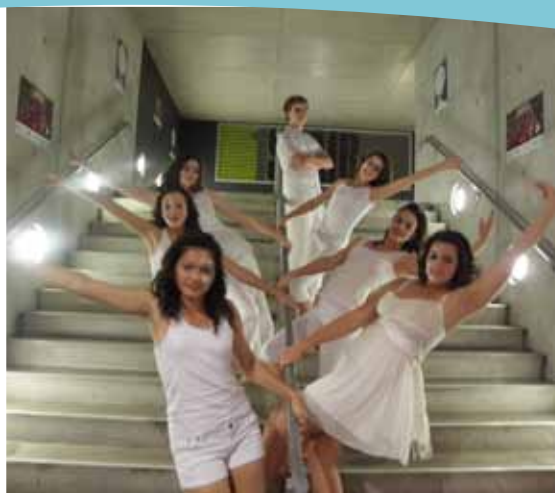




# Westland High School Newsletter

Issue 2.1

20th May, 2011



## Stage Challenge!

Story on Page 4

## From the Principal

A belated welcome back for term 2. Westland High School is a member of a group of schools (ODENZ) who use outdoor education as a marketing tool to attract international students. Over the last week of the holidays and the first two weeks of term, I was with a small group of Principals from ODENZ schools visiting agents in Germany. The response was very positive and we look forward to the pleasure of hosting more students in our community in the coming years. It was a great opportunity to celebrate the many activities that Westland High School provides for our students and the quality of the programmes we offer.

There are times when it is easy to doubt that the local school is providing

quality for our young people. Over the last three weeks we have had two examples where external agencies have looked closely at programmes we provide and have given them the “thumbs up”. We have had our Outdoor Education programmes audited for a quality standard called Outdoors Mark. This is a rigorous assessment of the quality of the instruction, the skills of the instructors, the level of risk management, and the suitability of equipment and its maintenance. It has been a time consuming task involving over 150 pages of written submissions as well as a visit from a skilled assessor. We have been successful in gaining this

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acknowledgement of the quality of our programmes and I thank and congratulate Mr Steve Garside and his team for the effort that went into gaining the Outdoors Mark status for our outdoor programme.

Over the last week we have had a special group from ERO assessing the Education For Enterprise (E4E) programme we run. We were chosen by ERO as an example of good practise for this programme and the information gathered will be used in a special report to be published later in the year. The ERO team were impressed by many aspects of our programme including the number of staff involved, the curriculum spread, the engagement of students, the positive links with the community, the links to the key competencies of the New Zealand Curriculum,

the elements of tikanga Maori, the connections the programme creates with local schools and the formal assessment undertaken. Congratulations to all staff who have been involved with the programme over recent years.

We have been informed by ERO that our three yearly school wide review will most likely take place in the week beginning June 20. This is an opportunity for us as a school to have an independent assessment undertaken of all aspects of the school and is a valuable tool in our endeavours to provide a quality education for the young people in our catchment area.

Ferg  
Harding  
*Principal*



## From the Performing Arts

A huge congratulations to all the cast and crew of our Stage Challenge team on their performance in Christchurch last week!! They were amazing and did us proud! There have been lots of great comments from people who attended the performance and I personally had wonderful compliments from people not from the coast who thought our students were fantastic! So well done Mr Meissel and student leaders Lucy Barnes and Jamie Staton for getting our students to such a high standard. The performance earned the group Excellence awards in Costuming and Character - how they looked, Set design and function, - those amazing painted flats, Health, life skills and creative thinking - the idea behind the dance and Visual enhancement - how the set added to the dance work. All in all a great achievement and well deserved reward for all those months' hard work!



The 2011 Stage Challenge  
Cast & Crew



Students performing at the Stage  
Challenge preview evening

Well done also to the performers who made the evening showing of the Stage Challenge performance such a great evening – the Jazz ensemble, 12 bar blues, Simon Douglas-Grant and the stirring bagpipes of Jill Lang - more proof of the depth of talent we have here at WHS. The senior drama students also performed with polish and depth at their assessment evening, prior to Stage

Challenge. We will see more of this dramatic talent as they prepare for their production of 'The Children of the Poor' later this term. Watch out for those performance dates.

## Runanga Taurira Update

We are celebrating Youth Week and there will be an ALL school social for years 7-13 on Thursday the 26th of May. The theme is Carnival and it's \$2 in theme and \$4 out. There will be popcorn, candyfloss and lots of great music.

We are holding a 20 hour Famine from 2.00pm Friday the 27th until 10.00am Saturday 28th May. We are sleeping on the field if weather permits, otherwise it will be held in the hall. There will be a celebratory breakfast on Saturday but before that the only things allowed to be consumed are Just Juice, barley sugars and water. Bring along a box, a sleeping mat and a sleeping bag. Get a group of friends together and enrol so we can fundraise for this cause.

The Runanga have voted that only the Year 12 and 13 students and their partners will be attending the 2011 Senior Ball. This is due to the number of students in year 12 and 13 and the capacity of the WHS Hall.

Vice Chairperson,  
Cassie Robertson

## Greymouth Careers Expo

A Careers Expo will be held at Greymouth High School Hall on Tuesday 5th July from 5 - 7 pm. All parents and students are welcome.

## Westland High School goes digital

Have you seen our new-look school website? Over the coming months it will become the main source for school news and announcements (*print versions will still be available*). The address is:

<http://www.westlandhigh.school.nz>

We are also using e-mail more often to contact parents and caregivers with important news, announcements and reminders. If you would like to be added to our e-mail distribution list please send an e-mail to

[webmaster@westlandhigh.school.nz](mailto:webmaster@westlandhigh.school.nz)

with your name, e-mail and child's name.

## ICAS Examinations 2011

The following external ICAS examinations are once more offered by the school in 2011.

### For Years 7-13

English                      Closure for entries: 21st June  
Sitting Exam: 2nd August

Mathematics                Closure for entries: 21st June  
Sitting Exam: 16th August

**Costs:** For each exam the cost is \$7.50, therefore for two the cost is \$15 and for three, the cost is \$22.50.

It is very important that the payment/entry closure dates are strictly adhered to, as the entries and paperwork must be sent off to Australia and then the appropriate examination papers are sent to us, arriving at least a week before the sitting date. Your student's entry will not be accepted after these posted closure dates.

There are other examinations offered by the ICAS, but please consult with the appropriate Head of Department concerning these examinations before putting your student's name forward. Further Information on the ICAS exams can be found at: <http://www.eaa.unsw.edu.au/>

The teacher co-ordinating the ICAS is Iain Mitchell. He can be contacted via the school; on 755 6226; or [iainmitchell@westlandhigh.school.nz](mailto:iainmitchell@westlandhigh.school.nz)

## Thought about studying overseas?

Year 11 & 12 foreign language students currently have the opportunity to apply for a fully funded overseas experience. The Ministry of Education Language Immersion Awards give students the ultimate chance to improve their language skills during a six month stay in a foreign country.

**Applications for the LIA close on May 27th.** For more information on the award and other overseas exchange opportunities visit <http://www.afs.org.nz/lia>

## Help wanted!

The school is seeking donations of native plants to help beautify the gardens around our new buildings. We are after plants of all shapes and sizes from native grasses to trees. If you have plants you would like to donate please contact the school office.

Our year 7's are currently studying the subject of nutrition in class. As part of this they are learning to read food labels so that they can make informed choices about what they eat. They would appreciate donations of empty bread bags, empty cereal boxes and empty snack bar boxes. Please bring these to the school office or deliver them directly to Raelene McMullan.

Overdue library books are on the rise again with 170 books currently outstanding from last term. The librarians ask that students and parents have a quick look around the house and please bring back any overdue books to be returned or renewed.

## Host family needed for International Student

AFS NZ are currently looking for a host family for a great student until January 2012. Yusuke, who is 17 years old, is a cheerful outgoing boy and very helpful around the house. His interests include guitar, singing, baseball and listening to music. He dreams of becoming a famous song writer or artist. He believes that music is a universal language that everybody can understand. He would like to grow and become independent through this amazing experience. His current host family would love to keep him but they already have a Japanese student living with them and AFS policy is that we can't have two students from the same nationality living in the same house. We have tried for over a month to re-house Yusuke and the situation is now getting rather urgent.

AFS is a not for profit, intercultural exchange organisation. We do not pay a fee to our hosting families - they volunteer to provide a home for our students and to fully involve them as members of their own family. However we may be able to provide a small contribution towards the food costs. For further information please look at our website <http://www.afs.org.nz>.

If you know of anyone who may be interested in hosting Yusuke please contact Greta Purcell at AFS National Office on: 04 494 6027 or via email at: [greta.purcell@afs.org](mailto:greta.purcell@afs.org)

## Aussie Netball

Well, the countdown is on and the teams are busy training for the tournament in July. We are still fundraising with raffles and bake sales may start up again soon so lookout for the girls in the corridor!

We had a great fundraiser last term at the 'Fashion Fix' - lots of laughs and great entertainment. I'd like to thank all those who supported us in this fundraiser. Our local businesses are very supportive of any activity undertaken at the school and we are very grateful for this generous attitude! We would like to thank

Maria Robinson for all her hard work in preparing for the evening and being such an entertaining host! **And our thanks go to Postie Plus, Addison's, Sunshinz, Red Streetwear, Take Note, Mitre 10, Claire Cut, Southside Nursery, Houston's, Hokitika Regent**



The netball girls getting ready to serve up at last year's Hangi fundraiser

**Theatre, Mary Kay, Cheeky's, Stumper's, The Photo Shop, Shades of White, Oliver's, Prenzl, Cheese 'n Deli and Karyn Davis for their generous support with advertising and merchandise for spot prizes.** Our thanks must also go to our marvellous performers – the Hokitika Ukelele orchestra and Tessa Lyes for their entertaining items- such fun and such talent! And although Sharlene, our make over candidate, wasn't quite so talented, she was fun!

The girls are looking forward to representing the school at this netball tournament and I'm sure they will do us proud - making all this local support justified. All the best girls - go hard!

## Netball Subs Reminder

A reminder from Kathy that all netball subs are now due.

A-C teams are \$45

D-F are \$25

Please get them in as soon as possible.

## George Schroder excels in Australia

Year 11 WHS student George Schroder recently travelled to Adelaide Australia to compete in the 2011 Australia Age Group Championships. George won a silver in the 15 yrs 100 Breaststroke and Gold for the 200 breaststroke, breaking the Boys 15 years 200 Breaststroke Long Course New Zealand record held by Glenn Snyders.

George has been selected to attend the 2011 Youth Squad (LC) Camp on the 27th-29th May at the Millennium Institute of Sport in Auckland. This camp is for the Top Youth Swimmers in New Zealand.



The crowd attending the 2011 Australia Age Group Championships in Adelaide



George Schroder ready to race

# C.A.C.T.U.S.

## Take the Challenge!!

**TERM 2  
2011**

Based at  
Bodyworx Gym



Sessions run  
Mon, Wed, Fri

Afternoon Course:  
3:30-4:30 pm

Commences Wed 4th May

Morning Course: 6:45-7:45 am.  
(Showers and breakfast provided afterwards)  
Commences Friday 6th May

CONTACT: JOHN  
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e: cactushoki@gmail.com

<http://cactushoki.blogspot.com>



# Calendar

## May

Thursday 26th School Social (7 - 9.30pm School Hall)

Friday 27th Mufti Day

40 (20) Hour Famine begins

Language Immersion Awards Close



**HOKITIKA'S**  
**REGENT**theatre

**WESTLAND** District Brass

present

## A FUNDRAISING CONCERT

*In aid of Hokitika's Regent Theatre  
and the Westland District Brass*

Featuring  
performances  
from:

**JUST JAZZ  
BIG BAND**

**WESTLAND HIGH  
SCHOOL MUSIC  
STUDENTS**

**WESTLAND  
DISTRICT  
BRASS**

**SUNDAY 22ND OF MAY - 2.30 PM**  
@ HOKITIKA'S REGENT THEATRE  
\$15/10/5 (Adult, Senior/Concession, Child)