



Welcome back to all students, parents and staff at *Western Springs College – Nga Puna O Waiorea*.

Congratulations to recently appointed **2017 Arts Leaders – Oscar Furness-Wills, Carla Harre and James MacEwan**.

Their combined talents, effort and incredible enthusiasm for the Arts will promote participation, leadership and success in all that they strive to achieve this year. First on their 'to-do list' is elect an Arts Leaders' Committee to assist with the running of events at school. Students with a passion to develop leadership skills will be asked to put their names forward during Orientation 'O' Week (1st – 3rd March) to represent curriculum areas: Dance, Drama, Media, Music and Visual Arts. The group meets regularly and this year will support the Leaders' Stage Challenge Production whilst also assisting with preparation for the SGCNZ Sheilah Winn Shakespeare Festival in April at Hobsonville Point Secondary School, Dance, Drama, Music and Media shows and more.

Stage Challenge is the Arts Production for 2017 and auditions/rehearsal for the biennial dance extravaganza get underway this week. This event is designed by students for their peers. A Stage Challenge Committee is already planning this year's entry so in anticipation of the event they are calling a meeting to register interest. The meeting is for anyone interested and will be held this Tuesday 21st February at lunch in the School Hall with rehearsals beginning regularly on Tuesday's afterschool. At the registration meeting students will get the opportunity to hear about the 2015 production, what will be on offer this year, how they can be involved and what is required of them. For more details they can check the Daily Notices.

The annual **SGCNZ Sheilah Winn Shakespeare Festival** is held at the end of Term 1 at Hobsonville Point Secondary School, Wednesday 5th April. The festival always promotes outstanding drama and the Arts Leaders will mentor any junior/senior students wanting to get involved. WSC has a history of achieving great results in the competition and over the years we have been lucky enough to have had students and teachers get to Wellington, the South Island and The Globe Theatre, London to partake internationally in Shakespearean productions.

Congratulations again to Y13 student Ella McIntosh [Western Springs College student selected to perform at London's Globe Theatre](#) for her performances in the 2016 regional *Auckland West - Sheilah Winn Shakespeare Festival* and national schools' production in Dunedin. Ella will travel to London's Globe Theatre in July. We look forward to hearing more about Ella's journey and also wish this year's regional competitors the best of luck.

It is going to be a superb year!

Thanks to Oscar Furness-Wills – 13Art Design – for the ArtsNews Heading in this issue.

arts@wsc.school.nz

Kirsty Britton – Arts Coordinator

ARTS LEADERS

Introducing Oscar Furness-Wills, Carla Harre and James MacEwan

Hi I'm Carla Harre! My favourite subject of the Arts would have to be dance and my goal is to get as many people as possible involved in the Arts and Stage Challenge! This year is a year of Stage Challenge which I will be heavily involved in with both leadership and choreography. Stage Challenge is a short but dynamic dance piece involving a huge number of dance/drama enthusiasts. Everyone is welcome to join in and it's all about fun. And we will do well this year! So... come along Tuesday lunch/ Tuesday after school to get a feel for what it is all about. We will be also be doing an Arts Instagram this year so be sure to follow to stay in touch with the Arts at WSC! @wscarts

Carla Harre

I'm Oscar! I am the representative for the Visual Arts! This year, I would like to accomplish a whole heap of things to promote the Arts. Also, of particular personal interest to me is a project currently in planning which we are keen to name the *Village Green Project*. In this we intend to rejuvenate and redecorate the Y block area in order to build up a sense of community in our school. We are looking at introducing more furniture, concerts on the green, communal gardens and a communal fridge. We would also like to paint the prefabs in order to brighten up the temporary school, and to make it more liveable for everyone we'd also like to introduce gender neutral bathrooms. So it will be a long year, but hopefully a good year!

Oscar Furness-Wills

G'day, I'm James, and this year as Arts Leader I would like to showcase some of the musical and dramatic talent we have at Springs by arranging regular concerts, every Thursday and Friday lunchtime in the Village Green. Although currently it is little more than a patch of grass, we hope to soon add cover, bean bags and maybe even a stage! So whether it be some afternoon Shakespeare, a dance, a few songs, or even your sick dj set, hit us up at arts_leaders@wsc.school.nz to get a spot in the Village Green Arena!

James MacEwan

DANCE

Year 12 student Top Scholar in Dance!

The Dance Department is excited to repeat the success of last year, **with all three of our submissions being awarded Scholarship**. Congratulations to Year 13 students Hannah Langton and Eden Galo, and especially to **Molly Snowden** who was awarded the **Top Scholar in Dance, for the whole of NZ**. Molly has done exceptionally well to achieve this in Year 12 as Scholarships are usually awarded to Year 13 students.

The New Zealand Scholarship exams recognise top students in each subject. The award of Top Scholar is given to just one student in NZ in each subject each year.

Molly's portfolio submission, including her choreography of *A Fragile Shoulder*, was given a 100% score. The beautiful, ethereal *A Fragile Shoulder* communicated the idea that "It's your time to support them—but you are not capable of holding yourself up, let alone another."

Molly's achievement in this prestigious exam, at year 12, is outstanding and we look forward to seeing her choreography this year in 13 Dance.

(left is Molly Snowden, right is *A Fragile Shoulder*)

Photos by Nina Gastreich



Welcome Mrs Rawsley!

We welcome Sam Rawsley to the Dance Department this year. Sam is an experienced and enthusiastic dancer and educator who has worked with inclusive dance company Touch Compass Dance Trust and as a specialist dance teacher with dance4everyone.

She is teaching the Year 9, 10 and 11 Dance classes and Year 9 Drama. Sam and Chloe Davison job share the Year 11 and 12 Dance classes, and Chloe teaches Year 13.

Chloe Davison – HOD Dance

DRAMA

A busy year begins with Drama Scholarship!

A busy year as always in the Drama Department, 2017 will kick off with our students performing a range of 5 and 15 minute scenes at the West Auckland Regional University of Otago, Sheilah Winn Shakespeare Festival. This will be held at Hobsonville Point High School on the evening of Wednesday 5th April.

Year 11 students will perform *Gargantua*, by Carl Grose (a madcap piece of very physical theatre about a giant, all-consuming baby) in weeks two and three of term two (3 – 12 May.)

Year 12 students will perform two plays; *Wheeler's Luck* (a piece of classic kiwiana theatre) and *Karanga i te Pō* (a drama in education piece with a strong message around kaitiakitanga - conservation.) The Rumaki students will be working on a script in English, but will rewrite scenes and perform in both English and Te Reo. The dates are weeks nine and ten of term two (28 June – 7 July)

Year 13 students will perform *Marat Sade*, by Peter Weiss in week four of term 3 (15-18 August) This is a confronting piece of theatre set in a mental asylum in 1808 with the patients, under the direction of the Marquis de Sade, re-enacting the death of the French revolutionary, Marat.

The PAT students will be kept busy designing sets, props, costume and make up for all the productions as well as helping out on *Stage Challenge*.

Finally, a hearty **congratulations to Murdoch Keane on gaining scholarship drama in 2016**. Murdoch is currently in rehearsals for the University Summer Shakespeare's 'As You Like It' and is looking at auditioning for Australia's esteemed national drama school, NIDA. We wish him all the best for his future.

Robert Pollock – HOD Drama

VISUAL ARTS

Scholarship Success!

With a nod to the recent past, the department would like to acknowledge the success of senior external results from 2016. A special mention to acknowledge the efforts from the **Y13 Art Design students - Catalina Nunez-Elevancini who secured a Scholarship Award** and to **Siana Rivlin-Myers who gained an Outstanding Scholarship Award**. A fantastic result for these students who have both gone on study at tertiary level.

Although it's been a disruptive start to the year with our department operating out of Y Block, the resilience of the students, collegial consideration of support staff and patient fortitude of staff have all helped to make the best out of a challenging transition. Not only are we new in the temporary school – we also have a new staff member to welcome to the department. With the lovely Judy Chiang securing a fulltime position at Rangitoto College, we were very fortunate to appoint Jacqui Dunningham to the role of Senior Photography Teacher. Jacqui also specialises in Art History and comes to us from teaching in a range of secondary schools.

Last year the year 13 painters were involved in a tape-art mural for the Maritime museum, this year they are producing individual works for a collaborative display on the 'wall' for credits. Their work (and last year's tape-art mural) will be the start of the progressive Art works that are planned to feature on the construction wall for the next two years (watch this space/that space throughout the year).

Lastly, a reminder to parents and guardians about the course fees – most starter equipment should be handed out to students within the month, however the fees also cover specialist resources and any subsequent trips/artist talks.

Ia Manuia

Lily Laita - HOD Art