



Whangarei Girls' High School

August 2017



*Our Beloved Matua
“Papa Cedric”*



Dear Parents/Caregivers

Kei te mihi atu; kei te tangi atu ki nga mate maha i o tātou marae maha puta noa i te motu. Ngā mate o te rā, o te wiki, o te marama, o

te tau, tāenoa atu ki a rātou kua wheturangihia, haere, haere, haere atu ra. Haere ki te po nui, ki te po roa, ki te po whakaau ai to moe e moe na te ringa kaha o te mate koē i whakamoe. Ki a tātou te hunga ora, tēna koutou, tēna koutou, tēna tātou kātoa.

Sadly, it has been a difficult start to the term, with the tragic incident at Mt Tiger affecting our own directly and impacting on our much wider community in so many ways and so many levels. Staff and students worked together to support each other and the whanau and we will continue to do so.

Last Friday brought more sad news as we learned of the passing of our beloved kaumatua, Cedric Paul, or Papa Cedric as he was fondly known to te ākongā. Cedric has had a long association with our school, our first kaumatua and a very special part of our school family. He celebrated our achievements with us and supported us through the harder times. Even when his health took a turn for the worse, he still supported us whenever he could. His loyalty to our school is legendary and he took so much pleasure in the students' achievements, especially in seeing increasing numbers of outstanding Maori achievements in a wide variety of areas. He will leave a deep hole and we will miss his cheeky remarks and unique little chuckle very, very much. Our hearts go out to his wife Sue and their whanau as they mourn a very special person.

We welcome Andrea Beazley to a fulltime position in the Art and Technology Departments and Deb Fisher who has once again come to our aid in the English Department.

Exciting news at the beginning of the holidays revealed that Cara Doggett and Grace Moscrip are the new NZ Teen Ag champions, and moreover, they were the only all girl team in the competition. They also won the speech and practical sections of the competition – a truly remarkable achievement.

More good news came in hearing of the successful outcome for the Music Department in obtaining Innovation Funding, to inquire into whether the internationally renowned El Sistema approach enhances educational outcomes for Maori learners. They are looking specifically at whether the incorporation of the concepts of ako and tuakana-teina relationships, together with the principles of El Sistema, have a positive impact on Maori students' achievement and how their findings can inform the wider curriculum. El Sistema is a programme that uses orchestral music-making as a means of social development. This is a very exciting project and we look forward to hearing the outcomes.

We are honoured to have two groups of international visitors with us at the moment and hope the weather clears for them to enjoy our beautiful outdoors. One of the groups is from Wakayama in Japan and the other is from our sister school, Haikou Middle Experimental School, in China. Plans are underway for a group of our students to make a return visit to China, either at the end of this year, or early next year. Our students gain enormously from these visits as they share their cultures with each other and explore the similarities and differences.

We are also delighted to welcome a new group of students from Germany who are beginning their stay with us. Last week they were treated to a wonderful mayoral reception to welcome them to Whangarei.

We had our Whole School Assembly last week and enjoyed performances from Te Kapa Rau Aroha and the Pasifika group, and hearing about Tove Petersson's experience at the Sir Peter Blake Trust Youth Environmental Leaders' Forum, which she was selected to attend along with 54 other students from a pool of 550 applicants. There were many high levels of achievement to

celebrate at the assembly and more Elite Colours to award for outstanding achievements at national level. Elite Colours were awarded to:

Courtney Crum, Macey Polwart, Geneva Overwater and Nicole Robinson – 2nd overall in the NZ Secondary Schools Adventure Racing Championships.

Aimee-Leigh Scott – 1st in the Open Hammer in the NZ Secondary Schools Track and Field Championships.

Fern Manning - 1st in the Women's .22 pistol, junior .22 pistol, Women's Centrefire pistol and Junior Centrefire pistol at the National Speed Steel Shooting Championships.

Zane Heta – represented NZ as a member of the Under 19 Elite NZ Waka Ama W6 at the IVF Waka Ama Long Distance Championships in Tahiti. Her team won Gold in the 27km event.

O'Shea MacMillan – played in the successful NZ Kahu Youth Girls for AFL and was also selected to play in the inaugural AFLNZ Women's National Combine.

Congratulations to all these students and all the best for future events.

School examinations are scheduled to begin next week and I hope your daughter has prepared well for them. The Careers Counsellor has been running Time Management sessions for quite some time now as there is often a tension between completing internal assessments, studying for externals and managing other commitments such as sport and part time jobs. These examinations are important for several reasons, including being the assessment on which a derived grade will be based should it become necessary and informing both students and their teachers of where strengths lie and where more work is needed before the NCEA external examinations begin in November.

It is also that time of year when your daughters are choosing their subjects for next year. I

hope you are able to attend one of the option evenings so you can talk to the teachers, deans and careers staff about your daughter's course for next year. It is important that she chooses wisely as we work hard to accommodate as many of the students' choices as possible in our resourcing and timetabling for next year. If your daughter hands her option sheet in late or changes her mind because she made hasty and bad decisions, it may well be extremely difficult to accommodate the changes. Although changes can be made based on NCEA results, it is not always possible to meet these requests. The strong message now is for your daughter to hand her option sheet in on time, with a carefully considered course of study.

The Year 13 Drama production "The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists" is running this week and is yet another outstanding performance you cannot afford to miss. This is followed by the Dance Concerts next month – another highlight of the year.

Best wishes for our tournament teams heading off after examinations – we look forward to hearing their results each day and know they will do us and themselves proud.

Ngā mihi nui



Anne Cooper
Principal

Tai Tokerau Regional Kapa Haka

On Saturday the 29th of July 2017 Whangarei Girls' High School hosted the bi-annual Tai Tokerau Regional Kapa Haka Competition. Huge crowds attended throughout the day to watch the thirteen teams from schools across the Tai Tokerau compete for a position at the national competition. The crowds were also entertained throughout the day by MCs Luke Bird, Miss Kihi and Raniera Harrison.

Kapa Haka develops many skills amongst the performers including te reo Māori leadership and mahi tahi. One of the key element judges were looking for this year was enunciation and pronunciation.

Te Kapa Rau Aroha (Whangarei Girls' and Boys' High) should be extremely pleased with their results gaining first place for Kākahu, 2nd place for the Whakaeke, 2nd place for the haka and 3rd in the poi. This year, Year Nine students made up 70% of the group, so it is fair to say the future of Kapa Haka at Whangarei Girls' High is looking very bright.

The overall winners that will now represent Tai Tokerau in Manawatu in 2018 are:

1st: Te Rangi Aniwhaniwa

2nd: Te Rāwhitiroa

3rd: Te Kāpehu Whetū

Kim Rogers

Deputy Principal



NZQA Fees

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 please make sure your daughter picks up the form from the Payments Office 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 paid by 25 August.

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 three exams.





Science Corner

Science Fair

Ten students are participating this year in the Central Northland Science Fair. We want to take this opportunity to wish them all the very best. The exhibits can be viewed at Forum North

Tuesday 29th August 10.00 am — 6.45 pm

Wednesday & Thursday 10.00 am — 4.00 pm

The awards ceremony is on Tuesday 29th August at 7.00 pm

The McDIARMID Institute Discovery and Nanocamp

These camps are for Year 12 and 13 students who have a strong interest in Science. When: 14—19 January 2018. **Nanocamp** is open to all Year 12 and 13 students with a strong interest in science.

Discoverycamp is open to Year 12 and 13 Maori and Pasifika students with a strong interest in Science.

Applications close 3rd September. If you are interested see the Science noticeboard and visit the website <http://macdiarmid.ac.nz>.

Hands-On at Otago

This is another opportunity for Year 12 and 13 students to experience 'Uni life' and to test out a variety of courses that the University of Otago has to offer. Students are involved in a range of activities including a Research Project that you select at registration. The range of choices can be seen on their website. There are also social and recreational activities in the afternoons and evenings. Hands-on Otago takes place between 14—19 January 2018 and there are scholarships available. If you are wondering what else happens, see Tove Petersson and Rosie Wojcik, who attended earlier this year or read February's newsletter.



TeenAg Competition

On the 6th July, Cara Doggett and Grace Moscrip travelled to Palmerston North to compete at the Young Farmers Grand final, representing WGHS and the northern region. They were up early for the exam on farm management and agri business which involved different styles of questions and an essay. They were given a farmlet to complete over the course of the day. They had to build a planter box and have it 'plant ready' and a wooden fence painted with their team name 'WGHS Farming Chicks'. Throughout the morning small 14 minute modules were to be completed, all worth points. These included soil testing, fuel testing, an artificial cow calving scene, controlling a maize harvester, weed management, animal health and farm safety. Also Cara and Grace had to prepare a speech the night before and deliver it to a panel of judges. Their chosen topic was on 'how to get young people involved in agriculture', with the key ideas being A & P shows and Milk for Schools. Finally came the face off, together they had to make a scarecrow and stand up in their farmlet. Cara and Grace not only left with the experience of competing in the grand final, but won **OVERALL GRAND CHAMPION TEENAG 2017**, beating all the boys by 50 points and taking out 1st in practical modules, 1st speech and 2nd in the exam. Awesome effort girls!!



English Department Corner

Good luck to all of our senior students as they sit their school practice English examination. This is such a good chance to gauge how our students are tracking towards their external credits. It is important for students to reflect on their examination results, and plan towards a rigorous study programme leading them into their NCEA English examination in November.

Well done to four Year 10 students who qualified for the far-North Regional semi-final of the NZ Spelling Bee. The top 200 students from across the country were selected after they sat their written spelling test in June. Emma Hutchinson, Shannon Porter, Tegan Rutherford and Amelie Tuato'o represented us with pride on Tuesday 8th August at the regional event, held in the WGHS Library. This was such an exciting competition, with the top spellers going through to Round 16 unvanquished. The top three spellers from this semi-final won the right to travel to Wellington in October to contest the NZ Spelling Bee title. We are delighted to announce that Amelie Tuato'o qualified for the final. This achievement places her in the top 36 spellers in the country. Keep practising those spelling words, Amelie, and good luck in October!



Congratulations must also go to Rosie Wojcik, Year 12, whose evocative and haunting poem, "She is Silent", was named as one of a small number of Highly Commended poems in the prestigious National Poetry Award. Rosie received a personal message from the judge

commending her poem, and encouraging her to continue writing poetry. What a wonderful result, Rosie!

Nga mihi nui

Margaret Northey
HOD English

Mathex

Whangarei Girls' High School entered five Year 9 teams and three Year 10 teams into the Mathex competition held on the 30th June.

Mathex is a fun, but competitive Mathematics problem solving event. Our teams all represented our school very well and enjoyed themselves in the process. One of the Year 9 teams, consisting of Sophie Beasley, Min Jung Kim, Hunter Nisbet and Jess Wech performed exceptionally well, coming second by only the smallest of margins.

Congratulations girls!



Te Tai Tokerau Challenge

Two students from 6 Northland schools competed in this week long challenge onboard the R Tucker Thompson tall ship. Teaghan Kirby and Tove Petersson represented Whangarei Girls' High School on the 2017 Tai Tokerau Challenge voyage.



'We had an amazing week sailing up the Tūtukaka coast and exploring the Bay of Islands. We competed in many challenges throughout the week including hiking, navigation, rowing races, putting up the sails, relays on shore, knot tying, and completing the Tucker challenge. Jumping in the cold sea each day at dawn was made up for by the sunrises, dolphins and snorkelling in beautiful bays and lagoons. It was overall a great experience and we definitely gained a lot. We would like to thank Northpower for sponsoring us.'

Tove Petersson & Teaghan Kirby



Former Students of WGHS Graduating from Victoria University

It is with pleasure we acknowledge and celebrate past students' success in graduating from Victoria University between June 2016 and May 2017.

Alison Clemow
Cara Coats
Tayla Cook
Molly Coutts
Alicia Lawrie
Selena Lawrie
Olivia Notter
Olivia Notter
Alanah Prisk
Lauren Symonds
Dominique Unger

PGDIST - PGDip in Information Studies
PGCSS - PGCert in Strategic Studies
BA - Bachelor of Arts
BA - Bachelor of Arts
MARHP - Master of Architecture (Prof)
BCOM - Bachelor of Commerce
BA - Bachelor of Arts
PHD - Doctor of Philosophy
BAS - Bachelor of Arch Studies
BAS - Bachelor of Arch Studies
GDTCPR - GDip Teaching (Primary)

School Calendar

AUG

- 17 International Languages Week
13DRA B show
13OED trip
- 18 13DRA B show
13OED trip
- 19 13DRA B show
YES trade fair

- 22 NSSSA Netball Senior
- 23 International Students trip
13ECS trip
NSSSA Lightning League
- 24 International Students trip
- 25 International Students trip
- 26 NZSS Lacrosse
- 27 NZSS Lacrosse

- 28 ITC Travel course
Mid-Northland Science Fair
- 29 ITC Travel course
Music concert
- 30 ITC Travel course
L3 Barista 1
NSSSA Badminton individual
NSSSA Lightning League
- 31 NSSSA Netball 7-10

SEP

- 1 Air Piston Shooting workshop
NSSSA Ki-o-Rahi
- 2 NSSSA Clay Target Shooting 5
- 4 Dance rehearsals
NZSS Chris Arthur Cup—Hockey
NZSS Federation Cup—Hockey
NZSS Football Premier—UNISS
Winter tournament week
NZSS Golf
Y9 trimester 3 starts
- 5 13ECS placement
Dance rehearsals
L3 Barista 1
NZSS Chris Arthur Cup
NZSS Federation Cup
NZSS Football Premier
- 6 13ECS placement
Dance rehearsals
L3 Barista 1
NZSS Chris Arthur Cup
NZSS Federation Cup
NZSS Football Premier
Kaipara College visit
- 7 13ECS placement
Dance rehearsals
NZSS Chris Arthur Cup
NZSS Federation Cup
NZSS Football Premier
- 8 13ECS placement
Dance rehearsals
NZSS Chris Arthur Cup

- NZSS Federation Cup
NZSS Football Premier
Massey ECO Challenge TBC
- 9 NZSS Chris Arthur Cup
NZSS Federation Cup
NZSS Football Premier
13DNC show
- 10 NZSS Chris Arthur Cup
NZSS Federation Cup
NZSS Football Premier
- 11 Careers Trade Week
Dance concerts
Maori Language Week
- 12 ECS placement
Dance concerts
L3 Barista 2
- 13 13ECS placement
Dance concerts
L3 Barista 2
- 14 11OED crafting
13ECS placement
Dance Concerts
- 15 11OED crafting
13ECS placement
Dance concerts
NSSSA Volleyball 7-9
School social with WBHS
- 16 Dance concerts
- 17 Yr 10 Hillary Outdoors trip

Police Active Training at WGHS

WGHS have offered our school premises for Police Active Training which began in July and will continue 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.



WHANGAREI GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS

UNITE

DANCE CONCERT 2017

WGHS Hall Theatre
Adults \$15 / Students \$8

September 11th – 15th
Evening shows 7pm

MATINEES
Monday - Friday
1.20pm

YEAR 13 SHOW
Saturday 9th September
7pm



