



Whangārei Girls' High School

22nd May 2023

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Important Dates:

- 1st June 2023
Year 12 Rostered Home
- 5th June 2023
King's Birthday
- 6th June 2023
Year 10 Rostered Home
Staff PLD - School finishes at 12.25pm
- 8th June 2023
Year 9 Rostered Home
Staff PLD - School finishes at 12.25pm

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Word from the Acting Principal



Tēnā koutou katoa

The last two weeks have been a very difficult time for our school community and the local community. It was fitting that our Kapa Haka groups, in their performance for our school on Wednesday the 17th of May, remembered Karnin Petera and sent their aroha to his whānau. I have been very proud of the aroha and empathy that our teachers, students and whānau have demonstrated during this time.

We appreciate there are elevated levels of concern around EOTC events, so I want to reassure you that student safety remains paramount in all our learning activities, in and out of the classroom. As a kura we will continue to review our policies and practices regarding EOTC, as we do with all curriculum subjects. On Wednesday the 24th of May, our Outdoor Education teachers and myself will be meeting with our Outdoor Education students and their whānau to discuss our processes and to answer any questions. As mentioned, in the last newsletter, the EOTC- Education Outside of the Classroom policies are being reviewed during Term 2. We welcome your feedback on these policies. You simply go into www.schooldocs.co.nz, type the first few letters of Whangārei Girls' High School and you will see the name come up. The user name is wghs and the password is aspirations. You then go into the 'current review' tab and the instructions and links to the relevant policies are all there for you.

Please take some time to talk to your students about the importance of road safety. I have heard reports of secondary students getting off public buses, and walking in front of cars to cross the road. By promoting road safety with our students we can create a safer and more responsible community that values human life and wellbeing. "As per the World Health Organisation, road traffic injuries are the leading cause of death among children and young adults aged 5-29 years." The main reason behind these road accidents is not following/knowing traffic & road safety rules. Trafficquiz.com is a **FREE** to use website developed with an aim to spread awareness about road safety and traffic rules. Here is a link to the secondary level quiz:

<https://trafficquiz.com/road-safety-quiz-secondary-level-1/>

I would like to congratulate one of our Year 11 students, Alice Aastroem who won a place on the Blake Inspire for Sailors programme for the 8-12 May.

It is hard to believe that we are moving into Week 5 of Term 2 already. There have been many events taking place at school since the last newsletter. Our Kapa Haka teams made us very proud at the Tai Tokerau festival and Tokihi Ki Tua Secondary Kapa Haka competitions in Kaitaia. The whole school was very privileged to watch both groups perform at Whangārei Boys' High School on Wednesday. It was very heartwarming to see the pride that our students

took in watching their peers perform. Thank you to the 120 students and whānau that attended the NCEA me te whānau evening, despite the heavy rain. I would like to thank Te Hiwi Preston for his informative presentation and all the people who attended for taking the time to learn more and to ask questions about the areas that were still causing confusion.

Thanks to our Year 13 Dean, Mr Mechen, for organising the Year 13 Wellbeing Day. This was a great opportunity for the students to hear from 155 Taitokerau Community Law, the ASB team, Work Ready, the Clinical Youth nurses, Whangarei Budgeting service and the Ministry of Social Development. The sessions covered personality tests, scholarships that are available, employment agreements and other legal issues, money, health, interviews and curriculum vitae.

On Tuesday the 16th of May, thirteen of our students took part in an Auckland University Mental Health research project. The researchers were very impressed by our students' communication skills and took away knowledge about how difficult it is for teenagers to access mental health services in our region.

On Thursday the 18th of May, it was great to see students wearing pink shirts as they took part in Pink Shirt Day to raise the profile of the importance of being an upstander.

On Friday the 19th of May we held our Year 9 Junior Celebration to celebrate the achievements of our top Year 9 students, during Term 1. It was great to see the support we received from whānau and their appreciation of the recognition given to students for their excellence in the twenty-first century skills, academic achievement and excellent effort. Congratulations to all of our Year 9 students that received a certificate to celebrate their Term 1 achievements.

There are also more events coming up. There will be a presentation about Pūhoro being held in the Library at 2.15pm on the 8th of June, for our Year 11 Māori students. This is an opportunity for our Year 11 Māori students to hear about this kaupapa and decide if they want to register to be part of this programme. Below is some information about Pūhoro.

“Pūhoro was launched in 2016 as a response to the low representation of Māori in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). What started out as a pilot programme in the Manawatū with just 97 Year 11 rangatahi, has now grown into a vibrant kaupapa supporting 2000 rangatahi Māori in eight regions across Aotearoa. Designed with rangatahi and their whānau in mind, Pūhoro supports rangatahi to maintain a science pathway throughout high school and embrace their Māoritanga – Pūhoro reminds them that they are descendants of some of the greatest navigators and scientists there have ever been, and believe our rangatahi are in a unique position to be the engineers, entrepreneurs, scientists, innovators, environmentalists and thought-pioneers of today. Students who register will attend one hour weekly sessions that will allow them to navigate through preparation for 21st century skills such as interviews, scholarships, identifying better study habits as well as tutorial sessions for mahi they may be doing in STEM. There are also wananga that are run every term for students on the course.” If you're interested in signing your student up or have any questions, please do not hesitate to email r.tautari@puhoro.org.nz

Our school environment committee is organising for a group of students to be able to attend the School Climate Strike on Friday the 26th May, lunch-time and period 5. More information will be shared with students through the notices.

We have received notification this morning that all PPTA industrial action is suspended until 11.59pm on Tuesday the 30th May as the Ministry of Education is working with urgency to explore options for a revised offer.

This means that the scheduled rostering home on the 25th of May 2023 for Year 11s and the rostering home on the 30th May 2023 for Year 13s will not happen.

Whangārei Girls' High School is on a journey towards becoming a Restorative school. A restorative school values and builds strong relationships between teachers, students and whānau. All school members will develop a set of tools and strategies that can be used when things go wrong in a relationship. At the start of the year all teachers attended a one day training session and all middle and senior leaders also attended an additional one day session on how to lead restorative practices with their teams. We are establishing a Restorative Practices implementation team which will help to lead this mahi. We will be organising whānau workshops throughout the year, to ensure that we are all on this learning journey together. As a school we are focusing on taking the time to get to know our students as people and as learners and to forming connections with whānau. Using restorative practices helps all parties to develop empathy, appreciate how their behaviour affects others, to learn how to resolve disagreements without violence, to take another's perspective and to be honest.

The Literacy and Numeracy assessments are scheduled for the week of the 12-16 June. Please talk to your student about which assessments that they are entered for. Mr Musa will be sending more information out.

Ngā mihi

Sonya Lockyer
Acting Principal

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT



Congratulations to Harshinni Nayyar (Year 12) who won the recent Northland heat of the Race Unity Speech Competition.

Harshinni and her sister, Hannah, represented our kura with distinction at this event.

Harshinni now moves on to the National semi-finals and finals weekend in Auckland on 17 and 18 June.

We wish her all the best at this prestigious event!

The English Department was deeply saddened to learn of the recent death of Crow Grant, one of our Year 13 students from last year. Crow was a prolific and hugely talented writer, and they had been published in the 'Re-Draft' book in 2020 and 2022. We have sourced a beautiful kowhai tree, and we are in the throes of arranging for a plaque to be engraved in Crow's honour. This tree will be planted soon in our Lamb Block garden.

This is a plea to all parents/ caregivers to ensure that your student is equipped with basic stationery items please. We are finding that several students are regularly coming to class without pens and books. Your support with this would be appreciated.

Nga mihinui,
Marg Northey
HOD English

A message from the Payments Office Team -

When making a payment by Internet Banking please remember to add your student's name and a reference of what fee you are paying for so that we can allocate payments correctly.

Many thanks.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING EXPO

Friday 9th June. This is where we invite local health and wellbeing providers to come and share their services and knowledge with our kohine. If you are, or know someone who is interested then please get in touch with Halle Baker (halle.baker@wghs.school.nz) or Lorraine Barton (lorraine.barton@wghs.school.nz).

Finally an update of our pink shirt day activities and winners will be in the next newsletter. But as we know preventing bullying takes more than one day, it takes all of us to play our part and role model behaviors. There are plenty of ways we can all continue to support the Pink Shirt Day kaupapa.



INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT

WGHS International Department is desperately looking for whānau willing to open up their hearts and homes to our international students. This is a great opportunity to experience another culture in your own home and share our great Northland lifestyle and culture with them.

We are looking for whānau that are keen to host long-term (6 months or more), short-term (1 - 2 terms) and groups (2 weeks).

Please contact Toni Richardson at 021 435 517 or email toni.richardson@wghs.school.nz for more information.

Help! Seeking Business Mentors

We are looking for mentors to be involved in providing advice and support to our senior business students and their student enterprise companies. To help their business 'lift' off and be willing to go along for the ride. As a mentor, you would engage and challenge the students. Act as a sounding board for their strategies and ideas, working with the group through the year.

The Commitment

Meeting with the group 2 to 3 weekly.

Could be in person or zoom, and maybe email or phone support if needed

Your Credentials

Professional & positive attitude- you don't have to be a business owner, mover and shaker.

Can provide sound advice

Willing to work through challenges

The Benefit

Help young people develop essential life / career skills

Fun! its a real buzz helping their ideas turn into reality

Not sure about being involved all year? Perhaps you can help with your expertise. Maybe share insights with YES companies on an ad-hoc basis. If your schedule allows, you may like to make a school visit to lead a session in your area of expertise.

If you are willing to be involved please contact me directly: janet.lang@wghs.school.nz and please share this request with other members of your whanau and community who may be interested.

Nga mihi

Janet

HOD Business, Money and the Economy

PTA NEWS

Next PTA meeting 31 May, Wednesday at 5.30pm in the staffroom. Agenda is:

- 1) Organise ball catering
- 2) Sailing team proposal

School Calendar

22 May 2023
Squash Team Training

23 May 2023
2PED
House Assemblies
NSSSA Turbo Touch
PEDSM Turbo Touch
SWITCH Mair Park Trip

24 May 2023
11MATM Subdivison Trip
Junior Health Whanau Hui
Mid Week Football
NSSSA Mixed Senior
Volleyball
PEDSM Mixed Senior
Volleyball

25 May 2023
NSSSA Mixed
Senior Volleyball
PEDSM Mixed Senior
Volleyball

26 May 2023
10OED Tramp 2
2ACM Northtec
Northtec Nurshing
Tutor Info Session
Rotorua MCC 2023 Schools
Motor Cross Challenge

29 May 2023
2OED Survial 2B
Squash Team Training
Trades Health & Safety

30 May 2023
Trades Health & Safety
2PED
Year 9-13 Kaupapatia te
reo kinga Kiriata

1st June 2023
11OED Tramping
11PEDSM WGHS Cross
Country
Year 12 Rostered Home

2nd June 2023
2ACM Northtec
Trades Academy Buthcery/
Bakery at Northtec

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Bella Tissink and Ella Farrier won a trip to the Poor Knights through EMR. They completed Action Projects in class last year that were promoting Marine reserves.

EMR or Experiencing Marine Reserves is an amazing national programme focused around marine conservation and helping spread awareness and encourage action around marine reserves. They do this with a hands-on approach by taking people on guided snorkel trips .

Suzanne Scourfield
Head of Science



WGHS OLD GIRLS ASSOCIATION HIGH TEA and AGM

Is being held

11 June at 2pm

Manawa Ora Block

WGHS

1 Lupton Ave

Tickets \$18

**Please contact the school office to
register**