WHCC Newsletter

21 February 2025

Principal's Pen

Thankful

Our senior leadership team had a prayer of thanks this week. We are grateful for the amazing families and students, the strong positive culture in school, and the overall strong start to our new school. Students are positive, respectful, hard-working and joyful. It's a pleasure to work in this place.

Unashamed Love

This Monday's assembly focused on Jesus speaking to the woman at the well (I'll continue the faith theme next week). To the culture of the day this was shocking on every level. Women were considered lower than men. This woman had many husbands and appeared to be a prostitute. She worshipped false gods while claiming to worship the true God. She was a despised Samaritan. Samaritans were non-Israelis who settled there after the northern tribes were exiled. Jews never spoke to them, instead walking the long route around their lands to avoid them.

Jesus disregarded all the social, political and religious barriers and simply spoke to her. Why? He was motivated by love. He wanted to save her from her sins and restore her to a relationship with God. Through her, the whole town heard the gospel, and many received God's saving grace.

There are two things I want to note. First, Jesus both loved her *and* challenged her sinful lifestyle. In our world today, people believe we must hate those whose lifestyles God calls sinful. But the Spirit's power can love at all times.

Jesus is our example. His love was genuine. His commitment to truth unwavering. His courage to go against societal norms was astounding. His wisdom to navigate all the above is pure and unmatched. He is God with us.

What a great pattern for us and our children to follow in our culture. In faith they can look to Jesus to be loving, courageous and wise without compromising truth.

Assessment at WHCC

There are three main purposes to assessment.

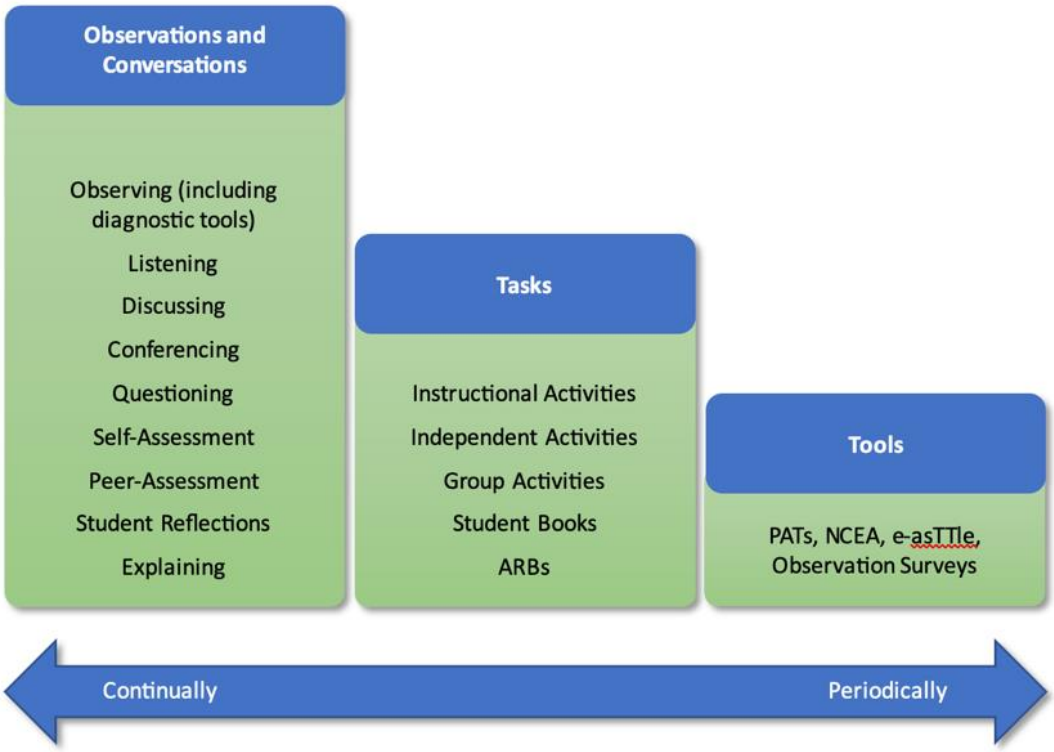
1. To help teachers plan the next learning tasks according to student needs.
2. To evaluate the effectiveness of the school's programs and improve what we do.
3. To open doors to certain career pathways (in secondary and tertiary).

Assessment comes in three broad forms:

4. **Tools:** These are administered less often but give comparisons with students across the country on accepted criteria.

5. **Tasks** are formally set by teachers and assessed internally against criteria.
6. **Observations and Conversations** give important information to help teachers nimbly tailor learning.

Here is a chart from the teacher handbook giving examples of the three types



Standardised Tests

We will be administering standardized tests over the next fortnight. This will be used to provide baseline data to report to the school board. We will share the results of those tests later this term. The two tools we are using are:

- e-asTTle: Maths, Reading and Writing
- Progress Achievement Tests (PATs): Maths and Reading

These have been used for many years in New Zealand and have large control groups to compare where students fit with the nationwide averages.

Parent Information on Student Learning

We plan to have four times in the year where caregivers are formally informed of student learning:

Term 1: Parent-Teacher interviews (dates coming soon)

Term 2: Written reports

Term 3: Various engagements dependent on the students' ages

Term 4: Written reports

In addition, you may book a meeting with any teacher of your child at any time. Please make use of this if you have specific questions or information you require. Email addresses for each teacher are on our website.

Meeting with the Principal

I love meeting parents. If you would like to discuss anything book a meeting through Kerrin Allott in the office. I like to hear your suggestions for improvements or questions about what we do and take that information seriously.

Prayer Points

Continue to pray for teachers: good rest and ongoing creative powers.

Pray for the Peniel Trust as they manage the finances and look to invest in the next stage of building development. As you can appreciate, nothing is cheap; but God is very wealthy.

Prayer that the new pedestrian access can be made available to the school very soon.

Thanks for the beautiful buildings and play areas we can work and play in each day.

Pray for strong and positive relationships with our neighbours.

Thanks for the wonderful start to the year.

Notices

Grant Applications

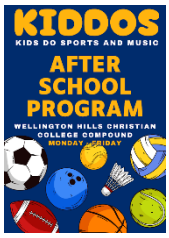
We need a parent who is interested in putting together some grant applications. There is a list of places we can apply to, we just need someone with administrative skills to put together the applications. The staff will help. Please contact Kerrin Allott if you want to find out more.

Shirts for Art Needed

Our creative space in the junior school and art room in the senior school require 60 oversized shirts (e.g., men's business shirts or similar) to wear over their school uniform when doing painting/messy work (they can be old/paint-stained, etc).

If you have any and are happy to donate them to the school, please bring them to the school office and put them in the box labelled "Shirts".

Before and After School Care Program



If you are interested in enrolling your child in a before and after school care program being held at The Broderick Road Chapel (next door to WHCC), please click here to fill out a form to indicate which days your child will attend and whether it will be for the morning session, afternoon session, or both. This program will start as soon as there are enough participants.

If the cost for your child/ren to attend is a barrier there may be funding available to assist with this.

For more information, please see the separate attachment to this newsletter.

Repeat Notices

Peanut Free School

We have several children with peanut allergies. This means we need to be a peanut free school. Thankfully we are people lovers more than peanut butter lovers.

Emergency Supplies

Can students please bring in the emergency supplies mentioned on the stationery list and a box of tissues.

Hats

Year 7-9 need to bring a hat for PE. Year 7-8 are on Wed and Thurs, Yr 9 on Tuesday and Friday. They can use it at break times as well, though they will self-manage this.

Glass Jars

Thank you to everyone who brought in glass jars for our creative space. We had a fabulous response and now have enough. We will let you know if we need any more in the future.

Thank you- Parking and Entering the School

Thank you for your cooperation in this area. By using the narrow way, you show your care for our neighbours, some of whom are anxious about safety. We have had some recent good news about the pedestrian access on the other side of the chapel. It will take some time to sign off and construct the steps, but we can look forward to a more permanent and easy solution in some months from now.

Key Dates

Calendar

Our google calendar is linked to the front page of our website. You can also access it here CALENDAR LINK. Term dates and events are already in place.

Friday 28 March

We will be holding a teacher only day on Friday 28 March. This is so we may join in with the Lower North Island Christian School Community of Learning collaboration day. School will be closed on this day.