

Wellington High School

NEWSLETTER FOR MARCH 2014 FROM THE PRINCIPAL



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Greetings to you all.

We have started the year extremely well and have been delighted to welcome new students into Wellington High School. Equally, we welcome families into the High School community. At the highest level of planning the Board of Trustees and the Whanau a Taraika, our Maori parents group, have both put a significant amount of work into framing targets, goals and key activities for the 2014. The work they have done is in support of the school's main aim for the year; introducing and developing the idea of WERO into the school.

WERO is the Maori word for challenge, and we are setting students, teachers, leaders, governors and families with the challenge of engaging in what WERO could mean for them and how it might shape actions and relationships. To explain a little further:

W stands for Whanau and represents our individual roles in the social arrangement of small groups and more complex communities.

E stands for Excellence and represents our drive to be the very best we can be in everything we do.

R is for Respect and challenges and informs the nature of relationships and our interaction with others and with the environment.

O stands for Ora and represents the physical and emotional wellbeing we seek to achieve be it individually, in our actions supporting other people or collectively as a community that shares and cares.

As the year unfolds, we are planning a wide range of activities that will explicitly explore these values as we work to meet our challenge together.

Looking back to last year we are pleased to report that success at NCEA continues to grow with good results being recorded at all levels and very pleasing improvements in statistics regarding Merit and Excellence endorsements and in the award of subject scholarships. Congratulations to our very successful learners!

In relation to this it is notable that students who achieved the best results also attended the most. There is a challenge there for families to ensure that students are at school every day that they are well. It might be stating the obvious, but students simply can't learn if they are not at school!

Finally, I would like to remind you all that the school operates an open door policy, so if you would like to talk to any of your child's teachers, their Dean, a subject leader, a counsellor or one of the leadership team please feel free to ring or email for an appointment to come in and talk to us. You will always be welcome.

Nga mihi nui kotou katoa.
Nigel Hanton

REPORTING 2014

This year reporting will move to an online format to reflect the ability of the parent portal to provide you with assessment information as it happens throughout the year.

JUNIOR REPORTS (9-10)

Each term students will complete a self review of how they are working towards attaining the necessary learning skills for success in the future. This will be posted on the portal at the end of week 8 each term. In addition, teachers will post grades and a comment in each of the student's subject areas. This should provide rich feedback on top of what a student receives in class to enable the next steps. Grades possible at a junior level are: Working towards the level, Achieved, Achieved with Merit, Achieved with Excellence or In progress. These relate to the 'aspirational' curriculum level at each year which is level 4 for year 9 and level 5 for year 10 with the exception of languages.

SENIOR REPORTS (11-13)

In terms 1, 2 and 3 a student's subject teachers will rate students in terms of their Academic Progress, Classwork and Learning Behaviour. Students will either be Doing Well, Meeting Requirements or Causing Concern. These one page reports will be posted on the portal at the end of week 8 each term. In addition, teachers will post grades and a comment in each of the student's subject areas as per junior reports. Grades for senior reports will be either Not Achieved, Achieved, Achieved with Merit, Achieved with Excellence or Not Yet Assessed.

You will have recently received an email with your Parent Portal login details. If you have not received this, please email admin@whs.school.nz

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS ON SALE AGAIN SOON

Books and digital memberships will be available from the 2nd April. Students will be given an envelope to take home in the coming weeks with information.

<https://www.entertainmentbook.co.nz/orderbooks/104r121>

LEVEL 3 DGM YOOBEE PHP MySQL

On 24 and 25 February, a group of students attended Yoobee School of Design on Kent Terrace.

They spent two days on an intensive coding course that will enable them to work towards two internal Achievement Standards and one Unit Standard at Level 4. Students armed with these skills are more and more employable as Wellington continues to be a hub of ICT development in NZ.

CONGRATULATIONS

The New Years honours saw former Principal, Prue Kelly become an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit, for her services to Education. Congratulations Prue, an honour richly deserved



CALENDAR

Te Whanau a Taraika Hui	10 March
Board of Trustees	17 March
Teacher Only Day	20 March
Learning Conversations	21 March
Last day of Term One	17 April

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





TE WHANAU A TARAIA KAPA HAKA FUNDRAISER.

Kia ora Koutou

We held a fundraiser for our Kapa Haka Roopu at the Athletics Carnival Day.



Our students once again helped out cooking the sausages sizzle, selling muffins, drinks, and juices. We raised \$422.80 to go

towards new uniforms for our students.

A huge thank you to our Ranginui Whanau, Scott-Murray Whanau, Hollis Whanau, Edwards Whanau, Maria, Linda, Terese (our ladies in the



office) Suzanne Meijer, Caitlyn Riley, Matua Neitana and Matua Ben. All our Kapa Haka Students who were once again very helpful.



A very special nga mihi to Anya Satyanand for organising this day. We are looking forward to next years Athletics Carnival Day.

Nga mihi
Whaea Char

NETBALL

After a fantastic year in 2013 we are really looking forward to building on the solid foundation to enable growth and development into the future.

The 2014 netball season is just around the corner and we are keen to welcome new players and encourage old ones to return.

We have trials for Seniors on Monday 10th and Saturday 15th March.

We also need family support especially being on the committee or managing a team. If this is your forte please let Josie Fitzsimons (sports coordinator) or Jules Nicholas know.

Young netballers remember fitness is a key to you carrying out your skills with finesse. So work on your pre season fitness; start running, practise changing direction and doing vertical jumps. Looking forward to you all being on board for the season.

jules.nicholas@whs.school.nz

josie.fitzsimons@whs.school.nz

DRAGON BOATING

Both Wellington High School student and staff teams will compete this weekend in The Wellington Dragon Boat Festival at Frank Kitts Park.

On Saturday 8 March from 9am to 4pm Corporate and Open Teams will go head to head. Representing Wellington High School is the staff team *Welly High Warriors*

Sunday 9 March from 9am to 3pm is the Secondary Schools Competition with our student team looking pretty good out there on the water.

Please feel free to come and support our staff and student teams.



AG/HORT FIELDTRIP

Recently year 12 and 13 Ag/Hort students carried out a fruit thinning operation on Anaroa Hills Vineyard. The purpose of the authentic learning was to thin out the grape



bunches before harvest. The aim is to remove the slow ripening shoulder bunches and damaged bird peck bunches. Thinning out some of the heavy laden

vines improves the quality of the remaining bunches, allows better air circulation, and reduces the stress on the young grape vines.

Kirsty and Ross Ferguson have done an excellent job, managing the viticulture through the growing season and keeping the vines healthy.

Rowan Hoskins from vine managers, estimate from a grape juice sugar reading of 15



brix, is that the grapes will be ready for harvesting in approximately 2 weeks.

The wine processing trip to Martinborough and the Eastern Institute of Technology is currently being planned and will involve hand picking of bunches and starting the wine making process.

Max Smith TIC AgHort Teacher

Short-term Courses for Life-long Learning

at the Wellington High School Community Education Centre

The Term 1 Community Education Centre programme is underway but we still have lots of one-day workshops scheduled, as well as 4-session evening courses starting in the week beginning 17 March.

Check out what's available and enrol on-line at www.cec.wellington.ac.nz.

Take advantage of our special \$10 discount for WHS families and whanau – just use the **Promotional Code WHS010314** when you register.

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



Athletics 2014

RECORD BREAKERS

Austi Sherman	U14 Boys	High Jump, 1.50m
Jamie Smitheman	U14 Boys	Javelin, 33.75m Shot Put, 11.84m Discus, 28.93m
Roydon Goldsack	U14 Boys	100m, 12.7s 200m, 27.1s 400m, 1.03.5
Rohan Jackson	U14 Boys	800m, 2.22.7 1500m, 4.53.5
Hope Robyns-Mackay	U16 Girls	High Jump, 1.45m
Malysan Qioyal	U16 Girls	Shot Put, 11.30m
Elise Forman	U16 Girls	100m, 13.1s 200, 27.3s
Charlotte Adams	U16 Girls	1500m, 6.07.2
Pako Dunn-Seomeng	U16 Boys	800m, 2.19.6 1500m, 4.42.3
Mika Sawada	U19 Girls	200m, 29.3s
Joyce McKinlay	U19 Girls	100m, 13.69
Grace Adlam	U19 Girls	High Jump, 1.35m
Salote Tu'itopou	U19 Girls	Shot Put, 9.81m
Sam Forman	U19 Boys	High Jump, 1.80m Long Jump, 5.97m
Ruairi Cahill-Fleury	U19 Boys	800m, 2.17.3
Stefan Baldwin	U19 Boys	1500m, 4.48.1

CHAMPIONS

Junior Boy: Roydon Goldsack
Junior Girl: Tabitha Batcheler

Intermediate Boy: Julian Shepherd
Intermediate Girl: Elise Forman

Senior Boy: Sam Forman
Senior Girl: Joyce McKinlay

CARNIVAL

Best Staff Costume
Caitlin Reilly

Best Group Costume
The Onesies

Best Cleanup by a TKT
Noall

Best Overall Colour
Kowhai

Strongest Colour
Mighty Kakariki

Overall Costume Champion
Joe's Cab





Year 9 Camp

A ROYAL CAMP

Camp was awesome, amazing and fun - especially the giant swing. It was scary at first but then I got it over and done with. I felt good doing the bike race, even though it was scary, muddy and bumpy I still did it and didn't give up.

The swimming was also fun. Because we did kayaking early in the morning, the water was cold but then once you got in there you got used to the water. When you got out you got itchy because of the duck poo. I was wearing my swimming togs, shorts and t-shirt and a safety life jacket but I was still cold at the start. We played a cool game where we had to stand on the kayak and then swim around and then go back and sit on the kayak. I enjoyed that game.

At night time we played a game called nightline where we had to hold onto a rope that took us to the end of the bush walk. On the way we got sticks and trees whacked at us, rocks on our path where we were walking and we also crossed many streams with no light. It was scary but I felt safe that there were other people with me. After that we had milo and stayed up for ten to fifteen minutes and then went to sleep. It was a great day.

The next day we did horse riding, I have forgotten the horse's name, but it was light brown and looked like caramel and it was soft. We got to learn how to lead a horse and how to set a horse's saddle on it. After that we walked it around, then we got to jump on the horse and go for a ride around the lake. We fed the horse grass. We left the horses to have lunch, this was yum. We had tacos. After lunch I went for a swim. It was a hot day and the water was nice and cool. Luckily I bought my beach ball so we were able to have a game of volley ball. Then I got changed and had dinner, ready to leave for school the next morning.

I got to know people's names and it was different compared to other camps I had been to. It was new to me but I had fun and made new friends. I'm looking forward to the next camp.

By Honey Waitaiki

