



# WELLINK

## Newsletter No 6 – July 2008

### Principal's Message

Tena koutou katoa

I spoke to students recently about the significance of the implementation of the New Zealand Curriculum to them in terms of their experiences at school and the possibilities it presents for their futures.

We are committed at Wellington East to a process of implementation which opens doors to new ways of thinking about schooling and in particular learning and teaching. The New Curriculum also provides an opportunity to think about the place of schools in their communities and we believe, as echoed in the new Strategic Plan, that building community links, partnerships and relationships is crucial to success in the 21<sup>st</sup> century education.

We are starting to work with Dr Jane Gilbert, chief researcher with NZCER, author of 'Catching the Knowledge Wave' and co-author of 'Disciplining and Drafting, or 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning? Rethinking the NZ senior secondary curriculum for the Future' to develop ways to involve our community in the implementation process.

We are establishing a cluster of schools in the Eastern Suburbs across primary, intermediate and secondary to ensure some congruence in thinking and planning for schooling in this area into the future. This is, I believe a very exciting time for education.

Sally Houghton  
Principal

### Important Dates for Term 3

#### July

- Mon 21 Close date for 2009 Yr9 applications for interviews  
Yr13 Drama students out - Museum
- Thu 24 Junior Report Evening – 4.30 – 7pm – Hall
- Sat/Sun 26/27 'Memory' an intangible web – 1.00pm performance at Museum of Wgtn City & Sea
- Sun 27 Les Miserables rehearsal 1-5pm
- Mon 28 Les Miserables rehearsal 3.45-7pm
- Tue 29 Vocal Studies Solo Recital  
BOT Meeting – ERO - 6pm
- Wed 30 Staff professional learning – School start 9.25am  
Les Miserables rehearsal 3.45-6pm  
African parents/students meet re Careers 6-7.30pm
- Thu 31 Senior Report Evening – 4.30-7pm – Hall
- Thu 31-3 Aug Ski Trip

#### August

- Sat/Sun 2/3 'Memory' an intangible web – 1.00pm performance at Museum of Wgtn City & Sea
- Sun 3 Les Miserables Rehearsal 1-5pm
- Mon 4-Thu 7 Enrolment interviews day and evening
- Mon 4 Dress/tech rehearsal Les Miserables 3.45-7pm  
Final day for 2009 Yr9 applications
- Tue 5 Final rehearsal Les Miserables 3.45-7pm
- Wed 6 Victoria University – All Year 13 – Pd3
- Wed 6-Sun 10 Production – Les Miserables – 7pm

- Sat/Sun 9/10 'Memory' an intangible web – 1.00pm performance at Museum of Wgtn City & Sea
- Mon 11 Art students exhibition - Thistle Hall open 5.30-7pm
- Tue 12 Fashion Runway – 7.00-8.30pm  
BOT Meeting – Technology – 6pm
- Wed 13 Staff professional learning – School start 9.25am  
Roll closes for student rep BOT nominations
- Thu 14 Parents Assoc meeting – 7.30pm
- Wed 20 Senior Course selection evening
- Wed 27 Staff professional learning – School start 9.25am  
'Attitude' – Yrs 11, 12, 13 performance - Hall  
Junior Dance
- Thu 28 Level 1 Drama Performance – 7pm Hall
- Fri 29 Study at Victoria Day – all Yr13  
Nominations for BOT student rep close

#### September

- Mon 1-Fri 5 Winter Tournament
- Fri 5 Assembly – Student rep BOT nominees speak
- Mon 8 Tu Tangata at TSB
- Mon 8-Fri 19 ERO visit
- Tue 9 Nga Hau e Wha Festival – Kapiti College  
Assembly – voting for student BOT rep  
Junior Course Selection Evening
- Wed 10 Staff professional learning – School start 9.25am  
Yr11 Volleyball Tournament Period 4-5
- Thu 11-Wed 17 Exams
- Thu 11 Parents' Assn meeting – 7.30pm
- Fri 12 Student rep BOT poll closes
- Tue 16 Board Mtg – Social Science – 6pm
- Fri 19 New BOT student trustee appointed  
Yr11 Volleyball Pd 4-5
- Tue 23 Board Mtg – 6pm
- Wed 24 Staff professional learning – School start 9.25am  
Yr13 Studylink – Pd3  
Level 1 Solo Recital 6pm
- Fri 26 End of Term - Exam results posted
- Sat/Sun 27/28 Duke of Edinburgh Expedition
- Sun 28 Ball – Overseas Terminal

#### October

- Wed 1 Eid-Al-Fitr

### BOT Spot

The Board of Trustees met on Tuesday 24 June and Lorna Young gave a presentation on the Science Department plan. This gave the Board an oversight on how the department has been going over the last few years, what results had been achieved and what was the focus and the new initiatives for the future. The Board has a programme to review all the departmental plans and see how they integrate with the school's overall strategic plans.

During the Board meeting a number of key topics were discussed including changes to the Year 11 extension programme and how the school plans to develop the extension programmes in Years 9 and 10.

Time was also spent preparing and putting in place a process for developing the property plan and updating and developing the school's Governance Manual and Charter.

The Board is also preparing preliminary documents to be sent to the Education Review Office (ERO) who are scheduled to

visit and review the school in September this year. The ERO review is an extremely valuable process as it gives the school the opportunity to have an external perspective to any new initiatives and to review our existing practices. The Board welcomes this review as we expect that this will give the senior management and Board valuable advice and direction on what we are doing well and areas that can have more focus.

The Board student representative informed the Board on students' activity, whom certainly appear very busy and engaged with a wide number of events. Also the Whanau representative updated the Board on the Rongotai College Wharenui Hura Whakairo unveiling and powhiri to be held on 3 July to celebrate the reopening of the Wharenui. The WEGC whanau have had a significant involvement in this project and are looking forward to 3 July.

### **WEGC Parents' Association**

Meeting dates for Term 3 are 14 August & 11 September at 7.30pm. All parents/caregivers are invited to attend.

### **Mid-Year Reports**

Mid-year reports for all students are being posted out on the last day of term i.e. 4 July. We have made a small change to the Years 11, 12 and 13 reports. The number of periods a student has been absent from each subject class will be included for the report period. This number is all the times a student has been away from the class for any reason. Reasons will include explained absences such as illness, sporting trips, other class trips or camps, or in-school activities, and unexplained absences.

This has been added to the reports as we are concerned that students who have high absenteeism from class can be at risk of not achieving well. Where students have other activities that can cause their missing classes, they need to have good organisational skills to ensure that they catch up on the missed work. We would like to work with students and their families to ensure that their learning is not compromised by frequent absences from classes.

### **Gateway**

The Gateway programme continues to provide opportunities for students to explore directions they wish to head in the future. We have one student who recently has been offered and has accepted an apprenticeship at her workplace. Other students are diligently working on individual learning plans and are gaining qualifications pertaining to their workplace. Most students are well settled in their placements whilst a few have decided they would like to try another avenue of interest in Term 3.

As always, we are interested to hear from potential employers in the wider school community who have placement opportunities for Yrs 12 and 13 students. For more information please contact the Gateway Administrator, Anita van Driel, DDI (04) 801 0425 or mobile, 0274 930035.

Alternatively please contact the Gateway Co-ordinator, Anne Rixon, DDI (04) 801 0429 or mobile, 0274 4930049.

### **Non-Attendance**

If students are sick, late or not coming to school, please phone the Attendance Officer, 385 8514, then dial one. Please speak clearly and slowly giving the girl's name, class and the reason for the call.

Please send a confirming note when the girl returns back to school. This will ensure that we keep accurate records of pupil attendance.

## **Music**

Term 2 has been very busy for the Music Department as all the contests are scheduled at this time of the year.

### **The Big Sing**

Three of our choirs, 2 of them student directed, entered. At the Gala Concert, we were presented with no less than four awards! – more than any other school! Congratulations to Harriet Ferry, Gasolo Lelevaga and Alice Stevens-Carlyon for their awards as student directors/conductors and to the Small Choir with their director Alexandra Hay for winning the award for the best New Zealand Composition.

### **The Chamber Music Contest**

We entered 2 school groups and some students also combined with other schools through the Victoria University Academy. Both groups received very positive comments from the adjudicator and members of the audience. The work we commissioned from Alex Hay – "The Hanging Tree," created a very excited response.

### **Rockquest**

Two of the Rockbands entered and were a credit to themselves and to the school. Thanks to Ms Manly for giving such admirable coaching and advice.

### **Open Evening**

Many thanks to the students who returned to school for the evening to make such beautiful and interesting music for our guests.

**Congratulations** to Alexandra Hay (ex Wellington East Girls' College student, our Vocal tutor and Director of the Small Choir) who has been selected as an "emerging composer" and is scheduled to record her composition with the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra.

Alex has also had a composition selected for an Italian festival and will travel to Rome to be present at the performance.

### **Vacancies in the Music Tuition Scheme**

Flute (2 vacancies with flutes available for hire).

Cello (2 vacancies with cellos available for hire.)

Chamber Music (students need to be fairly competent players but juniors are very welcome).

Please contact Heather Jones (HOD Music).

## **Qualification Entries 2008**

Payments of NZQA fees are due to the school no later than **Friday 12 September 2008**. Payment can be made by instalments or by direct credit to the school, as well as a one off payment.

You are urged to commence payment as soon as possible in order not to disadvantage your daughter's qualification entries.

### **FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Students can apply for financial assistance if their family receive a benefit or if there is more than one student in the family entering for National Secondary School Qualifications.

The form must be returned to the office by the first day of Term 3 in order to qualify for assistance.

**PE Gear**

Could all girls please name their PE gear. Many unnamed items of sports gear are left in the Sports Centre lost property and cannot be returned to the owners.

**Liverpool College (UK) Sports exchange**

On Monday 21 July WEGC are hosting Liverpool College from England for an international sports exchange. East 2nd XI Hockey, Senior B and Senior C netball teams will be involved in the exchange. This is a great opportunity for non 1st team players to represent the school in a sporting exchange.

Liverpool College is part of the public school system in the UK and are a very respected sporting school in the Midlands area. Public schools in the UK are not public they are the same as private schools in New Zealand. If you would like to see what public schools in the UK are like look up Liverpool College on the net.

On the night of the 21 July WEGC students who take part in the exchange will need to billet player/s for the night. Letters have been sent home to families with details of the exchange so if you have not received one ask your daughter or look at the bottom of her bag. We would like to give them a big welcome so all students, parents/caregivers are welcome to support all the girls in the Sports Centre from 3.30pm to 5.30.

**Netball**

Congratulations to the following girls who have made Wellington age group representative squads for netball.

U17 squad 2008: Bryony Cunningham-Pow,  
Shelley Pearson, Anna Robinson

U15 squad 2008:- Jenna Bone, Olivia Dunn, Crystal Lawrence,  
Victoria Miller, Brooke Watt

**U-17 Soccer World Cup**

Wellington is hosting 8 games of the Fifa U-17 Women's soccer world cup. The first game is Brazil vs England on Thursday 30th October. We are trying to obtain 40 tickets so that students can attend this world wide event.

Hundreds of volunteers are needed for this event. Any students or parents/caregivers who are interested can attend the following meetings:

Monday 7th July - Capital Football Bracken St, Petone  
6.30-8pm

or

Friday 11th July - SPARC board room, Level 4, 78 Victoria St  
Wellington, 5.30-7pm.

or you can go online [www.nzsoccer.com](http://www.nzsoccer.com)

