

Western Springs College

Nga Puna O Waiorea

Sports Newsletter, December 2014

The highlight of 2014 sporting year has to be the continued pursuit of excellence which has ultimately resulted in success for both boys and girls. It is especially encouraging to see our junior sports teams performing well. Congratulations to our Under 15 Boys Basketball team for winning the 2014 BBNZ Zonal Regional Tournament and congratulations also to our Junior Boys Squash team which went through their season undefeated, winning the Auckland Junior A title from twelve other teams.

This year Western Springs College has produced some solid results through cohesive teamwork and a tenacious attitude. Through sports, students have learned how to power on through adversity and to give it their best effort, win or lose, not forgetting the importance of discipline and good sportsmanship. This is reflected in the enthusiastic participation of students across a diverse range of sports.

This year, with the increase in student and team participation, we entered fifteen teams into Regional or National tournaments, including six teams contesting the Secondary Schools Winter Tournament Week. Well done to all the teams that participated and to their respective coaching staff.

2014 has been an extremely rewarding year for our sports programme. I am very proud of all the effort that goes into providing sport as a vehicle for young people to express themselves. I sincerely thank everyone who has been involved at all levels of sport within the College for the continuous support, dedication and time that you have invested into all our teams. For this, the school and students are truly grateful for all you do for them.

PETER MCINTYRE
DIRECTOR OF SPORT

UNIFORMS

We still have a lot of school sports uniforms outstanding. These uniforms need to be handed in to the sports department, or front office urgently.

REPORTS:

FOOTBALL

2014 marked the third year of running our formal football programme under head coach John Cunningham and after two successful years of back-to-back promotions for our Senior Boys First XI we were keen to implement the same training methodologies across all our school football teams. With over 140 students registering for football, Term 1 was a busy time running trials and placing players in their teams for the 2014 competition.

Six competitive teams were announced (four boys and two girls) which began training hard throughout term 1 with two trainings per week for the senior teams as well as strength and performance training for our first XI boys and girls throughout the season.

We had some fantastic results, most notably the 15th grade boys team making it through to the semi-finals of the 15th grade Knock Out Cup competition which includes all Auckland schools in this age group. This team has some exceptional talent and is one to watch for 2015. Our Senior boys second XI pulled off a fantastic division win in the Senior B West competition which was testament to the boys

who worked hard all season, even when player numbers were low due to club clashes, and still managed to win the majority of their matches. Not to be outdone by the boys, our Senior Girls First XI were placed fourth in the hotly contested Premier 2 competition and managed to draw against the winner of this competition at the National tournament, held in Papamoa. This was no mean feat for a team made up of Year 9, 10 and 11 students, participating in an Under 19 age group competition.

We are especially proud and wish to congratulate Daisy Cleverley for her amazing achievements throughout 2014 – U17 NZ Team competing in the U17 FIFA World Cup in March, U20 NZ team competing in the FIFA World Cup in August, and NZ Football Ferns debut last month. What an amazing talent!

We are extremely grateful to those coaches and managers who gave up their time to support the teams this year – the football programme wouldn't happen without you all. Special thanks to Pete McIntyre and Selwyn for the ongoing improvements to our fields, ensuring we have increased game time on a better quality pitch throughout the season.

We are excited to head into 2015 with our young footballing talent. Our programme will see the introduction of more strength and performance training alongside the technical football sessions to fully prepare us for the season ahead.

RUGBY

Although the season ended with no team contesting a final, our 4th and 5th Grade rugby teams went very close. Our 5th graders lost 14-15 in their semi-final to St. Kentigerns, who were then crowned champions one week later. Our 4th grade team had a very good season, but were undone in their semi-final by a team playing out of their skins... All season, both competitions were evenly contested, with no team standing out, so to make it into the top 4 playoffs was an excellent result.

Big thank you to both teams' coaching staff. We look forward to next season with great expectations.

BASKETBALL

This year the WSC basketball program started with a BANG!! Teams competed in numerous tournaments which would announce that Western Springs had arrived in the basketball community.

It started quite early with teams competing in the Regional 3x3 basketball tournament and then heading to Rotorua to compete in the Western Heights Basketball Tournament.

During the regular season, we had six teams entered in the Western Zone Championships and we proved to be top 4 contenders in every age group. Our Under 19 Development team won their grade and the Under 15 junior boys and girls finished 2nd overall.

Later in the year the senior boys and girls teams competed at the BBNZ Regional Tournament. Both teams competed well and improved on their final placings from 2013.

The season's highlight came with our Under 15 junior boys competing in the BBNZ Zones 1 & 2 Regional Tournament, held in Tauranga. Being their first time on the national scene, the expectation was for the juniors to develop and to perform as well as they could. The results were quite outstanding with our junior boys winning the Grand Final against Fraser College.

Tai Upoko – Coach

SQUASH

Another successful season with three of our eight teams contesting playoffs and our senior boys team finishing third overall at the Auckland Squash Championships. After zone play, several teams were very unlucky to miss out on progressing, as only zone winners advanced.

Acknowledgement to Murray Denby, Jenny Jones and Mike Weston from Squash Auckland who have supported this season's squash programme and have moved it to a new level.

SENIORS BOYS A - 5th in central zone, 11th overall in Auckland playoffs, out of 32 teams.

JUNIOR BOYS A – OVERALL CHAMPIONS in Auckland Junior 'A' Grade.

SENIOR BOYS B GOLD – 1st in central-west zone. OVERALL CHAMPIONS in Auckland, out of 38 teams.

SENIOR BOYS B GREEN – placed 2nd overall in central-west zone.

SENIOR BOYS B WHITE – placed 7th overall in central-west zone.

SENIOR GIRLS C GOLD – 1st in central-south zone, 4th overall in Auckland, out of 32 teams.

SENIOR GIRLS C WHITE – placed 2nd overall in central-south zone.

SENIOR GIRLS C GREEN – placed 4th overall in central-south zone.

NETBALL

We had 10 netball teams in the 2014 season, two Year 9, three Year 10, three Senior, one Premier Development and one Premier team. There were also three tournament teams. It has been a very successful year as all teams placed in the top 4 in their grade, with five teams winning gold medals.

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

Senior Gold defended their B Grade title, for the fourth consecutive year. Also winning gold medals this season were Waiorea Senior (A3 Grade), WSC 10 Gold (Grade 2), WSC 9 Gold (Grade 3) and WSC 10 Oranga (Grade 3).

The Premier team moved in to the Premier 1 grade – a first for Western Springs College.

Year 10 Waiorea played in Grade 1 and finished a meritorious fourth.

UNISS tournament team was placed 9th this season, an improvement from 12th in 2013.

At the Mahepohepo tournament, Waiorea Seniors defeated our Waiorea Senior B in the semi-finals, but lost the Grand-Final to Manurewa.

Milar Whaikawa and Katelina Fale were selected, travelled and competed in the Secondary School Netball Tournament in Adelaide, Australia.

Milar Whaikawa was also a Netball Waitakere Under 15 rep-player.

We have continued to be supported by the staff, parents and whanau of the school community who have contributed to the ongoing development and successes of netball. We are especially grateful to all our coaches with their wonderful managers who give generously of their time in a genuine effort to improve and efficiently take care of netball delivery.

KAUKURA TEPAKI
Netball Co-Ordinator