



From the Principal's Desk

Dear Parents/Caregivers



Recognising and celebrating success at WAS is an important and enjoyable part of my job. So it was with great pleasure that I attended the Youthmark Awards in Invercargill last week to read a citation for Coleen Ebron for her contribution in all areas of school life, sporting, cultural, and academic. Coleen was in illustrious company from schools across Southland. Coleen represented the school with pride and aplomb. Congratulations Coleen; you have set a great example to the younger students of WAS.

Well, we are just one week away from our Seniors going on study leave. Staff and students are really feeling the pressure to get everything done in time and no doubt parents will be suffering at home with the stress that some students feel at this time of year. I have mentioned this in previous newsletters so I am not going to bang on about it. But I will suggest that students try some of the techniques Rakesh Pandey taught last week to help deal with the stress and to help you study more effectively.

I was fortunate enough last Thursday and Friday to be in Wanaka for a number of visiting speakers at the Otago / Southland Principals Conference. Two speakers in particular, left lasting impressions and information which I wish to share with you. The first speaker of the two days was Judge Andrew Beecroft. Judge Beecroft is the Principal Youth Court Judge of NZ and as well as being a strong advocate for young people he is very experienced at dealing with some of the most challenging young people in the country. Judge Beecroft presented some startling figures that I think we all need to consider:

1. Of the top OECD countries (those countries considered to be the most economically strong), NZ had the biggest contrast between the top 20% and the bottom 20% in the country!
2. We have the highest rate of teen suicide in the OECD.
3. We have the highest rate of cannabis use in young people in the OECD.

4. 80% of kids in the Youth Justice system are not engaged in learning.
5. Technically, these may not be truanting because they are not enrolled in any secondary school.
6. 25-30% of crime happens between 9am-3pm.
7. Invercargill/Southland have a group of repeat offenders totalling 9% (the National average is 5%) and 60% of crime is done by that 9%.

Implications for WAS:

- We must continue to strive to keep our students engaged; to work with students, parents and the community to provide opportunities that are relevant and interesting for students.
- With that in mind I will be talking individually to all our current year 10-12 students next week about their options/subject choices. I would like to take this opportunity to invite parents to these discussions if they wish.

The second interesting presentation I saw was by Gary Carnachan from the Sports Council. Much of Gary's presentation was about the different sports that students participated in but he mentioned a couple of points of interest and importance:

1. NZ statistics show that students involved in sports groups/teams, in school and in the community are less likely to end up committing crime. Hence around the Marlborough region they have a sign that says, "Kids in sports avoids a day in court".
2. Research by Dr Karen Martin at the University of Western Australia has found that regular sport and physical activity enhances children's learning.
3. Research at Loughborough University found that participation in sport reduced behaviour issues with young people.

Implications for WAS:

- We have excellent sports facilities at WAS and our students have ample opportunities to engage in sport. Through Sports Southland and the school staff, students have been able to participate in soccer, basketball, badminton, boxing, martial arts, squash, cricket, swimming – as well as the usual rugby and netball (and these are just the ones I remember!).
- We have applied and been shortlisted for the Sports Start programme which encourages and develops sporting activities in a Primary setting.
- We already encourage staff to get students out into the fresh air for a run round in lessons where they feel attention and therefore learning is lagging.

As you will be aware from previous newsletters we are, as a school, involved in PB4L (Positive Behaviour for Learning). We have been engaging with students about what positive expectations we should have in both a classroom and wider school setting. It is important to acknowledge when students are seen to be following those positive expectations. For the month of November (and a few days of October) we are trialling how we acknowledge positive behaviour. Staff each have a pile of 'Gotchya' slips to give out to students who they see:

- *respecting themselves*
- *respecting others*
- *respecting the environment*

Students will collect these, give them to their classroom teacher/mentor teacher and on the 1st of December they will all be counted and rewards given out to those who have consistently behaved in an appropriate manner.

Ms Elizabeth Hannah, Principal

School News

2015 START DATES

Arrangements for the start of 2015:

Monday 2 February

- Course Confirmation Day for year 11, 12, 13 students; from 1.00pm in the School Library.
- School Office reopens

Wednesday 4 February

- Term 1 commences for all students

WAS AWESOME CERTIFICATES

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



Jackson Irvine – Yr2 – For making a great start to Term 4. Jackson has been highly motivated and a great role model to others over the past week. Well done Jackson, keep up the awesome work!

Emily Templeton – Yr2 – For always being on task and giving 100% effort to whatever is asked of her. Well done Emily, you are a pleasure to teach.

Pagemarie Boyd – Yr3 – Welcome to Room 2 Pagemarie. You have already shown that you are a very hard worker, which has been an excellent example to others. Well done!

Logan Boyd – Yr5 – For making a great start to his time at Waiau Area School. Logan gives good ideas working in group and class discussions.

COURSE SELECTION MEETINGS

These will take place next week between the Principal and all year 10-12 students. If, as a parent, you wish to be part of that conversation, please phone the School Office and suggest a time.

HANGI/FAMILY AFTERNOON

FRIDAY 7 NOVEMBER

FROM 3.00PM

You will have received your invitation to the above from the BOT. Friendly sports games will start at 3.00pm and will be followed up with kai at 5.00pm. ☺

RSVPs due 31 October – we look forward to seeing you!

Community Consultation

We are holding a meeting at 3.30pm on Tuesday 25 November to discuss the way forward with Prizegiving cups and trophies.

While being mindful of holding with tradition, there is also a need to update and modernise our current collection.

We invite interested community members to attend the meeting and share their thoughts.

Meeting will held in the School Staffroom.

White Elephant Stall

Twilight Xmas Market

It's time to clear out those attics and sheds, basements and cupboards, and under the bed!

Your trash is bound to be someone else's treasure and we'd love it if you would donate your unwanted 'treasure' to the school.

Things can be dropped off at the School Office the day before the market please.

All profits from this stall will go directly to the School Camp Fund.

DR ERIC ELDER BURSARY FUND 2015

Applications for the above Bursary open 1 November 2014. The Dr Elder Bursary is valued at \$1500 and is open to all persons wishing to undertake tertiary studies in 2015.

Application forms are available from either the:

ANZ Bank	or	Health & Gift Shop
130 Palmerston St		Orawia Rd
Riverton		Tuatapere

Completed applications to be forwarded to:

Mrs R Minty
88 Wairio-Wreys Bush Rd
R D 1
Otautau 9689

Applications close 10 January 2015. For further information phone 03 2258628.

Mrs Raewyn Minty, Secretary

JR MCKENZIE YOUTH EDUCATION FUND

Application forms are available for those parents / caregivers who may require financial assistance with the purchasing of a school uniform by contacting jrmckenzie9980@gmail.com.

The JR McKenzie Youth Education Fund is administered by the Rotary Club of Dunedin, and applications will be accepted from those students who are entering the High School part of the School (that is, Year 7). Applications close on Friday 28 November.

From Our Students

Dear PTA – Thank you for the new, cool, colourful sandpit toys. My favourites are the buckets because you can make Castles out of sand. Love from Lily

Dear PTA – Thank you for fundraising and digging out the sandpit. I love the new sandpit toys. My favourite toy was the colourful shovels. Thank you so much for your hard work. You are awesome. Love from Jay



Dear PTA – Thank you for the sandpit toys. You are the best PTA in the world. I like the shovels and the buckets they are colourful which makes us want to play with them. They are good toys. Love from Brooke

Important Dates

Mon 13 Oct to Fri 12 Dec	TERM 4 (9 weeks)
Tue 4 November – 10.50am	Whole School Assembly School Library
Fri 7 November – 2.30pm	Junior Assembly
Fri 7 November – from 3pm	HANGI / FAMILY DAY
Mon 10 November – 7.30pm	PTA Meeting School Library
Wed 12 November	Pet Day
Fri 14 November – 2.30pm	Junior Assembly

Tue 18 November – 10.50am	Whole School Assembly School Library
Fri 21 November – 2.30pm	Junior Assembly
Tue 25 November – 3.30pm	Community Consultation – Prizegiving cups & trophies. School Library
Wed 26 November – 7pm	BOT Meeting School Staffroom
Fri 28 November – 2.30pm	Junior Assembly
Fri 28 November – 4-6pm	TWILIGHT MARKET DAY School Quad
Tue 2 December – 10.50am	Whole School Assembly School Library
Wed 3 – Fri 5 December	Yr7/8 Camp Mavora Lakes
Fri 5 December – 2.30pm	Junior Assembly
Thurs 11 December – 7pm	Prizegiving School Hall
2015	
Wed 4 Feb to Thurs 2 Apr	TERM 1 (8 weeks)
Mon 20 Apr to Fri 3 July	TERM 2 (11 weeks)
Mon 20 July to Fri 25 Sept	TERM 3 (10 weeks)
Mon 12 Oct to Wed 16 Dec	TERM 4 (9½ weeks) (Tentative end date)

From the DP’s Desk

Kia ora Koutou

With two weeks left in the school term our seniors are working hard, finishing internals and studying for exam week. Staff are busy with engaging students in these tasks and using their non-contact time and afternoons to support and help prepare our students. It was pleasing that many students who attended the workshop with Rakesh Pandey appreciated and valued the message of taking responsibility for their study, and using their initiative to discern what they need assistance with and to seek the tautoko required.

I have had the pleasure over the last two weeks of working alongside parents with their rangatahi regarding work and behaviour concerns. Many parents are to be applauded for their ability to encourage their child in a proactive way. Recognising the problem, encouraging their child to be responsible for their actions and looking at ways to resolve the conflict or use the situation to develop personally. This is a life skill that we as adults use, being reflective of our actions in a situation and evaluating how we would respond next time; so it’s a great skill to develop and encourage when opportunities arise with our students.

Many thanks also for your support with sending your child to school in the correct uniform. What a tidy bunch we look now! A few families left to get on this waka with correct uniform, but keeping us informed is key. Progress is paramount as less time is now spent on

checking, discussing and following up incorrect uniform and invested in curriculum programmes.

Have a great week.

No reira, Mrs Deborah McClure

From Our Teachers

MALAYSIA 2015

Dear Whanau and friends of the school

As you know, we are trying to raise funds for the senior camp to Malaysia in 2015. This is going to be a big trip and hopefully a lifechanging experience for those taking part. We are running many fundraisers between now and then and are trying to help our students to get over the line in terms of raising \$2500 each to pay for travel, food and accommodation. There are a couple of things we would like to try and this is why I'm putting some notices out now:

1. If you have work you would like completing in the local area please get in touch, it could be one offs or regular employment, we could then potentially match our students to working opportunities to give them the chance to raise their own money.
2. If you have old car/truck/tractor batteries that you would like to be disposed of please get in touch as we will collect them and dispose of them for you, this would allow us to weight them in for scrap value as well as disposing of problem items.
3. If you see fundraising events feel free to attend, we are having a series of Malaysian food nights locally and would love to have you along and cook for you. It will be a buffet format with something for everyone, pretty much from mild to wild so whatever your tastes you should find a dish to your liking!
4. If you feel like donating or could line us up with potential sponsors feel free to drop us a line we're always glad to find ways of providing new and interesting ways for our students to succeed so if you have any ideas get in touch!

Well I think that concludes it! If you are about outside The Warehouse on the 2nd or 22nd of November don't be surprised to see us fundraising with a sausage sizzle.

Cheers, Mr Simon Pearce

From Our Librarian

LIBRARY NEWS

A big thank you to the families that came and chose books to read for the school holidays. It was a great success. Look out for more information for Summer Reading soon.

Scholastic Book Club Issue 7 is now out and orders are due back by 20 November; once again there are books from as little as \$2 (great for stocking fillers!). I am

always available if you have any questions regarding these books.

This week in the Library we have been painting and setting up a scary book display. The students are very creative.

Thank you to those of you who have donated books over the past few months. It's always exciting seeing the new books then hearing about how good they are from the students.

Popular books in the past term have been *Scooby-Doo Series*, *The Famous Five*, *Divergent Series* by Veronica Roth, *Maze Runner Series* by James Dashner, *If I Stay* by Gayle Form.

COOL WEBSITES:

<http://www.lettersofnote.com/> is an attempt to gather and sort fascinating letters, postcards, telegrams, faxes, memos etc.

<http://www.letterheady.com/> is also by Shaun Usher and has some interesting letterheads.

A house without books is like a room without windows. Horace Mann

Miss Joanne Fraser, Librarian

Community Notices

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

TUATAPERE PLAYCENTRE FUNDRAISER

Have you ordered your 2015 calendars? We have on display at the School Office a calendar that can feature your child's artwork – also available are greeting cards, diaries and kids notepads. Pop in and have a look if interested. Alternatively, contact Tuatapere Playcentre.

WESTERN JUNIOR TENNIS COACHING IN OTAUTAU

Tennis coaching for all Primary School aged children will be held at Otautau this term. Paige Hubber from Tennis Southland will be undertaking the coaching starting on Wednesday 12 November through to Wednesday 3 December (4 weeks).

Children will be grouped according to their ability and age with 4-6 children in each group. Coaching lessons will be 45 minutes to 1 hour, depending on group age. The cost is \$48 per person for the 4 weeks. You will be required to pay in advance.

If you wish to register your child please contact one of the following Western Junior Tennis Coordinators:

Annemarie Bruin 03 225 8857 or Melissa Kean 0272 278 010 or Raewyn Fallow 03 224 6168.