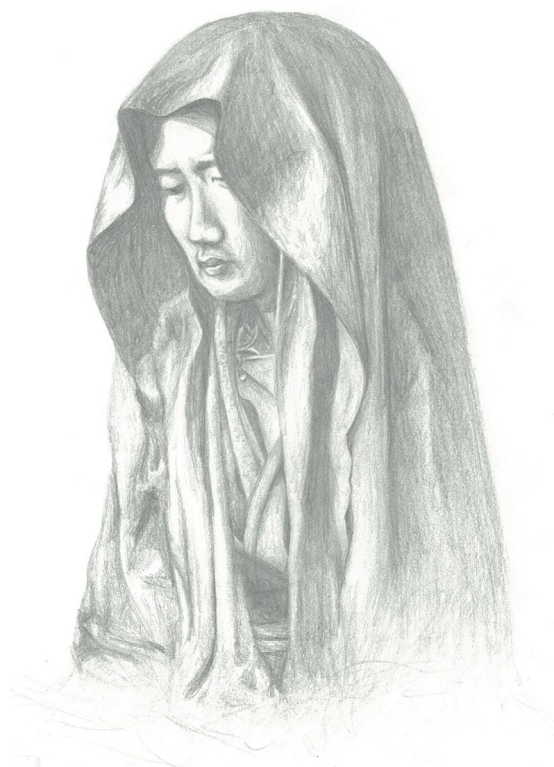




# Whangarei Girls' High School

**June 2015**



*Art work by Year 11 Art students Celina Yang (left) and Chloe Topping (right)*



## Dear Parents / Caregivers

Tena koutou katoa

This has been a long term for students and staff alike and it is highly likely your daughter is feeling the stress of assessments as well as juggling extracurricular activities and numerous other commitments. However, it is a fact that our high achieving students are our busiest ones and they also have excellent attendance records. Their time management and ability to balance their priorities is extraordinary and I am constantly in awe of all they achieve.

When you receive your daughter's report at the end of the term in your SPT (Student, Parent Teacher) meeting, please take a look at her school involvement on the front page of her report. If she is involved in an activity, praise her for taking up opportunities available to her. However, if your daughter is not participating in anything, please have a discussion with her about this and encourage her to become involved in at least one thing. Apart from being enjoyable, there are many benefits from being in an activity where she will meet new people, develop new skills in a relevant context, work in a team, develop leadership qualities, keep fit and healthy and so the list goes on. If there is nothing that appeals then ask her what her interest is and encourage her to seek help to set up a club of her own.

Planning is now well underway for the SPTs and many of you will have received your email or letter with your appointment times. If you have not received yours by the end of next week, please contact the school and we will be able to sort it out for you. We greatly value these meetings which is why staff have put so much time and thought into preparing for them. The strong relationships many whanau teachers and Deans have built with the parents and whanau of their students make it much easier for you to know who to contact if there are any matters you wish to discuss pertaining to your daughter's schooling.

Progress on our new buildings is slow, but we now have a promise that the three new Health and Physical Education classrooms will be ready for the start of 2016. This will ease some of the pressure we are currently under and the big new classroom block has now been pushed out to the end of the following year. We are very grateful to staff and students who are teaching and learning in less than ideal conditions for their patience and for being so willing to work together to make it tol-

erable for everyone. Plans are also underway for a new weights room and the upgrading of some of the older Science laboratories, so a busy time lies ahead – with some wonderful new and much improved rooms as the end outcome.

Work on the curriculum for 2016 is also well underway with new courses planned for Year Nine. The proposal is for all students to take English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Physical Education and Health. We are currently exploring whether we can offer trimester courses to Year Nine, while retaining half year courses for Year Ten. If we can manage this, the idea is for Year Nine students to choose nine options from exciting subjects such as the following: Te Reo Maori, Food and Nutrition, European Passport, Performing Arts, Music, Drama, Dance, Contemporary Maori Art, Visual Art, Digital Art, Money Smart, Trash to Treasure, Textiles Technology Market, Textiles and Fashion Technology, Product and Design, T-Shirt Design, The World of Animation, Computer Coding, Microsoft Academy. We will look at better ways of delivering topics such as IT and Timatanga Maori so that students have the knowledge and tools they need when they need them. We would welcome your feedback on these ideas.

At the same time, a group led by Deputy Principal, Doreen Bailey, has been reviewing our current timetable structure to see which structure will best serve us for the near future. They have made a couple of presentations to staff and will be consulting with the students very soon.

We are delighted to be able to announce that thanks to the generosity of Manaia Health PHO, we are now able to offer our students the services of a doctor for two hours per week. Dr Cheryl Bollen will be working with us as part of our health team and we warmly welcome her to our school community. She is well known to some of you already through her work at Octane, her presentations to PTA last year and the Whanau hui last month. It seems perfect timing that it is Health Promotion Week next week and the Health Committee and classes have been busy planning events to raise awareness of important health issues.

The winter sports season is well on its way and it is gratifying to see so many students wearing school sports uniforms in the various codes. Netball and hockey have enjoyed high profiles in the media as they have more than held their own in their respective competitions. A big thank you too to all the parents and caregivers who support their daughters so strongly and help out with coaching and being team managers – without you we would

not be able to field so many teams. Thank you too to the students who coach teams and umpire – you do a great job and it is very much appreciated.

Of special mention is the Hillary Challenge who recently competed in the most fearsome and gruelling conditions – they finished in third place in the National Championships. Knowing how many schools there are who excel in Outdoor Education, this is an incredible achievement. The team was: Sarah Adam, Taylor Campbell, Grace Elliot and McKenzie Johnson.

Recently the Year Ten Drama class presented their series of delightful, insightful plays which were thoroughly enjoyed by the audience and a high calibre of speakers was again enjoyed in the Senior Speech Competition.

In addition to that, the students have been busy with Cross Country Championships, field trips, the ATTITUDE programme, YES (Young Enterprise, Dragon Den's Orals and the social with Whangarei Boys' High School last week.

There are still a number of events to fit in before the end of term. Obviously the big event all the senior students are talking about is the Ball, with its theme of Olympia. The Ball Committee, led by Mrs Lang, have worked hard to ensure the success of this night. Other events to look forward to are: Nga Manu Korero, Stage Challenge, Matariki and the Leavers' Lunch for 2014 and 2105 Year 13 students.

At least boredom is something none of us suffer from here at Whangarei Girls' High – as they say, "variety is the spice of life."

We all look forward to meeting you at the SPTs in approximately three weeks time.



**Anne Cooper**  
**Principal**

## **University of Waikato Graduates**

The following ex students of WGHS recently graduated from Waikato University between Nov 2014 and 31 May 2015.

Liz Haines	Master of Education
Tracey Grayson	Bachelor of Social Studies
Sam Williams	Graduate Diploma in Psychology
Maraina Popham	Grad Diploma of Teaching, Primary
Elle Gibson	Bachelor of Science
Rhiannon Hayes	Bachelor of Arts with Honours
Amelia Ward	Bachelor of Social Studies
Jayze Toia	Master of Professional Management
Lana Kennett	Postgraduate Diploma in Marketing
Maria Radich	Bachelor of Management Studies
Lauren Dawber	Bachelor of Teaching, Primary
Georgia Van Noort	Bachelor of Social Studies
Hana Wellington	Bachelor of Teaching Primary

### **Young Mariners Girls Adventure Group**

**8 – 19 years**

The girls at YM go sailing, canoeing, rowing, camping, rock climbing, swimming, shooting, rigging, knots, & badgework.

They meet Mondays, Riverside Drive before the BMX Track 6pm to 8pm and 6pm to 7:30pm for Juniors (8 to 11 years)

To get in touch  
phone Jill (09) 438 6839

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## Head and Deputy Head Girls



Term 2 has been long, busy and cold, but as we come along the final stretch of the 11-week term, it is a perfect time for reflection. We are pleased to say that our reflection shows pride in all our students and prefects have achieved. Term 2 has been flooded with internals and assessments, and the practising of hard work and study puts our girls in good stead for their mock examinations in Term 3. Congratulations girls on all your efforts, not long until the holidays now!

As Head Girls, we are immensely proud of our new and improved Student Council, which has been working hard to voice the opinions of our student body. The Student Council have been discussing what this year's Work Day money will be spent on, and have decided on spending the money on lots of little projects within the school, rather than one big project. As a council, taking on the opinions of all the students, we thought this would be the best way to spend the money, so we can brighten up the school and our students can see the results of their Work Day contributions. A definite decision has been made within the council to spend a portion of the money sound proofing the studios in the music department.

The Student Council is helping us run Project Connect, and with their help we have had great success! We recently had our first collection of donations for our OfficeMax Connect For Boxes, and were blown away by the generosity of our students. The four organisations we are donating to: the Salvation Army, the Women's Refuge, the SPCA and the Children's Ward at the Whangarei Hospital, were very grateful. Our next collection

will be this Friday 12th June, and we will be collecting the donations every fortnight, so we would like to remind students to keep bringing donations in as often as you can – it is great to be giving back to a community that has given us so much.

The Ball is fast approaching, and the senior students are very excited! The hallways are riddled with talk of hair, nails, dresses and make-up. Dayna Shelley and Emma Barnes, along with their hard working Ball Committee, have really gone the extra mile this year. The issuing of tickets began today, and the design, by Emma Davies, is exceptional. It looks like its shaping up to be an amazing night.

Keep working hard girls, and don't let the Ball and the cold weather distract you from achieving your goals!

*Te Kowhai, Kerira, Eva and Katie*

## Work Day 2015

Wow! \$22, 515 was earned by our students on Work Day. Congratulations to the following whanau classes who gained 100% participation, BGED, LCOP, MDWIL, MDSTE, MPDS, MWHI, RHAM, SCLN and LNIE. This means that every student in each of these whanau classes contributed by either working for the money independently or attending school to work. These whanau classes all get a free pizza lunch!

Work Day funds go to the Student Council which works through the Whanau classes to decide how it will be spent. As a final 'thanks for participating', there are rewards for contributing. All students who contributed go into a draw for three prizes that are drawn at the next Whole School Assembly in Term 3. The prizes are: 1<sup>st</sup> An Ipad mini, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Ipod Shuffles. Well done girls, this is a great effort.

*Doreen Bailey & Kevin Dean*  
*Deputy Principals*

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## **NCEA and the Whanau Hui**

### **Nga mihi nui ki a koutou whanau!**

A small group of parents attended the recent Whanau Hui focussing on NCEA and how it all works! We had some interesting discussions around NCEA. It was great that the Mana Kaitiaki group was there to share how they have been working through some of the more difficult things they faced such as managing workload, organising their time and managing sleep deprivation.

Shirley-Ann Crosby (Careers Counsellor) shared some very valuable time management tips and how parents can support their daughters with their personal time management plan. This led in perfectly to a talk from Dr Cheryl Bolan and Linda Matthews who run a free drop-in clinic for young people at Octane. Dr Bollen said that they see one third of young people for medical/ health issues, one third for contraception and sexual health issues and one third for mental health issues. She also spoke about our young people living in a time where bullying, depression, stress and relationships issues exist and these are complex issues for complex times. We need to have some supports available to our students.

OCTANE Clinic runs from 75 Bank Street. Appointments are not needed but you can contact the clinic on 0800ROCKUP. Parents are more than welcome to attend but young people are encouraged to bring in their own issues.

The next Whanau Hui will be held in Term 3 with a whole new focus.

## **Geography News**

Year 13 have just returned from a three day field trip to Waitomo. The students were conducting their own research on an aspect of tourism in the

Waitomo environment. This involved group work and collection of data via interviewing, observations, photographing, sketching and note taking. We experienced the tourism industry first hand by visiting the Glowworm Cave, Ruakauri Cave and Woodlyn Farm Park. The girls also enjoyed Black Water Rafting, an adventurous activity which has put Waitomo on the tourist map as much as the well-known glow worms and cave formations. The students gained valuable insight into the history of the region and current market trends through a lecture provided by the Waitomo Education Service. We stayed at Juno Hall for the two nights away and the girls catered for themselves with amazing culinary skills. Thanks to Mrs Williams for taking time out to accompany us on this final trip for this year.

Watch the school notices in Week 10 for quiz questions and prizes to be won as part of Geography Awareness Week.

### **WGHS PTA**

**Second hand uniforms**—The PTA urgently needs donated uniforms to help our school community.

**Brand new sandals**—We still have some Lastrite sandals available (limited sizes, small or large). Please contact Toni Daniels on 021 08225587 or 4377 475 if interested.

**Next PTA meeting**—Thursday 18th June, 5.30pm in the WGHS Staffroom. Guest Speaker is Dave Sneddon, WGHS School Counsellor.

All welcome.



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## Message from the Police

Yellow lines on the road around the school mean NO PARKING.

Police will be issuing tickets to ANY vehicle parking on yellow lines—whether waiting to pick up your daughter or not. This includes if you are sitting in your car.

At the intersection of Lupton Ave and Manse Street there is a STOP sign—this means STOP.

Anyone caught not coming to a complete stop at this intersection will be issued with a \$150 fine. This is your only warning.

*Hank Van Engelen*  
NZ Police



## POLICE ACTIVE TRAINING AT WGHS

WGHS have offered our school premises for Police Active Training commencing in July and continuing through to November (see Calendar on back of newsletter for specific dates). Police need authentic venues to practise for scenarios that might possibly be encountered. The training will take place after school hours in the evenings.

Therefore do not be alarmed if you see a police presence in the school in the evenings 4pm –8pm. Police may be in full combat gear.

Staff and students cannot use the Social Sciences area at these scheduled times.

## Dance Concerts 2015

Whangarei Girls' High School Dance Week is coming.... Term 3 on the **10th-15th August**. There are 2 matinee performances on Monday and Tuesday 1-2pm and night performances

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday At 7pm.

Students from all year levels are involved in a range of different styles of dance. This year we have been exceptionally lucky to have worked with choreographers Claire Sciascia and Adele Wetere.



Teachers and students are in the process of creating imaginative and original choreography also. We are all looking forward to having an exceptional performance for the community and all whanau to come and view in the school hall.

Permission slips with more details about your daughter's performance dates will be issued next term. Bookings will be taken early next term.

*Leone Neal*  
HOD Dance

## NZQA Fees

If your daughter is sitting NCEA exams this year (normally Years 11 – 13), then you should have received an invoice for \$76.70 to pay these fees. This invoice is due for payment by **3 July 2015**.

If you have a community services card, then upon completion of a financial assistance form available from the school office, payment can be reduced to \$20 per student or \$30 per family.

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## A word from the Senior Hospitality class....

It is hard to believe that we are already halfway through Term Two so it is high time that I thumped away at the keyboard to give an update about the 13HOS class of 2015.

This year's 13HOS class is going from strength to strength and they are exceeding my expectations (and those of their customers) on a weekly basis. The course involves cooking for real customers in authentic situations and the current students are really being put through their paces. Their first major event was catering for the Colours and Anzac Assembly in Term One and the students baked an array of cakes, muffins, scones and slices which would have impressed even the most seasoned baker.

A few weeks later, almost 700 cup cakes were baked and decorated in Whanau colours to be shared at House Day. To fulfil the requirements of their assessments, the students often sell their baked goods, alongside assorted gourmet sandwiches and various egg dishes to hungry staff keen to sample their skills. In order to find new challenges, I proposed they try the epic challenge of creating a Battenburg cake. The brief was to bake a duet of pastel coloured genose sponges, sandwiched together with jam, and covered in a blanket of homemade marzipan. Each and every one of the students excelled and there were lots of happy customers queuing up to buy their work of art.

I often advertise a special deal for the teachers on a first come, first served basis. This week's deal is the equivalent of the Nadia Lim Food Bag but our one is a more decadent version called the Fatso Bag and is filled with selected cakes, slices and other baked treats. I was hoping to sell 10 or 12 but I had to close orders off when we reached 40!!! Orders like that speak volumes about the girls' talents and I'm already struggling to come up with the next challenge. Maybe we should branch out into wedding cake orders! I have no doubt that the girls would do an excellent job of them too!!!

Well done girls, I'm ever so proud of you!

*Nicki Knier*

*Food & Nutrition Dept, Teacher*



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## International Students...

Hi everyone!

My desire to come to New Zealand was caused by watching the first Hobbit movie at the movies. The scenery looked lovely and so different to the scenery I was used to. Neither my friends I went to the movies with nor I could have imagined the dream of actually coming to New Zealand would ever become true for one of us. Well here I am now and my stay is nearly over. There are no words to describe how pleased I am with every single experience I made over here.



Going to a girls school was a big change for me. I had no idea what it would be like and of course I was a little scared but now the only thing left to say is: I totally enjoyed it. I really love the nice atmosphere between the girls here and I also really love all my classes over here which range from Outdoor Education over Drama to Hospitality.

Now I really need to say a big THANK YOU to Jill, the homestay coordinator of this amazing school. I'm convinced that I'm staying with the most awesome host family. I get along with them so well and I know that I will miss them when I'm back in Germany. Many of my unforgettable memories were only made possible by them so a big THANK YOU goes to them as well.

Even though my stay was not longer than 6 months I feel like everyone I met made it the best half year of my entire life. I got to do so many different things including a skydive, pistol shooting and numerous school trips as well as private trips and I'm incredibly happy about it. Maybe I'll come back one day.

*Clarissa Kupfermann*  
*Germany*

## WGHS OPEN EVENING

Thu 6th August 2015

New enrolments for 2016 are welcome to attend our Open Evening which will commence at 5.30pm in the Manawahine Gym. followed by a tour of the school which will finish at approx. 7.30pm.



Also available is a tour of Lupton House.

We look forward to welcoming prospective students to our school.

## SPT Interviews

Our staff at WGHS are looking forward to seeing you at the Student/Parent/Teacher interviews on the 2nd & 3rd July 2015.

We have a wealth of information to share with you about your daughter's progress this year. If you have any concerns about your daughter we also have specialist help available – careers, counselling and pastoral.

Letters went out recently to parents/caregivers by email or post. There will be no classes on these days, though your daughter is expected to attend the interview too.

Any queries about SPT Interviews please contact the school office Ph 430 4460 or email [office@wghs.school.nz](mailto:office@wghs.school.nz)



## School Calendar

- |     |     |   |   |
|-----|-----|---|---|
| Jun | 12  | Enterprise in Action Event  |   |
|     | 13  | Yr11 Masterclass Auck trip  |   |
|     | 14  | Lions Young Speechmaker Comp  |   |
|     | 15  | Matariki (to Fri 19 June)<br>Health Promo Week (to Fri 19 June)   |   |
|     | 16  | 12PED at WPS<br>NSSSA Table Tennis novice   |   |
|     | 17  | NSSSA mw Football<br>NSSSA Rugby U15/XV/Girls   |   |
|     | 18  | NSSSA Squash teams<br><b>PTA Meeting 5.30pm start</b>   |   |
|     | 19  | Stage Challenge<br>Whg Air Pistol workshop  |   |
|     | 20  | 12Drama Pack in and set\ NZSS Cross Country\  |   |
|     | 21  | NISS Show Hunter Champs<br>NSS Debating Comp<br>12DRA rehearsal   |   |
|     | 23  | 12 PED at WPS<br>12DRA dress rehearsal  |   |
|     | 24  | Hairdressing courses TBC<br>Yr 12 Drama opening night<br>11OEE—Peach Cove                                     |   |
|     | 25  | YES Dragon's Den final TBC<br>Drama rehearsal<br>Yr 12 Drama—matinee and evening performances                 |   |
|     | 26  | 12DVC-12/13DES & possibly PAD tertiary pathways trip<br>NSSSA Surfing<br>Yr 12 Drama production<br>SIA course |   |
|     | 27  | <b>School Ball</b>  |   |
|     | 28  | NZSS Hillary Challenge Qualifer   |   |
|     | 30  | 12ENT trip<br>12PED at WPS<br>NSSSA Open Table Tennis Champs<br>Yr 13 Drama—P5 only<br>10MUS performance      |   |
|     | Jul | 1   | Leavers' Lunch<br>STEAM Ahead Auck Uni<br>Excel Performance |
|     |     | 2   | <b>SPT Interviews</b>                                       |
|     |     | 3   | <b>SPT Interviews</b><br><b>Term 2 ends</b>                 |

## Stage Challenge 2015

Fri 19th June



*WGHS Whangarei ASB 2014 Stage Challenge winners*

## WGHS School Ball

Sat 27th June



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

[www.wghs.school.nz/news-events/event-calendar](http://www.wghs.school.nz/news-events/event-calendar)