

WENTWORTH COLLEGE BULLETIN

ISSUE 16

July 2010

Wentworth College, 65 Gulf Harbour Drive, Gulf Harbour, Whangaparaoa
Tel: 09 424 3273 Email: enquiries@wentworth.school.nz Website: www.wentworth.school.nz

From the Principal



“What are the main advantages of Wentworth College over other secondary school options?” is a question I am asked frequently. I enjoy answering this question as I am passionate about education and the opportunities we are offering at Wentworth.

Over and above all other factors that lead to optimum teaching and learning, are the positive relationships that students develop with their teachers. As our students move through their school years, teachers develop a comprehensive understanding of student strengths, weaknesses and personality. The great advantage of this is that a teaching plan can be developed for each child and we can closely monitor progress and achievement. In many large schools, students often drift through their schooling not really being noticed and individual needs are not catered for or met. “There are no places to hide at Wentworth.” We know all students and we aim to provide the best for every child. If concerns occur, we can quickly assist and address issues, working with students, parents and teachers to gain a positive outcome. Expectation of achievement, behaviour and standards are clearly articulated and enforced.

We celebrate competition, success and participation in all areas of educational life, from the classroom, sports field, drama and music performances to outdoor pursuit achievements. Each week in our weekly e-newsletters we highlight these successes and celebrate student’s achievement in school assemblies.

Students are encouraged to try new activities; they are often personally approached by teachers to join an activity or are swept along and enrolled through friends’ enthusiasm and encouragement. Student participation in school wide activities is exceptionally high. A very positive flow-on effect from this involvement in school life is the development of strength of character and confidence. ERO, in their last two reviews (2006, 2009), have commented on how “confident” Wentworth students are, and that Wentworth is to be congratulated on this as it demonstrates students are successful, happy and “thrive in this environment of mutual respect and support.”

The best parts of my day are my classroom teaching and walking around the school at morning tea and lunchtimes. Chatting with students, commenting on individual interest, achievements, sport performance, school work and issues, helps me to develop a “feel” for school tone and student engagement. Often a gentle reminder of expectation is all that is required to help assist student focus and achievement.

Children inherently want to please, especially if there exists strong teacher/pupil relationships and they believe that teachers are genuinely interested in them. The outcome is that students develop a strong sense of belonging and belief in their school.

This Bulletin features Wentworth students fully involved in just a sample of the numerous school activities that took place throughout

a very eventful term. It reflects favourably on the engagement of the students in an environment where teachers and parents work towards creating the best possible educational climate, fostering exploration and personal challenge.

Bruce Tong



Movie Making

A group of Year 13 Art Students from Wentworth College entered the Auckland Museum inaugural 'I AM MAKING MOVIES' competition. Students were free to choose to make a film or a documentary. Films could be creative, mysterious, humorous or just altogether out-of-the-ordinary! The Wentworth students had visited the Museum's exhibition on Roses and were inspired to create their three minute film 'The scent of Rose' from their experience there. Their film was successful, winning them the First Prize in the Best Script/Storyline category. The entries were judged by New Zealand film industry professionals, with the Premiere Awards Night held at the Auckland Museum's new function room. Oscar Nominated New Zealand actress Keisha Castle-Hughes co-hosted and presented the awards. The winning entries can be viewed on the Museum's web page. The Wentworth winning team consisted of Jak Charles, Jake Law, Jenny Harris, Katie Hay, Sophie Groos and Olivia Bedford.

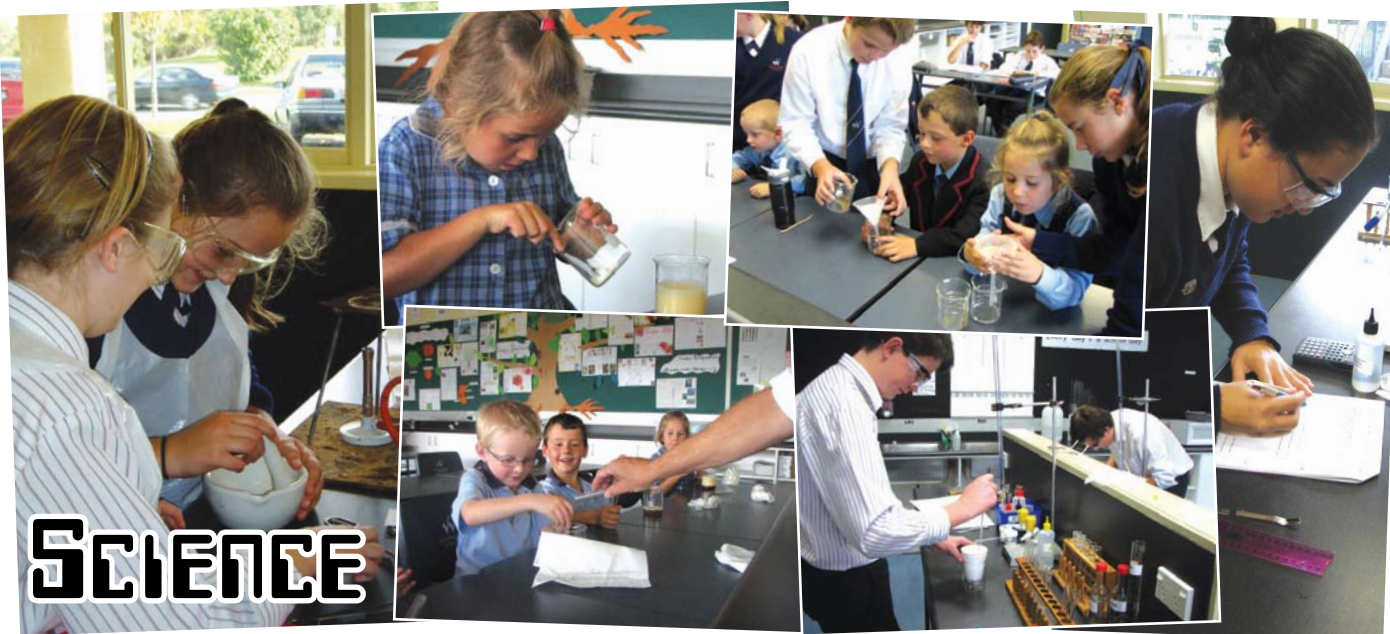


Food & Fabrics



A highlight of the Foods programme this term was the cooking of international meals by the Year 10 students. The students researched famous international dishes and then reproduced them in the Foods Room, presenting their creations to their fellow pupils along with a short talk on the history of the meal.

In Fabrics Year 9 students created their own beanie while senior students designed and produced their own wearable creations.



SCIENCE

School Production

For the Love of Three Oranges

Wentworth Drama students produced a highly entertaining rendition of this famous play at the Centrestage Theatre in Orewa during May. Performed in the style of Commedia dell'arte, a professional form of theatre that began in Italy in the mid-16th Century, The Love of 3 Oranges was a wild, raucous, slapstick comedy that kept the audience entertained from start to finish.



Examinations



Examinations were held in June for the whole College. For most students these assessments were to evaluate their semester's work, but a number sat formal mid-year Cambridge IGCSE examinations.



Hillary Challenge

Congratulations to the Hillary Challenge Team for an outstanding week's competition in and around the National Park while based at OPC. Special thanks to the parents who supported the team for this particularly demanding challenge.



International Sporting Success

Matthew Hughes represented New Zealand at the Asian Optimist Champs in Pattaya, Thailand. Overall he finished 42nd out of 103 sailors and in teams racing New Zealand finished 7th out of 16 teams.

Gideon van Zyl and Jazmin Hopper participated in the North Island Open Fencing Championships in June. Both won bronze medals in the Foil event. Both Gideon and Jazmin as well as Stephanie

Wyllie will attend the Oceania Junior Championships held in Christchurch over the winter holidays.

Jurgens van Zyl participated in the Australian Fencing Championships in July. He won a silver medal in the Under 15 Individual Epee event, against an athlete ranked third in the world for under 17 Epee. Jurgens was captain of the Under 15 Foil B-team for New Zealand and his team won a bronze. Jurgens will also attend

the Oceania Junior Championships.

Congratulations to Rawiri Geddes who was selected to join the NZ Lasers Standard youth team to sail in the World Laser Regatta in Haling Island, England, in early September. Rawiri has also won a sailing scholarship to the Royal NZ Yacht Squadron to train for 12 months in Match Racing (America Cup is match racing) starting May 1st. He is the youngest candidate selected.



Cross Country Run



The College annual cross-country run took place this term in Shakespear Park. The students enjoyed a day with glorious weather, spectacular views and a challenging course of beach, farm and hills.



Stage Challenge



Wentworth's first entry in the Stage Challenge Competition was particularly successful with the group not only having a huge amount of fun but also winning two awards on the night. Congratulations to all involved.



Students Promote Health

As part of my Year 13 Food Technology programme I was required to promote the importance of healthy eating to help prevent Type 2 Diabetes in our community. I chose to work with the Year 5 and 6 students from the Primary School and held practical foods classes for them throughout Term 2. The lessons ended with a shared lunch to revise everything learned during the term. The students were a delight to work with and of course really enjoyed eating the food they had made themselves. I hope that these lessons will help them make healthy food choices for the future.

Victoria Bell (Head Girl)



Senior Geography

Senior Geographers again conducted a large part of their work in the field this term. Year 13 Geography included a trip to Rotorua where the students studied the geology of the area and visited all the major tourist attractions that have been created by this. The highlight of the Rotorua trip was a tour of Mokoia Island Wildlife Sanctuary on Lake Rotorua. The students had earlier participated in a tour of the Auckland metropolitan area. Year 11 students attended the Mystery Creek Fielddays in Hamilton which included a study on dairying and coal mining for power generation.



Duke of Edinburgh

Bronze, Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh programmes continued strongly throughout the term with students taking part in related activities. These included tramps in the Waitakeres, over the Tongariro Crossing and around Lake Waikaremoana.



Orienteering

Wentworth College had its most successful day at the Orienteering Championships when 12 students ran in the Auckland Secondary Schools Relays at Ambury Park. The recent success of the Secondary Schools Series meant a record 240 runners entered this competition. Wentworth came away with 2 outright wins and a second place in the 6 grades available.



African Music Show

Eddie Quansah, one of West Africa's leading musicians, a master of both trumpet and traditional drumming, this term gave students an amazing musical African experience through singing, drumming and dancing. Students learned beat and rhythm through experiencing the fabulous African sounds and were lured into the action through participation.



The Music Festival is coming up on Friday August 27th in the school hall. The Orchestra, Beginner Band, Choirs, Rock Bands and various soloists and small ensembles have all been working hard for this special event. It will be a great evening. Tickets will be \$10.00 each and will become available closer to the date. We look forward to seeing you there.



Lucca Leadership Course

Every two years scholarships are offered for two Wentworth seniors to attend a leadership course in Lucca Italy. The students are chosen by the Lucca Leadership Trust in England. This year Dion Morley and Rebecca Carr were selected by the Trust to attend the July course. The course is held in a beautifully restored villa in Tuscany. Past students have taken the opportunity to combine the Leadership course



with a tour of Italy. Dion and Rebecca are doing this and we look forward to their reporting back on both the course and their adventures.



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Phone: (09) 424 3273
Website www.wentworth.school.nz