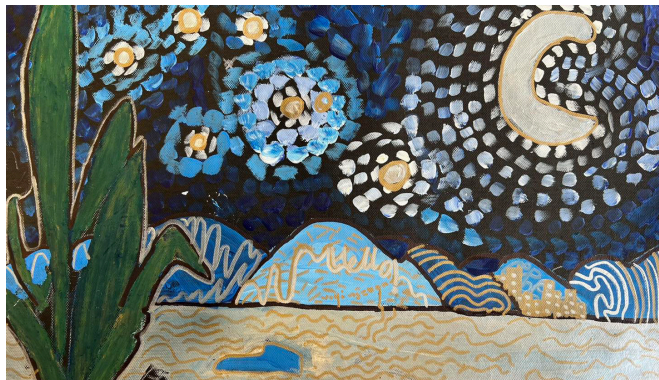
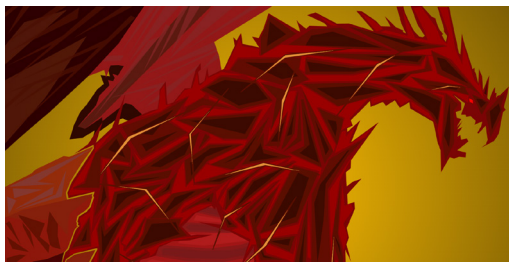


AT THE BAY

2023



Wellesley
COLLEGE



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This year’s Art Week theme was ‘Change’, which we have embraced as the theme which will run through this edition of At the Bay.

In a world that is constantly evolving, the ability to adapt and embrace change is not just a skill; it is a prerequisite for progress and a means to discover new possibilities, cultivate resilience, and pave the way for innovation.

At Wellesley we have embraced changes this year, introducing the William Pike Challenge to our Senior Syndicate. We have expanded our offerings with language, rescue teams, enviro clubs and a wide range of sporting opportunities to help prepare our boys for life beyond the school gates. We have continued to

develop our academic offerings to keep ahead of the changing world of technology, understand the possibilities associated with artificial intelligence, and adopted curriculum developments recognising the best practices in literacy and numeracy. Our boys and staff have seen changes too.

We hope that you enjoy a look into our year at Wellesley through the theme of change. I leave you with the words of the Greek philosopher Heraclitus, “Change is the only constant in life,”.

COVER ‘Monkey Kid’ by Tim Christie, 2023 Artist in Residence

EDITOR Kate Cole

COPY EDITOR Mary Green

PHOTOGRAPHY Phil Benge, and the staff, boys and families of Wellesley College

CLASS PHOTOGRAPHS LC Scott Photographers



Ko ia kāhore nei i rapu, tē kitea

He who does not seek will not find



Owen Gibson
CHAIR OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES

2023 has been another busy year for Wellesley, as we continue to aspire to achieve our vision that ‘Each boy has every opportunity to excel’.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognise and thank our wonderful staff, led by Michael Bain, our Principal. All our staff, our teachers, our specialists and our support and administration teams contribute to making Wellesley the special place that is.

The year was one of completing several capital projects, with the long awaited tennis courts being a highlight, along with the northern stream remediation, the seismic works, the cricket wicket and the continuation of the classroom refurbishment programme.

The William Pike Challenge is now fully activated at the school, and is a key part of our senior boys’ leadership programme. We continue to work on the leadership programme, both as a way of ensuring all boys have an opportunity to grow at Wellesley but also to strongly prepare them for success at the next stage of their educational journey, wherever that may be.

Camps and cultural events are an important element of a boy’s time at Wellesley. This year the year 7’s went to the West Coast for the 22nd time and the year 8’s went to the Hillary Outdoors Centre in Tongariro, both camps designed to challenge and grow our senior students.

The Art programme is a key part of the Wellesley experience, both performing and visual arts, with another highly successful choir tour to Auckland and the wonderful visual

arts programme including the artist in residence and student art exhibition.

The board also fully supports the ongoing commitment to the sports and cultural exchanges Wellesley undertakes. We have had exchanges with all our traditional rivals and many others, across a wide range of sports and cultural events. We congratulate all the boys involved, and celebrate their successes. I also want to recognise and thank all the staff and parents who put in so much time and effort to coach and manage the teams.

Finally, a thank you to all of the families that support Wellesley in so many ways. We look forward to another positive and successful year in 2024.

Ngā mihi



Cutting the ribbon with Deputy Mayor Tui Lewis

Kia whakatomuri te haere whakamua

I walk backwards into my future with my eyes fixed on the past



Michael Bain
PRINCIPAL

When I reflect on a school year, I like to think about the achievements and successes, not only the academic but, equally importantly, the social and emotional ones too. We pride ourselves on our values and how we aim for these to support the boys in their learning. 2023 has again been a year with changes in both the school, and the world and we strive to support our boys with the skills to thrive in this ever-changing world.

A study published in the American Journal of Public Health found that social and emotional skills are the biggest predictors of future success. We live in a fast-changing world where increasing demands on time and energy have created an environment which can be overwhelming as we find ourselves pulled in many different directions. And these pressures will only increase for our children. With the power of the internet and social media, they are already exposed to and have to deal with far more social pressures than when we were at school and the fast pace of life created by technology will only further increase when they enter the workplace.

We know that the road to success and happiness is paved with bumps along the way. It is the same for everyone, but it is those who have resilience, who can reframe adversity into something positive, who are able to bounce back and move forward. Building resilience involves cultivating a positive mindset, learning from experiences, and developing effective coping strategies. By embracing challenges as opportunities for growth, individuals can enhance their resilience and better navigate the journey toward success and happiness.

It is our job, as educators and parents, to help the boys develop

their resilience in order to give them the best support for what lies ahead. The best way to do this is to expose them to as many different experiences as possible, both in and out of the classroom, experiences which will challenge them, experiences which they may fail at first, but experiences through which we can support them to grow mentally. At Wellesley we are immensely proud of the opportunities we are able to put in front of our students. From culture to the arts, physical challenges such as sport and camps, teamwork and individual pursuits and of course academic rigor.

As staff, our aim is to role model resilience wherever we can and some very wet trips, camps, visits and events provide the opportunity. So, well done to all the boys and staff for their resilience and good spirit. I trust that the journey you have taken with Wellesley in 2023 has provided your sons and the wider whānau with endless opportunities to grow stronger mentally, further develop resilience, feel supported and hopefully have a lot of fun along the way.

We have come to the end of another busy, and at times challenging, year and I would like to thank you as parents for your support of not only your sons but the staff, for all their hard work and commitment. To those returning in 2024 we look forward to welcoming you back to the school in the curve of the bay and to those leaving, we wish you well in the next chapter of your journey.



Tūngi ate ururoa kia tupu
whakaritorito te tutū o te harakeke

Set the overgrown bush alight, and the new flax
shoots will spring up



Veronica Stevens
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL
TEACHING AND LEARNING

As 2023 draws to a close, it provides an opportunity to reflect on the year, the successes, accomplishments and experiences that have been had by all, who are a part of our Wellesley Whānau. In particular, I was taken back to our very successful ‘Create for A Cause’ art exhibition, with its theme around ‘Change’, depicting every conceivable interpretation, providing a landscape for learning, far beyond the realms of the traditional classroom.

Of course, change is all around us, evident in the shifting seasons, the transformative journey of a school year, and the evolving landscape of education in today’s world. When combined, these elements set the stage, to enable us to embrace pedagogical approaches to teaching, to ensure that they meet the needs of a 21st Century learner.

It was Walt Disney who once noted that, “we keep moving forward, opening new doors, and doing new things, because we’re curious and curiosity keeps leading us down new paths.” This is no truer, then in a school setting, which constantly depicts a kaleidoscope of change.

New Zealand is changing at a pace that is faster than ever experienced before, and which is also a global phenomenon. This is the world that our boys will be stepping into. Education today is on the brink of a revolution and the adage that ‘children are an empty vessel that must be filled’ is redundant. We can no longer spend time imparting a raft of knowledge to be remembered, when knowledge can be found at our fingertips, whenever we require it.

Rather, the skills that demonstrate an understanding of how best to utilise this knowledge, is where our teaching focus is best placed. Learning must now embrace real-world contexts



and it has been exciting to see our Wellesley boys doing exactly this, in a myriad of ways. We’re not just preparing for the future; we’re living it, thanks to the ever-changing landscape of education.

This year, has seen our boys, literally dive into current, environmental issues in Days Bay, become entrepreneurs in the food truck industry, learning financial literacy and marketing skills along the way, taking on the role of city councillors and town planners, to redesign our local Williams’ Park and developing an understanding of toys and technology of the past, to create toys and technology of the future. Others have journeyed through time, to look at transportation, enabling them to make prototypes for vehicles that will meet our needs, when looking ahead. Other students liaised with local iwi and government agencies, to gain an understanding of local Aotearoa history, with the aim of being able to make a mark on the future, by naming our Wellesley school streams. Learning such as this, is meaningful and relevant.

I commend our teachers, who work so hard to provide these incredible learning opportunities for the boys. They too have evolved, embracing new ideas, to create interactive and immersive learning experiences. Of course, the highlight is when the roles are reversed, and our students seize the chance to reciprocate and enlighten us.

So, here’s to change - in all its forms - and to the endless possibilities it brings. There is an untapped world of learning, waiting for curious minds to unlock and discover, and I cannot wait to see what paths our boys will be exploring and leading us down, next year!





Amanda Barfoot



Kerry Krauss



Cath Loudin-Sim



Mitchell Van de Coolwijk



Laurina Wylie



Milo Hampton



Libby Hainsworth



Ashley Chesterfield



Stu Pyne



Carolyn Hawkes

Staff News and Updates

The Heart of the School

WELCOME

Amanda Barfoot smoothly assumed the roles of Principal’s Executive Assistant and Enrolments Registrar in January. Her exceptional organizational skills and efficiency have become invaluable at the forefront of our operations. Amanda’s commitment and proactive approach are truly valued, and we look forward to the continued positive impact she will undoubtedly have on our school community.

Kerry Krauss joined Wellesley in 2023 fresh off the plane from South Africa, bringing with her a passion for teaching, attention to detail, dedication to her students and love for her family. Her enthusiasm and warmth have secured her a spot in the heart of both the Junior Syndicate and the Wellesley Family.

Joining the learning support team in 2023, **Cath Loudin-Sim** has seamlessly integrated into our school community, offering her support to students across various classes. Cath’s calm, professional and hard working attitude has made her a welcome addition to the team.

Mitchell van de Coolwijk aka Mr V joined Wellesley at the start of 2023. He quickly immersed himself in all things Wellesley and formed a great bond with his Year 7 class making significant contributions to the teaching team where he brings youth, enthusiasm and a passion to keep learning and growing his teaching practice.

Laurina Wylie our Librarian, arrived with a woosh of color, passion for reading and creative flair. She has brought a burst of energy to our library. Laurina has a knack for connecting boys with the perfect book, turning each visit to the library into an adventure.

Morné Delpoort joined us in March, and with little time for the jet lag to wear off he found himself taking over 8D from the capable hands of Murray Blanford. Morné’s love of sports and passion for teaching has made him a great addition to Wellesley. We wish Morné well over the December holidays as he will marry his fiancé Jade in his home country, South Africa, and we look forward to welcoming him back in his new role in Year 4 in 2024.

Annick Withinshaw joined us in September as our French teacher. Annick brings her passion for French culture and language to the boys through a series of engaging, interactive classroom sessions. The boys love speaking with her in French, and the range of practical activities Madam Annick offers in class.

Anna Boyack’s sense of fun, can-do attitude, and energy were a welcome addition to the teaching team that was 8BC following the departure of Daniel at the end of Term 3. Anna brought with her a passion for teaching literacy and in a short time formed meaningful relationships with the staff and boys. Anna will continue her part-time role in 2024 assisting with the support programmes.

FAREWELL:

2023 saw three gappers join our team, January saw the arrival of **Flora Carson** and **Harry Bush**. Harry and Flora both enjoyed a wonderful start to the year and our camp weeks, after which Harry felt the need to return home to his family at the end of Term 1, and a study opportunity called Flora home soon after. **Milo Hampton** filled the gap in Term 4. He has been a cheerful, positive addition to our team, and has enjoyed being part of multiple activities and class sessions during the term. We wish them all well.

Wellesley were fortunate to have **Libby Hainsworth** join us in 2023. Libby, who leaves us to go to Tawa Intermediate, has been an outstanding contributor over her year at Wellesley, where she

was involved in developing the Maths curriculum, ably leading the Kapa Haka for the Junior team, and bringing passion and creativity in Arts to her classroom and the school along with her many other talents. She will be missed.

In 2023, **Ashley Chesterfield** joined the middle syndicate. In just one year her dedication to teaching, organisational skills, sense of humour, smile, and energy have been evident and made a lasting impression. She will be missed as she sets her sights on a move to Australia in 2024. However, her legacy, embodied in the staff Christmas video of 2023, is sure to keep everyone bopping along for years to come.

In the middle of 2022, our school welcomed **Stu Pyne** as the Head of Sports. With a vision for holistic well-being, Stu transformed the role of sport, enriching our Physical Education curriculum by incorporating a focus on health. Stu’s teaching and passion for all things PE was obvious and he will be missed as he heads to Onslow in 2024.

Carolyn Hawkes joined Wellesley in 2021. Her experience and passion for all forms of the performing arts has had our boys dancing, singing, learning instruments, editing the school play, and even mastering filming with green screens. A talented musician, Carolyn has also given her time to our Orchestra and Itinerant programme. The boys have flourished and busted many a move during her time at Wellesley. We will greatly miss her as she shifts her focus to her family.

Julie-Ann Hedges started at Wellesley towards the end of 2020 taking on the role of Marketing Manager. Julie-Ann ably stepped in to help at events and with Discovery Days assisting with Foundation and Alumni in 2023. In July of 2023 the call of the whales saw her time at Wellesley come to an end as she headed off to a whale watching holiday in New Caledonia. We wish her well in

her future endeavours.

Susannah Black joined Wellesley in 2019. In no time at all, boys could be heard chanting ‘Allez les bleus’ and even some singing of the French national anthem! Susannah ensured that French was more than the language, extending the lessons to include the culture and delicious delicacies with crepes, croissants and French customs integrated into French lessons. Hard to keep up with as she was training for marathons or running laps around Waterloo during Lock Down, Susannah will be missed by all at Wellesley as she returned to classroom teaching mid-2023.

Daniel Edmonds, Dan started in 2019 and he certainly stamped his mark. A strong advocate for the five Rs (Rugby, Rockband, Running, Reuben sandwiches, and Retro gaming) Dan has also willingly taken on the top Year 8 Maths group, and steered the syndicate for nearly two years. Multi-talented, he was both a fine coach of our school rugby first XV for the last four years, and as a musician he often led the school in song on his guitar. Dan’s laid-back manner, sense of humour and strict but fair approach to teaching is missed but updates from Korea assure us that he is enjoying his adventure and this new chapter in his life.

Kristi Field joined the Wellesley family in 2016, initially as a teacher aide in our senior syndicate. Kristi has since shared her passion across the whole school, ably working with boys and staff alike. Recently, it has been in the Junior Syndicate where Kristi has spent most of her time, skilfully teaching our youngest boys and helping them navigate the start of their school journey. This year, Kristi has shown her skill and initiative in developing our School Readiness Programme. A passionate and dedicated teacher and member of the learning support team, Kristi’s proactive attitude, clear passion for the boys and willingness to help wherever needed will be missed. We wish her well in her new adventures at Muritai.



Morné Delpoort



Annick Withinshaw



Anna Boyack



Flora Carson



Harry Bush



Julie-Ann Hedges



Susannah Black



Daniel Edmonds



Kristi Field

Welcoming change

The beauty of exploring new things and learning from different experiences



Chévon O’Leary
HEAD OF JUNIOR SYNDICATE



“Change is not something that we should fear. Rather, it is something that we should welcome. For without change, nothing in this world would ever grow or blossom, and no one in this world would ever move forward to become the person they’re meant to be”. B.K.S Iyengar’s wisdom reminds us that without change, we would remain stagnant, never realising our full potential.

At Wellesley, we understand the significance of change in the lives of our young boys. Our mission is to provide them with countless opportunities to grow and develop, not just academically, but as well-rounded individuals. From our classroom programmes that instil essential skills like organisation, time management and independence, to our specialist teachers who ignite passions for performance art, visual art, sports, languages, and science, the learning possibilities are endless. We take pride in witnessing our boys’ participation and the growth of their skills throughout the year.

At the start of the year, our boys faced challenges during their camps. For some, it was their first night away from home, and it was wonderful to see the sense of pride they felt the next morning. Others tackled the task of packing their bags independently, ensuring nothing was left behind, while some ventured into trying new activities like archery.

Sharing our learning experiences with our whānau is a privilege we cherish. Whether it was our ‘Bangers and Maths’ evening, where parents joined us to explore our maths program and engage in activities, or our Matariki celebrations, where whānau came together for waiata and kai, or our ‘Create for a Cause’,

Art Evening, each occasion provided a glimpse into the unique opportunities Wellesley offers.

The early years at school mark a pivotal time in a student’s life, and the growth and changes witnessed throughout the year are truly remarkable. Our boys are becoming more independent, confident, knowledgeable, and are acquiring the skills necessary to fulfil their potential.

In the spirit of the Maori proverb, “Ko te piko o te mahuri, tērā te tupu o te rākau,” which translates to “The bend in a young sapling is indicative of how the tree will grow,” we acknowledge that nurturing and embracing change is the cornerstone of growth. Wellesley is dedicated to providing an environment where our boys can flourish, bend, adapt, and ultimately, become the individuals they are destined to be.



Shifting attitudes in the Middle Syndicate

Embracing the constant in life



Gavin Hughes
HEAD OF MIDDLE SYNDICATE

‘Change’ is a continual force that shapes our lives and in the past year at Wellesley the Middle Syndicate has not only learnt to manage it effectively, but to embrace it. Our Years 5 and 6 boys, and staff, have welcomed change with open arms leading to significant achievements, academically, socially and emotionally.

One aspect woven throughout this year’s journey has been the way our syndicate has come together as a whānau. A key component of this has been the exploration of Māori culture in class lessons, karakia, syndicate-wide Kete Aronui time, and as part of our developing school-wide kawa (protocol). The boys had the opportunity to not only learn, but also to live the essence of change. We have explored Te Ao Māori, built cultural understanding and created connections and relationships that extend beyond our individual classrooms.

A highlight of 2023 was our performance at DanceSplash. Many of our boys stepped out of their comfort zones, showcasing the power of change and action. The performance was a moment of triumph, demonstrating how growth and transformation occur when we take risks in life and challenge ourselves beyond what we believe we are capable of.

Equally inspiring has been the shift in the boys’ attitudes towards writing, evolving from reluctant writers into enthusiastic authors. The creation of their own picture books became a symbol of change, showcasing their newfound passion for storytelling. This transformation is a testament to the nurturing environment the teachers in our syndicate create, encouraging each student to see themselves not only as

incredibly capable and creative writers, but also as learners. It has been said that change is the only constant in life. In 2023, the Middle Syndicate has learned change is not something that should be feared, but embraced. Change has been a source of inspiration, reminding us that with the right growth mindset we can achieve marvellous things.

As we look to 2024 and beyond, we do so with excitement and anticipation, ready to embrace the learning yet to come at Wellesley. It has brought us closer as a whānau, taught our students valuable life lessons, and allowed them to *Discover their Best*.



Adapting to the Wellesley ways

Changing faces in the Senior Syndicate



Liza Fitzsimmons
HEAD OF SENIOR SYNDICATE

“Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future.” — John F. Kennedy.

And we, in the senior syndicate have had a year full of change; forcing us to look forward to the future, fostering our independence and resilience, and emerging as fine young gentlemen ready to tackle the world.

Change first began before school had even started in 2023. We had two new teachers, Mitchell Van de Coolwijk and Morné Delport (who took a while to reach our shores from South Africa). We have been very lucky to have acquired these two talented teachers who have adapted to ‘the Wellesley ways’ quite adeptly. Thank you to Murray Blandford for preparing 8D for the arrival of Morné Delport – as usual, ever present and ready to leap in to help.

The end of Term Two also saw the departure of Daniel Edmonds and more change for Year 8. Dan will be sorely missed for his leadership and dry sense of humour, and we wish him well in Jeju, South Korea. Fortunately, Anna Boyak and Carolyn Currington were able to step into the fold and lead 8D to become 8BC; supporting those boys through to a successful end of their time at Wellesley.

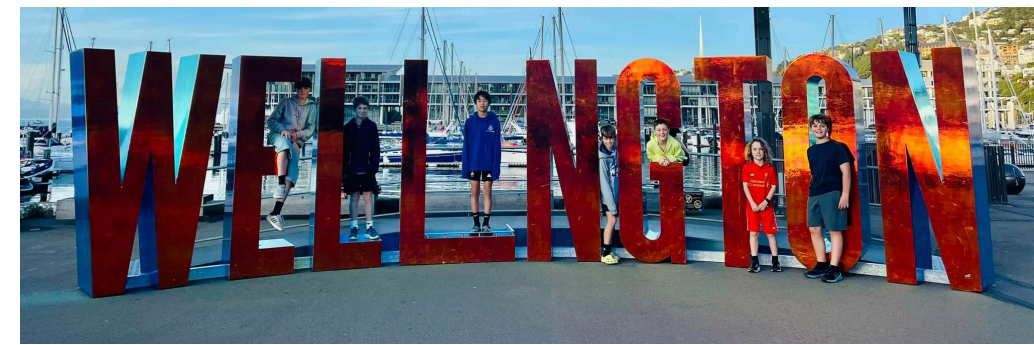
Educationally, the senior syndicate has also been looking forward to the future. With the William Pike Challenge, students have been challenged in ways that simply can’t be achieved inside the classroom. Its strength lies in taking students outside their comfort zone to solve problems or deal with situations they never expected, but at same time they have fun doing

it! These challenges have included outdoor pursuit activities, developing skills around a passion project and gaining fulfilment from giving back through community service.

Teachers have also been getting ahead of the pack by embedding our new Structured Literacy programmes and taking on new Mathematics professional development that saw the introduction of ‘rich tasks’ incorporated into our daily maths program. This way we are ensuring that senior students at Wellesley are ready for their next step to college, with all the tools in place to make their future journey a success.

Along with the physical changes happening within our boys (some very obvious to the eye) there have been massive pubertal, emotional and maturation changes as well. It is wonderful to witness them developing to become fine young men, ready to take on the world. However, one thing that will never change is their passion for wharf jumping, gourmet food at The Pav, and their appreciation and respect they have for their school!





Opportunities abound

Another action packed year in the sporting arena



Stu Pyne
SPECIALST HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION
TEACHER

It has been a fantastic year once again for Wellesley sport, with our boys engaging with a wide range of opportunities. Across the school this year we’ve successfully held 20 sports exchanges, seven house sports events, and three lunchtime sports competitions. Our boys have been able to represent the school across the codes of: Athletics, Badminton, Basketball, Cross-country, Fencing, Football, Hockey, Multi-sport, Rounders, Rugby, Softball, Swimming, Table-Tennis, Tee-Ball, Tennis, Touch Rugby, and Water Polo.

There has been a huge number of highlights throughout the year. The standouts include the Saint Kentigern sports exchange in Wellington in Term 2, the Wellington excursion for the Multi-sport boys, and a trip to Kenakena School on the Kapiti Coast for our Middle School students. Our junior boys also had a taste of the Wellesley house sports competition featuring athletics, cross-country, and swimming carnivals. It was great to see a whole school haka performed by the boys in assembly to show their gratitude to everyone involved in enabling them to be able to participate in sports events throughout the year.

During health and physical education lessons the junior boys have been fortunate to participate in the fantastic Playball programme with Coach Luis, showing excellent progress in the development of their fundamental movement skills and in their ability to work together. The Middle and Senior Schools boys have successfully completed their first year of Wellesley’s integrated health and physical education curriculum while the Wellesley United football development programme has gone from strength to strength.



Next year is shaping up to be a big one too. Amongst the many sporting events, we have confirmed our hosting King’s College from Auckland in March. There is a return of the St. Mark’s sports exchange in Term 3, and the Senior Cricket Quad Tournament has already been confirmed for Term 1.

Finally, we wish all the Year 8 boys the very best of luck in their sporting endeavours as they transition to their new schools, and we say a huge thank you to all the people involved in making the magic happen for sport at Wellesley. Have a great summer break, we look forward to seeing you in 2024.



Working in harmony

Telling stories through music and movement



Carolyn Hawkes
SPECIALIST PERFORMING ARTS TEACHER

The Performing Arts department at Wellesley has been bustling with creativity and talent throughout the year, offering a wide array of opportunities for students to express themselves through music, dance and drama. From our two choirs and the spectacular DanceSplash event to itinerant music lessons, a remarkable orchestra, choir exchanges, and a mesmerising string trio.

The Bay Boys’ Choir melodious voices have come together this year to create a harmonious blend of sounds. They have enjoyed three exchanges this year including the memorable tour to Auckland. The boys have continued to impress us with their talent, commitment, and dedication and special thanks to Carolyn Currington for her leadership.

Our younger choir has worked especially hard this year, developing their voices and enjoying being an ensemble together. Their joy in making music has been contagious.

Years 5 and 6 were a resounding success at DanceSplash this year, as they told the story of dance through the decades. It was a highlight of the year to see the boys on stage, all engaged, all enjoying, and all very proud of themselves.

Our Performing Arts department is committed to nurturing talent, and it has been encouraging to see our pupils exploring different instruments this year. Our boys in Year 5 have begun to learn flute, dood and recorder and are excited to see themselves as musicians. Our itinerant music programme has seen a growth in orchestral instruments being learnt and I want to thank the dedicated teachers who work with our boys each



Adopting the virtual world and technology challenges

Hands on learning in an evolving environment



Marko Cunningham
SPECIALIST STEM TEACHER

It has been an extraordinary year filled with exciting STEM activities and events that have left our boys eagerly embracing the opportunities presented in the classroom. Building on the success of last year’s thrilling Rocket Challenge and EPro8 engineering programmes, we are pleased to further develop these initiatives. In EPro8, we’re taking things up a notch by expanding our challenges to include more intricate electronics kits, which have already been pre-purchased for next year, providing our boys with boundless possibilities for engineering activities.

This year, we embarked on an exceptional medical programme, ensuring that all middle and senior boys received training in first aid and effective CPR. Additionally, some of our boys joined the prestigious ‘Wellesley Rescue Team,’ where they delved into advanced first aid techniques.

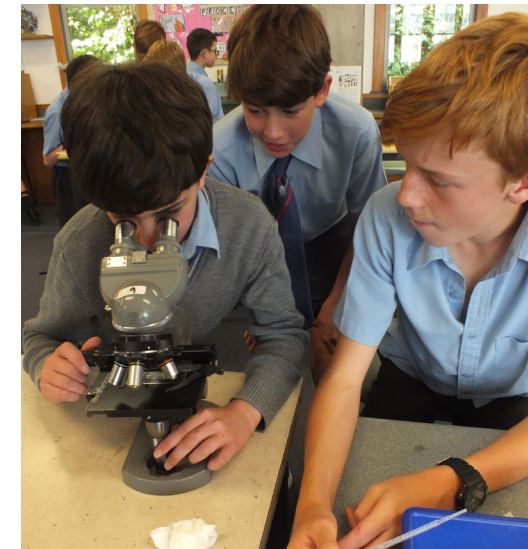
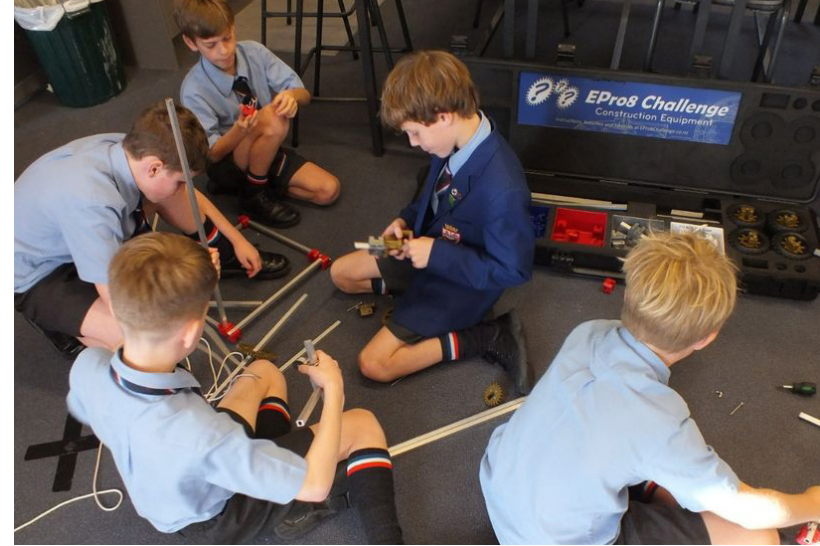
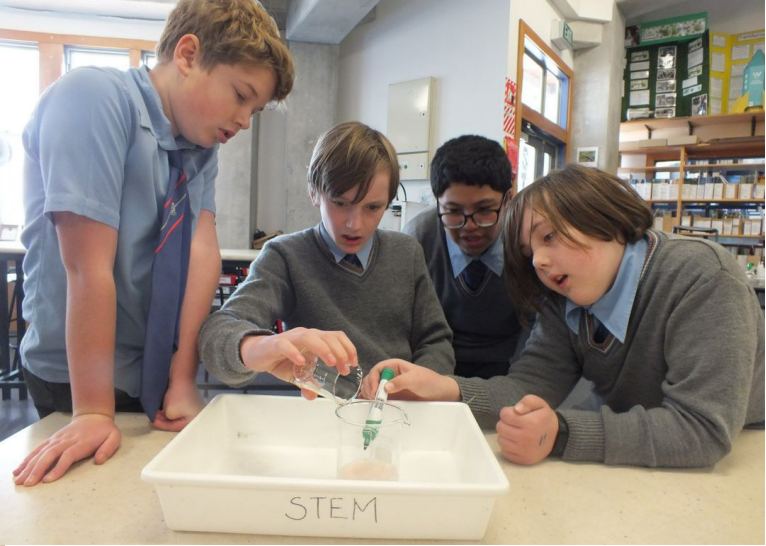
Our introduction to the coding and robotics curriculum has witnessed remarkable success, and we are dedicated to keeping pace with the rapid and enthusiastic advancement of our students. The boys are racing through the coding curriculum, leaving us awestruck by their swift progress. It’s an incredibly exciting time for our boys and school, and we owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to our talented parents for their invaluable contributions to course development. We are eagerly looking forward to the continued development of these courses next year.

As promised, we have introduced language courses, and the passion and commitment exhibited by our students have inspired us to expand these offerings in the coming year.

This year’s standout has been the Drone Club, where our boys banded together to not only master drone flight but also to share their knowledge with junior classes, providing them with a firsthand experience of the excitement of drone technology.

STEM classes epitomise hands-on learning, and this year has been brimming with hands-on experiences, including dissections, engineering projects, geology explorations, astronomy investigations, fair testing experiments, coding challenges, culinary adventures, food preservation projects, construction endeavours, electrical wiring experiments, modelling sessions, physics explorations, paleontological discoveries, chemistry experiments, microscopy explorations, and much more.

One of our grand projects for the upcoming year is the introduction of Virtual Reality equipment. We are thrilled to announce that our board has generously approved the purchase of this versatile and advanced tool, marking a new chapter in our students’ learning journey. We are excited to be a part of this groundbreaking initiative, and we can’t wait to see the incredible learning opportunities it will unlock.



Every child is an artist

Embracing our inner creativity for a brighter future



Glen Jorna
SPECIALIST VISUAL ARTS TEACHER

At Wellesley, we embrace Picasso’s profound wisdom that “every child is an artist.” Here, we believe that creativity knows no bounds, and every student, regardless of their background or experience, is given the opportunity to explore and nurture their artistic talents. Through innovative art programmes, collaborative projects, and a supportive community, we celebrate the uniqueness of every student, recognising that within them lies the spark of an artist, ready to share their innate creativity with the world.

During our Create for A Cause Art Week in Term 3, we had our student artists and teachers engage in a creative project relating to the theme of “Change”, with the underlying intention to support The Mental Health Foundation. This resulted in 16 different styles of art activities, ranging from installation to sound photography, scrap-metal sculpture to print-making, collage to shoe design. The Junior boys worked with the Senior boys which was very special for both. The overall experience was overwhelmingly positive, with all students and teachers enjoying the impact that creating has on well-being and mental health.

We also had our very talented artist in residence, and father to Jasper in Year 7, Tim Christie, undertake his four week residency during Term 3. Tim is a very well-known New Zealand artist and designer. He is represented by galleries around the world and has developed some of New Zealand’s most iconic brands. During his residency, we had the privilege of witnessing him in the art room studio, in his flow, utilising technology and design to create his unique and striking pieces. He was a true

inspiration, and a mentor to many.

The Residency and Student Art Exhibition was a night for celebrating the visual arts. The quality and standard of the work on show was outstanding, with every boy exhibiting an artwork, including the talented Year 8 Art Extension class, as well as a suite of pieces from Tim Christie. His collection was well received, particularly the bespoke Monkey Kid Print and T-shirt he designed especially for Wellesley, with profits supporting Wellesley Scholarships and the Visual Art Programme. The sales of the boys’ art, resulted in proceeds of nearly \$3000 being donated to the Mental Health Foundation to support our ‘Create for a Cause’ initiative, a fabulous result for an organisation that supports people with anxiety and depression.

In our world today, encouraging every student to embrace their inner artist is vital, and this is what Wellesley does so well. Creating art not only enables them to Discover their Best but also cultivates essential skills like empathy and innovation. It equips them to navigate challenges, fostering a future where creativity and compassion shape a brighter tomorrow.



French adventure

A culinary and cultural odyssey in the French classroom

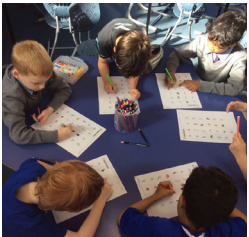


Annick Withenshaw
SPECIALIST FRENCH TEACHER



Bonjour! The boys have been on an exciting journey as they delved into the enchanting world of French language and culture. The French classes have become a hub of excitement as the boys explored the basics of French, from greetings to colours and numbers, and even discovered one of the wonders of Paris, La Tour Eiffel - the iconic Eiffel Tower.

The French Teacher, Madame Annick, teaches the classes with the emphasis being on fun. Games, songs, and action-packed activities are used to make learning feel like play. Whether it's a round of "Jacques â dit" (Simon Says in French) or singing catchy tunes to remember new words, each class is a blend of fun and effective learning.



The classes ventured into the world of sandwiches discovering ingredients like "jambon" (ham), "fromage" (cheese), "tomates" (tomatoes), "beurre " (butter). They were introduced to the Croque Monsieur (Mr Crunch), a ham and gooey cheese toasted sandwich and its counterpart the Croque Madame (Mrs Crunch) which is topped with an egg!

Madame Annick also brought in a trove of special treasures for the boys to explore. She unveiled intricate snail (escargot) plates, delicate snail shells, and even the unique utensils used to savour this special dish. Maybe next year the boys may be able to sample them!

The Year 6 boys embraced their inner chefs, donning aprons and berets and wielding spatulas, they mixed, poured, flipped, and filled our crêpes with an array of delicious toppings. The hands-on experience of making crêpes, showcases teamwork, creativity, and the joy of sharing delicious food within the school community.

As this year draws to a close the boys anticipate what other cultural adventures and culinary delights await them in the realm of French exploration.



Beyond Books

Diverse Offerings from the Library



Laurina Wylie
SPECIALIST LIBRARIAN



The library celebrates another happy year of reading and a real sense of belonging. This is a place for all boys whether they be a big reader, a bean-bag sprawler, a quiet sunny spot seeker, a serious D&D'er, a card or board gamer, a quiet spot seeker, or a student librarian.

The library has been in 'promotion mode' this year, endeavouring to share this fantastic space beyond the school walls and out to our parent community. The following new initiatives have helped to support this aim:

- Updated library hub: besides highlighting new books, the hub now includes reading challenge lists and valid research sites. The hub was added to our school website and passwords issued to each boy allowing access both at home and school.
- E-Platform, now available to all boys, (ebooks and audiobooks) offers alternative reading options, supports classroom reading programmes and celebrates the premise that all reading is good reading.
- Library-hosted Annual Book Fair: A successful and enjoyable event which helped to provide the gift of books to Foster Hope – Wellington.
- Kids' Lit Quiz: Proudly hosting the Wellington KLQ this year and celebrating the Sport of Reading. Our two Year 6 Wellesley teams worked very hard in the lead up to the quiz, with one taking out the top scoring team within the Year 5 and 6 category.

The Wellesley Library is a beautiful space to work in, and I'd like to extend my thanks to all staff, students and families for being so welcoming to me in my first year here – a great place to be a book lover!



Some things change, some stay the same

It's not all sausages and sandwiches



Rob Pritchard
CHAIR OF THE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION



Change was a highlight for all of us in the Parents' Association this year. After five years as Treasurer, I stepped into the role of Chair for the first time. With change comes new beginnings, as it was with Cherie and Sam joining the leadership committee of the PA bringing fresh ideas and new enthusiasm.

However, the cautionary tale of change for change's sake, means some things should always stay the same in the name of tradition and legacy. This was the case when we kicked off the PA events this year with Sunday Funday. The weather couldn't have been better, and it was a wonderful sight to see new parents and staff, hanging with us veteran attendees, sharing time together with the rest of the Wellesley whānau.

BBQs are always a hit at Wellesley with the Parents' Association supporting several activities including cross country, the run-a-thon and athletics day.

Junior Disco is always a great night, and the team went all out this year, with a change in theme to be a Winter Wonderland. As always, the younger year groups enjoyed this event thoroughly.

Grandparents' Day this year was very well supported as always with this year being one of the largest ever held.

But it's not all sausages and sandwiches for the PA team. It was Artist in Residence week this year, where the amazing Tim Christie provided wonderful artworks showcasing the transformation of our students as they progress throughout their years at Wellesley.

From a personal note, with our son leaving at the end of the year as part of his own personal changes, I have reflected on what it has meant to be a part of the Parents' Association and the wider Wellesley Community for the past six years. Change comes in all forms for our boys at Wellesley. Physical, social, emotional and educational changes are all reflected upon when looking at our son and seeing how positively Wellesley has shaped not only our son, but the other boys I have had the opportunity to interact with over the years fills me with pride.

The Wellesley Parents' Association is working towards some more changes particularly around the junior playground, with many events in the planning, so please be the change you want to see in the boys' world and consider joining the Parents' Association to deliver on these initiatives.

Changing Futures

Supporting Scholars, the arts and a strategic review



John Healy
CHAIR OF THE FOUNDATION



Kia ora Wellesley whānau. Although the activities of the Wellesley College Foundation remained largely unchanged in 2023, the real, valuable change continued to be in the transformational experience that the Foundation's scholarship programme had on the scholars, their families and the school.

The Foundation scholarship programme supported more boys

The Foundation has continued to provide more boys, who would otherwise not have the chance, the opportunity of a Wellesley education. The Foundation supported four boys on Years 7/8 scholarships in 2023 and once again we witnessed so much positive growth in the boys.

The Foundation supported a very successful Artists in Residence programme

The Foundation was very proud to support the Artists in Residence programme. Tim Christie (current parent and incredible local artist) was our amazing resident artist. A big thank you to Tim and all those who helped to make the programme such a success culminating in the Resident and Student Art Exhibition in September. A special thank you to Glen Jorna for all his time and commitment to oversee, plan and manage the programme.

A Strategic Review bodes well for the future

As part of a strategic review of the Foundation's activities, two new roles at the school were established to support both the school and Foundation – a Community Engagement Manager and an assistant role. These roles will provide much-needed support for combined school/ Foundation activities such as

alumni engagement, ARTBOURNE and Artist in Residence events, managing the scholarship programme and seeking valuable financial support from donors.

The Foundation is always very grateful to:

Our generous donors who provide substantial support to both our scholarship programme and our general-purpose fund. The other trustees, Matt Mallett, Andrew Cathie and Andrew Allan, who give so generously of their time to look after our Foundation. Robert Cross, who provides critical support to managing the Foundation's activities. JBWere, for managing the Foundation's investment fund and for providing valuable advice from its philanthropic experience. The school Board, the staff, the boys and their whānau.

Wishing everyone a well-earned break, and thank you in advance for continuing to support Wellesley and its Foundation.

Top of their game

Celebrating achievements of 2023



2023 House and Deputy Captains and Michael Bain

HOUSE CAPTAINS AND DEPUTIES 2023



Croydon
House Captain – Victor Williams
Deputies – Rupert Cranfield, Leo Foote



Marlborough
House Captain – Toby Dyhrberg
Deputies – Edmund Le Masurier, Sam Cathie



Selwyn
House Captain – Will Conder
Deputies – Arty Ellis, Henry von Dadelszen



Wellington
House Captain – Henry Beeby
Deputies - Frank Elliott, Lachie MacDonald



Veronica Stevens, Owen Gibson, Oliver Pennington, Lawrence Li and Henry Isaac at Senior Prize Giving

SENIOR PRIZE WINNERS

- Swabey Cup for Dux** – Lawrence Li
- Proxime Accessit to Dux** – Jasper Holtman
- PB Cooke Cup for Best All-Round Boy** – Toby Dyhrberg
- Principal’s Cup Awarded for Unselfishness, Personal Efficiency, Attention to Duty and Loyalty to the School** – Edmund Le Masurier
- Bishop’s Medal for Service to the Maintaining of the Anglican Ethos of the Special Character of the School** – Matteo Kelly
- MJ Trigg Cup for Best All-Round Sportsman** – Bailey Pearson-Harkness
- Warren & Victoria Miro Contemporary Art Award** – Sam Kennedy

AWARDS/COMPETITIONS

Wellesley Speech Competition

The class competition winners were Toby Dyhrberg (Year 8), Charlie Kettle (Year 7), Francis Williams (Year 6) and Tom Beeby (Year 5).

International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS)

Once again, Wellesley students had the opportunity of sitting the ICAS Exams in a variety of subjects. Some of the boys achieved outstanding results. These included Zack McLanahan achieving a High Distinction and Lawrence Li a Distinction in Digital Technologies. Lawrence Li also received a Distinction in English and Mathematics, along with Leo Bolton and Zach McLanahan. In Science, we also had Lawrence Li once again achieving a High Distinction.

EPro8 Challenge

Two Wellesley Teams were entered into the EPro8 Competition with our Years 7-8 Team of Edmund Le-Masurier, William Familton, Hugh McConnell, Theo Woods and Itamar Yaakoby placing 1st in both the Semi Final and the Grand Finals. The Wellesley Building Buddies or Years 5-6 Team came 9th in the Grand Finals. The Building Buddies Team consisted of Thomas Law, Elliot Curry, Isaac Churchouse, Nico Conder, Fletcher Worthington, Oscar Li and Nick Rush.

Mathswell

A Year 6 team of Jared Wu, Ethan Qin, Justin Feng, Oscar Li, Ollie Moreham-Smith, Isaac Churchouse and Finn Hurdle (reserve) competed in the Wellington Maths Association Mathswell competition winning the event out of over 50 Year 5 and 6 teams.



Jonathan Cui

WELLESLEY SPORTING CHAMPIONS

Swimming

- Y4 - Oscar Feng
- Y5 - Seb Pyne
- Y6 - Justin Feng
- Y7 - Jonathan Cui
- Y8 - Samuel Li

Athletics

- Y4 - Flynn Elliott
- Y5 - Jake Crowe
- Y6 - Stan Wilson
- Y7 - Theo Baguley
- Y8 - Tristan Bancroft

Cross Country

- Y4 - Oscar Feng
- Y5 - Russell Nottage
- Y6 - Oliver Foot
- Y7 - Max Wade
- Y8 - Samuel Li

Tennis

- Singles:** Frank Elliott
- Doubles:** Bailey Pearson-Harkness & Ben Gilkison

Table Tennis

- Senior Singles:** Ben Gilkison
- Senior Doubles:** Flynn Brown & Frank Elliott



Ollie A Marshall



Isaac Churchouse and Jared Wu

Badminton

- Senior Singles:** Bailey Pearson-Harkness
- Senior Doubles:** Bailey Pearson-Harkness & Ben Gilkison
- Senior Triathlon**
Team of Flynn Brown, Frank Elliott, Samuel Li

Wellesley Fencing Championship winner:

Lucas Stafford

Athletics Regionals 2023

- Y4 – Flynn Elliott
- Y5 – Escar Jimenez, Russell Nottage, Macarn Binns
- Y7 – Reilly Grealish-Bridge, Rupert Castle, Max Wade, Ollie A Marshall
- Y8 – Rafferty Holden, Hendrix Kaaho, Bailey Pearson-Harkness

Cross Country Regionals 2023

- Y4 - Timothy Earles, Oscar Feng
- Y5 - Russell Nottage, James Conlan
- Y7 - Charlie Kettle, Fin Clark, Leo Bolton, Max Rankin, Max Wade
- Y8 - Samuel Li

Cricket

Wellesley 1st XI beat Huntley and Hereworth Schools in 40 Over fixtures to win the **Wilson Mather Cup**. It is the first time Wellesley has held the cup since its inception in 2017.



Lucas Stafford



Senior Speech Finalists with Mayor Campbell Barry

Results:

vs Scots: Wellesley 1st XI beat Scots by 97 runs:
Wellesley 193 (Saurav Navalkar 60, Flynn Brown 36) Scots 96 (included 3 run outs)

vs Hereworth: Wellesley 1st XI beat Hereworth by 7 wickets:
Wellesley 66-4 (Henry Von Dadelszen 39no) Hereworth 63 all out (Oscar Lawrence 4 wickets, Saurav Navalkar 3 wickets) by 7 wickets

vs Huntley: Wellesley 1st XI beat Huntley 1st XI: Wellesley 65-6, Huntly 62 all out

2023 Quad Tournament at Hutt International Boys’ School winning their second trophy of the season. Our team won their semi-final against HIBS and played Tawa Intermediate in the final. There were half centuries for Frank Elliott (in both games), and a 50 for Henry Von Dadelszen in the final. A wonderful group of players who gelled together well and reached their true potential, playing some outstanding cricket.

Cross Country Nationals 2023

Russell Nottage came first at the Year 5 Regional competition and fourth at the inter-regional competition in Christchurch.



Year 6 Mathswell Team



Samarth Vijay



Bailey Pearson-Harkness, Frank Elliott and Ollie A Marshall



James Martin



1st XI Cricket and Mather Cup

EXTRA-CURRICULAR SPORTS CHAMPIONS

Cricket:

Ollie Marshall – selected for the Wellington Junior Provincial Indoor Cricket side, his tournament performance resulted in his selection for the U13 New Zealand Indoor Cricket team. He competed at the World Junior Series in Dubai finishing 3rd in the tournament.

Fencing:

Lucas Stafford was awarded Gold at the Central Zone Fencing Championships in the Under 13 Mixed épée.

Football:

Daniel Fagerlund was awarded Sportsperson of the Year for 7 Years and Under at Stop Out Football Club.

Hockey Inline Skating:

Oscar Li's captained the runner-up team at the Inline Hockey New Zealand Festival.

Irish Dancing:

Rory Summerhays went to Australia to compete in the AIO Irish Dancing competition; came second place for 11 years boys. Came 1st in 11-13 year old boys at New Zealand Nationals – Irish Dancing.

Rugby:

Bailey Pearson-Harkness was selected for the 'Team of the Tournament' at the Taupo Rugby Tournament.

Sailing:

Sam Cathie, Fletcher Worthington and James Martin all sailed in Wellington Secondary Schools Sailing Regatta in Paremata.

Swimming:

Jonathan Cui won 2 Silver Medals (100m Butterfly & 50m Backstroke) and 3 Bronze Medals (50m Butterfly, 100m Backstroke, 200m Backstroke) at the New Zealand AIMS Games in Tauranga.

Taekwondo:

Hugh McConnell came third in his division at the Taekwondo Nationals.

Tennis:

Jared Wu received first place in the Year 6 Hutt Valley Tennis Tournament and runner up in the consolation final at the Regional Finals in Palmerston North.

Issac Churchouse – winner of the consolation final at the Regional Finals Tennis Tournament in Palmerston North.

Samarth Vijay – Junior Category Runner Up at the S-Grade Wairarapa Tournament, he was also the Finals Intermediate Gold

Runner up at the Wellington Kapi Mana Primary and Intermediate Tournament. **James Casserly** placed third at the Wellington Kapi Mana Primary and Intermediate Tournament.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR CULTURAL CHAMPIONS

Art:

Sam Kennedy came 3rd in the Generation Zero Climate Change Art competition in the Under 18's category. Sam was also given a Special Mention for Creativity in the Youth Section for his submission to the Escape the Vape Great Kiwi Poster Competition. He was also awarded a 1st Place for his submission to the University of Canterbury Art of Science Competition 2023. **Edmund Green and Avinesh Shivanandan** were awarded 'Volunteer Picks' for their submissions to the Climate Crisis Art Competition in the 11-17 years age category, while **David James** received a 1st place and **Ethan Qin** was awarded 2nd place in the 10 years and under category.



Year 8 EPro 8 Team



Russell Nottage



Rory Summehays



Sam Kennedy





Penguin Patrol

Looking after the littlest blues in Days Bay

Author: Janice Meo

With so many great applications to be involved in this on-going project, it was hard to choose who should take part. Establishing a roster, meant that everyone could make visits to the local Kororā sanctuary and monitor the numbers for the season. The Year 5 boys took part in a couple of information sessions before visits started so they knew about the Little Blue Penguin and how to behave in the enclosure. They also practised our karakia, which is the first thing we do when we arrive at the sanctuary. The first time we saw that ‘sticks were down’ gave us hope that there would be eggs and chicks in a few weeks. Although the penguins had been and gone that first time, we did get to see penguins on subsequent visits.

A break for the holidays meant that, sure enough, our next visit allowed us to try to count the eggs that the penguins were clearly sitting on. Not an easy task with protective parents, that have very sharp beaks. A special treat was a visit to Matiu/Somes Island, which was well ahead of the Days Bay sanctuary as far as eggs and chicks are concerned, meant that every boy in Year 5 was able to stroke a Korora and a chick. This was thanks to the wonderful Gail and Mike Rumble who are authorised by DOC to handle the penguins so they can be banded for subsequent tracking.

The next visit to the Days Bay enclosure confirmed that our penguins had indeed managed to produce two eggs. It was easy to see the fluffy chicks cuddling up to the parent that was looking after them, while the other was away feeding. The boys were rewarded for their efforts with a total of six chicks successfully hatching. Once they have been banded, we will look forward to seeing them return in future to produce eggs of their own.



Rescue Team

Spotlight on Our Dedicated Rescue Crew

Author: Marko Cunningham

Over the past two decades, my humanitarian work has led me to various disaster-stricken regions worldwide working in many roles including as a paramedic. My passion and knowledge have resulted in the introduction of first aid and CPR training as an integral part of the middle and senior boys’ biology programme this year. Furthermore, this year witnessed the establishment of a school rescue team, where our students delved into more advanced aspects of first aid, CPR and rescue techniques. Comprising two teams, each consisting of four young individuals, these eight boys received specialised training in patient extraction, transportation, and the assessment of vital signs, which are crucial for communicating with medical professionals in disasters or emergencies. The primary objective behind this initiative is to equip our students with the skills necessary to respond effectively in emergencies, such as catastrophic earthquakes or storms. We aim to instil a sense of composure and a solid foundation of knowledge for dealing with critical situations that can be applied to any event in life. For some of these students, this journey may even lead them towards assuming leadership roles in the care of the sick or injured. Ultimately, we hope that this experience will inspire them to consider careers in the medical or humanitarian field, addressing a persistent shortage in New Zealand’s workforce dedicated to these noble causes.



Chess at Wellesley

Checking in with our Mates in the chess club

Author: Itamar Yaakoby

During the year in chess, we had over 40 people join ranging from Years 4 to 8. This course is run by Mark van der Hoorn, a former New Zealand Junior Chess Coach who has been running the chess tuition for the last 20 years at Wellesley. During this year, we learned all sorts of things including checkmate with rook and king, two bishops, bishop and knight, and two knights. We have also had multiple competitions including the Van der Hoorn Cup, which is a round-robin competition, and the Taylor-Hall Cup which consists of eight rounds. There has also been a *GIANT* chess tournament using a roll-out board and large chess pieces which had surprising outcomes. The Crazy House tournament, which allows the player to use pieces they have taken from their opponents was a lot of fun, as was the Bug House tournament, which is similar to Crazy House, except that the pieces you take are given to your neighbouring chess board instead of yourself. I am sure that most Year 8s will play chess in their next school too.



Choir Tour

A melodic journey around Auckland

Author: Janice Meo

After a hiatus, due to Covid and a huge amount of planning, finally we were at the airport ready to fly off on the 2023 Auckland Choir tour. It is quite the logistical exercise to make sure that 35 boys and seven adults have everything needed to successfully sing their way around schools in Auckland. A quick warm-up at Wellington airport was well received by commuters heading off around the country. Arriving to beautiful weather, we went straight to St Kentigern’s for a workshop and concert. After a yummy lunch we were off to Dilworth for more of the same. The boys got to spend some time getting to know the Dilworth boys in their vast grounds before enjoying their rich singing.

With barely time to catch our breath, it was time to go to King’s School to meet our billet families. Day one done; the boys could chill with their hosts who always make sure the boys experience what Auckland has to offer. A special part of the tour is Chapel at King’s on day two. This beautiful venue was where we also enjoyed a workshop and concert. The acoustics are perfect for enjoying the wonderful singing from both choirs. When combined, the sound was amazing. A visit to the War Memorial Museum meant that the boys could learn about some of our NZ history as well as see the massive dinosaur skeleton. So much to see but so little time!

Day three dawned with the promise of rain. Assembly at King’s allowed us to listen to their Jazz Band which was an unexpected treat. Then it was off to St Cuthbert’s College to perform our final concert of the tour to the girls here. They thought we had brought a group of princes to entertain them and gave the boys a great welcome.

Our final stop, before heading back to Wellington, was a much-anticipated visit to Rainbow’s End. The constant rain was barely noticed as there was too much fun to be had. Rides were screamed through, and lunch was consumed before a final flurry of last minute rides and sweet treats were enjoyed. Then it was off to the bus to get back into uniform ready to head home. Of course, the rain stopped, and it was beautiful weather back at the airport, but nobody minded. It was a whirlwind of singing and fun which ended too soon. Bring on 2025.





Time Capsule: The Millennium Project Junior Book 1999 - 2024 25th Anniversary Opening

Author: Murray Blandford

For more than 30 years, one of the highlights of the Wellesley school year was a ‘Junior Book Week’, a shared week of activities which saw the Year 8 cohort matched one-to-one with a Junior from Year 1-3. Initially, a book was produced by each pair of boys, but over time different activities were undertaken.

In 1999 the activity decided on was compiling a time capsule that would include:- an A4 personal profile of each boy, photos, concert/sports fixture/movie tickets, a ‘treasure’, an account of a typical day, and much more. With the help of the school archivist of the time, Paddianne Neely, every item was wrapped in special paper, inside an oven bag, then stored inside boxes until the grand opening was to take place. This was named the ‘Millenium Project’.

2024 is the 25th anniversary of the ‘Millennium Project’, and to celebrate this, an official opening celebration evening has been planned. Obviously, it won’t be possible for some boys to make it for a variety of reasons, but we hope that many will be able to, renewing friendships and catching up on 25 years of news. As well as the boys who were part of the project attending, it is our aim to invite parents of those boys and invite all the teachers who were at Wellesley in 1999.

So, please put the date in your diary: **Friday, October 11, probably a 7pm start.**



Warhammer Club Waging wars on the tabletop

Author: Mark Meo

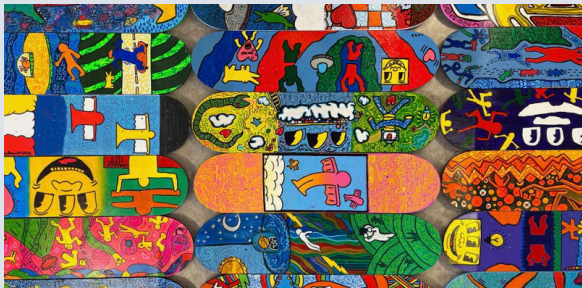
What started with subtle hints dropped to a teacher has turned into a full-scale arts, crafts, and gameplay club delving into the world of Warhammer: Age of Sigmar. This is a group that has focussed on tabletop games using scale miniatures to conduct searches, raids and invasions. Utilising some connections, we were able to source a starter pack to immerse ourselves into all aspects. In the beginning, it was assembling miniatures before unsealing the paint pots to add the intricate details. With the figures completed the focus could shift to the gameplay where a fondness was developed for the superior space marines and their recovery mission against the nasty necron warriors. This is a club that offered something a little different and developed some dedicated participants.



Art Extension Further exploring our creativity

Author: Rafferty Holden and Sam Kennedy

As you might know Wellesley has an amazing art teacher and art room. What you might not be aware of though, is that there exists an Art Extension programme for Year 8 boys that have shown artistic prowess and are passionate about art. There were quite a few boys in Art Extension this year from all the Year 8 classes. Over the year, we worked on customised skateboards using paints, posca pens and markers. This year Mr. Jorna taught us about a well-known and talented artist, Keith Haring! He wanted us to be inspired by Keith’s style to come up with a design for one side of a skateboard, with the other side being our choice. We had a lot of fun doing Art Extension this year and would recommend all Year 7s to try to get in next year and give it a go.



Enviro Club: The Green Team and the Green Beans

Ka mihi ki a Ranginui, ki a Papatūānuku, ka mihi ki te ngao o te wheiao.

Author: Gina Cooper

We are a Green-Bronze Enviro School engaged in our own long-term, whole school journey of learning and action towards sustainability.

Maintenance of ongoing school projects are the vegetable gardens, worm farming, Butterfly Garden, Penguin Patrol, leaf-cutter beehive, weta motels, trapping, and feeding the eels in the stream.

The Green Team is a group for Years 5 -7 students, learning about sustainability, conservation, and leading special environmental day activities.

The Green Beans is group of Years 1-4 students, involved in hands-on sustainable gardening related activities: Learning about earth friendly gardening, and propagating plants; Worm farming; Gardening projects; Growing fruit and vegetables in the Kitchen Garden and cooking.

As an Enviro-school many practices are embedded into the way we do things at our school: GOOS boxes, Plant propagation, Growing fruit and vegetables, Recycling – paper, Enviro crafts.



Water Polo Diving in and making waves

Author: Matteo Kelly

Did you know that we play water polo at Wellesley?

It is a super fun game, quite tough and rough and you have to be a good swimmer. It is really good for strength training and throwing as you cannot touch the bottom of the pool and not only because it is three metres deep, so there is a lot of treading water and swimming for the ball! The other thing that is hard at the beginning is that you can only hold/touch/throw and catch the ball with one hand!

We have to wear these special caps in the water to protect our ears from opposition players. There are only six players (including the goalie), so you get really puffed as there is A LOT of swimming.

We have been playing in Terms one and four and are now pretty good teams. Both the Year 7’s and 8’s have improved at passing, shooting, defending, swimming and fitness – we can now say we really are water polo players. Next year as you know the Year 8’s are leaving, which means we will need more players to step up for the water polo 2024 season so definitely give it a think. Next year the Year 7’s will be playing full pool so we will need some of you current Year 6’s to think about joining in so we can still field two teams. It is super fun so if you are keen go and see our coach Ms, Fitzsimmons.



William Pike Challenge

Essential life skills for students

Author: Veronica Stevens

This year saw us undertaking the William Pike Challenge, for the first time, with our Year 7 and Year 8 students. This programme adds differentiation from our Year 1 – 6 students, with the senior boys undertaking a range of challenges, encouraging them to grow as leaders and global citizens, as they prepare themselves for secondary school and beyond.

The William Pike Challenge was developed as a result of a significant life-changing experience, that happened to William Pike himself. As a young man, in his early 20s, he found himself severely injured on Mt. Ruapehu, caught in the volcanic eruptions of 2007 and resulted in his losing his lower right leg. When he was able to eventually reflect back on what he had learnt from his Mt. Ruapehu experience, he found that “When you are faced with challenge and change, success or failure comes down to one thing – whether you are already prepared to step outside your comfort zone – or whether you are not.”

Whilst on the road to his recovery, the opportunity came up to create a youth development programme based around growing more resilient young people. William could see a real opportunity to take what had prepared him for his challenges, and help prepare our young people for succeeding in their lives. This is now the mission of the William Pike Challenge, to help students step out of their comfort zones and develop essential skills for the future.

This is exactly what we have seen throughout this year, as our senior boys have embarked on a raft of experiences and challenges across the three key areas. These required them to complete a specific number of hours in:

- Outdoor challenges
- Learning a new skill, to complete a passion project
- Undertaking service in the community

During this year, we have seen our Wellesley boys, white water rafting, caving, snorkelling, tramping, cycling, rock climbing, gardening, baking for those in need, singing for residents in aged care facilities and learning a myriad of new skills. Each of these activities required the boys to show determination, face fear, give up personal time and persevere when things became tough.

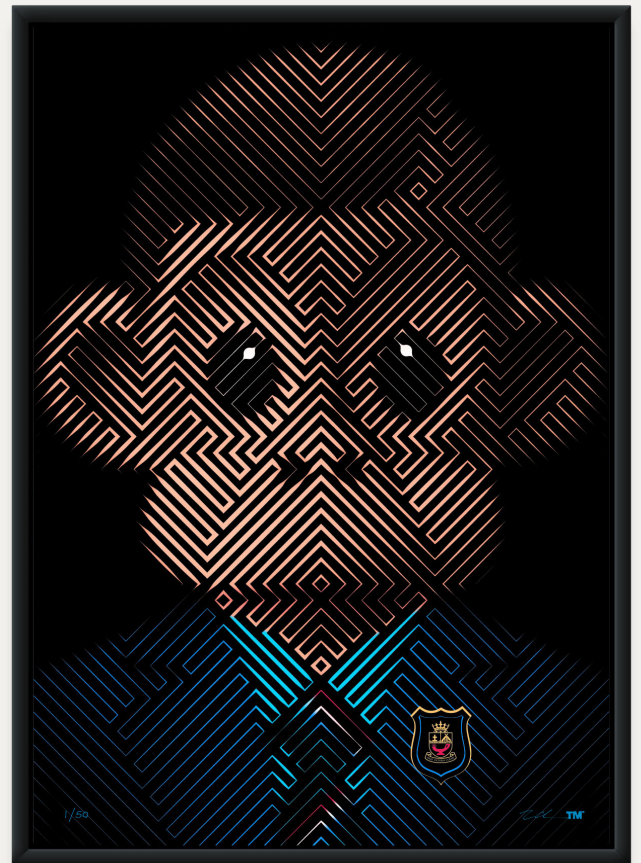




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