



Whangarei Girls' High School

23 February 2021

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Important Dates

Big Splash Swimming Sports

26 February 2021

House Day

12 February 2021

Y9 & New Student Whānau Hui

18 & 19 March 2021

Girls Working for Girls Day

22 March 2021

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Whangarei 0112
Phone: 09 430 4460
Email:

office@wghs.school.nz

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<https://www.facebook.com/WhangareiGirlsHigh/>

Word from the Principal



Tena koutou katoa

Welcome back to another new year - hopefully a smoother year for us all as we work together to keep everyone safe and prepared for any eventuality.

We are delighted to welcome all our new students and look forward to building on the strengths you bring. It is sad that we are not welcoming our usual intake of new international students as our borders remain closed to them, but we look forward to the time when they can once again join our school community.

New staff

We are thrilled to welcome back Deputy Principal, Kim Rogers, after her year's leave and warmly welcome wonderful new staff to the school this year, including a whole new Careers Department. It is always a special pleasure to welcome alumni back to WGHS and this year we welcome Indy and Ashlee.

- Carole Davidson - teacher aide
- Ashlee Dobbs - Sports Co-ordinator
- Elke Fox - Science
- Indy Herman - Art, Technology
- Jo Neal - Careers
- Sharyn Smith - SWITCH
- Becky Steel - Careers
- Tamsin Sutherland - Science
- Kylie Taffard - HOD Careers
- Vicki Taylor - English
- Janine Tito - Te Reo Māori, Ngā Toi, Art, SWITCH

Head Girls and Prefects

The Head Girl team, together with their prefect team, have already made a strong start to the year with many committees and plans for students to become involved in.

Congratulations to them all on their appointments to these important roles:

Head Girls

Aimee Clemow and Chloe Overeem

Deputy Head Girls

Khiana Mangu and Lucy Stanley

Prefect Committees:

Ball	Jessica Lang and Stella Lassey
Bell House	Min Jung Kim and Gemma McRae
Citizenship	Charlotte Ngakura-Smith, Jodi West and Emma Yorke
Design	Hunter Nisbet and Sophia Soljak
Environmental	Jorja Collings and Lucia Daamen-Shanahan
Global	Jessica Walker and Emma Young
Health	Cailee Bowmar
Honorary Big Sisters	Paige Parkinson and Urva Patel
Lovelock House	Bella Bonetti and Paris Thompson
Manaia House	Mateja Matijevich-Wiki and Kate Taylor
Mansfield House	Katie Barnes and Sofia Trigg
Music	Lauren McLean
Rutherford House	Ella Beehre and Megan Middlemass
Sheppard House	Caitlin Ewenson and Paige Thompson
Sport	Amy Brown

Elite Colours

Congratulations to the students who were awarded Elite Colours at the whole school assembly last week:

Maddy Whittam - swimming - Gold and Silver in NZ Short Course Championships in 200m and 100m breaststroke events respectively.

Monique Gray – 1st place in National Speed Climbing Championships for U16 females and 1st in National Bouldering National Championships for U16 females.

Terina Hauraki – Volleyball - NZ Youth Commonwealth Squad – Oceania Tournament in Vanuatu

NCEA results

It is hard to draw comparisons on NCEA from last year as there are so many variables, but nevertheless it is pleasing to see an improvement on the previous year and in line with, or above, national results.

	2019	2020	National 2020
Level 2	77%	79.7%	79.5%
Level 3	64.6%	71.7%	71.7%
UE	48.5%	59.9%	50.3%

We will have a more detailed analysis for you in the next newsletter.

Whanau hui for new students

Whānau of new students will soon be receiving information re the hui calendared for 18th and 19th March. These are to discuss how your student has settled into the school, their strengths and interests and progress. It is a good opportunity to meet the whānau teacher who will be a key person for your student throughout their time here and to ask any questions you may have.

Pandemic Planning

Like everyone else we have plans in place if we were to move up the Alert Levels. Students are lining up and sanitising their hands on entry to each classroom and this will be the norm. Classrooms are being sanitised each day.

You can assist us by:

- checking your contact details on the parent portal and letting us know if any changes need to be updated on our system
- giving us any information that would help your student's online learning
- letting us know if a hard copy pack of work is required
- reminding your student to take their chrome book / laptop and books home each night
- letting you know of anything you think we need to know about your student
- signing in or scanning at Front Reception or the Payments Office when you come into the school

If we were to have a case, you will be notified via the school app, email and website.

In the meantime, please do not send students to school if they are unwell. If any student is unwell at school, parents / caregivers will be asked to come and pick them up.

Staff have set up Google Classrooms with their classes and are prepared to move into an online learning environment at short notice.

Kāhui Ako

Wellbeing of students and staff continues to be the focus for the Hub, a combination of all five Kāhui Ako in the Whangarei District. The next big wellbeing hui, where staff in the wellbeing teams from all schools attend is being held on 10 March. Denise Quinlan from the NZ Institute of Wellbeing and resilience and Chris and Greg Jansen from the Leadership Lab will again come and facilitate this day for us.

Our Kāhui Ako will continue to also work on STEAM with Digital Circus facilitating and Write that Essay. Another busy year's work for the schools and ECEs in our Kāhui Ako.

Clubs & Socs

Next week are the annual Clubs & Socs Days where everything available as an extra curricular activity has a stall so that students can find out more about them before deciding what they want to participate in this year. It is important that every student is involved in at least one activity. Apart from doing something they enjoy, they will develop new skills, meet new people and continue to build their 21st Century skills in a different context to that of the classroom. There is a wide variety to choose from and they all welcome students from all year levels. Prefects have put a considerable amount of work into planning their committees and are looking forward to putting them into action.

'The Big Splash' and 'House Day'

These days are fast coming up with 'The Big Splash' being held on 26 February and House Day following a month later on 26 March. Both these events are important for building House and whanau spirit and where students can develop leadership skills on a variety of levels. Please make sure your student attends both those days. Although there are classes in the mornings, students are encouraged to come to school dressed in their House colours on these days, ready to be involved and have fun in the process. House Day is run by the Prefects for the students and a considerable amount of work and time goes into making this a fun event.

Attendance and punctuality

This year we are focussing on improved attendance and punctuality. There is a direct correlation between academic success and attendance. School begins at 8.45am every day and students are expected to be in their classrooms by that time. Please check attendance through the parent portal where you can see if your student is arriving to class on time. Staff will be contacting you where there are concerns around attendance.

Ngā manaakitanga

Anne Cooper
Principal

Head Girls

Kia Ora,

Welcome to the beginning of the school year. We hope that you all have had a wonderful summer enjoying the sun and seeing all that our country has to offer!

This year our school roll has reached its highest numbers ever. After the year that 2020 was, we are ready to put it all behind us and focus on the future. We are so excited to be working and get to know all the wonderful students here at Whangarei Girls' High School.

As the Head Girl team of 2021, we are ready to take care of our students and their personal wellbeing, as well as the relationships between junior and senior students. We would like to remind you all to be kind and look out for each other as we begin 2021.

All the best for the bright year ahead; Aimee, Chloe, Kiahna and Lucy.



English Department

Welcome back to all of our students, new and returning! We are excited for the year ahead in our department.

Welcome to our new staff member, Mrs Vicki Taylor. We are thrilled to have Vicki in our department!

Welcome back to Ms Kate Carter, returning to teach part-time in our department this year. We are so grateful for your continued contributions to our department.

The English Department is thrilled to congratulate Willow Koller and Naomi Le Marrec (Year 13, 2020). These students succeeded in the Scholarship English exam at the end of last year. Willow was awarded Outstanding Scholarship, which places her in the top 1 % of Year 13 students in Aotearoa. Naomi was awarded Scholarship. Our very best wishes to these students as they embark on their tertiary studies this year.

One of the reasons we are so excited about our learning this year is that we are now ensconced in our beautiful new learning and teaching spaces in Lamb Block. I would like to acknowledge the patience of our students and teachers, after over a year of construction in our midst. The builders are nearly finished, and we are so thrilled with the result of years of dreaming and planning.

Our annual text book amnesty is underway. Please assist us by encouraging your daughters to have a good look at home for any English Department texts they may have forgotten to return. We welcome all books back, no questions asked.

Nga mihinui

Mrs Marg Northey
HOD English

Processes to follow when a student needs to leave school before the end of the day

If a student feels sick when she is at school she needs to ask her teacher for a note to go to the Student Support Centre; or, go directly to Student Support if it is in break time.

The Student Support Centre will contact caregivers to pick up students if necessary and ensure they are signed out of school correctly.

If a student has an appointment during school time she needs to take a note to the Deans' Office before school or get her whānau to phone: 430 4405 or email absences@wghs.school.nz.

The student needs to collect her leave pass and sign out at the Deans' Office.

If you need to collect your daughter/whanāu member from school during the day please phone the attendance number 09 4304405 or email absences@wghs.school.nz to let the school know. Your daughter/whanāu member can be collected from the Deans' Office and will need to sign out at the Deans' Office.

You must be a registered caregiver or contact on our records to be able to pick a student up from school.

Sonya Lockyer
Deputy Principal

The Big Splash

When: 12pm, Friday 26 February

Where: WGHS Pool

What: "The Big Splash" is a chance for the school to get together, have some fun and compete for their houses. It will be made up of both competitive and fun races.

Whānau are welcome to come along and spectate.

School Calendar

February

- 22 12ACP/12PRI Outdoor First Aid
- 23 12ACP/12PRI Outdoor First Aid
Leaf Cup Cricket Snr Girls
9Switch Whānau Hui
- 24 Leaf Cup Cricket Snr Girls
Hockey Trials
10Switch Whānau Hui
School Photos
- 25 Hockey Trials
10 Switch Waitangi Trip
11ECD First Aid
NSSSA Swimming Y7-Y13
- 26 Div 1 Snr Volleyball
Lawn Bowls Pairs
- Big Splash Swimming Sports*

March

- 1 TFT Big Afternoon Out
- 2 10Switch Waka Exp
- 3 10Switch Waka Exp
12ACP Whanau Hui
12ESS/12GENSCI Kawiti
Golf Croquet
NSSSA Waka Ama
Hockey Trials
- 4 11SCIFM Reotahi Trip
11TFT Te Kowhai Print Trust
12OED Sea Kayaking
13ESS Bayly's Beach
- 5 11OED Sea Kayaking
11PEDSM
12ACP/12PRI/13PRI
Northland Field days
Div 1 Snr Volleyball
NSSSA Mountain Biking
WGHS Athletics
- 6 Div 1 Snr Volleyball

Payments to WGHS

For anyone wishing to pay any costs for students by internet banking, our details are:

ASB 12-3099-0107679-00

Please use your daughter's name and what the payment is for as the reference.

PLEASE NOTE: This is a new bank account, the BNZ account is now closed.

LOCKERS

Lockers are available again this year, \$50 per year plus a refundable \$10 bond. If you would like a locker for 2021 you will need to fill in an online order form at <http://www.stowawaylockers.co.nz/order-form/> as soon as possible.

WGHS 2021 Hockey Trial Dates

WGHS has three teams in the open women's grade at Hockey Northland:

1st XI = Premier Grade

2nd XI = Reserve A Women's Grade

Development = Reserve B Women's Grade

Prem, RAW & RBW

- Wed 24 Feb, 3:30pm - 6pm

Prem, RAW & RBW

- Thurs 25 Feb, 3:30pm - 6pm

Prem, RAW & RBW

- Wed 3 Mar, 3:30pm - 6pm

SWITCH (Integrated Core) and HĀ

HĀ is an organisation founded in 2019 by a previous WGHS Head Girl, Justice Hetaraka and her team. HĀ develops education programmes that teach the History of Aotearoa. Students are guided through four major wāhanga ako that are informed by both localised mātauranga and academic based history. Mahi toi is used throughout these wāhanga ako as a tool to enhance knowledge comprehension and to communicate their learnings.

Friday 5 Feb, Switch students Lilly Williams, Cortney Phillips, Riana Lane and Caitlin Thompson, who had taken part in HĀ's inaugural education programme, had the privilege of spending time with Prime Minister Jacinda Adern and members of the New Zealand Labour Party at Hihiaua Cultural Centre, whose aret had been created for the Kākano Fundraising Exhibition.

Our students said it was rewarding and confronting to learn about New Zealand history through art.

Many artists have donated art for the exhibition. The funds raised from the exhibition will enable Kākano to be delivered in four schools this year. WGHS Year 10 Switch students have the privilege of being a part of this programme at the end of Term One.

Art will be on display and for purchase till the 13th of February at the Hihiaua Cultural Centre. Be quick to secure one of these beautiful artworks!



Whangarei Girls High School PTA

The PTA is a great way to find out what is happening at the school.

We are a group of parents with our prime function being a means of communication between the school and home, providing the opportunity to discuss issues with other parents and the Principal.

Meeting other parents from the school can help you feel more comfortable with how your daughter fits in and how she is progressing with the academic side of school life at a large secondary school.

The PTA meet once a month, has a guest speaker and the Principal always gives a report on recent and upcoming events, achievements and changes.

The only fundraising event is the catering for the school ball and running a second hand uniform sale in January. Most of the work we do for the school is serving refreshments at occasional school events. All our proceeds are donated back to the school e.g. the electronic sign on the building, donation to the breakfast club, gazebo, donation to end of year function for Year 13 etc.

Next meeting is the AGM

Wednesday 24 February at 5.30 pm

in the Staff Room (Upstairs from the Main Office)

Contact Phoebe Curtis 027 724 6734 for further information

We look forward to meeting you!

Check out our Facebook Page for photos and regular updates on news and events around the school

<https://www.facebook.com/WhangareiGirlsHigh/>