

20 January, 2014

Kia ora tatou katoa. New Year's greetings to you all.

We are very much looking forward to building on our partnership with all of the families in our school community during the year ahead.

### **NCEA Results (NZQA Provisional)**

#### **Record Level 3 & U.E. Pass Rates; Record Level 1 & 2 Excellence Certificate Attainments**

The following outstanding 2013 NCEA results warrant celebration.

##### **Certificate Pass Rates**

- The University Entrance pass rate of 96% is the highest ever attained by WSC students.
- The Level 3 Certificate pass rate of 97% is the highest ever attained by WSC students.
- The Level 2 Certificate pass rate of 93% is the third highest since inception in 2004.
- The Level 1 Certificate pass rate of 84% is average and compels close analysis.

##### **Excellence Certification**

- A Level 1 Excellence Certificate was achieved by 23% (64/281) of Year 11 students – the highest ever attained by WSC students.
- A Level 2 Excellence Certificate was achieved by 26% (64/248) of Year 12 students - the highest ever attained by WSC students.
- A Level 3 Excellence Certificate was achieved by 13% (28/219) of Year 13 students – again a rate which has not previously been bettered.

These Excellence-level results represent very pleasing progress in terms of our school learning targets of increasingly high grade quality across all levels.

### **School Developments**

#### **New School Planning**

The updated timeline for the design and construction of the new school is now:

##### **2013**

- September: Jasmax-led design and construction consortium appointed
- October – December: master plan review (confirmation of new building locations and juxtapositions; school community consultation)

##### **2014**

- January – April: Concept design phase
- May: Cabinet approval of programme budget proposal
- June – December: Detailed design and resource and building consents phases

##### **2015**

- January: Ground works and piling commence
- March/April: Construction commences

##### **2016**

- January – October: Construction continues
- November –December: Transfer from old to new school

2017

- February: New school opens

### **Staff Developments**

I am very pleased with the calibre of our newly appointed teachers. We will be welcoming the following new teachers at the beginning of term one:

Rachel Allwood – Science, Biology, replacing Kathryn Jenkin who is on leave for 2014

Luke Choi – Mathematics

Emma-Jane Goldsworthy – who returns to WSC to replace Mareike Isherwood

Mike Gunn – Technology, specialising in Digital Technology

Helen Long – Media Studies and English

Louise Mazengarb – Social Studies and English

John Minto – Mathematics, coming in for Elena Turner who has a reduced programme for 2014.

Nina Monks – English (part-time)

Laura Oosterbeek – English, replacing Therese Fitzsimmons who is on refreshment leave for 2014

David Stillaman – English, who will replace Tim College (whose leave continues in term one) and

Miriam Kent (who will take maternity leave for terms 2-4)

Melanie Turner – Dance, who will job share this year with Chloe Davison

Belinda Wallbank – Music, replacing Margaret Robertson who will be on study leave from the beginning of March until mid-November.

I would like to congratulate Shaun Hawthorne who has been appointed as an educational consultant to the Visible Learning division of Cognition Education. WSC has indeed been fortunate to benefit from Shaun's excellent services to the school during the last three years. He will leave at the end of February; we expect to announce the appointment of the deputy principals to replace Shaun and Thea Kilian on 22 February.

### **School Donations**

We would like to thank those parents who paid their fees and made donations to the school in 2013. Once again we were able to achieve our budget target. It is certainly morale boosting for trustees and staff to receive this form of support from families.

For 2014, there is again no increase in the donation which remains at \$370 (\$470 for two or more students from the same family).

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

Additionally, the donation enables us to run a comprehensive **sports programme** catering for over 50 teams representing WSC in a wide range of Auckland College Sport competitions. The donation

goes towards costs such as the salaries for the sports administrators, 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.

I must emphasise that it is simply not possible to offer a wide-ranging and well managed extra-curricula activities programme without the financial support of these donations.

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.

### **New Families**

All families new to the Western Springs College school community are warmly invited to attend a barbeque on the campus on Wednesday, 19 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, house leaders, 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 like yourselves who are 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.

Hei kona mai

Naku noa, na

Ken Havill  
Principal