

WENTWORTH COLLEGE BULLETIN

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From the Principal



Career pathways for our children are changing rapidly; educational institutions need to be cognisant of these changes in order to create the best possible environment in preparing students to make the most of future employment opportunities.

In a U Tube presentation, "Did you Know" V 3.0 and 4.0, a number of very interesting facts are presented by researchers Karl Fisch and Scott McLeod. Their commentary examines and challenges traditional educational thinking in regards to careers counselling and more importantly, how schools need to re-examine the technologies they use to deliver curricula and adapt to the changing employment landscape.

Below is just a sample of the points made in the clip:

- 2010 top 10 "in-demand" jobs did not exist in 2004.
- Today's learners will have up to 10 jobs before they are 38 years of age
- 1 in 4 workers has been with a current employer for less than one year.
- The amount of "technical information" is doubling every 2 years
- NTT Japan has successfully tested a fibre optic cable that pushes 14 trillion bits per second down a simple strand of fibre which equals 210 million phone calls every second. It is tripling every six months.
- We are living in exponential times, there are 31 billion searches on Google every month, and in 2006 this number was 2.7 billion!
- First text message was sent in 1992, now the number sent and received everyday exceeds the world's population.
- By 2013 a super computer will be built that exceeds the computational capabilities of the human brain....

I cannot vouch for the complete veracity of the above claims but it is very evident that change is increasingly more rapid and dramatic. I-pads, i-phones, Blackberrys, Facebook, Skype, video conferencing, podcasts, computer games etc. are facilities and technologies of today. They will soon no doubt be superceded by newer, faster

innovations and developments.

Schools need to be progressive in their thinking on how to best use these technologies. They are very important tools that teachers can use to create an environment where optimum teaching and learning can occur. School Governors should focus on creating an environment where internet speeds and easy access to data and information is a priority. At Wentworth we are fortunate to have fast, reliable internet service; our aim is to have the school fully wireless by 2011.

Schools that offer generic, basic computer courses are not providing for the needs of today's students as most pupils are way beyond this. The ability to accurately understand and use appropriate search engines to acquire information and data is a key competency required in today's classroom.

Students' understanding and use of technologies are often significantly beyond their parents' and teachers' knowledge base. Teachers are increasingly using technology tools to assist in curriculum delivery but the primary key to successful teaching and learning is not the students' computer ability but the learning relationship developed between the pupils and their teachers.

I recently took six Wentworth students to Mt Ruapehu to compete in the North Island Secondary Schools Ski Championships. As the weather was poor, a large percentage of the time was spent sitting in the Ski Lodge. Much to the delight of our students the lodge had wireless access to the internet. All students had lap-tops and all spent a considerable amount of time online, often on Facebook, checking and sending emails, but also studying. Some were writing assignments, searching information, downloading past Cambridge papers and marking schedules. A limited time was spent on games!

This evoked an interesting discussion with a number of club members at the start of the weekend as they bemoaned the "lost art of conversation" and the "self indulgent" world of today's youth, lost in computers!

I am very pleased to report that by the end of the weekend perceptions had changed and I received wonderful comments on how polite, confident and knowledgeable our students were and how well they had managed their time.

I believe one of our primary roles as

educators and parents is to assist our students to manage their time on computers, give guidance on the dangers of internet use, set expectations and identify best practice for computer utilization. It is natural for teenagers to push boundaries, often exploring sites and areas of computers and electronic devices that are not desirable or appropriate. All Wentworth students complete a computer agreement form agreeing to our regulations set out for safe and appropriate use of computers. Students are aware and often reminded in assemblies, that breaches of this code will have significant consequences.

The future of how we deliver education through these new technologies is rapidly changing. The true development and future career success of our children is not primarily based on their academic performance or technological competency but rather on the high level of inter-personal skills and the fostering of emotional intelligence that a Wentworth education offers.

Foot note:

Currently computer games are being used in rest homes and retirement villages to help stimulate cognitive functions for the elderly. Nintendo Wii is also proving popular for exercise! Perhaps those computer games are not as bad as we thought!

Bruce Tong

Examinations

Term Three has again been an exceptionally busy and exciting term. Each week the 'Congratulations' page of the e-newsletter celebrates the many successes of our students. Term Four is the 'Examination Term'. Our seniors have been preparing and practising for this challenging time. It was pleasing to see our pupils attending tutorials and examination preparation classes during the holidays. I wish our students all the best for the upcoming examinations.



Primary School

Two successful days were held at the Primary School during the term. Grandparents' Day was an enjoyable experience for both the students and their grandparents.

Loud Shirt Day proved to be both a great fund-raiser and a fun time.



Chemistry, Biology and Physics Practical Examinations

This year our senior science students will be sitting practical examinations along with their written papers for Cambridge AS levels. The school mock exams were a great opportunity to practise the necessary skills.



Debating

Wentworth has always enjoyed particular success with debating and this year has seen the best results ever. Debating competitions these days are very challenging and entertaining. Our senior debaters this year were Kyla Peters, Cullen Wooller, Carl Leducq and Nicola Hutchinson. The following report from Kyla on the first day of the recent senior debating competition conveys the energy, ability and effort required to debate at this level.

Report from Kyla Peters (Year 12)...

Round 1: We lost the coin toss and chose the moot "This house supports a quota for female MP's in parliament." We were affirmative and won against St Peters College. I was the only girl in the room...

Round 2: We lost the coin toss and chose the moot "This house would allow the government to censor the internet." We were affirmative, again, and we won against Kings College.

Round 3: We won the coin toss and were negating the moot "This house would give all prisoners in New Zealand the right to vote." We won against Westlake Boys High School.

Round 4: We lost the coin toss yet again and we chose the moot "This house believes that there should be a lower minimum wage for disabled people." We won extremely narrowly against Auckland Grammar School (won by 0.5). They were the best team I have ever debated against and we saw them again in the finals. The adjudicator said that it was one of, if not **the** best, impromptu debate he had seen in the competition in the 4 years he had been adjudicating it.

Round 5: We lost the coin toss ... and so we chose the moot "This house would ban schools from teaching religious education." We were against Mt Albert Grammar School for this debate, and we lost to them again (we lost to them in the semis of the advanced open).

At the end of the first day, our team was placed first, with AGS, MAGS and AIC behind us in that order.

Adventure Club



The Year 9 Adventure Club spent a wet day and night at the Auckland Zoo sleeping over in the old elephant house. Ms Worthy organised this event which took place on the same night as the senior ball.

The visit involved a night trip around the zoo which was very exciting in the dark.



Road Safety

A team of our senior students consisting of Kristie Rosewarne, Jak Charles, Katie Hay and Morgan Clark formed the SADD (Students Against Drunk Driving) council for 2010. During Term 3 they organised a number of events focussing on road safety and safe driving. These events included a visit from the Brain Injury Trust, a presentation from the Rodney District Road Safety Team and a no-nonsense presentation from the Police.



Music Festival

The 'Music Festival' which was held on August 27th was a huge success! The Orchestra, Beginner Band, Junior and Senior Choir, small ensembles, rock groups and various soloists all performed. Highlights from the show included Jack Brewin's 'National Anthem' solo on trumpet, Lauren Ward's 'American Honey' vocal solo, Lauren Wright's 'Sonatina in C major' on the piano and the Senior Rock Group's performance of Dire Straits's 'Sultans of Swing.' It was a wonderful evening and a fantastic way to celebrate all of the music students' hard work and achievements. At the end of the show the music students enjoyed a sausage sizzle while the parents and guests enjoyed some wine and cheese.



The Ball



This year the Ball was held at the Auckland War Memorial Museum. The venue was fantastic with 360 degree views of the city and plenty of space to dine and dance. Everyone had a wonderful time. Special thanks to the ball committee under Victoria Bell and Ethan Baber for organising such a brilliant night.



First Duke of Edinburgh Gold Awards



The first ever Duke of Edinburgh Gold Awards were presented last term to Jak Charles and Gideon van Zyl, the first students at Wentworth to receive this coveted award. What makes it even more unique is the way in which they did their Gold Expedition. The two of them put forward a very challenging expedition for approval. Gideon and Jak decided to do four different activities over the four days. They started off with a 20km tramp in Woodhill Forest followed by a 45km mountain bike ride the next day. Day 3 saw them sea kayaking along the Whangaparaoa shore. They then moved back to Woodhill Forest for a 60km horse trek on Day 4. Dean Hopper kindly helped with the horse riding by making a horse available for Jak.



The DoE programme is very popular at Wentworth College. We have a very high percentage of students taking part in the programme compared to other NZ schools. This internationally recognised award is an exciting self-development programme available to all young people worldwide, equipping them with the life skills to make a difference to themselves, their communities and the world. Students can join from the age of 14 and can register any time during the year. Anyone interested in the programme can talk to the DoE co-ordinator, Mrs Linda van Zyl.

Students working towards their Bronze and Silver awards also took part in tramps with Ms Worthy. Those tramping from Hokiangi down the coast were treated to wonderful weather and great views.



South Island PE Trip

Once again this year senior PE students had the wonderful opportunity of doing part of their studies and sports testing in the beautiful surroundings of Queenstown and Wanaka.

Winter Sports

Netball

Wentworth 1 had an incredible season with a very prestigious finish, winning the North Harbour College Open A grade. The team steadily gained strength each week, even managing an incredible victory against Whangaparaoa 1 the morning after the school ball, with most players averaging just 2 hours sleep. With total determination, discipline and working as a tight unit they managed to win every game in this round, proudly showing that Wentworth netballers have the skills to match any of the North Shore's top teams. Well done to Jenny Harris (Captain), Victoria Bell, Michelle Neave, Julia Tillett, Morgan Clark, Kristie Rosewarne, Stephanie Wyllie, Danielle Shrubsall, Jazmin Hopper and Katie Hay. Thanks also to Leslie Harris as Team Manager. Wentworth 2, consisting of Hannah Everitt, Georgia Clark (Captain), Stephanie Watts, Madeline Woodd, Catherine Bell, Toni Burke, Cassidy Morris, Lizzie Morse and Madison Clarke had their first season together down at Harbour with brilliant results. They managed to win the Grade 6 runner up 'Glasgow Trophy', missing out on 1st placing by only 1 goal. The girls went from strength to strength all season.



Soccer

The senior girls' soccer team had a brilliant season winning the competition in a final game against Pinehurst. The boys soccer team for 2010 comprised boys from Year 9 right through to Year 13. The team played over the season through all weathers and the first few games were real nail biters which were lost narrowly by only one or two points. Mr Muller, the coach, emphasised the importance and value of fitness combined with skill development, which saw all the team dramatically improve with rigorous practice. These practice sessions bore fruit as we progressed to the last stage of the season. Wentworth came through as winners with a score line of 7 to 5.



Ballroom Success

The New Zealand Amateur, Senior and Professional Dancesport Championships were held in Christchurch last term. Congratulations to Ashlin Hannon and his partner Nicole who won the NZ Amateur Level 1 Ballroom Title, dancing the Quickstep. The event started out with 45 couples making their win a huge achievement. They also received a 4th in the NZ Amateur Level 1 Latin, dancing the Samba, the event starting out with 29 couples and 7th in the NZ Amateur Level 2 Ballroom, dancing the Waltz and Tango. This event started out with 74 couples.



End of Term Talent Quest

The last period of the last day of term was enjoyed by all students and staff. A large number of students displayed their talents in a fabulous show of singing, dancing and skits. First place was a tie between Lauren Ward (singing) and duo Harry Charles and Carl Leducq (humorous rap).



Lucca Leadership



Rebecca Carr and Dion Morley reported back to the college with a slide show and talk on their experiences on the leadership course in Lucca Italy. They highlighted the value of the course, the beauty of the villa in Tuscany and the number of friends they had made. They both stated that they will be travelling again in the not too distant future to meet up with many of their friends.



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