



WILLIAM COLENZO COLLEGE NEWSLETTER / PĀNUI

Term Three: 19th - 30th August 2024



Kia ora e te Whanau,

Welcome to those new whanau who have recently joined WCC. A special welcome our new international students who have arrived from France, Germany and Japan. We look forward to getting to know you. Nau mai haere mai koutou katoa. We hope you enjoy your stay in Aotearoa / New Zealand, especially your time at WCC.

Visiting Principal: Mr. Mark Botnick, Principal from Mississauga, Toronto, Ontario, Canada recently visited WCC. Mark shared with our students a little about his role and his school. Mark enjoyed learning about how a mainstream co-educational secondary school works in New Zealand.

Alumni: Decades may have passed for many but the connection between Colenso High School (Napier's first co-ed school), and its former students remains. On Friday 2nd of August, we were thrilled to host alumni who attended in the foundation year of 1959 through to 2024. This year William Colenso High School / College celebrates 65 years as a school. Alumni students were welcomed back with a powhiri by our current students, a tour of the school which included memorabilia including old school uniforms and photos taken over the past 65 years. They heard from our current head students, and some attended our school assembly where a foundation student and the head girl of 1969 shared a snippet of what school was like for them in 1959 and 1969. What a wonderful legacy these former students have left our current students. Our past students also attended evening functions over the weekend where they had further opportunities to mix and mingle. School reunions are special occasions as they provide former students with the opportunity to reconnect with their school and peers. We are very grateful to Sue Martin (past student and staff member) who organises the reunion events for WCC. Sue has started a database to collect alumni names, and she has managed to collate our school memorabilia.

School Focus for Term 3 is Hirangatanga which is a reminder to strive for success. Success comes by working hard and never giving up. The only person we are destined to become is the person we decide to be. We are responsible for our own success. We need to make the most out of life. Term 3 is a reminder for senior students that they need to focus on finishing internal assessments and preparing for external exams. To our junior students, term 3 is a reminder to remain focused on your classwork and about making improvements where you can.

Attendance: One of the things we will continue to focus on this term is student attendance. We will talk about this with you, with our students and it will remain a strong subject of conversation. If a student misses one day of school every two weeks, they miss more than a whole year of school by 16 years of age. As a parent or caregiver, you, alongside our school, play a key role in building strong habits of regular school attendance. All students are legally required to attend school every day and it is a shared responsibility to make sure students attend and engage in learning. Please let our attendance office know if your child is going to be absent or intends to be absent for a portion of the school term for whatever reason, like a tangi or medical procedure. We know that winter has certainly brought its crisp mornings with all its chills, bugs and colds. Knowing if your child is well enough to go to school can be tricky at times. Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora have refreshed their guidance for schools and parents to use to help make that call. Check out the Ministry of Education [website](#) for more information. If you're struggling at home with getting your child to school, talk to us! Our school is committed to supporting your child to attend school and building a culture that fosters excellent attendance by having:

- A school culture that encourages staff to build strong relationships with students and whānau.
- A school culture that recognises your child and your family for who they are, where they come from and who they want to be.
- A school culture that does everything to make sure students are at school, and they are participating, and progressing in their education.

Mathematics: Last week we received an update from the Minister of Education on Mathematics. Nationwide, the results for Mathematics were much lower than expected with 63% of year 8 students in New Zealand below the curriculum benchmark for Mathematics. This is a concern for educators. An action plan will be implemented throughout New Zealand schools in the hope to improve, rework and provide interventions to support the teaching of Mathematics in schools.

Ball: The school ball is always the most anticipated event in the school calendar for senior students. The decision to hold the ball at our school was made by our senior students in the hope of providing less stress on our senior cohort. This year the theme of the ball was 'Mafia'. The evening was an enjoyable experience, the decorations were spectacular, the food was exquisite, the music was fun and the students looked stunning. A big thank you to the ball committee for the time and effort put into the ball this year.

Colenso Day: Term 3 is a long term for schools as there are no public holiday breaks. WCC has traditionally held a mid-term break in term 3. In the past two years this has not happened due to covid and Cyclone Gabrielle. This year we are going to reinstate our WCC day, this will be held on Friday 23rd August. The school will be closed to students and staff.

Enrolments 2025: Are now open for students wanting to attend WCC in 2025. Please contact the front office to make a time for an enrolment interview.

Thank you to those who continue to support our school. We appreciate your support.

Nga Mihi
Whaea Jocelyn

STUDENT APPOINTMENTS

If your child needs to attend an appointment during school hours please provide a written note/text or phone the Attendance Office: 8310180 Ext 708 or 709. Your child will need to sign out at the student office before they leave the grounds.

STAFF PROFILE

Kia ora koutou katoa,

My name is Sandhya Kumar. I am originally from India and have been living in New Zealand for the past 26 years. My family includes my husband, who works at the Plant and Food Research Institute in Havelock North, our son, who is currently in Year 13, and our daughter, who is in her second year at Auckland University studying Health Sciences. Although most of my extended family is in India, New Zealand has become our new home.



I joined William Colenso College on 6th June 2024, as the Head of Learning (HOL) for Science. I teach Year 9 Science, Year 11 Science, Level 2 Chemistry, Level 2 Physics, Level 3 Chemistry, and Level 3 BESS. Prior to joining WCC, I spent 14 years at Saint Joseph's Māori Girls' College and have taught at various schools in Rotorua and Reporoa throughout my teaching career. Before transitioning into teaching in 2007, I worked as a Molecular Biologist at Scion in Rotorua. The decision to become a teacher was greatly inspired by my young family. I am deeply passionate about Science and am committed to fostering a love for learning among the youth of Aotearoa.

From the moment I walked through the doors of William Colenso College, I felt a profound sense of belonging. This school embodies the values of manaakitanga and whanaungatanga, creating an environment where students embrace and respect diverse cultures. I am particularly drawn to the vibrant and dynamic culture at WCC, where each day brings new challenges and opportunities for growth. It is a privilege to work alongside such a collegial, supportive, inclusive, and humble team of staff.

Outside of my professional life, I enjoy walking, socializing, gardening, cooking, and painting. I am proud of my journey and grateful for the people who have shaped who I am today.

"Ehara taku toa, I te toa takitahi. Engari, he toa takitini."

"My success is not mine alone, but it is the strength of many." Ngā mihi. Sandhya Kumar

2025 ENROLMENTS/OPEN EVENING

We are currently taking enrolments for Years 7-13 for 2025. If you would like to enrol your child please contact the School Office for enrolment information: 06 831 0180.

Our Open Evening will be held **Wednesday 21st August, 5.30pm** in the School Hall, come along and see what WCC has to offer for your son / daughter.

HOMESTAY FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



Haere Mai

William Colenso College
Te Kareti o Wiremu Koroneho



We are seeking homestays for international students NOW



Always wanted to travel the world? We're bringing the world to you and want to pay you to experience it. German, French and Japanese students are arriving at William Colenso College. We're looking for homestay parents who can introduce them to a genuine sweet-as Aotearoa lifestyle. Homestay rates are \$275 per week for 2024. Host a boy or a girl. We currently need a homestay for a German girl and boy.



If you are interested in hosting an international student and would like to know more, please contact us for more information.

Jody Stent - Homestay coordinator
jody.stent@colenso.school.nz / 0210469322

We are seeking homestay families for our international students.

If you are interested in hosting an international student please contact Jody Stent email: jody.stent@colenso.school.nz

PARENT / CAREGIVER CONTACT DETAILS

If you have changed your address or contact details please contact the school office to update by phone: (06) 831 0180 or email postmaster@colenso.school.nz. It is important the school has up-to-date contact information in the case of an emergency.

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

STUDENT ID CARDS

Student ID cards can be ordered online from L C Scott Photographers - <https://lcscott.co.nz/orderonline>
You will need your **ACCESS SHOOT CODE**, which can be obtained from the Front Office.
Go onto their website, enter your access code and follow the instructions. ID Cards are \$12 plus postage and can take up to 2 weeks to arrive.

KEY DATES

18th-20th Aug:	Level 3 Trip Outdoor Ed Class
Wed 21st Aug:	WCC Open Evening - enrolments for 2025: 5.30pm School Hall
Fri 23rd Aug:	WCC Day (Mid Term Break) - School Closed
Sun 25th Aug:	Jump Jam Competition: 1pm WCC Year 7 & 8's competing in the Hall
Tues 27th Aug:	78SE visit to Waiaroha (Heretaunga Water Discovery Centre) Board of Trustees Meeting: 5pm
Wed 28th Aug:	Nominations open for student rep position on the BOT 7/8SH visit to Waiaroha (Heretaunga Water Discovery Centre)
Thurs 29th Aug:	7/8PB visit to Waiaroha (Heretaunga Water Discovery Centre)
Fri 30th Aug:	House Sports Tabloids 2.15pm
1st-3rd Sept:	Level 2 Trip Outdoor Ed Class
Tues 3rd Sept:	Nominations close for student rep position on the BOT
Thurs 5th Sept:	Level 2 Outdoor Ed Class: Blokart, Whakapiki Ake - Yr 10 & 11 Students Whakapiki Ake Whānau Hui a Roho: 6-8pm School Library
6th-7th Sept:	Level 1 Overnight Trap Outdoor Ed Class
Mon 9th Sept:	Level 2 Blokart Outdoor Ed Class
10th-11th Sept:	Level 1 Canoe Outdoor Ed Class
Thurs 12th Sept:	School Cross Country: 1.30pm-3pm, Level 2 Outdoor Ed Class Blokart
Fri 13th Sept:	Full School Assembly: 2.15pm
16th-20th Sept:	Year 7 & 8 Optimist Yachting
Wed 18th Sept:	Level 3 Kayak Outdoor Ed Class
Thurs 19th Sept:	Level 2 Outdoor Ed Class Blokart; Voting for Student Rep position on BOT in form class: 10.45am, Subject Selection for Years 10-12 in 2025: 5-6pm School Library, Music performance by students: 7pm School Hall
23rd-26th Sept:	Practice Exams for Years 12 & 13
Tues 24th Sept:	Board of Trustees Meeting: 5pm
Wed 25th Sept:	Level 3 Kayak Outdoor Ed Class
Thurs 26th Sept:	Touch Tournament Years 5-8 various schools participating on school fields Level 2 Blokart Outdoor Ed Class
Fri 27th Sept:	World Famous Assembly: 2.15pm

OPEN EVENING

WEDNESDAY 21ST AUGUST, 5.30PM
SCHOOL HALL