



Whangārei Girls' High School

4th April 2023

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Important Dates:

6th April 2023
Last day of Term 2

24th April 2023
Teachers Only Day

25th April 2023
ANZAC Day

26th April 2023
Start of Term 2

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Word from the Principal



Tēnā koutou katoa

Congratulations to all our teams who have done so well in their respective codes at tournament week. Our rowers excelled to make an A- Final in the novice double sculls, our cricket team enjoyed great success, winning nearly all their games and our volleyball team also did us proud, moving up from 30th to 6th place. It was lovely to receive an email from another team who staying in the same accommodation as our team, letting me know how impressed they were with the way our students and staff conducted themselves both on and off the court. Thank you so much to those of you who took the time and put in hard mahi to enable our students to do so well. We could not provide our students with these opportunities without your support.

Congratulations too, to the Kaiārahi who walked hundreds of laps of the track at Kensington Athletics Stadium in support of Relay for Life. Cancer has touched each one of us in some way and it is good to be able to support our local Cancer Society with some badly needed funds.

Our goals for last year were around implementing our kaupapa, developing local curriculum, piloting the new literacy and numeracy standards, better meeting the needs of Year 12 and 13 students and having a strategy focussing on the wellbeing of students and staff.

From the initial work on our kaupapa at the beginning of the year, we identified five areas we wanted to work on more. They were: gaining more student voice, incorporating Mātauranga Māori more in our curriculum, embedding Te Timatanga, focus on whanaungatanga and learning more about Maramataka Māori and how it fits with our curriculum. We did this to varying degrees through our Professional Learning Groups.

For the literacy and numeracy pilots, the results were as follows:
Numeracy: 400 students sat and 66.1% passed. 48.6% of the 138 Māori students who sat passed.

Writing: 184 students sat and 60.3% passed. 59% of the 70 Māori students who sat passed.

Reading: 199 students sat and 66.8% passed. 59% of the 78 Māori students who sat passed.

Unfortunately, neither the students, nor us, received any feedback on what was needed to improve. From this year, all students will need to achieve these standards in order to receive their NCEA qualifications at Levels 2 and 3.

We thoroughly enjoyed hosting Shinwa High School from Japan who were here recently. It is so good to be able to resume these relationships with schools overseas as we gain as much from their visit as they do. A big thank you to Amelia and Toni for their wonderful organisation and to all those of you who warmly invited students into your homes – the tears as they left said it all and the visit could not have been successful without you.

Thank you too, to the Year 9 whānau who attended the core class meetings held last week. Feedback from both whānau and staff has been most positive and we will build on this for next time.

Last week we spoke to students about the importance of living our kaupapa, so that we are all demonstrating the values and behaviours in it.

We spoke about caring enough about each other not to let anyone do something unsafe, inappropriate or out of our values – eg leaving the grounds, truanting, vaping, and accusing people of saying things about them with no evidence to base that on.

We want our students to be upstanders, not bystanders to resolve conflict in an appropriate way, to respect each other's mana, to wear the uniform with pride and to look after our grounds.

Recently, we have had a group of students who have not been 'living the kaupapa' and we are taking steps to turn this around so that every student can be in class, fully engaged in their learning and feeling safe everywhere in the school.

We have reminded students that phones are to be turned off and in their bags. They can only be used at interval and lunchtime, apart from before and after school. Please support us in this by only contacting your student at these times. If you need to contact them urgently, please ring the school office and we will ensure your student receives the message.

We have also had a recent trend of several students congregating in one toilet cubicle, which has resulted in damage in some instances. Some of these students are for sharing vapes. Staff have been asked not to allow students to leave class, unless absolutely necessary. We are coming down hard on students who are not living our kaupapa and are working with them and their whānau to change their behaviours.

Please keep an eye on your student's attendance through the parent portal and check how much time they are spending on social media as well as which platforms they are using. A lot of hurt is still happening via social media.

Monitoring student attendance

The Ministry of Education has set student attendance targets for regular attendance and chronic and moderate absence.

Measure	2024 Target	2026 Target
Percentage of akōnga attending school regularly (attending more than 90%, an average of 9 days a fortnight)	70%	75%
Percentage of akōnga who are moderately absent (attending more than 70% up to 80%, missing two to three days a fortnight)	6%	4%
Percentage of akōnga who are chronically absent (attending 70% or less, missing three or more days a fortnight)	5%	3%

Our current rates are:

Regular attendance – 61.8%

Moderately absent- 8.2%

Irregular attendance (80 – 90%) – 23.1%

Chronically absent (6.9%)

Last week we did a walk around the school with Ministry of Education property personnel as the first step in our new development planning. It is very exciting that we will finally have facilities that provide much better for a quality education than what we currently have. Though we are under no illusions that this will be quick, it will be worth the wait and it is important to take the time in the design phase to make sure we cater for the future as well as for the present – our students and staff deserve only the best.

On Thursday, we farewell Suzi Connor who is leaving us for promotion as Head of Geography at Whangārei Boys' High School. We thank Suzi so much for all her work in Careers and Social Studies and Geography and for always helping out wherever needed. We wish her all the very best in her new role.

Eden Seymour came for Term 1 to help us out and is now leaving to head off on her OE. We thank her for the fabulous work she has done this term and wish her all the best on her adventures.

Finally, as I head off on my sabbatical next term, I would like to thank you all for the constant support of our students and staff. I am looking forward to having the time and headspace it is so hard to find on top of everything else, to research more into the way schools are currently structured, especially in the leadership space.

I leave the kura in Sonya Lockyer's capable hands – she will be Acting Principal for Term 2 and Phil Mechen will be Acting Deputy Principal. Nicky Howes will take the reins back as HOD Physical Education for the term. I am very grateful to all these staff for making it possible for me to take my sabbatical.

As I have resigned from 30th June, this will be my last newsletter - thank you for all the lovely messages and know that I have always valued your support. It is not something I have ever taken for granted and what is best for students has been at the base of every decision we have made.

Term 3 will be the beginning of a new phase for Whangārei Girls' High School – and it will be an exciting journey with the property plan and other changes

happening in education.

Whāia te iti kahurangi, ki te tūohu koe me he maunga teitei

Pursue that which is precious and do not be deterred by anything less than a lofty mountain

So, it is haere rā from me and all the very best for the future.

Ngā mihi



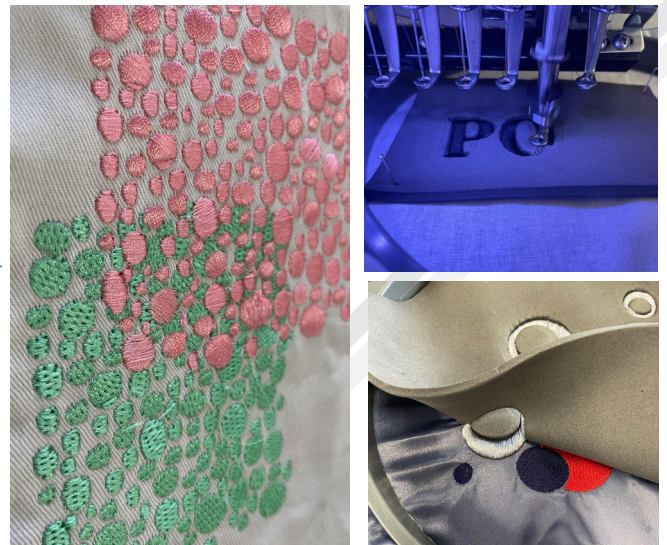
Anne Cooper
Principal

TEXTILE AND FASHION DEPARTMENT

We are super excited to have a Ricoma 15 head embroidery machine added to our fleet of machines this year. While we are still learning to drive the machine and the digitizing software, students are already using it as part of their drawing and design process with some interesting results. This machine will be predominantly used by seniors for the Applied Design NCEA standard. However it will be used widely in the department to add students' original designs to their work.

Students have already started to develop their ideas for a range of competitions this year on top of their class work. If you want to keep an eye on the development of work follow us on https://www.instagram.com/wghs_tft/

Rachael Pedersen
HOD Textile and Fashion
Technology



SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

The science department and astronomy club are very grateful to Shane Knowler for the donation of a 12" Skywatcher telescope. With this telescope, we will be able to see the red spot on Jupiter and Saturn's rings. As the nights are drawing in, we will definitely get outside and make use of it. We would really like to thank Shane for this wonderful donation; it will help inspire our students who love the stars.

VIDEOS/RESOURCES FOR WHĀNAU

To raise brave girls, encourage adventure - Caroline

<https://ed.ted.com/lessons/to-raise-brave-girls-encourage-adventure-caroline-paul>



School Calendar

5th April 2023
OED Sea Kayak Assessment
9DRA Performance
Lunch time Music Concert
NSSSA Tennis Champs
Year 10 Concert 6pm Music

6th April 2023
YR13 TOU - Bay of Island,
Paihia & Russell Trip
Last day of Term 2

TERM 2

24th April 2023
Teachers Only Day

25th April 2023
ANZAC Day

26th April 2023
Start of Term 2

1st May 2023
WGHS 1st XV Rugby Starts

2nd May 2023
Trades Academy PAD - Mig
L2/3 PEDSM Sport
Northland
SWITCH Manea Trip

3rd May 2023
Gateway Health & Safety
Trades Academy PAD - Mig
2PED Trip

4th May 2023
Gateway Health & Safety
Trades Academy PAD - Mig
3ECD Food Practical

INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT

Our wonderful student buddy wrote this wee article about her time with the Shinwa students

On the 13th of March, a group of people from Shinwa Girls' Junior & Senior High School, located in Kobe, Hyogo, Japan, arrived at Whangarei Girls' High School to learn about cultures within Aotearoa and experience new things in a foreign country (aka New Zealand).

As a student at Whangarei Girls' High School, I wanted to get involved in something that I had an interest in, and being a navigator for the Shinwa Buddy Group was something I took an interest in because I love to learn about other countries and their cultures and customs.

When I first met my Shinwa buddy, I would ask her all sorts of questions, like: What's it like living in Japan? And what things do you take an interest in? Learning about all these things was very interesting to me because it would help me get to know her better, making our conversations more easygoing.

Even though Shinwa Girls' Junior & Senior High School students came to Aotearoa to learn about our country, I feel that I have learned new things too, just by talking and engaging in simple conversations with the Japanese exchange students; therefore, the Shinwa Girls' Junior & Senior High School exchange students and the student navigators from Whangarei Girls' High School have both gained learning experiences from each other.



Sadly, the Shinwa Girls' Junior & Senior High School students left Aotearoa to go back to Kobe, Hyogo, Japan on the 24th of March. I enjoyed being a navigator for the Japanese exchange students, and I wish them well back to Japan.

By Anahera Harding



Check out our Facebook Page for photos and regular updates on news and events around the school
<https://www.facebook.com/WhangareiGirlsHigh/>