



# WELINK

**Newsletter No 2 – March 2009**

## **Welink – Website**

This issue has been mailed to you. Further issues will be given to students at school to take home.

Please make sure your daughter brings a **WELINK** home at the beginning of each month. It contains essential information as well as news.

In addition you can view the Welink page on the school website – [www.wegc.school.nz](http://www.wegc.school.nz) go to “what’s on?”

## **Principal’s Message**

Tena koutou katoa

This has been a very positive start to the year. We have been particularly happy to see so many parents and caregivers at school events in the last few weeks. We value all opportunities to meet with the parents.

This year we have welcomed new staff to the college:

Miss Anna Wilson (Geography and Social Studies), Miss Katie Breckon (Photography and Junior Art), Ms Kate Potter (Mathematics), Miss Carolynne Newton (Mathematics), Mr Timothy Harford (ICT), Ms Niki Fordyce (Food Technology), Mrs Julia Flannagan (ICT, Graphics), Mrs Joanna Bulman (Science), Mrs Caroline Horton (English), Ms Sarah Rendall (Mathematics), Mrs Leila Adams (Mathematics) Ms Bronwyn Kerr (Teacher Aide/ESOL), Mrs Ncamisile Ngwenya (Teacher Aide/Mainstream), Ms Julie Fitzgerald, our new Enrolments Officer.

Ms Sam Ford has replaced Ms Rochelle Duke who is on maternity leave and Ms Saradha Koirala has replaced Ms Deborah Moran who is also on maternity leave.

Ms Claire Dixon and Ms Samantha Robinson have returned to us from leave.

This year there are existing staff in new roles:

Ms Mandy Page (Acting Assistant Principal), Ms Heather Aked (Acting Assistant Principal), Mrs Alex Perry (HOD Biology), Miss Rebecca Logan (Acting Assistant HOD Science), Mrs Shelley Shackleton (Acting HOD PE and Health), Ms Kate Judge (Acting Assistant HOD English), Mrs Marlene Goodes (Acting HOD Special Needs Unit, Ms Amy Perkins (Gifted and Talented Coordinator – Senior), Ms Kathryn Munro (Year 9 Dean), Ms Kathryn Hutchinson (Year 13 Dean), Ms Mary Brophy (Literacy Coordinator).

The appointment of new staff and the appointment of staff in new roles is adding to the sense of vitality and innovation already present within the teaching staff.

Ms Kate Gainsford was formally handed over to the PPTA as President at a powhiri in February. We are confident that she will make a significant contribution to the profession in this new role and we are able to follow her progress almost daily in the news media. We wish her well.

This year we have been talking with students about the step by step, day by day, focus. We are aiming to highlight the relationship between success and planning, consistent focus and good decision making.

Sally Haughton  
Principal

## **Board of Trustees**

The Board of Trustees had its first meeting of the year on 24 February. At the meeting Simon Tyler stood down as Chairperson of the Board of Trustees. Doug Ferry was elected as upcoming Chairperson and Brett Lineham was elected as the Deputy. The Board are confident that Doug and Brett will do a great job and assist the Principal, Sally Haughton.

During the Board meeting Principal Ann Greenaway gave the Board of Trustees an overview of the new NZ Curriculum Wellington East Girls’ College is working through the planning process and is well placed for implementation.

Also during this meeting the Board discussed and approved the Annual Plan for 2009. There was also discussions about NCEA results and Student Voice Feedback.

## **Parents’ Association Meeting**

**Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> March 2009 at 7.30pm in the staff room**

The Parents’ Association warmly welcomes parents and caregivers to their next meeting. There will be the AGM, a special general meeting along with the opportunity to meet with Sally Haughton, School Principal.

The special general meeting is needed to update the constitution to reflect current practice. The Parents’ Association was formed in 1957 and there have been no known amendments since then. The original document still refers to Shillings! To view the documents please visit the WEGC website: [www.wegc.school.nz/community/parents-association](http://www.wegc.school.nz/community/parents-association)

Meetings are relaxed and informal – we would love to see you there. For more information please contact Sue Grebby (Chair) on 970 1866 or Donna Smith (Co-ordinator) 977 6437 or [donna.smith@rongotai.school.nz](mailto:donna.smith@rongotai.school.nz)

## **Term Dates 2009**

Term 1	Mon 2 February to	Fri 9 April
Term 2	Mon 27 April to	Fri 3 July
Term 3	Mon 20 July to	Fri 25 September
Term 4	Mon 12 October to	Fri 11 December

## **Report Evenings**

The first two report evenings are scheduled for:

Years 11, 12 & 13	Wed 1 April	4.30 – 7pm
Years 9 & 10	Tues 7 April	4.30 – 7pm.

## Statement of Account

Enclosed in this mailing is your statement for 2009. School contributions/donations, Parents' Association subscriptions and computer material charges are all tax-deductible items. Charges relating to subjects or activities are not tax deductible.

The Board of Trustees is committed to providing a higher quality education to the students at Wellington East Girls' College and has decided to raise the level of contribution to \$200.00 per student. During the process the Board of Trustees considered a range of factors including a comparison with other Wellington Schools.

All monies paid to the College form an important part of our revenue budget and help to pay for items and activities not covered by Government funding.

Payment of these fees may be made term by term. If you wish to pay by automatic payment, please use the enclosed form. If you find it difficult to meet the school payment, please write to or ring our Guidance Counsellor or Principal's Secretary so that suitable arrangements can be put in place.

The textbook deposit of \$30 is paid once only, in Year 9 or when a student transfers from another secondary school. This deposit refundable by a cheque to parents when girls leave school provided they have not lost or damaged any textbooks.

The College has increased the Computer charge to \$100.00 per student. The funds raised are utilized in fast tracking the improvements to our ICT infrastructure and equipment etc., as required by a school in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

We thank all parents who supported this in 2008 and seek your continued support in 2009.

### Further Receipting of Fees for 2009

Future receipts will be issued to students at the end of each term. If you require any receipt earlier than this, they can be made available from the school office on request. Any monies already paid have been deducted from your account and will not show. Please keep receipts for tax purposes in a safe place. We are unable to issue duplicate receipts.

## Qualification Entries 2009

### FEES FOR QUALIFICATIONS

The National Qualification Framework (NQF) fees, including NCEA, for 2009 have been set by NZQA as:

Student entry fee	=	\$ 75.00
Foreign Fee Paying students		\$375.00

- Scholarships (up to 3 subjects) inclusive in NCEA fee. More than 3 subjects will cost an extra \$75.00 per subject.
- Scholarship for FFP students \$100 per scholarship subject additional to NQF fee.

### FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Students who are eligible for financial assistance will be advised when forms are available from the school office. It is expected that conditions will be similar to those in 2008.

### FEE PAYMENT

A statement for your daughter's exam fees will be mailed to you mid year. 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.

## Absence System

We have a tight, consistent system to ensure that your daughters' attendance records at school are accurate. To help us to maintain this system, please note the following:

- School begins at 8.45am with Period 1 class. All students must be at school on time.
- If you know your daughter is going to be late or absent, could you please phone the school and leave a message on our **ATTENDANCE LINE (385 8514 extension 1)**. The lateness/absence is entered on the computer as explained.
- Your daughter must sign in at the office if she is late.
- Students who do not sign in but arrive late, will be entered on the computer as "absent", and therefore parents may be rung. This can cause anxiety for the family. We do our best to ensure our systems help families receive early notice of any problems with attendance but we rely on families to support students to be on time at all times.
- There are consequences for persistent lateness, which include detention, letters home, interviews with senior staff and possible further action.
- If the school has not been informed of a student's absence, our Attendance Officer will attempt to make contact with parents on the day.

## Cellphones

While cellphones are a popular means of communication for students we do insist that cellphones must be turned off during class time. We can take no responsibility for them if they are lost. If in use or turned on in class time or at whole school functions e.g. Assembly, they will be confiscated, taken to the office, named and left in the Office for a parent or caregiver to collect.

Cellphones cause disruption to our students' learning.

## Personal Phone Calls

The school office receives numerous telephone calls for students of an unimportant nature. These messages cannot be relayed to students. We are only able to pass on messages of urgency.

## Parents' and Students' Cars

**Please help us to keep our students safe.** We ask parents not to drive into the school grounds when dropping off or collecting students, except in an emergency.

We also ask that you observe the yellow no-parking lines at the school entrance and do not park in such a way that puts students at risk as they enter and leave the school. Please arrange to meet your daughter further away from the school gates. Unauthorised vehicles are towed away.

## First Aid/Medical Appointments for Students

If students feel sick during the school day they should report to the qualified first aid person in the sick bay with a note from their teacher. They should not ring home themselves - the First Aider will do this. Please ensure your daughter carries a supply of sanitary needs etc. We cater for emergencies only.

We wish to remind parents that the school only offers a first aid service. Any matters of medical concern need to be referred to the family doctor. If students are unwell please do **NOT** send them to school. The Attendance Officer will need to be telephoned if this is the case.

Because families are always phoned before the school allows a student to go home sick, it is absolutely vital that we have some way of contacting the family. Please notify the school office of changed addresses, telephone numbers, mobile numbers and an alternative emergency number.

**Parents** – Please try to make all appointments for students outside of school hours. If this cannot be avoided, a note or appointment card should be provided.

### **Entertainment Books**

The school office has a small number of 2009/2010 Entertainment Books for sale. These are available from the school office at \$55 each. \$11 from each book sold comes directly to the college and is distributed to a needy cause.

### **Wellington East Girls' Website Development**

The Wellington East Girls' College website was upgraded at the end of last year. It is now run by staff within the school. Content is written and checked by Ms Weir and Ms Judge and technical aspects are overseen by Frederic Mottais, one of the IT staff. This in-house approach means it is regularly and quickly updated with news and photos. Media Prefect, Emilie Marschner, and other Year 13 students will be learning how to update pages themselves, giving the website a student-centred feel. Especially useful for parents are the 'Upcoming Events' and 'Notices' on the home-page.

### **Music Department**

We are off to an exciting start! We have 4 choirs organised, 3 of them student-directed. This is indeed a reflection of the eagerness of our students to take on leadership roles. All choirs are expected to enter "The Big Sing" in June.

The School Orchestra begins rehearsing this week and the Concert Band the week after. Several chamber music groups are already rehearsing and one rock band.

The tuition scheme is up and running but at this time we cannot accommodate everyone so there are waiting lists. Preference has to be given to students needing lessons for NCEA assessments.

### **Careers and Gateway News**

#### **Careers**

The year is underway with a varied Careers programme planned for our students.

Our careers focus and funding of the past 2 years came to an end with 2008. Creating Pathways and Building Lives was a funded trial which enabled us to do valuable work on the schools career programme and which highlighted for us the need to implement career modules across the school and especially at junior levels. This focus will ensure all students across all levels have the opportunity to develop the skills required to produce a career plan for the future.

The Careers Orientation programme which ran at the beginning of Term One 2009 across all levels gave all students the opportunity to develop skills necessary to further investigate choices and requirements as they create pathways for the future.

The Wednesday Careers Elective will have a range of guest speakers from various professions, training organizations and Tertiary Institutions. The weekly speaker will be advertised on the daily notices ahead of time and students are encouraged to take advantage of the opportunities which interest them, mindful that they must excuse themselves from their regular elective class. This is a valuable opportunity for students to collect knowledge and information for career/study choices.

Visits from New Zealand Universities' Liaison Officers have been arranged and these will commence with Massey University's first visit on Thursday 5 March at 12.30pm for interested students, followed by Victoria University on Wednesday 11 March at 8.40am for all Year 13 students. This will be followed by Auckland University on Thursday 12 March at 12.30pm and Otago University on Tuesday 24 March at 12.30pm. We also bring in speakers from Polytechnics and private training institutions according to interest expressed by our students. All interested students are encouraged to attend any of these presentations. It is a good opportunity to collect information regarding the career pathways offered through study and training.

Work Choice Day 2009 will take place on Tuesday 19 May and will involve Year 12 students from Wellington East Girls' College. Students who participate have the opportunity of experiencing "work in action" in a variety of situations (details at a later date).

The Career Profiling programme in 2009 will involve Year 12 and 13 students. The aim of this programme is to encourage students to focus on individual actions required to meet goals which will assist them in planning career pathways and making successful transitions from school to further study/workplace.

Career Appointments: Individual careers appointments for all levels may be made by recording your name and form class on the sheet outside the careers room or by giving written details to your form teacher or the Careers Advisor.

Form Time Careers Education: A component of careers education will be facilitated during form time at all levels and at varied times throughout the year.

#### **The Gateway Programme**

We are now into year 4 of this programme at Wellington East Girls' College. The programme currently has 25 students participating each of whom will be on individual learning plans and will be involved one day per week in a work environment matching their interest area. These students are being placed into various job situations and we are pleased with the ongoing enthusiasm employers have shown for the programme.

We are always hopeful to hear from new employers who are interested in the "work place learning" initiative and who have opportunities in their work place for our students. If you are able to support this programme or if you would like more details please ring the Gateway Administrator, Anita van Driel, on (04) 801 0425 or mobile 0274 930035, or Gateway Coordinator, Anne Rixon on (04) 801 0429. Suitable students are able to join this programme through the year.

### **Sports**

Welcome back to another busy sporting year at WEGC. With more girls than ever playing sport we are looking forward to an action packed year.

The following is a brief summary of end of 2008 and start of 2009 sport results:

### **National NZ Diving**

At the end of 2008 Kate Irving went to Auckland for the National NZ Diving meet and had great success. Kate placed in the following events;

Gold - 14 to 15 yr girls – 1st in 1 metre springboard - NZ title holder.

Gold – 14 to 15 yr girls – 1st in 3 metre springboard - NZ title holder.

Silver – 2<sup>nd</sup> in Synchro 3 metre springboard.

14 to 15 yr girls Platform title holders – 1<sup>st</sup> place

### **Junior Pan Pacific's Guam**

Samantha Lee our Champion swimmer has summarised her trip with the New Zealand Swimming team to Guam for Junior Pan Pacific's

It was an awesome experience and a real eye opener to the world of international swimming, with 14 countries competing including top swimmers from USA, Australia, Canada and Japan. Racing in an outdoor pool in constant temperatures of around 30 degrees celsius with occasional wind, drizzle and even some overhead thunder, it was certainly different to usual New Zealand racing.

Samantha made an A final for 100m Butterfly which placed her 8th overall with a New Zealand 16 year record, Wellington Open Record and Wellington 16 year record time of 1.02.21. She also broke the New Zealand 16 year record and Wellington 16 year record for 200m Butterfly with a time of 2.17.89. Samantha made the B finals for 50m Freestyle and 100m Freestyle as well as being a member of the 4x100m Freestyle Relay and 4x100m Medley Relay.

### **Softball**

On the back of winning the New Zealand Softball Nationals in 2008 we had 3 students go on to represent NZ.

- Danielle Tanoa made the Junior White Sox Training Squad and 2 students from last years winning team have made the full White Sox team
- Congratulations to Charlotte Pointon and Hope Weber for your achievement.

### **College Games 2008**

#### **Judo**

Abigail Palmer competed in the Judo competition at College Games held in Hamilton last December.

Abigail won a silver medal in the weight category (under 57kgs). She lost to the National Judo champion, a brown belt, which is two grades higher than Abigail's green belt.

#### **Swimming**

##### **Georgia Hind-**

1st- 400m freestyle, 1st -100m breaststroke, 2nd -200m backstroke

2<sup>nd</sup> - 200m individual medley, 3rd- 200m freestyle

##### **Amber Kay**

2<sup>nd</sup> - 100m backstroke, 2<sup>nd</sup> - 50m backstroke

3rd-200m freestyle relay, Bethany Forsythe, Adelaide Cox, Amber Kay and Georgia Hind

#### **Rowing**

Seven Wellington East Girls' College students performed very well at the national rowing championships. Emily Wilson, Jessica Milne, Julia Ashley, Ana Popovich, Olena Khytko, Amelia Gilbert-Milne and Sarah Blackmore "hopped in a boat"

for the first time last November, but, with an experienced adult coach (Nathan Wallace) and cox (Catherine Galuszka), they finished third in the open women's eights at last week's nationals.

### **Netball**

Anastasia Grey has been selected for the Netball Wellington Region U23 Umpire Squad 2009

### **WEGC Netball Committee 2009**

This year we are setting up a Netball Committee to co-ordinate WEGC netball for the season and years to come. We are looking for 10 parent volunteers for the committee who will oversee the smooth running of trials and the 2009 season. A chairperson and secretary will be elected to lead the committee.

If you think you would like to be part of this new endeavour please fill in the registration form online [www.wegc.school.nz](http://www.wegc.school.nz) and send to Elliott Brookes **ASAP** at [sport@wegc.school.co.nz](mailto:sport@wegc.school.co.nz) or contact him on 385 8514 ext 844 for further information. Entries close Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March. A meeting for all applicants will be held on Tuesday 10 March at 6.00pm in the Sports Centre.

### ***Old Girls' News***

- Miranda Far: - has been awarded a WelTec Secondary School scholarship for 2009. Miranda has enrolled in the Certificate in Exercise Science for 2009. Congratulations Miranda.
- Anna Wilkes - who was at Wellington East Girls' College last year, has been awarded the John Burns Study Award. Congratulations Anna.

### ***Homestays Wanted!***

We will be having a visit from Kojimachi Girls' High School in Japan for 12 days at the end of July and beginning of August and will be looking for students to host these girls. Last year's host sisters will be given preference. There will be a payment for hosting the girls. To register email [international@wegc.school.nz](mailto:international@wegc.school.nz) or ring Annette Cumming 385 8514x836. An information pack will be available later this term.

### ***School Dance***

Wellington East Girls' College Dance Committee would like to inform you that the school is holding a Junior School dance on Wednesday 25 March from 7.00-10.00pm (doors close at 7.30pm). The venue for the dance is the college hall. Students must arrange their own transport to and from the venue. Drugs and Alcohol are strictly forbidden and passouts are not distributed (i.e. no one leaves the hall between 7.30-10.00pm). Tickets cost \$7.00 and can be bought from the Year 12 and Year 13 Common Rooms from Wednesday 18 March onwards. Students **MUST** show school ID at the door or they will not be admitted.

### ***WEGC Old Girls Association***

If you are an old girl of Wellington East, you may like to join our Association. This will help you keep in touch with old class mates and read news of old girls'. We welcome all new members - \$20.00 membership fee. Please send name and details to:

WEGC Association  
Box 3508, Wellington

