

Wellington High School

NEWSLETTER FOR DECEMBER 2013 FROM THE PRINCIPAL



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Kia ora koutou katoa.
Greetings to you all

The end of another academic year is upon us as we celebrate and reflect on a year's learning at our school. I use the word "our" advisedly, because I believe that Wellington High School is a collaborative and inclusive school where our vital work and purpose is really shared with students, teachers, parents, whanau and the wider community.

This collegiality sets us apart from other schools and we need to openly celebrate this difference because it flavours what we do and creates a unique energy. This energy allows us to take a real future focus in the learning we encourage and it allows us to develop in our students the skills and attributes that allow them to be creative and flexible while setting and meeting their own learning goals. The vitality of this learning encourages each individual to personalise their experience and engage fully with their learning, while taking full advantage of the high tech environment in which we work.

So we need to celebrate our unique character. In so doing, I wish to acknowledge all those who have input into creating, maintaining and enriching our values, and thank you all for your support. We are indeed fortunate!

Inevitably at this time of the year we farewell staff who are moving on to other things as they build their careers. We farewell Carl Condliffe as he moves to Rongotai College as Faculty Head PE, Drew McGlashen as he migrates south to his homeland to a role as Physics teacher at Waimea College and to Suhanya Green who slips through the tunnel to teach Music at St Patricks, Kilbirnie. We wish them well.

I would also like to acknowledge other staff who have worked with us this year on fixed term contracts. I wish you all well in the future.

Finally, I wish you all a safe and enjoyable Christmas and look forward to working with you all again next year.

Nigel Hanton
Principal

Celebrating CREST with Food Technology

In Food Technology we offer CREST projects as an extension programme to any interested student. CREST is an international awards scheme designed to encourage years 0-13 students to be innovative, creative, and to problem solve in science, technology and environmental studies. The Royal Society of NZ administers the CREST award programme.



Food Technology CREST students at WHS have delivered exciting work to date. Morgan Christie-Jones presented her project and was the sole recipient of a Gold CREST award in New Zealand for 2014.

Morgan has gone on to University and has just completed her first year as a Food Technology student at Massey University in Palmerston North. Congratulations Morgan and we hope you will be an inspiration to many!

START OF 2014 CALENDAR	
30 January 2014	First day Year 9 only
31 January 2014	First day for all new students from other year levels & all Year 9s
3 February 2014	Whole school attends

SPECIAL OLYMPICS SUCCESS

Congratulations to the team from WHS who competed recently at the Special Olympics. The medal haul was impressive!



Mattie DeLeva
●Silver for 200m
●Bronze for 400m
●Bronze for Long Jump

Dom Faherty
●Bronze for 200m

Elizabeth Davis
●Silver for 50m backstroke

Nick Weaver
●Gold for Team 10 pin bowling

Adrian Gordon
●Gold for 100m
●Silver for 200m

Well done to them all!

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



First in Faculty Awards

Year 9

Arts	Riley Duncan
Languages	Gilda Knox Streader
Mathematics	Gilda Knox Streader
PE and Health	Kitty Hollis
Science	Daisy Abraham
Social Sciences	Daisy Abraham
Technology	Lauren O'Hara

Year 10

Arts	Sam Mitchell
Languages	Eva Tinga
Mathematics	Katya Sellen
PE and Health	Blake Bailey
Science	Joseph Ivory
Social Sciences	Shakke Noy
Technology	Lucy Brown

Leading Learner Awards

Year 9

Kelly	Eva McGauley
Riley	Eli Hooper
McKelvey	Daisy Abraham
Noall	Rose MacKenzie

Year 10

Bradwell	Jamaal Jeram
Clarke	Joseph Ivory
Howell	Claudia Holmstead-Morris

Junior Sportspeople of the Year

Naitoa Ah Kuoi
Niki Menzies

Year 9 Dean's Award



Ben Roberts

Year 10 Dean's Award



James Matheson

NEWS FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

Tēnā koutou,

While 2013 has been a challenging year for the Board, we definitely finished on a high at our last meeting. After considerable effort by many parents, staff, and community members over the past 18 months or so, the establishment of Te Whānau a Taraika reached a significant milestone. Following the agreement of its Terms of Reference and after seeking nominations, Te Whānau submitted a proposal regarding representation on the Board of Trustees.

I was delighted that the Board at its meeting fully supported the proposal from Te Whānau. Consequently, it is a pleasure to welcome Crane Amaru and Ariel Piripi Metekingi as co-opted members onto the WHS Board of Trustees.

It is both heartening and exciting that Te Whānau has grown to a stage where it feels comfortable to offer representatives to be formally co-opted as Board members.

I would like to extend my thanks, on behalf of the Board, for the efforts of Te Whānau a Taraika and we look forward to building an ongoing and even closer relationship.

Unfortunately, other news is not as exciting. Our property plans continue to be frustrated by the current state of our existing buildings and of the Ministry's finances. You will no doubt hear more about this early next year.

In addition, John Edwards tendered his resignation from the Board. While we are saddened to lose John from the Board, we fully understand his decision and offer our congratulations on his appointment as the Privacy Commissioner.

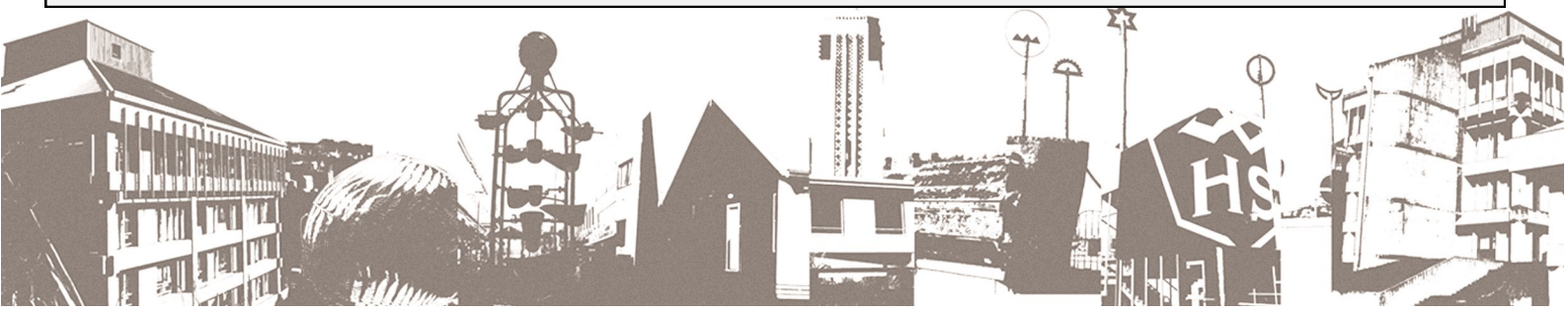
I would like to wish you a safe and peaceful Christmas, surrounded by close friends, loving family, and hearty food. I hope to see you in the New Year suitably refreshed to take on the challenges that 2014 will no doubt throw at us.

Nga mihi nui ki a koutou,

Ganesh Nana

Chair

WHS Board of Trustees





SPORT

CENTRAL SIX

Two WHS athletics teams and one touch team travelled to Wanganui to compete in the Central Six junior sports tournament on Friday 29 November. Schools from the Hawkes Bay and Manawatu were competing at the tournament. Thanks to Murray Chisholm, John Edwards and Neitana Lobb who accompanied and coached these teams.

JUNIOR BOYS VOLLEYBALL

CSW Regional Champs

The Wellington High junior A boys' team earned the title of Wellington Regional junior boys volleyball champions at the recent CSW Regional Championship tournament. The title was secured by a win against Scots College in the semi and Mana College in the final. Congratulations to **Thomas Gibson** awarded MVP of the tournament and to Thomas, Cormac Doyle, Campbell Tacon and Bill Rattenbury who were all named in the tournament team.



North Island Junior Championships

The team then travelled to Mt Maunganui to compete in the North Island Junior Championships. They had a fantastic week playing very competitively and growing in performance every game. They faced huge schools such as Rangitoto, BOP schools who are very strong in volleyball and even Westlake who were the tournament winners. Every game was competitive and exciting. The team's final placing was 11th (out of 52) which was an excellent result.

Other honours went to Thomas Gibson and Coach Kurt Stewart who were invited to be a part of the referee team for the boys Division 1 semi-final. In addition Thomas Gibson, Campbell Tacon, Lawrence Webster & Pako Dunn Seomeng were appointed linesman for the Girls Division 1 final.



Special thanks go to **Kurt Stewart**,

team coach and **Clare Pasley**, team manager. Kurt has worked so hard with this team and the results of his coaching were easy to see.

Entertainment Book Fundraising

Thanks are extended to all families and friends who supported our sports Entertainment Book sales drive. Your efforts have resulted in a profit of **\$1632.00**. These funds will go directly to the upgrade of sports uniforms, starting with netball. Particular thanks go to **Maria Toulis** in Student Services who did an amazing job of managing this fundraiser.



NORTH ISLAND JUNIOR WATER POLO CHAMPIONSHIP

Wellington High competed in the North Island Secondary School Junior Waterpolo championships. We entered division two with 7 players and took Ethan from EBIS, and Jake and Tylan from Wellington College. The tournament had 19 teams in the Div 2 boys grade, many of which were mixed. It also had 12 Div 1 Boys teams, and 18 Girls teams. We played at the West Wave pool, Epsom Girls and Sacred Heart. Our first game was against the eventual Div 2 winners, Kristin School, which we lost 10-3, we then won 12-2, then 11-1, and 3-2 before dropping our last game the Bowl final 6-8. Huge development and fun was had and we are looking forward to doing it again next year.

Futsal Junior Girls Division 1 Winners

Congratulations to the WHS year 10 team who have won the CSW Division 1 title. The girls were also invited to compete in the NZ U15 tournament to be played in Wellington. Well done to Qona Christie, Malysan Qioyali, Elise Forman, Denise Gumabay, Niki Menzies, Ana Menzies & Mia Biggs.



SANTA RUN

Wellington High took out the top prize for the greatest team at the 2013 waterfront Santa run for charity. Resplendent in red and black with fake beards and 'hopefully' pillow enhanced waistlines the HighTeam raced, walked and hobbled



their way to the finish line over a harbour course studded with elves, Christmas helpers and even the odd shark in matching onesies. All agreed that it had been worth the strenuous Ho Ho Ho-ing and the fetching fashions of the field. Thanks to Julia Stephens and her elvish cast who organized the winning team from High.

CONGRATULATIONS

Niki Menzies has won a place in "Mad Honey", the 13th book in the Re-Draft series, with an entry titled "The Moon". This an excellent result for her and for the school - the literary equivalent of being chosen for a national sports team! Niki and Wellington High join a select group of winners in a tough competition.

Congratulations Niki!

MATHEMATICS

Earlier this year, the Otago University Junior Mathematics competition was held at school. This involved answering a series of fairly difficult problem-solving questions. Four of our students did particularly well. Rohan Jackson, Gilda Knox Streader and Katya Sellen were placed in the top 20% of entrants for their age group and Joesph Sutton was placed in the top 4% of entrants for his age group. This is an outstanding achievement. The Australian Maths competition was also held at school earlier this year. Although all year levels were able to participate in this competition, the high achievers were all in Year 9. Both Jemma Jeong and Gilda Knox Streader were placed in the top 17%, Milo Willcock was in the top 16% and Joseph Sutton was in the top 7% of entrants in their age group.

GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY



Part of the Year 9 Health Inquiry is about giving back to the community and Wellington High School students did exactly that. They planned and ran a bake sale, and had a wonderful donation provided by a parent, (Barry Malcolm from Burger Fuel). Proceeds of the bake sale were then used at Countdown in Newtown where the students shopped on a budget to create care packs. We then donated the care packs to the City Mission for Christmas.

NIWA VISIT

On Monday 2 December, six students from Base One, two teacher aides and three very keen Science teachers piled into the deep-sea specimen room at NIWA. They met up with



Dennis Gordon resident NIWA scientist and parent of Adrienne Gordon, who showed them a fantastic selection of deep sea



creatures, which were creepy and interesting enough to inspire Science fiction movies! Everyone had a great time and were thoroughly interested in the amazing discoveries made by the very clever Scientists.



Recently the Year 12 Visual Art class completed a community project for the Te Aro Preschool in Aro Valley. The students were commissioned to complete a mural for this inner city playground. The students worked over a 5 week period completing a colourful and age appropriate work featuring winged cats, an octopus and many strange, weird and wonderful creatures. The mural was installed last week and can be easily viewed from Te Aro park if anyone would like to see the completed work. The pre-schoolers loved the new addition to their playground and would like to thank the big kids for their work.

