



Whangarei Girls' High School

May 2017



Whangarei Girls' High School presents the 2017 Graduation production of

Waiora The Homecoming

Shows run from Tue 23/5 to Sat 27/5
Tickets selling now

www.wghs.school.nz



Dear Parents/Caregivers

Tena koutou katoa

We were incredibly lucky with the weather for House Day last week as the rain held off until

the very last moment – arrived just in time to rob Rutherford House of being announced as the 2017 Champions! The House Captains, Head Girl team, Sports and Cultural prefects did an outstanding job, ably supported by Year 13 Dean, Mrs Lang, of having a variety of fun and challenging activities and it was great to have the radio station adding to the atmosphere and to see so many whanau teachers joining in too. This is an important day, run by students for students and gives an opportunity for whanau classes to build relationships with other students and their whanau teacher and compete for their House. It is always interesting to see how well students are able to work together and who demonstrates leadership skills – we have such strong depth of these qualities through the year levels and all credit to the students who participated. It was definitely outstanding participation by the nine whanau classes which won the day for Rutherford, followed closely by Mansfield and Lovelock respectively. The only disappointment about the day was again the large number of students who did not come and do not see the benefits of House Day. I hope for a much better attendance next year and that parents and whanau encourage their daughters to support their student leaders and to participate along with their whanau class.

We know that this term your daughters will feel under stress as assessment deadlines loom and they try to juggle their busy lives. One question we often ask is how much time they spend on social media and the answers are quite staggering with many students spending several hours – it becomes addictive. Therefore, I

found it interesting reading the recently released guidelines from the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and Sport NZ, around daily recreational screen time, sleep and exercise. The results recommend no more than two hours of recreational screen time each 24 hours and eight to ten hours of uninterrupted sleep. They also recommend an accumulation of at least one hour a day of moderate to vigorous physical activity and activity that strengthens bones and muscles to be done at least three times a week. It goes on to draw strong correlations between sufficient good quality sleep and better emotional development and academic achievement. They claim that at present, one in five teenagers do not get enough sleep. This would be a good discussion to have with your daughters.

Last year our school goals were to improve on our NCEA results, particularly for Maori and to develop e-learning throughout the school. In 2016, 92.9% of all school leavers left with NCEA Level One or above which is a slight improvement on the previous year and results for Maori also improved with 88.2% cf 77.6% in 2015.

The number of school leavers leaving with Level Two also improved with 85.4% cf 83.5% the previous year. Maori had a significant improvement with 77.9% leaving with Level Two cf 65.8% in 2015.

However Level Three and UE, disappointingly, were not as good as in 2015 with 53.6% leaving with Level Three cf 61.4% and 30.9% cf 36.8% for Maori. Likewise, UE was 41.9% cf 47.6% in 2015 and 17.6% cf 22.4% for Maori.

Although there are many positives to celebrate in our overall results for 2016, the gap between Maori and non-Maori achievement continues to be of concern at some levels. 80.3% of all Year 11 students achieved Level One cf 61.5% Maori. Level Two 89.2% of Year 12 students achieved Level Two cf 89.7% Maori. We are very encouraged by these excellent results. 72.9% of all students achieved Level Three cf 57.8% Maori and 56.3% achieved University Entrance cf 35.6% Maori. Nearly all our results were above the national achievement rates.

The number of students achieving overall endorsements is also tracking well, although it would be good to see the gap close more between Maori and non-Maori, particularly in Excellence endorsements.

Last year, we changed our reporting to a “traffic light” report which we have refined a little and will be doing again this year. This year students will do a self assessment in each of their classes and this will be useful for discussion at the Student, Parent, Teacher meetings later this term.

Overall student attendance last year was down on the previous year and it is of concern that it has been lower again this year. We will be following up with individual students. The Ministry of Education has very specific criteria as to what constitutes a justified absence as it is important for students to be in class and there is a high correlation between good attendance and good achievement.

The new Year 9 option subjects and structure were well received last year and have been refined further for this year. We are currently considering new courses and modifications to existing courses for 2018.

This year we are continuing our focus on student centred teaching and learning as part of a wider focus on culturally responsive and relational pedagogy; reviewing assessment practices and reporting and continuing to build a shared understanding of student outcomes for years 9 and 10, ensuring that students understand the purpose of their learning.

Last week I felt privileged to be at the final competition day of the Hillary Challenge. I am in total awe of these young women and men – their physical and mental skills and toughness have to be seen to be believed and their levels of resilience and team work are second to none. Camping overnight on the mountain followed by a gruelling multi-sports day in heavy rain at times would be daunting for any of us but they just take it all in their stride. I felt immensely proud of them all and want to thank their coach, Calum Harris and their parents and support crew, including Rebecca Leydon. 6th best in New Zealand, in what must surely be the most challenging of all sports, is a result to be truly proud of.

Our Kapa Haka team, Te Tai Tamawahine o Whangarei also did us so proud when they performed at the Tai Tokerau Festival held at Bream Bay College at the end of last term. Under the outstanding tutoring of Dave Tapene and Marcia Hopa, our first ever all girls group performed superbly. Their performance was very much enjoyed by the whole school at the beginning of this term. At the same assembly Te Rauaroa Tuhoro gave the heartfelt, thought provoking speech which saw her win the regional Race Unity speech competition and we celebrated outstanding student achievements. We congratulate the following students who were awarded Elite Colours for being a national representative or gained a top three ranking in a national competition:

NCEA endorsed with Excellence

Kayla Aylward—Level 2

Maia Prochazka—Level 1

National Shooting Competition – Air Pistol

Samantha Skovlund - Gold

Fern Manning - Gold

Holly Edmeades – Silver

Sabrina Teoh – Silver

You Jin Kim – Silver

Junior Sport Pistol

Samantha Skovlund – Gold

Equestrian

Sarah Scott – Gold and Silver at Young Rider National Dressage Championships

Sharon Klijn – in Northland which gained Silver in show jumping at Horse of the Year Show

Adventure Racing

Jemma Petty, Philippa Croft, Alysha Donovan, Adyn Dudley – 3rd place in national Get2Go competition and Gold at NZSS Junior Rogaine Championships

Macey Polwart, Geneva Overwater – Gold at NZSS Senior Rogaine Championships

Rowing

Sarah White – Silver in Women’s Club Quad at NZ Rowing Championships

Swimming

Nellie Clark – 3rd place in 12 years and under 50m breaststroke

Touch Rugby

Kyra Manahi and Kiara Henry – members of Northland U15 team which won Gold at national Touch Tournament

Tata-Leigh Turner and Kiante Beazley – selected to represent NZ in U16 team to travel to Australia in September.

A \$5000 cheque was presented to the Cancer Society from the students who raised the funds from Relay for Life and a mufti day. The Prefects and Citizenship Committee represented our school at the Dawn Parade on ANZAC Day – a moving ceremony and the Citizenship Committee followed up with an ANZAC commemoration in the first week of term. The French classes had a highly successful trip to New Caledonia during the holidays and the cast for the Year 13 production 'Waiora' rehearsed in preparation for their opening night next week. Make sure you go to watch it as you will not be disappointed.

We wish the Year 11 group all the best as they prepare to go to Wellington for the national final of the Sheila Winn Shakespeare competition.

Thank you too for all those of you who supported our 'Girls working for Girls' day. The Student Council is again putting a substantial amount of the earnings aside for students to apply for scholarships and grants to help them with almost any aspect of their high school education. This is available to any student who participated in Work Day and they will be awarded at the beginning of each term.

We have staff changes this term. Manaia House Dean, Mrs Teal, is now the proud mother of twin girls and is on maternity leave and Rick Collins has resigned to return to Canada. We welcome Mr Peter Norman to the Maths Department and Mrs Jenni Moors for the first four weeks and Ms Deb Fisher until the seniors leave in the English department. Ms Auton has taken up the position as Dean of Manaia House.

Our new building is progressing well and we look forward to seeing it start to take shape later this month – keep an eye on its progress. Busy exciting times, with lots happening as always.

Ngā mihi nui



Anne Cooper
Principal

Head and Deputy Head Girls



The end of last term was a flurry of activities and events! Relay for Life was on April 1st at the Whangarei Athletics Centre, where our team of prefects along with several other teams from our school participated in the 20 hour relay to show our support for those who have been affected by cancer. It was a phenomenal test of endurance and teamwork but very rewarding, with our prefects' team completing 1,777 laps around the track to raise a total of \$5,190.30 (including other school based fundraising). Thank you so much to everyone who helped in the organisation and success of this event, especially to the Edge for their sponsorship of our prefects' team.

On Thursday 13th April we held the Anthem Olympics in the Manawahine gym. The Anthem Olympics were thought up by Hiromi with the goal to get the entire school singing the National Anthem, especially at whole school assemblies. The National Anthem is part of our national and cultural pride and to have over 1000 students singing it would be amazing, creating a real sense of school unity as well as showing how we as the youth of today are proud of our national identity. So we organised a competition between the six houses to see who could sing the National Anthem best, with some impressive volume and musicality among the top placers. Congratulations Manaia for your amazing singing and creativity with cajón box drum accompaniment!

Towards the end of last term, applications for the 2017 Student Council opened. We had a record number of 83 applicants for the position when there are only 24 spaces. While this enthusiasm was awesome to see, it made our

job in selecting the 24 candidates very, very difficult. Congratulations to all the girls who were selected, but also a huge congratulations to those who applied and did their speech in front of their house. It takes a lot of courage to stand up and nominate yourself in front of your peers.

The members of the 2017 Student Council are Emma Hutchinson, Grace Murdoch, Courtney Hammond, Cleo Peck, Isabella Remmerswaal, Travena Heta, Elena Matteucci, Natasha Dunn, Gemma Brock, Sophie Saweirs, Pippa Saunders, Brittany Sackfield, Nikki Shields, Lexi Leybourn, Nicole Robinson, Grace Moscrip, Willow Koller, Pippa Croft, Teaghan Kirby, Tove Petersson, Olivia Crum, Courtney Crum, Alysha Donovan and McKenzie Healey. We're looking forward to continuing working with you this year! We have held our first few meetings this term and the enthusiasm is wonderful to see.

House spirit prevailed over the starting and ending rain and House Day on May 15th was a great success, with activities ranging from chariot races to Hungry Hippos (rob-the-nest on skateboards) to a lip sync competition. Well done to the senior leaders, House Captains, Sports Council and Cultural Council prefects for your organisation and running of the activities. It was a close contest for the winning title this year, with less than 100 points between first and sixth, so congratulations Rutherford for pulling ahead for a well-deserved win!

Nga Mihi

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

English Department Corner

Welcome back to Term 2. So far this term, students and staff have been busy with several senior internal assessments either recently submitted, or due for submission. We commend our students who continue to demonstrate effective self-management skills. We appreciate that students can often be juggling assessments across

their range of subjects, and this makes prioritising learning and managing time even more imperative. We continue to see that students who avail themselves of formal opportunities for feedback go on to elicit strong results in their summative assessments.

Outside of the classroom, speech competitions have kept students busy. We are proud to announce that Te Rauaroa Tuhoro (Year 12) won the Race Unity Regional heat in March. Te Rauaroa went on to represent the region at the Race Unity National semi-finals/ finals held last weekend. Te Rauaroa delivered her powerful speech on "Racism in New Zealand" to our whole school assembly in Week 1 of the term. Kia kaha, Te Rauaroa; we are very proud of you. Sophie Gilbert-Keene (Year 13) was placed third in the RSA Speech Contest held also in March. Her speech centred around the working life of Hester McLean, one of our WWI heroines. Sophie, too, shared her speech with the whole school in our assembly. Good luck to Cailyn Prisk (Year 12) who is representing our school in the zone final of the Rotary Speech Competition on Wednesday 17 May. If successful, Cailyn will go on to represent the zone in the Northland final on Wednesday 31 May. The school's own Tuku Korero Speech Competition is set to take place on Friday 26 May, Periods 3 and 4. We look forward to being inspired by this year's crop of enthusiastic speakers! Parents and whanau are most welcome to come and watch the speakers at this event. Many thanks to Mrs Joy Jackson, Assistant HOD, for her efforts in organising this contest.

40 lucky students and two staff are very much looking forward to the opportunity to go to the Auckland Writers' Festival on Wednesday 17th May. We will be treated to addresses from some widely acclaimed New Zealand and international writers. Many thanks to the Auckland Arts Festival Committee for their support in awarding transport grants for some lucky schools outside of the greater Auckland catchment area.

Nga mihi nui

Margaret Northey
HOD English

Science Corner



Year 13 Environmental Biology trip to Bream Head

On the 13th of March the Environmental Biology class went on a trip out to Bream Head, where we met the ranger Adam who works for Bream Head Restoration Trust. The ranger firstly had a discussion with the girls about conservation practices carried out in this area. This involved exploring the intensive trapping and baiting system which has been successful. The girls were able to see all the types of traps being used, and also heard about possible future technology. They discussed why Bream Head selected not to have a predator proof fence, and about the translocations that have already occurred and will be happening in the not so distant future. They learnt about the endangered, endemic lizard found only on Te Whara, Bream Head. The girls then went for a walk up into the reserve and were able to feed the robins which had been translocated here. This was a major highlight of the trip. It was a great day had by all and a big thank you goes to Mrs Wati for organising this day for us.

Teen Ag Competition

On the 18th March, 5 teams from Whangarei Girls' High School competed in the Teen Ag competition held at Kamo High School. This competition involved two rounds. In the first round the girls completed 8 challenges. These ranged from lining the loader on a tracker up to connect, soil identification, selecting appropriate oils and lubricants for different types of machinery, fencing, hand milking a cow (a fake cow), weed identification, weed killing, and completing a test.

The top 5 teams progressed to the second round. One team from WGHS made it through to this round where they had to build a maimai. This team ended up winning the competition and are off to the national competition to be held in Fielding from 6th—8th July. **Congratulations to Grace Moscrip and Cara Doggett** and all the best for your upcoming competition.



The George (Hoori) Tuhiwai Memorial Award: a new Science Fair Award

A large number of girls from all year groups have shown an interest in participating in the Central Northland Regional Science Fair. This is being held at Forum North from 28th -31st August. Projects need to be completed and submitted to Mrs Phillips by 11th August. It is very exciting to see students selecting to do a range of projects in all three areas of research, investigations and technology.

This year sees the introduction of a new special award, "The George (Hoori) Tuhiwai Memorial Award". This is awarded to the best project which integrates traditional scientific knowledge with traditional Māori knowledge (Matauranga Māori) or an aspect of the traditional Māori world (Te Ao Māori). Examples might include:

- Research into an important element of Māori life (Tuna or Kina for example) where the findings can then benefit scientists and Iwi
- An investigation into traditional Māori medicines and the elements/properties that make them effective.
- A technology project which adapts or modifies traditional tools or methods to solve a modern day problem.

Eligible projects should display more depth than just naming things in English and Māori. A Māori world view should be evident and applied throughout the entire project. It should be reflected in the topic, methods selected, reflection and application of any findings. This award is sponsored by Northpower. As a department we are excited about the introduction of this award and hope some of our students focus their projects in this area.



Year 13 Chemistry Practical Investigation

The 20th & 21st March saw the Level 3 chemistry students busy in the laboratory completing titrations for their Practical Investigation Achievement Standard. This involved 53 students divided over 2 laboratories working very hard over the two days to obtain sufficient results for their report. A special thank you to Mrs Nicola Younger (our Science Technician) who worked tirelessly to make sure that our stock of chemicals was regularly topped up.

Well done to all the Level 3 students for their efforts.



Project Rodent

The 17th March saw 13 students from the Environmental Biology class attend the pilot Project Rodent course held by the Northland Regional Council at Kiwi North. The students explored rodent pest controls, the biological and environmental impacts of rodents as well as a hands-on skills workshop which included demonstrations and students having a go at trap and bait station placement in a variety of habitats. This fantastic opportunity also resulted in each of the girls gaining 13 Unit Standard credits and was a great day.



Anyone Really Can Do Anything

On 2nd May thirty nine WGHS students gained insight into the extraordinary life of former astronaut Mike Mullane. Mr Mullane admits he was not gifted with an exceptional genius mind, nor was he a star athlete, leaving school with only one dedication in his senior year book. But with sheer determination he was able to pursue his dream. Mr Mullane shared his wisdom borne from his experiences and the challenges he faced to become a NASA astronaut. He believes, **"We are much better than we think we are"** and not to underestimate our capabilities and passions; as someday they may become our reality. With his four key values; doing your best, being tenacious, dreaming big and not being afraid of failure, Mr Mullane reached for the stars and in 1978 was accepted into his first NASA Space Shuttle mission.

It was an amazing hour listening to a truly incredible person who refused to be held back, living his life believing "If you are not failing, you are not challenging yourself enough", admitting that his failures are why he succeeded. We left seeing the world through new eyes, believing that indeed anyone can do anything.

Written by Tess Bevis

School Calendar

May

- 19 13DRA A show
NISS Orienteering
Yr13 Uni trip
NSSSA Hockey 9-10
- 20 13DRA A show
NISS Orienteering
- 21 13DRA A show
NISS Orienteering
Northland-wide Debating
- 22 12ECS placements
13DRA A show
Food and Beverage course
NSSSA Golf
Yr 9 Trimester 2 starts
- 23 12ECS placements
13DRA A show
Food and Beverage course
- 24 12ECS placements
13DRA A show
13TOU trip
NSSSA mw Football
- 25 12ECS placements
13DRA A show
13TOU trip
NSSSA Rugby 7's final
- 26 13DRA A show
13TOU trip
NZ Rogaine Nationals
12/13ENB trip
12OED Sailing
Judge with 13MST
- 27 13DRA A show
NZ Rogaine Nationals
- 28 NZ Rogaine Nationals
- 29 12ECS placements
Food and Beverage course
YES Taniwha's Tank
- 30 12ECS placements
Food and Beverage course
YES Taniwha's Tank
ATTITUDE presentations
- 31 12ECS placements
YES Taniwha's Tank
L2 Service course
NCEA evening
NSSSA mw Football

Jun

- 1 12ECS placements
YES Taniwha's Tank
13PED cross country
40 hour famine concert
- 2 YES Taniwha's Tank
13OED—Matarau
Yr10-13DRA visit
- 5 Queen's Birthday—holiday
- 6 12BIO 02
- 7 11OED Tramping
Nga Manu Korero regional
Yr10DRA production
Clay Target Shooting #3
NSSSA mw Football
- 8 11OED Tramping
Nga Manu Korero regional
Yr10DRA production
- 9 Nga Manu Korero regional
NSSSA Surfing #3
Pasifika Fiafia Night
- 12 Health Promotion Week
- 13 NSSSA Cross Country
Senior Ball Assembly
STAR Beauty course
- 14 13GEO trip
CLA trip
ICAS Writing
NSSSA mw Football
- 15 13GEO trip
STAR Beauty course
13ENT trip
NSSSA Rugby League 9's finals
- 16 13GEO trip
NZ Cross Country
NZ Hillary 2018 qualifier
STAR Beauty course
12OED Day Skippers
- 17 NZ Cross Country
NZ Hillary 2018 qualifier
- 19 Matariki
- 20 11SCI02 lab
13OED Tramp
NSSSA Table Tennis—novice
- 21 11SCI02 lab
13OED Tramp
Yr12DRA show
NSSSA mw Football
- 22 11SCI02 lab
13OED Tramp

Wanted

Second Hand School Uniform

Do you have any school uniform items that you no longer require? The WGHS PTA would greatly appreciate any uniform donations to add to their low stock of second hand uniform. You can drop any items to the school Admin office.

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