



WELINK

Wellington East Girls' College

Newsletter No 7 – July 2009

Principal's Message



Tena koutou katoa

Preparing for Exams and Making Choices

By the end of end of this term senior students will have sat school examinations and be engaged with preparation for external examinations in Term 4. It is during Term 3 that students focus on their learning needs for the next year. Students in Years 9-12 will plan courses and make option choices. Year 13 students will finalise decisions and applications for the following year. We will hold option choice events later in the term to assist with decision making.

Planning Surveys

Thank you for the work you have done on the Planning Survey so far. The responses are hugely valuable to us in our strategic planning and review cycles. The Parents' Association will be holding an evening to focus on school vision and values on August 13 at 7.30pm in the staffroom. I look forward to seeing as many parents/caregivers as possible

Staff Changes - Term 1 and 2

The following staff left the college in the first half of the year - Ms Cindi Holt (SNU), Mrs Anne Stephenson-Piper (Library), Mrs Sue Brown (English). We thank them for their contribution to the college and wish them well in the future.

This year we have welcomed new staff to the College - Mrs Naseem Shariff (SNU), Mrs Kim Baguley (Library), Mrs Sharyn Latta (Careers - relieving), Dr Sarah Russell (Science - relieving), Mr Wesley Barclay (Science - relieving).

Existing staff have been appointed to new positions - Ms Kate Potter (Junior Gifted and Talented) and Mrs Alex Perry (ICT Teacher Learning).

Sally Haughton

Term Dates

August	6	Student Fashion Show - Hall 7pm
	10	African & Migrant Parents' mtg 6pm
	16	(Sunday) Careers Expo 12-5pm
	19	Senior Course Selection Evening 7pm
	24-28	School Exams Yrs 11-13 (all week)
	31-4	Winter Tournament Week
September	2	Yr 9 Course Selection/NCEA Evng 7pm
	16	All level School Dance - 7-10pm
	25	END OF TERM

Curriculum Changes - Seminar for Parents/Caregivers of Year 9 Students

When Wednesday 5 August 6pm - 7.30pm,
Where Staffroom
Why To discuss the proposed changes to our Year 10 curriculum for next year.

The New Zealand Curriculum has been revised and is to be implemented from 2010.

Over the last two years, the staff have been involved in professional development and used much of the school based professional learning time to identify changes to the curriculum and develop new programmes of learning, based on these changes in direction. We have used the feedback from previous surveys of our whole community, discussion with focus groups of parents and students, staff discussions, and advice from curriculum advisers to modify the curriculum that we offer in both Years 9 and 10.

We would now like to gain your feedback on the proposed changes. If you are unable to attend you are welcome to send in your feedback directly to :
Ann.greenaway@wegc.school.nz

BOT Spot - Next Meeting August 25th

Roofed Swimming Pool

The Board of Trustees have accepted a proposal from Steve Hinds and Gary Hurring about investigating a significant upgrade to the school swimming pool. The idea is that a charitable trust will be set up to seek sponsorship to enable us to develop a new roofed swimming pool. This pool will be administered by the trust on the understanding that the school will have full use during school hours and that after hours the pool will be used for swimming tuition, coaching and other such activities. The Trust will be responsible for the costs of maintaining and operating the pool.

This is an exciting possibility because it will mean that school staff and students will be able to use the pool all year round. A new pool will be a major boost for the sport of swimming in Wellington. The Trust members will be Steve Hind, Gary Hurring, Lorraine Lent with Brett Lineham as the school representative.

School Vision

At our July meeting the Board spent time discussing the school vision. We are trying to define what we want our girls to be. This is part of our ongoing strategic planning. Staff and some parent groups have already taken part in this activity and a further meeting will be held on the 13th of August for other parents to participate in this important process. Students will also be able to have their input.

Doug Ferry - Chairperson

Parents' Association – next meeting August 13th

Vision and Values Meeting

Sally Haughton will be presenting the vision and values for WEGC at the next meeting. There will also be a consultation on what parents and caregivers want for the students at our school and what is important for the students and the community.

Email List

If you would like to be put on to an email list for this and future events, please donna.smith@rongotai.school.nz. We are hoping to have speakers at our September and October meetings and we will advise you of these in advance.

Qualification Entries 2009 – Fees Reminder

2009 NQF fees, including NCEA

- They must be received at the college by **Friday 4 September**
- Prompt payments will avoid the NZQA **late fee**

Payment of School Fees

- See **school website** for payment options and details <http://www.wegc.school.nz/information/fees>

Latin

Useful Website

Year 9 Latin students have been enjoying testing their progress on the cambridgeonlinelatin.com website, an initiative of the British Government. Anyone can learn Latin this way. Why not give it a try?

Staff News

Early this year their teacher, Rosemary Jamieson, was contracted to The Correspondence School to re-write their Year 11 Latin course - an exciting project.

Noumea Trip – July 6th

Where Noumea, New Caledonia
When 11 days during the recent term-break
Who 42 students from Years 11, 12 and 13 French classes and four adults

Students spent eight nights in home-stay accommodation and attended 15 hours of language classes over five mornings. In the afternoons they spent time exploring the town, beaches, markets, and the Tjibaou Cultural Centre, as well as taking a ride on the Petit Train. A day and a half was spent with students from the College de la Riviere Salee playing table tennis and badminton, attending some of their classes and eating with the local students at the school "cantine".

The highlight for many was the trip to the Amedee lighthouse on the reef where they were able to snorkel from a glass-bottomed boat amongst tropical fish. The lighthouse is on a truly idyllic little island with white sand and crystal-clear water.

Heartfelt thanks to Ms Anderson, Ms Wilson, and Mr Calder from Wellington College who accompanied us. Thanks also to all the students and parents who helped with the fund-raising for a very successful trip.

Annette Cumming - HOD Languages

Sport

World Games 2009 Kaohsiung, Taiwan - Surf Lifesaving

Samantha Lee

100m Rescue Medley	6th in the A Final
50m Manikin Carry	7th in the A Final
100m Manikin Carry	7th in the B Final

Georgia Hind

200m Obstacles	1st in the B Final
100m Rescue Medley	5th in the B Final

Samantha & Georgia - part of NZ women's relay team

4 x50m Obstacles Relay	7th
4x 25m Manikin Carry	6th
4 x 50m Rescue Medley Relay	7th

1 day of beach competition

Tube Rescue	6 th
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Samantha & Georgia part of women's team
NZ team finished 3rd overall

Canoe Polo – Under 18 Representatives

Bronte Bergquist was part of the Central Region Junior U18A team which won their grade at the Inter-Regional Championships and helped Central retain the Trophy.

Ella Bates-Herman, Emily Cartmell, Georgia Stewart, Abigail Palmer, Georgina Gatenby and Bronte Bergquist were all selected for the Wellington Schools Rep squad. The final teams will be announced in few weeks time.

Canoe Polo – Development Training

WCPA development training starts on the 12th August at Stokes Valley. WEGC needs more girls to play. If you are keen to try, go along and experience what it is all about.

Netball – Under 17 Age Group Championships

A big congratulations to both Wellington Centre teams, Black and Gold, for their great performance over the last week at the U17 NNZ Age Group Champs.

Competition was strong and the cross pool draw tough. Wellington Gold got four decisive wins from six (by an average of 20 points) but placed 17th, which shows the high overall quality of teams. Wellington Black had a fantastic tournament and was unlucky not to beat Auckland Waitakere in the final, placing second overall.

Congratulations to Olivia Dunn for being named Best Attacking Player in the tournament and making the NNZ tournament team.

Music – Farewell to Small Choir Director

It is with real regret that we have to farewell the director of our elite Small Choir, Alex Hay, who has been with us for three and a half years. During this time, this choir has gained in prestige, performing at Government House, the Cathedral and at Ministry occasions.

The repertoire that Alex has introduced has been original and challenging. Alex is first and foremost a composer and she has been offered a share lectureship at Victoria University, where she already does some tutoring. She is also involved in a commissioned work funded by Creative New Zealand which is going to take up a great deal of her time.

Alex is an ex-student of WEGC, so our association is a long one. Our good wishes and congratulations go with Alex as she finally leaves Wellington East.

Geography

Year 11 Quiz

Six members of the class attended the annual Maatangi Whenua Geography Quiz. They competed in a series of quiz rounds which included making models of landforms using playdoh, map work and a multimedia quiz. The teams came 5th and 7th out of 15 teams.



Year 13 Trip

Year 13 Geography recently headed to Rotorua to study the tourism development in the area. They heard from speakers about their businesses and how they are encouraging tourists to come to Rotorua. While there they went on the gondola and luge, visited the Rotorua Museum, had a tour of the Novotel and Ibis hotels and ate at the Skyline restaurant.



Careers

Course planning for students intending to enrol next year

Victoria University

11.30-12.30pm – Monday 3 August - Library

Otago University

10.15-12.30pm – Thursday 6 August – Library

University of Auckland

12.30pm – Tuesday 11 August – Careers Room

Telford Agriculture School

11.20am – 13 August – Careers Room

Canterbury University

10.30am – Wednesday 19 August – Library

Massey University

12.30-1.30pm – Thursday 3 September – Library

Open Days at Tertiary Institutions

Navy - 8, 9 August. This involves visiting a frigate - bookings must be made with Mrs Latta.

Victoria University – 28 August

Massey University (Wellington) – 28 August

Travel Careers & Training – 28 August.

Massey University (Manawatu) – 5 August

Free bus provided from Wellington. Arrangements can be made to visit on Saturday 8 August as well.

Wellington Performing Arts – 15 September

Parenting Talk

The Politically Incorrect Parenting Show: The First Decade

When Tuesday, 4 August 7-9pm

Where Riley Centre, Wellington High School

Cost \$15

A hugely entertaining, informative, and irreverent one-man show by Clinical Psychologist and best-selling author Nigel Latta on how to get kids through the first ten years and stay sane.

Library – Wednesday Afternoon Study Time

This term the library is open after school until 5pm on Wednesdays for general study. Staff member, Teresa Cody, will be supervising students and they will have access to all of the resources there, including internet, photocopying and printing as well as being able to issue books.

Rain Water Harvesting Project – Year 10

Aim - To increase our storage capacity from 5,600 litres to 25,600 litres and meet our emergency preparation requirements.

Estimated cost? \$8,000

Raffles

Year 10 students all around the school are selling tickets for raffles with prizes including dinner, concert tickets, grocery hampers and other winter goodies.

Raffles will be drawn 17 August. Email us for ticket purchases or more information at rainwater@wegc.school.nz.

Movie Fundraiser – ‘UP’ Screening

What Preview Screening of ‘UP’

Cost \$12 student \$15 Adults

When Monday 7th September (Week 8)

Where Embassy Theatre

Up

From Disney-Pixar comes *Up*, a comedy adventure about 78-year-old balloon salesman Carl Fredricksen, who finally fulfills his lifelong dream of a great adventure when he ties thousands of balloons to his house and flies away to the wilds of South America. But he discovers all too late that his biggest nightmare has stowed away on the trip: an overly optimistic 8-year-old Wilderness Explorer named Russell. From the Academy Award-nominated director Pete Docter (*Monsters, Inc.*).

Komputer Kooks in the News

The Kooks have been raising their profile this term with items in the local newspaper and on One News about their tutoring programme with parents. The item can be viewed online, following this link

Three members also won their category in the Otago University 2009 Technology Innovation Challenge. They were only all-girls team competing, and included Chandni Patel, Reda Jawed and Neelam Bhikha, all of Year 13. The category they won was the about ‘multiuser virtual environments’ which was based around the ‘Second Life’ game, and they created one around the ‘virtual dance world’.