



## From the Principal's Desk

Dear Parents/Caregivers

*When I hear somebody say "Life is hard" I am always tempted to ask, "Compared to what?"*

Sydney Harris

The newsletter this week is full of examples of students (past and present) who have worked hard in some way. The Waiau Northern netball girls have been working hard all week in Invercargill, playing against teams from all over the South Island. Seeing them head off for their final day of games it was obvious they were shattered – but they turned up and played for the final two games of the tournament. I was fortunate enough to see them play on Tuesday afternoon – is netball really a non-contact game? Sure didn't look it!!

It was also great to hear from one of our ex-students (Ryan Egerton) to see that all his hard work at school and since has paid off. He is now qualified to do a job that is literally taking him around the world. Ryan proves that you can achieve anything if you try – if you want it, if you can visualise it, and if you can stick at it.

I was also 'lucky' enough to be supervising the Agriculture students on their practical last week. Watching students trying and succeeding at riding and controlling a motorbike. I'm going to embarrass her by mentioning Eleanor Carey in particular. It was obvious to all at the beginning of the 60 minute session that Eleanor did not fancy getting on the motorbike (have to say I wouldn't either!). But she stuck at it, helped and encouraged by her peers and tutor, and by the end of the hour she was riding independently.



For some it wouldn't have been much of a challenge but for Eleanor it was – and she overcame her fears /

trepidation and succeeded – through hard work and commitment.

On the other side of the coin I have had a number of students over the last couple of weeks who have decided, one way or another, that 'Life is too hard'. My staff work very hard here at WAS to provide students with learning opportunities that will extend the students' experiences and gain qualifications that will be useful. If we can't provide these as a school we look to other providers such as SIT and Telford. It is sad therefore when I see students drop out of these courses because it gets 'too hard'.

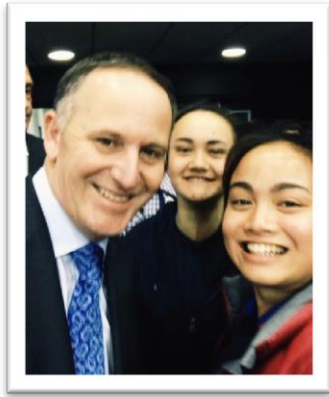
Going back to the last part of the quote "Compared to what?" Well Ms Smart certainly saw some of the 'compared to what' in her recent visit to Argentina. Like many of us she has had the opportunity to compare education systems in different parts of the world and has returned with an appreciation of the advantages we have here compared with other countries. Hopefully some of that appreciation will rub off on students and they will start to take the opportunities they are presented with.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to wish Helen Ward good luck in her new job which she will be starting next term. Helen has for some time considered training and working as a school counsellor. Much of a DP's role ends up being of a counselling nature and so she is moving on to utilise her experience and interest in this field. She will be taking up the position of school counsellor at Aparima College. For those who can't cope with her loss, she will be coming back to WAS once a week as our school counsellor ☺.

Helen has been invaluable as DP at Waiau. It is recognised within the profession as being the toughest job within a school. You have to balance support of your Principal with being the voice of the staff to the Principal. On top of this you often spend your day dealing with some of the most challenging students. The Principal gives you lots of jobs to do, you usually have a big teaching load too and there really is never enough hours in the day. Helen has managed her role as DP with tenacity, professionalism, and sincerity. She will be sorely missed. Mrs Deborah McClure will be taking over the role of DP and Helen's teaching load in Term 4.

One of the things I have been charged with as principal is to try and raise the profile of the school and show it in a positive light. Well I don't know how successful I personally have been with that but our students certainly have. You might have noticed Coleen Ebron

and Tagan Waihape rubbing shoulders with our Prime Minister on the News on Wednesday night – can't get a higher profile than that 😊!



And then Coleen and Anna Hammond got themselves in the Southland Times for their athleticism and netball skills. Well done girls!

### School Badges

It was my pleasure to award achievement badges to the following students at last week's Assembly. Well done!

#### ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT BADGES

##### Hayley Adams

- Excellence in NCEA – Level 2 Chemistry

##### Max Baird

- For getting 100% in his "Thinking with Evidence" Science test

#### CULTURAL ACHIEVEMENT BADGES

##### Angela Pierce, Christian Sotto, Curtis Swann

- For being selected for, and presenting at, the Western Cluster Speech Night

*Ms Elizabeth Hannah, Principal*

## School News

### WELCOME TO NEW STUDENTS

Over the last fortnight we have had the pleasure of welcoming two new entrants to Room 1 with Mrs Bennett. Happy School Days **Chelsea Williams** and **Luca Unahi!**



### WAS AWESOME CERTIFICATES

Congratulations to the following students who were awarded certificates at last week's Assembly:



**Peter Devery – Yr3** – For writing an informative story about William Wallace and the battle between Scotland and England in the 1300s.

**Taelah Haines – Yr3** – For excellent progress in handwriting. Well done Taelah we are so proud of how you can now write your letters independently.

**Christian Sotto – Yr5** – For working hard in performing his Speech, both at school and at Cluster level, gaining 3<sup>rd</sup> Place!

### STAFF CHANGES

As you will have read above, Mrs Helen Ward has resigned from her position as Deputy Principal here at WAS to take up a new role at Aparima College. She will finish with us at the end of this term – Friday 26 September. For Term 4 Mrs Deborah McClure will be our Acting DP.

Also, with Mrs Gemma Bennett and Mr Richard Bennett being away on their honeymoon, we have a long-term reliever in Room 1, Mrs Carina Webb, and a couple of relief teachers in covering PE.

### EX-STUDENT EXCELS

Hi there from Miami, USA. Since my departure from Waiau Area School I have used my studies to help me travel around the world. I work on golf courses helping maintain the grass and keeping it looking nice for the golfers that play on it.



My current home is Miami, Florida. I am working for Donald Trump on the famous Blue Monster course. This course has one of the biggest tournaments in the world called The Cadillac Championship. In March next year Tiger Woods and all the pros will be playing the course I work on which will be really cool!



The only reason I am here is because of how hard I worked when I was studying in Tuatapere. My bosses are always checking my school records and it is helping me get the best jobs in my profession thanks to the hard work I put in during my years at school. If I had any advice it would be anything is possible. I never thought I would be doing what I am doing when I was at school. Dream big!!

*Ryan Egerton, Head Boy 2010*

## LOOM BANDS

Unfortunately, due to a handful of incidents around loom bands being 'taken', being 'fought' over etc, we have made the decision that loom bands are 'banned' from school. If your child brings loom bands to school (whether as a bracelet, ring, kit, etc), they will be confiscated and will need to be collected from the School Office by a parent/caregiver.

## AREA SCHOOLS TOPS

We have a number of Area School tops (singlets/t-shirts) that students ordered, but have not paid for and taken. If you would like one, they are \$30 each. Come and see Rachael in the office on Mondays, Wednesdays or Fridays.

*Black School Jersey For Sale – Size 16yrs  
– \$10 – very good condition. Contact  
Gillian at the School Office.*

## CAPITAL E THEATRE PRODUCTION

Capital E is bringing to Invercargill a production on Thursday 16 October; *Mr McGee & the Biting Flea* is for years 0-4. All students have received a notice about this opportunity. We are now getting ready to submit our final numbers as tickets are selling fast, so if you haven't received a permission slip and would like one, call into the office. The final day for permission and payment is 12 September.

## 2014 Timeline

Mon 3 Feb to Thurs 17 Apr	TERM 1 (11 weeks)
Mon 5 May to Fri 4 July	TERM 2 (9 weeks)
Mon 21 July to Fri 26 Sept	TERM 3 (10 weeks)
Mon 13 Oct to Fri 12 Dec	TERM 4 (9 weeks)
Mon 27 Oct	Labour Day

## From Our Sports Coordinator

### AURORA SPORTS EXCHANGE

This will be happening at Waiau Area School on Thursday 18 September. All students from Yr 7 upwards will be competing or helping on the day. If you are able to come along and watch or help on the day please let us know via the office.

*Miss Rachael Poole, Sports Coordinator*

## From Our Teachers

### UNDERSTANDING NCEA

Having trouble understanding NCEA? Wondering how to help your child meet their NCEA goal? NZQA has

released an app to help you. Download it free from the Apple App store and the Google Play store. And of course, feel free to make an appointment with your child's teacher for subject specific questions.

*Ms Jennifer Smart, Principals Nominee*

## HELP!!!

Year 7/8 are on the hunt for glass jars with lids. We are looking for a variety of sizes and shapes. We only need about 20 so if you can help can you please send them along with your child or drop them into the school office.

*Miss Quinn & Year 7/8*

## AGRICULTURE CLASS

After waiting for several weeks for the weather to sort itself out, the senior agriculture class at Waiau Area School completed their fencing and motorcycle skill practical assessment day with Agribusiness. The morning was spent assembling electric fences in our paddocks with both single and multi-reel breaks. Then once the sun came out it was onto pre-ride motorcycle safety checks before a few trips around the paddock to show off our skills by active riding. After lunch we went through knowledge of fencing tools, wires and components. It was a great day and a huge thanks to Bruce and Alison from Agribusiness for coming out with your gear and being very supportive.

*Miss Anita Collett, TIC Agriculture*



## WELCOME HOME MS SMART

¡He vuelto! I'm pleased to be back. I had an incredible learning experience in Argentina. I was placed with a lovely family in San Luis and saw all types of different schools: strict private Catholic schools, underfunded public high schools and autogestionadas charter schools. Every school I went into looked very different to ours. It was nice to realise that NZ's progressive teaching practices and flexible curriculum ARE world class, and I

saw how important it is to educate the whole child – not just reading and writing like they do over there! The Argentinean students were fascinated by our lush grounds, excellent resources and regular camps and outdoor activities. They couldn't believe that many high school students have part-time jobs over here: in Argentina this would be almost impossible due to the large amount of homework and lack of employment options.

A big gracias to the school community for supporting me during the Award. The students have been very flexible and accommodating with staff changes, and the jobs I do around the school were expertly picked up by the rest of the staff. The Year 7/8 group are already enjoying all the Spanish resources I brought back to enrich their language learning experience.

*Muchas gracias, Ms Jennifer Smart*

## Achievements Outside of School to Celebrate ...



### Rugby Successes

Well done to:

- **Flynn McCallum** who has been selected for the Northern Western U48kg Rep team.
- **Lucas Gutsell** who has been selected for the U38kg Southland Country team (along with former WAS student, Connor Fowle).
- **Sam Stratford, Ethan Clark, and Lucas Gutsell** who played for the Nightcaps B grade team which won their division – going undefeated all season.

Fantastic achievements you boys!

If your child has out of school successes that you'd like to have celebrated here in our school newsletter, please feel free to either email [newsletters@was.school.nz](mailto:newsletters@was.school.nz) or drop a note in to the School Office.

## Community Notices

If you have a Community Notice to advertise, please email it through to the school at [newsletters@was.school.nz](mailto:newsletters@was.school.nz).

### THE HVP SCHOOL DISCO!!!

Thursday 11 September | 4-6pm | Clifden Hall  
\$4 (includes a sausage and bread)

Come dressed up as something beginning with the letter C. The disco is open to children from preschool age through to Year 8. It is in aid of raising money for HVP's Term 4 camp activities.

### WAIAU VALLEY PET SHOW AGM

When:- Thursday 18 September 2014

Where: Waiau Hotel Cafe

Time: 7.30pm

Please come along with your ideas, you don't need to worry about taking on major roles these are all filled. Ideas are for the programme and the day. Apologies to either Anne-Marie Erskine 03 226 6969 or Linsey Bennett 03 226 6692.

### SUMMER FOOTBALL COMPETITION WINTON

Due to the popularity of this activity pre-Christmas last year, the Winton Football Club Inc will again be running this event. All interest can be directed to Veronica Donaldson at [vdnldsn@gmail.com](mailto:vdnldsn@gmail.com) or 027 515 0102 when you will be sent a set of rules and a team registration form. Teams play 5 aside.

Senior teams – secondary school age plus – \$100 per team. Primary school players – can form own teams but fee is \$10 per player.

Entries close – 26 September; Playing day – Thursdays; Season 16 October – 11 December.

Primary school games -5.30pm start; seniors – 6pm start.

BBQ will operate with soft drinks and some sweets also available.

### HOLIDAY SPORTS PROGRAMME: SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

The dates for the next programme have been confirmed – so put them in your diary! They are as follows:

**Invercargill** – Date: Monday 29 September – Friday 3 October

Venue: Various, throughout Invercargill

**Winton** – Date: Wednesday 8 October

Venue: BNZ Central Southland Events Sports Complex

**Riverton** – Date: Thursday 9 October

Venue: Aparima College Gymnasium

**Te Anau** – Date: Friday 10 October

Venue: Real Journeys Fiordland Events Centre

**STUDY**  
Monday's & Thursday's after school  
**3.15- 4.15pm**

This is an opportunity for all Year 11-13 W.A.S students to take advantage of extra tuition and support from their teachers. It is also an opportunity for Te Kura students to have teacher contact time.

S.I.C time on a Friday will also be compulsory study, extra tuition and catch up!!!