



From the Principal's Desk

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Welcome to the first newsletter for 2014.



I would like to thank you for the opportunity to be principal of Waiau Area School. I am looking forward to my time here, and after unpacking what seems like 100's of boxes, I would like to stay here a LONG time!

I have been a teacher for more years than I care to remember. In fact I started my primary training 30 years ago this year and I began my secondary teaching career 20 years ago this year. I came to New Zealand in May 2006

to take up the post of Deputy Principal of Murchison Area School. I thoroughly enjoyed my time up there but was ready to be principal.

I am passionate about Area Schools; I can't stress that enough. We have a unique opportunity to nurture the whole child for the whole of their school life. Waiau has a dedicated staff who know your children well and who can plan individual programmes according to the needs of your child. This doesn't always happen in a bigger school!

It was heartening on Monday to see students arriving at school looking very smart in their uniforms and to hear their excited voices. Even though some aren't happy that the summer holidays are over they have all come back with a positive attitude, ready for learning. This commitment and enthusiasm will stand them in good stead as the year goes on.

It is important throughout the school for students to set themselves targets about what they want to achieve in 2014. Some students find it easier to set short term goals, easily manageable and where success is quick in coming. Other students prefer longer term goals. These students can often find it hard to keep the momentum going at all times and have to remind themselves more often about what their goals are. Long term goals though can drive you on in difficult times. Whichever your son / daughter is, you can help by discussing their goals with them and think about ways that you as a parent can help.

On enrolment day last Wednesday one parent had negotiated a financial agreement linked to achievement at NCEA level 1. For the students sake I hope he is very 'rich' by the end of the year. ☺

I can't finish the first newsletter of the year without congratulating our senior students. Hayley Adams achieved NCEA Level 1 with Excellence and Anna Hammond achieved NCEA Level 1 with Merit. Both these students and the other students who worked so hard to pass NCEA are a credit to themselves, their parents, and the school. Whatever doubters say, it is not easy to achieve consistently well over a year and the work that the students have to complete to achieve credits is challenging. It is always disappointing to see that some students did not achieve their goals but by reflecting on 'what went wrong' they will perhaps be able to re-commit to achieving their goals for 2014.

The full results analysis will be published in the next newsletter but be assured that staff are already looking at their practice and at programmes to see where improvement can be made. They too have set targets for an improvement in results for 2014.

Ms Elizabeth Hannah, Principal

School News

WELCOME TO OUR NEW STUDENTS

A big welcome to the following students who have enrolled at WAS this week:

- ▶ Carrissa Constable – Yr10
- ▶ Blake Palmer – Yr5
- ▶ Quinn Palmer – Yr2
- ▶ Willow Perkins – Yr11
- ▶ Jayjay Tamou – Yr1
- ▶ Tanei Tamou – Yr5
- ▶ Brooke Stratford – Yr4
- ▶ Jake & Shontelle Stratford – Yr8
- ▶ Sam Stratford – Yr6

We wish you all a very happy time here at WAS.

2014 PREFECTS

At Prizegiving last year we announced our 2014 Prefects. Congratulations to **Hayley Adams, Marissa Johnston, Elkanah Tupua**, and **Tahuna Wanakore** for being nominated as WAS Prefects for this year. These prefects will be the student face of the school. They will be tasked with organising school activities, representing our school at public events, and acting as the student voice to the senior leadership of the school.

EX-STUDENT EXCELS



Ex-student Max Sobels has achieved his dream of becoming an accountant, having successfully completed his four year Bachelor of Commerce through the University of Otago in 2013.

Max is currently doing a voluntary assignment in Cambodia working with special needs babies at an orphanage. On his return to New Zealand in April (via Vietnam) Max will begin a job in Auckland with one of Australasia's top accountancy firms. It is his aim to spend a year in Auckland, before possibly transferring to Australia ... from there, the world is his oyster.

All this is an indication of what you can achieve if you set yourself a goal, have self-motivation, and a

willingness to learn. Max has a very proud family who have always loved and supported him with his goals. Max's family would like to acknowledge the school for their wonderful support and tuition during his schooling here, in particular the dedication of Mr Paul Maloney. While Max was determined, so were his teachers with their encouragement.

The family also acknowledge the support of Murray Dowling who employed Max at the local Four Square during his schooling, and all his friends who supported him through his 'craziness'.

Housekeeping Matters

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The senior leadership team remains the same as 2013, i.e. the Principal (Ms Elizabeth Hannah), Mrs Helen Ward as Deputy Principal, and Mrs Donnah Cleaver as Assistant Principal.

- The DP's role is to lead behaviour management across the school.
- The AP's role is to manage the learning needs and curriculum for our Y1-6 students.
- Our SENCO (special educational needs coordinator) is Mrs Donnah Cleaver.
- The Principal's Nominee (NZQA) role will be held by Ms Jennifer Smart.
- Mr Simon Pearce will act as the school's Health and Safety Officer.
- Our STAR/Gateway Coordinator is Mrs Helen Ward.
- Miss Jasmine Quinn is the school's Career Adviser.
- Miss Rachael Poole is our Sports Coordinator.

OFFICE STAFF HOURS

A reminder of the hours Gillian, Kiwia, and Rachael work:

- Gillian — 8am-4pm Mon/Tues/Thurs
- Kiwia — 8am-2pm Mon/Wed;
8am-1.30pm Tues/Thurs;
8am-3pm Fri
- Rachael — 8.30am-3pm Mon/Wed/Fri

STUDENT ABSENCES

If your child is going to be absent from school, please inform the School Office ASAP in the morning.

It is a Ministry of Education requirement that we advise them of the reason for a student's absence, i.e. sick, doctor's appointment, etc, so please don't be offended when we ask. If we aren't advised of a student's absence and have been unable to contact a parent/caregiver, the student will be marked as Truant.

SIGN IN / SIGN OUT REGISTER

A reminder that if students arrive late to school in the morning, they MUST sign-in at the Office.

Students leaving the school grounds during the day MUST sign-out at the Office.

BEFORE / AFTER SCHOOL HOURS

Students are not to be on school grounds before 8.20am and should be off school grounds by 3.15pm.

CONCERNS, COMPLAINTS OR QUERIES

A reminder to parents/caregivers of the process to follow if you have queries, concerns or complaints:

- Your first point of contact should always be your child's Homeroom Teacher.
- The concern may then be referred on to either the DP (for yr7-13 students) or AP (for yr1-6 students), if necessary.
- An issue/concern will be referred on to the Principal as the final means of clarification/resolution, again, if necessary.

SCHOOL FACEBOOK PAGE

'Like' our Facebook page, Waiau Area School, to keep up-to-date with what's happening at school. Reminders of upcoming events and important information are included on the page.

SCHOOL WEBSITE

Our website is currently undergoing maintenance. Certain documents can still be viewed however. We will notify parents/caregivers once it is fully functional.

The website (www.was.school.nz) is where you can check out the calendar of events, important school documents such as the Charter, Annual Report, etc, and newsletters.

NEWSLETTERS

Are published fortnightly on odd weeks, i.e. Week 1, 3, 5 etc.

The Junior School will also send out a brief newsletter to Junior School families/caregivers on alternate weeks.

A huge thanks to our Caretaker, Mr Paul Stenhouse, for all the hard work he has put into the school over the past few months. It is looking particularly clean, tidy and well-kept. Thank you so much!

2014 Timeline

Mon 3 Feb to Thurs 17 Apr	TERM 1
Thurs 6 Feb	Waitangi Day
Mon 17 to Wed 19 Feb	Yr9-13 Mentoring Camp – Camp Columba, Pukerau
Mon 5 May to Fri 4 July	TERM 2
Mon 3 June	Queen's Birthday
Mon 21 July to Fri 26 Sept	TERM 3
Mon 13 Oct to Thurs 11 Dec	TERM 4
Mon 27 October	Labour Day

From Our Teachers

FROM OUR DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

What a great start we have had to the school year with students returning in a positive and happy mood as well as being very well dressed. Long may it last.

There have been a number of changes made to the school day this year. These include introducing vertical mentor groups, one hour periods as well as one and a half hour periods and a new curriculum area called Students in the Community.

We have six vertical mentor groups each with students from yrs 9-13. These groups are designed to provide leadership opportunities for our seniors and extra pastoral care support for the younger students. The staff are now able to devote more time to individual needs.

The timetable has been designed to incorporate Students in the Community. During this time our students will engage in activities that support the community or activities that are not on school grounds, such as water based activities or town experiences. We also hope to include involvement with those from our communities who have special skills and strategies for learning that will benefit our students. So if you have any ideas/activities that you think would fit into this programme please give me or any other staff member a call.

For the first three weeks of the term we are focusing on leadership and group work skills. This will be the basis for our camp at the beginning of week three when we are all away to Camp Columba.

On Friday 15 February all students from Yr9-13 will be travelling to Invercargill for different activities. The seniors will be involved with the ropes course and the Yr9/10s will experience activities in town.

To finish I would like to say well done to those students who sat NCEA last year. What very pleasing results the majority of you achieved. Just goes to show that if you work hard and put the effort in you get just rewards. The staff are dedicated to seeing this year's seniors gain even better results. With a strong school/home partnership this will happen.

Mrs Helen Ward, Deputy Principal

NCEA INFORMATION EVENING

An information evening for NCEA students and their parents on Wednesday 12 February in the library at 7.00pm. Our hard-working Food and Hospitality students will provide snacks. The short presentation will outline how NCEA works and how we plan to track our students' achievement this year.

Ms Jen Smart, Principal's Nominee

SENIOR COURSE CHANGES

No senior course changes will be processed after Week 5. Last year we had a number of students whose achievement suffered due to too many course changes, hence the strict timeline this year. If a student wants to change courses before Week 5, they must collect an orange form from Kiwia in the office.

Ms Jen Smart, Principal's Nominee

SCOOTERS / SKATEBOARDS AT SCHOOL

If your child brings a scooter or skateboard to school to use during break times, they must wear a helmet and ride only in the designated area.

Scooters / skateboards must not be left in the Admin Block, but over at the old Prefab building (opposite the Junior Block).

A Consent Form will be sent home with yr1-8 students in due course. This must be returned to the School Office ASAP.

Mrs Donnah Cleaver, Assistant Principal

Canteen News

TERM 1 CANTEEN

Cheese Rolls	\$1.00
Toasties/buns	\$2.00
Pizza	\$1.00
Cupcake/muffin	\$1.50
Choco Donuts	\$2.00
Hash Brown	\$1.00
Waffles	\$1.00 single / \$1.80 double
Pies – Couplands	\$2.50
Cookie time	\$1.20
Potato chips	\$1.80
Pork rib roll	\$3.00
Icy	.50
Plain Ice blocks	\$1.80
Milo with marshmallows	\$2.00
Water	\$2.00
Small Juice	\$2.00
Large Juice	\$3.50
Small Milks	\$2.50
Large Milkshake (Murch made)	\$3.00
– thickener extra .30 / Ice Cream	extra .50

LUNCHTIME MENUS

- MONDAY – Rib buns – \$3.00
 TUESDAY – Butter Chicken on Rice – \$4.00
 WEDNESDAY – CANTEEN CLOSED, NO HEAT UPS.
 THURSDAY – Chicken wraps – \$4.00
 FRIDAY – Nugget's & chips – \$4.00
 – Pottle of hot chips – \$2.00
 – Ribs – \$4.00

Community Notices

If you have a Community Notice to advertise,
 please email it through to the school at
newsletters@was.school.nz.

Waiau Swimming Club

Starts on Tuesday 11 and Thursday 13 February. Come along at your time or phone Dale Egerton on 027 3106199 if you would like to join.

Cubs / Keas / Scouts

Cubs and Keas start on Thursday 13 February at 5.30pm.
 Scouts starts on Friday 14 February at 5.30pm.
 Any queries, please get in touch with Helen Hall on 2266485.

Tuatapere Community Pool

Supervisors are needed for the Pool. If you are able to help out over the coming term please let Rachael know via the School Office or by phoning 027 6033369. Thank you.

Tuatapere Netball Club Trials

Registration and first trial Friday 21 February: Year 6 & Under 3.30pm – all other age groups 6pm.

Second Trial Saturday 22 February: 11am and 1pm. (You will be informed on Friday which time to attend.)

If you are unable to make trials or need to ask a question phone Wendy on 2266383 or 022 0833012.

TUATAPERE FUN DAY – Saturday 8 February

75th Waiau A&P Show

A classic celebration of rural way of life with lots of entertainment for the kids. Some of the highlights: the Grand Parade at 2.30pm, "Tui's Got Talent" from 10.30am-3.30pm. "The Wonky Donkey Show" at 11.30am and 3.30pm. Gates open at 8.30am. Adults \$5, children free.

Waiau Arts Trail

Art, craft and gifts on display at nine venues in Tuatapere. Free entry. Main venue: RSA Hall, 9am–3pm.

Splash Bash 'n' Splat Zone

Action-packed entertainment for youth. Tuatapere Pool 2pm-4pm, free for under 16's. Paintball from 12noon, \$5 for 25 balls. Under 12's need parental permission; meet at the Pool. Computer games and competitions 12pm-4pm; free at the Waiau Film Club (next to Pool).

Stump the Hump

The finish of a unique endurance walking event. Walkers will be finishing all day Saturday, Rarakau carpark.