

Wellington High School

NEWSLETTER FOR JUNE 2013 FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Greetings to you all



Nigel Hanton

This edition of the school newsletter again brings to the school community a small sample of the rich learning opportunities the school provides. The balance of curricular and co-curricular achievement highlights the way that the school supports students to reach the limit of their potential.

At a recent assembly success and engagement was the theme, and students were congratulated on a broad range of achievements that featured debating, Shakespeare theatre, Stage Challenge, Young Physicists, Food Technology, overall excellence in learning and recognition of the contribution made by students and teachers who travelled to Nepal during the last holidays. Even then this was only a selection from a much wider range of activities. The school is busy, vibrant and alive!

All schools have, just last week, been involved in the process of electing their Board of Trustees, who have the governance role in each school for a three year tenure. Wellington High School attracted nine candidates for its five elected members and results have been declared. Two new members join the Board, both as Parent Representatives. John Edwards and Martin Henry will take their place at the Board table at its next meeting and will join Ganesh Nana, Merita Holder and Deanne Daysh as current elected members. We welcome these new members and look forward to benefitting from their skill and experience. The new Board will then be looking at its make up to ensure that the necessary skill bases are covered, and may co-opt members to ensure that the Board fairly and equitably

represents the school community.

Finally, I take this opportunity to notify the school community that I will be away from the school from 5 July until the beginning of term 4. I have been awarded a Principal's Sabbatical to investigate Leadership and Change Management in New Zealand schools so will be conducting this inquiry in my absence. I am sure that my findings will enhance our school upon my return. Dominic Killalea will be Acting Principal in my absence.

No reira

Nga mihi nui koutou katoa

Historic Agreement



Mahara Okeroa, Chairman of Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust

Earlier this term Wellington High School entered into an agreement with Taranaki Whanui of the Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust. Students welcomed mana whenua onto the school Marae and the year 9 Maori performing arts students did the school proud. We have agreed that we will work together in a relationship of mutual benefit, being supported to develop understanding amongst staff and students of the rich culture and history of the harbour and Pukeahu (Mt Cook). Signed only a few weeks in Taraika, the agreement has already resulted in new opportunities for Wellington High School students.

WHS Rocks Stage Challenge



125 students from Wellington High participated in the regional Stage

Challenge competition on Friday 31 May. The concept of our performance was to bring attention to the on-going impact of deforestation. Our students worked for months to create and perfect their performance and we are very proud of their efforts and their superb participation on the day. One the night we were awarded the Ministry of Youth Development Student Lead Award, Award of Excellence for Set, Design and Function, Award of Excellence for Choreography, and the Lion Foundation Award of excellence for Costuming Character. Well done to everyone involved.

Debating Success



Lauren Thompson, Merinda Jackson and Ailidh Leslie

The senior Premiere debating team of Merinda Jackson, Lauren Thompson and Ailidh Leslie recently won the Wellington Regional Senior Debating competition. Ailidh was named in the Wellington team to compete in the National Debating Championship in August. These three inspirational girls have been instrumental in lifting the profile of debating in the school and we now have ten competitive teams, all doing very well this year. WHS is regarded as a force to be reckoned with in Wellington debating circles.

WHS Open Evening Monday, 17 June at 6pm Riley Hall

All interested families welcome!

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



Sports Success



Mitchell Mokalei

Mitchell Mokalei has been named in the Junior Black Sox Softball Training Squad (NZ U19).

Mitchell has represented Wellington in the U17 and U19 Nationals this year. He is one of only three Wellington players to be selected. The NZ squad has its first training camp in July. The final team selected will travel to Canada to compete in the World Champs

Culinary Fare Medal Haul



Sophia Knott, Henry Tutaka and Rachel Lindon

Three Wellington High students competed at this year's Culinary Fare. We had one student entered in the Secondary Schools class and two in the Trainee class, competing against trainees from Weltec, UCOL and the Defence Forces. Sophia Knott won a Silver Medal and first place for her Roast Lamb Burger in the Secondary Schools Class. Rachel Linton won a Bronze Medal in the Trainee Mushroom Soup. Henry Tutaka won a Silver Medal and second place overall in the Trainee Table Setting. All three students worked hard and showed considerable poise and skill in competition. Well done.

Swimming Achievements



Campbell Tacon

Campbell Tacon recently competed in the North Island Secondary School Swimming Champs in the U14 division. He made 3 finals winning gold in the 200m freestyle and silver in 50m and 100m freestyle. Campbell will be competing in the CSW Individual Swim Champs on June 20. Good luck.

Codeworx Challenge



Frank Thrift and Daniel Sepulveda

Daniel Sepulveda and Frank Thrift have been sea testing a Seapearch RUV at Island Bay. Daniel and Frank are working on the Codeworx Challenge. They will be programming a RaspberryPi computer to control an underwater vehicle. This is the first time that the competition has run and it concludes on 30 October. Also enrolled in the Codeworx Challenge are Michael Sirvid, Daniel Braithwaite, Jack Bannister-Sutton, Nikolia Artemeiev, Arthur Lafferty, and Josh Weir. Good luck to all competitors. More information on the Codeworx Challenge can be obtained from <http://codeworx.co.nz/>.

King Lear Rocks



This year the WHS Shakespeare Society took on the daunting task of producing one of the bard's most challenging plays - King Lear. The drama follows unraveling of a King's kingdom and mind as his family implodes and he finds himself the victim of numerous betrayals (brought on by his own ego and those closest to him). Hazel Osbourne and Drew Brice-Ford rose to the challenge as the directors of this year's production and set the scene in a 1920's club. The Bright Young Things then set about the destruction of Lear in an engaging and entertaining way that has continued the proud tradition of student produced and directed Shakespeare plays that look set to continue into the future. Congratulations to the cast and crew who took on what is arguably one of the most difficult Shakespearean plays to stage - and did themselves proud.

CEC News

New CEC courses coming up

A wide range of four-week and one day workshops are still available this term. Choose from cheese making, calligraphy, meditation, French patisserie, stretch sewing and more

Defensive Driving - Limited Places Still Available!

Want your teen to be a safer driver and, at the same time, shorten their time on their restricted licence? The CEC at Wellington High has a four session course (Tuesdays and Thursdays 7.30 - 9.30pm), starting on Thursday 20 June. It costs \$170 and includes a manual and a practical session with a driving instructor, at a date to be arranged (in your or your teen's car).

Come in to the CEC office next to the WHS car park to enrol, book online at www.cecwellington.ac.nz or call 04 385 8919 for more info.

