

Waihi College Newsletter



PRINCIPAL'S COMMENT



Kia ora tatou

I am delighted with the way the school year has started and Term One has just rushed by. The school roll is up to 740 students and

whilst this causes some large classes it also means that the budget and staffing levels are also up.

There are always a wide range of extra-curricular activities for students to get involved with. (Sport, Camps, Fieldtrips, Productions and Community Events etc) I am always impressed with how students and staff can fit all these things in and still complete the academic side of their learning programme. It is very important however to get a balance between the curricular and extra-curricular activities and sometimes choices need to be made to ensure that justice is done to your learning.

Winter Team Sport starts in earnest next term and I urge all students and parents to take up the challenge of being involved.

The rewards are tremendous as we see youngsters learning new skills and developing the capacity to work and have fun in teams. Yes there may be times of anguish and frustration, but the benefits far outweigh the disappointments. If you are unsure about how to help contact the school and we will be able to put you on to the teacher in charge. **Always play to win but play hard and play FAIR!**

Beach Hop (Warm up Party) was a great success last week and I congratulate all those within our community who worked to make it happen. It was awesome to see the amazing cars but also the friendly supportive atmosphere that was present throughout the day.

Reminder that **Term Two starts on Monday 20th April** and **Anzac Day** whilst it falls on Saturday the 25th April will be celebrated on **Monday 27th April**. Thus school is closed for the day.

Have a great break, give back to those that love you most and remember to **be the best that you can be in everything that you do.**

Year 12 Biology Goat Island Trip



This newsletter can be found on the College Website—www.waihicol.school.nz

Goat Island Trip

On the 2nd of March the two Year 12 Biology classes travelled to Goat Island Marine Reserve for our data collection along the rocky shore. As a part of this, we spent a few hours each day listening to different speakers about marine birds, different fish and the impact we are having on the marine ecosystem. The first of these was held in Miranda at the Bird Reserve where we were taught about the migration of various seabirds that live in the area and how they trace these all over the world. From here we all travelled to Kelly Tarltons and got to go behind the scenes and see how they feed, trained and helped different animals, including fish, turtles and octopus. This was a big eye opener for many of us, seeing how much work goes into looking after these animals. While there we were given a talk on how the food chain works and the way the water quality has changed over the years with globalisation. We also had a talk from a local man who helped start the reserve, he showed us different ways that a marine reserve had impacted on the animals and how well it had worked. Although a lot of us were tired, there were a lot of interesting messages he had to share.

The next morning we got to experience a glass bottom boat ride around the island, which gave us the chance to see the huge snapper and stingrays that inhabit the reserve. For many of us, this was the first time we had been given the chance to see anything like that, we also saw the caves and tunnels that the waves had created over the years. Once we were off the boat we began our data collection for the assessment with the help of Learning Journeys. For this we had to measure the different species that lived along the length of the shore line, from high tide to low tide, some groups measuring over 40 metres. We named up to fifteen different species that lived along the rocky shore, including limpets, mussels, algae, oysters and various types of snails. We used different graphs and measurements to locate the zonation of different species.

At Goat Island we took part in a

snorkelling trip into the reserve, being chased by the fish or chasing stingrays was something that many of us won't forget. After dealing with the awkward wetsuits and faces created by the masks we travelled to Pakiri beach for a well needed rest, which of course happened after a few rounds of spotlight. On behalf of everyone who went, I would like to say a massive thank you to Mr Roy, Mr McLean and Mrs Ruttersmith who helped as drivers, Learning Journeys for all their help, and Mr. Galey for organising everything. We all got a lot out of this trip and a lot of memories that we will all remember for a long time.

Sarah Boggiss

A Midsummer Nights Dream



Recently, our 301 English Class went to hear 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' at Te Puna Quarry Park. Our class had never studied Shakespeare before nor heard a live Shakespearian play so this was quite a new experience for us. It was an outdoor performance so the set darkened as the evening progressed. This feature was particularly good for a certain part of the play where the actors are trying to find each other in a dark forest. I enjoyed it a lot, especially *The Lambeth Walk* which they sang towards the end. I also liked the part where the character called Bottom, whose head was turned into a donkey's head, begins to sing badly with lots of braying. At this, the fairy queen who was asleep, stirs and asks "*What angel wakes me from my flowery bed?*" The audience found this very amusing. Our class has heard this play, we have now seen two adaptations of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and we have also been reading the script. All this combined will help us to understand the play very well. It's interesting how a play

that is so old still strikes a chord with a group of teenagers several centuries later. It's probably due to the timeless themes of the play like love and law. I would recommend anybody my age or older who wants to hear this play to do so; you'll be surprised how jokes four centuries old can still make you laugh.

Zoe Twemlow

Career Tips for Parents

1. Listen to their thoughts and ideas - don't interrupt or criticise - continually give feedback on their strengths so they gain confidence in the things they are good at. Ideas will continually change so that that crazy idea they had last week will change and morph with time - you won't need to point out the problems/improbability of it. (it may actually happen!)
2. Encourage them to think and talk about careers and interests from their early teenage years - they will be curious about the world of work from a young age. What they do at school, subjects that interest them will have a significant impact on their future options career-wise.
3. Show them the real thing - get the opportunities to experience work, and make contact with people in that job - new/young as well as experienced workers.
4. Help them to set goals, and discuss realistic expectations as parents. Work out where they should be in the planning and applying processes, and when this needs to happen.
5. Develop people skills in your teens - good clear communication is essential. The current vernacular doesn't cut it with employers and other adults!
6. Believe in your teen, even if the goals set, and career path chosen is left field, or unconventional. Gareth Morgan probably doubted his son on many occasions! (but doesn't now!)
7. Traditional careers still have much value, as do boring degrees like a BA. Key skills are learnt, and the qualification is very marketable. The world needs people who can sit down and study for 3 or 4 years, gaining critical thinking and communication skills in the process.

COLLEGE NEWS

8. Many jobs the teens of today will have haven't been invented yet. They need to keep options broad to cover future developments.

9. As well as perseverance, teens need to know that it's OK to change jobs, venture down new paths, explore new avenues. If your job loses its appeal, find something that rekindles the spark - work life balance is important, but so is the enjoyment that comes from a job that you enjoy!

10. "Job for life" is no more - many different jobs will be the norm. 75% of jobs require further training. Focus on employability - skills! skills! skills!
Brent Willoughby

News from the Nurse

We are nearly at the end of daylight saving and that always reminds me that winter is just around the corner. So it's that time also to start considering winter chills and taking steps to guard ourselves against an increase in viruses. Of course, as always, healthy living is the first step - lots of vitamins and minerals to help ward off the bugs. But also it is time to consider a visit to your GP for a flu vaccination. It is free for people with certain health conditions. So if you are an asthmatic, have diabetes or epilepsy or any other long term condition that may be affected if you become unwell, phone your health provider for more information and an appointment. The sooner you get your "flu jab" the sooner your body will build immunity. Have a safe and happy Easter and holiday break. See you in Term 2.

Ruth Parsons



Host Families Needed

If you have not considered hosting an international student before or if you have and you would like to host again, now is the time to get in touch. Please contact Diana Board on 027 475 5900 or email at dianab@waihicol.school.nz for further information about hosting and host family payments. We would love to hear from you.



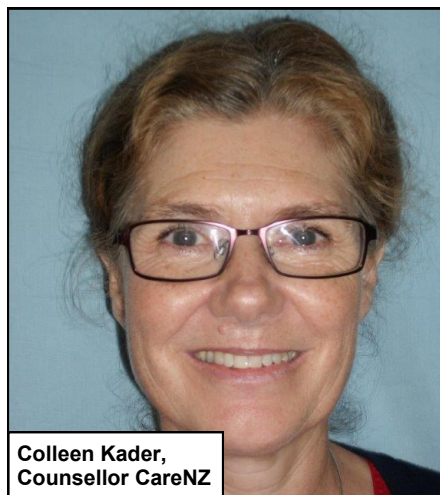
Shelley Oliver, Teacher Aide—Memphis Centre



Esther Kuizinas, School Counsellor

New Staff

Hi my name is Esther and I am delighted to join the Waihi College team as a guidance counsellor. We all need help and support at times, especially when we are feeling anxious, depressed, or when things at home, school or with friends are causing us trouble. I'm here to offer that support and help so we can work together for a better outcome in your situation. Everything we talk about is private and nothing is too big or too small



Colleen Kader, Counsellor CareNZ

so come and see me. I'm here Mondays, Tuesdays & Thursdays.

CareNZ

CareNZ offer a service to students who have problems with substance abuse, see Mr Hunt for a referral.

Senior Progress Grades 2015

In a new initiative for 2015, all senior (Y11-13) students are being given a Progress Grade for each of their subjects two or three times a term (the third grades will be due the first week of Term 2), giving them an idea of where they're at. The grades correspond to NCEA grades thus.

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
N	N	N	N	A	A	A	A	M	M	E

Note: Unit Standards – Top mark = 7

These have been shared with the students through the Learning Advisors, and teachers have been discussing with students the reasons for their grades.

If you as a parent/guardian wish to receive this information, you can check them via the Parent Portal on Kamar, or email the Learning Advisor of your child – the addresses are simply the first name and initial followed by the suffix e.g. Luke Devery becomes luked@waihicol.school.nz – and the Learning Advisors will be happy to send you these when they are published.

Leon Ruttersmith

IT News

- Check out our new website
 - Parent Portal is up and running
 - Down load the new Waihi College APP
 - Use the KAMAR app to access your students results, attendance and timetable online
- See the website for more information.

Careers Facebook Page

Waihi College now has a Careers Facebook page, which is still being developed to contain links to valuable sites, and updates on meetings, visits, trips etc related to careers - please find it and "like" it!

COLLEGE NEWS AND COMMUNITY NEWS

Tough Choice? Sound Advice

Recently, a Year 11 English class were asked to reflect on 7 questions you should ask yourself when faced with a tough decision in life. Here's their thinking on why these 7 questions are important to ask:

If I don't do this now, will I regret it?

This will help you think about the pros and cons, make the right decision and consider the consequences and how they could affect your future life.

What am I afraid of?

This will make you think about your decision and whether it is right, consider its effect on others, and consider the outcome of the situation and judgement that comes with your decision.

What does my heart say?

This will make you think about whether you're making the decision for yourself or someone else, if your choice will have positive consequences, and the emotions you feel and whether they please you. What your heart says is what you really want. If you don't listen to your heart you might regret your decision later.

What am I really doing this for?

This will make you think about what

outcomes your decision may bring and whether your decision fills a purpose. It's good to analyse your reasoning behind the choices you're about to make.

Who am I really doing this for?

This will make you think about whether you're doing this for yourself or because someone is telling you to do it (is it my choice or am I being influenced? Will what I'm deciding benefit myself or others?). It's you that has to face the consequences of the decision.

Will I like myself after this decision?

This will make you think about whether you'll be happy with yourself after the decision because your choice will affect your life and possibly the lives of family and friends. How you feel about yourself when doing something can be an indicator of whether it's a moral choice. Choosing something that makes you happy is important.

Can I cope with the fall out?

This will make you think about the risk factors – is either choice worth whatever consequences they may bring? You'll stop and think, am I strong enough to cope if this goes wrong?

Community Oral Health

Is your 13-17 year old missing out on free dental care?

If your adolescent hasn't had a dental appointment with a dentist, the April school holidays are a good time for them to get their teeth checked and to have any necessary treatment, all for free.

Waikato District Health Board's Community Oral Health Service is running a holiday service for dental care, to ensure that more of our young people are taking advantage of receiving dental care while it's free.

The community dental van will be situated at Waihi College, by the pool, in these April holidays: (7-16th April, 2015) and the treatment is FREE for under-18s.

We will be posting out appointments via the school student centre, for those students we already have enrolled. However, if you are not enrolled with the Community Oral Health Service and would like an appointment, please contact us on: 021 359 798 or 0800TALKTETH (0800825583) to make an appointment.

Spread the word, it's free and it's all good!

Upcoming Events

April

2nd	End of Term 1
3rd	Good Friday
6th	Easter Friday
20th	Start of Term 2
20th	L2 Physics Rainbows End Trip
21st	Ag/Hort Info Trip
21st-22nd	Defensive Driving Course
21st	Photo Catch-up Day
22nd	Y7 Immunisations
22nd	Y8 Girls HPV
23rd	Y12/13 Health Careers
23rd	Canterbury Uni Talk
28th-29th	Defensive Driving
29th	TV Y7/8 Ripa Rugby
29th	WBOP Mountain Biking
30th	BOP Y7/8 Amazing Race

May

5th	W/C Cross Country
8th	Wintec Talk

Parenting/Custody Orders

A reminder to parents in this position; if there are court documents and/or custody orders in place for your child it is important that the school is made aware of this and hold a copy on file.

Protecting Sensitive Personal Information

- Never give sensitive info (like account number or password) or call a number in response to a request in email or IM or on a social network.
- Don't be tricked into responding to pleas for money from "family members," deals that sound too good to be true, or other scams.

Sewing Alterations

For all school sewing alterations and repairs phone Chris Forster

GREAT TEETH FOR FREE

Get your smile sorted for FREE. High school, course, work or couch, you get FREE dental care until your 18th birthday – take advantage of the free service now!

A list of dentists is available at www.waikatodhb.health.nz/dental or phone 0800 TALK TEETH (0800 825 583)

