



## WELLESLEY COLLEGE – Start of Term 2 Principal's Email

---

Dear All, Kia Ora Tatōu,

I hope you have had a restful break over the Easter period. We had a lovely time sailing in the Marlborough Sounds and had special family times with Christa's parents visiting from Australia.

Hopefully you had a chance to read the Principal's Pen sent out in the holidays which celebrates the hard work achieved by our boys and staff through last term. If you have not had a chance to read it, it can be found [here](#) the site is not live yet so there is nowhere to link this to at the moment. Will be possible as of Monday.

Thank you to parents and staff on assisting us in the change to a new Student Management System last term. Many parents have started using the payments app and this has been greatly appreciated by the Finance team at school. Everyone's lives seem to be getting busier and our view is to continue embracing technology which makes information accessible while maintain privacy, security and ease of use.

### **Bringing out the best in every boy**

Personalised learning remains a key focus of our teaching methodology at Wellesley and this term Parent Teacher interviews will provide further opportunity to share with us new interests your son may be developing so we can help nurture that as part of his overall learning plan. At the heart of our teaching is the core belief that every boy is unique, that we learn about his passions and contextualise learning based on these passions. We see this as a partnership with you so please do continue sharing with myself or your son's teacher anything you think would help us enrich your son's experience at Wellesley.

### **Enhancing our curriculum**

This Term boys in Years 3-6 will participate in the New Zealand speech board exams. We believe that being able to stand in front of a group and share personal views and ideas is so important for developing boys' confidence. The teachers work hard to ensure that this process is not scary for the boys, but instead becomes an opportunity for them to grow. We appreciate your support with this as it will likely form part of their homework!

Our Arts, STEM and Sports programmes will continue in earnest this Term with specialist teachers offering an array of engaging activities for our boys' to participate in. At Wellesley we remain focused on engaging with our boys to build two-way relationships to ensure each boy is being developed in **mind, body and spirit**. This means that teachers need to understand a boy's needs and tailor lessons to meet these needs. It is not an exact science

and is one that requires our teachers to take risks in their practice in order to find the right mix that will allow each child to enjoy school, be engaged and make progress.

### **Wellbeing: Wellesley Insights Evening**

At Wellesley we believe that wellbeing of the boys as paramount and the start of this year saw us engage whole heartedly in continuing our well-being programmes across the school. For further information on these please see my start of year email which you can find [here](#).

Further to this I am excited to be welcoming [Kathryn Berkett from ENGAGE](#) as a guest speaker at our next Wellesley Insights evening, taking place on Thursday 6 June, from 7pm - 8:30pm. Kathryn will talk about the latest research in neuroscience and its impact on wellbeing and resilience. You will also hear from our Wellness Team (Chevon O’Leary, Libby Blomfield and Steve Girvan) about Wellesley’s holistic approach and the programmes we have put in place for our young boys. I encourage you, your whānau and friends to attend this event which will focus on the topic of ‘**Enhancing Emotional Resilience**’ .

Digital safety remains paramount with a zero tolerance of inappropriate use of digital devices and we will continue to use [FamilyZone](#) to keep our boys safe. I would like to bring to your attention the app called **Tellonym**, which has been discussed in the media: It allows the user to make anonymous comments about another person online. I encourage you to find out about this and here is an [article](#) for your information. If you need assistance to understand how [FamilyZone](#) can help, please call the school or the Family Zone [website](#).

### **Preparing for the future**

As well as the above, there are many exciting developments this year that continue to enhance our unique learning environment and prepare Wellesley for the future.

- We will continue to look at offering French in Years 0-4 and we are currently interviewing for the right teaching candidate
- Te Reo Maori will continue to be progressed across the school
- Masterplan: We have received our first draft of the new Outdoor Spaces plan and look forward to sharing this with you all soon – it looks fabulous
- The new Wellesley website will be launched very soon
- ‘Step Inside Wellesley’ afternoons will resume and we will invite parents to classes, as we did with STEM last year, to join in, assist or just come and watch! More information will be sent later this term.

Some important dates for your diary are below and Karen will be sending the Wellesley Weekly again as of Monday with further useful information. I look forward to the boys returning next week. I have missed them over the break and look forward to an exciting Term Two!

As always, if you wish to chat with me at any time, just email or call me.

## Dates for the diary

<b>Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>First Day Term 2</b>
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 7/8 Dance
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> May	Choir Camp
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> – Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	Hawkes Bay Sports' Tour
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> May	Discovery Day #2
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> May – 1 <sup>st</sup> June	Waihi Winter Sports Tour Chilton Choir Exchange – at Wellesley
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	<b>SCHOOL CLOSED</b> - Queen's Birthday Weekend
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>SCHOOL CLOSED</b> - Teacher Only Day
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> June	Wellesley Insights Evening – Kathryn Berkett
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> June – 1 <sup>st</sup> July	NZ Speech Board
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> July – 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Parent/Teacher Meetings
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> July	Last day Term 2
<b>Monday 29<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>First Day Term 3</b>

Kind regards

**Brendan Pitman**

*Principal*