

WENTWORTH College & Primary School

BULLETIN

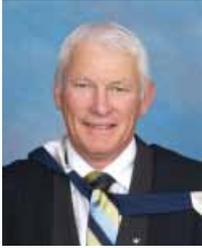


ISSUE 30

JULY 2015

65 - 95 Gulf Harbour Drive, Gulf Harbour, Whangaparaoa

Tel: 09 424 3273 (College) Tel: 09 428 0903 (Primary) Email: enquiries@wentworth.school.nz Website: www.wentworth.school.nz



Examinations for all Year levels were held mid-way through Term 2. The ability to provide an honest “check point” of student progress and achievement for both students as well as parents is deemed an essential part of educational life at Wentworth.

School reports were followed by teacher/student/parent interviews. These reporting

formats enable us to highlight the strengths and weaknesses of each student’s achievement and progress. From these assessment tools, teachers and students can develop an action plan for the second semester to assist them to achieve the results of which they are capable and are striving towards.

Accountability is at the forefront of our thinking, not just for students but importantly also for teachers, the school management and the Board of Trustees. It is a simple formula - parents have choices and we need to be the best we can possibly be. This is the environment we live in and that our children will enter into.

The Wentworth philosophy focusses on providing a rigorous curriculum and school culture where we strive for every child to work to his or her best ability. There are many barriers that could be used as an excuse or reason why student progress has not been met. Our role as teachers is to excite our learners, to provide a classroom culture where students are fully engaged and learning. Wentworth teachers are highly trained, experienced and passionate about their subject material. An added strength to our programme is the size of the school, which enables us to get to know all of our students extremely well. Research shows that when students and teachers develop positive, respectful relationships, an optimum learning environment exists. When we combine small class sizes with significant teacher contact, substantial progress and achievement occurs.

The Wentworth Board aims to employ the very best possible teachers we can secure. Wentworth teachers are fully engaged and committed to the school’s philosophy. They are not governed or constrained by a detailed collective agreement as set out by the State School union, which in many respects influences how a school is operated and what is learnt. Here at Wentworth, we have the flexibility and freedom to be creative and adjust our curriculum needs to reflect our community and the expectations of the Cambridge International Examinations our students sit in the senior school. We aim to take the best aspects of the New Zealand curriculum that supports the International Cambridge academic qualification programme, which is world renowned and relevant to our community.

By providing small classes, classroom management of “unruly” students is not an issue and learning time is not “stolen” by controlling the class. Wentworth teachers have the time and energy to create excellent lessons, working to give each and every child the best they possibly can. This environment allows our teachers to teach with passion and without distractions. Understandably not all teachers are suited to, or capable of, teaching in a Wentworth environment; therefore we have to choose our staff carefully to ensure that their teaching style, commitment to the students and our expectations can be met.

As teachers we value and enjoy being part of helping and assisting with the growth and development of our students as they move through the sometimes difficult years from being children to becoming young adults. Students need to learn and develop resilience, to be able to have the confidence to face challenges, cope with loss, and manage success, as well as being actively engaged in the world around them. The Education Review Office has commented that our students are well-adjusted, confident and fully engaged in all aspects of school life. Academically, our students are producing excellent results with Wentworth consistently achieving as one of the top Auckland schools - especially when looking at the benchmark of University Entrance pass rates. In 2014, 93% of our Year 13 students gained their UE, placing us in the top 5% of all of Auckland’s schools.

We encourage and respect feedback from our parent community. Please do not hesitate to communicate with your child’s teacher directly, or to contact Mr Lee (our Deputy Principal) or myself if you wish to discuss your child’s school life.

Bruce Tong
Principal



PRIMARY SCHOOL

Food Revolution Day

Wentworth Primary was one of over 8,200 schools around the world whose students had fun learning about nutritious food and making 'Squash it Sandwiches' while celebrating Jamie Oliver's Food Revolution Day. The College's Food Technology Room provided a great venue.



School Disco

Students had enormous fun, dressing up as their favourite cartoon characters for the School Disco held late in Term 2. The disco also helped to raise much needed funds for earthquake victims in Nepal.



Interschool Soccer

Wentworth Years 5/6 sporting heroes competed at the interschool FIFA soccer tournament where they were recognised and awarded prizes for their team spirit and fair play.



Interschool Hockey

The Years 5/6 Interschool Hockey team competed at the North Harbour Hockey stadium in June, finishing 1st in their 'pool' and taking 3rd place overall in the tournament. Well done team!



Tiritiri Matangi

The whole school enjoyed a Science trip to the island, studying habitats and changes in the environment. Students, parents and teachers were all carried away by this enchanting spot, finishing the day with a beach clean-up to show our appreciation.



Swimming lessons

Term 2 saw Years 1-3 students attending 8 days of intensive swimming lessons at the Leisure Centre. Huge improvements in confidence could be seen as students learned to have safe fun in the water.

Year 6 Wellington Trip

In May, Year 6 students spent 2 picture-perfect days in Wellington and had a wonderful time seeing the sights and visiting Parliament buildings, Te Papa, Weta Workshop and the National Library, among other sites.



Music Festival

Years 3-6 students performed brilliantly at the College Music Festival late in the Term, with the choir and music classes entertaining the audience with four wonderful songs, followed by a series of awesome guitar and piano soloists. Well done to our very talented students!



School Flippaball Team

The Wentworth Primary Flippaball team was undefeated throughout the term, taking first place in the Years 5/6 Division.

Years 7 & 8 Camp – Motutapu Island

Years 7 & 8 students had a wonderful week on Camp, late in Term 2. The sun shone on Motutapu Island, with the weather becoming ever more perfect as the week progressed. Students took great delight in taking part in a wide range of (often very wet and muddy) activities, supporting each other as each new challenge arose.



CROSS COUNTRY

The annual Cross Country run in Shakespear Park was held early in June in typical cross country weather of a mixture of rain showers and sunshine. Students took the conditions in their stride, taking on the race with enthusiasm and great spirit. Congratulations to Fleming House for taking first place in what was a hard-fought competition.



DUKE OF EDINBURGH

Term 2 was time for students working on their 'Gold' Duke of Edinburgh awards to start their training, with weekend trips to the Waitakere Ranges and Lake Waikaremoana. From short and pleasant, to mentally and physically challenging, tramping is always a big part of the Duke of Ed programme. Students also undertook CPR training on 'Mini Annie', collected firewood and practised fire-lighting, as well as us organising a birthday celebration complete with balloons and candles. As always, students rose to meet the challenges of each day, while developing an even greater appreciation for the comforts of home.



SPORTS

Wentworth offers 23 sports with many of our students taking the opportunity to be involved in one or more of the different sporting codes. There are very few schools that can match this success when compared to the number of students attending the school.

Students not only participate but compete at a very high level. An example of this is our top Netball team, which is currently mid-table in the premier competition in the North Shore Competition. This is a very impressive achievement, with our students competing against all large North Shore schools (many with over 2,000 students!) to earn a place at this level.

Alongside Netball, Hockey is very popular with our students this year with 4 teams entered in the North Shore Competitions, and all teams being very competitive in their grades.

Other sports where Wentworth students excel are Rowing, Golf and Water Polo/Flippaball, to name just a few.

In this Bulletin we wish to feature the huge success of our Sailing programme and, in particular, the senior team at the New Zealand National Sailing Regatta.

SAILING NATIONALS

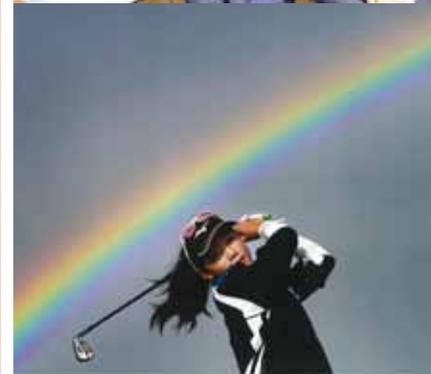
The NZ Secondary Schools' Team Sailing Nationals were sailed on Lake Taupo this year, with 30 schools winning to compete at this regatta. Based on performance at qualifying regattas, the schools were graded into 3 fleets - bronze, silver and the elite gold fleet. These competitors are the top junior sailors in New Zealand.

Wentworth's progress and success over the last two years has been phenomenal, with our students' performance and results at local regattas certainly being noticed by the long-established "named" sailing schools. Excellent results at these regional competitions meant that we won through to compete in the Gold fleet at the Nationals.

Each school's team of 3 boats races against another school's 3 boats over a short course in a 'Round Robin' competition. Racing requires a combination of sailing techniques, rule knowledge and team tactics. Racing took place over a week-long period in conditions ranging from light to strong winds and severe cold, with a backdrop of fresh snow on the central plateau mountains.

Wentworth sailors exceeded their own expectations, winning races against previous champions such as Tauranga Boys, Kerikeri and Westlake Boys to be placed 5th in New Zealand in the Gold Fleet. This was an outstanding result from the team of Cameron Hughes, Liam Herbert, Sean Herbert, Mel Hopkins, Oliver Reeves, Mikayla Butler, Sam Haggerty and Harper Johnston.

A huge "thank you!" to Mrs Wendy Malone and Ms Amy Fisher for their time, organisation and drive in bringing this team on to achieve such huge success.



GOLF

In May, the Wentworth Golf Team played in their final event of the season - the Auckland/North Harbour Secondary Schools Strokeplay championship - at the Redwood Park Golf Course. Temperamental weather conditions included driving winds and rain, and very cold temperatures. At times, our young golfers' frozen hands struggled to grip their clubs and by end of the day everyone's gear was thoroughly soaked. Through it all, our golfers persevered with skill, talent and commitment with all team members finishing in the top ten in their divisions, and the youngest member of the team - Bohyun Park (Year 8) - winning the competition.

SOCCER ZONE DAY

Years 7&8 students participated in a FIFA Grassroots Soccer Zone Day. The day was run by Northern Football with the aim of promoting the Under 20 Soccer World Cup which was being held at the same time throughout New Zealand.



DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

YEAR 7 - DESIGN AND MANUFACTURE OF CHOCOLATE MOULDS

Starting by designing and making a design out of clay, students then vacuum formed the mould using a plastic, leaving the best until last - filling up the moulds! Students also designed a chocolate box for their chocolates to go into.

YEAR 9 - COMPLETED PENCIL CASES

Students were very skilled in the construction of the pencil case using a range of techniques to complete the 'through and stopped' rebate on a very thin piece of wood. A range of interesting designs were painted on their sliding tops to identify each student's work.

NCEA TECHNOLOGY

Following the initial planning and design phase, students are now working on the practical aspects of building a letterbox which they aim to have completed by the end of Term 3.



INAUGURAL SCIENCE DAY

On the 10th of June, the Wentworth Science Department ran their first "Science Day". The theme was taken from UNESCO's International Year of Light. (UNESCO is the Science and cultural wing of the United Nations.) The Science lessons during the day were all based on the theme of light. In Biology, the students dissected an eye ball; in Chemistry the students experimented with glow sticks and flame tests; in Physics, the students experimented with strobe lights; and in General Science, the students tried to recreate a sunset in the classroom. The activities were not limited to the Science Department, however, with many other teachers also planning their lessons for the day around the theme of light. In PE, the students took part in blind football, in Technology the students made kaleidoscopes, in Computing, Mr Jones built an "augmented reality sandbox," and in English, the students looked at the themes of light and darkness in literature. Look out for a different theme next year!



ALEXANDRA WOOD: PUBLISHED AUTHOR

Year 9 student, Alexandra Wood, has had a short story published in the Rangitawa Publishing book called "Childrenz Stories". Alex's story was selected from submissions from students in the 12-17 year age category of their annual competition. At just 13 years of age, Alex's work was selected from a large number of stories by considerably older writers. This is the second time that Alex's work has been selected for publication by Rangitawa Publishing. "Childrenz Stories" is available through Amazon.



ANZAC DAY

Thank to you the College and Primary School teachers, parents and students who came along to the Anzac Day services at the Silverdale RSA. Head Boy, James Banyard, gave the reading at the Dawn Service where Wentworth was well represented. The Cambridge History Class and senior students also led an excellent Anzac Service at school on the Friday prior to Anzac Day. Congratulations to Kelly Main who wrote and performed a beautiful Anzac song, accompanied by Mikayla Butler.



MCDONALD HOUSE TERM 2 CHARITY BLIND FOUNDATION GUIDE DOGS



At Wentworth College, each House group is assigned a school term during which one of their goals is to raise funds for a charity of their choice. Term 2 was allocated to McDonald House, who focussed on raising money for man's best friend. Senior McDonald House students worked incredibly hard to bake and ice hundreds of dog-shaped cookies that were sold at morning teas and lunchtimes. House leaders, Grace Morris and Conrad Morley, chose the Blind Foundation Guide Dogs as their charity because, as Grace Morris says, "It is a charity that helps so many people, yet not many are aware of it. We wanted to boost the awareness."

MUSIC FESTIVAL

Parents and extended family members enjoyed the wide range of talent of our music students at our yearly Music Festival on 11th June. There was a steady flow of students on to the stage, including choral groups from the Primary School as well as the College, and individual items on many instruments - piano being the most popular but also the clarinet, guitar and of course the drums. The skill level was high and this was especially evident with those students who were enrolled in the Cambridge International Examination classes. The proficiency of the performances showed what much practice and good tuition can achieve.



TRAVEL & TOURISM ASSESSMENT TRIP TO THE BAY OF ISLANDS

On the first weekend of June, 10 Travel & Tourism students and their teacher, Mrs Malone, travelled up to the Bay of Islands as part of a course assessment. Six other students from Year 12 were brought along to experience the trip and evaluate the efficiency and organising ability of the 'leaders'. Highlights included visits to the Treaty of Waitangi site, the Keri



Stone House, three different waterfalls, a day cruise over to an island for lunch and going through the hole in the rock at Cape Brett. It was a very successful trip that was thoroughly enjoyed by all.



ALUMNI FEATURE:

Each bulletin we will be featuring a number of Alumni and their paths they have taken since leaving Wentworth.

DANIELLE & NATASHA SHRUBSALL (ALUMNI 2011 AND 2008)

Danielle finished school at the end of 2011 with the intention of finding a full time job to get her working career started. Making the choice not to go to university as nothing quite stood out for her at the time, she started working at G.J. Gardner Homes Rodney in 2012 and has been there ever since, working her way up in the business in a range of different roles, gaining great work and life experience.

Natasha started working at the ASB bank when she was 17, in retail and business banking. Moving to the BNZ in 2013, Natasha's expertise in banking has allowed her to excel in her chosen field as well as relate to the lifeblood of the New Zealand economy - Small Business. In addition to sneaking in a fair bit of international travel over the years – including 3 months in America – Natasha also entered the housing market at just 19, buying and renovating her first home. Since then she has built a new home in 2013, and then joined forces with Danielle in 2014 to build another brand new G.J. Gardner Home, of which they are both very proud. During her time at Wentworth, Danielle was one of the founding members of the Wentworth Rowing team. She enjoyed this sport so much that after finishing school she joined a surf boat rowing crew at the Orewa Surf Life Saving Club. Danielle and her crew have won a number of National medals over the past 2 years, showing what can be achieved with hard work and determination.

Whilst crediting the support of their parents for much of their success, the girls have worked hard and believe that if you have a clear set of goals and a plan in place for how to achieve them, (and of course a good work ethic) you can be successful at anything!



MORGAN CLARK (ALUMNI 2010)

After leaving Wentworth at the end of 2010, Morgan attended the Auckland University of Technology, graduating in 2013 with a Bachelor of Health Science degree. Since finishing her studies, Morgan has been working in private practice as a registered Dental Hygienist & Dental Therapist on the North Shore. As a past member of the Netball Team 1 during her years at Wentworth, Morgan has continued to play and be involved with netball on the Hibiscus Coast. In addition to coaching the Year 7 Representative Netball team for the Hibiscus Coast, Wentworth is also very lucky to have Morgan as the coach of our Wentworth 2 Netball team this year. Under Morgan's coaching, this team has won all but one of their games at North Harbour this season, and will head into the Championship round of their division for the remainder of the season.



REBEKAH CLEWS (ALUMNI 2008)

After finishing Wentworth at the end of Year 12, followed by a bit of travelling and growing up, I did a two year diploma in Outdoor Recreation at the Hillary Outdoors Pursuits Centre in Tongariro National Park (OPC). Since qualifying at the end of 2011, my outdoor recreation skills have taken me to some amazing places, such as giving motivational speeches to hundreds of people in a castle in Wales (UK), followed by abseiling them off the castle's tower! I now work as a senior instructor and safety manager at MERC (the Sir Peter Blake 'Marine Education Recreation Centre') in Long Bay.



Just before starting my Diploma, I travelled through SE Asia where I saw children – some, really young – prostituting themselves. It wasn't until three years later when I was working in Europe that I realized the full extent of human trafficking. There are 21 million people (men, women and children) in slavery around the world – yes, even New Zealand. Last year I decided to do something to help and I'm currently walking the length of NZ to raise funds for Nvader, an organisation dedicated to stopping human trafficking, headed by an ex- under-cover NZ Policeman. So far I've walked the whole of the North Island, some along the awesome Te Araroa Trail, from Cape Rienga to Wellington. I've had torn ligaments in my knees, rats in my food, a man with a rifle outside my tent at 2am, heavy rain, freezing cold nights with snow in my tent, and I've seen wind so strong it blew a waterfall upwards. But I've also seen some amazing parts of the country and met some awesome people who have helped me along the way. For now, I'm back at work earning enough money to start walking the South Island, hopefully departing in September, and at the end I hope to have raised \$50,000. If you would like to read more about what I've done then please see my Facebook page "Walking NZ to end Human slavery" or my Give A Little page 'Walking New Zealand'.

There are so many paths to follow when we leave school and it can be hard to know what to do – university or other tertiary courses, travel, or going straight into the workforce. I'm so pleased that I followed my passion for the outdoors. The places it's taken me, the things I've seen and the people I've met along the way have all contributed to a wonderful 'life after Wentworth'.

