



### Prizegiving Ceremonies

We warmly invite you to join us in our celebration of student success. The Year 10-13 Prizegiving will take place in the college gymnasium this Friday 29 November at 7.00 pm. This will be followed by the Year 7-9 Prizegiving on Friday 6 December at 5.30 pm.

Both events will be a celebration of achievement show-casing the talents of our students. Celebrations are more enjoyable when shared with family and friends so please join us for these special evenings.

Feel free to bring along a cushion for added comfort!

Wayne Bosley

#### Student Code of Dress For Senior Prizegiving

Senior students, including Year 10's, please dress suitably for the formal occasion and should assemble at 6.40 pm on the Friday evening.

**Congratulations to Acacia Murray (10CD)** who has gained a Highly Commended accolade in the NZ Association of Teachers of English for her short story, "Child of Mine".

"My hand clutched the cold rail, slick with my own sweat. Taking slow steps, I force one foot in front of another. My glance flits to the people that occupy the small place. I pray that they can't see the apprehension and terror that I'm sure fills my eyes. I endeavour to avoid eye contact, in fear that they will see my intentions. A man catches my eye as my gaze slides past him. The contact is short but the stare feels as though it slices through my flesh. His gaze bores deep into my heart sending chills and shudders throughout my body. My breath quickens and then I gasp for air in a panic. My steps falter, instantly my hands fly to my child, precious and fragile. I calm down; I must protect the child of mine. I can't leave it alone to face the world unaided. Not yet.

Cool reassuring hands grasp my arm. I flinch and turn to stare into the supportive gaze of my partner, sharer of my pain, my burden. Calming, peaceful whispers are uttered, only just reaching my ears. I am drenched in perspiration, on the verge of total panic. My hands fly to my abdomen. My child is cold, pressed against my soft skin. The curves strain against the wrinkles of insubstantial, fragile fabric. I feel the wires; the soft tubes supporting my child. I feel this burden, this gift. I feel this child of mine.

I lean back and attempt to relax, sinking into soft fabric. Banishing thoughts, I endeavour to spend the final moments before the pain in peace. I try to remain calm, suppress nerves and override fear. This ever present fear stings and aches within me like a demon. It is constant, a weight on my shoulders, preventing me from feeling peace. Everything is fear. I fight back the sobs that threaten to engulf me and convulse through my body like waves. I begin to brace myself for the impending pain. Squeezing eyes shut, clenching fists, deep breathing, thinking of the light ahead. I pray for a forever in the forthcoming light.

Months of preparation; planning and work had gone into my child. And now it is perfect. Work of art; a sculpture of metal and wire filled with terrifying light and destructive power. My child is not of flesh and blood. Finally, it is ready. Finally, it is time. I turn to my partner and place my damp palm on his shoulder. He turns to me, pupils large and dilated with adrenaline and fear, and nods in affirmation. This is the right moment. I rub my hands over the jagged edges of my child as sharp points and corners dig into paper thin folds of pale skin. I sense the rise of the button and slowly caress it. I close my eyes and ready myself for the light, then the dark. My eyes open. I push the button. Light engulfs me.

The bomb explodes.



### OPEN MINDS TOURNAMENT

The annual Open Minds Challenge was held at Wakatipu High School last week. This is a problem solving challenge competition for gifted and talented students from four local high schools, featuring either arts or science/technology challenges. Students compete for the "Iron Brain" trophy.



Congratulations to MAC students who were successful in both the arts category, where they had to invent a new cryptid (like Nessie) for Lake Dunstan, and the science category, which involved building a cloning machine to split some "DNA". Jake Nicholson, Sam Davey, Max Hall, Finn Mueller, Joe Strawson and Alex Plimmer won the year 7/8 science challenge with their presentation.

Congratulations also to Nic Sinnott, Breagha Rennie, Ngaio McLeod, Riley Christie and Manu Barnard who won 1st place in the year 7/8 arts challenge. In the year 9/10 competition Sean Dickey, Luke Burke, Nick Toepfer and Fergus Brebner claimed second place in the science competition.

The winner of the year 9/10 arts competition and Overall Open Minds winners for 2013 were Helena Crawford, Hannah Davey, Michaela Rogan, Amber Makeham, Acacia Murray and Bridie Hurley. A great experience of competition and a meeting of like minds. Thanks to WHS for their hosting of the event.

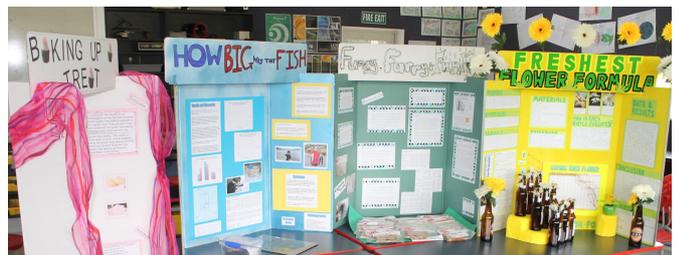


Thanks also to Mr Simpson who was one of the four judges.

#### **From a student perspective...**

*This tournament is designed to test the ingenuity and resourcefulness of the participants. We were lucky enough to be selected from four potential teams in Year 9 to attend the tournament alongside two teams from Year 8 and one from Year 10. After significant technical difficulties regarding the transportation of our project, (a DNA cloning machine), we finally arrived at Wakatipu High School. After a good three hours of fun, laughter (and spray paint!) it was our turn to perform. With some encouraging words from the judges we stepped into the 'Performance Square' and our performance ran without a hitch. Sadly we only placed second which meant that MAC teams didn't quite make a clean sweep, but well done to the other three teams who placed first.*

**Sean Dickey and Luke Burke.**



Pictured above, some of the Year 7/8 Science Fair display boards. The winning boards will be announced on Thursday and will feature in next week's newsletter

## Stewart Island Year 10 Camps

Dates for these trips were published incorrectly on the Trip Information letter issued last week. The correct dates and times are

Trip 1 Leave Sunday 8 December, 7.30 am.  
Return Wednesday 11 December.

Trip 2 Leave Monday 9 December, 7.00 am.  
Return Thursday 12 December.

Apologies for any confusion.

## STUDENT ACCOUNTS

### NO MORE TABS

Please note that from now until the end of the year there will be no more tabbing of phone calls and no more canteen vouchers.

Please make sure that your son / daughter has some spare cash at school to make phone calls or purchase extra lunch.

## YEAR 7-10 REPORTS

These will be issued to students next Thursday 5 December.

Good luck to the 'Forever Emily' film crew (Kath Millis and Daisy and MingThor-Poet) who are off to Paris with teacher Rachel O'Connell (pictured right with Ming) to attend the global finals of the Kids Witness News short film competition.



## Year 7/8 Otago Athletics Championships

Well done to Nico Bowring, Adam Breen, Jack East, Mitchell Evans, Gregor Findlay, Briar Hight, Danielle Molloy, James Toomey and Phoebe Young who competed at the Otago Athletics in Dunedin last week. Congratulations to Jack who placed second in the U12 75m sprint and the U12 Long Jump and to Phoebe who placed third in the Year 7/8 800m.

## CONGRATULATIONS to Cate Howie and Alannah Stalker

who have both gained a place in the senior division of the Otago Southland Pony Club Area Dressage Team. Zoe McNeilly is also second reserve. The team will compete at the South Island Champs in January where they will obtain a national ranking. It is a credit to all riders to have done so well against some tough competition.

## Football Otago Youth Development Academy

**Any player born in 1997/98 who are interested in being considered for the 2014 Northern Ireland Milk Cup International Youth Football Tournament Squad which will be selected in March 2014 should email macsaies@xtra.co.nz**

## UNIVERSITY ENROLMENT

A reminder to all senior students who are intending studying at university next year that the cut-off date for enrolments is **Monday 9 December**.

## Term Dates for 2014

**Term 1** Thursday 30 January to Thursday 17 April

**Term 2** Monday 5 May to Friday 4 July

**Term 3** Monday 21 July to Friday 26 September

**Term 4** Monday 13 October to Friday 12 December

## Start Dates for Students

### Thursday 30 January:

Year 13 students should expect to attend for the whole day.

### Friday 31 January:

All Year 7 and Year 13 students - whole day

All Year 11 and 12 students - first part of the day.

All new entrants in Years 8, 9 and 10 - first part of the day.

### Monday 3 February:

All students in every year level to be present at school.

## Important Dates

### Term 4 (14 October - 13 December)

**Week 7** Friday 29 November

**Week 8** Tuesday 3 December

Tuesday 3 December

4/5 December

Thursday 5 December

Friday 6 December

**Week 9**

9-12 December

9-13 December

Friday 13 December

**Senior Prizegiving, 7.00 pm**

Year 6 Orientation morning

Incoming Year 7 Parent Evening, 7.30 pm

7JO Dunedin Trip

Year 7-10 reports issued

**Junior Prizegiving, 5.30 pm**

Year 10 Expedition Week

Year 9 Challenge Week

Final day of term 4

Please be sure to come and check out the **LOST PROPERTY BIN** before the end of term. Any un-named items not claimed by the end of term will be donated to the Op Shop and Wastebusters.

A reminder that the college and grounds are a **NO DOG ZONE** - please respect this.



Do you want to know more about Social Networking? Do you have questions about your children's online habits? Or are you simply interested in finding out more about Living Online today? The Sticks 'n Stones Student-Led Cyber Bullying project will be hosting a not-to-be-missed learning opportunity to answer all these questions and more. Representatives from Health, the Police, Counselling and Mental Health will be there to answer questions in an expo style event with free food, live entertainment, spot prizes and more! There will also be an expert panel discussion for you to pose those burning questions. Gold coin entry. Come along to the **Wanaka Primary School Hall on Thursday 5 December, 6.30 - 8.30 pm.** Check out: [www.facebook.com/onlinesticks](http://www.facebook.com/onlinesticks) for more information.

## FOCUS ON HEALTH....

The Health Department have introduced an app / internet site called Headspace to the students in Years 9 and 10. Founded by Andy Puddicombe who decided to become a monk at the age of 22, Andy's meditation training took him all over the world, culminating with full ordination at a Tibetan Monastery in the Himalayas. Ten years later, Andy returned to the UK with the singular wish to demystify meditation, to make it accessible, relevant and beneficial to as many people as possible. And thus the seeds of Headspace were sown.

We are challenging the students to take '10 mindful minutes a day' and we are already getting great feedback. The Headspace app or website allows 10 free sessions of meditation. If you would like to check this out go to:

<http://www.getsomeheadspace.com/pages/account/myheadspace.aspx>

## GIGA-TIP - Your weekly tip for supporting the #gigatownwanaka campaign.

### EMAILS

Keep registering those emails! Each email address registered under the 'Join Up' tab at [www.gigatown.co.nz](http://www.gigatown.co.nz) earns 10 points for Wanaka. The addresses don't have to be Wanaka-based, so encourage your out-of-town friends and family to register as well.

### TWITTER

Do you Tweet? Know someone who does? Every Tweet with the hashtag #gigatownwanaka counts for one point, and so does every retweet. Try logging on once a day and aiming to retweet 20 tweets at a time. You can follow the GigatownWanaka campaign on Twitter at @GigatownWanaka.

### INSTAGRAM & FLICKER

These both work like Twitter - every post with the #gigatownwanaka hashtag earns us a point, as do comments with the hashtag in them. Share your images and earn points for your town, and, again, encourage snap-happy visitors to do the same.

**Go #gigatownwanaka!**

