



Whangarei Girls' High School

March 2017



Roll on 15 December 2017!!

www.wghs.school.nz



Dear Parents/Caregivers

Tena koutou katoa

It is exciting to see our long awaited and desperately needed new block of classrooms finally nearing the start of construction. It started to become a reality last week when the Honourable Nikki Kaye, Minister of Youth and Associate Minister of Education visited us to turn the sod for the new \$6.8 million, ten classroom block. She was given a warm welcome by our kaumatua Cedric Paul and the kapa haka group before being treated to a delectable range of baking from the hospitality students. Her genuine warmth and sincerity again struck a chord with students and adults alike and we were honoured that she was able to mark this special occasion with us. We are assured that the new classrooms will be ready at the end of this year, ready for us to move in for the start of the 2018 school year – exciting times! Keep an eye on the corner of Lupton Avenue and Manse Street to watch the progress.

Not only do our students continue to excel, but so too do our staff. Last year, six staff members undertook a demanding Mindlab Postgraduate Certificate in Digital and Collaborative Learning and they will graduate early next month. This was in addition to their fulltime work and required a deep level of commitment. Congratulations to: Rebecca Maunder, Nick Major, Grace Williams, Desley Dempster, Martin White and Ashleigh Rule. Special congratulations to Grace Williams who was selected as one of four NEXT Foundation Expert Teacher finalists, based on her 'consistently high level of achievement and response across all four papers, as well as her useful and practical contributions to the classes and the online community'. The winner will be announced on 5th April, the same day as the Graduation Ceremony. We wish her all the best and share her pride in her outstanding success.

We have recently held our swimming sports and athletic championships. Lovelock emerged as the victorious House at swimming sports, thanks to the great level of participation from their students. A closely fought

battle was held in the staff v students relay with the staff team winning ahead of the team from Lupton House. Congratulations to the championship winners from both days, especially Amy-Leigh Scott and Mateja Matijevich-Wiki for their record breaking performance in athletics.

We are also immensely proud of our young cricket team who beat Kerikeri High School to win the Leaf Cup and then went on to beat Pukekohe in their quest to reach the national final. The next step is against Tauranga Girls' College and if successful in that game they will go on to play Hamilton. A successful result from that would see them gain a place in the finals of the National Championships at the end of this year. We wish them all the best in their next challenge.

We have a large number of teams going to summer tournament at the end of this month. We wish them all well in their respective codes of waka ama, sailing, futsal, rowing, volleyball and also the Adventure Racing Teams competing in their national championships the following week.

Thank you to all the parents and whanau of our new students who took the time to attend the student, parent, teacher meetings earlier this month. It is important to us that we build strong relationships with whanau as well as with our students. Research has shown the importance of parents and whanau being actively engaged in their children's education and these meetings are an important part of this. The next ones will be for the whole school at the end of Term 2, so please mark that on your calendar now to ensure you are able to attend, with your daughter who will lead the meeting this year. A big thank you too, to the PTA for their support in providing much appreciated refreshments and a warm welcome to our new parents.

At the end of this month, many of you will receive progress reports, followed by the opportunity to meet your daughter's subject teachers to discuss her progress. Please take the time to go over this report with your daughter as it provides an early indication as to how well she is settling into the new academic year. It is important that she is keeping abreast of her work and not letting it pile up until it all needs to be completed the night before it is due in. She should be feeling challenged in her classes, but able to understand and complete

the work. Most importantly she should let her teachers know early on if she is having difficulty understanding any of the work or if it is too easy and not providing a suitable level of challenge.

Time management is an important skill for our students to acquire to successfully manage all aspects of their lives as so many of our students are incredibly busy young women. The Careers Counsellor, Shirley Ann Crosby, is only too pleased to assist students with this at any time and so is your daughter's whanau teacher and Dean. The sooner she masters these strategies the better, as she will feel in control of her workload and clearly see what she can and cannot fit into her weekly schedule.

We look forward to meeting you at the upcoming parent teacher interviews and thank you for your continued support in so many ways.

Ngā manaakitanga

Anne Cooper
Principal



Honourable Nikki Kaye, Minister of Youth and Associate Minister of Education turning the sod supported by kaumatua Cedric Paul, Principal Anne Cooper and BOT Chair Sue Cresswell.

Photo courtesy of The Northern Advocate

Head and Deputy Head Girls

The weeks have flown by! It's hard to believe we're more than halfway through Term 1. Swimming sports was a great success and it was fantastic to see all the crazy costumes! Some of the ingenuity there would give Einstein a run for his money. We Head Girls ran a costume competition with Emma Hutchinson and Ella Patuawa of Bell coming in first place as the Flintstones, and Mansfield girls Rachel Maher in second as Mike Wazowski and Amy Jacobson in third as Princess Fiona. Congratulations once again!

It's been amazing to see the number and calibre of the applicants for the 2017 Student Council – 83 students and so much wonderful enthusiasm! The Student Council is a prestigious position in our school, with two senior and two junior representatives chosen from each of the six houses to ensure the student voice is heard loud and clear in projects and decisions throughout the year.

Workday Scholarships are currently available to all students. Applications are open all year, and the recipients will be announced at each whole school assembly. This is a great opportunity, whether you apply as an individual or on behalf of a team or a subject department and we encourage all girls to follow the link in the notices and their student emails and view all the different categories. At the weekly Prefect Meetings it's been thrilling to see everyone's drive, enthusiasm and willingness to share ideas. Each week four conveners talk about their projects and goals, what they have achieved and what they are aiming for. Furthermore, with the help of Tash from the Cancer Society, we have entered a prefect team into Relay for Life this year. All thirty-three of us will be participating in the approximately 20-hour relay at the Whangarei Athletics Centre on April 1st to show our support for those who have been affected by cancer. This comes with the traditional competition against other high schools to see who can raise the most money – a tried and tested way of increasing the overall total that goes to the Cancer Soci-

ety. Currently we are selling five dollar raffle tickets and have a mufti day planned toward the end of Term 1 to help in our efforts.

One of our main goals for this year is to continue the normalisation of the Māori culture and embracing cultural diversity, and thus the Kaitiaki Initiative was born. This initiative was created by a passionate group of students and Te Arawa, with the aim to implement traditional Māori rules and protocols in Te Whare Rau Aroha, our school Whare. As Te Whare Rau Aroha is the cultural hub of Whangarei Girls' High and represents diversity in our school, we want to integrate conventional Māori tikanga, as this will work toward normalising Māori culture. These rules aim to not only preserve the Whare, but also to preserve Māori culture and all the cultures present within our school. This ambitious group of students will be a part of a new committee, the Kaitiaki Committee, whose goals are to create and endorse these protocols continuously throughout the year, as well as hosting and escorting every whanau class through Te Whare Rau Aroha, so that the rules are clearly introduced to the entire school. We are extremely excited to introduce this initiative to you all and hope that you are eager to embrace the amazing change coming to our school this year!

Nga mihi

Summer Campbell Amy Horn
Hiromi Beran Te Arawa Tumai
Head and Deputy Head Girls'



English Department Corner

Here we are past the midpoint of the term already, and there is certainly a lot going on in our neck of the woods! It is pleasing to see so many students take up opportunities to challenge themselves in our subject, by entering the raft of writing and speech competitions on offer. These competitions are always advertised on the Daily Notices, and are posted on the English Department noticeboard outside Room 11. The two major speech competitions coming up before the end of the term are as follows:

Race Unity Speech Competition- Thursday 6 April.
Our speakers are Genie Blasingame (Year 13), Jorja Heta (Year 13), Cailyn Prisk (Year 12), and Te Rauaroa Tuhoro (Year 12). We wish them all the best of luck! It is great to see WGHS so strongly represented in this competition.

RSA Speech Competition- Saturday 8 April.

Our representative for this competition is Sophie Gilbert Keene (Year 13). Each school in Northland is invited to enter one student only per school. Good luck, Sophie!

On Sunday 19 March, two senior teams will be representing WGHS in the Northland Debating Championships. This event is to be held in Whangarei, and it will involve our teams taking part in three debates, vying for a place in the final. Our debaters are: Ella Short, Summer Campbell, Genie Blasingame, Pippa Saunders, Nicole Robinson, Sharlene Pilkington. We wish them all the best of luck.

At the time of writing this, our Year 13 01 students are becoming increasingly excited about their trip to see the Pop-up Globe performance of "Othello" on Tuesday 14 March. This production has been receiving rave reviews from the critics, so we are in for a treat!

Just a gentle reminder to senior English students to ensure they have paid their literature text fee. The department has purchased the students' studied texts, and we will be issuing the texts prior to the school holidays to those students who have paid.

Nga mihi nui

Margaret Northey
HOD English

Science Corner



13 Environmental Biology trip to Limestone Island

On the 2nd of March the year 13 Environmental Biology class went to Limestone Island for the day to explore the restoration programme on the island. The girls had the privilege of having two Limestone Island rangers and their two sons to show them around. One of the rangers, Jono explained the history of the island and the cultural connections. The other ranger, Emma and her 8 year old son shared with the girls the ecological aspects of the island.

The girls explored in detail the pest control methods historically and currently used on the island and in the buffer zone and discussed the issues with this. They also spoke of the translocation of the grey faced petrels, lizards and kiwi onto the island. While sitting in the shelter beside the ruins and looking east down the Whangarei harbour they also discussed how the island works as a Kiwi crèche. It was a great day enjoyed by all and we would like to thank Jono Carpenter, Emma Craig and their children for this amazing opportunity.

Coming up in May is an opportunity for some of our students to hear a former US Shuttle Astronaut, Colonel Mike Mullane. Refining NZ has organised this and we are looking forward to this event.

Further Achievements from 2016
Congratulations also goes to Keeli Mackereth who gained excellence in Level One Science in 2016. Well done.

Kiwi Science Competition

Online competition
for Primary, Intermediate
and Secondary students

- Problem solving
- Critical thinking
- Logic
- Reasoning
- Researching
- Nature of Science
- Using World
- Planet Earth and Beyond
- Physical World
- Material World

Organised by the University of Canterbury
School of Education
and the Department of Science
for the University of Canterbury
The competition is open to all
New Zealand students
(New Zealand only)

www.kiwiscience.com

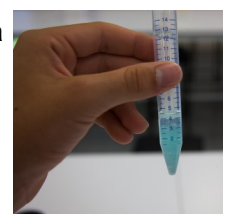


An exciting new Kiwi competition is being run by Canterbury University this year. Entries \$8.50 and close on 26th April. See Mrs Younger (Science technician for the entry form)



Highlights from the Rotary National Science and Technology Forum 2016 from Sarah Barnes

'The Rotary National Science and Technology Forum aims to bring together like-minded high achieving students from diverse communities and back grounds from within New Zealand and overseas, allowing us to be exposed to exciting careers and innovative technology being developed in the field of science. Heading to the forum I saw it as an exciting opportunity, and I planned to make the most of it! Though some may wonder why I would optionally choose to do science for two weeks, it was so much more than this and beyond anything anyone could possibly anticipate. Throughout the two weeks we lived in University Hall and attended a vast variety of lectures, each lecturer and researcher we met willingly shared their enthusiasm and knowledge, allowing us to learn and share their passion. Who knew mathematics would involve eating chocolate, molecular biology staring at a clump of my own DNA and microbiology growing bacteria out of my belly button. Alongside the academic programmes, we were also given the opportunity to attend a formal dinner at the Crowne Plaza, go to the beach, explore Auckland, have a disco and one of my absolute highlights - have a highly competitive volleyball competition. Undoubtedly, it is the people you meet and replication of University life that really make the experience incredible and I would highly recommend this to anyone out there!!!



School Calendar

March

- 21 11OED trip
13CHE
Japanese students visit
- 22 11SCI03 trip
11OED
NSSSA Cricket Cup—semi final,
WGHS 1st XI
Japanese students visit
- 23 13CHE pp
13OED—kayak
Japanese students visit
12ARH workshop
NSSSA 7's U15 girls & boys
- 24 13CHE pp
13OED—kayak
Japanese students visit
12BIO01 trip
13DRA trip
Mufti Day
- 25 Japanese students visit
NSSSA touch zone 1
- 26 Japanese students visit
NSSSA Rogaine
- 27 Japanese students visit
NISS cricket, Northern Dist.
NISS Sailing
NISS Futsal Champs
NZSS Futsal Champs
NZSS Rowing, Maadi Cup
NZSS Volleyball Champs
- 28 Japanese students visit
NISS cricket, Northern Dist.
NISS Sailing
NISS Futsal Champs
NZSS Futsal Champs
NZSS Rowing, Maadi Cup
NZSS Volleyball Champs
- 29 Japanese students visit
NISS cricket, Northern Dist.
NISS Sailing
NISS Futsal Champs
NZSS Futsal Champs
NZSS Rowing, Maadi Cup
NZSS Volleyball Champs
- 30 12OED—kayak
Japanese students visit
NISS Cricket—Northern Dist.

- NISS Sailing
NZSS Futsal Champs
NZSS Rowing—Maadi Cup
- 31 12OED—kayak
Japanese students visit
NISS cricket—Northern Districts
NISS Sailing
NZSS Futsal Champs
NZSS Rowing, Maadi Cup

April

- 1 NISS Cricket—Northern Dist
NISS Sailing
NISS Futsal Champs
NZSS Rowing—Maadi Cup
NZSS Volleyball Champs
NZSS Waka ama Champs
- 2 NISS Cricket—Northern Dist
NISS Sailing
NISS Futsal Champs
NZSS Rowing—Maadi Cup
NZSS Volleyball Champs
NZSS Waka ama Champs
- 4 13HOS trip
NSSSA Rugby 7's finals
Yr 12 Careers afternoon
- 5 Variety Show
- 6 11OED—kayak
12ECS course tbc
NZ Adventure Racing Champs
NSSSA combined training
Parent Teacher Interviews
- 7 11OED—kayak
12ECS course tbc
NISS Athletics
NZ Adventure Racing Champs
13GEO trip
- 8 NISS Athletics
NZ Adventure Racing Champs
RSA Speech competition
- 9 NISS Athletics
NZ Adventure Racing Champs
AMI pre-season Netball, WGHS
- 10 12ECS course
- 11 Tai Tokerau Festival
12PHY practical investigation
- 12 Kiwihost course
Tai Tokerau Festival
Parent Teacher Interviews
- 13 Kiwihost course
End of Term 1

Other Important Notices

Parent Teacher Interviews & Early Finish Thu 6 April and Wed 12 April

Parent Teacher Interviews will be held at school on Thu 6th and Wed 12th April. Interviews will be with students subject teachers and times are available from 2.30pm –5pm on the 6th of April and 2.30pm—6.30pm on the 12th April.

Classes will finish at 1.20pm on these days with buses running at the usual times. Supervision will be available for those students who are unable to make alternative arrangements. Please notify staff in the front office if you wish us to make arrangements for supervision of your daughter.

More information and online booking instructions will be emailed and posted on our school website next week.

You will be able to access the booking form once it goes 'live' at 3pm on Fri 31 March.

Parking

Please don't double park, or park on yellow lines along Lupton Ave or Manse St. This makes it highly unsafe for students, all pedestrians and motorists along these roads. Police are aware and continue to monitor traffic.



Kathmandu Whangarei Offer to WGHS Students

Kathmandu Whangarei is happy to invite you to an exclusive shopping promotion. They are also offering a one off COMMUNITY DISCOUNT on purchases across their entire range, as well as FREE SUMMIT CLUB MEMBERSHIP.

PROMOTION INFORMATION

To be held at the Whangarei store, Thursday the 23rd of March between 5pm to 7pm

You will see Kathmandu offer our guidance and expertise with important information on correct fittings. This is an ideal opportunity to learn more about what is needed for your upcoming adventure and ensure you'll be safe and comfortable.

HOW TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS OFFER

Simply present your student ID at the Whangarei store on Thursday the 23rd of March to redeem your FREE Summit Club membership and gain access to your community discount.

Terms and conditions

Offer only valid at the Whangarei store on Thursday the 23rd of March

- Purchases are strictly for Whangarei Girls High school students.
- Discount offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer or sale discount.
- Store management may revoke or restrict the offer at their discretion.

**Attendance Line – Direct Dial 430 4405
or email office@wghs.school.nz**