



Whangarei Girls' High School

MARCH 2015



Whangarei Girls' High School

WGHS School Swimming Sports

www.wghs.school.nz



Dear Parents / Caregivers

Tena koutou katoa

Each year we reflect on the progress we made towards our goals – as individuals, departments and as a whole school. Some of this information is contained in the variance report which we send to the Ministry of Education each year. This month, I would like to share with you the progress we made towards our first goal of increasing the number of students who achieve NCEA at all levels. Our specific targets were for 80% of Year 9 students in 2011 to achieve NCEA Level 2 in 2014 and to meet or better national Merit and Excellence Endorsement statistics at all levels of NCEA.

Of the 273 students who started in Year 9 in 2011, 205 were still here in 2014 and 189 of these students achieved Level 2 – 92% of those who have been with us for four years and 69% of the original intake.

Level 1 Excellence Endorsements were slightly below the national average 15.7% cf 17.8%. However, we gained 42.2% Merit Endorsements cf 35.7% nationally. As a combined total, 58.1% of our Year 11 students gained certificate endorsement cf 53.5% nationally.

Level 2 Excellence and Merit Endorsements both exceeded the national averages. The combined total of endorsements is the same as for 2013, at 43.4%, but with a higher weighting of Excellence Endorsements in 2014 – 13.7% cf 9.8% in 2013. Level 3 Excellence showed a good improvement on 2103 and 13.7% it bettered the national average of 12.8%. Merit Endorsements were less than the national average and less than 2103. However, the combined number of endorsements is 38.9% which is better than the 37.8% in 2013, but still slightly below the national average of 42.3%.

Last year we reduced the maximum of credits to 20 in each subject at Level 1 and 2 and results, especially the quality of the passes would indicate this has been a positive move.

This year we are aiming for 84.5% of all leavers to have achieved Level 2 (this does not include junior students who have gone to another school or international students).

We are hoping that the restructuring of the whanau classes will ensure every student is mentored and progress monitored, that student leadership capacity is strengthened and that they receive help with things such as study skills.

Later in the year we will identify groups of students who will be supported to achieve at a higher level. We are also placing more focus on Year 9 students, inducting them into the culture of Whangarei Girls' High School and scaffolding skills and expect-

tations so they are well prepared for senior school. Literacy, differentiation and reflection will be the pedagogical focus for us this year.

In line with this, we held our first Student, Parent, Teacher (SPT) meetings last month for all new students. This was for whanau teachers to be able to meet parents and whanau of their new students, exchange information and begin to build a relationship as the first point of contact as the students remain in the same whanau class throughout their time at Whangarei Girls' High School. We were very pleased with the high turnout of parents and whanau to this event and feedback from them and staff alike was most positive. I would also like to thank our wonderful PTA parents who supported us by supplying coffee and cupcakes.

We were also pleased with the positive feedback from the first whanau evening for this year and thank you to all those who attended and to the Mana Kaitiaki Committee and Deputy Principal, Doreen Bailey, for their work in ensuring a successful and productive evening.

The Curriculum Group is now working on a review of the senior curriculum to ensure all students are able to see potential pathways for themselves once they leave school. The vocational pathways are now shown on their NCEA results through colour coding to the various pathways. The intention of this is to show students which of the pathways they appear to have strengths in and can provide a starting point for discussions about their futures.

Our students continue to impress us as they are so busy with organising numerous events, achieving great success in the sporting arena and running their radio station every lunchtime.

Swimming Sports was a vibrant event, with record participation and a most colourful spectacle as everyone entered into the spirit of supporting their House. Manaia House emerged as the champion House, toppling Lovelock who have held the title for the last few years. The only disappointment was the unusually high number of students who had to go to appointments that day. It is a requirement for students wanting to be prefects that they attend and participate in some way on days such as this and they are important for building House and school spirit. If your daughter did not attend, please encourage her to attend House Day which is early next term.

Prefects have a busy weekend ahead as they prepare for the first combined social with Whangarei Boys' High School and for the Relay for Life as they have entered a prefects' team to support this worthy cause. If you are attending this event, please look out for them and encourage them as their first project in their overall theme of "Project Connect" which is their focus for this year.

Last year we explored a programme called "Write

that Essay" which many schools in New Zealand are using to assist students to improve their writing skills. Some staff and students trialled it with positive feedback overall. We are now investing in it for all students for this year and will review it towards the end of the year. If we continue with it, it is likely that we will subsidise students who will need to make a contribution towards the licence fee. Once your daughter has access to it, please have a good look at it with her as it is a very comprehensive programme catering from a very basic level right up to scholarship in Year 13. Progress reports and parent interviews are coming up so we look forward to meeting many of you then as well as the PTA AGM this week.



Anne Cooper
Principal

Whānau Evening 25 Feb 2015

Ngā mihi māhana ki a koutou

It was great to see so many whānau attend the evening recently to further develop relationships between the school and home and share information. The evening was run by the Mana Kaitiaki team who are a student group led by one of our prefects, Kiel Boyd. The Senior Leadership Team (Anne Cooper, Kevin Dean, Noelene Martin, Doreen Bailey), Deans' Co-ordinator (Marian Innes), Board of Trustees Member (Laura Baker) and approximately 30 whānau were in attendance. A brief presentation was given of the WGHS school goal to improve in all aspects of NCEA at all levels, with a particular aim to raise Māori achievement. The Mana Kaitiaki group presented a background to their formation and results of a junior survey taken at the end of 2014. We shared results from NCEA 2014 and explored the change in role of Whānau teacher and senior students so that in addition to formal roles, whānau

should expect nurturing of Y9 and students assuming leadership roles during Whānau time. Our aim is that every student feels valued and that someone cares about their progress and well being.

Kevin Dean shared our progress with regard to ICT and its impact on how we integrate technology in classes and how students are using devices. A number of sites were shared that can be accessed at home so that whānau and their daughters are able to access support for subjects at school.

Laura Baker, our Board of Trustees Māori representative encouraged whānau to participate in their daughter's education, by connecting with the school and becoming part of the school life. Committing to success with whatever your daughter is involved with (e.g. academic, kapa haka, sport etc) and building links with hapu and iwi will increase our ability to improve Māori achievement throughout the school.

A question and answer time was slotted in at the end and we finished the night on time. Feedback, minutes and a copy of the presentation was sent via email to whānau. Altogether a great night. Kia ora!

The next whānau evening will be held in Term 2 with a focus on NCEA and pathways through school. Please contact Doreen Bailey 09 4304409 or doreen.bailey@wghs.school.nz for further information.

School Early Finishing Times Thu 26th March & Wed 1 April

During parent interviews on Thu 26th March and Wed 1st April, **classes will be finishing at 1.15pm**. Classes will run as normal for the first four periods on these days then parent interviews commence at 2.30pm.

Buses will run at the scheduled times on both 26th March and 1st April. Please advise our front office staff if you require supervision for your daughter.

For more info on booking interviews, please refer to our website www.wghs.school.nz

Parent Interviews Thu 26 March 2.30pm-4.45pm Wed 1 April 2.30pm-6.30pm

This year we are again using online interview bookings. Hopefully this will make it easier for you to make a time to meet with teachers to discuss your daughter's start to the 2015 academic year. Interviews take place on the afternoons of **Thursday 26th March and Wednesday 1st April, starting at 2.30pm**. School progress reports will be issued on Friday 20th March.

Instructions on how to book online are below. Bookings will go live from the afternoon of **20th March**.

If you are unable to access online booking, the following options are available:

- Students may book directly with their teachers.
- Students may use a designated school computer in the library to make bookings for you.
- If all else fails, please ring the school on (09) 430 4460 and ask to speak to your daughter's Dean. They will make a booking for you.

WGHS Parent Teacher Interviews On-Line Bookings

Use the link on the school website:

www.wghs.school.nz or

Go directly to

www.schoolinterviews.co.nz

Enter logon school event code
shown below and away you go...

**Booking interviews is as easy
as 1 - 2 - 3:**



First enter your name, your student's name(s), and your email address.

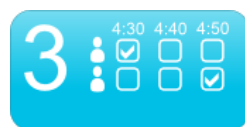
Enter your details



On the next page, pick the teachers you want to meet.

Choose teachers

First select the subject or year, then choose from the list of teachers.



Choose times

Then you'll see a timetable showing when your chosen teachers are available. Simply click on the times that suit you.



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When you have finished, your interview timetable will be emailed to you. And if something comes up, you can return to the site and change your interviews whenever you want.

You can start from Fri 20th March – just enter the school code and press “Go”.

Notes:

Appointments should be spaced at least 5 to 10 minutes apart. Appointments will be in Rooms 12 – 25. (the bottom floor of the main block, starting near the school office. Please stay within the 5 minute allowance for each of your interviews. If you need further discussion please make another appointment. The school counsellor, Literacy coordinator, Careers coordinator, and Deans are all available for appointments. The Senior Leadership Team will be available in their offices in the Administration area. If you have any concerns regarding the above information, do not hesitate to contact the school on (09)430 4460.

Head and Deputy Head Girls



With the end of the term nearly upon us we have our projects in full swing both within prefect committees as well as within the school. Our major goal for 2015 is Project Connect. Project Connect is an effort for community service to give back to the Whangarei community.

Our first initiative is to distribute boxes to each Whanau class within the school. Once this programme is implemented these boxes will collect donations specific to certain organisations throughout Whangarei to over five organisations. This will increase our visibility and already stellar reputation within the community. Project Connect is based under the Student Council, a group of young leaders from all year levels representing the student voice. Student Council is a prestigious role within the school offering students the ability to develop their leadership skills, decision making skills and organisational skills as they represent the student body. This year we are implementing changes to the format of the Student Council, increasing the importance of this prestigious role. This allows students ranging from Year 9 through to Year 13 to gain leadership opportunities. This week applications for this role have been distributed amongst whanau classes and our new and improved Student Council will be up and running by the end of Term One.

This year Whangarei Girls' High School has entered a prefect team into the 2015 Relay for Life. Our goal is to double the money raised from mufti day at school and present a cheque to the Cancer Society. Relay for Life is where teams band together to cele-

brate cancer survivors and carers, remember loved ones lost to cancer and fight back by raising awareness and funds to support the work of the Cancer Society. This Friday we are holding a mufti day to raise awareness and funds for the Cancer Society, with all contributions we gain from donations from the community and local businesses going towards this worthy cause. We are looking forward to a memorable, emotional and exciting atmosphere that the community of Whangarei has to offer at the Relay for Life.

Lately, we have been going along to House assemblies informing the student body of decisions we have implemented, how they can be involved and upcoming events within the school and the wider community. These assemblies are an important and efficient way to broadcast our progress and advancement towards achieving our goals for 2015. We have encouraged our committee leaders and prefects to also go along and share their progress with the student body. We are excited for our first social for 2015 which will be held on Friday the 13th March, the theme is Freaky Friday. We have encouraged the students of both Whangarei Boys' and Girls' High Schools to attend this fun and thrilling event. Socials provide an environment which allows students to interact with each other and meet new faces. The social is a supervised event that allows students to dance and have fun in a safe environment. There will be a photo-booth, DJ, strobe lights and food for sale. We hope to see costumes of all sorts with cheeky smiles to match.

Eva, Kerira, Katy and Te Kowhai



Helpful Tips for Parents and School Social's

Our first combined social is coming up on **Friday 13 March** and as the parent the following information may be helpful.

- This event is for students at Whangarei Girls' High School and Whangarei Boys' High School only
- It is open to all year levels but limited to combined ticket sales of 400
- It is held at the Whangarei Boys' High School Hall
- There is compulsory breath testing on entry
- Doors open at 7.00pm and all students are expected in the venue by 7.30pm
- Parents should check their child has a valid ticket before leaving them at the school. **THERE ARE NO DOOR SALES.**
- No students will be permitted to leave before 9.45 when the doors open and students may then begin to leave. The Social finishes at 10pm. Please ensure that any student going has safe transport home.
- If under exceptional circumstances you need to collect your child earlier, you will need to come to the entry and speak to a staff member.
- Students will be able to purchase drinks and snack foods but please encourage your daughter to leave her valuables at home or be able to ensure they are secure on her person.
- As this is a school function, normal school rules apply and if any student is found in breach of those rules, their parents will be rung and asked to come and collect them.
- Please check our website www.wghs.school.nz on Friday prior to the event in case of any updated information.

Student Support Centre (SSC)

The SSC is open from 8.30am to 3pm daily and provides general first aid, professional services as well as some medical items for purchase.



Services offered at the SSC include:

- Physio—Tue & Fri
- Public health nurse—every Mon
- Counselling—as required

For students to make an appointment simply contact Karen at SSC. Most physio treatment is ACC covered but there is a cost for strapping only.

Items available for purchase:

Panadol 20c
sanitary items 30c
lozenges 20c

In the event that your daughter becomes unwell at school, she is to report to the SSC where she may either be treated and returned to class or a parent/caregiver will be contacted to come and pick her up. Students should not contact parents directly. Contact is made through the SSC. For that reason it is important that the school has the correct contact details for you. Contact the school office on 430 4460 or email office@wghs.school.nz to update your details.

The SSC does not provide any other medication or medical products for accidents or illness that occur outside of school hours – please consult a medical professional.

Lastly, girls don't forget to pack sunblock if going on a school trip.

Continued...

Here is a list of dental providers who offer our students some free dental services.

Kensington Dental Centre - 4370043
Andrew Whillams - 4382424
Stallworthy & Associates - 4384400
Kowhai Dental - 4300707
Team Dental - 4384760
Kamo Dental Ltd - 4351431

Student Support Centre

English Department Corner

The English Department is incredibly proud that two of our Year 13 students from last year gained a pass in the prestigious and extremely challenging Scholarship English examination. Congratulations to Kelsey Ferris and Anna Miller. Their success is richly deserved- they exemplified hard working and focused students throughout their time in our classrooms. Their contributions to the Scholarship Breakfast Tutorials in 2014 were invaluable as well. We wish them every success in their university studies.

"Genius is one percent inspiration and ninety-nine percent perspiration." Thomas A. Edison



Congratulations also, to Dani Kirby, Year 12, who placed third at the ANZ RSA Cyril Bassett Speech Competition on February 14th. Dani acquitted herself admirably in this field of nine speakers from around Northland's secondary schools. The majority of the speakers were Year 13 stu-

dents so this made Dani's achievement all the more impressive. The winner of the competition was Richard Young of Huanui College. He is set to fly to Gallipoli for the Anzac Commemoration Service this year amongst the NZ Youth Contingent. What an amazing experience!

Well done to our senior debaters who turned up for a long day's debating on Sunday 1

March here at WGHS. The Northland Regional Debating Competition saw teams from WGHS, Kerikeri HS, WBHS, Rodney College, Dargaville High School and Huanui College competing against each other for the regional spoils. Our team (Rachael Machado, Ellie Pryor, Eva Pearson and Rebecca McKean) registered one win and two losses in their round robin debates. The eventual winners of the final were Kerikeri High School 2. The Northland-wide debating calendar dates will be released soon by the University of Auckland students who run this competition. I will call for interested debaters for this competition as soon as I have further details. This will be for Year 9 to 13 debaters and the competition days will be Sundays.

Thank you to those people who found and returned English Department text books during our recent text amnesty. We know there are still a lot of books out there so, please, at any stage we welcome them back!

Margaret Northey
HOD English Department

Parent/Caregiver Email Addresses

WGHS now use email more often to communicate with parents. To do this effectively we need your correct email address. It is used to inform parents/caregivers of important school events, newsletters and other general information.

If I'm unsure, how do I check if the school has the right one?

- Logon to the Parent Portal through the school website
www.wghs.school.nz
- Phone the school office
(09) 430 4460

How to update your email address:

- Email us on office@wghs.school.nz
- Phone the school office
(09) 4304460

Don't miss out on valuable information.

Science Corner



Tutorials are available for ALL Science levels.

Ask your teacher for more information or look on the Science noticeboard.

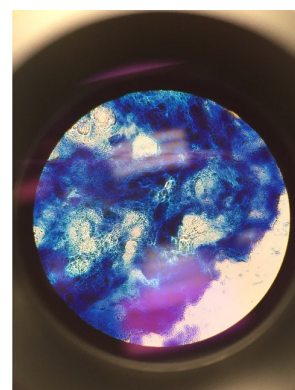
In mid-January I was fortunate enough to attend The Hands-on-Science programme, for Year 12 and Year 13 students, held at Otago University. The programme was designed to show students what research scientists do on a day to day basis and allow us to immerse ourselves in the science world. We worked alongside University students in science experiments and research outside of a classroom setting. We were each allocated a project based research to work on over the week. The project I was involved in was Food Science, which I can now say does not involve just being good at cooking. I had so much fun in my project in which we had the opportunity to design our own ice-cream flavour. My partner and I won the best ice-cream flavour (New York cheesecake with caramel swirl), learned about sensory detail and aroma compounds and how all our senses contribute to our overall taste.

We also participated in three other 'Science Snacks', which enabled each student to explore a diverse variety of science pathways that are available at Otago University. I was involved in Anatomy and Biochemistry. We visited the Anatomy museum within the Otago University Medical building, which was a truly amazing experience as I got to see and learn all about the different body parts like the brain, foetus and hearts that had been donated to the university and the different techniques they use to preserve the body parts. During Biochemistry, I gained invaluable practical science skills. We were able to extract DNA from kiwifruit and detect it in an ultraviolet light box.

The programme offers a wide range of other projects such as Genetics, Nano-chemistry, Pharmacology, Psychology and Oceanography. This was an incredible opportunity and I highly recommend this programme for other students in Year 11 and 12 who are passionate about a science related career. Jessica Fowler.



Sample of a brain



Swap tooth under a microscope



Sulfur at the Ravensdown Fertiliser Plant

International Science Opportunity in Israel

Opportunity for Year 13 Students to attend the Dr. Bessie F. Lawrence International Summer Science Institute, Rehovot, Israel (1-29 July)

This is a fully funded opportunity funded by the **Raye Freedman Trust** which will cover travel, accommodation and some spending money.

See Mrs Nielsen (23a) or Mrs Younger (Science technician for details)



Are you interested in learning a new language or meeting new people?

Rotary Youth Exchange is the opportunity of a lifetime for more than 8,000 students who participate each year. By sharing your own culture and embracing a new one, you help foster global understanding and learn a great deal about yourself and your home country in the process.

What is a Rotary Youth Exchange?

Youth Exchange is a study-abroad opportunity for young people aged between 15 – 18 who spend a full year as an international student hosted by local Rotary Clubs.

Why choose a Rotary Exchange Programme?

Rotary is a well-known and respected global service organisation with over one million members so it is well suited to utilise this network of clubs and members that have a common service focus. It provides an excellent support structure.

Is an exchange right for you?

An exchange programme is right for people aged 15-18 who:

- Have demonstrated leadership in their school and community
- Are flexible and willing to try new things
- Are open to cultural differences
- Can serve as an ambassador for their own country

Entries close April 30th



Check Rotary out at
www.rotaryyouthexchange.co.nz

For further information
email pcsmith.rotary@gmail.com

40 Winks for Beauty

Whangarei Heads Primary School are casting for an upcoming play "40 Winks for Beauty", a comedy based on the fairy tale Sleeping Beauty.

If you would like to audition for any of the following character roles; Beauty, fairies, people of the King's Court. Then you're welcome to attend their meetings, every Wednesday evening 7.30pm-9pm at the McLeod Bay Hall. High school ages are welcome.

Please call Cushla on 436 5486 or 021 128 2409 or email cushla.m.allan@gmail.com for more info.

Bellbird Speech and Drama

Jessie Bell, RTSCA, BA, TTC, ATCL

"Encouraging Confidence, Creativity and Clarity in Communication"

Contact Jessie - 459 4303 or 021459048 or email bellbird12@gmail.com

Group and individual tuition available.



Want to make healthier food choices?



Would you like to take part in a 5-week nutrition labelling study using your smartphone?

Many people find it hard to understand nutrition information on packaged food labels. The aim of the Starlight study is to compare different nutrition labels and see which of them make healthy food choices easier.

To take part you need to:

- be 18 years or older
- have a smartphone with at least occasional internet connection (e.g. free Wi-Fi zones)
- do at least half of your household shopping
- shop at a supermarket at least once a week

What will the study involve?



To join visit:

www.diet.auckland.ac.nz/content/starlight

Any questions? Please contact us...

Dr Katya Volkova: 09 923 4742
Email: starlight@nihi.auckland.ac.nz

Approved by the University of Auckland Human Participants Ethics Committee on 26/5/14 (for 3 years): Ref 011390



THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE
FOR HEALTH INNOVATION
THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND
Tē Whero Wānanga o Tāmaki Pōhoro

School Calendar

Mar	6	11GEO Poor Knights trip PP ESOL trip NISS rowing champs NSSSA surfing
	7	NISS AFL seniors NISS rowing champs NSSSA croquet
	8	NISS AFL seniors NISS rowing champs
	9	First aid—Yr 12
	10	First aid—Yr 12 & 13 ECS Netball trials WGHS open tennis champs
	11	First aid—Yr 12 & 13 ECS Netball trials NSSSA track & field
	12	13OED Journey First aid—Yr 12 & 13 ECS Music lunchtime concert Netball trials NSSSA futsal PTA AGM
	13	Mufti day Combined social 13OED Journey Global Leadership NSSSA Rugby 7's U15 Finals NSSSA Volleyball finals WGHS surfing training day NZSS ARC
	14	Relay for Life 13OED Journey NSSSA waka ama senior NZSS/NISS mountain bike NZSS ARC
	15	Relay for Life NZSS/NISS mountain bike NZSS ARC
	16	11SCI03 trip 12OED first aid 13ENG01 trip Yr 13 ENG01 Othello
	17	11/12 PAD & 13DVC trip 12BIO-01 Rocky Shore trip 12OED first aid NSSSA rugby 7's open final NSSSA tennis open singles Snr Drama show 11-13
Mar	18	12BIO Rocky Shore PP
	19	12OED A surf kayak
	20	11SCI03 Trip 12OED B surf kayak NSSSA bowls Progress Reports issued
	21	NZSS touch—zone 1

Mar	22	NZSS volleyball
	23	NSSSA Eagles golf NZSS rowing (Maadi) NZSS ultimate frisbee NZSS volleyball NZSS Waka ama RYDA Yr 12 driving course
	24	NZSS rowing (Maadi) NZSS ultimate NZSS volleyball NZSS Waka ama
	25	13GEO Ruakaka trip NZSS rowing (Maadi) NZSS tri NZSS volleyball NZSS waka ama Music concert
	26	Parent teacher interviews Day 1 National Young Leaders Day NZSS futsal NZSS rowing (Maadi) NZSS tri NZSS volleyball NZSS waka ama
	27	13PED triathlon NISS dressage champs NZSS futsal NZSS rowing (Maadi) NZSS tri NZSS volleyball NZSS waka ama
	28	NISS athletics NISS croquet NZSS rowing (Maadi)
	29	NISS athletics NZSS croquet
	31	Tai Tokerau festival 11OEE Pataua camp
Apr	1	Parent teacher interview Day 2 Tai Tokerau festival 11OEE Pataua camp 13PHY prac exam
	2	Term 1 ends
	3	Good Friday
	20	Term 2 begins

Remember to check the Event Calendar on our website for any changes to our school calendar

www.wghs.school.nz/news-events/event-calendar