



WELLESLEY COLLEGE – Principal’s Start of Term 3 Email

Dear All, Kia Ora Tatōu,

I hope you have had a restful break over the last three weeks and enjoyed some time with your families.

Sadly, during the holidays, Steve Girvan’s (Deputy Principal, Pastoral) father passed away. Our thoughts and prayers are with Steve and his family at this time.

My middle daughter, Siena, has been in Europe for four weeks with her grandmother and it was lovely to have her home again. We have a tradition in our family that when the children turn ten, their grandmother takes them on a European tour. We all chip into a fund as families so this can happen for all the grand kids. It’s such a great experience and Siena came back taller, more confident and understanding how much her family means to her.

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.

Wellbeing and Enhancing our Teaching and Learning

As a staff, we keep each boy at the centre of our thinking and we continue to build good relationships with the boys. It was interesting to recently hear the Headmaster of Auckland Grammar interviewed on the AM Show speaking of what they are doing to assist high school students with their well-being. Central to this is relationships - which is a cornerstone of our approach at Wellesley. Click [here](#) if you would like to view the interview.

What I take from this, is that building relationships with students and giving them outlets to access a trusted person is key to helping them navigate through tricky times and celebrate good ones. I am confident that Wellesley’s Wellbeing and Resilience programmes, now embedded in the school; a bespoke Wellbeing & Resilience team (Chévon O’Leary, Steve Girvan, Libby Bloomfield) which the boys can access during tough times; and our staff all focused on building and maintaining good relationships, will help our Wellesley boys grow into grounded young men, able to cope in our ever increasingly complex world.

When thinking about our children’s emotional and mental state, I am reminded of a quote I recently saw – “If a child can do advanced mathematics, speak three languages or receive top grades but cannot manage their emotions, practice conflict resolution or handle stress, none of that other stuff is really going to matter”. This is also why instilling [Wellesley’s values](#) in our boys is so important.

I am proud that at Wellesley we are leading best practice with a junior and intermediate approach to wellbeing and resilience. Thank you to you as parents for partnering with us on

this and we should all be proud of this sustained effort. And thank you for attending our [Wellbeing & Resilience Wellesley Insights Evening](#) last term.

Safe environments

Dovetailing into our well-being is our multi-pronged approach to providing safe environments. Our teaching of the anti-bullying KiVa lessons, our use of a restorative approach to behaviour management and reporting and recording behaviour (good and needing adjustment) using a new product, Edge and most importantly - communicating with you as parents in a timely manner.

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. If you need assistance to understand how [FamilyZone](#) can help, please call the school or the [Family Zone help line](#).

Preparing for the future

As a staff at Wellesley we continue to discuss and debate the best way to continue building on Wellesley's personalised learning educational philosophy, to blend what Wellesley holds dear in values, education, relationships with cutting edge teaching and learning and what is needed to equip our boys for the future. Some elements to consider are:

- How do we retain the great culture of Wellesley whilst being forward thinking, adaptive and dynamic?
- How do we retain the top-quality teaching programmes and incorporate the 6Cs? (Critical Thinking, Creativity, Collaboration, Communication, Character and Citizenship)
- What are the next set of skills for our boys to have for the future? (considering the [21st Century Skills](#))
- How do we keep parents and our community fully informed on decisions about their child's education, progress and issues?

We welcome any ideas or feedback on these important issues. Please feel free to contact me or your son's class teacher regarding this.

Term 3

I am looking forward to an exciting term with a focus on the Arts. Our Artist in residence will be a real highlight along with Art Week, which is a great way for our boys to get out of their normal routine and get stuck into creative activities such as carving, painting, designing and other stimulating options - it is a real strength of Wellesley's.

Our young musicians will also be treating you at the Itinerants Concert to showcase the multitude of excellent musical skills our young Wellesley boys have.

There will also be the multitude of sports events our fantastic sports team organise each term.

And of course, our important Wellesley Grandparents' Day. A day when we show love and respect to these special people and share with them a 'day in the life at Wellesley'. More on that soon.

Some important dates for your diary are below and Karen will be sending the Wellesley Weekly again as of Monday with further useful information.

Communicating with you

Don't forget to check our new [Wellesley website](#) for information and news and of course

our vibrant [Facebook](#) to keep up to date with our events and what happens on the beautiful Wellesley campus set between the bush and the sea.

Also, if you missed the update from our fabulous deputies Steve Girvan (Pastoral) and Veronica Stevens (Teaching & Learning), please feel free to request a copy from the school office; office@wellesley.school.nz

This term, Wellesley Board Chair, (Geof Shirtcliffe) will be sending out the annual update from the Board of Trustees. More information on the Wellesley Board can also be found [here](#). You will also hear from our new [Parents' Association](#) Chair, Cilla Bennett.

Later in the term we will be in touch regarding another Wellesley Insights Evening, whereby we invite an expert to share insight and information on a topic of interest to our parents and community. Last term we had educational psychologist, Kathryn Berkett from ENGAGE talk about 'Enhancing Emotional Resilience'.

We will also be hosting a [Discovery Day](#) this term - please feel free to share information on this with families interested in experiencing and learning more about Wellesley.

I look forward to the boys returning next week. The staff and I are ready and can't wait to continue giving Wellesley boys every opportunity - academically, physically, socially, emotionally and spiritually - to discover their personal passions and strengths and discover their best.

I have missed them over the break and look forward to an exciting Term 3!

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

Nga Mihi Nui

Brendan

Dates for the diary

Monday 29th July	First Day Term 3
Tuesday 30 th July	Citizenship Photos Term 2 Winners
Wednesday 31 st July	Hereworth Choir Billets Arrive
Monday 5 th August	Year 7 Immunisation Boostrix Artist in Residence Arrives (Natchex Hudson) Parents' Association Meeting
Wednesday 7 th – Friday 9 th August	South Island Sports Tour
Monday 12 th August	Dental Van Arrives
Tuesday 13 th August	Muritai School Sports Exchange - Colts
Thursday 15 th August	Hadlow Sports Fixture
Friday 16 th August	Zones Swimming – Huia Pool
Monday 19 th August	Kings Choir Tour Billeting
Sunday 25 th – Thursday 29 th August	North Island Primary School Ski Champs
Tuesday 27 th August	Discovery Day #3
Thursday 29 th August	Scots Fixture – hosted by Scots
Friday 6 th September	Dental Van departs
Wed 11 th - Fri 13th September	Art Week
Monday 16 th September	Artsplash Years 3 and 4 – Michael Fowler Centre
Tuesday 17 th September	LHPSSA – Softball Competition
Thursday 19 th September	Interzone Swimming Competition Dancesplash Years 5 and 6 – Michael Fowler Centre
Tuesday 24 th September	LHPSSA – Hockey Competition Student Art Exhibition Evening – Wellesley Hall
Thursday 26 th September	Grandparents' Day
Friday 27 th September	Last Day Term 3
Monday 14th October	First Day Term 4