

19 January, 2012

Kia ora tatou katoa. New Year's greetings to all families belonging to the Western Springs College community.

Just as 2011 represented a year of significant developments for the school, so too are the prospects for 2012 during the year ahead of us.

2011 NCEA Results

The provisional NCEA results are at the level of the outstanding results achieved in 2010:

- The Level 3 University Entrance pass rate is 80%.
- The Level 3 Certification pass rate is 75%.
- The Level 2 Certification pass rate is 91%.
- The Level 1 Certification pass rate is 85%.

These pass rates, especially for Level 1, are likely to increase in March when NZQA finalises the results, at which time national comparisons will be possible. Note that these are roll-based, not entry-based statistics.

Excellence Certificates

Congratulations to the top students who gained *Excellence Certificates*. The list of recipients is enclosed. We will feature on the website those students who have achieved course (subject) endorsements as soon as names have been confirmed.

Grade quality is very pleasing overall with over 40% of Level 1 and Level 2 students having achieved either an Excellence or Merit Certificate Endorsement.

Tuesday Timetable Change

At the 5 December board meeting the board of trustees decided to support a recommendation from the senior managers to terminate the *Late Start on Tuesdays* programme which has operated at WSC since term two, 2010. The decision was also made to revert to the early finish (2.45pm) timetable which the school had previously operated on since the 1980s.

While a large majority of staff would have liked to retain the Tuesday morning professional development meeting time, it had become evident that the late start programme was no longer sustainable because of the excessive number of students arriving late on Tuesdays (on average, 100 students each Tuesday, amounting to over 8% of the roll) and also because of the disproportionately high absences on Tuesdays (over 10% compared to the 3-4% on the other four days of the week). It was also apparent following a number of unsuccessful interventions that there was little or no prospect of a significant improvement being guaranteed through changed administrative, disciplinary or guidance procedures.

Staffing Appointments

I am very pleased about the excellent prospects for our new cohort of teaching staff. Collectively, they amount to an extremely strong intake. Our students are about to benefit greatly from the services of these talented teachers:

- Peter Bircham – Physical & Health Education (2012). Peter returns to WSC to replace Megan Murdoch while she is on maternity leave.
- Kris Calder – Technology; Visual Communication (Graphics)
- Amy Dennis – Geography; Social Studies
- Emma-Jane Goldsworthy (Rumaki) – Science

- Natalie Hugill – Drama (2012). Natalie comes to WSC (and TAPAC) to relieve for Rita Stone this year.
- Katrina Johnson – Mathematics
- David Larsen – English
- Debbie Lomax (Rumaki) – English (2012) Debbie has been appointed to relieve for Chris Selwyn during his secondment to NZQA in 2012.
- Hone Matthews (Rumaki) – Te Reo Maori; Technology
- Jessica Sinclair – Classical Studies; History; Social Studies
- Rachel Williamson – English

Internal Appointments

The following appointments were made last year to take effect from the beginning of term one:

- Hana Aranga – Rumaki Co-Dean (2012)
- Heather Dikstaal – HOD Classical Studies
- Emma Dwyer – HOD Social Studies
- Carle Elford – Acting Assistant Head of Physical Education for 2012
- Ali Geursen – Specialist Classroom Teacher
- Karalee Green – Mainstream Maori Students Coordinator
- Damon King – HOD ESOL
- Margaret Robertson – Form Class Facilitator
- Lorrin Shortland – RumakiTumuaki (2012)
- Tim Stubbs – Atea House Dean
- Kay Wallace – Year 12 Academic Director
- Mel Webber – Atea House Co-Dean

Sports and Cultural Donations

I would like to thank those parents who paid their fees and donations in 2011. As a result of the improved collection rate we were able to reach our budgeted target for the school donation.

The Board has recently decided to authorise an increase in the sports and cultural donation from \$75 to \$120. There are a number of factors which have influenced this carefully considered decision:

- additional revenue is urgently required to raise further the standard of WSC's sports and cultural programmes;
- this is the first increase in the donation since 2008;
- this donation, like the school donation of \$250 - neither is compulsory - is tax deductible;
- there are options to pay per term or by automatic payments in convenient instalments, as opposed to paying once at the beginning of the year;

It is important that all families clearly understand the purposes of the sports and cultural donation.

The donation funds expenses associated with a wide range of cultural activities including the training camps for student leaders, the running of clubs, the operation of the school radio, and the production costs of cultural groups and performing arts events, such as the school production (*West Side Story* in 2012), the annual Shakespeare Festival, and the biennial Stage Challenge. I feel obligated to acknowledge that this includes only a small subsidy for Rumaki special events; the vast amount of the costs associated with Nga Puna O Waiorea's participation in cultural events comes from its own extensive fundraising efforts.

The sports donation enables us to run a comprehensive sports programme catering for about 50 teams representing WSC in College Sport competitions. The donation covers specific costs such as

the salary for the sports director and the wages of his part-time administrative assistants, the employment of coaches for sports such as netball, soccer and basketball, the purchase of sports equipment, and the payment of transport and registration costs for College Sport.

The additional revenue from the donation increase will enable us to resource equipment improvements and the additional administrative staffing required for improved organization and management of our sports teams, including the running of the sports uniform store and the up-to-date management of the website sports pages.

I have to emphasise that it is simply not possible to offer a rich and well managed extra-curricula activities programme without the financial support of these donations. In anticipation of this support, thank you.

School Developments

Rebuilding Programme

The Ministry of Education and the WSC Board Property Committee are currently conferring concerning the imminent appointment of a consortium to be assigned with the task of determining the master plan for the replacement of B, C, D, E & F blocks and the addition of approximately 15 roll growth classrooms. The fate of the administration block, library and gymnasium will be decided as part of the same planning process. We expect that the plan will have taken shape by August after which the appointment of the architects, project managers and the construction company for the rebuild will be confirmed.

A team of trustees, senior managers, department heads and students has to date invested 3.5 days visiting new schools to learn more about modern learning environments. Clearly, a key issue for the school and each curriculum area is the relationship between C21st pedagogies and teaching/learning spaces. We envisage soon the scheduling of a school community forum to enable us to report on the design brief we have been developing and to provide an opportunity for community input and ownership.

Work is well advanced on the preparation of six additional roll growth relocatable classrooms recently brought onto the site (four are situated on the field adjacent to S block and TAPAC; two have been placed on the marae); the rooms will be ready for use from the beginning of the term. Like the four rooms (Z1-Z4) brought onto the campus last January, these classrooms will be removed within the next 2-3 years following the rebuilding of the school.

The western field renovation project has been directly affected by the master planning exercise. The decision was made not to proceed with the sports field drainage plan until it is established exactly where on the campus the new buildings are to be sited.

Please be assured that our thinking will be dominated by the need to minimise the impact of these major developments on the ongoing priority of providing reasonable and acceptable teaching and learning conditions for teachers and students.

ICT

In 2011 the school was able to secure a “fibre to the door” internet connection which has allowed us to have an efficient wireless connection for netbooks in the classrooms. We are continuing the purchase of these sets which have been extremely popular both with students and staff - many thanks to the Parent Action Group and the local businesses which have supported this project. All

students now have a Google school account allowing them to store their work on line and gain access at home as well as at school.

There has been much preparatory work in anticipation of the establishment of a parental portal. This has been frustratingly slow because two different vendors have been involved, but, Ruth Roberts reports, we are hopeful that these difficulties will have been resolved by term two and our student management system and intranet will be talking to each other.

A new electronic sign will shortly replace the current notice board at the front of the school; we are looking forward to being able to more quickly and easily keep this up to date.

We are also in the process of replacing all of our servers to enable staff to access and use the school databases quickly and easily anywhere and anytime.

Development Foundation & Alumni

Two very promising recent developments have occurred following the appointment last year of school development manager, Paula Marx. In December, the board gave its approval for a trust deed which has been developed to guide the imminent establishment and operation of the *WSC Development Foundation*. The board's expectation is that this body will possess the expertise to assist the school to more fully utilise fundraising and revenue generating opportunities. In this regard we are currently conducting a search in our community for personnel with the business acumen and background to contribute to the successful management of this trust. Nominations or expressions of interest will be welcomed by board chairperson, Gordon Ikin, or principal, Ken Havill.

Another associated development is the establishment of the recently launched *WSC Alumni*. We are very keen to activate a network of former students and friends of the school particularly for the benefit of current and future students. Clearly, there is an enormous reservoir of cultural and commercial expertise, intellectual capital and potential support which resides largely untapped in the school community. Registrations can be made by visiting the school website at www.westernsprings.school.nz.

New Families

All families new to the Western Springs College school community are warmly invited to attend a barbeque on the campus on Wednesday, 15 February, from 6.00-8.00pm. This informal gathering, which is promoted by the Parent Action Group, is an excellent opportunity to meet form teachers, subject teachers, deans, department heads, academic directors and senior managers, along with parents from the board of trustees and the Parent Action Group, in addition to other parents new to the school. Student success is built on a close partnership between school and home. Do take this chance to begin building relationships with key members of our school community.

I look forward to seeing you at school events throughout the year.

Ken Havill
Principal

2011 Excellence Certificates (Endorsements)

Level 1 - Year 11

ANDERSEN	Tomas	HOLDAWAY	Marycarol
ANDERSEN	Benjamin	HOLDAWAY	Stuart
BENNETT	Tihema	IKEDA	Miki
BROWN	Jordan	JACOBS	Claris
CAMPBELL	Ruby	JOHNSON	Cait
CASEY	Mikayla	KINNEY	Maddison
CLIFTON	Elizabeth	LAWRENCE DONALDSON	Ella
DAWE	Julia	LOVERIDGE	Jesse
DEAN	Takau	MACEWAN	Isobel
DUNCAN GARDINER	Alice	METSON	Abby
EDWARDS	Amy	MONRO	Thomas
FARRANT	Kate	MORRISON BUCKLEY	Kate
GILBERT	Stephen	MORTIMER	Redmond
HANGARTNER	Laura	O'DONNELL	Kieran
HARTILL	Thomas	O'FLAHERTY	Erin
HARWOOD	Leah	PENLINGTON	George
HYAMS	India	PYNE	Madelyn
KAVKA	Alena	REDMAN	Aimee
KEARNS	Fraser	RIBERA	Jonnie
MATTHEWS	Amy	ROBERTS	Eden
MCCULLOUGH	Kieran	RUDD	Georgia
MCINTOSH	Sophie	SMITH	Freya
PEARSON	Caitlin	STYLES	Teri
REYNOLDS	Hart	TAN	Shayna
STENSON	Samuel	TAPSELL	Jack
TE NANA	Rihana	TREADWELL	Justine
VINCENT	Louis	TRUSEWICH	Madeleine
WANGLER	Akim	VAN BEYNEN	Ella
WIENK	Kyle	VETE	Lusitania
WINLOVE	Geordie	WHEELER	Ella
YATES	Oliver	ZAMBO	Kalman

Level 2 - Year 12

ALISON	Louis
BEESLEY	Jack
BENOIT	Odette
CAIRNS	Claudia
CHRISTIAN SLANE	Hugo
CLARKE	Hannah
CLEVERLEY	Faith
CONNOLLY HIATT	Lydia
COSGRAVE	Mitchell
CRANSWICK	Georgia
DERGUNOV	Nikita
EDWARDS	Georgia
GOTTGTROY	Renata
HEWLETT	Theo

Level 3 - Year 13

HOWE	Nathaniel
JAMES	Asher
LEVER	Lucy
MCBRIDE	Daniel
MOONEY	Nell
PATEL	Shaheen
SHORE	Tom
SHORT	Nicholas
WEBBY	Tim