



# Whangarei Girls' High School

**March 2016**



***WGHS Swimming Sports***

***[www.wghs.school.nz](http://www.wghs.school.nz)***



## Dear Parents / Caregivers

Tena koutou katoa

Each year we reflect on our progress towards our goals and collate it in an Analysis of Variance. Our strategic aim was to increase the number of students who achieve NCEA at all levels; the annual aim was for an improvement in all aspects of NCEA results at all levels and our targets were for 76.7% of Maori school leavers and 84.5% of all leavers to have achieved Level 2.

The statistics for 2015 leavers are not yet available but our own data suggests we have not quite reached these targets yet, so will analyse our leavers' data to see what we can do differently this year for a bigger percentage of leavers to have Level 2.

Our Level 1 results were extremely pleasing and the challenge for us this year is to continue this success as the students move into Level 2. The gap between Maori and European achievement closed significantly in both Merit and Excellence endorsements. As the Maori retention rate in Year 11 increased to 87.7% last year, this is a doubly pleasing result.

Although we were a little disappointed with the overall results in Level 2 last year, there were also some good positives in that both Maori and European improved on their Level 1 results.

Level 3 results were an improvement on the previous year and again the gap closed markedly between the two groups in terms of endorsements with 27% Maori gaining a Merit Endorsement cf 30% European and 5.4% Maori achieving an Excellence endorsement cf 9.1% European.

UE results were also a significant improvement on 2014 and Maori students were 11.6% ahead of the national statistics, which is an extremely pleasing result.

This year we will continue to build on the work we started last year around strengthening whanau classes, raising levels of cultural responsiveness, inquiry teaching and learning, improved monitoring and more effective identification, programmes and monitoring of students needing extra support to achieve. We will also continue our curriculum review and a review of our assessment and reporting procedures. Student led initiatives such as Mana Kaitiaki and the Honorary Big Sisters also continue to grow and we are looking forward to working with Ngati Wai.

You will shortly notice the progress report has a change of format with the aim of making it more visually apparent as to how your daughter has started the year. We strongly encourage you to use these reports in discussion with your daughter about her learning this year and then to follow up with her teachers at the teacher interviews on 12 and 13 April. The progress reports are issued on 1 April. Bookings for parent interviews will also open on this date.

We will also be continuing our focus on the use of technol-

ogy to enhance teaching and learning, particularly as we have reached our capacity in terms of providing students with a laptop and from next year it is highly likely we will be asking students in some year levels to bring their own devices.

Swimming Sports was a great event with excellent participation and plenty of cheering for the Houses. The bright colours of the six Houses contributed to a vibrant atmosphere. Congratulations to Manaia House who emerged as the Champion House and to the individual champions who will be acknowledged at our next whole school assembly. Next week is our annual House Day which is organised by the House Captains and other prefects. It is an important day for strengthening House and whanau spirit and building closer relationships between senior and junior members of the whanau class. It is a full school day, with normal classes up until interval. Please do not treat this as a day your daughter does not have to attend school or can leave early, as this attitude goes completely against everything we are trying to achieve. Because of our strong emphasis on building a culture based on tuakana teina (big sister, little sister), we do keep attendance records of these days and take them into account when making decisions on things such as leadership roles and other opportunities when there may be a restricted number of students able to participate or apply.

Thank you to all those of you who came to the Student, Parent, Teacher (SPT) meetings for Year Nine and new students earlier this month. The feedback has been very positive and we hope that it has helped you to make good, early connections with your daughter's whanau teacher(s). A big thank you too to the PTA for their cheery smiles and warm greetings as they offered welcome cups of tea and coffee, sweet treats and fruit.

As the summer sports gradually come to an end, we wish our sports teams all the best as they prepare for their final competitions and the winter sports codes complete their trials and begin practices.

There will be another amazing lunchtime music concert before the end of the term and we wish our Kapa Haka group all the best as they enter into final preparations for the Tai Tokerau festival. Special congratulations to their student tutors and to all the students and whanau involved.

I would also like to congratulate our prefect team on the 2115 laps they completed in the Relay for Life earlier this month. They have certainly made an impressive start on their goal to strengthen their support for community organisations this year.

As Easter rushes closer, as it is not in the school holidays this year, please remember that the Tuesday is also included in the Easter holiday break.

Continued..

The Ball Committee is already working hard planning their Ball to be held in June. What cannot happen this year is a repeat of the "After Ball" last year.

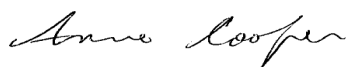
We have made it clear to students that although we have no jurisdiction over private parties, we will not tolerate anyone using the name of our school for a private event. Last year the "Whangarei Girls' High School After Ball party" made national news. It is not fair on us or on the Ball Committee.

If we hear that such an event is being organised this year, it could seriously jeopardise the Ball and we reserve the right to cancel it at any stage.

We look forward to meeting you at the parent interviews next month.

Pā mahana

Anne Cooper  
Principal



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## NCEA RESULTS

Congratulations to the following students who also gained Excellence endorsements in NCEA 2015. Apologies, these names were omitted from our February newsletter.

### Level 2

Brooke	Soulsby
Kate	Stanley
Kara	Tadman
Tegan	Wedding-Speight
Jennifer	Wordsworth
Simone	Zoellner

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## English Department Corner

We are pleased to see that our students have all settled into their learning, and are mostly coming along to class organised with the right gear. Just a reminder to all of our students to use their homework diaries so they are able to organise themselves to meet set deadlines.

On 2nd March, 107 Year 10 students experienced the Pop Up Globe Theatre in Auckland. The students who travelled to Auckland all behaved impeccably, and the trip was a great success. This production was beautifully costumed and staged, and adhered to Jacobean theatre traditions. All of this made for a more meaningful theatre experience. "Twelfth Night" is, by essence, a play of confusion so the all-male cast added to the hilarity. We have now been looking forward to the Year 9 trip on 15<sup>th</sup> March, to see "Romeo and Juliet". The Pop Up Globe experience is incredible, and we strongly encourage you to get along and see a production.

We have another opportunity for our Year 9 and 10 students to see a Shakespeare-themed performance, this time in our Hall Theatre. The NZ Playhouse Theatre is visiting our school on Friday 15 April, the last afternoon of the term. We encourage our junior students to pay \$5 to the Front Office and book themselves a seat at this entertaining show. The performers take a modern film that students know well, and apply techniques Shakespeare used in his plays to the film. It is highly entertaining, fun, and educational!

Congratulations to Dani Kirby, Deputy Head Girl, who represented WGHS at the ANZ Cyril Bassett VC RSA Speech Competition on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> March. Dani delivered a powerful and engaging speech about altered history, in a WW1 context. The judges were impressed with Dani's natural flair for public speaking, and her ability to inject humour into her performance. We were very proud of how well she acquitted herself on the stage.

Students are encouraged to keep abreast of all of the myriad of competitions that are currently running. Competitions are advertised in the Daily Notices, and posters and information placed on the English Department noticeboard outside Room 11. We have several keen students taking up these opportunities.

Nga mihi,

Margaret Northey  
HOD English

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## Head and Deputy Head Girls

**Justice Hetaraka Mihi Shepherd**

**Jessica Fowler Dani Kirby**

The year is moving so quickly, and it's so exciting to see all of the development around school. The renovated offices are modern and utilise space in the main block effectively, and every day a little more progress is made on the new Health/PE classrooms on the netball courts. These progressions are so exciting from a student perspective, as they all contribute to our overall learning experience and work to accommodate our ever growing roll.

A goal which we strongly wish to achieve as a Head Girl team this year is to increase levels of cultural responsiveness within Whangarei Girls' High, both in and out of the classroom. We would love our school to be able to provide the most comfortable and productive learning environment for every student, despite the diversities between individuals. Maori culture is such an important part of our identity as New Zealanders, and it is this culture and identity that we wish to normalise and integrate into the classroom. The four of us recently attended a Staff Professional Development Meeting, where our 'mission statement' of 'Increasing Cultural Responsiveness' was proposed to a large group of teachers and was well received. Small steps to kick start our plan are to have the date written in Te Reo Maori each day in every class, and introducing a morning karakia to each morning class. A new karakia has been written by the senior WGHS Te Reo Maori class, which is effectively a compilation of our school values and ideals as a whole. We are excited for the new karakia to be introduced to the wider student body, and to interweave our school lives with the culture and history of our country and people.

A team of Whangarei Girls' High Prefects, on the weekend of the 5<sup>th</sup> of March, represented our school at the annual 'Relay for Life' event, held at the ASB Sports Arena. The event is held to raise valuable funds for the Cancer Society, to support those who have fought, or who are currently fighting cancer, and to remember those who have passed away. Our official lap count was 2115 – an outstanding effort which made a significant contribution to such a worthy cause.

On the 7<sup>th</sup> of March, the WGHS Head Prefects hosted the first meeting between the Head

Prefects from Whangarei Schools. Schools in attendance included WBHS, Kamo High, Pompallier Catholic College, Bream Bay College, Huanui College and Te Kapehu Whetu. This event was completely student driven and was held in the Whangarei Girls' High Whare. It was an extremely beneficial and productive evening. Following the meeting with our fellow Heads and Deputies, many ideas and goals were discussed, with emphasis falling upon how we can use our leadership to achieve a common goal and create positive and active change within our schools and community. Prominent common objectives discussed were the desire to raise participation in school events such as swimming sports, and raise the profile of these events within the student body, and our wish to provide support to lesser known community organisations through a combined mufti day. It was also empowering to hear a number of other schools expressing the desire to take action in integrating Maori culture more firmly into the foundations of their schools. We look forward to our next meeting, and to working further with such a driven group of students.

On a final note, we would like to wish all of the Year 11s best of luck for the first of their internal assessments which are no doubt quickly approaching. By the end of the term you will all be seasoned professionals!



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## Poppy Day/ANZAC Day

As ANZAC Day falls in the school holidays this year, poppies will be sold at school on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> April, the last day of Term 1.

School representatives will be participating at the ANZAC Day dawn service as usual.





## Swimming Sport 2016

Congratulations to all competitors in the Championship Events.

Final placings were:

### Junior Champion

Mia Gordon                Mansfield

### Intermediate Champion

Hayley Donovan        Sheppard

### Senior Champion

Hayley McIntosh        Rutherford



We had a huge number of swimmers in the participations events, which make up the bulk of the House points awarded. We hope you all had fun.

The final House placings were:

1 <sup>st</sup>	Manaia	415 points
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Lovelock	386
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Rutherford	374
4 <sup>th</sup>	Bell	359
5 <sup>th</sup>	Sheppard	352
6 <sup>th</sup>	Mansfield	349





## Science Corner

**Finding Science a big step up this year? Ask your teacher when tutorials are available.**



### Hātea River Stream Study

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February, the 17 students from the Year 12 Environmental Science class went on a fieldtrip to carry out a stream study of the Hātea River. Setting out during period 3, we walked down to Mair Park carrying nets, buckets and all sorts of equipment demonstrating the scientist within to the public.

Once at the stream, we broke off into pairs in which we worked to collect a range of data to determine the health of the stream. This data included using a kick method to collect the invertebrates on the stream bed, counting and identifying what was present. Numerous snails were found, as well as some backswimmers and even a few caddisflies were found.

Taking into account the biodiversity of the stream and the type of insects found, the class concluded that the Hātea River was in poor condition. We also enjoyed catching and identifying the bullies that were present in the stream finding a red finned bully and many common bullies. Data was collected on the abiotic factors of the stream such as stream speed, timing how long it took for an orange to travel 10m, the stream temperature, water clarity, and the pH of the water. After all that we enjoyed our lunch on the water's edge before returning back to school.

Mrs Phillips (teacher 12 Environmental Science)



### Opportunities Coming Up

**Whakapiki Ake** will be visiting our school soon. Their objective is to promote young Maori students into health careers. This is open to Year 12 and 13 students. Students and their whanau must register their interest on the Whakapiki Ake website <https://mhsfaculty.auckland.ac.nz/forms/WapAppSkin.aspx>. See Mrs Innes for more details.

**Otago University—Senior Science Quiz** is on June 15 2016. For more information see Mrs Younger (technician) or Mrs Nielsen (room 23a)

**Interested in Agriculture?** Taratahi is offering an Agricultural taster for 16—18 years 17th—21st April See Mrs Phillips (room 16) for more information.

**ICAS Science competition** is on 31st May. Entries close Tuesday 12th April. Cost: \$9.80 paid to front office.

### Interested in following a Science career?

Then check out Matter of Fact. Matter of Fact newsletter is created by the Waikato University Faculty of Science & Engineering to give secondary school students an insight into life as a student at Waikato University. A new issue comes out once every three to four months and features the latest news, student and graduate profiles, and upcoming events. Look out for copies of Matter of Fact in the Careers Office at your school. Check out their website or see Mrs Nielsen if you want to view the hard copy. <http://sci.waikato.ac.nz/news-events/matter-of-fact>

The current issue interviews four successful young women pursuing careers in the oil industry, computer science, geology and engineering.

## Uniform

Overall this is looking really good this year. I would remind parents, however, that students must wear correct uniform to and from school as well as at school during the day. Flat black sandals, white ankle socks (not black) and plain flat black shoes (not ankle boots) are correct footwear.

Bandanas are not part of our uniform and are not to be worn by students.

Please encourage your daughters to take pride in our school and wear our uniform well.

## NCEA Records of Achievement

If your daughter is in Year 12 or 13, encourage her to go into the NZQA website, login and order her Record of Achievement. The first copy of this is free each year and shows all credits that she achieved in the previous year. This is the best record for students looking for jobs and is also required for students going into tertiary education and applying for Halls of Residence.

## Attendance

A reminder to parents to let Neddy, our attendance officer, know when your daughter is away. She also needs to bring in a note when she returns to school. This should be dropped in to Neddy at the Deans' Room and helps us ensure that our attendance records are accurate.

We encourage you to regularly check your daughter's attendance on the Parent Portal

## WGHS/WBHS Combined Social

Our first combined social is coming up on Friday 18 March and, as the parent the following information may be helpful.

- This event is for students at Whangarei Girls' High School and Whangarei Boys' High School only
- It is open to all year levels but limited to combined ticket sales of 400
- It is held at the Whangarei Boys' High School Hall
- Doors open at 7.00pm and all students are expected in the venue by 7.30pm
- Parents should check their child has a valid ticket before leaving them at the school. THERE ARE NO DOOR SALES.
- No students will be permitted to leave be-

fore 9.45 when the door opens and students may then begin to leave. The Social finishes at 10pm. Please ensure that any student going has safe transport home.

- If under exceptional circumstances you need to collect your child earlier you will need to come to the entry and speak to a staff member.
- Students will be able to purchase drinks and snack foods but please encourage your daughter to leave her valuables at home or be able to ensure they are secure on her person.
- As this is a school function, normal school rules apply and if any student is found in breach of those rules, their parents will be rung and asked to come and collect them.

Please check our website [www.wghs.school.nz](http://www.wghs.school.nz) on Friday prior to the event in case of any updated information

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## INTERNATIONAL YOUTH EXCHANGE



Are you...

- \* 15 - 18 years old?
- \* Looking for a life changing experience?
- \* Ready for a year away in a foreign country?
- \* Willing to learn a new language?
- \* Wanting to make life long friends from around the world?
- \* Wanting to make a difference to the world in which you live?

APPLY NOW TO:

**[monicawebb66@gmail.com](mailto:monicawebb66@gmail.com)**

ENTRIES CLOSE APRIL 29th

Check us out at

[www.rotaryyouthexchange.co.nz](http://www.rotaryyouthexchange.co.nz)

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### Student movement around school

Following building alterations students are now required to use the entrance opposite Lamb Block for access to the **Student Office** or **Deans' Office** only.

Students are not permitted to use the **Reception** entrance (located at the front of the school building, facing Lupton Ave) unless they need to see the Principal, Anne Cooper, Deputy Principals; Noelene Martin, Doreen Bailey or Kevin Dean, Business & Finance Manager, Moira Christie or Personal Assistants; Maree Covich and Marion Haywood.

### Parent movement around school

Parents coming into school to pay fees, check accounts or return school forms etc can now use the new student office entrance, located through Gate 4, past the car park and into the entrance to the left.

If you need to drop something off to your daughter, please take it the **Deans' Office** which is through the same entrance, directly down the corridor past the School Office.

For appointments with the Principal, Deputy Principals, Business & Finance Manager or any other enquiries please go to Reception, main entrance at the front of the building.

New signage will be completed soon.

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## **PTA**

Second Hand Uniforms.

The PTA run a second hand uniform service.

If your daughter has outgrown any item of uniform or is moving from WGHS, please consider donating your daughter's uniform to the PTA.

Thank you

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## **Student Support Centre**

Please note, if your daughter suffers from asthma or is anaphylactic, she should carry her own medication with her at all times. The Student Support Centre does not have spare inhalers or epipens.



Services available at the Student Support Centre are: Public Health Nurse, General Practitioner and Physiotherapist. Students can make appointments to see any of these at the SSC.

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## **Homestay Required**

We are seeking homes for our new intake of German international students coming to our school in July. 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**

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## **After School Dance Classes.**

Enrolments are now being taken for after school dance classes in Hip Hop fusion commencing Term 2. HIP HOP TOTS (Kindergarten age) HIP HOP TWEENS (Intermediate School age) HIP HOP TEENS (High School age) Venue: Whangarei Intermediate School Dance Studio. Phone/Text Susan Mc Diarmid 021 041 3071.

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## School Calendar

<b>Mar</b>	17	Art trip– Gibbs Farm Academy trip– Sky City
	17-20	NI Rowing NSSSA Track and Field
	17-18	Yr11 OED– Snorkel trip to Goat Island
	18	12BIO 01 Rocky Shore trip 11GEO Poor Knights trip NZ Touch WGHS/WBHS Social
	19	Clay Target Shooting #1 Kaeo NZ Touch Zone 1-Auckland
	20	Rogaine– Whangarei
	21	World Vision Youth Vision Conference
	22	Yr12 OED-Surf Kayak—Sandy Bay AFL
	23	HOUSE DAY NSSSA Volleyball Finals
	24	7's Finals open girls Lunchtime music concert Ryda-Yr12 students Yr12 OED– Surf Kayak-Sandy Bay
	25	GOOD FRIDAY
	28	EASTER MONDAY
	29	EASTER TUESDAY
	30-1 Apr	12GEO—Tongariro trip
	30-31	13OED Kayak to 31st Mar
	31	NI Athletics
	31	NSSSA Equestrian-Kaikohē
<b>Apr</b>	1	NISS Athletics to 2nd Apr Yr13 OED-Kayak Progress reports issued
	2	TFT Yr13 Material trip
	3	NI Athletics
	3-10	Summer Tournament week
	4-6	NI Bowls
	4-7	NZ Futsal
	6	12BIO 02 Rocky shore trip 13GEO Ruakaka trip
	6-8	NI Rugby 7's
	6-7	Yr11 OED– kai moana– Pataua
	7-10	Adventure racing GO-4-12. Kaiteriteri-Tasman District
	7	Parent interviews #1 Music concert
	8	Shakespeare Festival Careers Roadshow
	10	NSSSA Wheetbix triathlon AMI pre-season netball
	13-30	Spain trip Parent Interviews #2 2016 Tai Tokerau Festival
	15	END OF TERM 1

<b>May</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Term 2 begins</b>
	2-5	ECS Yr12 placements
	4	Whole School Assembly Clay Target Shooting #2-Kaitaia
	6	12PED Circus NISS horse trials
	7-13	Hillary Challenge
	8	NSSSA Surfing
	9-12	ECS Yr12 placements
	11	NSSSA Football qualifying
	11-12	Yr12 OED –Sailing
	12	Rugby 7's NSSSA 7's girls open U15
	12-13	University trip
	12	Auckland writer's festival
	12	Music concert—WGHS
	13	NSSSA Orienteering NSSSA Hockey NISS Swimming Surfing
	16	NSSSA Gold Qualifier ECS Yr12 placements
	17	Market Place
	18-20	13TOU—Rotorua Trip Language Immersion Day NSSSA MW Football
	19	NSSSA Squash individual YR11 OED– Orienteering

Drama, Musical Theatre, Public Speaking classes From Monday -Thursday. Tuition is open to beginners and experienced students age from 7-18, Whangarei or Ruakaka.  
[www.makingascene.co.nz](http://www.makingascene.co.nz) or ph 021 172 3568

