



New Plymouth Girls' High School Te Kura Taitamawāhine o Puke Ariki

Shape Your Future | Tāraia Tāu Wāheke

Newsletter 5 – December 2019

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PRINCIPAL'S COMMENT



Kia ora koutou katoa

With the 2019 school year coming to a close, I would like to thank our students, staff and school community for another fantastic year. As always, it has been an eventful and exciting year. We have completed our celebrations for our senior students' achievements.

Thanks to all the parents, whanau, and guests who came to support our students and celebrate Senior Prizegiving with us. Special congratulations to Breanna Camden for achieving Dux Literati

(Academic Dux), Hannah Fisher for achieving Proxime Accessit (Runner up to Dux Literati), Claudia Kelly for Dux Ludorum (Excellence in Sport) and Lucy North for Runner up to Dux Ludorum. A huge thank you for our outgoing Leadership team: Ella Wood (Head Girl), Georgia Bricknall (Deputy Head Girl), and Brianna See, (Deputy Head Girl). Thank you for making this an exceptional year. We wish you all the best in your future endeavours and we look forward to watching the next stages in your lives.



Enrolments continue and we have had the opportunity to have a number of orientation visits over the last few weeks, where we welcomed next year's Year 9 students and their families to the school. We also had Hostel Orientation on Friday 29 November at the Hostel, and a bumper sleepover the night before. We are continuing to receive enrolments for places in 2020 at all year levels. Please contact Mrs Marina Walsh at the Hostel if you are interested in boarding and Sue Barras at the school office for an enrolment interview with a Dean.

The Junior Outdoor Education programme is a significant end of year event over 4 - 6 December. A considerable amount of time and effort went into planning a range of exciting activities. The school-based activities do not incur a cost and students are expected to attend. Outdoor education is a compulsory part of the New Zealand Curriculum. The camps and school-based activities allow opportunities for our

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February 2020

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students to grow in their team-building and non-subject specific fields whilst having fun, making new friends, and consolidating existing friendships.

School finished for the year with the Junior Prizegiving on Tuesday 10 December. Thank you to all of those who attended. Congratulations to all our Junior Prize-winners and special congratulations to Freya Coates who was awarded the Courtney Muggeridge Cup for General Excellence in Year 9; Kailani Paraha who was awarded the Oonagh Ogle Memorial Cup for good attitude and hard work in Year 10; and Jenny Zhou who was awarded the Paige Muggeridge Cup for General Excellence in Year 10.

Staffing News

In staffing news, we are farewelling a number of staff this year. Firstly, Tony Gerber retires as full-time Teacher of Physics and Science. Tony joined the school as Head of Science in 1996. Since 2014, Tony has been Teacher in Charge of Physics and Laboratory Manager. Barbara Bennett, teacher of Science, is also leaving us at the end of the year, after a year of refreshment leave. Barbara joined the school in 1982 as a Physical education teacher. After taking time out to have a family, Barbara returned to school as a part-time Science teacher in 2001. In 2022, she became a full-time teacher of Science and technology. In 2011, she became the Specialist Classroom Teacher. She is taking up a position at WITT. We thank them both for their long service and wish them both well in their future endeavours. Kerry Macdonald, Deputy Principal, is taking refreshment leave in 2020 after 15 years' service to the school. We wish her well on her travels. Myken Hurley has been appointed as Acting Deputy Principal for 2020 and we look forward to working with her in the Senior Leadership Team. Barry Marnoch, Teacher of Technology – Hard Materials, is also taking refreshment leave for three terms in 2020 and we wish him well.

We also have the following staff leaving us at the end of their long-term relieving positions: Tanya Corlett, Richard Meikle, Erik Noack and Sarah Roberts. We thank them for their hard work and service to the school, and we wish them all the very best for the future.

Start of the Year 2020

Term 1 Week 1

Monday 27 January – Staff Only Day

Tuesday 28 January - All of Year 12 and Year 13 Peer Supporters

9am Start: Year 13 Peer Supporters will be in for Peer Support Training.
Year 12 will go to the Hall and then to Kawai Huia groups for beginning of the year briefing, going over timetables, learning support needs, learning programmes on offer, followed by Digital Competency and Citizenship workshops.

Wednesday 29 January – All of Year 11 and Year 13

9am Start: Year 13 will report to the Year 13 Study and then to Kawai Huia groups for beginning of the year briefing, going over timetables, learning support needs, learning programmes on offer, followed by Digital Competency and Citizenship workshops.
Year 11 will go to the Hall and then to Kawai Huia groups for beginning of the year briefing, going over timetables, learning support needs, learning programmes on offer, followed by Digital Competency and Citizenship workshops.

Thursday 30 January - Powhiri – All Year 9, Year 13 and new students and staff

8.30am Year 13 Peer Supporters welcoming new students and whanau at the gates
8.50am Year 13 assemble at Hall stage door
New students and whanau to assemble in front of the Hall
9.00am Powhiri in the Hall followed by kai in the wharenuī, Tuhonohono for whanau and guests.
Year 9 students remain in the Hall for Assembly and then to Kawai Huia groups for preparation for the year, orientation activities, and school tours. Please bring paper and a pen.
1.20pm Year 9 Tabloid Sports with Year 13 Peer Supporters.

Friday 31 January – All students in school

9am Start: **Year 9** in Kawai Huia rooms Orientation activities followed by Digital Competency and Citizenship workshops.
Year 10 will go to the Hall and then to Kawai Huia groups for beginning of the year briefing, going over timetables, learning support needs, learning programmes on offer, followed by Digital Competency and Citizenship workshops.

Details will be published on our website, in the Daily News and Midweek. Monday 27 January is a Staff Only Day and students are not required to attend.

Thank you to the many parents, organisations and businesses that have supported us throughout the year. Your contribution to the life of the school is invaluable. We would not be able to offer the wealth of sporting, cultural and arts opportunities without your support and input.

I wish all the best to our leavers and a restful break for all those students who are returning to us. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Victoria Kerr
Principal

STUDENT NEWS AND INFORMATION

School Sport New Zealand Service to School Sport Awards

Congratulations to Josie Cleaver who has been awarded a **Service to School Sport Award** by the board at School Sport NZ. This award is presented to people who, as volunteers, have made contributions to secondary school sport that are deemed to be exceptional.

An excerpt from their letter to Josie: *"Over more than 40 years you have made a fantastic contribution to school sport at New Plymouth Girls High School, particularly in netball but also across the administration of all sports. Your contribution to school sport beyond NPGHS, and especially in the LNISS tournament administration was also praised by the board. Your work as a coach and administrator has enabled hundreds of young people to enjoy the benefits of school sport and for this the Board would like to thank you and honour you by offering you a School Sport NZ Service to School Sport Award."*

Also, congratulations to Wendy Stewart who has been awarded a **Taranaki Secondary Schools Sports Association Service to Secondary School Sport Award**. The Service Award recognises people who have given an outstanding and highly commendable contribution to secondary school sport in the Taranaki Region, of at least 15 years' duration to a school or sport connected to a school team.

Junior Speech Competition



The annual NPGHS Junior Speech Competition was held in the school library on Friday 15 November. The speeches were excellent and covered a wide variety of interesting and well researched topics. They were delivered with poise and confidence. Thank you to our guest adjudicator, Mrs Ngaire Riley.

Year 9 Winners from left to right:

Me'a Singh 9KCN (3rd), Makayla Wells 9JSA (2nd) and Macy Lobb 9SJA (1st)



Year 10 winners from left to right:

Haim Jeong 10GTO (2nd), Ella-Maire Treacy 10WST (3rd), Sukena Shah 10WST (1st) and Mrs Ngaire Riley (adjudicator)

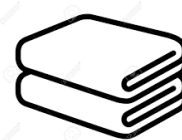
School Office Hours

Please note that the School Office will be closed on Wednesday 18 December at 3.00pm and will re-open on Monday 13 January at 8:30am. Skeleton office staff will be working until school opens on 27 January.

The Art Dept would help you with your recycling over the holidays!
We are in need of glass jars, ice-cream and yoghurt containers with lids.

Also, we can use your old sheets and towels for drawing cloths.
Bring them into any room in the Art Dept at the beginning of next year.

Thank you!



NPGHS is reviving the PTA!

**We seek vibrant, enthusiastic parents
to join the committee**

Newcomers, Sports, Arts & Music, Academic and Events to name a few. Come meet the NPGHS staff involved with the PTA and hear how we can work together as a community for NPGHS.

Queries can be emailed to PTA@npghs.school.nz

Shape Your Future Tāraia Tāu Wāheke



Hostel Highlights

We have come to the end of a growing year at Scotlands Hostel. Our numbers have increased, and life in the Hostel is certainly buzzing with the voices of many active girls. Thank you to all of you who pop in and say “hello” and ask how we are doing. We love seeing new and familiar faces.

A couple of highlights this year:

- Brand new radiator heating, shower heads, towel rails and gas water heating system in our units.
- Community involvement with Red Cross, Autism Connex and Cemetery and beach clean ups.
- Social with Francis Douglas College, meal swaps and sporting events with New Plymouth Boys' High School.
- Year group activities through the year including beach and park dinners and movie nights.
- Justin Kitchen Rules competition – another great hit as well as International dinners to die for.
- Many new faces throughout the year giving us countless opportunities to learn about different cultures and practice ‘building positive relationships.’
- Year 9 Hostel Students for 2020 had a sleepover on Thursday 28 November.

We also had Revolution Tour visit and trialed the SHINE Programme with our Year 13 students, both focusing on our emotional wellbeing. A great reminder of how valuable, purposeful and wonderful we all are.

I am looking forward to 2020 and the many fun times ahead. If you are a Hostel family, please look out for your email update before the year is out. I will also have a link to a survey I would love for students and parents to take part in during the Christmas and the New Year break.

Wishing you a wonderful summer break of rest and relaxation. Whilst you are having a break, follow us on Facebook and Instagram – Scotlands Hostel.

Marina Walsh
Scotlands Hostel Manager
hostelenquiries@npghs.school.nz



UPDATED 2020 UNIFORM

Summer *style*



Shorts *style*



Winter *style*



Other *options*



Jacket



Blazer



Trousers
Bootcut



Trousers
Straight-cut

RESPECT/WHAKAMANA, RESPONSIBILITY/HAEPAPA, POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS/WHANAUNGATANGA

Solar Power at NPGHS

This week we are finally generating our own electricity which is connected to the school grid network for our own use. This whole installation and the complicated steps that had to be taken to become connected was a huge learning curve and took place over an extended time frame. In April, Mike Hein of *Computer Sense*, a local computer company donated four solar panels to be connected on the Tohonohono Wharenui roof. While this was not originally part of the *Curious Minds PSP* (as reported in previous newsletters and in the Curious Minds website: <https://www.curiousminds.nz/stories/watt-about-the-weather/>) it has enabled us to initiate an ideal of taking the Wharenui off the grid.

5 new solar panels on the Whare roof



Initially myself (Athol Hockey) and Mike Hein installed four solar panels and connected them to a microinverter. In my negotiations with *Powerco* to connect them to the grid it was discovered that the microinverter was not on their approved list. This dilemma was averted when Nichols Vessiot of *Powerco* kindly donated us an approved string inverter. Eventually after five months, *Hitek Systems (Tauranga)* advised me to add a fifth panel and to contract Michael Allesbrook (*Ecotech*) to complete the final connection. This was inspected and passed before switching on.



Inverter connection in Whare kitchen

This installation is limited by the inverter to be grid-tied to feed around 6 kWh (Units of power) per day to the grid. The power profile can also be monitored on-line.

In the future we need to add more panels and install a Hybrid inverter so that we can also store energy in batteries for emergency use. We could achieve this if we had access to funds or donations. To do this we require a further 11 Solar panels, a hybrid inverter and a storage battery. Teachers would then be able to charge their electric cars at school during the day at no cost and the Wharenui could operate at night without grid power.

I would personally like to thank Mike Hein – Computer Sense for all his valuable time and the donations of the solar panels and Powerco for their advice and donation of the Inverter.

Athol Hockey (Teacher and Curious Minds PSP Project leader)

SPORTS

NPGHS Hockey 2020

The 2019 Season was a very successful season for Hockey at New Plymouth Girls' High School. Our 1st XI won the local competition and qualified again for the Top tier NZSSA tournament in 2020, our 2nd XI played a NZSSA Tournament. We had rep players in the Under-18 and Under-15 tournaments as well as players who represented the winning Under-18 Central league. I would like to personally thank the following people who played significant roles in the success of our players: Andrew Darke, Russell and Tanya Atkinson, Ana Spurdle, Simon Johnstone, Deb Black, Kevin Byrne as well as all who assisted.



Even though we are losing our Year 13 players next year, the basis for a competitive 1st XI has already been established, and I am sure that next year's intake of students will have some highly skilled talent amongst them.

As always, we are looking for willing and able parents to assist with coaching and managing teams, so if there are any parents/caregivers who could be of assistance, please contact the school and let us know.

We will be opening the registration of players at the start of Term 1 next year.

Athol Hockey (Teacher in Charge)

NPGHS Junior Volleyball 2019 North Island Championships

NPGHS Junior A Volleyball team are currently competing in Tauranga in the four day long North Island Junior Volleyball Champs. After two days of intensive play NPGHS went through as the only one of very few undefeated teams to make the final 16 teams in the 55-team competition. NPGHS beat some of the strongest volleyball provinces in the country with consistent serving pressure and great passing skills. Currently the team are playing to make the quarter finals in an attempt to retain the title for two years in a row.



Leah Smith, Bella Thornhill, Laura Curtis, Asha Raven, Olivia Russell, Alison McCabe, Grace Brough, Lily Hoffman, Aitana Dingle.

The Junior A team are currently Taranaki regional champions and TSSSA champions.



International:

Cass Pringle was selected into the NZ Under-19 development team tour to the Australian Institute of sport in Canberra last school holidays. Cass played in a series of matches versus Australian select teams. Eva Dickson was selected into the NZ Under-17 and attended the Australian state championships, where the team played in the state Under-18 division and silver medalled after a narrow final lost to Queensland state. After the state series she was involved in a series of tests versus the Australian Under-17 team.

TERM DATES

2020	
Term 1	28 January – 9 April
Term 2	28 April – 3 July
Term 3	20 July – 25 September
Term 4	12 October – 9 December