

# WENTWORTH College & Primary School BULLETIN

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Congratulations to Wentworth College for completing ten very successful years of schooling. This issue of the Wentworth Bulletin is extended to highlight the occasion and to celebrate an excellent school term. The activities and events that are featured throughout Term 3 reinforces the progress and achievement the school has made over the years.

Wentworth College was officially opened on the 27th of August 2003 by the then Governor General, Dame Sylvia Cartwright. On the first school day, we had a roll of 43 students and 10 teachers. The Wentworth board was committed to providing the community with an outstanding education for children from the start by offering a school programme that covered a full curriculum whilst emphasising both academic excellence as well as the benefits of education outside of the classroom. The belief in a low teacher/pupil ratio has continued throughout the 10 years, emphasising the importance of a close teacher/student relationship that ensures all students are known and their educational needs met.

There are characteristics and qualities that epitomise Wentworth and have been threaded throughout our school culture, from its origin through to this day. History establishes specific "norms and mores". Wentworth culture typifies such characteristics as respect, resilience, high standards of behaviour and work ethic, and a strong sense of self-belief. We have found over the years that our senior students endorse and lead school culture. An excellent school tone is consciously and subconsciously passed on to new students, outlining the expectations of behaviour, achievement and the importance of positively "giving things a go".

I reflect on Wentworth College's first Bulletin issue where Deputy Principal, Steve Wackrow, wrote about our plans and hopes for the school's future.

"The question posed by our Foundation Principal, Mr Bruce Tong, is that in fifty years from now, as we celebrate the jubilee, what will be considered to have been of the greatest importance in the school's development and philosophy?

Simplifying the answer, we know we want our children to be happy to learn, to be students who are proud of their achievements, inside and outside the classroom, and who are respectful of themselves and others.

The first step in achieving this vision is the establishment of a harmonious school tone. This tone is achieved by the entire school community working together under an agreed

set of guidelines that ensure there is fairness to all, a positive learning environment, and an excitement in achievement. Our Trustees and staff are aware of the prodigious responsibility they have – to build the foundations that will create a great school which will last for generations." (Steve Wackrow, Foundation Deputy Principal)

Over the ten years there have been 798 students who have or are currently attending Wentworth. The ideals that we posed in the first Bulletin have certainly been applied and developed through the years for these children. The Education Review Office's four school reviews support our progress and beliefs; they clearly acknowledge and reinforce the wonderful school tone and positive learning environment that exists at Wentworth.

As I show prospective students and their parents around Wentworth, I often receive the comment "Is the school always this quiet and calm?" Students are quietly settled and focussed and getting on with the job at hand. The family culture of our school and the positive atmosphere in the classrooms exemplify all the expectations that were initially envisioned.

Wentworth College is providing an educational environment that is keenly sort after by the Rodney community. Its reputation and brand is very strong and is reinforced by frequent feedback from the greater Rodney community. The first ten years have cemented the foundation principles. With the growth of Gulf Harbour and the greater Rodney district, Wentworth College certainly looks forward to an exciting future.

## Ten Year Anniversary Weekend Events.

### Anniversary School Assembly

The celebrations commenced with a 10th Anniversary Assembly on Friday the 30th of August. A slide show gave an historical account of glimpses into the first ten years of Wentworth School life.

The Foundation Board members, Mr Fleming, Mr Findlay and Mr McDonald attended the assembly with Mr Fleming addressing the School. Mr Fleming reflected on the origins of Wentworth and explained that the school was named after the famous Wentworth Golf Course in England. The double "ticks" insignia, that symbolise the success of our school, was designed by Mr Mark Bartlett. Mr Fleming thanked the management, teachers and students for making Wentworth so successful and acknowledged the exciting future that exists for the years ahead.

## Doctor of Music

Congratulations to our Music teacher Riette Ferreira who has had her degree as Doctor of Philosophy in Music conferred from Auckland University. Dr Ferreira investigated the aesthetics and practices of film music composition in New Zealand. During her doctoral studies Dr Ferreira published articles, presented seminars and conference papers and lectured at the University's School of Music.



## Alumni Social Evening

Perhaps the highlight for our alumni was the social get-together on Friday evening. Over 150 people attended this function. There were many photos on display for past students, staff and parents to reminisce over and enjoy. A number of alumni flew back from overseas and from universities around New Zealand to attend the events. Students from each of the past years attended and this included our very first enrolled foundation student, Max McGrath. Many stories were told and it was a most enjoyable and successful evening.

## Anniversary Dinner

An Anniversary dinner and dance was held at the Gulf Harbour Country Club on Saturday 31st of August with many current school parents, alumni parents and ex-students in attendance. Over 120 guests enjoyed the evening celebrating the success of Wentworth. After I addressed the gathering with selected musings, stories and highlights of the ten years, an anniversary cake was officially cut and the evening continued with socialising and dancing.

Special thanks to the Board was given, acknowledging the support and the excellent governance they have given over the years. There are many people to thank concerning the planning for the weekend. I especially wish to acknowledge and thank Gail Glews, Jahna Graver and Steve Wackrow for the many hours they gave preparing for the celebration. We now look forward to the 25th Anniversary celebrations in 2028!

## Bruce Tong

Principal



# 10 year Anniversary



# Primary School Highlights

School cross country- On a glorious sunny day the whole school competed in the annual school cross country competition. It was great to see everyone giving it their best in front of a very supportive crowd.



Maths Week - A week of maths questions and quizzes. This also included a fun style maths competition in the school hall that involved both physical activity and problem solving. Lots of excitement and fun was had by all.

Loud Shirt Day – Wentworth Primary supporting one of its chosen charities - the hearing impaired.

School Production – The Final Frontier was a whole school production, featuring dastardly Darft Invader and Super Hero Flash

Battery battling it out to save the Manly Chemist from giving up the recipe for the throat lozenge and thereby saving the world.

Flippa Ball – The Years 5/6 Flippa Ball team playing at one of their Sunday evening games at the Leisure centre.

Library Trip – The Year One class took a trip to the Whangaparaoa Public Library and learnt about how a library works and how to find your favourite book.

Vegetable Garden – Once again the spring and summer planting has been done. Peas, spring onions, lettuces and strawberries will be ready for harvesting in a few months time.



# Book Character Day

The annual College Character Day saw an amazing array of fabulous costumes representing book, film and television characters. The photos tell it all. Some students were confused as to the real Mr Lee. Senior students organised the day and funds raised go towards a school project of their choice.



## AIMS

Congratulations to our AIMS team members who successfully attended this major intermediate-age sporting event. This is the largest sporting event in New Zealand. This year over 6500 students from 193 schools attended. Particular congratulations to Kieran Pangalila who won five gold and two silver medals in the swimming. The Years 7&8 netball team stayed the entire week and competed admirably to finish 48th out of 79 schools.



## Fencing

Jurgens van Zyl has had a busy and successful year with Fencing. In September he competed in the New Zealand Secondary Schools Fencing Championships where he came second. Earlier this year, he won a bronze medal in the North Island Open Championships, eliminating the first ranked epeeist. More recently, he won the MacLeavy Competition in Epee for a second year in a row and came third in Foil. Jurgens has further competitions within his sights as he plans also to compete in the NZ Open National Championships as well as in the Oceania Championships which will be in Auckland during October.



## Netball

This year our Wentworth 2 Collegiate North Harbour team was made up of students from Years 9 – 12. The young age of this team did not hold them back, and they were winners of their College Championship Grade - a very proud moment for Wentworth College.

Wentworth Seniors have had a very enjoyable season playing at HBC. The girls all made significant improvements in the way they play individually and as a team, and brought much pride to Wentworth.

The Year 9 girls had a hugely successful season competing in Championship division 1 North Harbour. With only 6 schools in this top division, to get into the championship round ahead of the much larger schools of Orewa, Takapuna Grammar, Kristin and Albany Junior High, was recognition of the tenacity of these players in itself. Some teams were surprised Wentworth was in this division, which meant the girls had lots of support from the side lines.



## Rugby Players Honoured

Wentworth College students Chris Everitt and Matt Burgess both received MVP (Most Valuable Player) awards for their combined Whangaparaoa/ Wentworth teams. Matt played for the 6th grade team and Chris captained the 4th grade team. The coaches and managers of these teams were very complimentary of the input and efforts of these boys.

Year 7 students', Xavier Bryham and Harrison Gobbie, team – J3 Silverdale Rugby Reps – won the North Harbour Rugby Knockout Junior Tournament against Marist 32 - 12. This was a wonderful finish to their Rugby Season!

## Hockey Round up

Senior hockey competitions have finished for the season with Wentworth teams achieving the best results ever across both the boys and girls grades. The senior girls' team finished joint second in the 3rd grade competition having won promotion from the 4th grade competition. The senior boys team achieved an outstanding second place overall in the 2a grade up against many schools' top teams, having moved from 4th grade last year to the 3rd grade competition. The boys finished second in the 3rd grade grading round and were promoted to the challenging 2nd grade competition. The skill level and confidence of each player increased immensely as a result of this and the team went on to finish second behind the Westlake Boys' senior team.

With the intermediate/junior team also performing well this year it has been an outstanding season for our hockey teams.



## Ski Team

Our ski team, comprised of Jack Ledbrook, Ambrose Ledbrook, Alexander Gregory, Max Romminger and Kelly Main, competed in the North Island Secondary School Ski competition at Turoa Ski field. This event has over 500 secondary school competitors.

The team was lucky to have fabulously fine weather, and all skiers got down the GS course without incident and in great form. Overall Wentworth College was placed 67th equal out of 111 teams.



## Queenstown Physical Education Trip

In August, the senior Physical Education classes travelled to Queenstown for their snow assessment week. This year the group was slightly larger, with 23 students attending, and many lasting memories were made. Students stayed in Queenstown and travelled by charter bus to Cardrona Alpine Resort for four full-on days on the amazing slopes. After a nervous start to the ski season, we were fortunate to have four powder days and amazing weather, apart from a gale warning on the Wednesday which blew through leaving the slopes empty for plenty of fun. Each morning students received lessons according to their abilities, and the progress that was made throughout the week was great to see. Students had the opportunity to be assessed in Skiing or Snowboarding later in the week, and these marks contribute to their AS and A level coursework.



## Intermediate Ski Championships

Year 8 student Louise Fonclara represented Wentworth College at this year's Intermediate Ski Championships in Queenstown. This was her first competition and she came 21st out of the 62 competitors, a fine result for a national championship.



## Shanghai Far East School Visit

This term a large group of students from Shanghai Far East School visited Wentworth College. Although the students had their own programme, they still managed to attend some lessons with Wentworth students. This also included a special time to interact and practise their English by teaching our students a little about life in China.



## WHEELER'S LUCK

It was decided a modern script would be a good choice for this year's drama production. "Wheeler's Luck" was written within the last decade by 3 young New Zealand playwrights about topical issues of land grabbing developers. It revolved around a range of community efforts to resist the pressure to force Cox's Point to join the 21st century, culminating in a horse race to select the winning plan. Horse head masks, sticks of dynamite, rifles, hobby horses and storms at sea, all featured in the play which also spanned two time periods.

The play gave drama enthusiasts the chance to perform for an audience, and it gave a number of senior students the chance to be included in the many crowd scenes. Some photos from the rehearsals are featured here.



## Junior Fabric Technology and Art

Year 7 have completed a fabric unit of creating a mobile using felt, and recycled material. Nursery rhymes of "gingerbread man" and "incy wincy spider" were the inspiration behind students' designs.







## Ten Pin Bowling

As part of Year 13 student Edward Bishop's Physical Education assessment, he was required to organise and run an event for younger students. Our Years 7 and 8 pupils were fortunate to have a ten-pin bowling competition to compete in. It was a great success – well done Edward.



## Kelly Tarlton's

The Years 7 and 8 students had a sleep-over at Kelly Tarlton's in August. student comments.....

"The best bit was sleeping under the fish because we got to see what they do when it's dark. They get into big groups and they swim together. So, whenever I woke up, I would look up at the fish and close my eyes and imagine that I'm a fish swimming in the tunnel." **Emma Humphries Yr 8**

"I learned that a male Gentoo penguin carries around a pebble and drops it in front of females. When a female decides to pick it up the pair will go and make a nest together." **Cameron Kilgour Yr 8**

"I learnt a lot about different species of fish and about Antarctica. We were able to feel what the water in Antarctica was like....COLD!!! And we had a feeding show with Phoebe, their biggest sting ray."

**Scott Mueller Yr 8**

"I learnt a lot about Kelly Tarlton himself. It's just incredible how a small group of people can make such a sensational view of undersea life." **Ethan Bland Yr 8**

"Kelly Tarlton's was amazing. They had lots of games to understand how cold it is in Antarctica, how the shark's mouth works, how strong the jelly fishes' tentacles are ... My favourite thing was the giant squid – how they get eaten and how they have hooks in their tentacles to capture their prey."

**Nadija Rowley Yr 8**

"I learnt lots of things but the one that stands out was that stingrays and sharks have 7 senses (not 5 like us). The most important ones are the bones down their backs where they can feel vibrations."

**Aleks Hyland Yr 8**

"I really loved feeding the fish, especially when they would jump up and try and snatch it out from your hand." **Rosie Poulton Yr 8**





## Samoa Trip July 2013

In the holidays between Terms 2 and 3 a group of students from Wentworth College travelled to Samoa with Mrs Worthy. Besides taking some gifts to local schools they toured some of the islands.

Alexander Gregory writes: "Our itinerary included many activities such as swimming, eating, buying things and touring various places on the islands of Savai and Apollo. We swam in a fresh water pool that was right next to the sea and had fish in it ... we swam at a massive natural hole that was connected to the sea. When we were at the top of this it was at least 30 metres straight down. We also swam with turtles. The turtles were amazing. We got to feed and hold them.

We visited the blow-holes which were created from an old lava flow. The blow-holes were huge and very violent and powerful. When the husk of coconut was thrown in and a wave hit, the coconut was flung 20 metres into the air and this was on a calm day! We also visited the lava fields and saw a completely wrecked old church. The lava must have been at least 2 metres thick or more in places and I was amazed at the sheer amount of it.

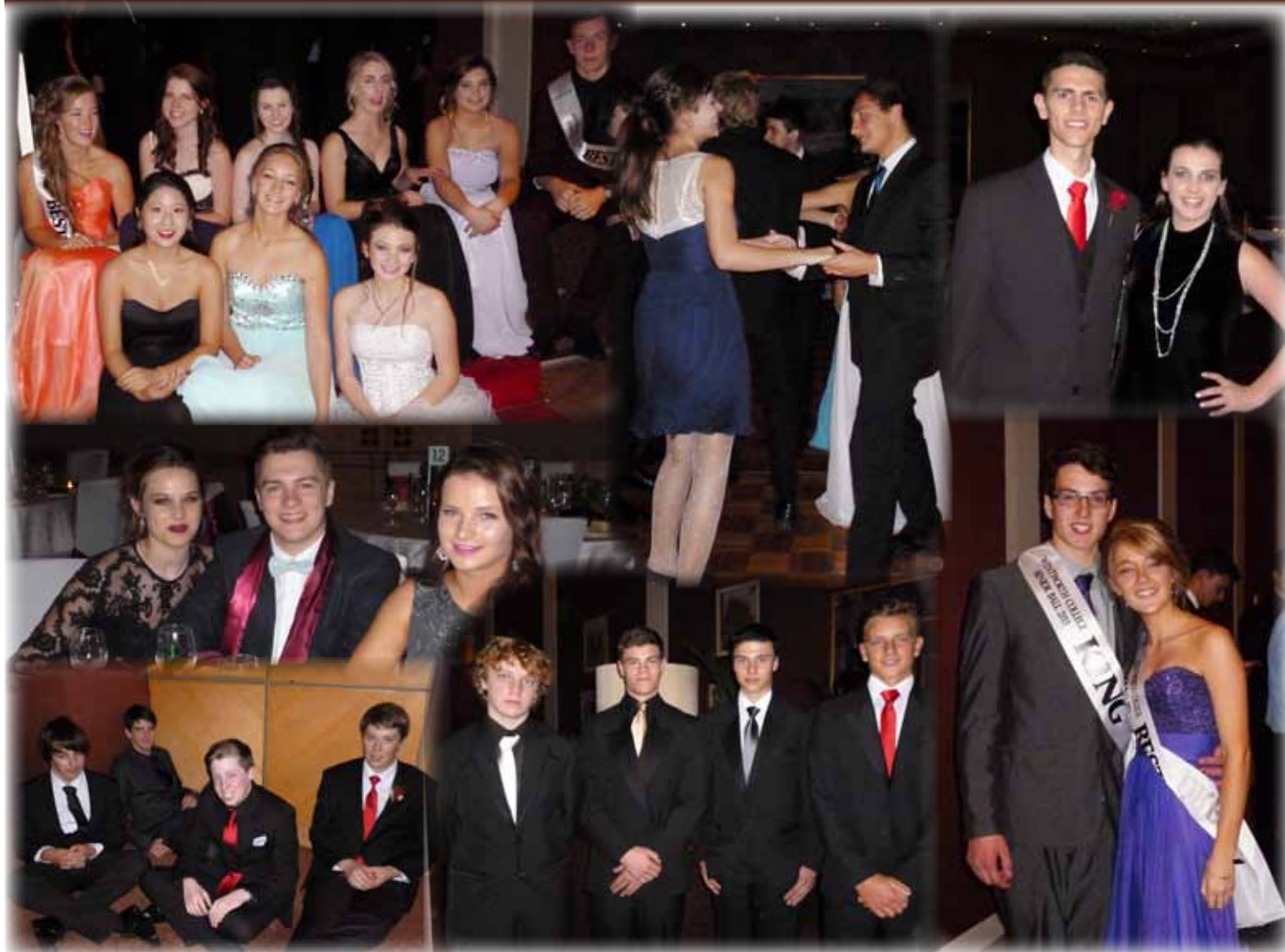
The recent Tsunami caused a lot of problems. Most of the coral was dead and there was very little sea life. The tsunami also had a huge impact on the people. We passed through one of the worst hit villages and you could see the wrecked and deserted buildings

Overall, it was a great trip, everyone had fun and we all learnt lots about Samoa."



## College Ball

This year the College Ball was held at the Stanford Plaza Hotel in Auckland City. It was attended by over 120 enthusiastic students. The "young ladies and gentlemen" were superbly attired and the evening was enjoyed by all. Congratulations to the Ball Committee led by Georgia Clark and Jurgens van Zyl.



## Science Road Show

Wentworth College senior science students took their skills and knowledge on tour this term. They visited Gulf Harbour School and Red Beach School and put on demonstrations to show the magic and fascination of the world of science. Mr Hawkins, Wentworth's Chemistry teacher, organised and supervised the programme. This was a wonderful opportunity for our students to pass on their learning and interact with the local primary school children. It proved to be a huge success and they have been asked to return to give further demonstrations.



# 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fence



## Can you help?

Since our inception in 2003, our focus has been on offering students a quality education within a safe, caring, family environment. We have had 10 very rewarding years of seeing our students progress through their education before moving on to follow their chosen path in the world outside Wentworth.

Having reached our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we believe it is timely to look again at our development programme and invest once more in the 'bricks and mortar' side of the school. The time has come to put some resources into ensuring that the entrance-way to the College reflects the quality of the education being provided in the classrooms. We hope that both present and past Wentworth families will support us by donating towards our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fence. As a Charitable Trust, all donations (over \$5) made to Wentworth College are tax deductible.



Contact Gail Clews: [gclews@wentworth.school.nz](mailto:gclews@wentworth.school.nz) for further information.