

## Whanganui Intermediate School Newsletter

Phone (06) 349 0231 Email [office@whanganui-int.school.nz](mailto:office@whanganui-int.school.nz)  
[www.whanganui-int.school.nz](http://www.whanganui-int.school.nz)

Issue Number: 13

26 October 2018

Tena Koutou / Greetings to our Parents / Caregivers and wider community

Dear Parents & Whānau

I am privileged to be addressing you as the principal of Whanganui Intermediate School, a position I have now held for two weeks. I am starting to get to know your tamariki on the rare moments I break out of the office and was able to introduce myself at the whole school assembly last Friday. I have also visited camp this week and enjoyed the opportunity this gave me to kōrero with parents and students. So now it's your turn to meet me – via a newsletter at this stage but hopefully in person sometime before the end of the year.

I am Whanganui born and bred and proud to be fourth generation Whanganui with great grandparents, grandparents and parents making this beautiful city their home. My childhood was spent in Whanganui East, a suburb I love so much that when I returned to our river city, as an adult, I bought a family home of my own there. My schooling years were spent at Whanganui East, Whanganui Intermediate (WIS) and Girls' College. My father also attended WIS as did my three siblings. The leadership of a school, which has played such a large part in the education of my family, is a nirvana for me and proof that my dad's words "Girls can do anything" is true.

I am married to Steve Kerfoot and we have four adult children between us. Both my children and three of my grandchildren live here in Whanganui while Steve's and one grandchild live in Wellington. We love travelling and exploring planet Earth but always return to this city, on the banks of the mighty Whanganui Awa, with a sense of awe at its beauty and easy lifestyle.

For the past six years I have been principal at Castlecliff School where I was part of a journey focused on reviving the spirit of the school and returning it to its rightful place as the community school of choice. While leading WIS will present quite different challenges the importance of community voice and building educational practice that remains student centered will be at the core of every decision made.

Please feel free to make a time to meet me, if you have any pressing concerns re your child's intermediate experience, or pop into the school and if my door is open then I will welcome the opportunity to kōrero with you.

Smiles



Katherine Ellery  
Principal



## COMING EVENTS – MARK THE CALENDAR

Mon 29 and Tues 30 October  
Tues 30 Oct to end Nov  
Wednesday 31 October  
Thursday 1 November  
Tuesday 6 November  
Wednesday 21 October  
Wednesday 28 October  
Tuesday 4 December  
Thursday 6 December  
Wednesday 12 December  
**Thursday 13 December**  
**Thursday 7 February 2019**

Regional Science Fair in school hall  
Cycle Safety Education  
Supersport Touch Monrad Palmerston North  
HPV Immunisation catch up day  
Inter Cluster Athletics - Track  
Interschool Athletics at Cooks Gardens  
Supersport Athletics at Cooks Gardens  
Year 7 Social  
Year 8 Social  
School Prizegiving Royal Wanganui Opera House  
**Term 4 finishes at 12.30 p.m.**  
**2019 school year commences**

## WELCOME

Welcome back to Term Four. This is traditionally a very busy term as we finalise student assessments ready for end of year reports, transition our Year 8 students to secondary schools and Year 6 students coming to us for Year 7.

We are excited to welcome Gavan Sager to our teaching team from the start of this term. Mr Sager comes to us with a wealth of teaching experience at primary, secondary and intermediate level. He will be based in Room 2.

## SECONDARY SCHOOL ENROLMENTS

We are currently working with secondary schools regarding the transition of our Year 8 students for next year. If you have not yet enrolled your child at a secondary school for next year please do so as soon as possible. This is important both for your child and their intended school. We find that it is really helpful for students to have a clear idea of where they are going. This helps them maintain focus and reduce anxiety about the "unknown". It is also important for the secondary schools so they can plan staffing, class groups and put in place any transitional requirements for your child.

## ENROLMENTS FOR 2019

Enrolments for 2019 have now closed and communications regarding acceptance will be sent out next week. We are aware of a few enrolments for in zone students that have not been received as yet and we do need these in urgently. We will not be accepting any further enrolments from students living outside our zone.

## CONGRATULATIONS!!

Year 8 student, Sophia Bedwell submitted a research essay in the Wynne Costley Literary Research Scholarship competition. 2018 marks the 125th anniversary of women's suffrage in New Zealand and the task was to write about a New Zealand woman who contributed or is still contributing to society. Sophia chose to write about New Zealand's first woman to graduate from medical school, Dr Emily Siedeberg. Sophia attended the Awards Evening during the holidays and was placed first equal in the Junior Category, receiving \$250 for her efforts.

## CYCLE SAFETY

For the next few weeks classes will be participating in a cycle safety programme being run in school by Sport Whanganui. Students will look at all aspects of cycle safety which will include cycling in traffic.

## ATHLETICS

All classes are currently training for athletics. We have inter-cluster, inter-school and Supersport athletics coming up in the next few weeks. Students will practise high jump, long jump, shot put, discus as well as track events.

