



# Whanganui High School

## NEWSLETTER FOR MAY 2016 FROM THE PRINCIPAL



*Dear Parents, Caregivers and Friends of the School,*

The spelling of our School's name has now been officially recognised by the Ministry of Education and the process started by our Board in 2014 is now completed. Board of Trustee elections will be held on the 8th of June. The Board forms a crucial part of every school's functioning and provides for governance by members of our School community. I encourage all parents and caregivers to participate in this process.

The Education Review Office recently published their report on our School and pointed out the exceptional opportunities for students and the great success in our NCEA results. They also recommended some improvements in our operation which have already been actioned by our Board, senior leaders and other staff.

On Thursday 16 June we hold our annual Open Day which is an ideal opportunity for prospective students to explore the rich curriculum and co-curricular activities provided at Whanganui High School. Our teachers look forward to meeting you at this event and showing you a wide array of activities that contribute to the success of our students.

As we approach the middle of Term Two we find ourselves fully committed to the winter sports' programme that involves great numbers of students across a wide range of codes such as netball, basketball, football, rugby and hockey.

Our students are also heavily involved in preparations for three major performing arts events. These are the Rock Quest, Performing Arts Concert and the Stage Challenge. In essence, Term Two is a phenomenally busy term because, besides the co-curricular activities absorbing so much time and effort by our students, they are all still primarily focused on their studies with numerous internal assessments, longer term assignments and regular tests being undertaken throughout the term. All of these demands on their time and their desire to do their best and "unleash the champion within them" so that each one of them can achieve personal excellence, can lead to stress and this creates an unhealthy environment that requires parents to provide guidance so that our students don't burn themselves out or peak before the crucial assessments are undertaken.

As has become the tradition for WHS, our students have once again dominated in a number of sporting and co-curricular activities. Nathan Luff and Matthew Wright were awarded Gold Medals at Maadi Cup for Boys U18 Lightweight Double Sculls. Nathan also gained a Bronze Medal in the Boys U18 Single Sculls. These are exceptional performances and we are very proud of all our Rowers who also gained several top placings in four other final events. Kasey Watson has been selected in the NZ U17 Wrestling Team to compete in Australia while Wiremu Hiri has been selected for the NZ Development Men's Softball Team to compete in the USA and Canada. In the regional Model United Nations competition our students acquitted themselves particularly well with top awards going to James Rowe, Sam Conley, Brenna Hadley and Gabrielle Penn. Jackie Hazelhurst won the regional United Nations Speech Competition and she will be competing in the nationals later this month. Our recent Junior Production, A Midsummer Night's Dream, was a great success.

Amaan Merchant, our Dux for 2015, received his "Premier Scholar" award at a formal award ceremony from the Minister of Education and Prime Minister in Parliament three weeks ago. Amaan was placed 4th top student in the whole of NZ. His achievement builds on that of Matthew Standley who in 2014 was our first student to gain this prestigious award. We have every reason to be extremely proud of this achievement.

Overall the success of our students and our School is due to the incredible efforts of our students, their teachers, their parents/caregivers, their families, whānau and the support of a large number of members of our wider School community. Without this support we would not be in this strong position. Thank you all for your efforts and assistance in facilitating our students' attainment of personal excellence.

Best wishes,

Garry Olver  
Principal

### Important Dates

Friday 3 June Teacher Only Day  
Monday 20 June Junior Reports Issued - If you do not receive a report please phone the Student Centre

## OPEN DAY

Thursday 16 June

Two Sessions:

4pm - 6pm

7pm - 9pm

Our Open Day provides the opportunity for parents/caregivers and prospective students to visit Whanganui High School.

- \* Tour the school's facilities and meet staff and students.
- \* Explore the exciting learning opportunities the school has to offer.
- \* Make a confident choice for secondary education.



## 2017 ENROLMENTS

Our 2017 Enrolment Application Forms will be available at Open Day for those parents who have not received one via the contributing school.

Enrolment Application Forms and supporting documentation for 2017 enrolments must be received at the school no later than

**3.30pm on  
Friday 8<sup>th</sup> July, 2016**

## International Cultural Festival

Saturday  
18th June

6pm

International Cuisine

7pm

Stage Performances

WHS School Hall

Whanganui High School has students from many cultures. As well as New Zealand students, we have Pacific, Japanese, German, Thai, Vietnamese, Chinese, and Brazilian students.

There will be performances and food from each country available to sample (first sample is free).

Members of the community are invited to come and support the students.

**FREE** tickets are available from the Whanganui High School Student Centre and International Office from Friday 10th June.



## WHS Cross Country Results

U15 Girls Rebecca Baker 1<sup>st</sup>, Amber Andrews 2<sup>nd</sup>, Sara Stuart 3<sup>rd</sup>  
 U15 Boys Travis Bayler 1<sup>st</sup>, Sam Luff 2<sup>nd</sup>, Connor Munro 3<sup>rd</sup>  
 U16 Girls Kayla-Lee Wainwright 1<sup>st</sup>, Monique Cleeve 2<sup>nd</sup>,  
 Rebekah Chamberlain-Butters 3<sup>rd</sup>  
 U16 Boys Loris Knigge 1<sup>st</sup>, Logan Hughes 2<sup>nd</sup>, Jonty Thomson 3<sup>rd</sup>  
 U19 Girls Emma Rainey 1<sup>st</sup>, Kate Malcolm 2<sup>nd</sup>, Hollie Brasting 3<sup>rd</sup>  
 U19 Boys Louis Hogan 1<sup>st</sup>, Flynn Hogan 2<sup>nd</sup>, Jack Pilet 3<sup>rd</sup>

