



WILLIAM COLENZO COLLEGE NEWSLETTER / PĀNUI



Term Two: 30th May – 10th June 2022

Kia ora Whanau,

I am immensely proud of the effort made by our teaching staff at William Colenso College to ensure students are provided with engaging learning experiences. We are aware that 2022 continues to provide a range of challenges.

The number of incidents involving **cell phones and devices** has risen at WCC. It is disappointing that staff are required to use valuable teaching time to deal with issues relating to cell phones and devices in classrooms. These issues are often caused by students refusing to follow current school policy. Many students go on to be rude, disrespectful, and defiant toward staff.

Cell phones at school - Each school determines policies and practices around student use of mobile phones and devices. We want to collaborate with our community to revise our policies and practices around phone use. We want to ensure our policy is right for our school and supports the wellbeing of our students. Some schools have chosen a school wide ban on cell phones and other schools have trialled other options to enable learning to continue without the distraction of cell phones.

FACTS:

Aside from the obvious distractions that mobile phones are to students in class, schools are now reporting even more alarming behaviour associated with students' personal devices (eg: phone, laptop, chrome book or another personal device.)

- Constant cyber bullying that often end in confrontations.
- Sexting / sending of inappropriate messages or photos.
- Social media involvement that leads to drama / disagreements / fights.
- Grades slipping from the constant distraction of their own or other students' device use.
- Students taking videos and pictures of other students and posting on social media (with or without permission).
- Students making audio recordings (with or without permission)
- Students making and posting recordings on Tik Tok (with or without permission)

Assistance Required

We need whanau / student / staff feedback to assist us to make the best decision for our school. Several options are outlined below. Please review these options and decide which you feel is best. A google survey will be emailed to whanau (for those whanau we have email addresses for OR alternatively a paper copy of the survey will be available at the front office.

OPTION 1: BAN CELL PHONES at WCC

Current research suggests *"the mere presence of phones reduces cognitive capacity – even in bags or pockets, the proximity of the device has a negative impact, especially if it's receiving notifications or alerts."* Most teachers will tell you that cell phones adversely affect learning in the classroom, and research backs that up.

- **PLEASE NOTE:** The process for if /when a phone is seen by a teacher, the phone will be confiscated and delivered to the front office where a parent will be contacted and requested to collect the phone, the phone will NOT be given back to the student

OPTION 2: CELL PHONE FREE CLASSROOMS (*Ban on phones in classrooms for ALL students*)

OR

OPTION 3: CELL PHONE FREE CLASSROOMS (*Ban on phones in classrooms for year 7 to year 12 students*).

We have received a growing number of requests from parents asking for restrictions on students' use of mobile phones at school. Research states for the wellbeing of students, adolescents need space from their cell phones. At WCC, this would mean NO cell phones, ear buds, or Bluetooth headphones to be in used in classrooms during the school day (8:45am – 3pm) for ANY reason. **Cell phones must be on silent and stored inside bags** (NOT POCKETS). Phones can be accessed before and after school and during the school breaks. During class sessions, students may **NOT** use their phones as calculators, to check the time, listen to music, as a book or for any other reason.

- **PLEASE NOTE:** The process for if / when a phone is seen out during a class: The teacher will confiscate the phone and deliver it to the front office. The student will collect their phone after school. If, however the student has had their phone delivered to the office on more than **3** occasions, our administrators will call parents to collect the phone, the phone will NOT be given back to the student. If a student continues to bring take their phone out during class, parental contact will be made to address the concern.

OPTION 4: SELF-MANAGEMENT - (This has not worked well)

We could encourage **sensible use by students** rather than banning cell phones. We could support students to have their phones and learn how use them in such a way they don't become distractions. (This has not worked well at WCC and as stated earlier, has led to confrontation) . Students could turn phones to AIRPLANE MODE. Researcher Jesper Aagaard suggests that "*in order to pay more attention in class — students should try to obstruct their habits by turning phones off or putting them in airplane mode to keep from constantly checking them.*" Students have a lifetime of device ownership ahead. If used correctly, cell phones can be used as learning tools if our young people can learn to manage them.

- **PLEASE NOTE:** The process if a student is struggling to self-manage. Teachers will have the right to ask students to put away their phone or alternatively, the teacher would remove the phone. Phones confiscated will be delivered to the front office where a parent will be contacted and requested to collect the phone, the phone will NOT be given back to the student and the student will lose the option of having a phone out in that particular class.

OPTION 5: STORAGE SYSTEM (For Year 7 – Year 12)

Students will place their cell phone into a pocket / storage system (of some sort) when they enter all classrooms. The phone will be kept in storage for the entire day for year 7, year 8 and year 9 students and for each class period for year 10, year 11 and year 12 students. This procedure is expensive to set up, and if a phone is accidentally taken this would cause further issues.

- **PLEASE NOTE:** The process if a student chooses not to place their phone in the class storage box, and the phone is seen by a teacher, the phone will be confiscated and delivered to the front office where a parent will be contacted to collect the phone, the phone will NOT be given back to the student. Parent(s) and student will be required to meet with school senior leadership team to discuss concerns and a plan to move forward.

The Good

Cell phones are useful in emergencies; they can also be valuable tools in the classroom. If there is a word or concept a student does not understand, the student can find information instantly. Phones have calculators as well as spelling and grammar checks. Most importantly, phones allow students to communicate with one another and with their whanau. [The question remains, however, whether the use of cell phones in school outweighs the distraction they cause.](#)

The Bad

Common Sense Media, a non-profit organisation that promotes safe technology and media for children, reports that "*50 percent of teens 'feel addicted' to mobile devices.*" The report also states th 78% of teens check their devices at least hourly, and 72% of teens feel the need to immediately respond to texts, messages on social networks, and other notifications. Students tend to be highly susceptible to the kinds of distractions cell phones provide.

Summary

- We are aware cell phones in schools is not going to go away, so producing the best way forward is crucial.
- We want a policy that is robust enough to minimise classroom distraction and disruption.
- We want students to be aware of the addictive and manipulative nature of social media apps.
- We want our students to be focused and engaged on what is going on in their classroom.
- We want on task learning.
- We want an overall happier school experience for our students where their well-being is paramount.

Please take time to have your say by filling in the surveys.

Nga Mihi Kia Koutou Katoa
Whaea Jocelyn

ASPIRE, ACT, ACHIEVE
WAWATATIA, MAHIA, EKEA

EX STUDENT SUCCESS

Introducing:

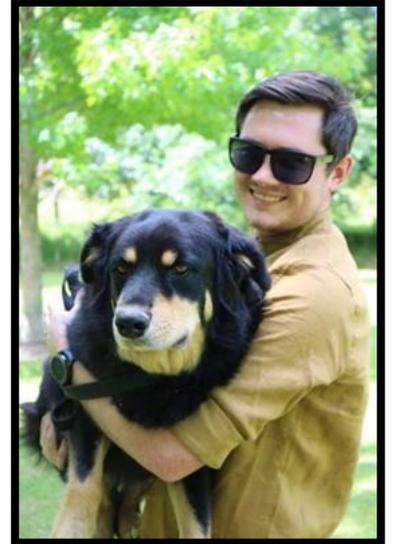
Jesse Davy – Attended WCC 2010-2014

Jesse began his schooling in Year 9 and finished in Year 13. There were a number of teachers that significantly contributed to shaping who Jesse is today. They included: Josh Badger-PE Teacher, Cameron Stuart-English Teacher, Christine Peterson-Maths Teacher, Denise Brown-Form Teacher & Brett Zimmerman-Catering Teacher.

Although completing the first CACTUS challenging programme in 2013, it reinforced his abilities and the importance of training, resilience, teamwork, leadership, and motivational skills. Also, Jesse's parents and now his wife's parents have been great supporters of his journey.

Mr Zimmerman of the catering class had been a strong influence in his life.

Through the teacher's enthusiasm, Jesse found a love and a passion for creating food. Mr Zimmerman helped him and guided him to something he loved and provided Jesse with multiple opportunities to learn more about it. With the inspiration and help from Brett Zimmerman during Jesse's final year at school, he was encouraged to step into a head chef's role as soon as he could.



Once leaving school, Jesse continued to work in different hospitality venues until he became head chef at a local café. This job suits him because he has the opportunity and freedom to be creative to make different types of food.

Jesse discovered Wolfgang Puck, an Austrian chef, Anthony Bourdain, an American chef and Massimo Bottura, an Italian chef on YouTube. These chefs' cuisine resonated with Jesse, so he decided that he wanted to create the type of food that they made.

Outside of work Jesse enjoys watching sports, films, listening to music and walking his dogs and of course cooking for his family and friends.

In 2014, Jesse was extremely proud of the Matthews Cup he received in recognition of the service that he had given to the school. He is also proud of meeting his high school sweetheart at the age of 16, then marrying her at the age of 22. Obviously, Jesse is very pleased with his successful career as head chef and running a kitchen at the age of 23.

WHĀNAU HUI - PARENT / TEACHER MEETINGS

On Wednesday 29th June from 2pm-6pm we will be holding our whānau hui - parent/teacher meetings. Students will finish school at 1.30pm to allow the meetings to commence at 2pm.

Each meeting will have a 10 minute allocation. This will provide time to have discussion about your child's progress and next steps with their classroom / form teacher. Student reports will also be presented at these meetings.

Appointment times are via online, more information on this will be provided in the next newsletter and posted on our school facebook page, school app and sent out via email.

MISSED A NEWSLETTER? WANT TO KEEP UP WITH WHAT'S GOING ON?

Our newsletters can be viewed on our website: www.colenso.school.nz

Or email: keleigh.atkins@colenso.school.nz to register and receive the newsletter electronically

PHYSIO CLINIC FOR STUDENTS

Students are able to have access to a Physio Clinic at school every Tuesday from 11:30am. The clinic runs from the Student Office and bookings are essential.

Students are welcome but under 16 year olds must take a form home to be signed by a parent / caregiver before being booked.

Injuries must be due to an accident to be seen for FREE.

SCHOOL UNIFORM JACKETS / CAPS



School jackets and caps are available for purchase from the School Office. These uniform items **are not sold at The Warehouse**. Cost for the jackets are \$103.50



The jackets are produced by Kooga Clothing; they are waterproof, windproof and very warm. This is the only item of clothing with a hood that may be worn to school. The caps are \$25 and are able to be worn at school.

FORMER STUDENTS / STAFF

We have a former students / staff (Toa Tauā) page on our school website: www.colenso.school.nz . We would love to hear from any ex-students, teachers, support staff who have been involved with either Colenso High School or William Colenso College.

The former students / staff (Toa Tauā) page can be found on the News & Events page via our website above.

TOA TAUĀ- We have given our WCC former students / staff group this name because it means “**A Leader of and for the Future Generation**”, a fitting name for this group of people. This section will be where news of ex students & staff of our Toa Tauā will be shared. Enjoy. If you have news of any ex-students / staff please get them to contact sue.martin@colenso.school.nz

KEY DATES

Tues 31st May:	Year 12/13 students to Futureopoly Careers Event at Hastings Showgrounds
Fri 3rd June:	Year 7 & 8 trip to Otatara Pa: 8.45am-11.15am
Mon 6th June:	Queens Birthday - School Closed
Fri 10th June:	Whanau Hui for those students who attended Waikato University Trip:6pm-8pm Full School Assembly: 2.15pm
Tues 21st June:	Careers Expo for Years 11/ 12 at Pettigrew Arena: 12.30pm-2.30pm
Fri 24th June:	Matariki - School Closed
Wed 29th June:	Whanau Hui / Parent/Teacher Meetings: 2pm-6pm, students will finish for the day at 1.30pm
Fri 8th July:	End of Term Two
Sat 9th July:	WCC School Ball