

Wellington High School



NEWSLETTER FOR AUGUST 2014 FROM THE PRINCIPAL

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Again this month our school newsletter chronicles some of the rich and diverse activity that characterises our school. Students have been innovative, creative and entrepreneurial across a range of exciting activities, while others have travelled internationally to show the world the quality of the learning that is delivered by teachers at Wellington High School. Congratulations to you all.

Keeping the focus on learning I hope that all families will take the opportunity to come into school on Wednesday 10th September to talk to their youngster's rōpū teacher and discuss progress towards the goals and targets that were set at the first round of Learning Conversations earlier this year.

The Learning Conversations keep achievement in focus, and explore the contributing factors to personal success. A theme that we have been systematically profiling to all year levels is the absolute relationship that exists between attendance and achievement. School assemblies have been used to share data that explores this relationship and again I remind all families that regular attendance is non-negotiable....youngsters simply cannot learn what they need to know for assessment towards qualifications if they are not in class.

From Monday 1 September until Wednesday of the following week the school will host the Education Review Office for a scheduled review of the school. The review provides us with an external perspective on our own very robust systems of self-review and provides written feedback on our performance in key review areas. The school is well placed for this review and we look forward to sharing our best practice with the review team.

I would also like to take this opportunity to introduce new staff members of our team who have joined us since the beginning of the term. Recent promotions and secondments have led to our appointing new staff, and we welcome Edward Meredith, Kirsten Taylor, Lyndon Coppin, Maeve Stevenson and Rosi Yourukova to the teaching team. We also welcome existing staff members Iona Forsyth and Julia Stephens to Dean's roles within the Pastoral Team.

Finally I would like to thank members of the school community, teachers, students and parents, for their support of Te Whanau a Taraika's work in refurbishing Taraika. Recent work has focussed on designing and painting tahuhu, the ridge-pole decoration in the whare.

These are now ready to be installed and will add enormously to the quality of the interior decoration and provide a stunning model for future work. Nga mihi nui kotou!

Nigel Hanton
Principal

LEARNING CONVERSATIONS WEDNESDAY 10 SEPTEMBER

All students should be involved in Learning Conversations on **Wednesday 10 September**. The Learning Conversation takes place between the student, the student's rōpū teacher and parent(s) / caregiver(s). Students will only be at school on this day for their learning conversation. Please make the effort to support this event. This learning conversation focuses on the goals set earlier in the year and is a chance for the student to showcase work supporting their learning. In addition, for students in years 10 - 12 there is a future focus with course selection and exam preparation a consideration. Students in Year 13 will also be engaged in conversations around pathway planning and exam preparation. Bookings for learning conversations can be made at : <http://www.schoolinterviews.co.nz/>

Enter the code **LXHRG**. Bookings are made by choosing the year level then the rōpū teacher. There is also a link to this site on the whanau tab of the school website.

ASSESSMENTS, AUTHENTICITY AND ASSISTING YOUR STUDENT IN NCEA INTERNALS

It is always welcome when parents take an interest in the work that students are doing at school. The opportunity to discuss ideas with you clearly enriches their understanding, engagement and enthusiasm.

However, please be aware that work done for NCEA Achievement Standards must be the student's own work and that students need to be able to sign that they received no assistance other than that permitted in the conditions of assessment. The internal assessments are National Standards similar in spirit to an examination.

By all means continue ask your students to tell you about their assessments, but please don't assist them in any way that may compromise the authenticity of the work submitted.

AUTOMATIC ATTENDANCE ALERT

You and your student have heard a great deal from Wellington High lately regarding attendance and the strong relationship between academic achievement and being in class. Our goal is to work in partnership with you to ensure that your student has the best possible access to learning and achievement.

To this end, we have a fantastic automatic text system which means that you'll get a text if your student is marked absent without explanation for a period or longer. This system is highly accurate and can be trusted- if you get a text you can safely assume that your student is not in class.

If there is a valid reason for your student missing a class e.g. as a result of illness or a doctor's appointment, we need to hear from you as soon as possible, either via email or a note. For any absence as a result of illness that lasts for more than three days we require a doctor's certificate. Family holidays should be arranged during school holidays. In exceptional circumstances, families wishing to remove their student from school during term time for trips or holidays, must apply to the Principal for leave. Interestingly, the Ministry of Education categories this type of absence as "explained but unjustified".

If you have any questions about attendance, your student, our processes or the correlation between attendance and achievement, please get in touch with your rōpū teacher, dean, or one of the Deputy Principals.

CALENDAR

Te Whanau a Taraika Hui	1 Sept
Winter Tournament Week	1 Sept
Learning Conversations	10 Sept
Year 11 Drama Production	1-4 Sept

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AROTAH I SCIENCE

Arotahi science carried out some of the winter pruning operation on Anaroa Hills Vineyard in July.

Rowan Hoskins from vine managers showed the students how to prune correctly. The conditions were wet and cold, and we could not complete the operation on the day.

This important operation for the 2015 harvest was completed by Kirsty, Ross, a neighbour and Max Smith.



The purpose of the authentic learning was to prune out the dead wood, train the canes, and to control the growth and vigour. The aim is to have good quality grapes ripening together at the end of summer.

HIGH ACHIEVING JUNIOR SCIENTISTS

The ICAS suite of tests is developed by the University of New South Wales and evaluates students' skills, knowledge and understanding in the core learning areas. The tests are sat by students throughout Australia, New Zealand and Asia.

Fifty-three Year 9 and 10 students sat the science ICAS this year. We are proud of the 27 Credit winners and 18 students gained a very impressive distinction award, more than we have ever had before. Well done to Daisy Abraham, Cassandra Bahr, Liam Beaumont, Rohan Jackson, Gilda Knox Streader, Callum Davidson, Lauren Jack, Rose Mackenzie, Joseph Sutton, Hazel Williams and Romy Tennent for gaining distinction in the year 10 test.

And in year 9 we celebrate distinction certificates earned by Ensai August, Raven Bax, Callum Clarke-Price, Fraser McConnell, Daniel Read and Jack Touhey.

This year we also gained a high distinction award reserved for the top 1% of all candidates. Matthew Dench in year 9 can be justifiably proud of a stellar performance.

Heartiest congratulations from the science team. You all rock!

BIOLOGY

WHS Biology staff and students joined a host of excellent presenters showcasing women's research in genetics from Otago University at the National Library. Our students were keen to learn more about NZ women working at the cutting edge of Genetics research.

They discovered how we are using DNA to track human migrations and population origins, the difficulty in predicting heart disease and how we are using zebrafish help understand human disease. They were most intrigued by Dr Stephanie Hughes' talk titled "Don't forget to put out the rubbish: lessons from genetic mutations in the cellular recycling" system.

JUNIOR YOUNG PHYSICISTS TOURNAMENT

Incheon Jinsan High School, Korea

This year's JYPT team of Shakked Noy (C), Joseph Ivory, Jack Tregidga and Callum Davidson were again a very strong force. They started strongly with Joseph's presentation scoring well in round 1 to put the team into 3rd place. The next day



Shakked made history by being the first person to fall ill whilst in the middle of a physics fight. Joseph took over ably but by the end of the day we had dropped to 5th place. A strong performance by Callum and Jack on the third day put the team back up to 3rd at the end of the round robin. In the playoff for 3rd and 4th Shakked's debating skills were far superior to his opponent's from All Saint's Anglican School (Gold Coast). Shakked scored the highest of anyone in the tournament with three 9s and WHS had the bronze medal. Travel to the tournament was arduous with three flights and 24 hours duration in each direction. Highlights included dancing Gangnam style at the farewell party and talent quest, learning the Korean cultural phenomenon of



"Selfie" taking (often involving a "selfie-stick" and sometimes with the addition of "selfie bombers" in the background). There was also the many and various ways of eating Kimchi for breakfast after being woken by super loud K-pop over the dormitory intercom. Actually the hospitality of the host schools was the best thing

about this tournament. Good luck to the tournament winners and next year's hosts Onslow College.

GUIDANCE TEAM AT WHS

We are pleased to introduce our new guidance team, Lyndon Coppin and Maeve Stevenson. Maeve Stevenson started at Wellington High at the beginning of the term and Lyndon Coppin joined her in Week 4. Maeve and Lyndon are both experienced, highly qualified, secondary school specialist counsellors from teaching backgrounds. If you have any inquiries about the counselling services that Wellington High School please feel free to email Lyndon on lyndon.coppin@whs.school.nz or Maeve on maeve.stevenson@whs.school.nz.





BASE ONE SPORT

Base 1 students have participated in several sporting endeavours recently with some very good results. They are very



competitive and coupled with their sense of fair play and a commitment to their team makes these young men excellent ambassadors for WHS.

Five students headed to Trentham to compete in the annual AWD X-Country race in term 2. Our team members were Rohan Lane-Turnbull, James Martin, Gregory Stewart, Nick Weaver and Matthew DiLeva.

Rohan came in 6th with a time of 00:10:29.50, he was +00:01:15.02 behind the winner and his average speed was 11.4 km/hr. The team was second overall.



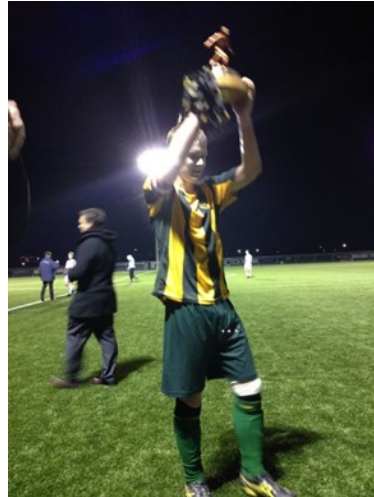
Matthew DiLeva, Rohan Lane-Turnbull, Tomi Smith and James Martin competed in the AWD 10 Pin Bowling competition. James Martin bowled the third highest score of the day and WHS also placed 3rd in the team event.



Matthew DiLeva competed in the AWD Road Race this term and came in 7th in a time 0:07:39 from a field of 18 students.

DIVISION ONE CHAMPIONS

The WHS Boys' 1st XI Football team took out Division 1 this week, with a 2-1 victory over St Pat's Silverstream. Coached by Alex Rothman and Hugo Barber-Dale, the team has had a fantastic season. This is a hugely impressive achievement and well-deserved title.



The team is hoping to continue their good form in Nelson next week, where they are competing in week-long tournament as part of the annual Winter Tournament Week.

Best of luck to two of our other top teams also competing next week - the Snr A Netball team who are off to the Hawkes Bay and our Girls' 1st XI Football team who are based in Wellington and hoping for some home crowd support!



SQUASH

Well done to Fae (left) and Ria Ragasa who competed in the Secondary School Squash Championships recently. They came 3rd and 4th in the Rookie Division.



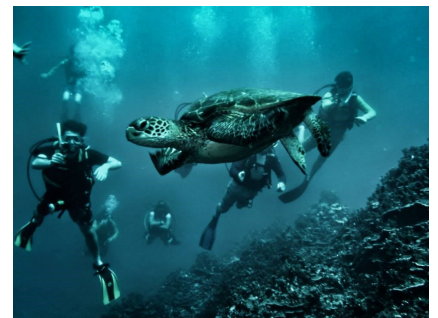
Both Fae and Ria have been attending the WHS weekly squash programme.

OUTDOOR EDUCATION TO SAMOA

Senior Outdoor Education students recently went to Savai'i Samoa for 10 days. The trip was student organised and driven and focussed on gaining outdoor education credits. These included scuba diving, snorkelling/freediving and paddle boarding

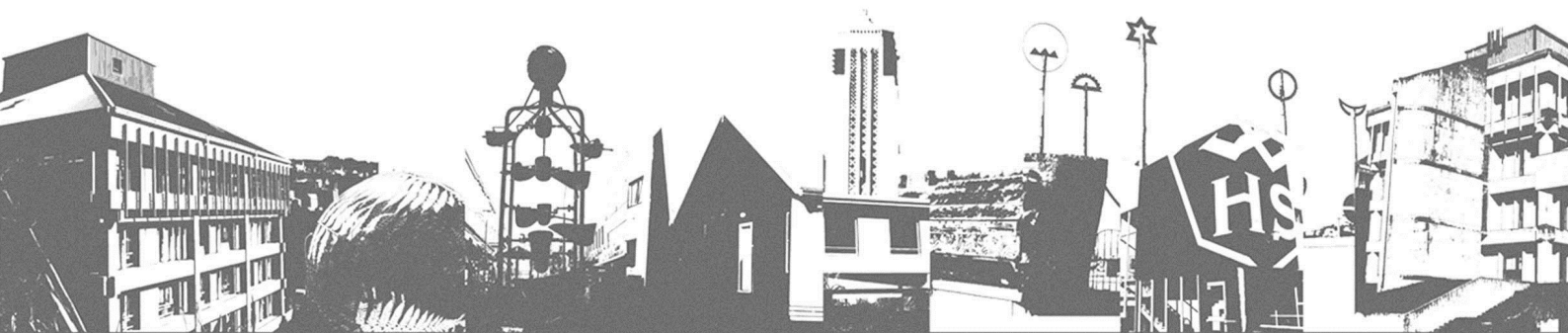


and other credits which took into account social responsibility—critical to success in a country where the culture is quite different to home.



The group, which was adopted by Tufulele village on Upolu, swam with both captive and wild turtles, saw natural phenomenon like lava fields and ocean blow holes. They also tried all sorts of local food.

It was a fabulous experience and planning is already underway for those going to Samoa in 2015.



LIBRARY NEWS

The library has had a bit of excitement over the last few weeks. First we had Taika Waititi come and talk about his film *What we do in the shadows*. There were nearly 300 students packed into the front part of the library.



Then we had 5 political candidates to answer questions from students from WHS and Wellington East Girls' College: Holly Walker (Greens), Laila Harre (Internet Mana), Grant Robertson (Labour), Paul Foster-Bell (National) and Richard Prosser (NZ First). Hopefully, this will have helped some first-time-voter students decide which way they will vote.



We also had our annual student vs staff debate which turned out to be students vs one staff member and two ex-students. The moot was *That the voting age should be lowered to 16*. The students took the affirmative and the adjudicator, Denis Wright, declared them the winners.



TEACHER SLAVE AUCTION

The WHS Amnesty Group ran a "12 Minutes a Teacher Slave Auction" to raise money during Freedom Challenge Week 2014. It was a huge success and a lot of fun, with the group raising \$214.60.



Thanks so much to the teachers who volunteered to be auctioned off and to those that won auctions and donated. Many teachers were bought and freed by Jane Shallcrass and others have student



slave owners who organised 12 minutes of slave labour during the following week.

Classics teacher Trudy Harvey bought Head of Social Sciences, Henry Hollis, for the princely sum of \$20 and was thinking of creative ways she could use him for 12 minutes - one of which we hear was to stand him in the foyer wearing a 'Free Hugs' sign.

A big 'shout out' has to go to teacher Alex Rothman who was won for \$67 by a group of Year 10 boys, and they even donated an extra \$2 for the cause.



CONGRATULATIONS

This year, the Post Primary Teachers Association (PPTA) co-hosted a Video 2 Vote competition with the Tertiary Education Union and the New Zealand University Students' Association to help engage young voters and reverse the trend of a low turnout of young voters. The winners of the secondary school category were Lewis Wong and Rose MacKenzie from Wellington High School.

You can watch their video here: <http://youtu.be/seZudKZCr2Q>

Eva Tinga (Yr 11) has been selected as one of 3 Wellington students to go to Japan as part of the JENYSYS exchange programme which is fully funded by the Japanese government. Students will spend 10 days in Japan doing a variety of activities including homestays, visiting schools and sightseeing in Tokyo.





**Short-term Courses for
Life-long Learning
at the Wellington High
School CEC**

The Term 3 Community Education Centre programme is underway but we still have lots of one-day workshops scheduled, as well as 4-session evening courses. Check out what's available and enrol online at www.cecwellington.ac.nz. Take advantage of our special \$10 off deal for WHS families and whanau - just use the Promotional Code WHSO10914 when you register (sorry, not available for already discounted Te Reo Maori, NZ Sign Language, Samoan or ESOL courses).

For more information or to enrol by phone, contact the CEC office on 04 385 8919.

