

Wellington High School

TE KURA TUARUA O TARAIAKI PUKEAHU

NEWSLETTER FOR MARCH 2015 FROM THE PRINCIPAL



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Kia ora koutou. Greeting to you all

I warmly welcome all families and students who are new to our school, and also welcome again families who have established connections with our marvellous institution.

The year has started very well for us and our roll has shown significant growth as more families come to understand the unique opportunities our school offers.

The powhiri for new Year 9s was a particularly wonderful event held on one of Wellington's amazing clear and still summer mornings. The positive energy generated by this welcome to the school has continued and new and returning students have settled into school routines effectively.

2014 was a very successful year for us and our NCEA results show a pleasing upward trend. We will share these with you when our results are finalised, suffice to say that students who engaged well in their learning and attended school regularly enjoyed real success.

As a way of introducing the school to new members of our community I would like to talk briefly about the school's WERO strategy. WERO is the Maori word for challenge and is an acronym for the key principles and values that underpin our school.

The W stands for whanau which reflects our commitment to family as a social grouping and also our commitment to the school's wider community. Being in a family requires us to cooperate, collaborate, care for one another and to share. We value relationships highly as a precondition to successful learning and social behaviour and profile this within the school.

The E stands for excellence, which reflects our high expectations of our young people. In this regard, while we aspire to the highest level of performance always, we recognise that excellence is a very personal thing and that it is a fundamental part of our drive to take youngsters to the limit of their potential. Each student is therefore unique, special and valued in terms of their own skill profile.

The R stands for respect and this principle challenges each member of our community to respect themselves, respect others and respect the environment. It also provides the essential framework for our celebration of diversity and difference across all aspects of life.

The O stands for ora, which is Maori for wellbeing. The ora principle challenges us all to take care of our own wellbeing and support the wellbeing of others. A healthy mind, body and spirit along with a positive self belief are major contributors to school success and support a positive contribution to life outside of school.

WERO continues to be woven into the fabric of the school as a challenge to us all. I hope that your youngster has an amazing year at school and enjoys real learning success.

No reira. Tena koutou katoa

Nigel Hanton
Principal

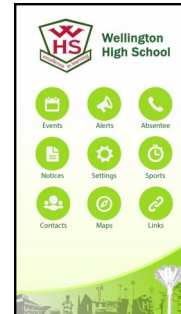
BOOK LAUNCH INVITATION

English teacher and Year 10 Dean, Denis Wright, is launching his second young adult novel, *Nanotech* (published by Makaro Press) with a dramatisation of a chapter from the novel by senior drama students and four staff members.

All caregivers are warmly invited to the official launch:

25 March 2015
Wellington High School Library
6pm to 7.30pm

WELLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL APP



You can now download an app from the iTunes App Store. Includes daily notices, absences, alerts and other information.

Android Play Store:

<http://tinyurl.com/m3yp5c2>

iTunes App Store:

<http://tinyurl.com/k44zgtb>



HOMESTAYS NEEDED

We require inclusive, caring and supportive homes for international students for Terms 2 and 3. We pay \$250 per week accommodation.

In particular, homes are urgently needed for students from China. There will also be new arrivals from Europe and South America.

If you live in Central Wellington, Mt Cook, Newtown, Island Bay or other Eastern Suburbs please contact us now.

Homestay Coordinator
Di Jordan
04 3858911 ext 781
homestay@whs.school.nz

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



LEARNING CONVERSATIONS

Tuesday 24 March between 8.30am and 5pm.

Learning Conversations have become an important part of our reporting process. They are an opportunity for you and your student to meet with your student's rōpū teacher and assess progress to date and make goals for the year. These goals will be reviewed in the 2nd learning conversation late in term 3 (Wednesday 16 September).

Bookings can be made online for this day.

There is a link to the school interviews website from our school website (<http://www.whs.school.nz>) under the Whanau tab or you can go directly to <http://www.schoolinterviews.co.nz>. On the School Interviews home page enter the school code 7XB7V then follow the instructions to book your interview.



PARENT PORTAL

There is a direct link to the parent portal from our school web site (<http://www.whs.school.nz>) under the Whanau menu.

The portal gives you access to some of the information we have on our system. This includes daily notices, student details and their timetable, student attendance, NCEA summary, assessment results, extra curricular groups, reports, pastoral items, awards, fees and Fees with Flo2Cash (there is a secure facility where you can pay all or part of your fees). The Careers section contains a record of your learning conversation interview in the 'Interviews' section and course selection (this will be needed later in the year for Y9-12 students).

Username and passwords were sent home and emailed earlier this term. If you do not have access to the portal, email admin@whs.school.nz with your name and your student's name.

REPORTS 2015

Last year we trialled online reporting via the parent portal. Instead of a written report at the end of the year, your student's progress was updated regularly throughout the year with formative feedback.

This year we intend to continue with the on-going reporting but we have decided to add a summative printable report at the end of Term 3 for senior students and at the end of Term 4 for junior students.

LIFT KEYS

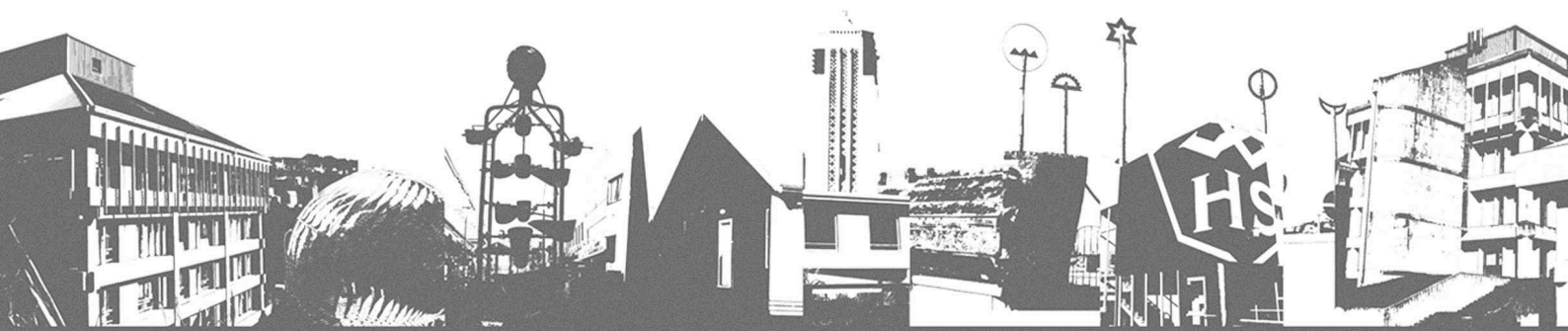
Due to the large number of lift keys that get issued to students who have sustained an injury and don't get returned, we have now introduced a \$10 (refundable) bond for a lift key. This bond will be refunded when the key is returned.

BUS COMPLAINTS

Wellington High School works with Met Link and Go Wellington to ensure that our students are able to be at school on time and get home safely. If you have any complaints about this service, please register your concern with Met Link as well as with the school. The complaints line is **0800 801 700**

NCEAPal

NCEAPal is an app available for Apple and Android users that helps students track their progress through NCEA. For more information go to <http://www.nceapal.co.nz/>.



ATHLETICS 2015

The Athletics carnival was a thoroughly enjoyable day for all who attended. Students enjoyed the carnival aspect with many stalls, novelty races and a troupe of drummers who provided beats for most of the day. The athletics was good with some fine performances from our best athletes. The spirit of participation was alive in our intermediate and senior students who lead the way. Hopefully, our juniors will follow their lead next year and get involved in more of the serious athletic events.



ATHLETICS CHAMPIONS 2015



Junior Boys U14 Seth Papadopoulos
Junior Girls U14 Elianta Jaillet (left)
Intermediate Boys U16 Royden Goldsack (back)
Intermediate Girls U16 Tabitha Batcheler (right)
Senior Boys U19 Mohamed Abdullahi
Senior Girls U19 Mika Sawada (front)

Also, huge congratulations to Base One students Ella Smith (100m) and James Martin (shot put), who have been invited to compete in the College Sport Wellington Regional Athletics Championships after their performance at the AWD Athletics.

WELL DONE TO YOU ALL!

DRAGON BOATING 2015

Kia ora koutou katoa

Student Team

It has been a struggle this year to put a team of students together but with a bit of hard work we have a team to enter for the 2015 festival.

Please come down and support our students on:

SUNDAY 15 MARCH 2015
 FRANK KITTS PARK
 9AM TO 3PM

Welly High Warriors (Staff Team)

Will be competing in the corporate section of the dragon boat festival racing against Newlands College and a team of teachers from Australia. Come down and support our staff on:

SATURDAY 14 MARCH 2015
 FRANK KITTS PARK
 9AM TO 4PM

Nga mihi nui
 Charlene Aramoana
 Manager/Coach/Captain

CONGRATULATIONS

Andrew Bennett (pictured right), captain of our 1st eleven, scored 106 runs in a 267 to 183 win over Onslow College.

Congratulations Andrew!



FROM THE SPORTS OFFICE

WINTER SPORT

Winter Sport is nearly upon us and this year we are offering a wide range of sports for you to play.

If you are wanting to play any of these sports you will need to sign up at the Sports Office - Netball, Hockey, Basketball, Badminton, Rugby and Football. We do offer some smaller sports like Table Tennis, Squash and Cross Country.

S.O.S — COACHES NEEDED

We are always in need of wonderful parent help to coach all our wonderful students in their sports.

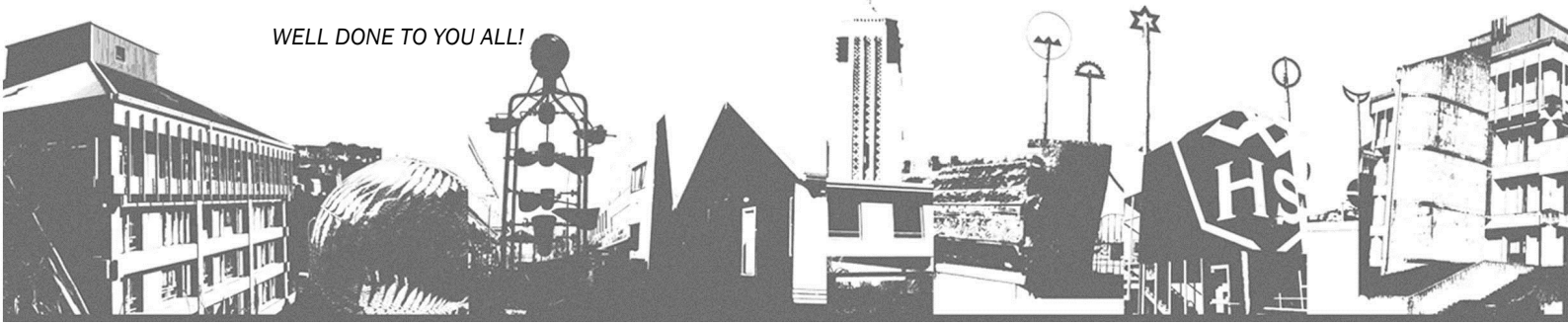
If you are able to volunteer some time to coach, especially in Junior Football and Basketball, please contact Miss McIntyre in the Sports Office all offers are warmly received.

BOYS FOOTBALL 1ST XI

Trials are being held this Sunday 8th March and Sunday 15th March at Wellington High School.

If your son is interested in playing for the school 1st XI please meet on **Sunday 8 March at Crawford Green in Miramar from 9.30am - Midday.**

Triallists are to bring, boots, shin pads, water bottle and sunblock.



Short-term Courses for Life-long Learning at the Wellington High School
COMMUNITY EDUCATION CENTRE



The Term 1 programme is underway but we still have lots of one-day workshops scheduled, as well as four session evening courses starting the week beginning 16 March.

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

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

PEER SUPPORTERS 2015

On 26 January 2015, a group of 38 Year 13 students gathered together for their second day of training as Peer Support leaders for this year. They had a great day discussing how to be leaders and role models for our incoming Year 9 students.



Peer Support at Wellington High School is connected to the school's priorities of WERO and restorative practices.

The Year 13 students guide Year 9 students through a programme that focuses on developing self-confidence and awareness, understanding culture and identity, friendships, trust, communication and values.

We have a strong group of leaders this year who are very excited about their leadership roles.

YEAR 12 GEOGRAPHY CONQUERS TONGARIRO

On Monday 16 February, 33 Year 12 Geographers travelled to the Tongariro National Park to study volcanism, vegetation and climate in the area.

Students conducted research focusing on vegetation changes in the park and had the chance to experience first hand, the natural processes that continue to shape the area.



On our final full day students completed the Tongariro Crossing and were lucky enough to see steam coming from the recently erupted Te Mari crater.

Fantastic work Team Geo!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SCHOOL DONATION

Each year the Board of Trustees asks families to support their children's learning in the school by contributing a family donation.

These funds allow the school to provide additional resources so that we can deliver and maintain our rich, varied and vibrant learning programmes.

Please also remember that we offer automatic payment facilities that can make this almost painless and it is also tax deductible.

The Board would like to thank all those families who paid their donation this year and encourages all families to prioritise this valuable support for 2015.

FORMER STUDENT FEATURES IN TOP ART EXHIBITION

Top Art is an annual touring exhibition featuring a selection of the NCEA Level 3 portfolios that achieved Excellence in Visual Art in the previous year. Five streams are covered: design, painting, photography, printmaking and sculpture. Eva Wyles, who was a Year 13 student in 2014, has work that will be featured in this exhibition. This exhibition allows members of the public to see the high quality art being created in schools.

9–13 March 2015,
Te Ara Hihiko Building, Massey University,
Wallace Street, Wellington

