



# Whangarei Girls' High School

1 December 2020

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## Important Dates

### 8 December 2020

Jnr Prizegiving  
Last day for Y9 & Y10 Students

### 9 December 2020

Document Day

1 Lupton Ave  
P O Box 5056  
Whangarei 0112  
Phone: 09 430 4460  
Email:  
[office@wghs.school.nz](mailto:office@wghs.school.nz)  
[www.wghs.school.nz](http://www.wghs.school.nz)  
<https://www.facebook.com/WhangareiGirlsHigh/>

## Word from the Principal



Tēna koutou katoa

This is the last newsletter of a year we will all vividly remember and one that many of us are keen to see come to an end, hoping that the new year will be more settled with greater stability.

It is with great sadness that we will be farewelling long serving staff at the end of the year.

**Noelene Martin** has been Deputy Principal for the last fourteen years and there is nothing she does not know about NCEA as she has been Principal's Nominee since 2004. After being a student at WGHS, she returned over thirty years ago as HOD Physical Education, a position she held for twenty years before moving into Senior Leadership. Noelene has continued to teach Physical Education and Health and has lost none of her passion for this subject. In fact, she will be continuing to feed her passion for fitness and wellbeing next year through the gym she and her husband have established at Ngunguru. It was her drive and passion which led to the establishment of a weights room at WGHS where she can still be found most lunchtimes supervising a keen group of students.

Noelene has always put students at the centre of her planning, both as a classroom teacher and a Deputy Principal with responsibility for a cohort for three years. She has mentored many students over the years, encouraging them to make the most of their opportunities and working with them to eliminate barriers to their education. She has built many close relationships with students and their whānau.

Noelene has seen many changes over the years and has worked hard to keep abreast and ahead of them. We have valued her contribution to the leadership of the school in so many ways and her strong loyalty to the school is second to none.

Noelene will be very much missed by students and staff alike and we wish her all the very best for the future.

**Marian Innes** initially began at WGHS as a lab technician before moving across into the teaching staff. A reference from 1989 speaks of her being "highly respected by staff." Today, this is still an understatement, but would also include students and their whānau as Marian builds strong, respectful relationships. She soon moved into pastoral care, initially as Year Nine Dean before becoming Dean of Rutherford House with the move to vertical whānau classes. Her work as Careers Advisor has been highly valued and many students and whānau have been direct recipients of the extra mile Marian has always gone for students, to help them realise their goals. She has spent many hours crafting references for scholarships and university accommodation and has built strong networks and relationships with many tertiary institutions.

As Deans' Co-ordinator, Marian has worked as part of the Senior Leadership Team and has played a key role in leading many of the initiatives designed to strengthen the level of pastoral care for students. She takes a genuine interest in the students in her care, always prepared to "think outside the square" in their best interests. She is an inspiring, hard working, knowledgeable and wonderful member of our school community who will be sorely missed. However, we wish her well as she spends well deserved time with whānau and in her much loved garden.

**Joy Nielsen** began at Whangarei Girls' High School in 2001, teaching Mathematics and Science. Early in her teaching career, she was singled out by the facilitators of the 'Assessment to Learn' programme as being an outstanding teacher – something that all her students over the years would attest to. She took responsibility for the Year 11 Science programme for a couple of years before being appointed to the position of HOD Science in 2013.

Under Joy's leadership, the Science Department grew and flourished, to the point where it is the biggest department in

our school today. 2013 was a memorable year, as not only did she take on her new responsibility, but she was also the recipient of a prestigious Woolf Fisher Trust Fellowship which she made good use of by visiting schools in Australia where she gained and gave some great insights and ideas.

Joy has been an outstanding whānau teacher and I know her students will miss her very much, as will we all. I thank her for her dedication and commitment to her students and to Science and to the school and wish her all the very best for quality whānau time in the future.

**Jo Steele** began at WGHS in 2013 teaching in the English Department. Her passion for her subject and her genuine caring about her students and their learning has been evident throughout her time here. She has adapted to the numerous changes in education over the last few years, role modelling that we are all lifelong learners. She has led staff professional discussion groups and more recently has been teaching ESOL, where she has gone out of her way to meet the needs of students grappling with our curriculum in a second language.

We thank Jo for all she has given to the students and to the school over the last eight years. She will be very much missed but we are hoping she will come back and do relief teaching for us next year.

**Kathy Boswell** will leave us at the end of this year as she was appointed on a one year contract. Kathy is passionate about everything equestrian and environmental and her students have been the lucky beneficiaries of this passion. We particularly thank her for her contribution to the SWITCH (integrated learning) programme and wish her all the best for the future as she will now have the time to focus on her business.

**Kate Simeonides-Allen** has been working in the Technology, Foods and Careers departments. She is a highly talented and creative teacher with the ability to bring out the best in her students. Her work in Careers has also been much appreciated, especially working with Year 13 students to develop pathways for 2021. We thank her for all she has done this year and wish her all the very best for the future.

**Koea Kaka** came to our rescue when Amy Tipene was appointed Deputy Principal at Kamo High School. We are so appreciative of her willingness to juggle a busy whānau life to come and take Te Reo classes for our students. An ex-student, it has been wonderful to have her back and we have all benefitted from her skills and knowledge. We thank Koea so much for helping us out and wish her all the best in her future career.

**Muriel Willem** has contracted to us this year to lead our Careers Department. We thank her for the outstanding work she has done, particularly her work with individual students but also for her work at the strategic level. Muriel will still be working with our school next year, just in a slightly different capacity, so we do not have to say goodbye just yet.

We have had our Senior Academic Prizegiving and Rā Whakanuia for Year 11. Congratulations to all the prize winners for their well deserved awards – especially in this topsy-turvy year. Special congratulations to Dux, Paige Ihaka and Proxime Accessits: Ashlee Pram and Eila-Rose Jones.

Top Scholars in Year 11 were Emma Cunningham, Jessie Gansell, Hannah Jansen, Tayla Matheson, Suzi Saweirs and Tahi Ora Tito. These girls were all nominated as being in the top five students in the class by every one of their teachers for both semesters – congratulations to these deserving high achievers. From this group, Tayla Matheson, Suzi Saweirs and Tahi Ora Tito shared the honour of top academic Year 11 student(s) for 2020.

The Head Girl team have been busy organising the Grad Dinner which will be the last time Year 13 students will be together as a cohort. I would like to thank Year 13 for all they have contributed to WGHS during their time here and wish them all the very best for their futures. We hope you keep in touch with us as we love to hear of your journey post high school.

It has been brought to my attention that Year 12 students are expecting to have an independent study day next year. I want to clarify that this is not the case. It was implemented this year in response to a request from Year 13 students in a post lockdown situation. There was never any talk of it remaining beyond the end of this year.

With only a couple of weeks left of this year, planning for next year is well under way. The timetable team are working on the 2021 timetable and all effort is being made to contact students with timetable clashes before the end of this year. Students' timetables will be available for them through KAMAR just before they return to school next year. Students will not be able to change their subjects next year, except for those needing to change based on NCEA results or extenuating circumstances. If your daughter wishes to change subject for 2021, please contact her Dean, or after 9th December, send an email to [office@wghs.school.nz](mailto:office@wghs.school.nz).

I hope you all have a safe and relaxing summer break and that 2021 is COVID-free. Thank you to you all for your constant support – we simply could not provide the opportunities for the students without it.

Meri Kirihimete me te tau hou hari

**Anne Cooper**  
Principal

## Head Girls

Kia Ora everyone,

Another successful year has passed in the blink of an eye, with COVID-19 and some very exciting initiatives that have taken place, what a year it has been. It has been an honour to be a part of the Head Girl team, leading our school through these uncertain times and we would like to thank each and every student for supporting us in these roles. We would like to thank our prefect team in leading and organising their committees. We would also like to thank our Student Council who have been amazing in adapting and persevering with the busy times and for being inventive with their ideas in this post COVID world.

We are so excited about the future and wish everyone the best in all of their endeavours for next year!

Kind regards

The 2020 Head Girl Team

Mathilda Gritt, Sophie Saweirs, Paea Slade and Amelie Tuato'o



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### Junior Speech Competition

Though this became a game of two halves, thanks to an unexpected fire alarm, we are pleased to announce the winners of our Junior Speech Competition! As usual, the standard of speakers was very high and all of the participants should be rightfully proud of getting up there and giving it a go.

Year 9

1st place - Jodie Wellwood

2nd place - Zaria Murray

3rd place - Chrissy Oreiro

Year 10

1st place - Kamaia Bainbridge-Frost

2nd place - Ruby Shepherd

3rd place - Sofie Parker

### Careers

The Careers Department wishes all the leavers the very best of success with their future plans; It was a pleasure to work with so many of them this year.

We also want to encourage any students to make contact with the school in January if their results require them to consider plan B.

We wish you and your whanau a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

### Celebrating Success in TFT

This year as all shows and competitions were cancelled, we held a mini competition in school so that the seniors could get the feedback from the judges they need to support their NCEA work. This was supported by Vince Cocurullo, who has been a part of the Rotary club and Bernina Fashion Awards for as long as we can remember.

After a round of feedback earlier this year, students presented their final outfits to the judging panel. It is always awesome seeing the students' work come to life on their models with hair and make up done. The judges were impressed with the students and their work.

This was followed by a small fashion show and awards night. Mrs Peytons Year 11 music class played covers of fashion themed songs and the girls showed off their work under the spotlight. Then we presented the awards. Prizes were supplied by Vince Cocurullo / Fix it Vince and Arthurs Emporium, we are so grateful and thankful for their ongoing support of our students.

The awards given are as follows:

#### Up cycling

1st Ella Beever and Tayla Matheson

2nd Rachel Johnson

Highly commended Mikayla Keegan

#### Streetwear

1st Emma- Lee Marsh

2nd Manaia Buttler

#### Evening wear

1st Iris Metcalfe

2nd Eva Hamlin

Highly commended Trinity Nathan

## School Calendar

### December

- 1 NZSS Cricket
- 2 NZSS Cricket
- 3 NZSS Track & Field
- 4 NZSS Track & Field
- 5 NZSS Track & Field
- 6 NZSS Track & Field  
Get2Go Finals
- 8 *Junior Prizegiving*  
Get2Go Finals
- 9 Document Day  
Last NCEA Exams  
Get2Go Finals
- 10 NZSS Touch  
Get2Go Finals
- 11 NZSS Touch  
Head Girl Interviews  
Get2Go Finals
- 12 NZSS Touch
- 13 NZSS Touch
- 14 NZSS Touch

## Start dates for 2021

### Thursday 4 February 2021

Y13 half day 9am - 12pm

### Friday 5 February 2021

Y9, Y13 and all new students Powhiri

### Monday 8 February 2021

Public Holiday -  
Waitangi Day Observed

### Tuesday 9 February 2021

Only Y9 & Y13 attend

### Wednesday 10 February 2021

All Year levels attend

## Gift a Kiwi book for Christmas

Whangarei Girls' High School is giving local kids a chance to enjoy the magic of books by supporting Kiwi Christmas Books, a charity initiative that collects brand-new books to gift to Kiwi kids doing it tough at Christmas.

Next time you are in a bookshop or online, please consider buying an extra book. Books for teens or children will be very much appreciated. All books will be delivered to the Whangarei Women's Refuge, who will distribute them as Christmas presents among the young people whose families are using their services this festive season.

**Please, no second-hand books; these kids are generally having a pretty rough time and deserve something shiny and new. And please choose a book by a New Zealand writer or illustrator if you can, so we can support local authors, publishers and booksellers too.**

**You can drop your book donation off at the school reception or payments office.**

## Parents Supporting Parents

Parents support group will not run over the school holidays.

Please feel free to message Jane or Barts and we are happy to support you in any way that we can. We know that school breaks can be difficult for many.

## Holiday Beach Bus Service

The Northland Regional Council is running a Beach Bus service during the school holidays. It will run from Rose Street Bus terminus to Ocean Beach. It will run on certain days between 17 December 2020 and 28 January 2021. For more information go to <https://buslink.co.nz/>

## The Willing Horse Production

Where: 116 Bank Street (opposite Jimmy Jacks)

When: Thursday 3rd December 5:30pm and 8:00 pm

Who: 5 WGHS drama students and 5 WGHS teachers. Cast: Aimee Clemow, Finn Gilbert Keene, Hannah Owen, Ruby Dickinson-Yeoman, Hana Meuli-Hemara, Ms Sugrue, Mrs Moors, Miss Bearn, Mrs Hughes, Ms Fisher.

Why: Award winning play, award winning production, sell out season at the Whangarei Fringe Festival. Command performance to help fundraise for a seating block for 116.

Tickets can be purchased on Eventfinda. Ticket Price: \$25.00 includes supper.

## Second Hand Uniform Sale

The PTA will be holding a second hand uniform sale on 20 January 2021, from 4:40pm to 6:00pm. This will be held in the WGHS Aspire Gym.

Drink water and milk  
Inumia te wai me te miraka hoki

**Water  
is the best drink**

Need a dental appointment for your child?  
**CALL 0800 MY TEETH (0800 698 3384)**

NORTHLAND DISTRICT HEALTH BOARD

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

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