

Newsletter



Alistair Luke

Principal

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2017



It's been quite a fortnight for our students with the annual spectacle that is the WDS Dance Show followed immediately by our senior prizegiving, and the subsequent commencement of NCEA Examinations.

As always, the dance show was spectacular and a credit to the WDS. So many of our students were involved in this, and there is such an impressive array of talent out there in the community. Everyone should be proud of what was produced.

Our annual senior prizegiving was another successful event. Congratulations to all prizewinners on the night, and especially to Molly Laing, who was named School Dux for 2017. Congratulations also to Reuben Fleetwood and Gabriella Pitcher who have been named Head Boy and Head Girl respectively for 2018. We look forward to Reuben and Gabriella building on the great work of Ben and Molly this year as leaders of the student body.

Two other highly enjoyable events last week were the Four Schools Athletics Day, held here at WAS, and the Coromandel Cultural Festival attended by our Junior Kapa Haka group in Tairua. On both days our students were excellent ambassadors for our school and it was great to see the number of students who were taking the opportunities in both sport and cul-

ture.

It has been a busy time for our students. Syndicate One have been enjoying "Mahi Tahī" time where teachers and students are mixed according to passions and interests each week. The dynamic in these sessions is awesome to see as a range of students share their common interests. Syndicate Two had their annual pilgrimage to Rainbow's End on Tuesday. Apart from a slight rain interruption, the trip was a fantastic experience and the I am reliably informed that the queues were minimal. Thanks to all the parents who helped out with this. If you have pulled into the carpark by syndicate three recently, you will have seen the development of the outdoor space that is happening there. Led by Mr Care and a range of very generous local tradespeople and businesses, the students have converted an abandoned space into a stunning outdoor learning area. Year 9 and 10 students are sitting their examinations over the next two days and then next Tuesday our year 10 students head to the Blue Lake in Rotorua for their annual camp, whilst the year 9 students have a range of day experiences on offer from Wednesday to Friday. Often the rhetoric around education becomes fixated on the three "R's" but many of the soft skills around relating to peers, being open to challenges and

new learning, and pushing our comfort zones are developed in these out of class experiences which form a vital part of a balanced education. My thanks to all the teachers and parents who allow these experiences to happen for our students.

We are in the process of finalising our senior timetable for 2018. For the last two weeks of the term, students in years 8, 9, and 10 will move onto their 2018 timetables. This gives an opportunity for year 8 students to experience a secondary timetable, and for year 10 students to have a taste of the courses they have chosen for year 11. These two weeks are an important transition period for students and the expectation is that they will be working hard throughout this period.

Finally some staffing news; it is with some sadness that I inform you that Mrs Julie Facey will be retiring at the end of 2017. Mrs Facey is a long serving and much loved and admired member of our teaching team, and I know many current and past students will have fond memories of their time in her class. We wish Mrs Facey all the very best for the next chapter in her life.

Nga Mihi



Dux Award for 2017

Congratulations ***Molly Laing***. Molly was awarded Dux for 2017

Student Rep Board of Trustees

Congratulations ***Matthew Thompson***. He is our new Student Representative on the Board of Trustees

Congratulations

Madison Matthews

Madison entered an international poetry competition and wrote a poem called Haiku. Thousands of students from all over the world entered.

Madison received a highly commended for being placed in the top 100. So proud of you!



Assembly Awards

Room 1

Emily Brickwood / Caleb Burke

Room 20

Sam New / Ella Horo

Room 8A

Harrison Biddle / Rudy Lopes

Room 8B

Niko Byles / Stacie Bathurst

Room 9

**Maddox Smith / Tilly Allen / Danny Wills
Farrah Smith / Tiago Lima**

Room 3

**Karley Emerson / Megan Luke /
Averie Robson**

Room 4

Neena Hersom/ Luka Wilson/ Hannah Murray

Room 5

Bella Biddle / Bianca Nicholson

Room 6

Emil Hart / Alana Currey

Room 7

Lucy Walton / Richard Pugh

Roll on Summer

So good to see all our Sun Smart tamariki enjoying a gorgeous day



Scholastic Book Fair

Save the date, **Wednesday 22nd November** from 3-6 pm at the **school Library**.

A great opportunity to start your Christmas shopping and all purchases benefit our school.

We have a selection of adult and children's second hand books available to purchase also.



Thank you

Thank you to all who contributed gifts for the Operation Christmas Child Christmas Box Appeal.....altogether our Whangamata community donated 35 boxes to be sent our local Pacific Islands for children who have very little at Christmas time. Huge thanks to the Y1-8 students who gave some great presents!



Year 7/8 makeover project

A vacant area of land near the Year 7/8 classrooms is being transformed into a magical outdoor learning centre.



A huge shout-out to Barry for taking 2 days off work to come in and guide the Syndicate 3 students through building 2 new outdoor seats!!

Syndicate 3 boys—sailing day



Donations to the fabric room

WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT

Thank you to Nita Petersen for the donation of an overlocker. Our machines are always breaking down, so it will be helpful to have an extra machine.



Thank you to Jo Cullen for the donation of a lot of material.

Thank you to Alyssha Hansen "Loveknotwar" For the mountain of stretch material

Thank you to the many people who provide pillows for stuffing, materials and tools.

All donations are very welcome.

Regards **Janice Hope**

Wk	TERM 4 CALENDAR	
5	13	
	14	Kapa haka
	15	Yr 10 TVSS Volleyball
	16	Year 9/10 Exams
	17	Year 9/10 Exams / yr 9 Outdoor Education
6	20	Year 8 Stoney Bay / Yr 1-6 Cool Bananas Xmas Show
	21	Year 10 Camp/ Kapa haka/ Year 9 Grass Roots
	22	Year 10 Camp / Thames Valley Primary Schools Athletics / Book Fair
	23	Year 10 Camp / Magazine Launch Syndicate 3 / Yr 7/8 outdoor learning area opening
	24	Year 10 Camp / Years 7/8 Cybersafety
7	27	
	28	Kapa haka
	29	
	30	
	1 Dec	
8	4	
	5	Kapa haka / Thames Valley Primary Schools Triathlon
	6	Christmas picnic 5pm
	7	
	8	
9	9	
	11	Year 7 – 10 Prize giving
	12	Year 1 – 6 Prize giving – END OF TERM 4

School reopens 1st February 2018

This calendar was correct at time of printing. For confirmation for any item please contact the teacher involved or the school office.



International Students

Incredibly, the end of the school year is only four weeks away, which means we will be saying farewell to some of our international students.

Our school, community and host families continue to make our new students welcome, and they take home with them many positive memories.

Host families and their students keep in touch with each other, with many students returning to New Zealand and Whangamata within a few years.

We're saying a special farewell to Lena who has been with us for two years! Ink from Thailand, Akari and Kevin from Japan are all returning home after a year at WAS and Gabriela is going home to Chile.

Earlier in the year we farewelled Christof, Brianne, Noah, Lara and Anna-Sophia.

And a huge THANK YOU to all our host families! Without you, our international students wouldn't have been able to share our special and unique part of New Zealand.

Would you like to host a student?

I'd love to hear from anyone who would like to host one of our international students.

You don't have to have children at our school to become a host family.

If you would like to find out more about hosting a student text or call :

Margaret Birkett, 021 975 330

Or send an email to:

international@whangamata.school.nz

All homestay families receive a weekly fee and continued support from school.





★ WHANGAMATA AREA SCHOOL ★
FUNDRAISER



R18
EVENT

\$10



Christmas

AT THE PARK 2017

Bring a picnic and join us for our:

Whangamata Area School
Year 1-6 Christmas Celebration

Wednesday 6th December
5pm - 7pm

At the Harbour Playground
on Beach Road

- Bring some cash for the Christmas craft market -

Fun - Games - Christmas Carols - Lolly Scramble

