

WENTWORTH COLLEGE BULLETIN

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From the Principal



Every three years the Education Review Office conducts full reviews of schools, examining all aspects of teaching, student learning and the effectiveness of the operation of a school; this also includes Ministry of Education compliance requirements. These reviews are comprehensive and clearly outline individual school strengths and weaknesses.

The New Zealand Qualification Authority also conducts a three yearly audit of school systems and policies for assessment and internal moderation procedures. This audit has far reaching consequences as a poor review can lead to a school losing its accreditation to provide NCEA qualifications. Wentworth experienced both these major audits in the same week during Term 3.

I am pleased to report that both reviews were very successful, with Wentworth receiving excellent reports from both organisations.

ERO reports are of particular interest to the Board, parents and teachers. Once the Board signs off the report it becomes a public document. We will send a copy to all Wentworth families as well as publishing it on our website.

The 2009 Review Officers complimented Wentworth on an excellent school, especially acknowledging the performance of the school operation, teachers and the students. The success of the review reflects on the diligent and conscientious work of the Board, teachers and students along-side the wonderful support from parents. Below is a selection of quotes from the ERO report that clearly indicate how impressed the ERO Officers were.

The Board is especially pleased with the continuity of ERO reporting; all three reviews, (2003, 2006 and 2009) clearly articulate the very high quality of teaching and learning operating at the school and that the philosophy and culture of the school is firmly established with strong leadership and governance.

2009 ERO Wentworth College Report

“Previous ERO reports in 2003 and 2006 acknowledged the high quality education that the school provides in a positive and caring environment. Students continue to thrive in this environment of mutual respect and support.”

“The investment in high quality buildings and equipment, generous staffing ratios, and ongoing professional development has been significant. The benefit is evident in the high level of student engagement in academic learning and in the extensive range of sporting, cultural and social activities.”

“The school culture of high professional standards and commitment to the wellbeing of the students and staff is a fine model for emergent leaders to emulate.”

“Small class sizes, and the respectful relationship evident between teachers and students, and among students, foster a climate of exploration and personal challenge.”

“The expectations of teaching and learning are based on principles of mutual respect, enjoyment of learning, and engagement. Teachers are skilled at questioning and exploring ideas with students in a climate in which students can take risks intellectually and be supported by teachers and students.”

2009 Wentworth College Managing National Assessment Report

“Wentworth College is commended for sound assessment procedures that are in place and for its commitment to delivering quality assessment against standards on the National Qualification Framework.”

Throughout Term 4 students are fully engaged in external examinations. Year 11 students commence sitting their Cambridge examinations on the 27th of October and Year 12 and 13 NCEA students’ external examinations begin on the 16th of November. A full preparation and study programme should be in place for all students leading into these exams. I have been most impressed with the number of Year 11 students who have attended subject tutorials that teachers ran throughout the September school holidays. I wish all students the very best for the exam season.

Bruce Tong



Around the Classrooms



Fashion Week Visit

A group of Year 10 Fabric Technology students visited the recent Fashion Week event with Mrs Cowie. The girls enjoyed watching the models displaying the creative fashion-wear and the front rows of the catwalk.



Revenge of the Amazons

Wentworth's second major production took place in the College Hall this term under the skilful direction of Ms Jillian Gamble. This challenging play was excellently performed by a skilful cast that competently and astutely managed the various difficult roles. The two performances were well received by enthusiastic audiences.



Music Extravaganza



A comprehensive number of individual student performances, along with the Junior Choir, College Band and Orchestra, displayed their abilities early in the term to a packed house in the College Hall. The impressive array of talent, strengthened by the strong music and itinerant programme operating under the directorship of Mrs Barbara Freeman, made for a wonderful night of music. The evening concluded with a sausage sizzle for the performers and wine and cheese for the appreciative audience.

North Island Secondary Schools Ski Championships



The Wentworth Ski Team competed at these championships which were held at Turoa Ski Field. Skiers competed in a slalom time course and a dual slalom competition. The team performed very well finishing 51st out of 104 teams. The highlight was Taylor King who won the overall Slope Style Competition which included tricks and jumps in the terrain park.



Fencing



Three Wentworth Fencers took part in the Auckland Junior Fencing Championships this term:

Gideon van Zyl won Gold in Men's Epee and Bronze in Men's Foil.

Jurgens van Zyl won Bronze in Men's Epee.
Jazmin Hopper won Bronze in Girls' Foil.



Netball Winners

Congratulations to the Wentworth 1 Netball Team 1 winners of Section 2 of the Netball North Harbour Competition.



Orienteering

The Auckland Orienteering Sprint Champs were held at the Massey University Campus in Albany. Lizzie Morse gained 4th place in the women's 16 grade. Victoria Bell and Jak Charles both gained 3rd place in the Women's and Men's 18 grades respectively. Harry Charles ended up winning his grade coming 1st in the Men's 16 grade.



Duke of Edinburgh trampers





Primary School News

History and geography took centre-stage in the Primary School this term. We have been finding out about key historical events and important people who have shaped our world over the last few years. We have also been extending our geographical knowledge and understanding of the world.

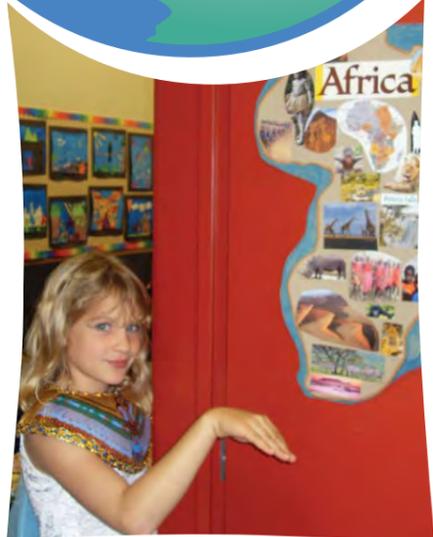
The Year 1 and 2 children have been learning about the history of toys as well as how toys work and how to make them. This unit involved a trip to MOTAT earlier in the term.

Our term culminated with International Day on the last day of term: We arrived at school and met in the Dance Room where we were asked to take a seat on International Air Flight 001. Each student was given a passport and we all watched a flight-safety demonstration and slideshows about the

continents we were about to visit. We then "took off" and visited each of the seven continents. The primary school building had been transformed overnight into a global community. At each destination the students passed through passport control and went on to learn about each continent, sampling the food, listening to the music, learning facts, hearing stories, experiencing extreme temperatures and viewing numerous displays. The day ended with a flag parade and the release of "global peace balloons".

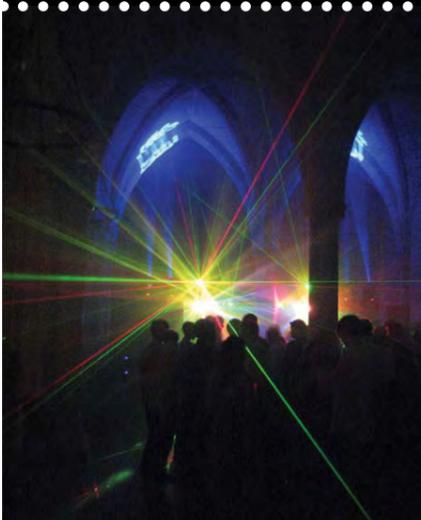
The sporting highlight of the term was the visit from the NZ Breakers basketball team.

Thanks to our many parents who have worked hard to help us enrich the learning and the school experiences of the Primary School students this term!



The College Ball 2009

This year's annual College Ball was held at St Matthew's in the City. The church was transformed into an amazing ball venue. Morgan Browne and Chris Watts, the head perfects, organised and co-ordinated this event with great skill and success. It was the social highlight of the school year and was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended



Geography Class Gold Coast Tour 2009



In the last week of Term 2 thirteen Year 13 geographers accompanied by Mr and Mrs Cowie ventured to the Gold Coast. The Gold Coast is the chosen overseas setting by Geographers for their external examinations. This was the ideal opportunity to experience the Gold Coast first hand.

We used public transport – to and from Brisbane. We visited retail malls – Pacific Fair and Oasis. We visited tourist attractions including Dreamworld. We had a guided tour of QI (the highest apartment building in the Southern Hemisphere) and Surfers' Paradise by night.

Meals were a communal affair, under the watchful gaze of Mrs Cowie.

The weather was amazing, 26 degrees with no clouds. The trip proved to be a huge success with all students gaining an in-depth knowledge of Tourism Development on the Gold Coast.



Wentworth Presents

On the last day of term the annual Wentworth Talent Show “Wentworth Presents” was held in the school hall during lunchtime and Period 5. This event was completely organised and run by the student leaders. A vast array of talent was on show. The event was won by Lauren Ward who sang a beautiful solo.



Key Examination Dates

October 23	Year 11 students break for examinations	November 17	Year 11 students return
October 27	Cambridge Examinations commence	December 4	Year 12/13 students return
November 11	Study leave commences for Years 12/13	December 7	Whole school photo
November 16	NCEA External Examinations commence	December 8	Prize-giving



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