damage. Our students behaved impeccably throughout the evacuation receiving plaudits from Mayor Celia Wade-Brown who was visiting the night shelter at the time. I'd like to thank all parents and caregivers for your cooperation in the evacuation process.

The second half of term 3 is a busy one with our second round of learning conversations occurring on Wednesday 11 September and our senior students involved in school examinations in week 8 (16-20 September).

This is also a sad time for us as we say farewell to our Year 12 Dean, Dean Sheppard. Dean has been with us since 2000 and has contributed significantly as a Dean and a teacher of Agriculture and Horticulture (in an urban school!) in that time. He will be greatly missed as he advances to a Deputy Principal position at Mt Aspiring College in Wanaka. We wish him well!

No reira. Nga mihi nui koutou katoa

Dominic Killalea

### LEARNING CONVERSATIONS

On Wednesday 11th September 2013 the second Learning Conversation of the year will take place. The school will be closed for instruction, but we expect every student and their caregivers to make an appointment to meet with their Roopu teacher. The purpose of this conversation is to review the goals set earlier in the year. It is also an opportunity to reassess and adjust the goals for the rest of the year.

Appointments can now be made through the School Interviews link from the school website (<http://www.whs.school.nz/>) under the Whānau link.

The event code is **SZRR**

### BADMINTON SUCCESS



We have had a really successful 2013, with four teams getting to regional finals. The Year 9 boys (*Otis Rea*, *Milo Willcock*, *Zac O'Callaghan* and *Keiran Pancha*) did extremely well to top their division 2 table, with a lot of the teams they played made up of Year 10s. Unfortunately, at the finals, a Kapiti team won 6-0.

The Year 9 girls played their best match of the season to beat Mana 2 by four games to two. Congratulations to *Zita Harrington*, *Eva McGauley*, *Kaylin Chu* and *Daisy Abraham* and also captain *Hazel Williams*, who was unfortunately ill on the day but has lead the team well throughout the season.

Both Year 11 teams made it to the senior finals held at Haitaitai. Unfortunately, three of the boy's team were on the skiing trip so we had to play two Year 10s and a Year 9 as well as *Josh Weir*, the one remaining Year 11. They did extremely well to beat HVHS 7 by four games to two. Thanks to *Thomas Gibson*, *James McInnes* and *Zak O'Callaghan* who stepped up.

They all played some excellent badminton and held their nerve to win two of the games 21-20. It turned into an even better day when the girls also won a very tight final, on points, after the match was tied at three games all. *Lucy Edwards*, *Tess Breitenmoser*, *Ciara O'Callaghan*, *Phuong Do* and *Amie Lewis* were very excited winners.

### PHYSICS



Lily Mason-Mackay

Lily Mason-Mackay represented the New Zealand Team in the International Young Physicists Tournament (IYPT). She performed very well and finished 6th in the world; winning a silver medal. The final was held in the July Holidays in Taipei with Singapore winning 1st place, Korea 2nd, Switzerland 3rd and Australia in 15th place.

Lily started at WHS in 2009, is now in Year 13 and is one of our very top students attaining excellence endorsement at levels 1 and 2 of NCEA.

Lily joined other team members to discuss the physics fights with Kim Hill on National Radio on Saturday 10 August 2013.

Lily also successfully entered the NIWA Wellington Regional Science and Technology Fair recently. She came away with:

- 1st in Class 5
- VUW Faculty of Science Innovation Prize
- Realise the Dream Nomination
- Association for Women in the Sciences award

Congratulations Lily!

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## DEBATING

We are all immensely proud of our debating superstar, Year 13 student, Ailidh Leslie. Ailidh is part of our Premier A debating team consisting of Ailidh, Merinda Jackson and Lauren Thompson. The team won a regional debating competition in June and from that competition Ailidh was selected to be in the Wellington Secondary Schools debating team. As part of that team Ailidh spent several days debating culminating in the Wellington team defeating Auckland's top team in the grand final which was held at parliament to a large audience including the Governor General and many prominent politicians.

Ailidh was then named to be in the New Zealand secondary schools debating team - and to cap off an extraordinary day, was named as the captain of the national team. Back to reality and Ailidh's Wellington High Premier A team contested the semi-finals of the regular Wellington Premier A division on the 27th of August and came away with another victory for a place in the finals. The Junior Premier team are also finalists in their division. We look forward to hearing the results of the finals for both teams.

## LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COURSES

Give your student the extra edge at school and beyond in the workforce and community. **Future Leaders** are running a number of courses to suit your student. Instructors are also members of the NZ Army Reserve, teaching leadership in a relaxed and professional environment, in a civilian capacity. For more details and to book, visit [www.futureleaders.co.nz](http://www.futureleaders.co.nz) or call 0800 FUTURE

## RESEARCH AT THE ZOO

Wellington Zoo and WHS have teamed up to offer students a unique opportunity to engage in self-directed research with a wide range of zoo animals. This research will give them an opportunity to gain valuable experience before transitioning into tertiary education. Students will be given a pass that will give them access to the Zoo at any time during opening hours. During the research period, students will meet the Zoo Educators for on-going learning sessions throughout the research. All students will meet to present their finished research to the group as well as WHS and Zoo staff.

## TARGET SHOOTING

Congratulations to Tyler Green who has been chosen to represent Wellington in the 12 person team for the Collegiate Inter-Association Teams Match between Wellington, Hutt Valley, Christchurch, Waikato and Manawatu

## TOP MARKS FOR WHS SCIENCE STUDENTS

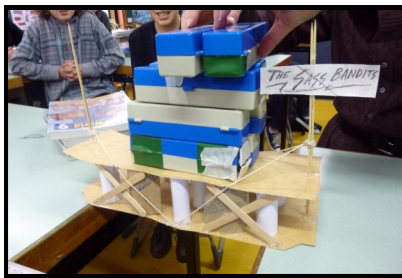
2013 saw the highest Science awards ever achieved by WHS in the International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS).

ICAS Science assesses students' skills in the key scientific areas of: interpreting data, including observing, measuring and interpreting diagrams, tables and graphs; applying data, including inferring, predicting and concluding; and higher order skills, including investigating, reasoning and problem solving.



Year 9s received 11 participation awards, 14 credit, 6 distinction, 1 high distinction. The Year 10s had 11 participation awards, 11 credit, 7 distinction, 3 high distinction.

## BRIDGE BUILDING



This year Wellington High school entered three teams in the Aurecon Bridge Building competition. Each team of Year 10 students were given some simple building materials and tasked with building a bridge to span a fixed distance. The judging criteria were strength, aesthetics and innovation.

The Sassbandits team of *Jess Eaton, Lucy Brown and Isabella Sheppard* gained a very impressive second place out of 24 Wellington teams. Their bridge held a weight of 33.5 kg, only 2 kg less than the winning entry. The Sassbandits earned a cheque for \$1000 for the school and \$100 each for themselves and are considering future careers in civil engineering.

Congratulations are also due the Dubhs team of *Sian Menson, Merren McGregor, Sasha Vlassoff and Jan Mieller* who came sixth with a bridge bearing weight of 30kg.

## LIBRARY WEEK



We have celebrated Library Week and National Poetry Day this month. Library Week went well with *Blind Date with a Book* particularly popular. 120 books were issued in two hours, all of them wrapped in brown paper so that the students didn't know what book they were getting. The student vs staff debate saw 200+ students in the library to watch the student team win.

On National Poetry Day we had our now-traditional Poetry Party with students and staff reading poems written by themselves or by others. It was very well attended and a wide range of poetry was read. Poems were written on over 50 balloons that were then taken around the school by the students. Some balloons were even seen attached to a student's bike three days later, on the other side of town.

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SCHOOL DONATION

While government funds provide for the majority of resources required by the School, it is an unfortunate reality that these do not cover all that is necessary to provide a worthy school experience for our students. The Board endeavours to supplement these funds through various means and a range of sources.

One of these alternative sources is the annual donation from parents and whanau which helps with the general running of the School.

Although Wellington High School's finances are sound, last year our spending exceeded our income. Clearly, this situation cannot be repeated too often without risking untoward consequences. As a result, the annual donations request made by the School this year is doubly important.

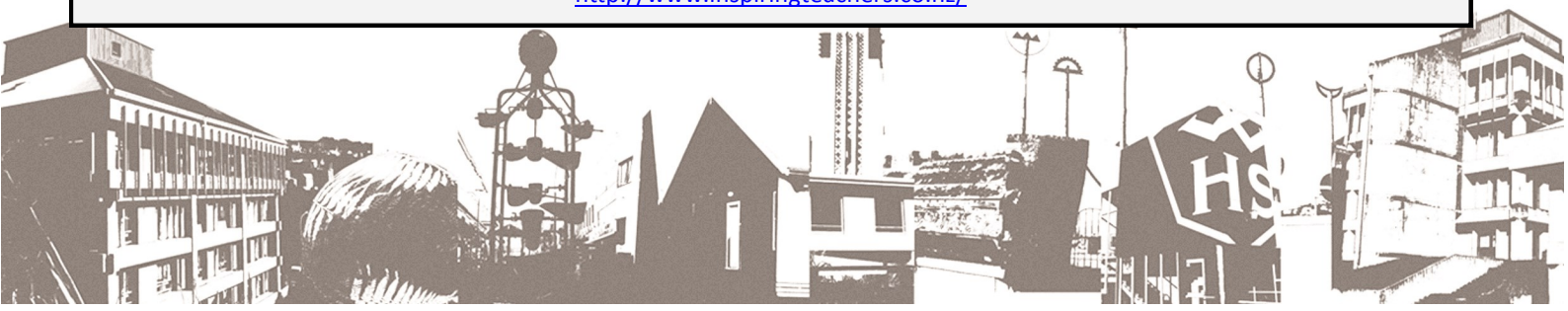
To all those who have already paid their donation - a big thank you.

To those who have yet to pay, please bring it to the top of your to do list, (or search your inbox to find the necessary details). You certainly won't regret your investment in our children's future.

And, don't forget, you can claim a tax credit for the donation - we will provide a receipt to enable you to claim the credit.

Nominate and vote for the teacher you believe is the most inspiring at Wellington High

<http://www.inspiringteachers.co.nz/>



## Te Whānau Taraika Kapa Haka Wellington High School 2013.

Tēnā tatou katoa,

Our small but dedicated group of 24 students, all with different whānau backgrounds, worked hard in the build up to the Wellington Secondary School Regional Kapa Haka Competition.

These students did not know each other when they first joined, but with a fantastic name game at kai time, they soon became a tight knit whānau unit. Practices were held every Wednesday after school, Saturday/Sunday from 10am to 6pm for 11 weeks.

Not all of these students had performed in front of a live audience before, but those who had, showed great leadership towards helping our students overcome their shyness. A special mention to our Brazilian students, Matheus Torres De Almeida and Jose Soares Da Silva who joined our whānau from the beginning. These two students became and always will remain a part of our Te Whānau a Taraika. They returned at the end of the term to Brazil and are dearly missed by us all.

Students stayed over the night before our big competition debut for a relaxed noho. After a wonderful dinner of nachos cooked and prepared by our very own live in chef/seamstress Suzanne Meijer the students were bedded down at 9pm. An early wakeup at 6am to a light breakfast and showers, the dressing began. After a 45 minute bus ride, a few vocal warm ups and a lot of fluids their time had finally arrived.

What a performance they gave. Coming 5<sup>th</sup> was a massive achievement and to be told that our school was the best-behaved and most respectful school by the organisers, just made our day even better.

E korerawa e mōnehunehu te aroha ki a koutou e pupuri nei i tēnei taonga ō tō tatou kura.

Kahore hoki kōia te mātauranga, me te aroha.

Ngā mihi nui

Whaea Charlene Aramoana

## EUROPE 2013

The Europe Food and Fashion trip set off for London in the first week of the Term Two break, full of excitement and anticipation.

The trip is an opportunity to inspire and engage students by exposing them to a range of cultural activities, the majority of them related to food and/or fashion. In London, food students undertook an Indian food walk in Southall then sat down for an Indian lunch, they cooked in Jamie Oliver's cooking school in Notting Hill, visited the Coca-Cola Edmonton factory (which is almost totally mechanised), visited the London Borough market, had High Tea at St Paul's and lunched at Jamie Oliver's *Fifteen*.

In Paris, the students visited a macaron kitchen then spent an afternoon at La Cuisine making macarons, they visited a working bakery and got to sample baguettes and various breads, tried foie gras (then learnt how it was made), caviar and les escargots (one student ate 5), went on a chocolate walk sampling product and culture, as well as visits to numerous tourist sites.

One of our students, *Zach Mackie*, had broken his leg before the trip and we were unsure if he would be able to take part. However, he got the all clear a week before departure and we packed a wheel chair and hoped for the best. I must pay special tribute to Noah Allen-Collins and Aidan King who pushed Zach's wheel chair around the busy streets and metros of London and Paris (think of those cobblestones), always smiling and with no complaints – what a wonderful display of friendship!

The trip was a success by all measures and the students were wonderful!

### We are all so very proud of our TeWhānau a TaraikaKapaHaka 2013.



*Iana Takarangi (male leader), Awanui Noanoa Morgan (female leader), Zevanya Ranginui (female leader), Daeszhai Kanapu, Yulia Kolotilina, Keijahan Ranginui, Nerissa Ranginui, Oakley Spain, Wai Edwards, Claudia Holmstead-Morris, Lori Paki, Queenie Scott-Murray, Tasha Barrett, Polly Brown, Honey Brown, Button TeTomo- Brown, Siah Metekingi, Tapua Metekingi, Anton Robert, Tyrall Robert, Josh Stewart, Robert Ward, Matheus Torres De Almeida, and Jose Soares Da Silva.*

### THANK YOU from Te Whānau Taraika Kapa Haka

*Special and most humble thank you to our wonderful tutors Neitana Lobb who managed to get a great team of tutors who all worked hard together, Mona-Pauline Mangakāhia, Waipora Tia Tia Lobb,, Moengaroa Hawaikirangi, Rangī Tangaere, Baden Ewart and Matua Ben Tanagere.*

*Suzanne Meijer for her unconditional help with cooking, sewing, driving every weekend.*

*Anna McCrae and her husband for all your help and support you have given with cooking, noho, tee shirts.*

*Matua Russell and Whaea Mere, Matua Lou and Whaea Ana for your help with the cooking.*

*Nanny Wiki for your yummy cakes.*

*Wellington East for lending us your piupiu for our girls.*

*Hato Pāora College for lending us your piupiu for our boys.*

*We would like to also thank staff and whanau for all your support.*

***Most of all we thank our wonderful TeWhānau a Taraika Students for their dedication, their ability to achieve the best that they could.***

***We are very proud to be a part of a great group and team.***

