



WESTERN SPRINGS COLLEGE

Arts Leaders – Ariane Lenihan, Dione Tay and Sebastian Rice-Walsh have had a busy start to the year. Meetings have begun with the Arts team and planning is underway for this year's Arts calendar events. All are currently involved in rehearsal and preparation for upcoming productions in Dance and Drama with Street Dance New Zealand, Seussical and Sheilah Winn.

Western Springs College is always proud to participate in the annual University of Otago Sheilah Winn Shakespeare Festival. This year we will take six acts to the Auckland West Regional Competition at Hobsonville Secondary School. Performers, Y9 – 13, are very busy directing, preparing and rehearsing 5 and 15 minute extracts from Shakespearean plays.

We look forward to seeing what these students put forward.

Thanks to Cato Refiti – 13Art Design – for the ArtsNews Heading in this issue.

arts@wsc.school.nz

Kirsty Britton – Arts Coordinator

ARTS LEADERS

What's happening in the Arts!

Seussical – School Musical 2016



Rehearsals for the school musical Seussical have started! Our sixth rehearsal in and the production is underway. Singing has been the biggest part of the process so far - due to the huge amount of songs in the production. We have begun with the direction and choreography for the beginning of the play. The students are all so talented and we have fantastic people in charge of making us look great. Bring on holiday rehearsals!

Ariane Lenihan – Arts Leader

What's happening in the Dance Department?!

At the moment Western Springs has a hip-hop crew practicing and training for a competition called SDNZ (Street Dance New Zealand Nationals). There are 24 talented students competing in the mega schools division, this is a section of the SDNZ nationals in which groups of more than fifteen dancers from ages thirteen to eighteen compete together against other groups from schools all around Auckland. This is an amazing opportunity for students who want to get a feel for what it's like to

participate in a well-established and very professional dance competition, and work together with other dancers in a proper crew. On the day, students will get to perform their routine and be judged against 8 or more other secondary schools. I was lucky enough to be chosen as one of the four leaders of the school team. Being given this position has not only allowed us to become a more competent dancer but also allowed me to increase our choreography skills. I am incredibly glad that I was asked to oversee the team and would gladly do it again. I am now a more confident dancer and leader and I would strongly suggest that any student with even the slightest bit of experience in dance to get involved in the 2018 Western Springs College Dance crew!

Georgia Menhennett – Dance Leader

DANCE

SDNZ - Street Dance New Zealand Nationals



The WSC Hip Hop crew is up and running with the beginnings of a 4 minute long sequence for SDNZ (Street Dance NZ) Mega Schools Competition. Choreographers Georgia Menhennett, Eva Fuemana, Tatsuki Nonomura, Eden Galo and Akinehi Munroe are teaching the group of 25 students popping, breakdance, vogue and other hip hop styles for the competition at Vodafone Events Centre on Friday April 29. Tickets are on sale now through Ticketmaster (\$20).

Chloe Davison – HOD Dance

DRAMA

Rehearsals continue for the University of Otago - Sheilah Winn Shakespeare Festival. Our students are working lunchtimes and after school to get their scenes up to speed. Don't forget that this year our six groups have been entered the Auckland West Regional Festival and we will need parents to ferry the students so let us know if you can provide transport. The venue is Hobsonville Point Secondary School, 70 Hobsonville Point road in the evening of 12th April.

Rehearsals for Seussical are running Monday and Wednesday after school and last Thursday Robin Kelly met with the band students to look at who will be playing what. Like the cast, the band will be rehearsing intensely over the two weeks of the April holidays.

Barbara Joseph is working with some of our performing arts technology student to design the costumes for the show, but she welcomes parents who have the skills to help with sewing the costumes. Please email Robert Pollock pollockr@wsc.school.nz if you can help.

In week ten, year 11 drama students will be off to Q Theatre's Loft space to Massive Company's production, *The Wholehearted*. This is a piece of devised theatre in which a small cast of seven actors explore what it is live wholeheartedly. The show reveals the actors own stories as well as those from people in their communities who have been willing to share aspects of their lives through a series of specific questions. Massive Company's work is very personal, highly physical and totally captivating. This will be an excellent introduction to the process of devising theatre, which is the next unit of work for the students.

Robert Pollock – HOD Drama

VISUAL ARTS

Extended Greetings - There is a real 'busyness' simmering in the Art rooms of late. The Y9s are well into building their technical skills in their booklets and developing their painting studies, with some eager students coming in during their own time to complete work. This same level of commitment and self-management was evident when a group of Y10 students were involved in an intensive watercolour workshop at the historic Toi Tu Studio 1 (old Artstation). In conjunction with the Auckland Arts Festival, the workshops were run by renowned international publisher and illustrator Sandra Morris. The Hauora links with traditional watercolour and Maori medicine were especially pertinent in relation to our school sustainability goals, and students rose to the technical challenges to produce works that reflect genuine enjoyment of the specialised media. Teachers Kirsty Britton and Danielle Voyce were full of praise for the students and will be looking forward to a return visit in the near future.



Toi tu – Watercolour Workshops – 10ART 2016

On a personal note, I had the opportunity to take part in the 30 year celebration of the Tautai Art Trust. With the group exhibition also at Toi Tu (and as an ex-Chairperson) I got to convene the public talk during the weekend and contribute my two cents to the RNZ Spectrum series. Ex-students who have also been involved with the Trust over the last 20 years are Cook Island digital artist/academic Metuanooroa Tapuni, Samoan painter/tattooist Tyla Vaeau, Niuean multimedia/installation artist Janet Lilo and abstract painter/academic Claudia Jowitt of Fijian heritage.

Also as part of Auckland Art Festival the Y13 Painting students had their collaborative 'Tape Art' mural exhibited at the Maritime Museum. They were represented at the 'White Nights' event by Y13 student Ariana Hill who was on hand to aid the tutors and general public in adding to the linear work which was a huge progressive hit.



Tape Art – Maritime Museum – 13Painting 2016

Chalking these up to 'another line on the CV', the opportunity to experience working in the Creative Arts reflects the values and relevance our programmes have in the wider community. Harnessing this energy and using the motivation as fuel to further develop their ideas is now the goal. In readiness for the upcoming report interviews, students should see their teachers for materials and guidance regarding any work that could be completed over the holiday break before assessments next term.

Invitation to 10Art students who were selected to participate in the Watercolour Workshop:

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WATERCOLOUR EXHIBITION

Please invite all whānau, friends and teachers along to join us for the opening of the Hauora Watercolour Exhibition. This exhibition will include 100+ student works from across Auckland.

*Opening: Wednesday 25 May / 6pm @ Studio One Toi Tū / 1 Ponsonby Rd
Exhibition Dates: 26 May – 30 May 2016*

Prizes will be announced at the opening and have been generously donated by Studio One Toi Tū, Gordon Harris Art Store & Hauora Garden.