

# STARTER PACK FOR 2013

## WELCOME TO WESTERN SPRINGS COLLEGE



### MISSION STATEMENT

All students and staff, inspired by a love of learning, are challenged to discover and develop their unique personal strengths so that they are well equipped to share in the building of a just and sustainable society .

### SCHOOL VISION

Western Springs College is an inclusive learning community where:

- Academic achievement is highly valued and encouraged through excellence in teaching.
- Students receive a balanced and personalised education which addresses the needs of the whole person in a caring and supportive climate.
- Individuality, critical thinking and creativity are fostered along with a sense of community, respect for and service to others.
- There are expectations of high standards of behaviour which are collectively owned, clearly communicated and actively upheld.
- Diversity is embraced and individual differences are affirmed.
- Students feel safe and there is no place for violence, prejudice or discrimination.
- Students develop enduring friendships in a healthy co-educational environment.
- There is a wide range of opportunities and a high level of participation in sporting, cultural and community activities.
- School governance and management are based on a commitment to power sharing according to Treaty of Waitangi responsibilities.

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21 January, 2013

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

2013 promises to be a significant year in the school's development. We have much to look forward to.

### **Provisional NCEA Results**

The following outstanding NCEA results for 2012 represent the best ever provisional pass rates achieved by students of Western Springs College.

- The University Entrance pass rate is 88% (2011: 80%)
- The Level 3 Certificate pass rate is 86% (2011: 75%)
- The Level 2 Certificate pass rate is 93% (2011: 91%)
- The Level 1 Certificate pass rate is 90% (2011: 85%)

Note that these results are **roll-based** (that is, based on the 1 July school roll), not entry-based (that is, excluding students who leave school after 1 July and students who do not enter standards). Note that NZQA will publish the final results in March at which time national comparisons can be made.

### **Excellence Certificates**

Congratulations to the record number of students who have gained Excellence Certificates. (See the enclosed lists of our top senior students for 2012.)

- The nearly 20% (19.4%) of Level 1 students who achieved Excellence is the highest since the inception of NCEA in 2004.
- The 15.6% of Level 2 students who were awarded Excellence Certificates is the second highest since NCEA's inception. (2011: 18.3%)
- The 12.3% of Level 3 students who have gained Excellence endorsement is the highest since 2004.

While we have identified some areas where there is scope for further improvement, these outcomes amount to significant progress towards our school development target of high level grade quality.

### **School Donations**

Many thanks to those parents who paid their fees and made donations to the school in 2012. For the second consecutive year we have been able to reach our budgeted target for the school donation. It is immensely heartening to receive this support from the school community.

For 2013, there is again no increase in the main school donation which remains at \$250 (\$350 for two or more students); the sports & cultural donation remains at \$120.

The **school donation** enables Western Springs College to strengthen learning support beyond what is possible from the Ministry of Education operations grant. At Springs, we have developed an excellent Learning Centre which plays a critically important role in helping all students achieve academic success. Similarly, the Learning Support department is able to be resourced to provide an exceptionally fine service for families with students who have significant learning disabilities.

The **sports and cultural donation** funds expenses associated with a wide range of **cultural activities** including the training camps for student leaders, the running of clubs, the production costs for cultural groups and performing arts events, such as the school production and Stage Challenge.

The sports donation enables us to run a comprehensive **sports programme** catering for over 50 teams representing WSC in the Auckland College Sport competitions. The donation goes towards 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 soccer, netball and rugby, the purchase of sports equipment, and the payment of transport and registration costs for College Sport.

A reminder that WSC provides a full range of payment options:

- internet banking to 12 3020 0333033 00 under FEES; include the name of the student(s)
- payment at the school office by eftpos, credit card, cash, or cheque
- posting a cheque to the school
- automatic payments by filling in the enclosed form and forwarding it to your bank

I must 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 your continuing support, thank you.

### **School Developments**

In the aftermath of the development of the master plan for the building of the new school we are currently anticipating news from the Ministry of Education concerning the timeline for the appointment of the design/build architect and construction consortium.

We are very much looking forward to sharing our thinking about the big ideas which will guide the shaping of the new school. The creative interaction of school personnel, architects and stakeholder groups promises to be an exciting process.

**Becoming a New School** is the name we have given to a new website feature which will enable families in our school community to track progress towards and provide input into the design and construction of the new Western Springs College. The feature includes the following sections:

- Modern learning environments - images of recently built New Zealand schools
- Design ideas – the views of a range of architects
- International research and reports on the development of new educational facilities
- Other schools' stories
- The WSC journey to date
- Community consultation
- Feedback

The **strategic plan** (goals and objectives) and the **annual plan** (goals/objectives/targets) for 2013 will be presented for approval by the Board of Trustees at its first meeting for the year on 11 February after which the plans will be published on the website. The five overarching goals common to both plans are:

1. To attain the highest academic, cultural and sporting standards of student achievement, and to produce graduates who possess the competencies of independent, life-long learners

2. To provide excellent teaching across all curriculum areas
3. To develop a safe, inclusive teaching and learning environment
4. To provide a teaching and learning environment enhanced by modern and sustainable facilities and services
5. To strengthen school-home and school-community partnerships

Following our careful processing of the **school self-review** data derived from the recent Quality of Service Delivery survey, the annual plan will include targets addressing a range of strategic issues identified during this review work. The main categories for this school development work will be changes to school management procedures aimed at facilitating the work of our teachers, and improved services to students and parents directed at more targeted careers education, clearer reporting, up-to-date communication concerning academic tasks requiring work at home, and a sharpened focus on learning development in the junior school.

### **Newly Appointed Teachers**

I am very pleased to welcome the following recently appointed teachers who will commence their teaching services at Springs this term:

Christina Allen – Science & Mathematics (Rumaki)

Linda Bean – Counselling (Linda was with us during terms three and four last year in a relieving capacity)

Naomi Cusack – English (Rumaki)

Scott Greenwood – Health & Physical Education

Jennis Hayes – Food Technology (part-time)

Beth Kayes – Drama

Suriya Wilson – English

Internal appointments towards the end of last year were:

Heather Dikstaal – Year 13 Academic Director

Peter Bircham – Whenua House Dean

### **New Families**

All families new to the Western Springs College school community are warmly invited to attend a barbeque on the campus on Wednesday, 13 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 very much look forward to seeing and talking with you at school events throughout the year.

Ken Havill  
Principal

# TOP SPRINGS STUDENTS FOR 2012

The following students, who have achieved NCEA Excellence Certificates, have earned top student status for 2012.

The Level 1 (19.4%) and the Level 3 (12.3%) Excellence attainment rates are both the highest achieved by WSC students to date.

The Level 2 rate (15.2%) is second only to the 2011 cohort.

## Congratulations

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### Level 3

Jessica Barris  
Jack Beesley  
Hugo Christian Slane  
Lydia Connolly Hiatt  
Mitchell Cosgrave  
Josephine Desmond  
Georgia Edwards  
Cait Johnson  
Heather Kelly  
Jesse Loveridge  
Isobel Macewan  
Thomas Monro  
Kate Morrision Buckley  
Rosa Newell  
Erin O'Flaherty  
George Penlington  
Aimee Redman  
Eden Roberts  
Georgia Rudd  
Brooke Rutledge  
Freya Smith  
Teri Styles  
Hannah Ward  
Caleb Wells  
Ella Wheeler

### Level 2

Tihema Bennet  
Jordan Brown  
George Caccioppoli  
Ruby Campbell  
Ashley Candir  
Mikayla Casey  
Elizabeth Clifton  
Finn Cochran  
Cole Cochran  
Poppy Cogswell  
Benjamin Conway  
Julia Dawe  
Gwenneth De Leon  
Alice Duncan Gardiner  
Stephen Gilbert  
Laura Hangartner  
Thomas Hartill  
Leah Hardwood  
Yukiko Hirate  
Thomas Hirst  
Reuben Hudson  
India Hyams  
Alena Kavka  
Fraser Kearns  
Kon Leung  
Grace MacDonald  
Walker  
Amy Matthews  
Kieran McCullough  
Sophie McIntosh  
Caitlin Pearson

### Level 1

Taitimuroa Akuhata  
Meg Anderson  
Ellen Aronsson Jones  
Milly Athy Timmins  
Jade Beguely  
Thian Benton Fieulaine  
Jogai Bhatt  
Elsie Bollinger  
Lucy Caccioppoli  
Oliver Carruthers  
Freddie Cleverley  
Paige Corrin  
Lewis Dunster  
Carys Finlayson  
Lucas Flynn  
Alexandra Groves  
Charles Jackson  
Pearl Kennedy  
Priya Kesha  
Kevin Lee  
Isabella Lenihan Ikin  
Edward Liu  
Abby Madden Smith  
Telina Matheson-Dallimore  
Sophie McIntyre  
Anya McNeil  
Simon Mead  
Isaac Moffat Young  
Daniel Molina  
Nikora Ngaropo

Level 2 cont..  
Hart Reynolds  
Alice Senescall  
Samuel Stenson  
Toni Talamaivao  
Louis Vincent  
Akim Wangler  
Kyle Wienk  
Geordie Winlove  
Oliver Yates

Level 1 cont..  
Rhanae Ngawaka  
Tanya Peart  
Shakaiah Perez  
Ella Pooley  
Laura Read  
Clarice Reddin  
Laszlo Reynolds  
Tessa Rogers  
Ashray Shetty  
Isabel Shore  
Kimberley Stansfield  
Zoe Stowers  
Hannah Swedlund  
Qi An Tan  
Jasmine Thompson Milne  
Rowen Trusewich  
Justine Vincent  
Alexander Walker  
Taylor Wallace  
Levon Ware  
Kauri Williams

# LETTER FROM THE CHAIR WESTERN SPRINGS COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

## Welcome to Western Springs College and the Springs community

The Western Springs Board of Trustees is the school's governance body. It works with the Principal and senior school management to provide students with a balanced education to prepare them for the future by fostering critical thinkers who are confident, independent and ready for their chosen future path. The school is proud of the academic and sporting achievements of its students.

The Board of Trustees and school management rely on the feed back, advice and thinking of the wider community to inform how the school can best meet the evolving needs of its students.

The Board encourages parents and caregivers to take an active interest in the school. There are several ways to join us in building a stronger, smarter and better school. There is an alumni and supporters' association, a Parent Action Group, and the Board of Trustees. Each offer an opportunity to make a difference and a contribution.

In May it will be time to hold an election for four parent representatives on the B.O.T. Board members have an opportunity to make a difference in setting the educational goals and strategic vision for Western Springs College. Click here for more information on what is involved as a parent trustee.

<http://www.trustee-election.co.nz/>

<http://www.trustee-election.co.nz/trustee-elections/what-is-a-trustee-/>

[http://www.westernsprings.school.nz/WesternSpringsCollege\\_Charter.html](http://www.westernsprings.school.nz/WesternSpringsCollege_Charter.html)

Western Springs College has been offered a rare opportunity to potentially build a new school that meets the challenges for 21<sup>st</sup> century learning and consigns what have become substandard buildings to the past.

The new school project is about more than new buildings, it is a chance to shape what might be called the school's software: from what it teaches and how it teaches so as to provide a valuable educational experience that allows our young people to take their place as citizens who are engaged with and contribute to New Zealand.

The Board, principal and senior management, will be creating a school environment that aims to acknowledge what has gone before, to preserve the best of the present and ensure the school and its students are ready for the future.

Thank you for your support and I look forward to hopefully meeting many of you at the New Parents' BBQ on 13 February 6 – 8pm.

**Gordon Ikin**  
**Chair**  
**Western Springs College Board of Trustees**



# WHAT TO DO IN THE FIRST DAYS

## **Fees and Donations Payments**

Payments can be made by:

- Posting a cheque to the school.
- Internet banking 12 3020 0333033 00 under FEES with the student's name.
- At the school office by eftpos /cash / cheque / credit card.
- Automatic payments - fill in the form enclosed and return to your bank and email robertsr@wsc.school.nz details of payments

Stationery packs for Years 9, 10, 11 students, Physical Education uniforms for Year 9 students, and Swimming Sports and Athletics fees must be paid by Friday, 8 February. The school office is open from 8.30am – 4.00pm from Wednesday 23 January. All other payments should be completed by 1 March unless an arrangement has been made to pay by automatic payments.

## **Course / Subject Confirmation**

- All new Year 12 &13 students need to bring their NCEA results to school to finalise their programme before school starts.
- All returning students who need to finalise their courses must come in to school and see their Academic Director or Dean before school starts. Students who have not met course entry requirements will need to change their subject selection. Note that the teachers you have and the timetable blocks you are in could change in order to balance class sizes. Most classes are full, meaning that changes will be very difficult to make.

## **Personal Timetable**

Bring your timetable to school and make sure that you know the name and room of your form class. Any problems, email robertsr@wsc.school.nz

## **Athletics & Swimming Sports**

All Year 10, and any Year 11, 12, 13 students who wish to participate in athletics or swimming sports should fill in the enclosed permission slip and return it with the payment to the school office by Friday 8 February. Year 9 students have already filled these in. Note that Swimming Sports is only for those who wish to compete.

# TERM ONE 2013

## PARENT/STUDENT INFORMATION SHEET

Detailed outline of the first week and some other significant dates for the first term

### Term Dates:

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April (12 weeks)

### Week before school starts

The administration office will be open usual hours in the week before school starts i.e. from **23<sup>rd</sup> January**. Parents are encouraged to use this week before school to come in and buy stationery packs, PE uniforms, the 2012 WSC Yearbook (\$10) etc.

*NB: Please contact reception - ph. 815 6730 - if you have any queries about any of the dates or times and activities outlined below.*

### Week 1

Monday 28 January

AUCKLAND ANNIVERSARY DAY

Wednesday 30 January

**TEACHER ONLY DAY**

Thursday 31 January

**Yr 13s ONLY required at school today**

11.00 - **All Yr 13's** come to the Hall for -  
1.00pm peer support training.  
Yr 13s dismissed at 1.00pm.  
*No school buses until 5<sup>th</sup> Feb.*

Friday 01 February

**ALL students are required to attend school today**  
**Yr 13 to arrive at 9.45, Year 9s should arrive at 10.00am and assemble by school entrance for powhiri.**  
**Yrs 10-12 should arrive at 11.00am.**

9.45 **Yr 13 students** arrive at school to prepare for powhiri .

10.00 **Yr 9 students & parents arrive** and assemble as part of manuhiri just at the school gate and wait to be called onto the marae by Rumaki students and staff. Welcome speeches by Principal & Rumaki staff member responded to by some new parents and/or staff members. Tangata whenua invite the manuhiri to come forward to shake hands (**hariru**)

and hongī. Hākari – drinks & biscuits on the Hall.  
lawn are then shared to signify the end of the  
powhiri.

11.00 **Yrs 10, 11 & 12** students arrive and go to form  
class.

12.30 **All students dismissed.**  
*No school buses until 5<sup>th</sup> Feb.*

## **Week 2**

Monday 04 February

**Only Yr 9 & 13 students required at school today**  
**Yrs 10, 11 & 12 *not required* to attend but may come in for**  
**course confirmation with Ruth Roberts if they wish.**

9.00-12.30 **Yr 13 and Yr 9** – Orientation day.  
**All other** (non Yr 9) **NEW** students to WSC  
required to attend an orientation meeting at  
TAPAC at the same time as the Yr 9 orientation.  
**All students dismissed at 12.30pm.**  
*No school buses until 5<sup>th</sup> Feb.*

Tuesday 05 February

8.50-2.45 All students in school.  
Normal timetable begins today.  
Early finish on Tuesday's for Staff PD  
***School buses begin operating today.***

Wednesday 06 February

**WAITANGI DAY**

Thursday 07 February

ID Photos for all students

## **Week 3**

Wednesday 13 February

6.00 – 8.00pm  
New Parents & students BBQ at the school. School  
and Parent Action Group provide food etc.

Friday 15 February

All Day **School Swimming Sports** – West Wave  
***Competitors only.*** Other students in class for  
normal lessons.

## **Week 5**

Monday 25 February

All Day **Athletics Day** - Waitakere Trust stadium  
***Compulsory for Year 9 students*** all  
others attendance by entry only – otherwise in  
normal classes.

## **Week 9**

Thursday 28 March

Introductory reports emailed home.

Friday 29 March

**GOOD FRIDAY**

**Week 10**

Monday 1 April

**EASTER MONDAY**

Tuesday 2 April

**EASTER TUESDAY**

Thursday 4 April

**Parent Evening** – all levels but for parents of students with surnames beginning with A - L only.

**Week 11**

Thursday 11 April

**Parent Evening** – all levels but for parents of students with surnames beginning with M - Z only.

**Week 12**

Friday 19 April

**LAST DAY OF TERM**

## **ELECTRONIC SCHOOL CALENDAR**

The school has an electronic google calendar “**School Wide Events**” that is a public calendar with all the major school dates and events entered on it. Any parents who operate google accounts are welcome to add the calendar to their own google calendars.

The calendar is also accessible on the school website by clicking on the button ‘calendar’ at the top right hand corner of the site.

### **This is how to add a calendar**

1. Make sure you are logged into Google
2. Either click on the **Calendar** link in the menu bar at the top of the page, or type [calendar.google.com](http://calendar.google.com) into the address bar
3. Click the **Add** down-arrow button at the bottom of the calendar list on the left side of the page (where your calendars are listed) and select **Add by URL**
4. Paste the link you have been given (below) into the box, and click **Add**.

*School Wide Events Calendar*

[http://www.google.com/calendar/ical/wsc.school.nz\\_grmqell6mreu1h66cbuqf7j0j4%40group.calendar.google.com/public/basic.ics](http://www.google.com/calendar/ical/wsc.school.nz_grmqell6mreu1h66cbuqf7j0j4%40group.calendar.google.com/public/basic.ics)

## PARENTAL PORTAL NOTICE

Dear Parent/Caregiver

Western Springs College has launched secure access for you to view your student's details online. Documents such as latest reports, financial transaction records and access to attendance details will now be available online to you.

In preparation for this you will need to register a valid Gmail, Facebook or Windows live account with Western Springs College.

We don't require a password as you will be logging into our portal via your chosen account provider. When your account is registered and ready to go we will send you a reply email letting you know what to do next.

Please send your preferred valid Gmail, Facebook or Windows live account with Parental Portal as the subject line, along with your full name and students to [office@wsc.school.nz](mailto:office@wsc.school.nz), who will update the school database.

To register with Facebook: Please send the email address that you have registered with Facebook.

If you don't have a Gmail, Facebook or Windows live account you can go to [www.gmail.com](http://www.gmail.com) and sign up for a free account. As this account will become your registered email contact with us we suggest creating a forwarder on your Gmail that will automatically pass on your mail to any other email address you may be using. Otherwise you will need to check your Gmail directly for any email correspondence from the school.

How to create a forwarder in Gmail:

Log into Gmail > Click on the small cog in the upper right hand corner> choose settings> select Forwarding and POP/IMAP > Click add a forwarding address and add an address that you would like your emails passed on to.

You will be sent a confirmation code to the email you specified, read through and click on the link to allow forwarding. Now back in Gmail select forward a copy of incoming mail to "your specified email". Now all emails that are sent to your Gmail will also be sent on to your specified address.

Please send your preferred valid Gmail, Facebook or Windows live account along with your student's full name to [office@wsc.school.nz](mailto:office@wsc.school.nz) to be registered and activated

We will send you an email to let you know when your account is activated and ready to use.

Many Thanks  
Western Springs College

## TERM DATES 2013

<b>TERM 1</b>	<b>Wednesday 30 January</b>	-	<b>Friday 19 April</b>
	Waitangi Day		Wednesday 6 February
	Good Friday		Friday 29 March
	Easter Monday		Monday 1 April
	Easter Tuesday		Tuesday 2 April
<b>TERM 2</b>	<b>Monday 6 May</b>	-	<b>Friday 12 July</b>
	School Holiday		Friday 31 May
	Queen's Birthday		Monday 3 June
<b>TERM 3</b>	<b>Monday 29 July</b>	-	<b>Friday 27 September</b>
<b>TERM 4</b>	<b>Monday 14 October</b>	-	<b>Friday 13 December</b>
	Labour Day		Monday 28 October

# BELL TIMES 2013

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday:

8.30 – 8.50	Staff Briefing / Form Teacher Meetings
<b>8.50</b>	First Bell / <b>Rumaki Karakia</b>
9.00 – 10.00	Period 1
<b>10.00 – 10.15</b>	<b>Form Period</b>
10.15 – 11.15	Period 2
<b>11.15 – 11.35</b>	<b>Interval</b>
11.35 – 12.35	Period 3
12.35 – 1.35	Period 4
<b>1.35 – 2.15</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
2.15 – 3.15	Period 5

**Tuesday:**

8.30 – 8.50	Core Meetings
<b>8.50</b>	First Bell / <b>Rumaki Karakia</b>
9.00 – 10.00	Period 1
10.00 – 11.00	Period 2
<b>11.00 – 11.25</b>	<b>Interval</b>
<b>11.25 – 12.05</b>	<b>Extended Form Period / Assembly</b>
12.05 – 1.05	Period 3
<b>1.05 – 1.45</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
1.45 – 2.45	Period 4
<b>3.00 – 4.30</b>	<b>Staff Meetings</b>

## FORM CLASSES 2013

Atea	Moana	Kapura	Whenua	Oranga
Dean Tim Stubbs	Dean	Dean	Dean	Dean
Melanie Webber	Zoe Lindsay	Paul Alford	Peter Bircham	Lorin Shortland
BYA Z4	BSM B5	DNK S2	BEW H1	WHO WAIH
BNA D7	BIM E3	EDK PH1	CEW D10	WMO WAIM
CRA F4	BRM D3	FEK X4	DSW LIB	WAO WAIT
CNA F5	DUM PH3	JSK S4	SYW A4	WRO WAIR
CMA B3	FRM D6	JHK F3	JOW B9	
DEA X1	HGM Z2	LAK E2	KIW B12	
DRA S1	JAM T3	LNK D5	MIW B11	
FSA D8	JNM X3	TAK D9 (HL)	MOW E1	
GNA PH2	KSM T4	WGK D4	PLW LIB	
GUA E4	KTM X2	DVK T2	SLW A2	
HKA Z3	KGM Z1	WTK B7	SRW B1	
IDA C2	LOM B4	WIK D2	TNW B12	
KNA A1A	NRM B8	YSK D1	TRW A3	
MNA B2	PEM H2	GDK F1	WMW C1	
OYA S3				
POA GYM				
PYA B10				
RNA A1				
TEA LC				
WBA D11				
YGA E5				



# PERMISSION SLIP 2013

(please indicate what day/s you wish to participate in)

Athletics Day – Monday 25 February (all day held at Waitakere Trust Stadium)

I give permission for the following student to attend the above event and attach \$20:

STUDENT'S FULL NAME:

\_\_\_\_\_

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_

(parent/caregiver)

DAYTIME EMERGENCY PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

MEDICAL CONDITIONS TO BE AWARE OF WHICH COULD AFFECT PARTICIPATION:

\_\_\_\_\_

✂-----

Swimming Sports Day – Friday 15 February (all day held at West Wave)

I give permission for the following student to attend the above event and attach \$20:

STUDENT'S FULL NAME:

\_\_\_\_\_

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_

(parent/caregiver)

DAYTIME EMERGENCY PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

MEDICAL CONDITIONS TO BE AWARE OF WHICH COULD AFFECT PARTICIPATION:

\_\_\_\_\_

All Year 9 students have already completed this. All students, other than Year 9, who wish to compete in these sports days, will need to complete and return the above form to the office. Each day will cost \$20.00 to enter and the money should accompany the permission slip

## **YEAR 9 “TRAVELLERS” SURVEY AND PROGRAMME 2012**

Dear Parent/Guardian of a Year 9 student in 2013

Our college is very conscious of the important changes and transitions that teenagers cope with during their schooling. The change from Year 8 (Form 2) to Year 9 (Form 3) is one of the most important. It takes about 8 months for most students to successfully make that change.

Since 2002 we have participated in a successful Ministry of Health project to make that transition easier, called “Travellers”. To help us to support our Year 9 students we give a short survey routinely in the first term. The questionnaire asks them very general questions about such things as changes of schools and challenging situations they have faced. The Skylight Foundation analyses the questionnaires for us and a number of students are selected and invited to be a part of a small group Travellers programme.

The programme has now gained international interest as a worthwhile programme supporting teenagers. We will continue this project in 2013. The questionnaire will be filled in during term 1. If you do not want your child to be a part of the survey questionnaire then please let us know. If you have any questions about the project please ring Sue Poupouare at the college (815 6730 ext 742) and she will talk it over with you.

We are looking forward to meeting your teenager as they enter their first year at secondary school, and we wish them well in this new venture of becoming a successful Western Springs College student.

Yours faithfully  
Sue Poupouare  
Linda Bean  
**Counsellors**

## **PARENTS' ACTION GROUP (PAG)**

The PAG is a group of parents/caregivers working together with the school to support our school and to strengthen our school community. It is open to all parents of students at "Springs" and new members are always very welcome.

We regularly organise fundraising events and contribute those funds to various projects that enhance the school's activities and environment. It is a great way to keep in touch with other parents and what's happening at school.

More about PAG can be found on the WSC website. If you would like to be added to our mailing list please contact PAG by emailing [pag@westernsprings.school.nz](mailto:pag@westernsprings.school.nz).

Our first meeting for 2013 will be held on Tuesday 5th February at 7.30pm in the WSC staffroom. Please come along.