

Wellington High School

NEWSLETTER FOR JULY 2013 FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Kia ora koutou



Principal Nigel Hanton

Japanese Speeches



Lomani O'Hagan

Experience Indonesia



Dance of 1000 Hands

Term two is drawing to a close and it is timely to stop and reflect on where we are in terms of the academic year. For students in the junior school, the end of term two marks the half way point in their year at school, and this provides a key moment to evaluate the goals that have been set at the term one learning conversations. For families it is a good time to review progress and reset or reaffirm the learning goals their young people have established for themselves. For senior students this review has higher stakes, as the senior year is significantly shorter, with external examinations beginning in early November. The sequential acquisition of NCEA credits is the focus of their review, and the "hard data" about this is being reported on with Senior Reports being sent out this week. It is a great time to re-set goals and targets, as well as starting to think about review and revision strategies for external assessments.

The school has recently introduced a new use for Google calendars, where teachers invite students to participate in assessments. This is so that students, by accepting the invitation, create their own personalised assessment calendar that we hope they will share with you so that you are aware of their learning commitments.

I guess that this brings us to the key message. I believe that success at school is a three way partnership, with the students, their parents and the school itself all contributing equally to the achievement of every individual. When all three are working together we see real success. When one of the three elements provides weaker input, the three-way dynamic is made weaker so success is harder to achieve. Let's work together!

I wish you all the best for the holidays and for a really focused term 3.
Nga mihi nui katoa

The annual Wellington Regional Japanese Speech Competition was held on Friday June 14th. Wellington High School had 3 entrants this year, 2 of whom gained prizes. Eva Tinga got Second Prize in the Year 10 division for her speech about her dog, and Lomani O'Hagan was awarded the Special Prize in the Year 11 division for his speech about his ideal day. The Japanese Ambassador and the National Japanese Language Adviser attended the event, and both were impressed at the level of Japanese in the Year 10 and 11 divisions in particular.



Eva Tinga

Senior Report Evening

Our second senior report evening will occur on Thursday 1 August- that's the first week of Term 3. This is an opportunity for you to meet with your student's subject teachers to discuss your student's learning. Bookings can be made by visiting www.schoolinterviews.co.nz- there is also a link on our website www.whs.school.nz. On the School Interviews home page please enter the school code **LS7CF**. Follow the steps to book with your student's teachers. Please note that teachers are grouped into faculties. If you don't have internet access or need help with any of this, please get in touch with Jude at reception (3858911) or contact your student's roopu teacher and they will organise interviews for you.

Wellington High entered into an exchange agreement with Al Azhar Islamic High School when they visited us for the second time last year. As a result, in 2014 a cultural exchange trip to Jakarta, Indonesia is planned for the School Holidays in April/May. Students will be accommodated in homestay arrangements. This is a unique opportunity to experience living in another culture and will be very reasonably priced. Register your interest with Sean O'Connor now as spaces will be limited.

Floorball Representatives



Oliver Sundin, Lucas Earley, and James Matheson

Oliver Sundin, Lucas Earley, and James Matheson are travelling to Australia next week to compete in the Australian Floorball Open in Wollongong. They are representing Wellington Floorball Club U15 and will be playing against 5 other U15 teams.

www.whs.school.nz
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Year 10 Bridge Builders



Jessica Eaton and Bella Shepherd

Thirty of WHS best and brightest year 10 science students competed in the annual 2013 Bridge building Competition. Overseen by our top engineers cum scientists, Murray Chisholm and Joanne Lowe, the teams laboured for over an hour to create the strongest, lightest bridges from a range of unusual building materials. Straws and string substituted for steel cables and cardboard and hot glue for plate steel. The judging by Joan Hinton (HOD Science) was rigorous and demanding with some bridges withstanding up to 20 Kgs of weights piled on top of their slender decks. Three teams have gone forward to the regional finals and will hopefully be representing Wellington at the National Competitions later in the year.

Special Olympics Swimming



Elizabeth Davis and her medals

Elizabeth Davis competed in the recent Regional Games for Special Olympics in swimming. Elizabeth had fantastic results winning Gold in the 25m Freestyle, Silver in the 50m Freestyle and Bronze in the 25m backstroke. This means that Elizabeth has qualified for the National Summer Special Olympics to be held in Dunedin in November. Well done, Elizabeth!

Secondary Schools Choir

Kate Cleaver in Year 12 has been accepted as a member of the NZ Secondary Schools Choir. She is one of sixty students from throughout the country chosen by audition. The choir will tour throughout NZ in autumn, followed by a tour

to Brazil and Argentina in July 2014.



Singer Kate Cleaver

Music Tames the Tempest



Trumpeters Eli Mulheron and Eddyn Perkins-Treacher

The first Music Evening of 2013 was held on a wild and stormy night on 21 June. About 200 audience members braved the storm and enjoyed a variety of acts ranging from classical to rock. It was great to see so many students of the junior school performing. Congratulations to Fritz Wollner and his team for organising a great night out.

RockQuest Success



Matt Martindale of Reciprocity

The Riley Centre was the scene for the Wellington SmokeFree RockQuest trials on 29 June. Over 150 bands from Wellington Schools competed for 12 places in the regional finals. Wellington High School Bands **Feggae Runk** (Henry Thompson, Eddie Jonston, Carlos McQuillan, Ted Bartley and Leon van Dijk) and **Reciprocity** (Connor Morrison-Mills, Monty Parata, Kyle Awa and Matt Martindale) were selected to go into the regional finals.

WHS Drama

In week eight of this term, Year 12 Drama students performed the iconic American play "Our Town" by Thornton Wilder. Some aspects of the play were very challenging for the actors including un-theatrical

staging and the use of mimed actions. The students also found the American accent a challenge but impressed the audience with the smoothness and quality of their performances. The next production will be the Year 13 class's staging of "The Cripple of Inishmaan" by Martin McDonagh. Set in Ireland in 1934, this black comedy also provides challenges with a broad accent and distinctly non-21st century setting. The play runs from August 27-30 at 7pm - tickets \$5/\$10 from Student Services.



Issy Stewart as Emily in "Our Town"

Girls Fitness

Girls Fitness is a new extra curricular option available to all females at Wellington High this year. During Term 2 we have been lucky to have Rachael from Exodus Gym coming in to run free classes in aerobics, circuit training, pilates and yoga for our students. This extra curricular option will be available every Tuesday from 3.30pm for the rest of the year and will include a range of other activities provided by teacher Susie Cottrell, businesses and experts in the local community. Exodus Gym have shown fantastic support to this group and we really appreciate their encouragement towards females getting fit.

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



Cake Decorating

The Term 3 WHS Community Education Centre programme starts on Tuesday 6 August - choose from a wide range of courses, ranging from food 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.

