



Whanganui High School

NEWSLETTER FOR AUGUST 2016 FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Dear Parents, Caregivers and Friends of the School,

Term Three is now well underway and the focus this term is very much on teaching and learning, with the senior students completing internal assessments and preparing for our School examinations which take place from Wednesday 7th September to Friday 16th September (inclusive). These examinations prepare students for their external NCEA examinations in Term 4. We are encouraging students to strive to achieve Merit or Excellence endorsements, and not settle for just achieving. The NCEA report has been posted home to parents - two weeks ago now - and I would encourage parents to have robust discussions with your son or daughter about their academic progress, and challenges ahead.

On Saturday 30 July, the Heads of Social, Rylee Dudley and Isiah Hamlin and their team, ran a very successful formal function - Putting on the Ritz. We had a very enjoyable evening, and felt extremely proud of all who attended. These occasions take a tremendous amount of planning and are really a credit to the students involved.

Over the past few weeks we have had a number of groups visiting from overseas. The International Department has renewed our sister school relationship with Toyooka from Japan, and we hosted a number of their students. Our sister school, Xu Zhou Number 13 Junior High School and Xu Zhou Primary School, have also been visiting and the students have been provided with a busy programme of lessons in English, coupled with attending some of our regular classes. They have also done lots of sightseeing. We have also welcomed new International students from a variety of countries - China, Germany, Italy, America, France, Spain, Chile and Brazil. A very warm welcome is extended to these students, and we embrace the multi-cultural values they bring to our school environment.

Winter sport is drawing to a close and we have had some excellent seasons across a number of sporting codes. The senior A1 netball final against Kaierau was exciting, with our girls leading for much of the game and then being beaten in extra, extra time by just two goals. The 1st XV final over in Palmerston North against Massey White, was equally exciting, with the outcome being a loss, 19 to 17. The members of these teams have been fine ambassadors for the school. Our 1st XI Boys and Girls hockey teams have both qualified for the finals of their respective competitions and these games are due to be played on Thursday 25 August in Palmerston North. Tournament week begins on Monday 29 August, and we have about 173 students travelling to a variety of venues to compete. We wish them the very best for these competitions.

Last week we were very pleased to welcome Ross Brown who is going to be our interim Principal, until a permanent appointment is made. Mr Brown and his wife both have strong ties to Whanganui so they are no strangers to the city. He retired at the end of last year after a lengthy tenure at Napier Boys' High School and set up his home in Taupo. We are very fortunate to be able to draw on his expertise.

Elizabeth Spooner
ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL

Important Dates Term 3

- 29 Aug Tournament Week
- 6 Sep Students released at 1.50pm
- 7 Sep Senior Exams Begin
- 16 Sep Senior Exams Conclude
- 23 Sep Term 3 Ends

Putting on the Ritz



On Saturday the 30th of July 2016, Whanganui High School Year 13 students and their dates were invited to attend this year's senior formal function "Putting on the Ritz". Our formal function committee which was made up of our Social Prefect team, put in long hours to produce this year's senior formal function. Their dedication and commitment paid off on the night and we cannot thank them enough for the work and effort they put in. Our guests arrived on the night looking ever so gorgeous and handsome and were welcomed into the Racecourse's Eulogy Lounge. After an intense 15 and a half hours set up, the Eulogy lounge had been transformed and on the night, our guests were taken back in time to the 1920s. Everything from ceiling drape to martini glasses set the scene for the evening. The night was filled with fun from dances to limbo contests.



The band 'The Noodles' travelled from Wellington to play for us on the night and to top the night off, we had our very own Te Paerata Tichbon sing us a song. We were lucky enough to work with Sindy Hooper from LSTJ Photography & Design (see facebook page for more photos) who captured the night's antics alongside one of Whanganui High School's student, Bernie Be. The night concluded with the awards ceremony where various awards and prizes were given to guests. Our first award of the evening was given for the 'Best Dressed' which was awarded to Joseph Perez and Jessica Watkin;



'The Cutest Couple' award was given to Jorja Hackett and Jake Hooper. Our 'Life of the Party' award was awarded to those who set the scene of the night to which Hollie Brasting and Jonathan van den Brink were deservedly awarded. This year, we chose to include the 'Student Choice Award' yet again; being taken out by our Deputy Head Girl, Poipoia Poa and our Head of Social, Isiah Hamlin. The Prince and Princess of the Ball was awarded to the overall Year 12 students of the night. Our 'Prince of the Ball' was awarded to Nusr Ghamri and our 'Princess of the Ball' was awarded to Charlotte Taylor. To finish the award ceremony, our King and Queen of the Ball were crowned. Our 'King of the Ball' was taken out by our limbo King, Sam Taylor and our 'Queen of the Ball' was crowned to Social Prefect, Bailee Baxter. Congratulations to all our award winners from the evening.



Along with the Social Prefects, we would like to thank everyone involved with producing the 2016 Whanganui High School Formal Function. The night was very successful and we have received a lot of positive feedback from many people.

Isiah Hamlin & Rylee Dudley
Head of Social Prefects

International Department News

It has been a busy few weeks and we have farewelled our visitors to Whanganui from our sister schools in XuZhou, China and Toyooka, Japan. It has been great to host our friends from our global family. For the first time we have also had primary students from XuZhou visiting as well. They attended several different primary schools in the morning (Mosston School, St Mary's School, Westmere School, Whanganui Intermediate and Whanganui East School) and came to Whanganui High School in the afternoon for ESOL classes and after school activities - cookery, technology, Maori culture and art. We've all had a great time and lots of exciting activities. The Chinese students especially enjoy their beach trips as Xuzhou is 6 hours by train from the coast and many students have not yet seen the sea. The Japanese students stayed in homestays and there were many tears when they left. We look forward to seeing them all again next year.

If you are interested in becoming a homestay for an International Student, please contact Whanganui High School on 06 349 0178, during school hours and ask for the International Department.

