

Western Springs College

Nga Puna O Waiorea

Newsletter No 11 – 28th November 2011

Springs Calendar TERM FOUR

Week Six

November 28 – December 2

Monday Nov 28 to Wednesday Nov 30
Junior Arts rehearsals.

Thursday Dec 1

Yr 13 Graduation Dinner Eden Park.

Doors open 6.15 starts 6.30pm

Junior Arts Festival, TAPAC & WSC Hall,
4.30pm

Thursday Dec 1 – Friday Dec 2

Yr 10 Sports Academy Camp – class #1

Friday Dec 2

Junior Arts Festival, TAPAC & WSC Hall,
4.30pm

Rumaki Prizegiving 6.30pm

Week Seven

December 5 – December 9

Monday Dec 5

Orientation Evening for 2012 Yr 9
students and parents with SMT & Deans.
Last BOT meeting of the year 6pm.

Monday Dec 5 – Tuesday Dec 6

Yr 10 Sports Academy Camp – class #2.

Thursday Dec 8

Junior school beach picnic at Long Bay.

Friday Dec 9

Junior Prizegiving at 10am. Students
dismissed for the year at approximately
12 noon.



Message from the Principal:

Year Book 2011 Publication

I would like to commend all who have contributed to the publication of the Springs Year Book. It is a very impressive compilation indeed! Make sure that you obtain a copy before they sell out.

This year's edition represents a return to the hard copy form last produced in 2009. It is now selling from the main school office for \$10.00 per copy; this represents a significant subsidy on the part of the school against the total expenses, given that the per copy production cost is nearly \$30.00.

Board Elections

Congratulations to John Davy, Simon Penlington and Gilbert Wong who have been elected to fill the three parent representative positions vacated recently. It is widely anticipated that this trio of trustees will bring a wealth of valuable expertise and experience to the board. We expect to be able to clarify which of the outgoing trustees will be permanently lost to the board at the final board meeting of the year on Monday, 5 December.

Staff Farewells

Next week we will farewell Tania Secker, our exceptionally capable Classical Studies, History and Social Studies specialist, who is returning to Christchurch, her home town, to be close to family. Tania has been with us for six years since her appointment as a beginning teacher in 2006. She will take up a position at Rangī Ruru Girls' School in February. Best wishes, Tania: Springs has been very fortunate to benefit from your excellent teaching services.

We will also farewell Ross Wheaton, our very able part-time Mathematics teacher, following almost six years of dedicated service since May, 2006. Ross has also made a most memorable contribution to sport at WSC - as a tennis and badminton coach/manager, a swimming and athletics official, and as a rugby league referee.

Our heart-felt appreciation is held out to Bridget Fogarty, a most excellent part-time English teacher, who has resigned ahead of the imminent birth of her second child in the new year.

The following staff have been granted leave for 2012:

Rita Berridge (Assistant Head of Drama)

Megan Murdoch (Assistant Head of Physical Education) – Megan has taken maternity leave;

Chris Selwyn (Rumaki Tumuaki) – Chris has been seconded by NZQA as a national moderator in te reo Maori.

I will introduce our new teachers to you in the January newsletter, which is mailed out to all families. In a word, our new intake constitutes an extremely strong infusion of talented teachers who, I confidently predict, will make a very positive impact on our school community.

Parent Action Group

On behalf of WSC students and staff I would like to acknowledge the significant contribution made to school life this year by the Parent Action Group. PAG-raised funds have enabled the purchase of a wide range of assets from additional notebooks to scrum machines, and from outdoor tables to a defibrillator. I can assure you that Springs teachers are mightily encouraged by the active and strong presence of this parent group, constantly standing alongside us as we strive to deliver our students a high quality education.

New Philosophy Awards

This year we have two handsome new awards at Prizegiving, *The Woods Cup for Endeavour in Junior Philosophy* and *The Woods Shield for Endeavour in Senior Philosophy*. These awards have been sponsored by *The Woods Trust* administered by Auckland University. The trust was set up to promote the teaching of philosophy in New Zealand schools, and we are grateful for its support in this area, as well as its sponsorship of the annual *Auckland Schools Philosophy Day*.

The cup and shield are awarded to the junior and senior students, respectively, who have made the greatest effort to integrate their philosophical learning with learning in their other subject areas, and with their thinking in general. The aim is to emphasise the relevance of Philosophy to life, and both are inscribed with Socrates' famous observation: "*The unexamined life is not worth living.*"

The first senior recipient was **Taylor Groves** from Year 13. Taylor has studied Philosophy at *Western Springs College* for the last 3 years, and is likely to continue the subject next year at *Victoria University*. He has continuously made dynamic, insightful and original advances in his learning by making meaningful and pertinent connections across subject boundaries. His final assessment task took the form of an investigation into Postmodernism and its impact on society, in which Taylor used the impact of postmodern thought on The Arts, as a model and microcosm for its impact on society at large. Earlier in the year Taylor also gained the third highest mark across the country for *The University of Waikato Star Philosophy Paper*. We all wish him luck in his future studies, and hope to set up an opportunity for the Woods Trustees to meet him before he leaves for University.

The recipient of the *Woods Cup for Endeavour in Junior Philosophy* will be announced at Junior Prizegiving.

Paul Alford

Taylor Groves



From the Library

Overdue Books

We are concerned that a large number of books borrowed by year 9 and year 10 students are yet to be returned. I am requesting the assistance of parents and caregivers to ensure these books are returned by early next week. The books are required urgently for our annual stocktake. The students have been given a notice showing the title and author of the overdue book. If, after a thorough search, the book is not found, please come to the library and tell us.

Many thanks

Sharda Patel

Parent Action Group News

Not everyone knows what the Parent Action Group is, or what we do. So here's a quick update on what we've achieved this year.

On top of our regular activities (hosting the new parents BBQ and staff Christmas lunch, helping with the ball and leavers' dinner, organising the Seminar Series etc), PAG funding activity for 2011 has included:

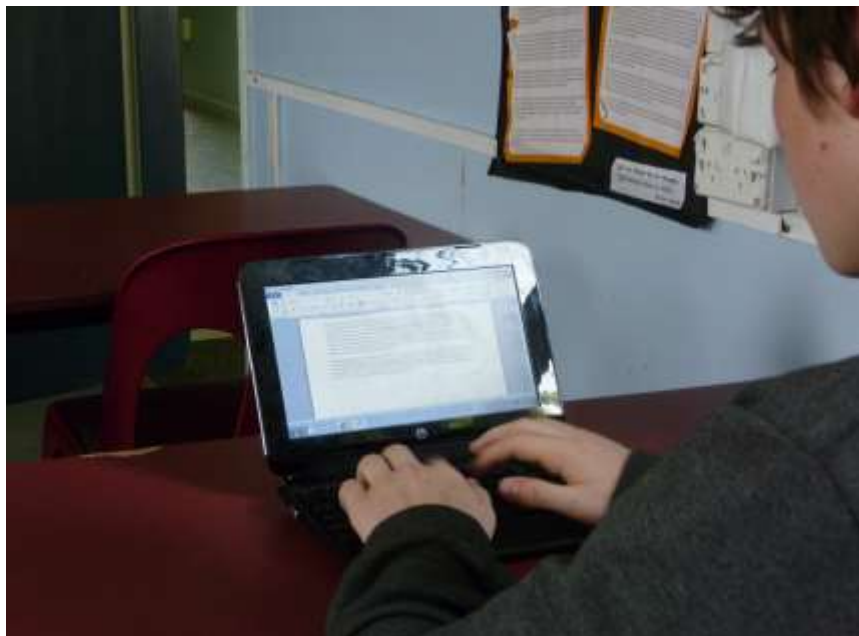
*A defibrillator * Picnic tables *Stream restoration *Banners *Scrum machines *A visiting expert
*A new BBQ * PLUS TWO sets of notebooks for use in classrooms (see photos of them in use).

In total, we have spent over \$35,000 on our students (and their school!) this year.

Interested in finding out more about PAG? Our final "meeting" of the year is Thurs 8 December, 7.30pm at MALT (442 Richmond Rd – corner of Hakanoa St). Feel free to come along!

Students Enjoying Netbook Use





Year 13 News

Congratulations to the following students who were successful in gaining a financial scholarship towards their undergraduate studies in 2012:

ASB Community Award: Ryan Macallister, Daniel McBride, Nicholas Short and Eve Woodward

AUT Excellence Scholarship: Tiana Gibbons-Campbell

AUT Significant Student Scholarship: Chaz Brown and Sally Bollinger

Sir George Elliott Scholarship: Henrietta Bollinger

UNITEC Partnership Scholarship: Brook Matheson and Tomoaki Saegusa

University of Auckland Alumni Scholarship: Xixi Xian

University of Auckland Jubilee Scholarship: Harley Adams

University of Auckland Vice Chancellor Scholarship for Top Maori and Pacific Island student:
Nathaniel Howe

Victoria University of Wellington Excellence Award: Henrietta Bollinger, Zoe Dunster, Taylor Groves, Mary Peirse O' Byrne, Tom Shore and Hetty Wheeler-Bowden

Victoria University of Wellington Top Excellence Award: Daniel McBride

To All Year 13s 2011:

"If things start happening, don't worry, don't stew, just go right along and you'll start happening too." – Dr. Seuss .

Take care of yourselves and do come back for a visit, our doors will always be open for you.

Arohanui,
Gerry Victor
Y 13 Academic Director

Performing Arts School

The Performing Arts School has a brand-spanking new programme for 2012 lined up, and will be opening enrolments at the beginning of December. Look out for our January holiday programmes for kids and workshops for teens, auditions for our four youth companies in early February and our half-yearly Have-a-Go Day. Early bird specials for full fees paid before Christmas apply.

This December, TAPAC hosts *Pointy Dog Dance Co and Friends*, an assortment of pieces made for youth, by our youth contemporary dance company and associated choreographers. 20-22 Dec, \$15 adult and \$10 concession tickets.

The Performing Arts School of New Zealand

Ph: 09 845 0290

Fax: 09 845 0127

Email: administration@pasnz.co.nz

Post: PO Box 44-020

Pt Chevalier

Auckland 1246

www.pasnz.co.nz

2012 SOUTHERN SKIES TOURNAMENT

After two long months of "canvassing" the tournament, we can now confirm that two sports teams will be representing Western Springs College at this prestigious sports event. An Under 16 boys football and Under 16 netball team will travel to Brisbane next July to compete against other international schools and clubs in a week long "festival" of sport.

It's not all about playing sport though, as mid-week all participants will take the day off and have some fun at Dreamworld.

All parents of the players confirmed to travel to Brisbane next year have been notified with also a gentle reminder that their **next deposit will be due on November 30.**

A parents and players evening is set for TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6 at 7pm inside the Sports Centre (Te Whakamanu.)

At this meeting, we will look to form various committees and set in place a calendar of events / programmes in the new year leading up to the tournament.

Tournament Co-Ordinator : Richard Anderson
mobile : (027) 486 1681
Tournament information : www.southern-skies.org

college : (09) 815 6730 xtn 730
e-mail : sports@wsc.school.nz

Western Springs College
MOTIONS RD ● WESTERN SPRINGS ● AUCKLAND PHONE (09) 815 6730 ● FAX (09) 815 6740
email: admin@westernsprings.school.nz