

# Wellington High School

## NEWSLETTER FOR NOVEMBER 2013 FROM THE PRINCIPAL



### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Te hei mauriora  
Greetings to you all.

The last couple of weeks have been focussed on the end points of a year of learning. Senior students have completed their class work and have been preparing for external assessments, juniors have been fully engaged in their learning while as a school community we have celebrated the achievements of students through two very vibrant events.

The Senior Prize Giving celebrated the rich diversity of the school's achievement in the NCEA environment while also recognising the fantastic achievements of individual students. This great event was very well attended and it was an honour to share student success with their families.

Last Wednesday Taraika was "packed to the rafters" as Maori student achievement was celebrated with the whanau and the wider school community. This was the school's first Whakanuia and has set the precedent for an on-going recognition of Maori achievement at the school. Kia kaha!

As we work through the remainder of the term we are all working hard to ensure planning for 2014 is firmly in place. I am delighted to report that again the roll at Year 9 has shown growth which is important for us as our data analysis shows that young people who start at High in Year 9 achieve better, attend better and behave better than students who join the school later in their secondary schooling. We believe that this is due to the enormous care we take in transitioning Year 9s into the school and inducting them carefully and sensitively into the school's unique and supportive culture.

Already we are looking forward to another highly successful year in 2014.

In closing I remind you all that we at a very busy time of the year. We do our best to communicate extensively with families so they are well informed of activities in a timely manner. I remind you all that the school calendar is on our website and can be accessed through the parent portal. Please take the time to check it out.

Best wishes. No reira. Nga mihi nui koutou katoa

### CALENDAR

11 November	NCEA Externals exams start
15 November	Newsletter
18 November	Board Meeting
5 December	Student Leadership Day
9 December	Yr9/10 Activities Board Meeting
12 December	<b>Junior Prizegiving (6 - 7pm)</b>
13 December	Teacher Only Day Last day of 2013
30 January 2014	First day Year 9 only
31 January 2014	First day for all new students from other year levels & all Year 9s
3 February 2014	Whole school attends

### SCIENCE STUDENT WINS FORUM PLACE



Congratulations go to Sheryl Wong who has been selected from applicants all around New Zealand to attend the Rotary National Science and Technology Forum in January 2014.

National Science and Technology Forum each year gives 120 gifted New Zealand science and technology college students a two-week experience in advanced work in laboratories under the guidance of University and technical Institute staff. Our thanks go to Harbour City Rotary Club for their very generous sponsorship of Sheryl to this forum.

Lily Mason-Mackay was sponsored to attend the forum in 2013.

### WERO

At the end of last year, WHS joined the Ministry of Education's Positive Behaviour for Learning School-Wide (PB4LSW) initiative. As part of this, a team of staff have developed a positive statement about how we relate to each other and our environment at WHS.

Wero means 'challenge' in te reo. We think of Wellington High as a place which proudly challenges things that aren't right or fair. Each letter of WERO stands for a key value/expectation that we have of members of our community:

**W for Whanau;**  
**E for Excellence;**  
**R for Respect; and**  
**O for Ora, or health.**

The WERO team will work in the coming months to communicate these expectations with our community. We'll also focus on teaching these expectations to all Wellington High students and promote them by actively acknowledging behaviour that fits within them. We are excited about working with our community to develop their understanding of restorative practice which will underpin our response when student behaviour doesn't meet our expectations.

We are looking forward to working with families on this in the coming year and would love to hear from anyone with a perspective on our key values of Whanau, Excellence, Respect and Ora. You can reach Julie McDonald, our PB4LSW coach, by phone or email to

[julie.mcdonald@whs.school.nz](mailto:julie.mcdonald@whs.school.nz).

For more information on the PB4LSW initiative and the WERO concept, please go to [www.whs.school.nz](http://www.whs.school.nz) and look under the whanau tab.

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



# Senior Prizegiving & Whakanuia 2013



## The Service to student support award



acknowledges the contribution made by a student to help and encourage other students in the school.  
Winner:  
**Lauren Thompson**

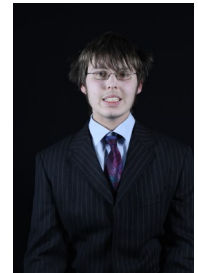
## The Tusha Gupta Award for All-Round Achievement

This award, in memory of Tusha, is for a student who has a strong academic record and has been an all-round sports person and leader over their five years at High.



Winner: **Tessa Davies**

**Hankins Bequest**  
(runner up to Dux)  
Winner: **Gareth Jones**  
(right)



## The Service to the school awards go to



the students who represent the students on the Board of Trustees  
Winners: **Merinda Jackson, Jeff Jones**

## The Inaugural Andrea Ufagalilo Award

This is the first time this award has been conferred and it recognises the outstanding contribution in and out of the classroom by a student of Pasifika descent.



Winner:  
**Shannon Talivai Johnson**

## The Murray Kanara Award for service to the school.



This will be presented by Charlene Aramoana, Murray's sister.  
Winner: **Anton and Tyrall Robert**

## The Wellington High School Peace Prize

This is awarded to the student whose behaviour and activities have best helped create a peaceful environment in the school.



Winner: **Merinda Jackson**

## Principal's Award for Excellence

Helen Blenkin  
Molly Halder  
Maia Holder-Monk  
Rian McManamon



## TE HAUMIRI O PUKEAHU Highest Achieving Māori Student

Winner:  
Gerard Whaanga  
*Ngati Kahungunu*

## The Parents' Association Prize is awarded to the group in the school who have made the greatest impact in the current year.

The award is always an art work which adds to the environment. This year it is a print by Reg Mombassa a NZ artist residing in Sydney. His work has graced album covers for Elvis Costello and Jonny Rotten.



Winners: **Te Whanau a Taraika: Kapa Haka**

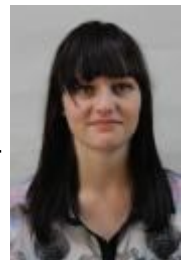
## Deans Awards

### Senior

- Y11 Lucy Edwards
  - Y12 George MacDougall
  - Y13 Lauren Thompson
- ### Whakanuia
- Y9 Kennedy Stewart
  - Y10 Oakley Spain
  - Y11 Lucy Edwards
  - Y12 Tapua Metekingi
  - Y13 Sarah-Louise Crawford

## He whakatutukitanga tino whakamiharo mo te tauria Māori tuarua o te kura: Second Most Highly Achieving Māori Student

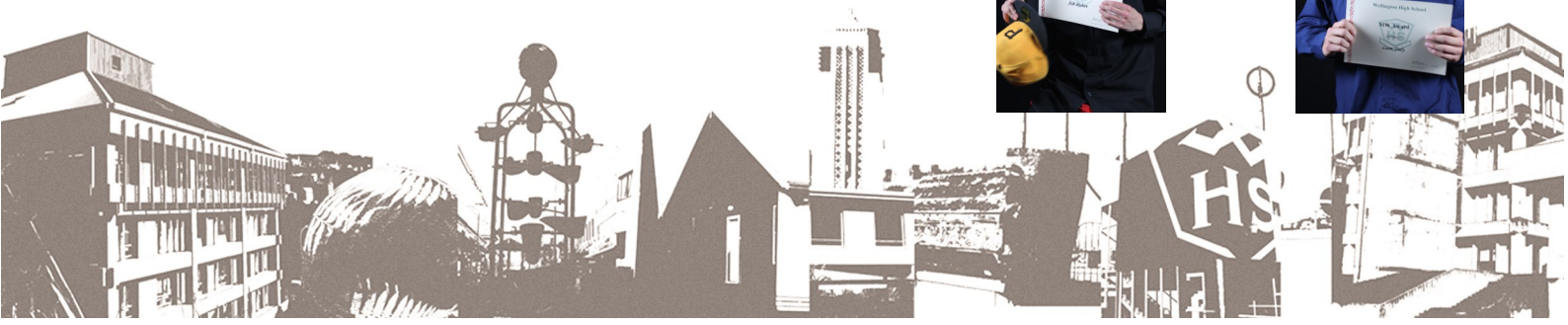
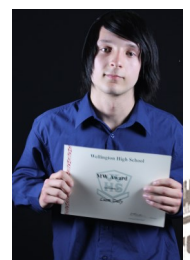
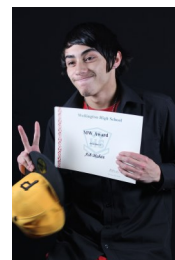
Winner: Sara Robertso  
*Ngati Porou*



**The MW Award:** supports a student to study in a tertiary setting worth \$2000 a year for 3 years.

Ash Mahan  
*Ngati Raukawa*

Liam Daly







# SPORT

## VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONS

WHS Junior Boys' Volleyball are the winners of the CSW Regional Tournament played over 8 and 9 November, beating Mana in the final. The team delivered outstanding play right throughout the tournament. In 2012 they were placed last in the same tournament. This year's win is a great



reward for the many, many hours of training. Congratulations to Thomas Gibson awarded MVP of the tournament and to Thomas, Cormac Doyle, Campbell Tacon and Bill Rattenbury who were all named in the tournament team. Also congratulations to coach, Kurt Stewart. The boys head to Mt Maunganui to compete in the North Island Championships at the end of November.

## TARGET SHOOTING

Our team, Fraser Barclay, Angus Ogilvie, and Tyler Green came 21st out of 26 teams at the national target shooting competition in Palmerston North during the holidays.

Fraser shot our best competition score of 96.04. The competition was very tough being open to all secondary school students with three competitors shooting 100.



The same team came 12th out of 33 teams in the national postal competition. A good result considering Tyler is a year 11 and Fraser year 10. They have more years of competition left.

# Sports Awards 2013

*Congratulations to the major award winners and all the other students who were acknowledged at the Sports Awards 2013*



Sportsperson of the Year  
Junior Boy 2013 **Naitoa Ah Kuoi**  
Junior Girl 2013 **Niki Menzies**



Goodall Grainger Cup "Team of the Year"  
**Girls' 1st XI Football**



Sportsperson of the Year  
Senior Boy 2013 **Sam Forman**  
Senior Girl 2013 **Azalia Cowlin**



Thomas Stace Award Highest Achievement  
Netball **Henry Tutaka**  
Judo **Qona Christie**



Silver Service Award.  
5 years Service to Sport **Ben Britton**  
Andy Price Fair Play Award  
**Petra Parker-Price**



## OUR CHILDREN'S WELLBEING

Recently there has been some deeply concerning behaviour identified by the National media involving young people, alcohol and rape. The details of this are being investigated by the police.

The circumstances that lead to this type of behaviour are complex and include such things as: disconnection, alienation, alcohol and drug use, exposure to pornography and experience of violence.

As parents and caregivers it is important that we engage with our children and find a way to have important conversations about values, relationships and sex. Having these conversations and making a plan together will help your daughters and sons and their friends, if they ever find themselves in a difficult or unsafe situation.

If you would like to talk further about this, or need some ideas about how to initiate these important conversations please contact the WHS Guidance Team

Mark Pope

Email: [mark.pope@whs.school.nz](mailto:mark.pope@whs.school.nz)

Phone: 3858911 ext 820

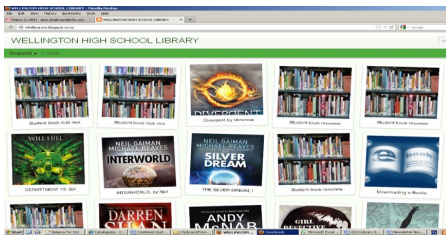
Kirsty Ferguson

Email: [kirsty.ferguson@whs.school.nz](mailto:kirsty.ferguson@whs.school.nz)

Phone: 385/8911 ext 861

## LIBRARY

The library has just started a blog (<http://whslibrarynz.blogspot.co.nz/>).



We highlight new books or books we or the Student Book Club members like. There are links to book trailers and the library catalogue.

Did you know we have eBooks available for downloading? These can be 'taken out' at any time, through the library catalogue via Moodle. They will return themselves in three weeks, just like Mission Impossible. There is a powerpoint presentation of the download instructions on the library Home page in Moodle. Our eBooks can, of course, be borrowed over the holidays as they will just return themselves when they're due.

Students are also welcome to take out print books from the library to read over the Christmas holidays, as long as you are fairly sure that the students will be returning to Wellington High School next year and so will return the books.

## CONGRATULATIONS



The seven CORE Education eFellowship Awards winners for 2014 were announced on 10 October 2013 at the ULearn13 conference held in Hamilton. Ben Britton, teacher of Mathematics and Computing at Wellington High School,

was amongst those named.

As a very passionate early adopter, he was involved in the 1:1 computers pilot programme at Wellington High and has been teaching in a 1:1 environment for four years now.

During this time he has adapted his teaching approach as the types of devices students bring has changed.

Two years ago, he built a kitset 3D printer to explore how it might be possible to use it in school. Now he has introduced this technology to Wellington High, and he has been continually amazed at what students are capable of creating with them. He believes that 3D printers will make a huge impact on the world that our students are growing up in.

## ANAROA HILLS GRAPEVINE UPDATE

Kirsty and Ross Fergusson are carrying out the scheduled sulphur spray operations to protect the vines from pests and disease. The vines are looking very healthy. Vineyard consultant Rowan Hoskins from Vine Managers delivered some new vines to blank the few missing vines and give advice. Kirsty is currently carrying out a head thinning operation. The first authentic learning opportunities for students in early 2014 will be a pre bunch closure sulfur spray, leaf plucking and fruit thinning operations.



*Vine cane showing healthy leaves, vigorous spring shoot growth and early development of grape bunches*

## INCOMING YEAR 9 STUDENTS - BYOT

BYOT stands for Bring Your Own Technology and digital technology is an integral tool for learning at Wellington High School. Students use tablets, netbooks or laptops as an electronic text book and exercise book, as an information portal, for software and application use, to collaborate with others and to develop critical internet literacy.

We expect that all students will have a device when they start at the beginning of 2014. If you have not been able to secure a device there are a range of options available at [www.cyclone.co.nz](http://www.cyclone.co.nz) that could be used for a Year 9 student. Our preferred option is the Samsung Chromebook (retailing at about \$450). These are a relatively new product that look like a netbook but operate similar to a tablet. They are essentially a computer built on a web browser meaning apps (via the chrome store) are installed to the Chromebook but software installation (such as iTunes) is not possible. Like a tablet they have a small hard drive (16Gb) but students will be allocated their own Google account at WHS and will store their work 'in the clouds'. They are light, cheap (by computer and tablet standards) and will perform all the functions required at junior level. If you wish to know more about this product, simply search 'Samsung Chromebook reviews'. If a student wishes to store large amounts of video, photos and music on their device, they should look at other options.

If you wish to purchase a product that your student could use all the way through high school you may opt for an Ultrabook or Macbook. These obviously have their merits and will run the more sophisticated industry software that students will be exposed to in specialist areas in senior years. However, a lot changes in a short time in this area.

If you are still confused by all the technology that's out there, don't hesitate to contact us and we will be able to help you with your decision making.

## THANK YOU

We want to thank BNZ and their team of volunteers who came and assisted our students with Special Assessment Conditions, as readers and writers, during the school exams.

This was great support for these students and good preparation for the external exams.

BNZ has volunteered at WHS for the last few years and we thank them for their on-going involvement

