

# Wellington High School

## NEWSLETTER FOR JUNE 2014 FROM THE PRINCIPAL



### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Kia ora koutou katoa

Greetings to you all.

Throughout the year we have devoted a considerable amount of time and energy to collecting, synthesizing and analysing data related to a whole range of student related performances. This is done to provide important evidence to inform our decision making and allows us to make informed decisions about curriculum and pastoral developments.

As I indicated in an earlier newsletter we are currently putting the relationship between attendance and achievement under the microscope. The findings of this analysis are very clear. Students who attend school more than 95% of the time have a 100% chance of getting the qualification for which they are entered. If their attendance drops to 80%, their chance of success drops to 73%, and if their attendance is only at 75% their chance of success is 56%. Although we knew that attendance was critical to achievement, the stark reality of the data is compelling. Kids just don't succeed if they're not in class!

Last week we followed through with this evidence and wrote home to families where their youngster was not attending as expected. We hope that this communication might change some patterns of attendance, but we want all our families to know just how critical good attendance is to performance and achievement.

We also want to celebrate the great attendance of many students who are here every day, learning, developing and sharing positive relationships with other students and their teachers.

I would also like to thank those families who have responded to the reminder about the Family Contribution to the school. We do rely on this financial input to support a wide range of programmes and activities that we believe are important to our unique character. If you would like to make your contribution over time, Student Services

### CALENDAR

Te Whanau a Taraika Hui	9 June
"The Rivals" Year 12 Drama Production	9–12 June
Open Evening for 2015 Enrolments	16 June
Music Evening	19 June
Board of Trustees	23 June
Last Day of Term 2	4 July
First day of Term 3	21 July

can help you to arrange an automatic payment. Thank you for your support.

In closing, I offer my congratulations to all those involved in the recent Shakespeare Society production of Twelfth Night. The Shakespeare Society is a student led organisation and their production was of the highest quality, and showcased the capacity of our students. Well done!

No reira  
Tena koutou katoa  
Nigel Hanton

### ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS

On sale now via Student Services or go online [entertainmentbook.co.nz/orderbooks/104r121](http://entertainmentbook.co.nz/orderbooks/104r121) - only \$60 each.

To the families who have supported Wellington High School so far, thank you very much.

Any enquiries, please email [maria.toulis@whs.school.nz](mailto:maria.toulis@whs.school.nz)

### ISLAND BAY BUS SERVICE

Island Bay bus students please note that the 726 bus is no longer a Valley Flier bus, but is now a Go Wellington Bus, from the Kilbirnie terminal - and is an extra bus put on due to the continual tardiness of the Valley Flier bus.

The 726 will leave the Island Bay terminal at 8.05am and stop in Wallace Street by 8.35am. We hope this will rectify the ongoing problems that Island Bay students were having.

### DRAMA & MUSIC

The Year 12 production of *The Rivals* by Richard Brinsley Sheridan will be performed from 9–12 June in the Riley Centre, 7pm, tickets \$5/10. Please book at Student Services.

Please also join us for the first of two Music Evenings at Wellington High for 2014. Come and listen to our award winning Jazz Band perform along with many of our talented musicians

Music Evening is on 19 June, 7pm, Riley Centre.



### Short-term Courses for Life-long Learning at the Wellington High School Community Education Centre

The Term 2 Community Education programme is underway but we still have a number of one-day workshops scheduled before the end of term, including "Car Maintenance - The Basics" if your teen wants to find out more about what makes your car go!

Check out what else is available and register on-line at <http://www.cecwellington.ac.nz/>

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

[www.whs.school.nz](http://www.whs.school.nz)  
(04) 385 8911  
[admin@whs.school.nz](mailto:admin@whs.school.nz)



## CONGRATULATIONS

### Comedy



Former WHS student James Malcolm placed 2nd in the Wellington Raw Comedy Quest 2014. He will now go on to represent Wellington at the national final in Auckland as part of the 2014 NZ International Comedy Festival on .

James came through the Class Comedians' programme as part of the 2013 International Comedy Festival, and made his stage debut less than 12 months ago. Being guided by professional comedians in the beginning has helped his natural talent progress.

### Hockey

Beka Smyth who has been selected as goalie for Capitol Hockey, under 18 representative team 2014.



### Judo



Qona Christie has been selected as part of the NZ Judo Youth Development Squad to train at the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra

for a week in September.

The athletes selected in this squad are seen as having the potential to represent NZ at events such as the Olympics in the future. It's fantastic to see Qona's hard work paying off and we wish her all the best for this amazing opportunity.

*Congratulations to you all.*

## DENTIST

Simply Dental provides a free service for dental care for all for ages 0-18yrs.

Please call 0800 123 343 or email [info@simplydental.co.nz](mailto:info@simplydental.co.nz)

## SCIENCE NEWS



While studying the effect of exercise on the human body the Year 11 students were able to have a taste of real sports science at the Massey University Sports Science Lab which is a three minute walk away from their normal science lab!

Graduate students and technicians supervised the high students as they measured the VO2-max of their classmates using state-of-the-art equipment.



We were doubly fortunate to have use of the thermal imaging camera from Callaghan Innovation, so Murray Chisholm came along to take these pictures of students exercising. As you can see, the students got pretty hot!



Luke Porteous and Stanley Sarkies have been selected to join the New Zealand International young Physicists Squad which will compete in a week long physics tournament in England later this year. Stanley and Luke have been chosen alongside 6 other New Zealand students to compete for 5 places in the final team which will be announced after training camps in May and June.



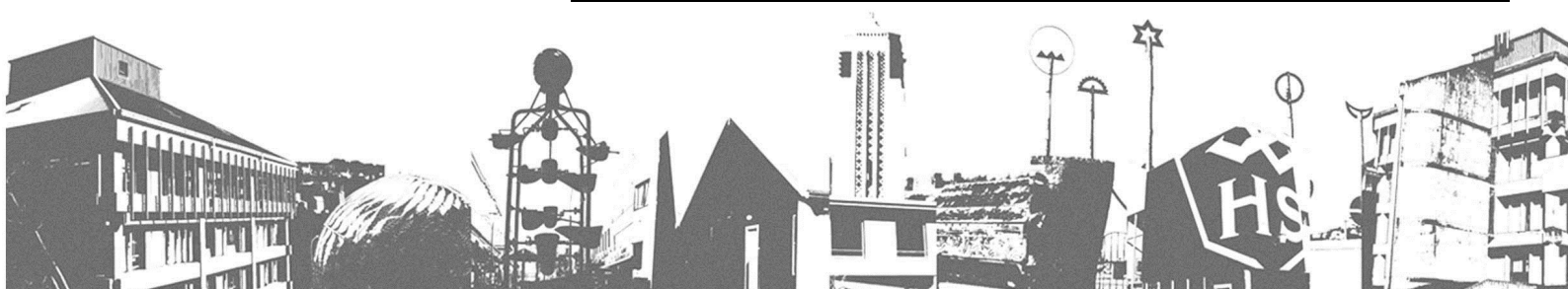
Following the Wellington High team victory at the regionals and silver medal-winning second place at the New Zealand final, Luke Porteous and Stanley Starkies were selected to join the NZ International Young Physicist Squad, competing with six other students from Kings, Grammar, AGC Parnell, Burnside and Riccarton, for the five places in the New Zealand Young Physics Team.

Students were given just two weeks to investigate and produce solutions to an intriguing open-ended problem.

Luke had to investigate and explain the movement of a ball when it is placed on a rotating saddle-shaped surface. Stanley investigated the way in which the surface of a balloon cools when it rapidly deflates.

At the selection meeting, each student was 'auditioned' for a place in the NZ team. They were given just 15 minutes to present the fruits of their intense two-week project and then were asked probing questions from the selectors. The standard was very high, all eight students were definite possibilities.... but in the end both Wellington High boys made the cut.

This year the final will be at the historic public school of Shrewsbury School, in England. Teams from up to thirty countries are expected to attend for the week-long physics tournament.



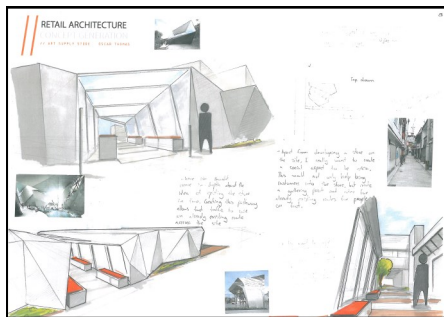
## Design Visual Communication & Fashion National Exemplars



Sheryl Wong, Sasha Kapica and Oscar Thomas have been selected to have their DVC and Fashion design work showcased as NZQA National Exemplars for Level 2 external standards.

This is a huge honour to be selected from over the 2013 national cohort of 218 students who gained excellence in Level 2 DVC.

Other Wellington High School students have been selected to have their level 3 work showcased and this will be put up on the NZQA website later in the year. This is an enormous honour for the students and also reflects the excellent mentoring from Maiken Calkoen and Kylie Merrick.



Sheryl Wong

<http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/assets/qualifications-and-standards/qualifications/ncea/NCEA-subject-resources/DVC/91337-exp-2013-excellence4.pdf>

Oscar Thomas

<http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/assets/qualifications-and-standards/qualifications/ncea/NCEA-subject-resources/DVC/91337-exp-2013-excellence1.pdf>

Sasha Kapica

<http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/assets/qualifications-and-standards/qualifications/ncea/NCEA-subject-resources/DVC/91339-exp-2013-excellence2.pdf>

## SELF DEFENCE COURSE

Come and learn how to empower yourself, be assertive and learn physical techniques to protect yourself!

**Special '2 for 1' exclusive offer - attend our Breast Cancer Foundation fundraising half day workshop, 'Self Defence for Life' on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> JUNE at the Island Bay Community Centre, 2pm - 6.30pm for just \$150 for two participants (if you book by Monday 16 JUNE)**

Call Patricia 3839371 or 0272976049 or email: [preilly64@gmail.com](mailto:preilly64@gmail.com)

Check out other classes and workshops at [www.brooklynrembuden.co.nz](http://www.brooklynrembuden.co.nz)

## TARAIIKA RENOVATIONS

Wellington High School's Marae, Taraika, has been undergoing some renovations in preparation for the 20th Anniversary later this year.

A working bee was held which saw the interior of the wharenui painted. Thank you to all the whanau who donated their time, skills and baking to a very successful weekend.

Crane Amaru, parent and member of Te Whanau a Taraika, also worked over the Easter break to complete putting up base plates and fitting final panels for the 12 metre Tahuu in Taraika.

Thank you to everyone involved so far and we look forward to bringing you more information on the progress of the renovations.



## INDONESIA 2014

During the April holidays eleven of us students and two teachers, Sean O'Connor and Catherine Hill, took ourselves entirely out of the comfort of our normal lives and spent two weeks living with families in Jakarta, Indonesia.

The first shock was the heat - it was 30 to 33 degrees every day and humid, with massive thunderstorms most afternoons. The second was the traffic. Sometimes it took two hours to travel less than 20km.

We did some amazing things. Stayed on an island with our Indonesian hosts where we went on banana boats and snorkelled; visited an animal safari and theme park (some of us held baby orang-utans and cheetah cubs); went to school with our host students; spent a fair bit of time in malls - they were huge; and made batik.

Living with Muslim families and seeing the day to day life of students in a country so different from our own was an awesome experience - some of us said, 'life changing.'

