

# WENTWORTH COLLEGE

# BULLETIN

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## Principal's Comments

A regular concern raised by our Cambridge examination candidates is whether their examination scripts are being fairly and accurately marked.

The Cambridge learning community consists of more than 9,000 schools from over 160 countries. Wentworth has selected this examination system as we believe it offers high quality curricula and assessment, with reliable standards which are maintained from year to year. We also believe the Cambridge system works exceptionally well to prepare those students who wish to further their study at a University in New Zealand or overseas. The Cambridge University International Examinations Board has an extensive research programme to make sure that standards of validity, reliability and fairness underpin all of their work.

In a recent communication document, Cambridge University outlined their marking procedure to reinforce the rigorous system that has been implemented to ensure fairness and accuracy. In the November/December examination series sat by Wentworth students, Cambridge assessment staff spent over 2,000 hours in meetings with examiners before they started marking answer scripts, ensuring they had a shared understanding of the mark scheme and that they were well prepared to carry out the marking consistently. The team spent many more hours grading the examination scripts. Once exams had been marked, teams of Cambridge examiners carried out grade reviews. One of the main aspects of this

process involved remarking scripts where students were near the borderline of a grade to ensure their result was verified.

Schools expect high quality from Cambridge, and we appreciate their commitment to delivering a world-class, international qualification.

**Bruce Tong**

## ASSESSMENT FOR LEARNING

"Grasp the principles of Assessment For Learning and the examination results will follow." *Professor John MacBeath, Chair of Educational Leadership at the University of Cambridge.*

As teachers, we know that the best learning occurs when we provide challenging situations for our students and they have been well trained in the skills needed to respond to the material being assessed. Cambridge International Examinations are skills based courses and students have to work hard to master their course content. We are keen to use a range of teaching practices to ensure our students achieve their best possible results.

For this reason, Wentworth College has begun to use Assessment For Learning (AFL) across all subjects. This is a teaching system advocated by Cambridge University. With AFL, the process begins with seeking and interpreting evidence to decide where students are in their learning programme, where they need to be in order to achieve in their courses, and showing each student how best to reach the next level of attainment. Emphasis is placed on reminding the students of the marking schemes so that they realise what next to do in order to improve. Peer marking, marking rubrics and written comments rather than only grades on work are some of the most important approaches.

Assessment for Learning is becoming an integral part of the Wentworth teaching practice. For parents who are interested in knowing more about the AFL programme, a separate insert is included with this Term Bulletin. AFL is being used by teachers across all levels at Wentworth College and is becoming a normal part of lessons for our students.

**Philip Lee, Deputy Principal**



## School Leaders 2012

**Head Boy** Daniel Lindsay    **Head Girl** Madison Clarke

**Deputy Head Boy** Jake Guy    **Deputy Head Girl** Jaimee Morley

**Prefects:** Aidan Auld, Samantha Bishop, Vincent Criglington, Emmanuel Davies, Hannah Everitt, David Gillard-Allen, Matthew Hughes, Alexandra Murden and Georgia Nixon.

## Student House Leaders 2012

**Fleming House:** Keegan Panckhurst & Ida de Smet

**Findlay House:** Kelly Robinson & Georgia Clark

**McDonald House:** Rachel Rowley & Jurgens van Zyl

# PRIMARY SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

Students and teachers alike had a great day at Shakespear Park for our annual Years 1 – 8 beach picnic. As always it was fantastic to have such a wonderful parent turnout. The Science trip to KellyTarlton's was a great success with the octopus taking centre stage. This trip was a great way to reinforce our Science topic of Fish, Fins and Fun.

Our Year 5-6 Cricket team competed at the Interschool Cricket event and put on a fine display of behaviour and sportsmanship. It was also great to have such a large parent support. Jackson White was named Player of the Day and Eva Chemleva was awarded a cricket bat for her enthusiasm in both batting and fielding.

Our action-packed Amazing Race was a huge success raising a total of \$200.00 for our World Vision sponsored child.

Constable Bernie Watts came to Wentworth Primary during the term to run Road Safety classes. He spoke to each class individually, reinforcing the very important road safety messages.

Our pupils particularly enjoyed planting the school gardens with flowers and vegetables and were very appreciative of the help they were given. Primary students supported their Houses when the College pupils competed on Athletics Day. Primary students dressed, and in some cases, painted themselves in their House colours. They loudly cheered on their House peers which was most appreciated by the College staff and students.





## YEAR 7 CAMP 6TH - 9TH MARCH

Fifteen Year 7 students went to Ahuroa rearing to go. The super-long, super-high flying fox (helmet and harness needed) was a big hit with everyone. Abseiling in the pouring rain was another of the activities. "Only one go each today I think kids," said the instructor and all nodded vigorously in agreement. The students had great fun cooking big meals in the kitchen. Rock climbing and struggling up the Jacob's ladder on the high Rock Wall were also completed. The final night in the newly made fern bivvies was the highlight for most.

Ms Worthy



## Science Club

After the success of last year's Science Club, it has been really pleasing to continue with the same format of having our senior students running the club for students in Years 7 and 8. This year Olivia Kyle (our senior student) has brought her enthusiasm for Science to the club, putting together a number of entertaining Science "experiments" for our younger students, under the supervision of Chemistry teacher, Mr Hawkins.

Some of the experiments enjoyed by the Year 7 and 8 students so far include Floating Bubbles, Bouncy Custard Balls, Hand Warmers, Non-Newtonian Liquids and Flame Colours in Fireworks. Over the next two terms we look forward to more exciting experiments including Exploding Eggs, Elephant Toothpaste and Hydrogen Balloons.

Particular thanks to Olivia for all her hard work and dedication in making the Science Club such a success.

Mr Hawkins





## Soap Box Derby

Wentworth was again represented well in this year's Soap Box Derby. Thanks go to Mr Hansen for organising our students' participation in the event, to Mr Jon Hawkins for his help on the day, to Wentworth old-boy Hayden Purdy for his superb leadership and management of the student team, and to all the parents who helped out and gave support. Participation in the event would not have been possible without this. THANK YOU to our sponsors GJ Gardner Homes, Takapuna Panel Beaters, Xplode Signage, Hydrotech Drainage & Hansens@Harcourts.



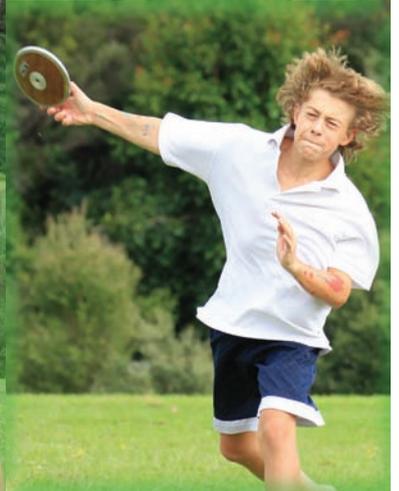
# SWIMMING



# ATHLETICS

Winner of Annual Athletics Day

**McDonald House**



## Art Gallery Field Trip

Year 13 Art students accompanied Mrs Elliott on a visit to the newly rebuilt Auckland Art Gallery to view the current Degas to Dali exhibition.



## Biology trip to Auckland University

Our senior Biology classes took a trip to Auckland University to witness first hand the power of an electron microscope at work. We found out that the electron microscope could magnify up to 1,000,000 times. Viewing actual images first hand was a lot more beneficial and fun for the students as opposed to looking at printed images on paper. The professor operating the electron microscope showed us that after being under the electron microscope for a few minutes the sample had been through the same battering that it would have had in a nuclear explosion. We also were shown how professional microscope slides were made using wax and a special slicing machine.



## Geography Field Trips

This term Year 11 Geography students visited Rangitoto Island to study landforms and volcanic processes. They also spent a day in the Waitakere Ranges undertaking fieldwork on stream cross-sections, measuring velocity and flow. Geography is a subject where students can really benefit from education outside the classroom.

Visiting Tawharanui and Omaha was a fantastic opportunity for Year 13 to apply the theory we had been learning in class to the real world. Mr Cowie kept us busy with 6 a.m. swims and lots of walking, exploring and learning.



## Silver Assessment trip to Hokianga 1st-4th March

The weather was looking a bit dubious so the trip start was approached with caution after much analysis of various weather maps. On the day, six students and two teachers started the long three-day march from the Hokianga river mouth to the Kai-iwi Lakes area. New skills, such as sieving drinking water to get rid of lumps of moss and sand and then purifying it, were practised along the way. The campsite for the first night was very snug and in the end the weather bomb did not eventuate. Everyone managed to get up and over the Maunganui Bluffs without too much moaning and groaning and thankfully there was a magnificent view at the top.



## Bronze Duke of Edinburgh

Students undertaking the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh programme took part in a practice tramp to the Pinnacles at Coromandel on 17th and 18th March, and 2 weeks later set off to Waitakere Ranges for their two-day assessment tramp. The first tramp involved several hours going straight up many, many steps to the magnificent Pinnacles lodge, where packs were dropped off as students undertook an exhilarating climb to the cloud-draped summit. The trip to the Waitakere's involved wiser students with lighter packs, perfect weather and a campsite that felt as if you were stepping back in time to Jurassic Park. As usual the swamp caused much puzzlement and hilarity and luckily was only waist deep.



## Music

The Music Department has had a very successful start to the year. Itinerant music lessons have been popular with continuing growth in the number of students learning an instrument. We currently have almost a third of Wentworth students learning either the piano, drums, guitar or one of the woodwind/brass instruments. The term concluded with a special 'music assembly' where the Orchestra, Choir, Rock Group and soloists gave demonstrations of their achievements thus far.



## Rowing

Wentworth senior rowers travelled to Lake Ruataniwha in the South Island to attend the New Zealand Secondary Schools Rowing Championships, more commonly called the 'Maadi Cup'. This is the largest rowing regatta in the southern hemisphere with over 1,900 athletes competing from 120 schools around the country. Students trained twice a day in preparation for this event. Wentworth crews performed above expectation making seven 'B' finals which were rowed over the two finals days. Congratulations to Hannah Everitt and Samantha Bishop for finishing third in their Under 18 premier pair event, placing eleventh in New Zealand. Thank you to the parents who assisted for the season and to all the rowers for their effort and commitment throughout. A special thank you to coaches Mr Rob Ansell and Mr Tong Senior for the many hours they put into coaching.



