

# WENTWORTH COLLEGE BULLETIN

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## From the Principal



The governance of Wentworth Schools by the Trust Board centres on Wentworth's "Founding Document" and associated Mission Statement. The Board, senior management and teachers continually reflect on these documents as we grow and develop the Wentworth culture. These documents are

the pillars of the school, ensuring the philosophy will endure as members of our school community and Board come and go over time. This structure gives prospective and current parents certainty of the ethos, culture and quality of education at Wentworth.

### Mission Statement

*"The mission of Wentworth College is to create an outstanding co-educational school where every student is educated to achieve their full potential as a whole person; to create opportunities, expand horizons, reward effort and encourage excellence in an efficient, disciplined, caring and supportive environment; to foster equity, respect, self worth, interpersonal skills and a worthwhile value system, so enabling each student to make a lifelong positive contribution to society."*

As I review the term's activities it is very pleasing to confirm and reinforce that this is indeed a living document; students are fully immersed in the co-curricular and academic facets of life at school.

Students give their very best when a strong teacher/pupil relationship develops; this is certainly a feature of our school. With students' growing self confidence, they actively engage in the many opportunities that exist at Wentworth. Numerous examples are supportive of this claim throughout Term Two. The drama productions of the Sheliah Winn Shakespeare competition and the school performance of "A Mid Summer Night's Dream", the continued increase in the number of students learning a musical instrument, and the new "band class" of Years 4, 5 and 6 in the Primary school.

With the College's role of 220 students, we out-perform most schools in sport when the ratio of teams and students is considered. The latest College count of sports teams includes: 3 soccer, 3 basketball, 6 netball and 3 hockey, all playing in either the Rodney or North Harbour competition. Badminton will also join this group next term. We have students involved in two combined schools' rugby teams, playing in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade and the North Harbour First 15 Grade. Wentworth students make up almost all of the

"forward pack" in this team that plays in First 15 competition. Other sporting activities this term where students have represented the school include orienteering, pentathlon and fencing.

Two very recent outstanding College sports results include Rawiri Geddes, a Year 12 student, who finished third in the New Zealand Trust Youth Sailing Regatta. Rawiri, sailing a Laser Radial finished behind the 2008 World Champion and the 2009 New Zealand Champion. This regatta is the final build up to the World Championships in Brazil. The second result saw a dynamic tussle by Wentworth's senior netball team playing in the final of the Rodney secondary schools championship. Playing against competition favourites, Otamatea High School, Wentworth played superbly but was finally beaten in the dying minutes of the game 37-35. These results demonstrate a wonderful effort by both Rawiri and senior netball team.

Overlaying this co-curricular involvement is the academic achievement and development of our students. High academic standards where students achieve to their best ability are of vital importance to our students, teachers, and the entire school community. The excellent NCEA results from last year are significantly ahead of the national average. Recent national figures giving the NCEA Level 3 pass rates for girls 63% and boys 43% is of concern, especially for boy's education. **Wentworth's pass rate** at NCEA in 2008 was Level 1 – 95 %, Level 2 – 97.6 % and Level 3 – 85 % indicating we cater exceptionally well for all students learning needs, providing an environment where both boys and girls can perform and achieve to their very best ability.

It is important for the Board, teachers, students and parents that we continue to market and grow our school roll. The support and feedback we receive is superb and I wish to express my appreciation of the commitment that our community gives to Wentworth. In a recent article in the Herald on Sunday, which discusses the advantages of private schooling for children, one parent asks "Can you put a price on your child's happiness and eagerness to learn?"

Throughout Term 3 the Board will be communicating with parents at specific evenings, seeking feedback on the development of our strategic vision for the next three years. The evenings will discuss financial planning, resourcing, branding, marketing and curriculum development of the school. The Board looks forward to sharing, discussing and receiving feedback from parents at these meetings.

I encourage parents and students to view our new website [www.wentworth.school.nz](http://www.wentworth.school.nz)

The new site gives us greater opportunities to

interact with our Wentworth community in an electronic sense. E-newsletters, news messages, Bulletins, term dates and the school calendar are just some of the functions we will be publishing on our web site. I believe we even have "twitter" capability!

We look forward to your feedback and suggestions over Term 3.

Term 3 requires students to reassess their academic year and make the necessary adjustments to ensure success at the end of the school year. Parent/teacher interviews will be held early in the term. I encourage parents and students to attend this important evening. All teachers are contactable by email and welcome your communications.

**Bruce Tong**  
Principal



# Rockquest Success

Levi Patel, Giana Patel and Chris Pratt have done exceptionally well in the Smokefree Rockquest Competition. Their acoustic band Last Valediction has now made it to the finals which is very exciting. The next stage in the competition that the band has just completed includes a 15 minute DVD featuring their original material. This is now being judged and if they are successful, they will participate in the Regional Finals held in September at the Power Station venue in Auckland.



# Scholarship Success

*Congratulations to the following two students who have received substantial university scholarships:*

Samuel Horner received a \$25,000.00 scholarship to Sydney University.

Hee Lim Park received a scholarship to Parsons University in USA of US\$18,000.00



# DanceSport

Every Monday the Year 7 and 8 students have lessons in ballroom dancing from one of Auckland's leading Ballroom dance teachers - Angela Gainsford from 'Gotta Dance' North Shore Dance Centre. This is in preparation for our participation in the North Shore Dancesport competition which is being held at the North Shore Events Centre in October.

So far they have worked on all four competition dances - foxtrot, jive, samba and cha cha. To say they have achieved mastery would be hyperbole, however progress is being made and there are some students who are showing real talent. Hopefully by the competition date our students will have the poise, grace and ability that will enable some of them to reach a high level.

Given the exposure dance has had in recent years through 'Dancing With the Stars', and the success that some of our most masculine sportsmen have achieved in that competition, dance is no longer viewed by most boys as something to be avoided and the vast majority approach it with élan.

We are hopeful that this year Wentworth dancers might again be in the awards ceremony.

*Bill Wallace*



## ***Drama - Growing An International Reputation***

Our senior students were praised for their creativity and maturity of ideas by the Associate Professor of Educational Drama at both Melbourne and Sydney Universities. Dr Peter O'Connor spent the day at the college on Wednesday, June 17th, working with groups of English and Drama students on some performance tasks linked to Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. He will use the work of the

students and photographs of them in his keynote speech about the use of Drama in schools to the National Conference for Teachers of English and Literacy in Hobart, Tasmania in July. This is no insignificant speech, either; it is the Garth Boomer Memorial Address.

This is a highly prestigious conference at which thousands of people will be shown photographs of the group work

our students were involved in. After the conference a book is published which will include Dr O'Connor's address and several of the hundred-plus photos that were taken on the day.

To quote from Dr O'Connor "it was a wonderful day. It was a delight to work with your students." Well done to all of them.

### ***A Midsummer Night's Dream***

The cast and crew of this year's major production can be truly proud of their wonderful effort. Everyone who saw our recent production of *A Mid-Summer Night's Dream* agreed that it was the funniest and most enjoyable play of the Bard's that they had seen. The students worked for hundreds of hours (literally) to master the language and the Elizabethan acting style that ensured we did not insult the great man by breaking the rules he established for good theatre. If you missed it, you missed a lot! Particular thanks go to Ms Gamble for her tireless effort in making this production happen.



### ***Sheilah Winn Shakespeare Competition:***

Congratulations to all the Drama students who participated in the Sheilah Winn Shakespeare competition held at Long Bay College. Our students all performed brilliantly with particular congratulations going to Brendan Ginnever who received an award for his student directed excerpt from "The Taming of The Shrew".



## Cross Country

The Annual Wentworth Cross Country was run at Shakespear Park and was blessed with a most glorious day's weather. Students enjoyed a run that encompassed a range of terrain including parkland, beach and farm. An amazingly steep hill a quarter of the way into the run taxed even the fittest students.

## Cross Country Results

<b>7 &amp; 8 Boys</b>			<b>TIME</b>	<b>7 &amp; 8 Girls</b>			<b>TIME</b>
1st	Cullen Rhind (Mac)		21.59	1st	Emma Butterfield (Fin)		26
2nd	Mitch Grant (Mac)		23.2	2nd	Mikayla Johnston (Mac)		29
3rd	Thomas Burton (Fin)		24.07		Sarah Haggerty (Fle)		29
<b>Junior Boys</b>			<b>TIME</b>	<b>Junior Girls</b>			<b>TIME</b>
1st	William Taylor (Fle)		21.55	1st	Lauren Daly (Mac)		25.41
2nd	Matthew Hughes (Fin)		23.01	2nd	Nicole Rosewarne (Mac)		26.3
3rd	Rene Geertshuis (Mac)		23.59	3rd	Danielle Shrubsall/Toni Burke		27.18
<b>Intermediate Boys</b>			<b>TIME</b>	<b>Intermediate Girls</b>			<b>TIME</b>
1st	Rory Donovan (Mac)		28.2	1st	Chelsea Pratt (Fin)		31.1
2nd	Scott Williams (Fle)		28.49	2nd	Jaimee Morley (Mac)		32.5
3rd	Matt Hurley (Fle)		29.33	3rd	Annalise Coghlan (Fle)		33.15
<b>Senior Boys</b>			<b>TIME</b>	<b>Senior Girls</b>			<b>TIME</b>
1st	Taylor Rhind (Mac)		26.5	1st	Louisa Mann (Fle)		30.30
2nd	Tim Hutchinson (Fin)		30.18	2nd	Kristie Rosewarne (Mac)		34.44
3rd	Mike Gush (Fle)		31.16	3rd	Charlotte Milne (Mac)		36.43
<b>Total Points</b>							
MacDonald	691	1st					
Fleming	432	2nd					
Finlay	396	3rd					

## Orienteering Successes

Lizzie Morse, Taylor Rhind, Victoria Bell and Chelsea Pratt competed as members of the Auckland Orienteering rep squad in the Waikato over Queen's Birthday weekend. This was against representative squads from Wellington and Hawkes Bay. Absolutely freezing conditions made Days 1 and 2 miserable. Standout performances came from Chelsea Pratt with two 2nd places and a 5th, and from Lizzie Morse who gained a 6th place. All competed extremely well against the best school orienteering students in the North Island, many of whom are representing NZ and have been competing for the last 8 - 10 years.

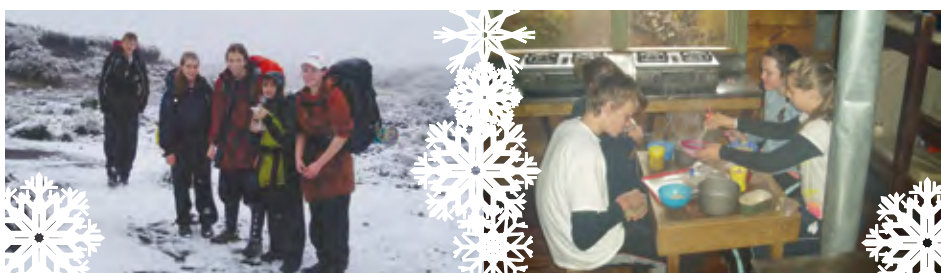




## *Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Trips to Shakespeare Park and the Pinnacles.*

After several hours of theory about how to go tramping, the new 'Bronze' participants were ready to start testing out a few ideas they had. Shakespeare Park was the venue of the first practice – a kilometre from school and really close to civilisation – just in case. The first day was spent reading the map and searching for clues and treasure. Time, teamwork and making decisions on what is important were factors that each team had to consider. A lot of learning about what contour lines really mean was happening too. Heavy packs lugged around all day soon gave people the idea that "less is best" when it comes to deciding which items to take.

Then it was time to start the evening meal. Hmmmm, cooking sausages is not as easy as it is at home. Might not take them next time! Perhaps we won't take litres of milk either... No, you can't have a pizza delivered! Lucky for this lot, the night was very mild and they



managed to get through their after-dinner "stripped-of-all-but-the-most-essential-equipment" survival exercise rather well. At 2 am everyone finally got into warm sleeping bags and went to sleep.

Two weeks later we were ready to put it all into practice out in the real bush. So, off to the Kaeraunga Valley in Thames. 56 others were booked into the lofty Pinnacles Hut with us so we knew we wouldn't be lonely. The first day was spent going up and up and even further up. Quote of the day: "Why did you give me a map? It's so depressing!" We did get to the hut eventually – a very nice lodge with a lovely hot kitchen. Packs were off quickly, bunks claimed and within five minutes of arriving we were moving up again – this time to the top of the Pinnacles themselves. Now it got steep. Really, really steep. Luckily DOC has put in some steel rung holds, steel ladders and a very nice, new benched track. It was actually ok and everybody got to the top. Fantastic views, sun setting, temperature dropping rapidly. Definitely time to go back down to the hut.

The next day the ice was everywhere. Right down to the bottom of the mountain. We had to be very careful. Emma spent a fair bit of the day trying

to lie down. Rebekah was nurse and kept patching her up though. Quote of day: "The best part of tramping is the rests!" What was everybody's sorest part after the trip? Answer: their stomach muscles – from laughing too much.





## *Candyland Junior Disco!*



The Year 7 to 9 social held last term was a great success. The students danced the night away amid flashing lights, bubbles and a wide variety of popular music provided by a professional DJ. Food and drink was in abundance and everyone had a wonderful time. Behaviour was exemplary and all participants enjoyed themselves. Thanks must go to the organising committee – Rosie Brewer, Martina Blackley, Maggie Bray, Emma Butterfield, Claudia Nixon, Natalie Dunn, Laura Banyard and Bree Wooller. A huge vote of thanks must also go to Glenda Wynyard for all the assistance she provided and to the senior students who came along and helped with supervision and cleaning.

## *Soccer - Dads v Lads*

Wentworth Parents proved it was experience over youth when they scored a victory in the annual Dads v Lads soccer match.

In a hard fought game, the Dads pipped the lads in the closing minute to notch up their latest win. The Dads v Lads match took a new turn this year with Suzanne Keesing playing for the 'Dads' and Becky Carr taking to the pitch for the 'Lads'.

A crowd of supporters turned out to cheer on the teams. There was no flagging at the end when the Dads scored in the closing minutes to win the game.





It has been another busy term in the Primary School with social as well as academic highlights; a term particularly rich with cultural experiences for the children. Our Social Studies context involved a trip to the Auckland Museum. We were particularly interested in the "Scars on the Heart" War section, the Maori Culture session and the Volcano house.

The following week as part of our focus on "Te Ao Maori" we enjoyed a hangi lunch provided by Michele and Paul Copestake.

We have been entertained and educated by local author and artist Stu Duval. Following the children's interest in Stu's work we purchased some of his books for both our library and the College library.

Sindy, our World Vision sponsored child from Honduras, is certainly responsible for some of our best social events and the Talent Show this term was a highlight for the children. After an Indian meal together families were entertained by a variety of performances from our talented students.



Book week was a great success at the end of term. We began with the "Jurassic" Book and Games fair. From this one event we received vouchers for library books and an IQ Ideas game. During the week senior students read to the juniors, students completed NZ Author studies, we had an entertaining visit from the Rodney librarian's travelling roadshow and a great Book Character parade on the Friday.

Science has been a focus again this term with our Cambridge curriculum contexts of Electricity and Food Chains. Even the youngest children have learned enjoyed learning about predators and prey, habitats, producers and consumers.



# Sporting Success

Congratulations to the following students for their success in the Auckland Swimming Relay Championships held at Henderson:

- Nicole Rosewarne was part of the Coast "A" 13 year old team which gained a GOLD in the 200 Medley relay final and a bronze in the 200 freestyle relay final.
- Rose Haydon was part of the Coast "B" 13 year old team which gained a 4th place in the 200 Medley relay final.
- Emma Butterfield was part of the Coast "A" 12 year old team which gained a bronze medal in the 200 Medley relay final.

Well done to Wentworth Netball Team 1 who have been ranked second in the Rodney Secondary Schools Competition.



## Sailing Regatta...

Rawiri Geddes was placed 3rd overall and 1st youth at the NZ Yachting Trust Youth Team regatta held at Murrays Bay. The Laser Radial Youth Class compete in a single-handed dinghy and the regatta is a build up for the World Laser Radial Youth Championships in Karatsu, Japan and Brazil later this year.



## From Korea to New Zealand



My family decided to send me to Wentworth College because my aunt's friend's daughter had been here before. I was excited but a bit worried and nervous. I had visited Christchurch for two months to get to know New Zealand, before deciding I wanted to study at Wentworth in Auckland.

I had to think about what I needed to bring over to NZ from Korea, because I would be staying for one whole year. One of the most important things I bought was a picture of my family. Because I am staying for a long time, I must try to be happy and enjoy my experience.

My homestay is very kind and friendly. She has a cat called Bubbles and she is very good company. It is very important to feel comfortable otherwise you can get really homesick.

I like Wentworth because my friends are friendly and helpful.

I knew a little English when I came here but since I have been studying at school, my English is becoming very good. I sat the Year 7 exams and I found some of them difficult but it was a good experience. I have two more terms at Wentworth and I'm lucky because I am spending the holidays in Korea!

By YuJin Lee



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