



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents/Caregivers

1. First of all, many thanks for attending this week's Learning Conferences, and joining your child and their Manaaki Teacher to discuss your child's progress so far this year, and what goals they have in front of them for the rest of 2017. I have told my Manaaki Teachers that I expect them to have had Learning Conferences with 100% of their students, so please help my staff if they ring to arrange a "catch-up" meeting.
2. You may be aware of the Government's education initiative, launched three years ago, which was formerly known as "Communities of Learning" and now "Kahui Ako". Principals from the eight schools in Wainuiomata have been working together for the past two years to establish a group in the Valley, and a meeting was held on Thursday night, organised by the six participating schools (the High School; the Intermediate; and Wainuiomata, Fernlea, Arakura and Konini Primary Schools – St Claudine Thevenet is part of a similar group made up of Hutt Valley Catholic Schools, and Pukeatua Primary School has chosen not to join at this stage), attended by the Principals, Senior Leadership staff, Board Chairs, Board of Trustees members and representatives from the 14 Early Childhood Centres in Wainuiomata.

The aim of a Kahui Ako is for the members to work together to raise student achievement within their catchment, while retaining the identity of each school. Research clearly shows that schools working with each other to ensure the experience of their students' education journey (starting as a new entrant and finishing as a secondary school student heading to employment, training or tertiary education) is as seamless as possible, ensures success.

The Draft Vision of the Wainuiomata Kahui Ako is the achievement of "*Equity and Excellence for all through Hauora, Ako and Kaitiakitanga*", and this will be achieved when "*the members work collectively to 1) develop all aspects of our Hauora, 2) ensure equitable and excellent learning outcomes (Ako) for our akona, and 3) build and promote excellence in our teaching and leadership (Kaitiakitanga)*".

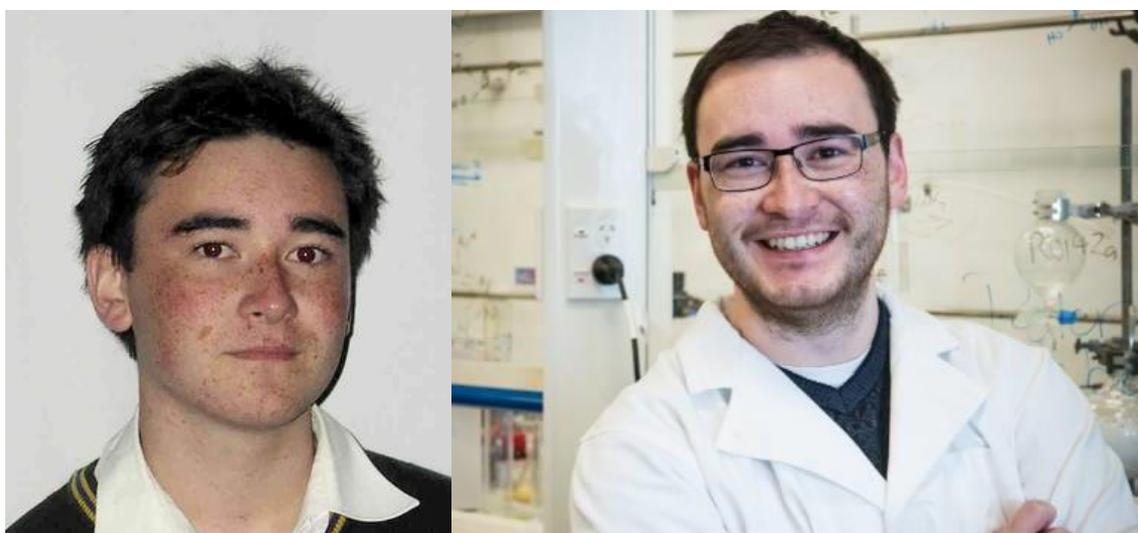
It is an exciting development, and we will be seeking your views in the near future – please stay tuned!

3. The Winter Sports season is rapidly coming to an end with many of our teams entering into semi-finals and – hopefully – finals in their grades. Please remind your child to spend time thanking their Coaches and Managers for their input over the season; the efforts and time our volunteers put into sports teams is invaluable, and must never be overlooked or unrecognised.

4. Congratulations and best wishes to Joel Carman (13RFE) who is currently competing as part of a New Zealand team taking part in a Cross Country Championship (8km) and a Road Relay (3km each runner) in Tasmania, Australia. Joel has an impressive list of achievements behind him (he won the Under 20's Wellington Open, placed 4<sup>th</sup> in the Secondary Schools competition, and was the 1<sup>st</sup> runner at Nationals in Christchurch), which are due to the huge amount of training he puts into his sport, including running for 60-90 minutes a day, six days a week, in the Lower Hutt hills and Wainuiomata firebreaks.



5. And finally, we always delight in hearing of the success of former students. Ryan Schwamm (pictured below in Year 13, 2008 and now) was a student at Wainuiomata High School from 2004-2008. During his time at the High School he studied received the following awards:
- Wainuiomata High School Board of Trustees Cup and Medal for Proxime Accessit to Dux (2008)
  - Victoria University Mathematics Department Cup for Year 13 Mathematics (2008)
  - Soroptomists Cup for Year 12 Mathematics (2007)



Please read this article, in the 09 August 2017 Dominion Post (written by Matthew Tso):

### **Kiwi in line for top chemistry prize**

*A young Lower Hutt chemist is a finalist in a prestigious international chemistry prize.*

*Victoria University PhD candidate Ryan Schwamm, 26, is the first Kiwi to be nominated for the Reaxys PhD Prize, which recognises the best work being done by young chemists around the world.*

*His work will stand alongside that of his peers at the likes of Cambridge, Harvard, Kyoto, Stanford and Princeton universities and the Chinese Academy of Science.*

*Schwamm, from Wainuiomata, was happy to be one of the 45 nominees heading to Shanghai in October because it meant people were taking notice of his work and the research being undertaken at Victoria University.*

*"I guess it opens a lot of doors. It means people can see my research and what I do. It's really good, not just to be the first Kiwi, but to come from a New Zealand University. A lot of [New Zealand] research doesn't get noticed as much as the bigger universities [around the world]."*

*His work explores the chemistry of the main group elements from the periodic table and he was nominated for a paper that described the isolation and characterisation of a bismuth(II) radical.*

*The former Wainuiomata High School student was looking forward to connecting with other people in separate fields of chemistry.*

*"You don't get that opportunity very much in chemistry and in science generally. You tend to stick to your own area, so it will be good to talk to people outside of my field."*

*Schwamm was now entering the final six months of his PhD and said he was enjoying the field of chemistry he was working in.*

*He hoped to become a post-doctoral research associate overseas and was exploring his options in the United Kingdom.*

## NZQA UPDATE

An invoice from the High School for NZQA fees, along with login information from NZQA, has been posted to all Senior students this week. Please note that this is separate from the school's invoice for donations and course fees. Payment should be made to the school office by **Friday 08 September**. More information is listed below:

**Fees:** A flat fee of **\$76.70** per year covers as few or as many standards as a student enters. Scholarship subjects will cost \$30 each. (Overseas students' fees are \$383.30 and \$102.20 for each Scholarship subject). Students who do not pay the NZQA fee this year will not have their 2017 results recognised by NZQA until the outstanding fee, plus a **\$50 late fee**, has been paid. After **08 September** entry fees will have to be paid directly to NZQA. Payments to NZQA after **Friday 01 December** will incur a **\$50 late fee** to the amount.

**Withdrawals from Senior qualifications:** Dropping a subject or a few standards will not decrease the amount paid because it is a flat fee. NZQA does not refund fees if a student leaves in or after mid-September. We strongly recommend that students who leave school part way through the year pay for the internal credits they have gained because they may be useful for other certificates.

### Fees discount:

This applies to families with:

- A Work and Income or StudyLink benefit - **\$20** per student, or **\$30** for two or more students.
- Joint family income that entitles you to a Community Services Card - **\$20** per student, or **\$30** for two or more students.

An application form for Financial Assistance is attached. For more information, please go to the NZQA website. Web address is <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/about-us/publications/newsletters-and-circulars/assessment-matters/fees-and-financial-assistance-for-2017/>

The posted form must be returned to the High School if you are eligible for fee discount by **Friday 01 September** (note the form must be with the High School by this date – 8 September will be too late).

Payments should be to the High School office in an envelope marked with the student's name and 'NZQA fees'. Cheques should be made out to Wainuiomata High School.

If you have an automatic payment and/or a credit on your student's account, please call the High School and advise us if you would like us to transfer the funds to make the payment. We cannot transfer funds without your prior approval. Alternatively, please provide your student with a signed letter authorising the transfer and ask them to bring it to the School Office. If you have any queries or if I can help in any way, please contact me through the office on 938 3224.

*Douglas Robb, Assistant Principal/NZQA Liaison*