



Westland High School Newsletter

Issue 4.1

4th November, 2011

From the Principal

Senior Exams

With only two school days remaining for our senior students for 2011 it is time to wonder where the year has gone. For those sitting external exams there is still time for some heavy revision but it will be up to individual students to determine how much is done. I want to wish all our senior students the success they deserve and I want to remind them that they need to make sure they know when their exams are. If they miss an exam there is no opportunities to re-sit until next year.

Board of Trustees Survey

As a follow on from the consultation morning held recently, our Board of Trustees wishes to revisit the school's charter. To enable a full range of opinions to be gathered, and to give all in our wider school community an opportunity

to participate, the Board have distributed a survey which they will summarise and use in conjunction with the school's leadership team to revise the existing charter. If you have not received a survey through your student, please enquire at the office. The surveys for parents/caregivers should have been brought home on Wednesday evening of this week. Your input, through your responses to that survey, will be of value to us as we look at the future direction for education at Westland High School. It is an opportunity for you to tell us what you value about your local secondary school and where you think we can improve in order to provide our students with the skills and attitudes that this community value and which will create better citizens in the future.

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Teacher Only Day November 18

You may be aware that the Minister for Education earlier in the year granted secondary schools two teacher only days to prepare for the introduction of modifications at NCEA, level two. We used one day during term three. For the second day the secondary schools located on the West Coast have decided to combine together to help facilitate some of this work. **The day set aside for this will be Friday November 18th and therefore there will be no school for year 7 to 10 pupils on that day.** Any senior students who have exams that day will still be expected to be at school to sit those exams.

School Notice Board

Some may have seen that we have a notice board erected outside the school in Hampden Street. This will be used to indicate important future events and dates and to provide other information as time and space allow.

Orientation Morning

A reminder that our orientation morning for students who will be new to Westland High School in 2012 will be held on Tuesday November 22. A change of date from the originally advised date of November 23 has been caused by factors beyond our control.

Ferg Harding
Principal

PTA Meeting Tuesday 8th November

A warm invite is extended to anyone who wishes to come along to our final meeting for the year on Tuesday at 7.30pm in the school library. The Year13 Art Exhibition will be still on display in the Library so you will be able view this at the same time as attending our informal/social meeting. Our principal will also be in attendance to update committee members on the schools activities.

Agenda Items:

- Board of Trustee Questionnaire.
- New Entrants open day 23rd Nov.
- Leavers Graduation Dinner 30th Nov.

Look forward to seeing there.

Marie Keenan, *Treasurer*

Future Direction for Our School

We are currently in the process of a Board Review of the whole school community to help us develop our Strategic Plan. Our goal is to have a vision for the future which has clear, attainable goals and provides for the on-going improvement in student achievement.

We are very aware of the need for, and committed to obtaining, the best possible information to undertake a robust review. Therefore we are seeking from our students, staff and parents/caregivers feedback on our progress to date and what you perceive to be challenges, opportunities and direction as we move forward.

Students have been given a questionnaire to take home for their parents or significant adults. Students with siblings at Westland High School will still all have received a form, and they can decide who to ask.

If you have not yet had the opportunity to respond to this questionnaire we would appreciate you contacting us. Please phone Jan Drylie at school, 7556169, extn 2, and we will get a survey to you.

Once all the responses are received, the board will collate the results, deliberate, and put together a strategic plan for the future of our school.

We thank you for your on-going support for Westland High School.

Board of Trustees, Westland High School

Pounamu Magazine Sponsorship

Pounamu is our record of school activities in the community and a treasured keepsake for our departing students and their families to look back on in the future. The magazine is professionally printed and over 300 copies will be distributed to Westland High School staff, students and their families.

To subsidise the cost of producing this quality publication we are offering advertising space to local business and also offering families the chance to leave a lasting message to their student in the magazine.

For more information on pricing and options available visit:

<http://www.westlandhigh.school.nz/index.php/community>

Kokatahi Kowhitirangi Pet Day

As part of our E4E programme, Emily Breen, Shenae Robinson and Olivia Van Dissal spent the day with 70 children making bird feeders from pinecones dipped in fat and bird seed and painting pinatas to be used on the day. It was a wonderful day in the country, sharing with the children and their pets.



Year 13 Engineering

Year 13 students pocket bikes are well on the way to be finished. Students brought the kits which have the engines, wheels, brake disc's and levers. Student's have had to designed and build the frames from scratch. They had to build gigs to hold the parts while they were welded. Some of the components that students had to make involved some precise turning in the metal lathes along with the milling machine. All welding was completed by the students. photos show bikes in stages of construction and one complete.



Year 13 Outdoor Ed. Trip

Last term the Year 13 Outdoor Ed class completed two memorable mountain expeditions. The first was to Mount Fox and the second began with a helicopter trip to the Toaroha Range. See photos below. **The students and staff would like to thank Anderson Helicopters for their assistance and generosity in making this trip possible.**



Special Book Offer for the School Community



As you may be aware, The Press published the book “Earthquake” after the 22nd of February earthquake in Christchurch. This book provides comprehensive coverage of the events immediately following the earthquake and contains some of the best photographs taken by The Press photographers who were first on the scene that day.

As a fundraiser for the students heading to Vietnam next year, the school has copies of this excellent book on sale for only \$40.00. To order your copy (in time for Christmas!) contact Iain Mitchell through the school or directly at iainmitchell@westlandhigh.school.nz

Outstanding Sporting Achievements

Congratulations to the following four students who have recently excelled in their sporting pursuits.

Shotokan Karate Tournament

Hayden Phillipps recently travelled to the ISKF European Shotokan Karate Tournament in Romania where he won 1st place.

Netball New Zealand's Talent Development

Kiana has been selected to trial for a place in the Canterbury Netball Cluster for Netball New Zealand's Talent Development (NZTD) Programme. She was observed during SISS events and chosen by Canterbury and Tactix personnel.



Hayden Phillipps with his Karate medal.

South Island Bowhunters Championship

At the South Island Bowhunters Championship held in Lake Hawea, Aaron Thomson won the Junior Mens event and Christine Haver took third in the Senior Womens.

Advice for Canterbury Youth

Students going to Christchurch for study - here is a facebook that you can 'like' to keep up with things like holiday jobs, tips on preparing your CV, and other issues relevant to Youth in the 16-24 year old demographic. It is for Canterbury Youth and run by Canterbury Youth. <http://www.facebook.com/BBCanty>

St Andrews Garden Ramble



For a great day out, please note and plan with your family and friends to be at the St Andrews Garden Ramble on the 11th February, 2012.

Prior tickets will be available for a Christmas gift, please ring Jan Drylie on 755 6119 to get yours.

Indoor Hockey Social Competition

Monday nights at the Boys' Brigade (racecourse) gym, 14 November through to February, with a 4 week break over Christmas. Games are 5-a-side with unlimited substitutions. Teams must have at least one male and one female playing at all times. Same rules as last year. Team fees are \$130 per team.

To enter a team, call Don Neale on 755 7092, or 02102986377

CACTUS: Take the challenge

Fitness, discipline, team work, character.

CACTUS will run in the mornings in term 4.

7:45 to 8:45am Mon, Wed, Fri.

Visit <http://cactushoki.blogspot.com/> for more information.

Athletics Coaching Clinic

With top Athletics Canterbury coaches Anita, Jonathan & Pat
Anzac Park, Greymouth

Free!

Saturday 5th November

11.30am High Jump

2.00pm Sprints & Hurdles

Sunday 6th November

10.00am Long/triple jump

The focus is to upskill coaches, parents & teachers. Athletes under 13 will need to be accompanied by an adult.

Registrations and enquiries to Jack O'Connor: jack@sportwestcoast.org.nz

Phone: 768 0655

Garage Sale - Everything must go!

We are sad to be losing Faith Sayer from our teaching staff at the end of this year when she heads to Wellington. Faith is holding a garage sale tomorrow (Saturday November 5) for all of the furniture, appliances, books, etc. that won't be going with her to the North Island. The sale starts **8am at 193 Hampden Street** - grab your cash and come and have a look around.

Calendar

November

Friday	4th	Junior reports issued
Tuesday	8th	Seniors final day Leavers assembly Year 13 Art Folio Exhibition PTA Meeting
Wednesday	9th	Life Education arrives
Friday	18th	Teacher-only day
Tuesday	22nd	New arrivals orientation morning
Monday	28th	Westland Anniversary Day
Wednesday	30th	Graduation Dinner

December

Friday	2nd	Trimester Three ends Year 11 Prizegiving
Monday	5th-9th	Nga Toi Maori week
Friday	9th	Last day of school for 2011

LOST PROPERTY

There is a large amount of unclaimed clothing in the lost property room (next to the photocopier room). WHS is not responsible for student property and its up to you to check it out and claim back anything that's yours.

Any items still there in the last week of term (5th – 9th December) will be sold for a Gold coin donation and anything still left after that will be donated to one of the local 2nd hand shops.