



Western Springs College celebrates a history of success with Sheilah Winn and Shakespeare both regionally and nationally. Again this year Springs' is proud to participate in the annual Shakespeare Globe Centre New Zealand | University of Otago | Sheilah Winn Shakespeare Festival. We will take four acts to the Auckland West Regional Competition at Hobsonville Point Secondary School on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April. Performers Y9 – 13 are very busy directing, preparing and rehearsing 5 and 15 minute extracts from Shakespearean plays.

Stage Challenge is underway for 2017 and the Leaders' team are busy sharpening up their ideas to put together an outstanding dance/drama routine for all students involved. Rehearsal is taking place on Tuesday's afterschool for all interested and the Leadership team are still taking sign-ups.

The wonderful thing about Stage Challenge is that it promotes leadership, self-management and participation in all aspects of production and performance. The overall achievement and pride that students take away from the event will stay with them for future performance in years to come.

A highlight recently has been the school leaders' initiative *Orientation Week*. This year the occasion activated Y Block's *Village Green* - the stalls, activities, music, atmosphere and student involvement was fantastic.



Carla Harre & Molly Snowden | Y13



Oscar Furness-Wills, Thomas Van Der Sluis and Rainer Majsca

The Arts Leaders' took sign-ups for the Arts Committee 2017, promoted upcoming events Stage Challenge and Sheilah Winn. They also had a selection of senior art work showcased and live music. With beautiful weather supporting the event it was wonderful to see our students engaged and interested in what life at Springs' has to offer.

We look forward to seeing what these students have to offer.

Thanks to **Mia Duncan-Gardiner** – 13Art Design – for the ArtsNews heading in this issue.

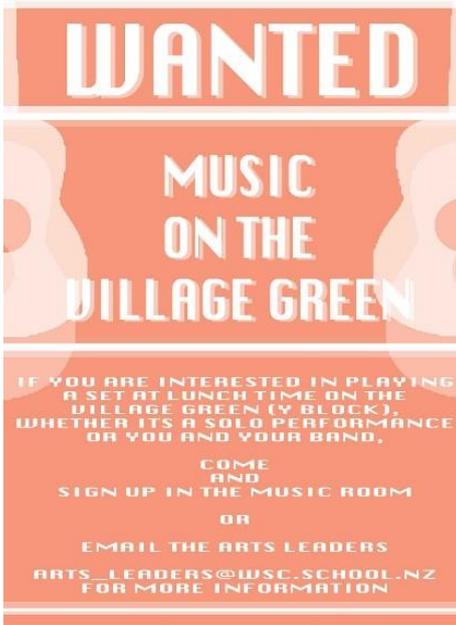
Photo credit: Ella McIntosh | Y13

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Kirsty Britton – Arts Coordinator

# ARTS LEADERS

## What's happening in the Arts?



We are excited to announce that the **2017 Arts Committee** has been finalised and this year's leaders are going to be:

**Dance** – Esther Cohen-Goh

**Drama/PAT**– Rainer Majsja

**School Production** – Stage Challenge: Elsa Brandt and Carla Harre

**Media** – Oscar Barber-Wilson

**Music** – Bickio O'Callahan and James MacEwan

**Visual Arts** – Phot/Med Cosmo Ashley Lamb and Oscar Furness-Wills

We hope that in years to come those who weren't successful this year will reapply. Our focus as a team will be to continue to support the Arts and events as they occur throughout the year. We look forward to planning and reporting back on some very new and exciting events as a committee this year!

**Coming up... We hope to gather interest for Music in the Village Green at lunchtimes. Are you keen?**

Oscar Furness-Wills

## Stage Challenge is underway!

The auditions have finished and dancing is about to begin! As a team we are looking forward to opportunity and producing an amazing performance, not too late to join but could be the last week of joining coming up this week!



Practices are most Tuesday's after school till 4:30 (or earlier). The message that we hope to portray this year is that intolerance is not human nature. We are subject to our upbringings and we are taught by our surrounding to hate, it is not our genetic makeup to be intolerant towards those who maybe different to ourselves, we are all born with an open heart and mind. Through the theme of the divide between the rich and poor we hope to highlight this issue that we still face and question those who believe otherwise. We would like to give a big shout out and thanks to everyone that is participating and helping us hammer home our message and show.

We currently have around 40-50 talented students participating and performing in Stage Challenge 2017! Along with the Stage Challenge Leaders who are supporting this big and upcoming Arts extravaganza are our choreographers Carla Harre, Molly Snowden and Esther Cohen-Goh. Choreography will be a big part Stage Challenge and play a huge role in supporting students in the performance aspect of the show! - Our amazing leaders for set/costume design include Freya Sturm and Elsa Brandt ( Elsa also being in charge of Admin ). Finally, congrats to our amazing leads Eloise, Grace T and Rosa!

**Carla Harre and Elsa Brandt– Stage Challenge Leaders**

# DANCE

## Dance students see Rice at the Auckland Arts Festival

"Rice is something you take for granted, but is so precious."

### Lin Hwai-min, choreographer of Rice

Students from senior dance classes braved the torrential rain and arrived damp but excited at the Aotea theatre to be transported to the rice fields of Taiwan. Rice, a dance from the prestigious Cloud Gate Dance Theatre, was created to mark the company's 40th anniversary, and is inspired by the work of the rice harvesters. To prepare for this work the dancers took part in the rice harvest. The swaying and stomping of the 24 dancers portrayed the cycle of weather and the harvest, and perhaps of birth, maturity and old age. A stunning video backdrop showed vast landscapes and close-ups of waving grass.

Our dance students enjoyed the abstraction of the movement, and being able to interpret ideas for themselves. They were fascinated by the movements of the male dancers and long bamboo poles that fluttered like bird wings and crackled like fire. They were particularly moved by the last section of the dance, where the female dancers tried again and again to rise from the floor by pulling and leaning on the bamboo poles. Acacia said "they were trying to get up with the sticks. It was emotional, strong but weak."

The next dance trip on the calendar is to YouDance, the youth dance festival at Rae Freedman Theatre at the end of May. All senior students are invited.

**Chloe Davison – HOD Dance**

# MUSIC

## Music Department

### Instrument lessons are underway for the year.

There are still slots available for beginner flute, cello, clarinet, trombone and saxophone. There is no charge for these lessons. Come over to the music room and put your name down.

Students have a half hour lesson once a week during class time. School work takes priority so students should be in class for all assessments. If a student needs to stay in class for an assessment I ask that they pop over to the music department to let us know that they cannot get to their music lesson that day. If I know in advance it is sometimes possible to change lesson times for that day.

I have shared the lesson timetables with all students as a Google doc so they can check when to go. Timetables are also up on the noticeboard in the music department. If lessons are missed three times without excuse the lesson time will go to the next person on the list.

### Jazz Band, Chamber Group and Choir have also started

New members are welcome for all of these groups – we'd love to see you! Entry is open for these groups – there are no auditions. For Jazz and Chamber you simply need to be able to play an instrument and be keen to take part – we will find a part that you can play. You do not have to be an expert.

Groups meet in the music room at the following times:

**Chamber Group – Tuesday interval through extended form time**

**Choir – Thursday lunchtime**

**Jazz Band – Friday lunchtime**

## **Music performance assessment evenings**

The first performance evenings for senior students are fast approaching. These events take place in the music room from 5pm – 7pm. Students need to be present from 4.15 to complete tuning and sound checks. Performers are also required to stay for the whole event to support their classmates and to help with pack down at the end of the evening. Families are welcome to attend.

### **Dates for these events are**

**Level 1 – Wednesday March 29**

**Level 2 – Wednesday March 22**

**Level 3 – Wednesday April 5**

**Margaret Robertson – HOD Music**