

Wellington High School

TE KURA TUARUA O TARAIAKI PUKEAHU

NEWSLETTER FOR APRIL 2015 FROM THE PRINCIPAL



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Tena kotou katoa. Greetings to you all.

It is with very mixed feelings that I report to our community that Deputy Principal Anya Satyanand will be leaving us at the end of this term to take up the position of CEO for Ara Taiohi, an organisation that collaborates with and advocates for a wide range of youth services throughout the country. This senior role is a great match for Anya's skill set and we wish her the very best in this new opportunity but also recognise that she has had a major input into the development of our school over recent years and will be very much missed. We will be starting a process to find a replacement for Anya in the next few days. We all wish Anya the very best for this new opportunity.

I would like to congratulate two groups of students who have recently participated in two major performance events. The Shakespeare Society's production of Macbeth was fantastic and saw students from each year level in the school perform to present a creative and innovatively staged interpretation of the Scottish play. Those of you fortunate enough to see the production will share this view I know.

The Stage Challenge crew also presented a creative and vibrant interpretation of a story line about celebrating difference. A dedicated troupe of dancers and performers worked with student choreographers and directors to stage a tight and well-structured performance that was great to watch. Congratulations to all those involved in these performances.

The process of presenting the school to prospective students 2016 has begun. We have had an afternoon hosting students from full primary schools, we have visited Evans Bay Intermediate and will host South Wellington Intermediate on June 9. These visits are preliminary tasters for the school Open Evening on June 15 at 6.00pm. If you know of family or friends who are considering schools for their Year 9 youngsters in 2016 please tell them of this opportunity to come and see what our wonderful school has to offer.

Finally I would like to thank families for their support when we had to close the school because of regional flooding a couple of weeks ago. We had little warning of the need for this action and the prompt responses from families allowed us to ensure that all our students got home safely on that day.

We have a busy few weeks of the term left before student groups depart for international travel to Samoa for Outdoor Education and Europe to look at Food and Fashion....ample evidence of the rich and engaging learning opportunities Wellington High School provides!

Nigel Hanton
Principal

KEEPING UP TO DATE

The WHS App was hugely worthwhile when we recently had to shut the school early due to inclement weather.

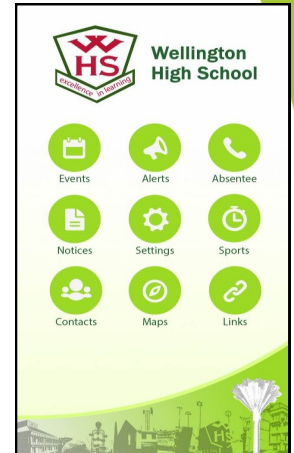
You can now download the app and keep fully up to date. Includes daily notices, absences, alerts and other information.

Android Play Store:

<http://tinyurl.com/m3yp5c2>

iTunes App Store:

<http://tinyurl.com/k44zgtb>



Rather than waiting weeks for a newsletter to hear what has been happening around Wellington High School, there are three much quicker ways to keep up to date



Join us on our Facebook page to see current events and celebrations around the school.

<https://www.facebook.com/whswellington>



You can also follow us on Twitter. Longer stories and event information can be found on our website

<http://www.whs.school.nz/weekly-high/>

We hope you will enjoy being informed in a more immediate way.

NZQA INVOICE

If your invoice for the NZQA examinations appears not to cover all the learning areas your student is enrolled in, this is because in some learning areas, students have individualised programmes. NZQA requires that final entries for NZQA assessments are submitted in September for externals and November for internals. We follow a verification process in Term 3 to ensure entries are accurate. At this stage, many students are still in the process of confirming the specific standards they will attempt so the invoice you have been sent will only show what has been confirmed so far.

However, the fee covers **all** NZQA entries for the year except for scholarship papers.

Scholarship entries cost \$30 per paper.

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



CONGRATULATIONS

SPORTS

Wellington Regional Tae Kwon Do Tournament

Kaya van de Wiel (yr 10) won Silver in Patterns and Gold in Sparring

Kahu van de Wiel (yr 9) won Silver in Sparring.

Both girls will be now representing the Wellington Tae Kwon Do Team at the NZ National Tournament being held in Christchurch on the 4th & 5th of July.

Oceania Inline Hockey Championships (NZ Junior Women)

Kathleen Rose (Yr 10), won Gold. The team took out all 5 games played.

Oceania Judo Championships

Qona Christie (Yr 12) three medals, including two Gold (cadet women's under-52kg and a team gold)



North Island Secondary School Swimming Champs

Congratulations to *Marcella Klap* (Yr 11) for her outstanding results at the recent North Island Swimming Champs held in Palmerston North on 23 May

- 2nd Girls 15 & Over 200m Breaststroke
- 4th Girls 15 & Over 50m Butterfly
- 4th Girls 15 & Over 200m Individual Medley
- 7th Girls 15 & Over 50m Freestyle

ACADEMIC & CO-CURRICULAR

Hospitality

Tiana Wakefield and *Luca Scognamiglio* (with *Tinei Taiaoga* in supporting role), all Yr 13, came away with a silver medal at the recent NZ Secondary Schools Culinary Competition. <http://www.whs.school.nz/culinary-silver-medalists/>

Linguistics

Anna Liu (Yr 9) scored among the highest results in New Zealand and as such is one of two students from Wellington to represent the region at the New Zealand Linguistics Olympiad on Friday July 10th at Victoria University.

Debating

Shakke Noy, (Yr 12) was part of the Wellington Regional team to win the National competition. In addition, Shakke was awarded Best Speaker and he has also been selected for the NZ Team to compete in Singapore in July.

Comedy

For two years running, former WHS students have won National Raw Comedy Quest. *Savanna Calton*, who won the 2015 event, can be heard here <http://www.radionz.co.nz/national/programmes/nz-society/audio/201753246/wellington-raw-comedy-quest-2015>

48 HOUR FILM CHALLENGE

On the first of May this year, a group of Year 12 students from the Wellington High School Moving Image Culture class were given the opportunity to represent the school in the Rialto 48 Hour Film Challenge. It



began when the writers, Jess and Izzy, and some of the other crew meeting on Friday evening to discuss the script and lay down the backbone of the film: the main prop being bread, the genre being *mad science*, and so on.

The next morning at 8 AM, the entire team assembled in the school staff room. There we had a quick run through the initial script that Jess and Izzy had written overnight. Filming began immediately.

We all had a part to play in the process of making the film: including acting, operating cameras, location scouting and sound recording. With shooting coming along so smoothly, the final product was looking like it was just around the corner. This was good for the whole team, but more especially Ebony, who had to endure going through the whole day with a bread mask stuck to her face.

By the beginning of Sunday, practically everyone was confident that it was in the bag. Our editing team worked their magic and all that was left was the final approval from the team and the rendering of the film itself.

Over confidence can be brutal. We went through multiple failed renders, each time coming closer to the dreaded deadline. With the tension growing, and as a last resort, Jess and Lily left early to be ready to submit a version of the film which was a much lower quality than what we wanted to give.

And then, out of the blue, a stroke of luck: a member of the I.T. staff stumbles upon us and solves the problem with minutes to spare, much to our delight. The best version of the film made it to submission with 3 minutes to spare. It was a great experience and we all learnt an awful lot about making a movie. Skills that we will now be able to use in our own productions due next term. Thanks to the staff, Shona, Jono and Henry who helped us out.



The Wellington High School Community Learning Centre continues as a key Wellington hub for adult learning.

Whether Art and Crafts, Business and Finance, Computing, Dressmaking, Driving Skills, English language, Dressmaking, Food and Wine, Fitness and

Recreation, Home and Garden, Languages or Music Dance and Drama, there is certainly something in our offering of courses for adults which will bring both enjoyment and benefit.

Our term two, 8 week long courses have begun, but there are many 4 week courses as well as day workshops which are yet to start.

Enrol now for courses during Terms 3 and 4.

To view our full programme or to enrol directly on-line go to: www.cecwellington.ac.nz OR call us Ph. 04) 385 8919.

CAREERS INFORMATION AND SUPPORT

Careers Advisor – Mr Chuni Bhikha started this term and is available to meet with students and caregivers.

- ◆ Careers information,
- ◆ support to discuss career/study ideas and potential pathways
- ◆ job search assistance (strategies and CV development)

Find him in M410 or contact him on
chuni.bhikha@whs.school.nz or
3858911 Ext 827





NEPAL 2015

Isaac Hay, Year 13

"Peace, peace and prosperity and love, to you and your whole family, and may you live a long long happy life! Happy 17th birthday to you! Happy, happy birthday!"

I received this most heart warming of happy birthdays from a man I'd met about a week ago and was awe struck.

That's the people of Nepal for you. They love to love.

I remember gazing out of the airplane window, upon the endless city of Kathmandu as we came in to land and thinking "what have I got myself into"? Staring out at that same view on the start of the journey home I recalled my earlier doubt and reflected: what had I just gotten myself into?

Well, I got into a hotel 7,504 miles away from home with a handful of people I hardly knew, but who over the next few weeks would become my dedicated friends.

I got on a rickety bus that swayed 23 frightened westerners around for 8 hours. All the while shrieks mixing with laughter as we bounced along, millimetres away from the edge of what seemed like a 10,000 foot drop.

I got to the sacred lakes, atop Mt. Gosaikunda, 4,300 meters up, and sat cross legged and bare chested, my prayer beads dangling from my neck, and gave thanks for everything I have.

I danced to DJ Rashad alongside Naeve Reese-Donnelly and about a dozen young kids from the village town of Dunche; the kids all wearing tattered clothes, raggedy shoes and beaming smiles.



I laughed at Mr Pancha telling the group "About 3 hours of gradual uphill today guys" when by gradual he meant we would be climbing hills that would put Wellington to shame.

I screamed the national anthem completely out of breath as I reached the summit of Kyanjin-Gompa, 4,700m up (Mt. Cook, NZ's highest mountain is, 3,724m!) - by my side my new found friends all yelling along with me.



I saw what must be some of the most beautiful snowy mountains and moss covered forests in existence and met some of

the most beautiful people.

What did I get myself into? I got into Nepal. And I feel like I'm living a better life now because of that. And with that, I say Om Nepal. Dhanyabad. Thank you.

Concert For Nepal

Where: Meow, Edward Street

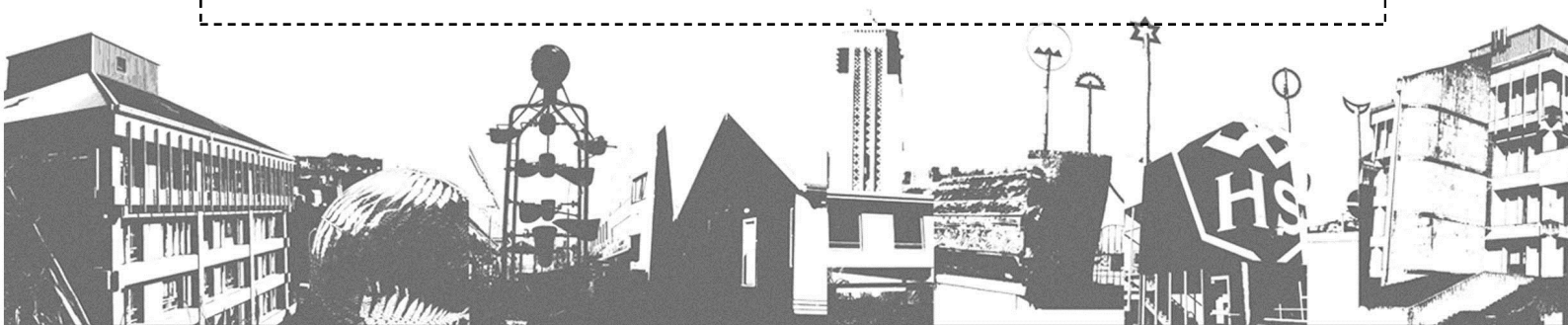
Cost: \$10

When: Tuesday 9 June from 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm

Mike Kingston and his 5 piece Gypsy Jazz Band "Phantasticus"

Allie Hodge presents the "Dannevirke Yodelers Club" - vocal quartet

"The Singing Deputies" playing songs by the Beatles (The Singing Deputies are Dominic Killalea, Andrew Savage, Fritz Wollner and Mudz Chadwick)



JAPAN 2015



Twelve students and two teachers spent the Easter holidays and the first week of Term 2 in Japan.

The first two weeks were spent visiting Tokyo, Kanazawa, Shirakawago, Kyoto and Osaka where students saw some amazing things and participated in some unique experiences from the Amazing Race in Tokyo,

to decorating boxes with gold leaf in Kanazawa, to dressing up in samurai outfits and learning how to use a sword in Kyoto.

The last week was spent with our sister school, Osaki Kaisei Senior High School, on a small island in the Inland Sea near Hiroshima. Students

were stayed with Japanese families, participated in a range of school activities including cooking, taiko drumming, wearing yukata and performing the tea ceremony.

Everyone had a great time and improved their Japanese to boot.

For more photos go to <http://www.whs.school.nz/japan-2015-trip-report/>



FROM STUDENT SERVICES

Entertainment Books are currently sold through Student Services, \$60 each. Alternatively, order your Book or Digital Membership securely online by visiting www.entbook.co.nz/104r121

ID cards are ordered through Student Services, \$10 for standard ID or \$25 for snapper/school ID. Processing and delivery take 5-10 working days. If you require proof of ID for buses/trains or are being charged adult fares on your snapper cards, please enquire at Student Services.

Simply Dental - Any students who are not currently accessing dental care can be offered the opportunity to be accessed by a mobile on-site dental team. Simply Dental offers free dental care for the adolescents of Wellington's secondary schools. Please contact them on either 0800 123 343 or email them, info@simplydental.co.nz

ATTENDANCE

Attendance Awards

Wellington High School students with over 98% attendance and fewer than two late slips over a term are eligible for an attendance award for that term. At the end of each term there is a spectacular prize drawn at a whole school assembly. Students with excellent attendance go into the draw for this.

Overseas Holidays

Families need to apply to the Principal for special leave to take their young person on any overseas holidays. This leave will be granted on the understanding that absence of this kind is likely to significantly hamper achievement in NCEA.

Medical Certificates

If your student is sick for three or more consecutive days, the ministry requires the school to sight a medical certificate to explain the absence.

Attendance and Achievement

We know that our students who attend well give themselves the best possible chance of achieving their very best results. Students who attend more than 95% have an excellent chance of achieving highly in NCEA at all levels. There is a very strong and obvious connection between being in class and learning. Students who attend less than 95% damage their potential to learn.

Assessments and Attendance

All work must be handed in on the due date by the due time and all tests and in-class assessments must be done on the given date. Where more than one class needs to hand in an assessment, to ensure fairness, all assigned work must be handed in by 10am on the due date. Late work for assessment will not be accepted. In cases of illness or family/personal trauma, students need to follow the 'Missed Assessment' procedure. Documentation in support of applications is required.

GUIDE TO MINISTRY CODES

Present (P) is the code applied to students who are present in class or at another location in or outside the school and participating in a school-led and controlled activity. Examples of this are when a student is in class, in the school sickbay, on a class trip or camp, attending a teen parent unit, regional health school or residential school.

Justified absences (J) occur when the reason for a student's absence fits within the school's policy as a justifiable reason for the student's absence. Examples of places we use this code are for family funerals, exam leave, or absence because of illness.

Unjustified Absences (U) are either unexplained, or the reason for the absence is not within the school's policy as a justifiable reason for the student to miss school. Examples of this are where we have no information from their caregiver, or if there is a family holiday, or if the student chooses not to attend class because they weren't prepared for a test, goes to the shops, or in order to finish work for another class.

All your student's attendance information can be seen on the parent portal <http://sdntportal.whs.school.nz/student/index.php>

