WHCC Newsletter

Faith | Character | Wisdom | Excellence | Community

24 April 2026

Principal's Pen

Welcome to the new term. I hope your time with children at home was a good one. I had a wonderful time visiting my daughter in rural Victoria over the break. Coming back to NZ, I certainly gained an appreciation for the beautiful landscape we enjoy here. It was also rather wild!

I want to bring to your attention again to the Regional Community Evenings we are holding in May. There are three purposes to the meetings:

1) **Connect:** These are great times to connect with other families from our school, which is particularly important with the widely dispersed homes we come from.
2) **Consult:** The board will present our draft strategic plan with you, taking questions and suggestions. These plans will directly impact your children's learning.
3) **Answer Questions**: This will include a chance to discuss the development of senior secondary, progress on increasing capacity and other topics you may wish to raise.

We will have a draft of our Strategic Plan out to the community after our next board meeting, to be held on **Tuesday 05 May**.

In the meantime, the board has produced an annual plan for 2026. This is now complete and available for the community to view. You are welcome to email Nicola Geuze (boardchair@whcc.school.nz) or Tim Kuipers (principal@whcc.school.nz) if you have any thoughts on it, You may book a meeting with me also through the office.

2026 Annual Implementation Plan

I also look forward to connection at the Community Assemblies that are held two to three times each term on a Monday afternoon.

After each assembly follows an afternoon tea for parents including a chance to meet with me and discuss any topics on your mind.

I look forward to connecting soon. Ngā mihi nui.

Tim Kuipers

Notices

Year 8 and 10 Art Trip to Te Papa

Year 8 and 10 students had the opportunity to visit the *Breathe* exhibition and create their own artwork in response at Te Papa this week.

The students particularly enjoyed being able to use the VR headsets and other technology, led by the fantastic facilitators.

We considered how all living things breathe and respire in different ways, and how this connects to God as the giver of life.

Looking for: Wellington Buzzy Bee

Next term, our secondary students will be studying artworks featuring the iconic Wellington Buzzy Bee. To support close observation of shape, colour and construction, we are hoping to borrow several Buzzy Bees for use in class for the remainder of the year. We would ideally love to have four toys so that each table group can view one easily.

All items will be carefully stored, handled with care, and returned before the end of the year. If your family would be able to lend a Wellington Buzzy Bee (in any condition), please email **Hannah Buchanan** (hannah.buchanan@whcc.school.nz) or **Moira Ashdown** (moira.ashdown@whcc.school.nz). Thank you for your support.

Open Day – Wednesday, 17 June 2026

On Wednesday, 17 June 2026 we will be inviting the general public to come for our Open Day where they can see our school in action. Please RSVP **here**.

Session 1: 9.30-10.30am
Session 2: 2pm-3pm

Teacher Only Day

This is a heads up notice that we have a teacher only day in Term Three on **Monday, 24 August 2026**. (An earlier school notice said this may be on Tuesday, 02 June but this is no longer the case).

Neurodiversity, Disability and Health Support Group

Leila and Kerryn, who are parents in WHCC, are initiating a supportive space for Christian parents to connect and encourage one another while navigating neurodivergence (including pre-diagnosis), disability, and ongoing health challenges in their children.

When: Wednesdays, 1:45pm–3:00pm (Beginning 29 April 2026)
Where: WHCC Staff Room

Parking is available at Johnsonville Mall or off-street.

For more information, contact **Leila** (0278404870) or **Kerryn** (0276967797)

Year 7 Vision Screening - Information for parents

Te Whatu Ora, Health New Zealand provides a vision screening programme for all Year 7 students.

- Vision – pupils will be advised of results at the time of screening. If further assessment is recommended you will be notified by mail.
- Children who wear glasses and/or are under professional care and have regular checks will not require a vision check from our service.

Non-consent – please notify your school if you do not want your child being screened.

This screening is not a full assessment of your child's vision. If you have any concerns, please see an optometrist

Thank you for your support with this programme. If you have any queries, please contact me on the details below.

Amanda Stott
Vision & Hearing Technician
P: 04 587 2961 | M: 027 480 9735 | E: amanda.stott@tewhatuora.govt.nz

Lost and found

A rack and box of lost-and-found items collected around the school are currently on display outside the school office.

We kindly encourage you to take a moment to check the items during drop-off/pick-up to see if any of these items belong to you or your child.

School Photos

Formal school photographs have been postponed and will be taken on **Friday, 08 May 2026**.

Please ensure that your children arrive in school wearing their **formal school uniform**.

Juniors (Yr 0-6) that normally have swimming on Fridays in Term 2 are not required to bring their PE gear. They'll just need to change out of their formal uniform into their swimming gear and back to their formal uniform once they're done.

Seniors (Yr 7-10) will still need to bring their PE gear with them.

School photographs will be taken by L C Scott Photography.

To preorder photos, or sibling photos on their website, go to https://orders.lcscott.co.nz/ordering/with?key=NFZCZB49

Community Evenings

Last year, we held a series of regional connection evenings that brought our school community together to share ideas and support one another.

We're pleased to let you know that we'll be hosting these evenings again this year.

Please save these dates and details for your region.

North (Tawa, Porirua & Kapiti Coast) – Monday, 11 May 2026

Venue: Elim Church (Porirua)
Address: 11 Heriot Drive, Elsdon, Porirua 5022
Time: 6:30pm to 8:30pm

Hutt Valley – Monday, 18 May 2026

Venue: Maranatha Christian School
Address: 180 Hill Road, Belmont, Lower Hutt 5010
Time: 6:30pm to 8:30pm

South (Johnsonville, Wellington City & Nearby Suburbs) – Monday, 25 May 2026
Venue: The Good Neighbours Café (Park at Clifton Carpark)
Address: 96 The Terrace, Wellington Central, Wellington 6011
Time: 6:30pm to 8:30pm

Feel free to bring a plate for these evenings. The school will also prepare some light refreshments. For more information, contact **Zipporah Lee** at office@whcc.school.nz

2026 Kiwi English, Mathematics & Science Competitions

2026 Kiwi English, Mathematics and Science Competitions, is coming up at the end of term 2. This is for Years 5 to 10 only. If you would like your child to participate, please complete the letter sent to you and return to Mr Dan Shaw (dan.shaw@whcc.school.nz) by **Friday, 01 May 2026.**

Phones and watches

If your child brings a mobile phone or a smartwatch to school for communication purposes, please ensure they are reminded to place these devices in the designated box at the school office upon arrival.

Students are not permitted to be contacted via personal devices during school hours.

Should you need to contact them urgently in school, please ring the School Office at 049398558 and our team will ensure that the message gets to them.

We appreciate your cooperation and support in helping us maintain a focused learning environment for your children.

EOTC: Education Outside The Classroom

Swimming Lessons – Term 2

Swimming lessons for **Years 1–6** will take place at **Keith Spry Pool** during **Term 2**, on **Fridays from Week 2 to Week 9** (8 weeks), beginning **Friday, 1 May**.

Students must wear their **PE uniform** and bring their **togs and a towel** each week.

Lesson times are as follows: **Years 3–4: 1:00–1:30pm**, **Years 1–2: 1:30–2:00pm**, and **Years 5–6: 2:00–2:30pm**.

We will be **walking** to and from the pool. We require **parent helpers**, so please let your child's **class teacher** know if you are available to assist. Thank you for your support.

Cambodia Discovery Trip

What is this?

> A short-term Discovery Trip to Cambodia designed to expand your kingdom perspective by experiencing God at work in a different cultural context, with hands-on ministry across diverse settings.

When is it?

> January 2–22, 2027

Who is it for?

> Anyone who is open to a broader worldview and exploring their part in the mission of God. Whether you're early in your faith journey or seasoned in service, this trip invites you to engage deeply, learn, and grow in how you might serve God across cultures.

Want to know more?

> Join us to explore Cambodia's culture, history, and growing church, see wholistic mission in action, and discover how your gifts can shape meaningful, lifelong ministry—both abroad and back home in NZ. Curious for details, preparation steps, and how the trip could fit your calling? We'd love to share more.

Contact Kim & Dan Shaw: distantshoresdiscovery@gmail.com

Whole School Cross Country – Year 0 to 10

The School cross country is coming up in week 3 of term 2. It will be on the afternoon of Tuesday 5th May at Alex Moore Park. With postpone dates of Wed 6th May.

In Yr 4 - 8, the top 3 male and female students from each level **based on times at Cross Country and PE classes** will be given the opportunity to attend the Northern Zone Cross Country on Tuesday 19th May.

Key Dates

Our school calendar can be accessed here. Term dates and events are already in place.

Monday 27 Apr	ANZAC Day – School Closed
Thursday 30 Apr	Yr 0/1 & 7 Hearing and Vision Screening
Friday 01 May	Year 1-6 Swimming Lessons Begin
Tuesday 05 May	Whole School Cross Country at Alex Moore Park
Monday 11 May	Community Evening – Northern Suburbs (Tawa, Porirua & Kapiti Coast)
Monday 18 May	Community Evening – Hutt Valley
Monday 25 May	Community Evening – Johnsonville, Wellington City & Nearby Suburbs
Monday 01 Jun	King's Birthday – School Closed
Wednesday 17 Jun	WHCC Open Day
Monday 24 Aug	Teacher Only Day – School Closed

Community Notice