



Whangarei Girls' High School

November 2015



***WGHS Senior Dux 2015
Emma Barnes & Ala'h Musa***



Dear Parents / Caregivers

Tena koutou katoa

Now that the senior year is nearly over, I would like to take this opportunity to give them our best wishes for success in

their final assessments in their respective NCEA levels. A few have the satisfaction of knowing they have already achieved the required number of credits, others are beaver away on the last internal assessments and most are busy with for their external examinations. We hope they all achieve the goals many have worked so hard for during the year.

You may have heard about the Government's initiative "Investing in Educational Success" which is now called "Communities of Learning." A meeting at the end of last term of primary and secondary principals showed that there is a strong interest in working together to form a super-cluster including all the schools in Whangarei and surrounding districts. We think there is a great opportunity here for collaboration to improve specific aspects of student achievement, sharing the depth of expertise we have collectively in the teaching staff in our schools.

I am sure you will also remember in earlier newsletters that we have been working on a review of the Year Nine curriculum and our timetable structure for 2016. The new courses in Year Nine have proved popular with some exciting programmes planned for these students next year. We intend to go with a 5 day, Monday to Friday timetable, and a copy of the final draft is enclosed with this newsletter. Tuesday will be a fixed day. One benefit for this is that we want to strengthen our whanau programme and so now the whanau teachers will meet with their whanau classes every day for 25 minutes, instead of for four days a week as we have now. The late start on a Tuesday morning will move to an early finish as we have moved the professional development time for the staff to the end of the day instead of the beginning. This means that the students will be released at 2.45pm every Tuesday afternoon. It also means that we will be able to use this slot for outside speakers instead of finishing early as we did last term. We will be continuing to work on increasing our levels of cultural competencies, student centred teaching and learning and use of technology across the curriculum which all require quality time for staff to be able to meet and plan and share best practice. We also intend to continue working with the outside expertise

we are working with this year. As there are only four periods on a Tuesday, they have been lengthened by five minutes to 65 minutes each. As with everything we do, we will review this new structure as we go through the year and will review the Year 10 programme for 2017 as the Year Nine cohort from next year move through the new curriculum structure. We would welcome any feedback you have on this.

Earlier this term we held our final whole school assembly for the year. It was wonderful to have the representatives from some of the charities our students have supported this year, particularly through their "Project Connect" which has been run through the Student Council and the Hospitality students with their support for Riding for the Disabled. It is to the credit of students across the school that they give so willingly to support these worthwhile causes and they are well rewarded by seeing the difference their contributions have made. 102 students received awards for a variety of high achievements including School Colours, Reserve Bank Monetary Challenge, Goethe examinations, 2nd X1 hockey tournament champions and the Award for the Liam and Frankie Davison Essay Contest. Special congratulations go to students who were awarded Elite Colours:

Academic

Nicole Robinson

High Distinction in Year 10 Writing for ICAS (International Competitions and Assessments for Schools)

Sport

Maia Prochazka

National Aerobic Gymnastic Step Champion

Jaimee Mason

1st and two 2nd placings in Step 4 Aerobics at NZ Secondary Schools Gymsports Championships

Gemma Lawton

two second placings in the Step 4 Aerobics at NZ Secondary Schools Gymsports Championships

Hanna Webb

2nd placing in Step 4 Aerobics

Chloe Campbell

two 1st placings in vault and Step 6 Gymnastics

Genie Blasingame

2nd in Step 6 Aerobics

Adrienne Gardiner

3rd in Step 4 Aerobics

Whitney Mills

3rd in Step 4 Aerobics

Ella-Rose Kini

NZ Junior Black Sticks 2015 Hockey squad

Tynika Lafaele-Edwards

2nd place at NZ Karate Nationals

Yvette Hendriske

2nd and 3rd placings at NZ Karate Nationals

Olivia Crum

3rd place at NZ Karate Nationals

MacKenzie Johnson

NZ Year 11 – 13 Girls' Squash team – Number 3 player;

2nd place at NZ Secondary Schools teams Squash Championships

Hayley Green

2nd place at NZ Secondary Schools teams Squash Championships

Iyra Stewart

2nd place at NZ Secondary Schools teams Squash Championships

Gemma Turketo

2nd place at NZ Secondary Schools teams Squash Championships

Tia Saunders

2nd place at NZ Secondary Schools teams Squash Championships

Pippa Saunders

2nd place at NZ Secondary Schools teams Squash Championships

Mia Gordon

Gold medal at NZ Short Course Swimming Championships

Ellie Eastwood

two silver medals at NZ Short Course Swimming Championships

Hayley McIntosh

NZ Swimming Team to compete at Swimming Australia State teams Age groups and silver and bronze at NZ Short Course Swimming Championships

Paige Lawgun

1st and 3rd placings at Oceania/Pacific games Weightlifting Championships in Papua New Guinea and 6th at 2015 Commonwealth Youth Games

These are outstanding achievements to students who are truly at the top in their areas of talent.

We congratulate all our ASB finalists and code winners for their success at the Northland Secondary School Sports Awards. They are to be congratulated on being named as finalists amid the tough competition from our

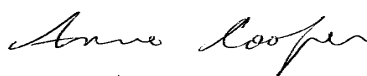
talented youth in Northland and we are proud of all our code winners. Special congratulations to All Rounder of the Year, MacKenzie Johnson for this richly deserved achievement.

Our students have achieved phenomenal success throughout the year and in such a wide range of areas. We heartily congratulate them on their outstanding achievements but also want to acknowledge the great contribution made by staff, coaches, managers, parents and whanau, sporting bodies and all those who have worked hard to encourage, support, train and be there to assist our students to reach these heights. It is very much a team effort and we are most appreciative of your time, commitment and expertise.

Thank you to everyone who joined us to celebrate our students success at Senior Prizegiving last week. It was wonderful to see the high levels of talent and also the commitment shown by so many students. They did themselves and us so proud. The large number of scholarship winners attests to the fact that our students can more than hold their own in a nationally competitive environment and we are thrilled for them all.

This is a busy time of year with planning underway for 2016 along with preparation for Year 10 camps which are going out shortly, Year 13 camp at the beginning of next year and Junior Prizegiving not too far away either. We hope to see many of you there to celebrate the outstanding achievements of our students.

Regards,



Anne Cooper
Principal

WGHS Senior Prizegiving 2015



Special Academic Awards

Hiromi Beran	Sandilands Cup for Academic Excellence in Year 11
Genie Blasingame	Cooper-Child Cup for Best All-Round Year 11
Mihi Shepherd	Fenton Cup for Academic Excellence in year 12 and Penny Hill & Philippa Mardon Cup for Best All Round Year 12 pupil
Rebeca McKean	Wendy Ralls Cup for Special Merit in Year 12
Teale Vint	Helen Waters Memorial Trophy for Academic Endeavour in Year 12
Natalie Attwood	Carroll & Clare Mathews Cup for significant academic and personal success
Moana Schoffa	Sneddon Cup for Special Merit in Year 13
Kerira Tapene	Staff Cup for Academic Endeavour in Year 13
Hayley Green	1972 Prefects Cup for Best All-round Year 13
Rachael Machado	Proxime Accessit (1971 Prefects Cup)
Emma Barnes	Dux (Pishief Cup) (shared)
Alah Musa	Dux (Pishief Cup) (shared)



Health & Physical Education Curriculum

As part of the review of our Health courses we seek feedback from our community regarding our Sexuality Education units of work.

When: Mon 30th Nov 2015
Time: 5pm to 6pm
Where: WGHS Staffroom (access via Gate 4, Lupton Ave—follow signs)

All welcome to attend and share your thoughts with us regarding our current programmes. Course outlines and content will be available for viewing that evening.

If this date does not suit please feel free to email your ideas to me at:
phillip.mechen@wghs.school.nz

Regards

Phil Mechen
HOD Health

Volunteers Required for Memory Tree Campaign

North Haven Hospice is looking for Year 12 & 13 students to help out with their annual Memory Tree Campaign between 7-20 December. Working with youth, to grow an understanding of Hospice is important to us and we would welcome the opportunity for your students to work with and learn more about volunteering leading into Christmas 2015.

Our annual Memory Tree campaign involves placing Christmas trees in set locations (usually about five stores) around town and providing people with an opportunity to write a message in memory of a loved one on a star or heart to hang on the tree. Volunteers sit at the trees and provide a friendly face and someone to have a chat with, especially for the many who find Christmas a sad time of the year.

We are looking for young people to assist us by sitting at the trees with another volunteer for a minimum of 2 hours. They will be responsible for collecting donations, helping with hanging decorations on the tree and talking to people as they share their stories.

Our youth volunteers need to be mature, reliable, honest and most importantly caring and empathetic. We can either place the students with an experienced volunteer or train them and a family member of mature friend so that they know what to do during their rostered shift.

We will be available at the end of the phone at all times if required.

If you are interested please contact Kayla Tattley on 437 3355 or
kaylat@northhavenhospice.org.nz



Students Who Hold a Restricted Driver's Licence

Police have noticed there are restricted drivers breaching their licence conditions and driving with passengers.

If caught, drivers will receive a \$100 fine and incur 35 demerit points for each breach.

There will be NO warnings.

Hank van Engelen
Campus Cop



International Students

Dear students and teachers of WGHS,

I want to say a huge thank you to all of you because you made me feel so welcome in NZ. Next to my family was school a big part of my life here and you made it really enjoyable. I especially thank my amazing dance class and dance teacher Mrs Hughes for the great week of the pulse dance concert. Honestly I wanted to change my class when I was told that there is a concert coming up and I am supposed to participate....well I told my host-mum about it and she assumed I would go before I could tell her my worries. So I stayed in my dance class and in the end the pulse dance concert was one of my greatest experiences at school and dance became my favourite subject. I also went to Girls for Christ and although it is a very small group they made me feel very welcome and I really recommend to go there if you believe in God or are just interested. Although school was quite nice I also enjoyed the spring holidays and the holidays during exams when I had the opportunity to see great places and make good friends. I am grateful for this time and I am looking forward to come back because I know I am going to miss it. Many greetings to all my friends I made here and see you soon!

Fiona Metz, Germany



Kia ora!

My name is Mara Fock and I'm from Germany. I'm sixteen years old and I've been in New Zealand since July. However, my time here will end soon and I'm really sad about that. I enjoyed the time at Whangarei Girls High School very much.



From the first moment I arrived, I've been welcomed at Girls High. All the students were really friendly and helpful. I felt like I'm part of the classes at once. Also the International coordinator welcomed me very friendly and supported me whenever I needed their help. But not just the international coordinator and the students integrated me straight from the beginning. Also the teachers were really interested in me and my reasons for coming to New Zealand. They tried to include me into class but also support me if I needed their help. I took part in the exams and it was a great feeling to succeed.

I stayed with my host family and that was great. They showed me lots of parts of New Zealand and I was part of the family from the very beginning. I also learned a lot about the Maori culture and their language. I spent my holidays at the farm of my 'grandfather' and had it opportunity to learn lots of new things and at the end I became a real farm girl ;)

To end my journey in New Zealand I will visit the South Island and travel around with an organization and friends. But one thing is for sure. I will come back to New Zealand to visit my wonderful host family, my new kiwi friends and Girls High. I want to thank all the people, who made my time so great and interesting. And for all the people who are thinking about an exchange, I just can recommend doing it. It will be one of your best times in your life!

Mara, Germany

School Calendar

Nov	13	Orientation Day for Yr 8 students enrolled for 2016 International students' prog.
	14	International students' prog. NISS AFL Juniors
	15	International students' prog. NISS AFL Juniors
	16	NCEA Exams International students' prog. Yr 10 camp B/L
	17	NCEA Exams International students' prog. NSSSA Volleyball Yr 9 & 10 Yr 10 camp B/L
	18	NCEA Exams International students' prog. Yr 10 camp B/L Yr 10 camp M/M
	19	NCEA Exams International students' prog. Yr 10 camp M/M
	20	NCEA Exams International students' prog. Yr 10 Camp M/M
	23	NCEA Exams International students' prog. NISS Jnr Volleyball Yr 10 camp R/S
	24	NCEA Exams International students' prog. NISS Jnr Volleyball Yr 10 camp R/S
Dec	25	NCEA Exams International students' prog. NISS Jnr Volleyball NSSSA Tennis doubles Yr 10 camp R/S
	26	NCEA Exams Circus show/workshop International students' prog. NISS Jnr Volleyball NSSSA Volleyball North
	27	NCEA Exams International students' prog. NISS Jnr Volleyball
	28	NISS Jnr Volleyball
	30	NCEA Exams
	1	NCEA Exams WGHS Graduation Dinner NSSSA Jnr Beach Volleyball
	2	NCEA Exams Music concert—6pm

Dec	3	NCEA Exams
	4	WGHS Junior Prizegiving Junior reports issued
	5	NZSS Athletics Champs NZSS Girls' Rugby 7's
	6	Get 2 Go Grand Final NZSS Athletics Champs NZSS Girls' Rugby 7's
	7	Term 4 ends Document Day Get 2 Go Grand Final

stowaway Lockers



School Lockers

Be in quick – limited lockers available

If you wish to reserve a locker for 2016 or keep your current locker, you will need to fill in an online order form at www.stowawaylockers.co.nz as soon as possible. Alternatively, you can call or text Robyn on 4375818 or 0274 221 783.

If you no longer require your locker for 2016, please let us know by email stowawaylockers@ihug.co.nz. You will need to return your key at the end of the term, sellotaped to a piece of paper with your details on for your bond refund. Ensure the locker is left empty, as any remaining items will be disposed of at the end of the year. Keys will need to be received within one week of term 4 ending and can be posted to: Stowaway Lockers, 220 Ngunguru Road, RD3, Whangarei 0173. Refunds will be posted or direct credited to your bank account in January 2016.

Robyn

STOWAWAY LOCKERS

**Final WGHS Newsletter for 2015
to be issued Fri 4th Dec**