



Whangarei Girls' High School

June 2016



Students performing "The Taming of the Shrew" at the
SHEILAH WINN SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL
in Wellington recently

www.wghs.school.nz



Dear Parents / Caregivers

Tena koutou katoa

With the end of term approaching rapidly, so are the important SPTs (student, parent, teacher meetings) where we ask you to come in with your daughter and meet with her whanau teacher to discuss her progress and to look at the next steps in her learning. There will be no timetabled classes on those days, 7th and 8th July, and we urge you to make your online booking as soon as possible as we would like to see all of you over the course of those two days. Research has proven that parental and whanau involvement in their children's education is essential for academic achievement. We aim to work closely with whanau wherever possible.

You will receive your daughter's mid year report on 1 July and hope that you find the new format provides you with clearer information about your daughter's progress and whether she is on track to achieve her goals and qualifications. We welcome any feedback you would like to give to us.

Last month we had our ERO Review and are thrilled that the unconfirmed report is extremely positive with the recommendation that the next review is carried out again in four to five years - the best possible result from the review. The conclusion states " Whangarei Girls' High School is a high performing school. Students are provided with a responsive, relevant curriculum and achieve very well. High levels of collaboration between students, teachers and leaders are key factors in the school's continued success. School governance and leadership are very effective."

Other comments from the body of the report are:

- Students play a proactive role in leadership and initiate innovative projects to advance the learning culture of the school
- Achievement rates for Maori students, while not yet matching overall school levels, are higher than national results and also show improvement over time.
- The Board's vision of the school as a culturally responsive community of learners underpins effective governance practices.
- School leaders and the teaching staff share a commitment to ongoing improvement.
- Teaching practices are of high quality
- High levels of trust between students, whanau and staff supports collaboration and willingness to take on new challenges, contributing to sustainability and positioning the school well for ongoing improvement
- Lupton House: well considered guidance and leadership of the hostel manager and the commitment of all staff to promoting an affirming and inclusive hostel environment

Areas we will continue to focus on are:

- Increasing Maori achievement

- Junior assessment

We should receive the confirmed report very soon and it will be on the website in two or three weeks' time.

I would like to thank outgoing Board of Trustees members George Beasley and Melissa Gilbert-Smith for all their time, commitment and valuable contributions to the school over the last few years. We also congratulate and thank returning members Sue Cresswell, Laura Baker and Bridget Westenra for their continued support of our school and warmly welcome new members Jim McLeod and Fraser Hurrell.

The last few weeks seem to have had a heavy cultural emphasis with the Shakespeare group performing extremely well in the competition in Wellington over the long weekend, the school and regional Nga Manu Korero competitions, chamber music competitions with a group of students qualifying for the national competition, the senior speech competition, Year Ten Drama performances, the highly successful Variety Show and of course, the long awaited Stage Challenge competition. We congratulate all the students involved in these events on their hard work and success and wish the Stage Challenge entry all the best for next Friday night.

The Digital Horizons Conference which was held at the beginning of this month, was a great success and thanks to Carolyn Bennett-Alexander and her committee for putting together a great line-up of presenters and workshops which were largely led by teachers from schools throughout Tai Tokerau. It is important for teachers to have the time to collaborate and learn from each other in the important and fast, ever-changing world of technology.

Thank you to all of who supported our annual fundraising Work Day at the start of this month. It was very successful with \$14,700 raised so far. The application forms for the scholarships and grants which students can apply for have been finalised and are now open for applications. These are available to all students who participated in Work Day and are a fantastic example of students working to help and support each other.

We have recently come back from a trip to China organised by NorthTec. It was highly successful with ten students coming out on three week scholarships in August. Six girls are coming to us and four boys are going to Whangarei Boys' High School. We also have a group coming from Otani High School in August so we look forward to hosting these students, sharing our culture and learning more about theirs.

We look forward to seeing you at the SPT meetings at the end of term and wish you all a happy and safe term break.

Warm Regards
Ngā mihi nui

Anne Cooper
Principal



Head and Deputy Head Girls

Justice Hetaraka Mihi Shepherd

Jessica Fowler Dani Kirby

Term 2 is well under way, and we are excited about the new activities and achievements our girls have undergone this term.

Work Day was held on the 6th of June, and is a day where our girls go out into the community and work for a minimum of \$20. This is then put into an overall fund, and the student council, gathering opinions from the student body, decides what to spend the raised money on. The average sum we receive each year is approximately \$20,000. This year a new initiative has been developed to use \$10,000 as a student scholarship fund; renaming Work Day as "Girls Working for Girls." With help from the Student Council, the scholarship fund has been segregated into 10 categories: High Performance, Stationery, Uniform, Camps/Trips, Sports Fees, Arts, Technology, Department, Charity and a Wild Card Category. Each scholarship has specific recommendations individual students must meet, and they are open for every student to apply for. This initiative is based on creating an opportunity for students to work for each other; where the Work Day money will directly benefit our students and can have immediate effect on individuals at WGHS "Girls Working for Girls". This initiative will be implemented now that the Work Day money has been collected.

"Te Timatanga", will appropriately be launched during Matariki on June 30th. This initiative is part of the goal to normalise tikanga reo within our school culture. Driven by the Head Girl team, we are excited to commence this initiative as a historical event that is fully student led. The Senior Maori class composed "Te Timatanga" which is not a Christian prayer translated, but a positive affirmation to start our day. Therefore, our students and teachers can take Te Timatanga with them everywhere they go despite differences in religion, culture or ethnicity – it is intended to unite people and

experiences. The launch is a historical whole school event and will consist of the Senior Maori class reciting Te Timatanga and explaining its meaning, followed by a music composition performed by the Year 11 music class. Following this, each whanau class will release balloons that have positive affirmations or goals of the individual students in the school tied to them, symbolising the beginning of our journey forward into normalising Maori culture and reo in our school. We will know we have achieved our goal when a majority of our students and staff can recite Te Timatanga and hold a personal understanding of it.

Along with these exciting initiatives our fabulous team of prefects have been working hard to complete their own individual goals. The Global Issues Committee leaders Cezanne Hamilton and Jennifer Wordsworth have been having real success in running the 40hr Famine, this year raising awareness for the Syrian Refugee Crisis. They held a staff versus prefect challenge, which the prefects won of course, that was both educational and hilarious.

The Health Committee and its leaders Renee Johnson and Emily Brunker, have also had great success in running the first ever "Build a Bra" competition held at WGHS. This inter-house competition was worth house points, and involved each whanau class buying a cheap bra and jazzing it up in pink and white theme, to support Breast Cancer Awareness. The winning whanau was LSEV, and the top 6 bras from each house are being turned into a sculpture which Emily and Renee are donating to Breast Cancer Northland.

On top of a highly successful House Day, the continued work on Stage Challenge, and other impending endeavours, our entire prefect team are continuing to work amazingly. We are very proud of them all.

Our senior students are currently prepping for the WGHS School Ball on June 25th. The Ball Committee and its leaders, Kacey Findlay and Gemma Turketo, have been working hard to ensure we all enjoy our special night. For some, it will be our last ball to attend and others their first – either way we hope you enjoy your night and hope to see the seniors all there!

We wish you luck for the remainder of this term!

Ngā mihi,

BOARD OF TRUSTEE ELECTION RESULTS

We would like to introduce the following two new Board members:

Fraser Hurrell
Jim McLeod

and welcome back:

Laura Baker
Sue Cresswell
Bridget Westenra

to the Board of Whangarei Girls' High School.

Congratulations to the following ex-students of WGHS who graduated from the University of Waikato in April this year.



Tracy Hansen	Master of Educational Leadership. First Class Honours.
Sam Williams	Bachelor of Social Sciences with Honours
Becks Slade	Graduate Diploma of Teaching-Primary
Amelia Ward	Postgraduate Diploma in Psychology
Ashley Patterson	Bachelor of Teaching-Primary
Amelia Smith	Bachelor of Laws Bachelor of Social Sciences
Katarina Baker April Nordstrom	Bachelor of Arts Bachelor of Science Bachelor of Teaching-Secondary
Hazel Seager	Bachelor of Arts Bachelor of Teaching-Primary
Alanah Vinson	Bachelor of Management Studies
Chelsea Bowden	Bachelor of Arts
Jamie Donovan	Bachelor of Computer Graphic Design
Hayley Phillips Josie Robinson	Bachelor of Social Sciences Bachelor of Communication Studies
Hannah Russell	Bachelor of Sport and Leisure Studies
Kelley Tantau	Bachelor of Arts

NCEA

A reminder that the fee for NCEA is due on the **25th August**. This is \$75, however if you have a Community Services Card, your daughter is entitled to financial assistance. She needs to collect a form from the 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.

UNIFORM

Please help us to keep our standards high. Skirts and trousers should not be sewn in and footwear should be either flat black sandals or plain, flat, black, shoes.

White socks or black tights may be worn.

Girls may wear blue, black or white scarves, no hats.

Girls may also wear plain black showerproof jackets – no sweatshirts or hoodies are allowed.

We do rely on your support to enforce our uniform.

ATTENDANCE

85% presence is the figure that is touted as being essential for students to achieve to their potential. However, if your daughter is sick, please ring and leave a message with the Attendance Officer. This should be followed up with a note explaining her absence when she returns to school so that we can record this information accurately.

Should you know that your daughter is going to be away for an extended period of time, please ensure that you write and let us know. This should save you from receiving daily absence notifications and allow us to know where your daughter is.

MUSIC

The WGHS Chamber Group performed really well in the Northland Heats of the New Zealand Chamber Music Contest on 7 June, receiving High Commendation. Also Frances Christian Farrow delivered a dazzling performance as part of a trio who won the Northland Heats and will now go on to perform at the Regional finals in Auckland.



Congratulations to the following girls.

Elizabeth Townley
Ariel Eggleton
Rahel Herzog
Hiromi Beran
Shania Schwartzfeger
Sam Skovlund
Huia Webby
Luci Winterton
Frances Christian Farrow

PTA 2nd HAND UNIFORM SALE

4.30pm—5.30pm Thursday 30 June in the SSC, prior to PTA meeting.

Cash only or pay at the school office the next day. Most items \$5—\$25. We have plenty of black trousers available at \$10 each.

SPT Interviews

Student Parent Teacher interviews are being held on Thursday 7 and Friday 8 July. You should have received an email or a letter home with your daughter explaining the booking process.

There will be no classes for students on these days.

If you have any queries regarding these interviews please ring the school and ask to speak to your daughter's Dean.

HOMESTAY REQUIRED

We are seeking homes for our new intake of German international students coming to our school in January 2017. Some will stay 6 months and some are here for a year.



It is important we introduce our International students into homes which will take an interest in the student and are prepared to actively make her time here an enjoyable learning experience.

If this sounds like you and your family we would love to hear from you.

Please contact me on email:

jill.brien@wghs.school.nz

Homestay Manager Whangarei Girls' High School.



Photos from the recent Salon Culinaire Competition.

top left— poached salmon & soft boiled egg bagel

top right—glazed fruit flan

Above left— luscious lemon tart—**Silver**

Above right— tropical sunset smoothie

More photos from the
SHEILAH WINN SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL
in Wellington recently



Congratulations to Whangarei Girls' High for winning the Regent New World, Northland Salon Culinaire TOP SCHOOL AWARD at Northtec.



School Calendar

June

- 16 13ENT Trip
- NSSSA Squash– Teams
- 17 13OED Tramp
- 17-19 NZ Cross Country
- NSSS Surfing
- 20-24 12HED Health Promo
- 21 Level 2 Barista
- Travellers Programme
- 22 Mid week football
- 22-24 Yr12 show
- 12OED shelter build
- 24 Stage Challenge
- 25 WGHS Ball
- 26 Hillary Challenge 16hr race
- 27-28 12/13FNT Fine Food NZ
- 28 Level 2 barista
- Table Tennis open
- 28-29 11OED Tramp overnight
- 29 12ART History trip
- 29-1 Hairdressing course
- Mid week football Wk 7
- 29-30 Yr12 Drama
- 30 12ENT trip
- 13PED Tough Gal Comp
- EXCEL Tour
- Music Concert
- PTA Meeting
- Sports Exchange

JULY

- 30-1 Yr11OED Tramp overnight
- 1 NSSSA Surfing #3
- WGHS/WBHS Social
- 3 NI Clay Target Shooting
- 5 Travellers Programme
- 6 Leavers' Lunch
- MW Football
- 7-8 Student/Parent/Teacher Interviews
- 8 **END OF TERM 2**

- 25 START OF TERM 3
- 26 Yr13 Big Day In
- 27 MW Football
- 28 Whole School Assembly
- 29-31 NZ Gymsports
- Yr12/13 Food Show

AUG

- 31-2 Yr12 Commerce trip
- 2 11AGI Farm visit
- ICAS English
- 3 OPEN NIGHT
- ASS Netball
- 3-5 Beauty Course
- 3 Clay Target Shooting
- Mid Week Football
- Yr12 OED Bush
- 4 NSSSA Lightning League
- 4-6 NZ Squash
- PTA Meeting
- Yr12 OED Bush
- 4-5 Yr13 Barista-Northec
- 5 Yr13BIO 02 Gelelectro

- 5 Lacrosse Northern Tourn
- Yr13 OED SUP Skill
- 6 12ART Gallery visits
- 6-7 NZ Squash
- 8 Far North Spelling Bee WGHS
- 8-12 Intl Language Week
- 8 Plan-It Issued
- 8-12 Yr12 Drama show
- 9 Get 2 Go Regional
- 10 Basketball Junior
- Mid week football
- 10-11 Yr11 OED Crafting
- 11 **OPTIONS EVENING**



Changes happening at Whangarei Girls' High School