



Whangarei Girls' High School

September 2017



Congratulations to Lexi Leybourn who was winner of the Best Year 10-11 Investigation, Best Year 10-11 Exhibit, Best Overall Investigation and of Best Overall Exhibit at the recent Central Northland Science and Technology Fair.



Dear Parents/Caregivers

Kia ora tatou

Spring is in the air and this term is rapidly drawing to an end. Sadly we farewell four of our staff

at the end of this term. Nicole Stratford has been here for six years with the last few as joint Head of Health. A top player herself, she has been instrumental in the success of our 1st X1 football team and for the increasing interest in football as a sport at Whangarei Girls' High School. She is an excellent teacher and also did a great job of organising the Year 10 camp last year. She is leaving us to travel before a change of career to join the police force. I would like to thank Nicole so much for all she has contributed to the success of our school during her time here. She will be a great loss to the teaching profession but a great asset to the police force. Our Student Support Co-ordinator, Becky Buchanan is also leaving at the end of this term as her husband is transferring to Waiouru. I thank her for being outstanding in her role – we will miss her very much. Helen Olsen is leaving from her part time position in the payments office. She has been with us for nine years and we thank her very much for being a great front face of the school and for her loyal commitment to the school, including managing one of our netball teams. We are very sad to be losing her. We wish them all the very best for their respective futures. Nicki Hirzel is taking refreshment leave and we look forward to having her back with us at the end of it.

Congratulations to all our tournament teams last week. They all did us so proud and should be so proud of the way they conducted themselves on and off the court. The 2nd X1 hockey did so well to win their tournament, despite having to contend with game stoppages because of the hail. They had some closely fought games and emerged as champions! 1st X1 too, should be so proud to be the 6th best

school in NZ with only one goal between them and the national champions. They had many close games and fought right to the end every single time. The Football 1st X1 team was left with very few players to sub very early on in the tournament. This was due to injury but the girls dug deep and proved the premier tournament is definitely the right place for them to be. The Senior A netball team also played well and hard, enjoying a very successful tournament. Many tired students arrived home to recover from their hard week. Sending teams away requires a great deal of organisation and commitment from so many people – from the players and their coaches and managers as well as their association members, umpires and the parents and whanau who work tirelessly to support their daughter(s) to go to tournament. Many of you take a week off work to support our teams and I want you to know how much you are appreciated. Our teams would not be able to go to tournament, let alone enjoy the success they do, if it were not for you. The girls gain so much from this week that cannot necessarily be gained in the classroom. Thank you so much to the large team behind the players.

The new classroom block is on schedule for completion in December and we are excited to see it taking shape so quickly. We have a number of projects underway for the start of next year. They include converting the current photography room to the Student Support Centre. This will include the Guidance Counsellors and the sick bay, with room for outside agencies such as the physiotherapists, Rubicon and the doctor and nurses. The tech block has weather tightness issues which have turned out to be more significant than we originally thought so that is being rectified over the holidays, with an expansion of the tech office being included in the project. A new staff carpark (part of the requirements of the new building) and garage for the school vans will be done over the Christmas holiday break, necessitating the four temporary classrooms to be removed as soon as the senior students finish in November. We will have a new electronic sign, courtesy of the PTA – thank you so much to that wonderfully supportive group. A whole school toilet upgrade is something which the students have been requesting for some time and will be done in “batches.” Additional security cameras

will be installed and the re-flooring of the Aspire Gym will be completed. We are also obtaining quotes for new fencing and gates which will enable us to lock the school up more securely.

We are continuing work on improving our levels of culturally responsive and relational pedagogy, student centred teaching and learning and inquiry. We are hopeful that we will see an improvement in student achievement, particularly Maori achievement as a result.

If your daughter is in the senior school she will have the results back now from the practice examinations. It is important that she analyses the feedback carefully so she knows where to concentrate her study efforts before the November external examinations. Please discuss her results with her and encourage her to achieve to the best of her ability. A progress report, with an up to date record of credits, was sent home with your daughter last week. This will give both you and your daughter an accurate picture of how many credits she still needs to obtain and how many are available to her.

Some of you may remember occasions when we have had the drug dogs through the school and hostel as a deterrent to drug use and to maintain a high level of awareness. Unfortunately we have not had been able to continue with this for the last couple of years, but we now have the opportunity to have the drug dogs in again and we are keen to do this. The students will be told of our intention to do this and we will be able to tell them when it is going to be within a month of taking place. There are clear procedures which the police follow when bringing the dogs into our schools. We are keen to be open and transparent and to take advantage of this opportunity.

We are currently reviewing our start to the year to ensure we identify what students need in order to be well prepared for the year ahead and then to determine the best way of meeting those needs. We hope to be able to confirm the programme for individual year levels very soon. The official start date for

2018 is 30th January.

There is a great deal to celebrate this term with the success of the Year 10 students involved in the Business Challenge, the outstanding results from the Science Fair, the Music Concert, Year 13 Drama, sports competitions and the fantastic dance concerts.

The local political candidates for the upcoming election have been invited into school tomorrow at lunchtime to answer questions from the students. It is important for our young people to be aware of the election process, what each of the parties have to offer and the importance of everyone over the age of 18 taking up their right to vote, particularly in a girls' school, when women had to fight so hard for that right – not that many years ago. Please encourage your daughter to come along to the Hall Theatre at lunchtime next Tuesday and hear the candidates.

As this is the last newsletter for the term, I wish you all a safe and relaxed holiday break with your daughters.

Ka kite ano



Anne Cooper
Principal

Head and Deputy Head Girls

Kia Ora everyone! It's been a hectic few months with the school exams, tournament week, working towards completing our final internals and carrying out initiatives. Congratulations to all the tournament girls on your seasons! You should all be very proud of your achievements.

The first of our initiatives during the last few months was Donation Week, a revamping of Connect For, which was established by the Head Girls of 2015. Boxes would be

distributed to every whanau class and students would bring in items from home to donate to four charities within the Whangarei community. However, in 2016, as the year went on, we saw there were fewer and fewer donations being brought in and several of them could not be used by the charities. Therefore this year we ran the Project Connect initiative in the form of Donation Week, emailing local charities to compile a checklist tailored to their specific needs, to ensure every item donated would help to make a difference.

After distributing the checklist throughout the school, each class brought in items for a week in a competition to see who could donate the most and complete the checklist the quickest. Congratulations to MPDS, the whanau class that won both categories! In total, all the donated items filled the theatre foyer. A massive thank you to the Student Council members, Prefects, Year 13s and classes who came to help sort the items! The charities were extremely grateful when they came to collect them the next day, and it was wonderful to know that the results of our project would be making a positive difference in our community.

Our next initiative was Honorary Big Sisters, a mentoring program initiated at Whangarei Girls' High School two years ago. Last year, it was one of the many projects run by the Student Council. However, we found that while many students were keen to be mentors, not many wanted to be labelled a mentee, especially if they only wanted help with a particular problem or a few questions. Therefore we revamped this initiative so that instead of one mentor being paired with one mentee for the entire year, senior students would apply to be mentors and run tutorials that would be advertised in the daily notices that other students could attend for as few or as many times as they needed to.

We created an application form for Year 12

and 13 students, who applied to become mentors in subjects of their strength and those we selected attended a tutoring training session to ensure they were as well prepared as possible. As a way for students to book tutorials, we created a list of the mentors, their email addresses and their subjects and sent it out in an email to all the staff and students along with an explanation. It was awesome to see the great response – within a day, several mentors had received tutorial requests and now hold both one-on-one booked tutorials and group tutorials that we advertise in the notices. If you need help or have some questions regarding a particular subject, or want a student's perspective on a difficult concept, just search 'Hiromi Beran' into your inbox and the email with the list of mentors will come up so you can book a tutorial!

Furthermore, this year at the monthly Whangarei Head Prefects' Meetings, we decided that we wanted to organise a community event that all the schools in Whangarei would have the chance to compete in, and from this goal the Whangarei Interschool Talent Quest was born. Held on Saturday 12th August, the evening was a great success, and it was fantastic to see so many people eager to support the youth of Whangarei. A huge congratulations to our performers from WGHS – Puawai Moses, Merlia de Ridder, Susan Rangiwai and Paea Slade! You did our school proud.

In Student Council at the moment, one of the projects we are working on is the creation of a new school map. The aim of this initiative is to make the transition into high school easier for 2018's Year 9 students through providing a comprehensive school map, with landmarks clearly shown and with places such as the sports office, the careers centre, the student support centre and the theatre labelled. The map has been sponsored by a local design company and should be completed by the end of this term. In Student Council we have also been planning this year's voting system for where the funds from Girls Working for Girls Day should go. Keep an ear out for news regarding this in the next few weeks!

And finally, our WGHS mock election is on Tuesday 19th September from lunch to whanau in the Hall Theatre, and all the Whangarei party candidates will be there to talk about their policies and answer questions. There is a notice board up by the front office where you can read about the policies of each party beforehand. This is an initiative run by Summer Campbell and Cultural Council coordinator Jorja Heta, with the aim of educating the students of WGHS in regards to our country's politics. Youth have the lowest voting statistics of any demographic in New Zealand, and we're hoping this chance to listen to Whangarei's party candidates and their policies will help to change this and show our girls, especially the Year 13's that are eligible to vote this year, that you *do* have a say and you *can* make a difference.

Ngā Mihi



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

WGHS Second Hand Uniform

The PTA would greatly appreciate any donations of school uniform which will be sold as second hand uniform. Funds raised from these sales go directly back to benefit the school and students.

Items for donation can be dropped off at our school office.

Thank you.

WGHS PTA



Holiday Action Challenge Programmes

**Get your kids active and
outdoors during the
holidays...**

...at Hillary Outdoors Education Centres

Hillary Outdoors Education programmes (for students from 14-18 years old) offer challenges through a variety of outdoor activities during the school holidays. Help your teenager develop new skills, build long lasting friendships and get active during the school holidays by enrolling them in one of these programmes in some of New Zealand's most remote and scenic settings.

Dates:

1 – 6 October at either Tongariro or Great Barrier Island Centres

10 – 15 December or 15 – 20 December at Tongariro Centre

Costs and travel:

\$400 inc GST per student. Includes all meals, accommodation, activities, instruction and technical equipment. Does not include travel costs to and from the Centres.

For more information and to register:

Visit <http://www.hillaryoutdoors.co.nz/holiday-programmes/> or email contact@hillaryoutdoors.co.nz

Central Northland Science & Technology Fair

This year we had eight outstanding projects (10 students) competing in the Central Northland Science and Technology Fair against 232 exhibits. The high calibre of projects produced by our girls came from months of hard work and all of our participants should be proud of the work they produced and we hope they have all enjoyed the journey to get them to this stage. Six of our students received prizes and we would like to congratulate them.

A special congratulations goes to **Lexi Leybourn** who was winner of the **Best Year 10-11 Investigation**, **Best Year 10-11 Exhibit**, **Best Overall Investigation** and **Best Overall Exhibit**. Lexi investigated the wax moth larvae which can biodegrade plastic. This is an outstanding achievement.

Grace White received a **highly commended for Best Year 9 Investigation** on the effects of deforestation on the Waioneone Creek.

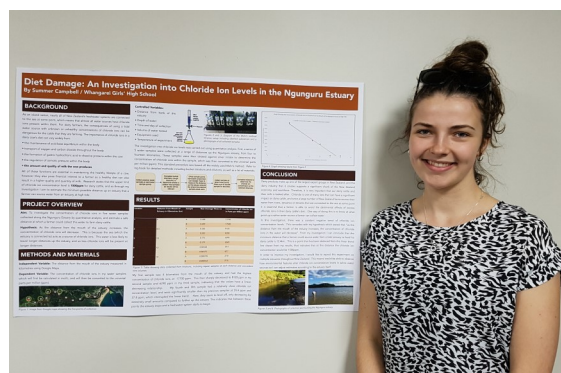
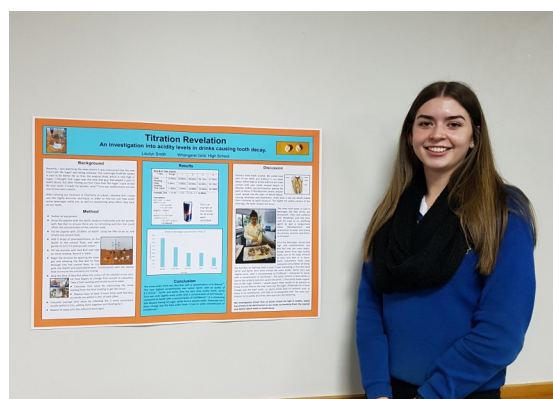
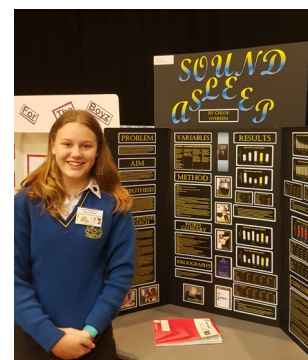
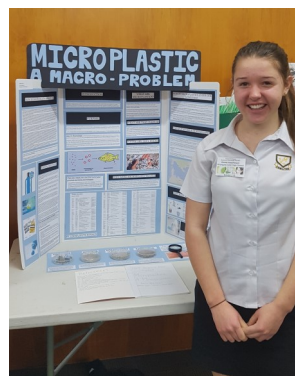
Chloe Overeem was the **winner of Best Year 9 Investigation** with her investigation into the best sound to fall asleep to.

Emma Hutchinson received a **highly commended for Best Year 10 -11 Research** that she did on microplastics. She was also **winner of the Farmlands Central Northland Research Award**.

Lauryn Smith received a **highly commended for Best Year 12-13 Exhibit**. This year she investigated the acidity of different beverages and related this to tooth decay. She was also the **winner of NRC Consistent Excellence Award**. This is a tertiary award for a senior student continuing on to University education, who has entered three or more Science & Technology Fairs, consistently achieving a very high standard. The \$1000 prize is to assist the winner with university costs.

Summer Campbell received a **highly commended for the Best Year 12-13 Exhibit** with her investigation into the chloride ion levels in the Ngunguru Estuary. She was also **winner of the Fonterra Northland Operations Dairy Industry Award** and received a **highly commended for the Geoscience NZ Earth Science Award**.

Well done to all of the girls and a big thankyou to Mrs Phillips who mentored them throughout their endeavours.



WGHS Fashion Students

The pressure is on for our Textile and Fashion design students who are entering the annual Bernina Design Awards. Garments need to be constructed ready for prejudging by the 16th of September and the show is on the 7th October at Forum North. This year is the 40th anniversary of the show and they have 100+ entries approximately 40 of these are from Whangarei Girls' High School students with three ex-students entering and one staff member. All of the senior students have been developing their designs over the last two terms and have produced a wide range of interesting outcomes which should look stunning on stage.

Tickets to the show are available from Forum North Booking Office and are \$40 each, with profits being distributed to a local charity by the Rotary Club.

Past student Kaylee Powell is studying at NZ Fashion Tech in Wellington and is in her final year. "The Colour of Fashion Resene Challenge" requires the students to create a design using one of their fashion trend colours and a supplied sari as their fabric. The best of



these are selected to show in the Resene Designer Show at NZ Fashion Week. Kaylee created a vibrant 80's inspired cocktail dress which looked sensational on the runway. Kaylee was also a recipient of the Prime Minister's Scholarship, which was to travel to Asia (India) and see many aspects of the fashion industry. She was away for six weeks and found it a rewarding and inspiring experience. Kaylee is one of the ex-students entering the Bernina Fashion Awards this year.

Another past design student doing great things is Youbin Kim. Youbin is currently studying at AMFI in Amsterdam and just complet-

ed her first year there. She has quickly developed and refined her skills to an astronomically high standard. During her first year at AMFI, students had a research week in London where they had one old style to look at and find inspiration

from in a modern way. Youbin had an empire line dress as her starting point. The school prioritises environmentally friendly practices and this was reflected in her final outcome as the whole garment is one large piece of fabric which can be unpleated and reused at a later date if needed. Youbin recently returned to Amsterdam after having her summer holiday back here. It was fantastic to catch up with her and hear all her stories and see her work.



Whangarei Girls' High School is producing high calibre design students who are bound to be successful in their chosen fields. It is an exciting era for the technology and innovation sectors as the worlds is becoming more aware of the need for better quality, well designed products to stop the cycle of consumerism and waste. As a teacher I am so proud of my students, past and present, and watch their futures with a huge amount of respect and a little bit of envy as to the opportunities available to them which didn't exist back in my time.

Rachael Pedersen

Textile and Fashion Teacher

School Trophies

Trophies awarded last year are due to be returned asap. Please drop off any trophies to the school office.

We need these urgently returned so we can organise the 2017 awards.

Thank you.

School Calendar

Sep

- 18 Yr 10 Hillary Outdoors trip
13ARH trip
- 19 Yr 10 Hillary Outdoors trip
12/13 ENT trip
Debate
L3 Barista 2
NSSSA Volleyball 7-9
- 20 Yr 10 Hillary Outdoors trip
L3 Barista 3
NI Auckland Rogaine Champs
- 21 School Hospitality trip
Yr 10 Hillary Outdoors trip
Music concert
- 22 School Hospitality trip
Yr 10 Hillary Outdoors trip
13OED—Stand up paddleboard
Lunchtime concert
- 24 12OED—OPC
- 25 12OED—OPC
Ag farm trip
- 26 12OED—OPC
L3 Barista 3
Ag farm trip
Sports/Cultural photos
- 27 11DRA show
12OED—OPC
L3 Barista 3
Mufti Day
Prefect applications close
YES Directors Review Day
- 28 11DRA show
12OED—OPC
13ENG Seminar Day
- 29 12OED—OPC
Head Girl applications close
End of Term 3

Oct

- 13 NI Spring Challenge
- 14 NI Spring Challenge
- 15 NI Spring Challenge
- 16 Start of Term 4**
- 17 Barista assessment
Whanau—Yr 11 NCEA meeting
- 18 Barista assessment
12TOU trip
13BIO/ENB trip
- 19 Whanau—Yr 12 & 13 NCEA meeting
- 20 12OED—first aid
WGHR birthday
YES Regional Awards
- 24 13OED—scuba
House Captain applicants at assembly

- 25 L3 Barista course
13OED—scuba
House Captains applicants at assembly
L3 Barista course
WGHS Sports Awards
- 26 13OED—scuba
House Captain applicants at assembly
ASB NSSSA Awards
WGHS Cultural Awards
- 27 13OED—scuba
House Captain applicants at assembly
NSSSA Touch—Yr 9 & 10
Whole School Assembly
- 30 Head Girl 2018 voting opens
- 31 L3 Barista course
House Captain voting closes
Prizegiving practice

Nov

- 1 L3 Barista course
WGHS Senior Prizegiving
- 2 12ENT trip
12OED—rock
- 3 11OED—rock and cave
Junior speech
- 7 NSSSA Junior AFL
- 9 NCEA exams begin
- 10 NSSSA Renegade Hockey
- 14 NSSSA Volleyball Girls 9-10
- 15 Yr 10 DRA production
NSSSA Badminton Team 9-10
- 16 Yr 10 DRA production
- 17 Orientation Day
- 20 Yr 10 Manaia & Mansfield camp
- 21 Yr 10 Manaia & Mansfield camp
NSSSA Volleyball finals
- 22 Yr 10 Manaia & Mansfield camp
Yr 10 Rutherford & Sheppard camp
NSSSA Tennis doubles—Yr 9 & 10
- 23 Yr 10 Rutherford and Sheppard camp
- 24 Yr 10 Rutherford and Sheppard camp

Updating Student Information

Please remember to let us know if your contact information changes as letters and notices are often emailed out to whanau. To advise the school about a change to your details simply email office@wghs.school.nz or phone (09) 430 4460.