WHCC Newsletter

Faith | Character | Wisdom | Excellence | Community

20 February 2026

Principal's Pen

The Value of Knowledge

I recall listening to a leading NZ educator about 12 years ago. He passionately declared we should be tearing out the content section of the curriculum and focusing only on the competencies and values. Knowledge, he claimed, was only useful when we needed it for problem solving and we can get it from the internet any time.

I had a sabbatical soon after and studied the idea of knowledge. Something bugged me. Was knowledge only useful for solving problems?

I explored secular literature. But it was Scripture that gave me a powerful revelation. Knowledge leads to wonder and awe. Wonder and awe lead to praise and worship. This is something totally missed by the educator above. And it is everywhere in Scripture.

Psalm 19:1-2 is just one example

The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.
Day after day they pour forth speech;
night after night they reveal knowledge.

I came to see what a terrible reductionist view was being promoted in NZ schools. Knowledge is far more valuable than its practical use. It points to the glory of God and leads us to him. (As an aside, reducing the value of knowledge is damaging to any education, as the wider NZ state school system has found.)

We are committed to ongoing learning as teachers in this area. Next week we have two international Christian Education practitioners spending Thursday and Friday with us, Rachel Wilding and Kaya Lombard. The Friday is a teacher only day so we can fully engage in the topic, "Teaching for the Kingdom". I'm looking forward to digging deep.

Whole School Community Assembly – Monday 23 February

On Monday we will be holding our first whole school community assembly at the Johnsonville Salvation Army Church at 1:30pm. We would love to have you join us if you can make it.

School Camp Permission Forms

These are due back to the homeroom teacher by Monday 23 February.

Teacher only day (ToD)– next Friday 27 February

Next Friday, 27 February, is a 'Teacher only Day' (ToD). This means there will be no classes, and the school will be closed.

A second 'Teacher only Day' has been scheduled for Monday 24 August in Term 3.

Parent/Teacher Interviews – 2 & 3 March

An email providing information and instructions on how to book an appointment for parent/teacher interviews being held after school on Monday 2 March and Tuesday 3 March 2026 will be sent out early next week.

MoE School Transport Conveyance Allowance

If your child/ren make two or more changes in public transport to travel to and from school each day, you may qualify for the MoE School Transport Conveyance Allowance. The conveyance allowance is a contribution to help with the cost of getting your eligible child to school or the nearest bus route. To find out more either email Mr Dan Shaw (dan.shaw@whcc.school.nz) or click on the following link to go to the MoE website.

Parents of both Primary and Secondary Students

If you have children in both the primary and secondary school, you are welcome to arrive at 3:10pm for pick-up.

This will help minimise waiting between the two finish times. Staff will be onsite from 3:00pm to supervise students until 3:20pm.

Latecomers – Sign in at office: Required

If your child arrives after 9:00am, please remind them to pop into the school office to sign themselves in. This helps us make sure their attendance is recorded correctly for the day. Ngā mihi for your support.

School Lunch Ordering System – Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays

Our school is using **Ezlunch**, part of the Kindo platform, for all online lunch orders.

Ezlunch offers a simple, mobile-friendly way for families to order fresh, tasty lunches from the same local providers you already know and love. The ordering process is quick, payments are secure, and delivery to school is reliable and easy.

Parents can order using the Kindo app (iPhone and Android) and choose from a range of convenient payment options including card, bank transfer, Google Pay, Apple Pay and more. The system also includes helpful allergen alerts and automated reminders, so no one misses out on lunch day.

This lunch ordering service is available on **Tuesdays**, **Thursdays**, and **Fridays**. We kindly ask that orders are placed only when needed to ensure your child is at school to receive their lunch. If an advance order has been placed and your child is absent, please contact the school office to advise how you would like to arrange collection of the lunch, as the school is unable to cancel orders.

If you require more information, please contact **Zipporah Lee** at office@whcc.school.nz

Spare Yarns

Do you have an abundance of yarn you're looking to pass on?
Our Textiles Options class would greatly appreciate donations of **8 ply wool or acrylic yarn** to support student projects.

If you're able to contribute, please drop donations into the school office.

Car Parking

Parking: We have no parking on site for any families due to a larger staff. Please use the mall or street parking. Note the time limits.

Drop off: **There is no space to drive on site for drop offs. This respects the agreements we have with our neighbours.**

Pedestrian Access: **Please walk along the temporary access path running beside the Broderick Road Chapel. Please do not walk up the ramp in the carpark.**

Kindly notify your emergency contacts as well if they're doing the pick up/drop off.

Note: Construction of the new pedestrian access will begin shortly.

Relieving Teachers

We would like to increase the size of our teacher relief pool. If you know of anyone available, please contact the school office or email Dan Shaw (dan.shaw@whcc.school.nz)

Nut free school reminder

To help keep all of our students safe, we kindly remind families that **Wellington Hills Christian College is a nut-free school**.

Some of our students have severe nut allergies, and even small traces of nuts can cause serious health risks. We ask that **no nuts or nut products** (including peanut butter, Nutella, nut bars, or foods containing nuts) are included in lunchboxes or brought to school.

We appreciate your care and support in helping us provide a safe and inclusive environment for everyone in our community.

If you are unsure whether a food item is suitable, please feel free to contact the school office.

WHCC – Bank Account Number

For all school banking, such as donation payments and school fundraisers, please make an internet banking payment to:

Wellington Hills Christian College Board
ASB Bank
Account Number: 12-3481-0040719-00

Calendar

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

Key Dates

Monday 23 Feb	School Camp Permission Forms due Whole School Community Assembly
Friday 27 Feb	Teacher Only Day – School Closed
Monday 02 Mar	Parent/Teacher Interviews (after school) Enrolments Open for 2027
Tuesday 03 March	Parent/Teacher Interviews (after school)
Monday 16 Mar	Yr 7 Immunisation Programme
Tues 17 – Fri 20 Mar	Year 7-10 School Camp
Monday 23 Mar	Grandparents Day Whole School Community Assembly
Tuesday 24 Mar	School Board Meeting
Thursday 3 Apr	Last Day of Term 1
Monday 20 Apr	First Day of Term 2

Community Notices

7th March

8:00 - 9:30 am

Welcoming all new and existing junior hockey players to come along on Saturday the 7th of March, pick up a stick and have some fun! All equipment provided.

If you have any questions please email Jada at: jada@wellingtonhockey.org.nz