



# WILLIAM COLENZO COLLEGE NEWSLETTER / PĀNUI

Term One: 27th March – 6th April 2023



Kia ora te Whanau,

I wanted to share my perspective on why teachers from kindergarten, primary, intermediate, and secondary schools felt the need to strike.

The decision to strike was not made lightly, and for those who commented on the timing of this strike, you might not know that negotiations started over a year ago. Negotiations only occur with the government every 3 years. The government could have sorted this months ago. Ultimately there is never a good time to strike...

A lot of people like to mention the holidays teachers get. Calculations based on how many hours teachers work per week, including the hours worked in the 'school holidays' were divided by a normal work year of 48 weeks. On average, teachers work 43+ hours per week, 48 weeks of the year. This did not factor in all the hours worked at interval and lunchbreak when teachers are on duty or supervising sports or sorting issues, talking on the phone to a parent or specialist etc, school camps, school event evenings, parent teacher interviews and report writing... For anyone who gets hung up on teachers getting 'all those holidays', rest assured, teachers ARE doing a full year's worth of work, it is just intensely organised into fewer weeks over the year compared to a regular job, and the pay is also spread over the entire year.

Teachers deserve fair pay. With the minimum wage going up to \$22.70 per hour from the 1st of April, some unqualified people are making more money than our beginning teachers. These people have no qualifications and have not spent 3+ years training. Sadly, this shows how little teachers are valued. We need fair pay to attract quality teachers. Teachers literally create our future workforce.

Besides the pay, teachers are struggling to do their actual job. The demands are increasing, in volume and complexity. In any one class, a teacher will have children who are gifted, have cognitive delays, foetal alcohol syndrome, ADHD, complex and severe behaviours, children who speak little to no English, and many other needs to cater for. Teachers are often required to design individual education plans, they meet with teams of experts, they design special resources to assist students. It is a struggle to keep up with the current needs of students. As a result, teachers are constantly rushing, busy, overworked and overwhelmed. What you don't see are the tears, the stress, and the number of great teachers simply leaving the profession. This is a huge loss! In addition, teachers are dealing with constant change and new demands in their roles... digital technologies, new curriculum plus many new approaches to teaching, such as structured literacy etc. There are many after hours meetings and extra curricular commitments. Next week for example, we have 3 afternoons where our teachers are required at after school meetings.

As a principal. What do I want? I would like the public to better understand how selfless and giving teachers are. They give everything to their students. They are teachers, social workers, counsellors, health professionals, they feed students, drive them, provide for them out of their own pocket, and they worry about them long after the students go home. I want better conditions for our students and for teachers. I want fair and sufficient funding and resources for my school so that our students can get the education they deserve. I want staffing levels to allow for the complex needs of students. I want funding and units to be fair across all schools.

When we get less staffing we end up with larger classes and we end up having to ask our existing staff to do more. With fewer units we cannot remunerate leadership roles. It limits our ability to attract leaders and support leadership pathways. I want our teachers to have adequate time to do their jobs. I want to give our students the education they deserve. Adequate funding ensures we have programmes and learning coaches in place to support the child, the teacher AND the other children in the class. With adequate funding we could also provide some of the services and programmes our students need... such as counselling, occupational therapy, social workers, etc. These basic resources are required so we can make a difference.

**Things are not ok in education.** The decision to strike is not made lightly, but we can't keep going like this. Just because we love our jobs doesn't mean that we should be under-valued financially both personally and with the resourcing for our school. Thank you for your awahi and understanding.

**ATHLETICS:** We had a fantastic school Athletics day with many students participating. Congratulations to all those students who came out dressed in house colours and enjoyed the vibe of the day. The following students represented WCC at the ECNISSAC (East Coast North Island Secondary School Athletic Competition).

Asher MacGillivray, Te One Taitapanui Murray, Daniel Osooso Onasemu, Michael Rakanui, Kiriana Tikitiki, Grace Sogafai Utumapu (2<sup>nd</sup> Shot, 5<sup>th</sup> Discus), Junior Toa (1<sup>st</sup> Shot, 2<sup>nd</sup> Discus, 3<sup>rd</sup> Javelin)

**VOLLEYBALL:** I would also like to wish our Senior Boys Volleyball Team all the best as they head off to Palmerston North to attend the NZSSVC (New Zealand Secondary School Volleyball Championship).

**PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS:** Thank you to those parents who took the time to meet with our teachers on Thursday 23/3. We are grateful to have parents in our kura discussing student improvement. Please feel free to contact your child's home (y7,8 & 9) or form (Y10,11,12 &13) teacher if you require any information about the school or your child's progress.

**SHOUT OUT:** I would like to send a BIG WILLIAM COLENZO SHOUT OUT to **Ollie Wilson (Year 9)** who has been unable to return to school since the cyclone / floods due to his remote location. Ollie, we think about you and look forward to your return to WCC (hopefully at the start of Term 2).

**REMINDER:** Hoodies are NOT part of our school uniform. Please refrain from wearing these to school.

As this is the last newsletter for this term, I would like to thank our staff for the fantastic job each of them does. You are amazing. Reminder that term 2 starts on Wednesday 26/4.

Whaea Jocelyn  
Tumuaki / Principal

## 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.

# STAFF PROFILE

Hi I'm Adam and have recently started at WCC as a Learning Coach. I'm originally from Christchurch and have been in Napier for around ten years. My wife and I have three young children that keep us busy. When I'm not busy chasing the kids around I volunteer at the Napier fire station, where I have been for around 8 years.

I have really enjoyed getting to know both the staff and students in the short time I have been here.

If you see me around, stop for a chat. I'm always keen to hear how someone's day is going. Nga Mihi - Adam Birchfield



# ATHLETICS 2023

PHOTOS COURTESY OF  
CLEVELAND HONOTAPU - YEAR 13



# SCHOOL UNIFORM REMINDERS

We would like to remind our school community of the following:

**Students are expected and encouraged to take pride in their general appearance and wear the correct uniform as required.**

- School uniform is to be worn at school, when travelling to and from school, and at school events as appropriate.
- All uniform items should be clearly named.
- All students using the technology workshops (including the food rooms) must wear protective or hard covered shoes.
- Skirts should be of a reasonable length, neither very short nor very long.
- Female students who choose to wear **long black business trousers** (as a uniform option instead of the tartan school skirt) are **NOT** permitted to wear tight trousers, exercise tights or jeans.
- No hoodies are accepted as part of the school uniform
- Covered in shoes must be all black

**If in doubt regarding items of uniform, please check by ringing the school office before a purchase is made.**

# SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

The College produces a newsletter each fortnight, this is currently available via email, on the school facebook page, school website and the school app. If you would like to have the newsletter emailed to you please contact the College Office.

The school app can be downloaded to your apple or android cellphone. Search William Colenso College to download the app. This will have information available on: absences, school events, daily school notices and other messages will be sent via this option.

# KEY DATES

Tues 28th March:	Board of Trustees Meeting: 5.30pm
Thurs 6th April:	World Famous @ WCC Assembly: 2-3pm
	Last day of Term One
Mon 24th April:	Teacher Only Day - School Closed
Tues 25th April:	Anzac Day - School Closed
Wed 26th April:	School resumes for all students



**ASPIRE, ACT, ACHIEVE**  
**WAWATATIA, MAHIA, EKEA**

