

WENTWORTH COLLEGE BULLETIN

ISSUE 14

April 2010

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From the Principal



Congratulations to our senior students on the superb pass rate and academic success achieved in the 2009 examinations. The NCEA pass rate for Year 12 was 90% and Year 13, 85%, both significantly above the national average. However, the real success came from our Year 11 students sitting the Cambridge Examination (IGCSE – International General Certificate of Secondary Education) with the students gaining a 98% pass rate.

There were 48 students in Year 11 with most sitting examinations in 7 subjects. Of the 304 papers sat by Wentworth students, 7% gained A+ (90 – 100%), 30% gained an A (80%-90%), 25% gained a B (70%-80%) and 23% gained a C (60%-70%). Wentworth was congratulated by the Association of Cambridge Schools for our outstanding first year results and was awarded a “Top Centre Award” and received a commemorative certificate.

I wish to publicly commend Wentworth College teachers for their outstanding effort in preparing our students for these examinations. This is the first school I have taught at where in the September holidays, senior class teachers were back in school most days, conducting tutorials with virtually all students enthusiastically attending these classes. The results are just reward for all the fine work.

2010 Year 12 students are now studying for the International AS (Advanced Subsidiary) Level qualification. This qualification contributes toward “points” that culminate in attaining entry into New Zealand Universities.

This level of study is considerably more advanced than Year 11; students are required to be disciplined with their study and to carefully manage their co-curricula activities to ensure they have an appropriate balance between the two.

Throughout Term One the competitive Wentworth spirit was at the forefront in our Inter-House competitions. The annual swimming and athletics days were hugely successful with excellent participation leading to some wonderfully close races. Congratulations to McDonald House for winning both the athletics and swimming sports with Findlay House the Orientation Cup winners.

2010 student leaders were appointed at the beginning of Term One; congratulations to Head Girl Victoria Bell and Head Boy Ethan Baber. They lead a very talented team of prefects, each with specific responsibilities. 2010 Prefects are: Jennifer Harris, Katie Hay, Dion Morley, Chris Pratt, Taylor Rhind, Kristie Rosewarne, Gideon van Zyl, Morgan Clark, Rebecca Carr, Samantha Andres, Jak Charles and Charlotte Milne. Their leadership portfolios include social and community services, academic, performing arts, sports, inter-house competitions, and publicity.

Student House Leaders were voted for and selected from the Year 12 student body. The successful Leaders are: Fleming House – Scott Williams, Annalise Coghlan; McDonald House – Rory Donovan, Stephanie Wyllie, and Findlay House – Jazmin Hopper and Arron Hutchison. They are fine leaders who are already making an excellent contribution to House organisation and spirit.

Education in the outdoors is fundamental to the ethos of Wentworth. Throughout Term One there have been numerous field trips and educational excursions: Biology, Geography, Drama, Year 7 and 8 visits to Auckland

Museum, Tiri Tiri Matangi, a ferry trip around the Ports of Auckland, Shakespear Park Picnic and Year 9 camp under canvas at Tawharanui Regional Park. At the senior year levels it is challenging to accommodate field trips as they can erode into the teaching time of other curriculum areas. It takes careful management, cooperation and understanding by students and teachers to ensure minimal disruption to overall learning. The value of these trips cannot be underestimated; careful consideration is required to ensure the school is catering to all students’ educational needs.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme has developed into a very high profile programme at Wentworth. Through the excellent work from Ms van Zyl and Ms Worthy, a large number of students have undertaken the Bronze and Silver courses and we have a group working towards the coveted Gold award. Wentworth is very fortunate to have the services of Ms Worthy, who is highly experienced with taking students into the out-doors. The many hours of weekend time Ms Worthy gives leading these trips is greatly appreciated by students, parents and the school. Under Ms Worthy’s guidance, Wentworth has just completed a full review and rewrite of our Outdoor Education processes and policy documentation. The rationale of this documentation is to provide challenging outdoor adventures to Wentworth students within the safest possible guidelines.

Term 2 is the beginning of the winter sporting codes. Many students have signed up for teams and we look forward to a very busy, competitive and successful season of sport. Another feature to look forward to this term is the school’s annual drama production with performances scheduled from the 19th through to the 21st of May.

Bruce Tong



Debating

The Senior Debating Team has enjoyed success in the Auckland Schools Debating Competition so far this year.

The team, comprised of Kyla Peters, Nicola Hutchinson, Carl LeDucq and Cullen Wooller are competing in the Advanced Open section of the competition, which means they have 'limited preparation' time for the debate, being advised of the moot only one hour before the debate begins. Each speaker must speak for 8 minutes and the leader's reply is 4 minutes.

The Wentworth team won the first debate against Kings College 1. The moot was "This House would raise GST". Wentworth argued the Negative case and Nicola Hutchinson was best speaker of the debate.

The Wentworth team also won their second debate, this time against Mt Roskill Grammar 1. The moot was "This House would mine New Zealand's National Parks". Wentworth argued the Affirmative case and Cullen Wooller was best speaker of the debate.



Primary News

We welcomed several new students and two new staff members to Wentworth Primary this term. Mr Chris Donovan is our new Year 3 – 4 teacher and Mrs Sylvie Borrett our new Office Manager. It has been a great term full of beach trips, sports, arts and of course lots of classroom learning.

We attended the interschool swimming and cricket competitions; congratulations to all our competitors and especially to Kieran Pangalila, who did very well at the swimming and received a third place certificate. Our main science focus for the term was Light and we constructed a sun dial for our garden. We had a visit from Harold the giraffe in the Life Education caravan when we were learning about healthy lifestyles and we finished the term with an exciting technology challenge: a competition to see who could construct the most effective marble run out of cardboard boxes.



2010 WENTWORTH COLLEGE PRODUCTION

The Love for Three Oranges has its origins in the 1760s but look it up on Google and you'll find over 14 million entries about the story in all its various forms. So why is such a famous piece not more familiar to New Zealand audiences?

Answer: it was written in Italian and has its links with the ancient Italian tradition of Commedia del'Arte.

When we had to choose a play for our big 2010 production, Ms Gamble wanted to develop the outstanding comic skills the cast of A Midsummer Night's Dream and Revenge of the Amazons had displayed to such a high standard. So what better than a play with links to Commedia, clowning, fairy stories and nonsense stories of the Alice in Wonderland type.



The cast has put hundreds of hours into rehearsals, with direction shared between Ms Gamble, Danny Goodwin, Jak Charles and Jake Law. Jak has also designed the set.

If you like plays that make you laugh out loud and sometimes confuse you as well, this play is for you.

The season is May 19th, 20th, 21st at Centrestage Theatre in Orewa. Get a group of friends and come along for a fun night out. Tickets will go on sale in early May for \$15 for adults and \$10 for concession tickets, available from the college office.



Orienteering

During Term 1 the Auckland Secondary Schools Sprint series took place. This involved six orienteering races that were held on Wednesday nights at different high schools around the Auckland area. Wentworth had up to 16 people competing. Our new-comers to the sport this year did exceptionally well in very competitive grades. Scoring was based on the best times of four out of the six races. Some of the highlights from the series were Chelsea Pratt gaining 1st in the Intermediate Girls grade, Taylor Rhind coming 3rd in the Senior Boys grade and Harry Charles gaining 4th in the Intermediate Boys grade. An Auckland rep squad has been developed from achievements in this competition and gaining a place in this squad were Chelsea Pratt, Taylor Rhind, Harry Charles, Victoria Bell and Lizzie Morse. Orienteering in the next two terms will be moving to the forest, with more difficult terrain and navigation being added to the mix.



Science Club

New Science teacher and Chemistry specialist Mrs Rachel Gosden B.Sc., PGCE has this term run a Wentworth Science Club during lunchtimes. Enthusiastic Science students have had the opportunity to do all manner of exciting experiments. Mrs Gosden previously taught in England so is experienced in teaching Cambridge programmes.

Next term Mr Muller (Head of Science) is advertising a Rocket Club as part of the ongoing Science activities.



Greg Yelavich

During a recent assembly Greg Yelavich was presented with a Wentworth College track suit and cap in recognition of his selfless efforts in coaching the Wentworth College pistol shooting team as well as the Pentathlon team. The school is privileged to have a coach of his calibre on board.

Greg attended 5 Commonwealth Games (more than any other NZ athlete) and won 11 medals (more than any other NZ athlete). He also represented New Zealand in two Olympic Games and qualified this year to represent New Zealand again in the 2012 London Olympic Games.

He was the official coach for the New Zealand pistol shooting athlete at the Beijing Olympic Games last year and also coaches various National Pistol Shooting teams, both senior and junior.

Under Greg's guidance, the Wentworth College students achieved some very impressive results in pistol shooting, winning the McMillan Cup for Secondary schools as well as two individual silver medals in the 2010 National Junior Pistol Shooting Championships.

Greg was instrumental in starting the sport at Wentworth College as well as in developing our state of the art shooting range in the Wentworth gymnasium.

Athletic Sports



Swimming Sports





Tongariro Crossing - Year 12 Geography



Duke of Edinburgh Awards



Wentworth College has some pretty special kids within its walls. They spend a large amount of time helping others, they are actively looking for adventure and discovery, and they are continuing to develop their personal interests and physical performances. We are not talking ordinary day-to-day learning and the odd after-school activity here. These kids are all heavily involved in the Duke of Edinburgh Hillary Award.

Many students who start the Duke of Edinburgh Award gain the Bronze level and then decide not to continue. The level of commitment required is too high, particularly in today's busy lives. Or it gets too tough. Wentworth has 13 students working towards it this year. Students who make it through the initial Bronze level and progress onto the Silver Level are starting to make some significant inputs into getting the award. The areas they are focusing on are Community Service, an Expedition, Skills, and Physical Recreation.

At the Silver level participants are required to complete at least 6 months of service to the community. They have to show commitment,



responsibility and effort every week in their chosen service. For the expedition section of the award, students have to attend several training sessions, a number of planning sessions, practise trips and finally an assessment trip. Organising, planning, training and completing a qualifying venture in an unfamiliar environment, on foot, over 50 kilometres is the ultimate goal for most.

And there is more. Students also have to commit 6 months towards developing their chosen skill. They have to show "stickability", perseverance, and improving competence every week. The physical recreation section requires a minimum of 4 months regular commitment towards an activity of their choice. Again, an improvement in overall performance is essential. This year Wentworth College has eight students aiming for Silver.

At Wentworth, it seems that those who make it through Silver will generally continue on and go for Gold. The time commitment becomes substantial. And they have to keep up with school work and exams as well. The amount of time doing Service is now at least 12 months. Every week. The assessment Expedition is over 60 unfamiliar kilometres long with even more training (theoretical and practical), and



practises. Trips become so long that at least one practise has been run in the school holidays. They also need to be learning a new skill for at least 12 months and undertaking physical recreation regularly over 5 months. This year Wentworth has nine students aiming for Gold.

The students in Silver, and even more so in Gold, stand out from the crowd. They are happy, confident, motivated and organised. They are a real credit to themselves and the school. In recognition of the enormous commitment put in, the Gold award is presented to them by the Governor General of NZ, in Wellington.

(If you want to have a go it is essential that you enrol at the very beginning of the year – experience has shown us that you just can't manage it otherwise.)

DUKE OF EDINBURGH GOLD EXPEDITION

Two year 13 students, Gideon van Zyl and Jak Charles completed a four day expedition over the summer holidays as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award requirements. They were accompanied for the first three days by Harry Charles (Silver), Jurgens van Zyl (Bronze) and Bevan Dobbs (Silver). The expedition took place in and around the Woodhill Forest and was a very unique challenge: 20km tramping on day one followed by a 50 km mountain bike ride on day two. The third day was spent on sea kayaks and they finished off with a 40km horse horse ride on day four.



Twenty very keen rowers were members of the 2010 Wentworth rowing squad. Training occurred on the Weti River 3-4 times a week; this was then complemented in the gym with work on the rowing machines. A comprehensive programme conditioned the rowers to be at their peak performance for the North Island Secondary School Championship held at Lake Karapiro in early March. All crews performed exceptionally well with the highlights being Josh Everitt and Brad Stein (novice rower) competing in the B final of the Premier division of the Under 18 pair oar race. The Girls Under 15, 4 of Toni Burke, Hannah Everitt, Catherine Bell, Danielle Shrubsall and Madison Clarke, coxswain, achieved an excellent result

winning the B final at these championships in very convincing fashion. Congratulations to all rowers for their dedication and progress throughout the season. Thank you to parents for their support and assistance in making this season so successful.



Visit of Ritsumeikan Moriyama Junior High School

In March Wentworth College hosted students from Ritsumeikan Moriyama Junior High School. The Japanese students were billeted with local families and spent their mornings learning English and exploring Auckland. One of their afternoons was allocated to sharing their culture with Wentworth students and our pupils enjoyed activities such as paper folding, string games, character painting and Japanese card competitions.



Fencing and Shooting Success

Gideon van Zyl and Jazmin Hopper from the Wentworth College Fencing Team were selected by the Oceania Fencing Confederation (OFC) to participate in the Oceanic Region Fencing Camp. The camp took place at the Australian High Performance Centre in Melbourne in March 2010 before the departure of the Australian Fencing Team to the Junior/Cadet World Championships. All expenses (including pocket money) were paid by the International Fencing Federation. OFC President, Helen Smith said in a press statement that "the camps targeted the best junior 'elite' fencers from each participating country".

Gideon and Jazmin were not only successful in Fencing but also received scholarship grants from Pistol NZ. Only six scholarships were awarded to juniors for Air Pistol Shooting. Gideon and Jazmin were also selected for the NZ Junior Shooting Squad and the scholarships will assist them to cover some of the training and competition expenses.

When awarding the scholarship grants, Phil Murphy (ISSF Section Director) commented about the commitment shown by the two juniors to the air pistol event in NZ:

"Gideon Van Zyl and Jazmin Hopper competed in the Youth Olympic qualifiers at the Oceania Games for selection. Jazmin won a medal at the event and both of them won medals at our 2010 ISSF National Championships recently."

Biology

Beach Field Trip

We are so lucky; the biggest ecology classroom is right here on our doorstep. Ecology means "study of the relationship between organisms and their environment". So we went to find some organisms and gaze at their environment, starting with trees and ferns on the Shakespeare park waterfall track. Not much on the waterfall more of a dribble-fall, all the splendid weather has created many stressed plants, a lack of water is evident everywhere. Tui, Fantail and Kereru flitted about in the Puriri trees above us feeding on berries. We continued onto Army bay and out along the sand to the rocks. This time we were looking out for three different types of seaweed. Seaweed and algae we don't even notice on rock surfaces are the basis of life in the ocean. The small snail herbivores graze on rocks covered in microscopic algae which in turn are eaten by the predators. Sounds more like the African jungle! Just the rocks at Army bay.



Auckland University Imaging Department

An old electron microscope would be worth a million dollars and Harry Charles sat down in the chair to operate this machine, Dr Adrian Turner then informed Harry that the camera under the table by his knee was worth hundreds of thousands. Dr Turner gave us all a view of a bacteriophage on the electron microscope which is a virus that infects bacteria. Dr Iain MacDonald gave the students a guided tour and hands on view of the imaging departments, imagery from buildings down to a microscopic level are processed by Iain. We were all treated to a ground breaking view of an animation of a bacteriophage assembly.



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