

# Wellington High School

## NEWSLETTER FOR MARCH 2013 FROM THE PRINCIPAL



### Greetings Everyone



Principal Nigel Hanton

I am delighted to welcome new students and families to the Wellington High School community. The year has started very well and roll numbers at all levels are strong, and show pleasing growth. 180 Year Nine students joined us this year as well as many students at other levels. We are now working with these new students to ensure they integrate well into the school and are supported to gain necessary citizenship.

Over the past few months the Board of Trustees and the senior leaders have been involved in the creation of a new Strategic Plan that will guide us for the next five years. Already this plan is informing the actions and decisions we are taking, and has provided the school with a cohesive plan of actions for the future. In the next newsletter I will provide details of where this plan can be viewed on line, and we will be seeking feedback as part of our ongoing self-review.

I also draw all parents and caregivers attention to the Board of Trustees elections that will be conducted in May. The strength of any school is dependent on highly effective governance, and we will be inviting interested parents to register an interest, through nomination, in being part of our Board. Nomination dates will be emailed to you soon.

As a school we work best when we are working collaboratively with students and their families. We have an open door policy and invite parents to contact us with any concerns they have, or comments they would like to share.

Welcome to the school, and best wishes for a successful 2013, where learning goals are met and achievement is celebrated.

### NCEA Outstanding Scholar

Kelsey Jack, who finished her Year 13 in 2012, has been named an Outstanding Scholar on the basis of her NCEA

scholarship results. She passed Scholarship in Chemistry and was awarded Outstanding Scholarships in Physics and Mathematics with Calculus. Outstanding Scholars receive a scholarship of \$5,000 a year for 3 years. Kelsey is studying for Bachelor of Science degree majoring in Maths at Victoria.



Kelsey Jack

was an architectural project where they designed new retail stores for a site in Cuba Street. Each displayed sophisticated design thinking and innovative final presentations. Hours spent on Graphics in class time, lunchtimes, and weekends have been rewarded with this impressive achievement. Both Helen and Petra are highly skilled designers and are ones to watch out for in the future of design in New Zealand!



Helen Blenkin and Petra Parker-Price

### Year 9 at WHS



Kelly students at camp

2013 has seen the arrival of a group of 180 Year 9 students at WHS – what a great group of youngsters we have had joining our school. The start of the year has been productive with students beginning a variety of rotations alongside becoming settled in their Tukutahi groups. The first of the group, Kelly, went away on camp in week 5. The weather was very kind and students enjoyed various activities that were organised by staff at Camp Kaitoke. They also had the opportunity to spend a night in tents and cook some damper over an open fire. We are looking forward to the next camps in week 7 and week 11.

### Scholarship for Year 12 Graphics students.

Helen Blenkin and Petra Parker-Price have achieved the extraordinary – each gaining Scholarship for Graphics as Year 12 students. Their scholarship submission

### Student wins Scholarship



Bryden Frizzell

Bryden Frizzell has won a coveted Waikato University scholarship. The scholarship covers the full fees payable for the first year of study towards a degree in one of the computing streams at Waikato. The scholarship is awarded on the basis of an examination: a two-hour written and a six-hour practical examination. Bryden sat the examination after school on Friday and all day Saturday in October last year. A great result for Bryden.

[www.whs.school.nz](http://www.whs.school.nz)

(04) 385 8911

[admin@whs.school.nz](mailto:admin@whs.school.nz)



### Gold CREST Award Winner



Morgan Christy - Jones

Morgan Christy - Jones has just received a Gold CREST Award for creating a food product using tagatose sweetener. Morgan spent two years on the project and was mentored by Professor Steve Flint, Massey University. Morgan's CREST project helped to provide evidence for her NCEA assessment and she also received a Scholarship award on this project. This year she has commenced her studies in Food Technology at Massey University in Palmerston North.

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. Morgan was the only student in NZ to receive a Gold CREST Award in 2012.

### NCEA Scholarship Results 2012



In the 2012 NCEA Scholarship exams, 16 WHS students obtained 23 Scholarships across 16 subjects, with Outstanding Scholarships in Biology, Geography, Mathematics with Calculus and Physics. A special congratulations to those students who won more than 1 scholarship - Morgan Christy-Jones (Biology and Technology), Kelsey Jack (Chemistry, Mathematics with Calculus, and Physics), Michael Mann, (Geography and Painting), OskaRego (Art History and Classical Studies), and Sophia Ritchie (Biology and History).

### Dragon Boating 2013



Impressive action by WHS students

The WHS student dragon boating team has been training for three weeks and they are looking pretty good out there in the harbour. So make sure you come along and support our students on **Sunday 17 March at FrankKitts Park**. The staff team will take to the water on Saturday, 16 March.

### Year 12 Drama



WHS Year 12 Drama students are participating in a project with the Wellington Museum of City and Sea to mark the 45th Anniversary of the Wahine disaster. The students will be performing their own devised work as part of a week of music and theatre that aims to tell the story of one of the most vivid days in recent Wellington history. Performances will be on Thursday and Friday, 11 and 12 April at 1pm and 7pm at the Museum of City and Sea, entry by Koha.

### Physics at VUW



Physics students hard at work

Year 12 and 13 Physics students had a rare opportunity to measure the radioactive decay of Barium at Victoria University. They were tutored by four PhD students who were themselves graduates of WHS. Physics students from recent years at WHS are working on making the chips to drive Quantum Computers and are at the cutting edge of scientific knowledge with lasers and nanotechnology. Big thanks to VUW and the students for maintaining the strong links between the High School and the University and inspiring our students to be the best in science.

### Athletics Day

Athletics Day was as always at WHS a joyful explosion of fun, fashion and fantastic costumes. The students dressed in their wackiest and stylish best with a group of dedicated athletes buoyed up by the cheering crowds, performing amazing feats of throwing, jumping and running. The day was gloriously fine and the atmosphere was more of "carnivale" than the traditional struggle for the winners' dais. Fun times were had by one and all.



Sean Chang, Milo Willcock, Houston Eggeling, and Josh Stewart

### Izak Millanta



Memorial Wall

Izak Millanta - a former student at WHS - was attacked and killed in Coastlands Carpark in Paraparaumu, on 12 August 2012. He is remembered at our school by a memorial wall painted by his friends and current students. Past students also wrote songs, painted tributes in Paraparaumu and organised benefit concerts for him. RIP Izak Millanta 1995 - 2012

### Film Success

In November last year Jeff Jones, Ben Wilson and Drew Brice-Ford came second in the "Like minds like mine" competition with their film "The Artists shadow" - a message about supporting friends with depression. The film can be viewed on [http://www.kites.org.nz/index.php?stigma\\_discrimination](http://www.kites.org.nz/index.php?stigma_discrimination)



Film "A Seed for Change"

Also in December they were flown up to Auckland to receive the Unitec award for best story telling in the "Outlook for Someday" film competition. Their film "A Seed for Change" featured a message about the importance of making even small changes towards more sustainable living. You can view the film on [www.theoutlookforsomeday.net/winning-films/](http://www.theoutlookforsomeday.net/winning-films/)



# Wellington High School Notices – March 2013

## Learning Conversations Wednesday 27 March

Learning conversations are being held on Wednesday, 27 March for all students. The learning conversation is an opportunity for a student, their caregiver(s) and their roopu teacher to review the student's start to the year in all subject areas and then set goals for a successful year. A typical learning conversation will last for about 20 minutes and interview times start at 8.30am and continue at half hour intervals throughout the day with the last interview at 4.30pm. The interview can be booked at <http://www.schoolinterviews.co.nz> (there is also a link to this on the parents and caregivers menu on moodle) using the code **FA9NF**. Follow the steps to book your interview with your student's roopu teacher. Note that teachers are grouped by year group. **Please note** that there will be no formal classes on this day and students should only be at school for their learning conversation.

## Easter Dates

Wednesday 27 March - Learning Conversations Day - no formal classes today

Thursday 28 March - Teacher Only Day - no classes

Friday 29 March - Good Friday public holiday

Monday 1 April - Easter Monday public holiday

Tuesday 2 April - Easter Tuesday holiday

Wednesday 3 April - normal school day

## Reports 2013

### Year 9/10

There are three types of reports that your students will receive in Year 9 and 10.

- 1) Term 1 progress report - this will be given out at the learning conversation meeting on Wednesday, 27 March and will give you a quick indication of whether a student is on track or not in each of their subjects.
- 2) Whiwhinga reports - these are sent home and posted on the portal each term. Whiwhinga reports give you and your student an indication of whether a student is acquiring appropriate learning behaviours to set themselves up for success.
- 3) Progress reports - these are comprehensive reports which indicate the level of progress made across all of a student's subjects. These will be posted on the portal and given out at the end of year junior prizegiving.

### Year 11-13

Senior students will receive three reports

- 1) Term 1 progress report - as for junior students, this will be given out at the learning conversation meeting on Wednesday, 27 March and will give you a quick indication of whether a student is on track or not in each of their subjects.
- 2) Term 2 Progress report - this is a comprehensive report indicating the level of progress made across all of a student's subjects. These will be posted on the portal and mailed home at the end of term 2.
- 3) Term 3 Report - this reports on a student's progress on their school exams. School exams are practice for externals that a student will sit at the end of the year.

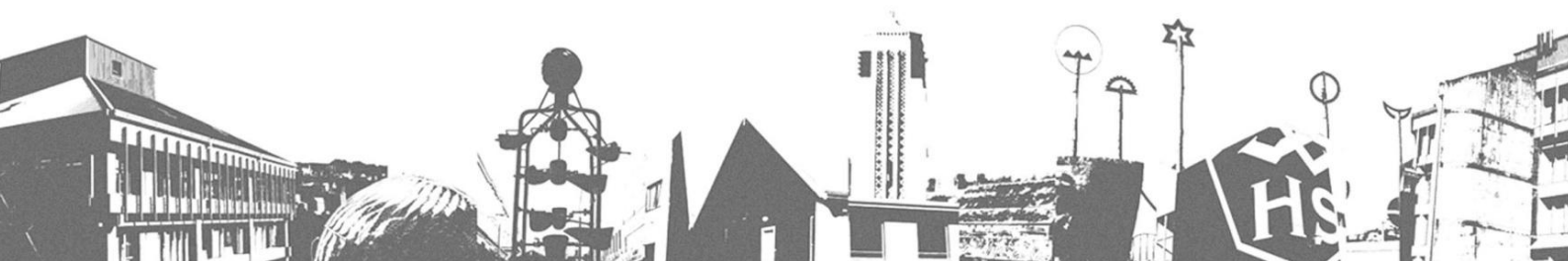
In addition to these written reports, learning conversations will take place twice during the year - once in term 1 (Wednesday 27 March) and in Term 3 (Thursday 12 September).

## Mathletics

All students in year 9 and 10 have Mathletics subscriptions as part of their course. If there are students in other years who would like to have access to this site for the next year (till February 2014), they need to pay \$30 to student services. When they have done this, see Mrs Lewis on level 3 and she will organise their username and password and set them up with whatever curriculum level work they want. The site can be accessed from school and from home and caregivers can be given access as well if you want to monitor your student's progress.

## Homestay needed

Year 13 WHS student (NZ girl) needs homestay for school year. Please contact 021 388 088 or 03 341 6572.



## Awhina

Students are warmly encouraged to come along to Awhina every Thursday from 3.30 until 4.30 in the Library, for extra help with their learning. Below is the timetable of teachers who will be staffing each Thursday- you can see what they teach, so please encourage your student to come along to a session where they can access expert help.

Week 6: 7 March	<b>HNJ(Science), CST(Science), WTD(English)</b>
Week 7: 14 March	<b>RYC (English),HYS (Languages), CST(Science), FHI(Science), VKM(Technology)</b>
Week 8: 21 March	<b>RLN(Technology), CST(Science), HLC(English/French), PEM,</b>
Week 9:	Teacher Only Day
Week 10: 4 April	<b>SDD (Science), CST(Science), WTD(English), PEM</b>
Week 11: 11 April	<b>MHM(Social Studies and Geography), CST(Science), PEM, NEM(Maths), JYR(English)</b>
Week 12: 18 April	<b>MJS Maths), CST(Science) PEM, MKK(Technology)</b>

## From the Admin Team

Invoices have been sent covering all subject fees, the Year 9 Camp, and also a request for donations. A lot of parents/caregivers are now using the student portal to make payments on the accounts. This allows you to choose what you are paying for, and then charge your credit card.

**Absences** – You can notify the school about any absences by either phoning 385 8911 and pressing 2 to get the Absence Line or emailing [absences@whs.school.nz](mailto:absences@whs.school.nz)

**Lockers** are still available. Please see Student Services.

When phoning the school, if you know which extension you want, please remember to dial 1 before the extension number.

**Parking** – you must register your car at Reception whenever you are visiting the school. Failure to do so could result in a \$50 fine.

**Stationery** – only workbooks and selected graphics stationery are available for purchase at Student Services. The OfficeMax online ordering system is still available, but the "Back to School" prices have finished.

We would like to acknowledge a \$4,000 Educational Grant from the WF Anderson Educational Foundation.



## Community Education Centre

### Wellington High School and Onslow College

Ph 04 385 8919 - PO Box 4035 Wellington 6140 - [www.cecwellington.ac.nz](http://www.cecwellington.ac.nz) - [cec@whs.school.nz](mailto:cec@whs.school.nz)

***The 2013 courses*** are underway.

***Term started 16 February and Term 2 starts 11 May***

View courses available at all three schools (Wellington High, Onslow or Newlands College) on our website: [www.cecwellington.ac.nz](http://www.cecwellington.ac.nz)

