



Whangarei Girls' High School

June 2017



Salon Culinaire 2017

Congratulations to our students who recently competed in the Salon Culinaire at Northtec amassing an impressive 20 medals for their efforts.



Dear Parents/Caregivers

Tena koutou katoa

It is with great sadness that we received the news of the passing of our Physics teacher,

Jianzeng Xi. He has been on sick leave for the last year, recovering from his treatment. Jianzeng was a much loved and respected Physics teacher and a highly valued colleague, who made a great effort to adapt to the NZ culture and cared very much about his students' achievement. Our thoughts and sympathies are very much with his family who live in Auckland.

We are delighted to have Deb Fisher back with us again until the seniors leave in November and thank Jenni Moors so much for her excellent teaching for the first few weeks of this term.

Your daughter will be bringing her report home on Friday and we ask that you discuss it with her in preparation for the Student, Parent, Teacher meeting you will be coming to with your daughter next week. We place a high level of importance on these meetings and hope to see every parent/whanau during these two days. This year sees a change in the format of these meetings and it is your daughter who will be leading the discussion, based on her reflection of the year to date and her aspirations for the remainder of the year.

This has been a very busy month with so much to celebrate and so many students and staff to be congratulated. Apart from the many sporting successes, we also congratulate the Hospitality students on the impressive number of medals they won at the recent Northland competition and Cailyn Prisk for her impressive win in the recent Rotary Speech competition. The standard was also impressively high at our own Senior Speech Competition. We have a very large number of students who are

to be congratulated on making the most of their opportunities.

'Waiora' was an unprecedented success with the talented cast taking their audiences through the whole range of emotions as they presented an important part of NZ history, making us all reflect and consider the issues from different perspectives. Congratulations to HOD Drama, Bill Walker, the cast and their whanau and everyone else who contributed to the outstanding performance. This show is coming back by popular demand!

Our HOD Music, Nicholas Grew, is also to be congratulated on his new initiative in obtaining funding to celebrate Matariki this year. A free concert and hangi was much enjoyed by a full audience and the students in the Year 11 Music for Performance programme did a superb job of running the evening. Thanks also to Te Ora Hou and Te Puni Kōkiri for their invaluable support. Another spectacular event was the FiaFia night organised by the newly formed Pasifika Club, supported by staff member Natalie Peyton. Everyone present was so impressed with the talent, enthusiasm and hard work that was evident in making the event so successful. We look forward to more.

Stage Challenge held their fundraiser evening last week and are now in the final throes of preparing for the competition this week. They have an excellent entry and we wish them all the very best for the night.

I would just like to bring to your attention a couple of points. In much the same way as we disappointingly face a flood of notes asking for their daughters to be excused from whole school events such as Swimming Sports and House Day, we are receiving an increasing number of requests from parents asking for your daughters to be allowed to leave school early for a variety of reasons such as to coach a sports team, sports practices, receive tutoring or to go to their after school paid work. As you can imagine this is highly disruptive for lesson planning and assessments and it is important that students are in class. We now have a small number of students leaving early to catch the "early bus" and the midweek football games are the only other group given

permission to leave early when they have to travel some distance to play their game. We would appreciate it if you are able to make arrangements for your daughters after school and not encroach on any scheduled class time. We will not be approving requests for students to take time out of class on a regular basis.

The other reminder is that although we highly value the support of parents/whanau at sporting events, it is also important to remember the need to be good spectators. Northland Secondary Schools Sports Association has a Code of Conduct that includes the following: Parents and Spectators will:

- Positively encourage and support the efforts of all players
- Refrain from any criticism or abuse directed at coaches or officials
- Put an emphasis on genuine effort ahead of victory and encourage players to accept the outcomes of all games, irrespective of the result
- Recognise good play by either team and never ridicule an individual player in either team
- Display self-control on the side-line – remember young people play sport for their satisfaction

We expect high levels of sportsmanship from our students and it is important that the adults model that too.

Thank you to those of you who came to the NCEA Information evenings recently. Although numbers were small we hope you found them useful and would welcome any suggestions as to what further information you would like or for any follow up.

With the increasing use of technology and the importance of problem solving and critical thinking skills, students will need to take more responsibility for their learning, knowing how to access the information they need and be able to apply it to a new context or situation. Collaboration is the way of the future and being able to work collaboratively is an essential skill.

We have some exciting new courses being offered for 2018. You will receive the course handbooks next term but a 'heads up' on new courses for 2018 are:

Year 9 – Primary Industries

Year 10 – History, a combination PE/Health option

Year 11 – Classical Studies

Year 12 – Earth and Space Science

Year 13 – Financial Capability

We are in the process of working through setting up our Kāhui Ako (Community of Learning). There are five Kāhui Ako in the Whangarei area and although we will work on individual achievement challenges, the aim is to also work collaboratively across all five Kāhui Ako. The schools in our Kāhui Ako are: Matarau School, Maungatapere School, Ngunguru School, Parua Bay School, Pompallier Catholic College, St Francis Xavier Catholic and Whangarei Girls' High School.

We are farewelling twelve of our international students at the end of this term and hope they have enjoyed their time with us and that they will return to NZ again in the future. We will also be welcoming another twelve students arriving at the start of next term to begin their stay in NZ. A big thank you to the homestay families, as being accepted as a member of your family for their time here is a key factor in making a positive experience for the international student.

Next term we also have a group coming from Japan and one from China so it is a busy time for the International Department. The group from China is from Haikou, Whangarei's sister city, and they have generously offered an opportunity for a group of students from WBHS and WGHS to make a return visit to Haikou early in December this year.

As you will have seen the new building is making good progress and is currently on track for completion in mid-December. It is very exciting to see this long awaited project coming to fruition.

Finally, congratulations to the Ball Committee and their hard working crew for the s

hugely successful social highlight of the year on Saturday night. A lot of time and effort went into organising this, especially for the student convenors, supported by Year 13 Dean, Janet Lang. A special mention too, to the PTA for their catering, which was superb. Thank you to the large number of people who contributed their time and expertise, to making it such a wonderful night.

Ngā mihi nui



Anne Cooper
Principal

English Department Corner

Congratulations to Cailyn Prisk, Year 12, who won the Rotary Regional Speech Competition on Wednesday 31 May. Cailyn spoke about the 'sound of silence', and how we are all responsible for moving towards a more unified Aotearoa. Cailyn also managed the challenge of the impromptu speech very well. For her efforts, Cailyn won \$1000.

Congratulations must also go to the winners of our school senior speech competition, Tuku Korero. The Year 12/ 13 winner was Tariro Chan-yau and runner-up Rachel Maher. The Year 11 winner was Pippa Saunders and runner-up Har-na McKenzie. Thanks also to our wonderful judges, Hiromi Beran and Sophie Gilbert-Keene, Year 13. Special thanks must go to Mrs Jackson who organised this competition; a lot of work went into ensuring that the event ran smoothly. Speechmaking is definitely alive and well at WGHS!

Good luck to Ella Short, Year 13, who is representing WGHS at the Lions Young Speechmaker contest to be held on Saturday 17 June. Ella's speech is about how we are quick to label others, and fall victim to stereotyping.

There is a lot to be excited about in the English

Department, as we head towards the end of Term 2.

Nga mihi

Margaret Northey
HOD English

Music Department

The months of May and June have probably been the busiest ever for the Music Department in recent years. After the hugely successful Variety Show back in April, we held our first exclusively Music concert of the year in May, featuring many of our junior music classes and senior solos and duets with a very high standard of performance to a packed audience.

At the end of May two groups from our school, *Room 44* (Katie Woodhouse, Aya Ball, Cleo Peck, Angela Fahy, Iris Metcalfe and Greta McClean) and *Mad Gravity* (Zadie & Soraya Hurrell and Sam Snushall) entered the regional heats of Smokefree Rockquest. Both groups presented excellent performances of their original songs and will now go on to perform in the Regional Finals at Forum North on July 1st. *Room 44* won the Best Song Award last year – we wish them all the best in the finals.

On June 1st, the Music Department was approached by the Global Committee to host a fundraising concert for 40 Hour Famine called *Songs for Syria*. This was another exciting concert of high quality performances by our students who managed to raise over \$350 of which all proceeds have gone to help Syrian refugee children.



On June 6th, many of our girls competed in various groups in the New Zealand Chamber Contest. The WGHS Chamber Group received Highly Commended and Greta McClean who was part of a group of musicians from other schools, won the Regional Finals and will now go on to perform in the Semi Finals of the National Contest in Auckland in July.

It doesn't end here! One of our Music teachers Mrs. Natalie Peyton recently formed a new Pasifika group between Boys' and Girls' High Schools who, on June 9th, hosted a sold out 2 hour concert of Pacific Island dance followed by traditional island food available for the audience; for the first time in the history of Whangarei Girls' High School.

And on June 14th, the Music Department put on a Matariki Concert, also for the first time at this school in many years. HOD Music Mr. Nick Grew received funding from Te Puni Kokiri to fund an event of music, dance and speech performances followed by hangi available for 150 audience members and 50 performers, helpers and organisers, making this a free event and an excellent way to engage our whanau with the school. The event was a huge success, acknowledging and celebrating not only Matariki but the talents, efforts and achievements of many of our Maori students. Mr Grew's Year 11 Music for Performance class (a new course which started this year) planned, prepared and organized the whole event from beginning to end. We had support from the Police and Te Ora Hou. As well as all the help we received from students and staff, a special thanks goes out to Mario Kake, Lou Davis and Paulette Hill for their huge support and effort in preparing the hangi during the day and serving the kai at the event.

In addition to all of these performances and events, on June 12th, New Zealand Opera came to our school to run a singing and songwriting workshop for our students and students from Huanui College and Boys' High and on June 23rd a select few of our more advanced and talented songwriters will attend a songwriting workshop at Auckland University.

The Music Department will now take a well-earned break from concerts and events until our next concert to be held on the evening of August 29th!

Nick Grew

HOD Music

Salon Culinaire 2017

Yet again it has been an absolute privilege to be working with our dedicated Hospitality students and to see them reap the rewards at the Salon Culinaire at Northtec. This is the annual regional competition which selects the entrants for the Nationals in July.

We had a total of 11 students enter an assortment of static and live competitions and it was certainly not a day for the work shy. Hours of committed effort had already happened at school, as well as weekend practices, hours of painstakingly typing and re-typing recipes, and my sleepless nights wondering whether anything still had room for improvement. This competition certainly separates the wheat from the chaff, or the achievers from the wannabes. It takes commitment and dedication, and is marked to the same high standard as any recognised culinary competition worldwide.

I was like a proud mother hen as I watched the students compete and they took part in their respective competitions with the utmost maturity and humility. I was so proud of them.



Their efforts were richly rewarded as our competing students amassed the following:
 We amassed 20 medals in total- 5 bronze, 11 silver, 4 gold and 2 certificates of merit.
 We done girls- I couldn't be more proud of you and I hope you truly realise just how huge these achievements are!

	Biscuits	Cake	Sandwich	Pasta	Soup	Scone	Smoothie
Jade Simmonds MHIR	-	Bronze	Bronze	-	-	-	Silver
Shayla Ujdur RPHI	Bronze	Silver	-	-	-	-	-
Nicole Morrison RHAM	-	Silver	-	-	-	-	(Merit)
Ashlee Hodkins LMNS	-	Silver	-	-	-	-	-
Phoebe Pou LNEA	Silver	-	-	-	-	-	Silver
Sarah Rowe RGWI	-	Silver	-	-	-	-	(Merit)
Rosa Pairama SPOT	-	-	-	-	-	-	Silver
Desiree Stallard BGRE	Bronze	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ellen Wiggins LHGH	-	Silver	-	Silver	-	-	-
Brianna Cossey RHOP	Bronze	Gold	-	-	-	Gold	-
Martina Whitaker STUC	-	Gold	Silver	-	Gold	-	-

Nicki Knier
 Hospitality Teacher & SIA



LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT

CONGRATULATIONS!



Language Perfect World Championships 2017

During an intense 10 day global online vocabulary competition our students did an amazing job of representing Whangarei Girls' High School. They spent a total of 449 hours online, both in class and at home, answering 257,333 questions and gaining a grand total of 116,956 points.

Globally there were 188 schools competing in our category of 51-100 students entered and we came 9th globally and 2nd in New Zealand overall across all languages.

Within our category WGHS came 1st in Spanish, both globally and in New Zealand and in French we were 5th globally and 2nd in New Zealand.

Thank you to Education Perfect, who kindly allow our students free access to their site each year during the competition.

Individually, our students earned:

2 Elite Awards (over 10,000 points): congratulations Genie Blasingame and Huia Webby.

16 Gold Awards (over 3000 points): congratulations McKenzie Healey, Chloe Smith, Shannon Titley, Kayla Hughes-Mortensen, Olivia Murray, Kelani Gaisoa, Zara Collings, Grace Lockett, Yasmine Kidwell-Smith, Bridget Buckthought, Anna Adam, Rhiannon Hammond, Pei Yu Chiu, Emma Hutchinson, Khanitha Harper and Olivia McDermid (who also won an iTunes voucher as a spot prize!).

30 other students gained Silver, Bronze and Credit awards and helped our school total over all.

Well done to all participants – you have done us proud!

Ex WGHS Students Graduating from Waikato University



We are very pleased to congratulate the following ex WGHS students who have had a qualification conferred at the University of Waikato between 1 Jan 2017 and 31 May 2017.

Andrea Beazley	Graduate Diploma of Teaching—Secondary
Robyn Gurney	Bachelor of Communication Studies
Katarina Barker	Bachelor of Arts with Honours
Truely Harding	Master of Management Studies
Kayil Toia	Bachelor of Maori and Pacific Development
Chelsea Bowden	Bachelor of Arts with Honours
Katie Bowden	Bachelor of Social Sciences
Jacinta Matson	Bachelor of Sport & Leisure Studies
Jessie Ramsay	Bachelor of Communication Studies

NCEA

A reminder that the fee for NCEA is due on 25 August. This is \$76.70, however if you have a Community Services Card, your daughter is entitled to financial assistance. She needs to collect a form from the Payments/Student Office, get it filled in and back to school. The cost will then be \$20.

If there are 3 or more members of your family sitting NCEA exams this year, you are also entitled to a fee reduction so again make sure your daughter gets the form and has it filled in and returned.

NZQA charges a \$50 late fee which would make the cost \$125 (regardless of whether or not you have a community services card) so it is well worth making sure that your payment is on time.

Scholarship Exams

Year 13 students who wish to sit subject Scholarship exams need to ensure that they have seen Mrs Martin to be entered for these. The exams are aimed at the top 5% of students in NZ. The cost for each exam is \$30. Students are advised not to sit more than 3 exams.

WHANGAREI GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL

OPEN EVENING 2017

Wednesday 9th August 2017 5.30pm – 7.30pm approx.
Starts in the Manawahine Gym followed by guided tour with specialist staff on hand to answer any questions.
A great opportunity to see our extensive range of curricular and extra curricular activities.

Come and get a feel for our special learning environment.
All Welcome.
www.wghs.school.nz



School Calendar

JUN

- 26 Enterprise in Action
Hockey trip
- 27 11OED—tramp 1
12ARH workshop
NSSSA table tennis open
- 28 11OED—tramp 1
12DRA show
Lunchtime concert
NSSSA mw football
- 29 11OED—tramp 2
NSSSA turbo touch
Write That Essay
- 30 11OED—tramp 2
Student reports issued

JUL

- 3 Y10 Market Place
- 4 Y10 Market Place
Y11DRA show
BIOFEST trip
Mufti Day
- 5 Y10 Market Place
Y11DRA Show
Leavers lunch
NSSSA mw football
STEAM trip
- 6 SPT Meetings
- 7 SPT Meetings
NSSSA SS Beast
End of Term 2
- 24 Start of Term 3
11ECO trip
Powhiri
Yr 10 Semester 2 starts
- 25 Prefect training
- 26 Ag farm trip
NSSSA mw football
Yr13 Big Day In
- 27 Whole School Assembly
- 28 NZ Gymsport
12/13HOS and FNT trip
Ag farm trip pp
- 29 NZ Gymsport
Tai Tokerau regionals
- 30 13 Commerce trip
NZ Gymsport

- 31 13 Commerce trip

AUG

- 1 13 Commerce trip
Digitech roadshow
ICAS English
- 2 11OED—weaving

- ASS combined points netball
NSSSA Clay Target Shooting #4
NSSSA mw football
- 3 11OED—weaving
NZ squash champs
12ECO trip
13ARH trip
Yr 9 assembly
- 4 NZ squash champs
12TOU trip
13OED—stand up paddleboard
WGHS lacrosse
- 5 NZ squash champs
- 7 Top Art exhibition
- 8 L2 Barista course
Top Art exhibition
NI Get 2 Go regionals
Yr 10 contribute assembly
- 9 L2 Barista course
Top Art exhibition
Open Night
NSSSA mw football
Young Enterprise exam
- 10 Top Art exhibition
NSSSA basketball senior girls
- 11 Top Art exhibition
12OED—bush trip
- 14 International Languages Week
13DRA B Show
Y10 Contribute planning P5
- 15 L2 Barista course
13DRA B Show
Options Night
NSSSA basketball junior girls
- 16 L2 barista course
13DRA B Show
NSSSA badminton teams
NSSSA mw football

POLICE ACTIVE TRAINING AT WGHS

WGHS have offered our school premises for Police Active Training commencing in July and continuing through to November. 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.