



NPGHS NEWSLETTER

August 2022

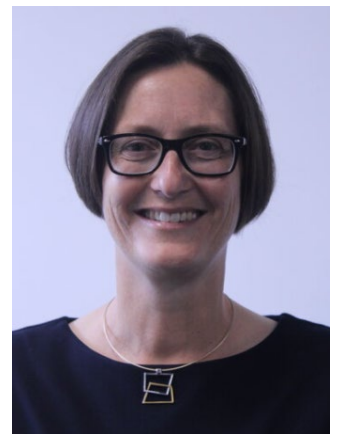
Kia ora e te whanau

2022 appears to be speeding along at a rapid rate. As we manage winter illnesses and Covid-19, and all the busy activities in a school day, the days pass quickly. The start of Term 3 is a good time to remind ourselves of all that has been achieved this year, and of all of the opportunities ahead. This term we look forward to settled learning in the classroom and also Winter Tournament Week, school exams for those doing NCEA, and the highlight of the year for Year 13, the Ball.

Term 3 is also the time when we start planning for next year, and students are now making subject selections for 2023. I'm sure there are many conversations happening at home regarding the best subject options to take. We recommend students take subjects they enjoy, as well as considering subjects that might help them in future career paths. While some students know the careers or jobs they are aiming for, many are not as certain. We recommend these students take a wide range of subjects to keep options open and we encourage them to explore their talents and interests. A reminder that the [2023 Curriculum booklet](#) can be found on our website and has a wealth of information to assist you and your daughter or young person as they make their choices. Staff are also able to assist and there are information opportunities at school.

Students in Year 9 will remember the excitement, nervousness, and anticipation of this time last year as they started thinking about the move to NPGHS. We have been out visiting our contributing schools and we are looking forward to our Open Evening on Thursday 4 August as a new group of potential students explores what we have to offer. You will have seen in the weekly 'coming events' that school finishes at 2pm on Thursday for current students. Potential students will visit the school that afternoon, with tours of the school running from 3.30pm to 6.30pm, with a brief presentation in the Hall at 4.45pm. This event could not happen without the support of the student tour guides, and those students who perform or engage in activities during Open Evening. We know you are keen to show others what our school has to offer, and we truly appreciate your time, energy and support. Thank you for making the time to make others feel welcome at NPGHS.

At the end of last term, we were very pleased to introduce Stymie to NPGHS, and you possibly saw the introduction message on the school app. Stymie is an anonymous reporting tool that helps students look out for those around them and to feel empowered to ask for help. If you would like to know more, please visit <https://about.stymie.co.nz>. We have been very pleased with the responsible way our students are using this tool and it has already made a difference to individuals and groups of students. At the same time as launching Stymie, we also held presentations from Netsafe for leaders, students, staff, and whānau. Unfortunately, the whānau presentation was not as well attended as we had expected, particularly since families often ask us how to manage device use at home, or keep their children safe online, or how to respond to difficult virtual situations. If you were unable to attend but would like to explore this area more, Netsafe have a very useful parenting section available on their website <https://www.netsafe.org.nz/advice/parenting/>



Jacqui Brown
Principal



If you are ever in need of a 'pick me up' I highly recommend scrolling through the school facebook page. Here you will find stories of the ways that our students are succeeding and contributing at school and in the community. Every week there are so many achievements to celebrate in music, sports, volunteer work, and so much more. We are excited to be able to facilitate this in some way, and for some students the activities they take part in at school are the start of something 'big'. I know many staff have been eagerly watching the Commonwealth Games, cheering on New Zealand athletes who were once students at New Plymouth Girls' High School. Perhaps some of the sports stars currently featuring on facebook will be cheered on at a future Commonwealth Games by those that are their classmates now. Not all of us will be Commonwealth Games athletes, but we can all contribute to our school and community, and we are very proud of the way our students step into every challenge and opportunity.

Ngā mihi mahana
Jacqui Brown
Principal

Board Nominations

If you are looking for a way to be involved in ensuring the continued success of NPGHS, becoming a Board member could be for you. Nominate yourself or someone you know who will make a positive difference to our school at

www.myschoolelection.nz/mynomination/

Nominations close on 10 August 2022.

The Board does not get involved in the day to day running of the school but works in partnership with the Principal to ensure the best possible outcomes for all students. The primary objectives of the Board are ensuring student achievement for all of its students, including for those of differing needs, making sure the school is a safe place for all, and giving effect to the Treaty of Waitangi. The Board focuses on designing the future and ensuring that plans and targets are developed, monitored, reviewed and achieved.

We are looking for Board members who work well as part of a team, ask challenging questions, are good communicators, are connected to our community, and reflect the diversity of our school.



School Board Member

Nominations open until 10th August

www.myschoolelection.nz/mynomination/

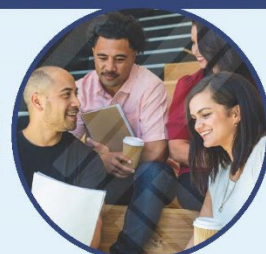


Can you offer the school?

- Visionary leadership
- Te ao Māori perspective
- Strategic or analytical thinking
- A culturally diverse viewpoint
- Being a team player

Can you share your skills?

- Strategic expertise
- Mātauranga Māori
- Financial or legal understanding
- Risk management
- People leadership



Do you have these qualities?

- Integrity and courage
- Interpersonal skills
- Time and commitment
- Curiosity and a willingness to learn
- Genuine interest in NPGHS and its students



Nominate yourself or someone you know who will make a positive difference to NPGHS using the link.

Jewellery Update

Thank you to everyone of the 231 parents and whānau who completed the survey on the current jewellery rules. The Student Council have provided feedback from a student perspective, and we are now working together to finalise the next steps. When this is confirmed, the Student Council will provide an update, and we will also provide details in the newsletter.



Behaviour in toilets

You might have heard from your daughter or young person that there are a small number of students who misuse the toilets at school. It means some of our students avoid using the bathrooms while at school. We want students to feel safe using the toilets for their intended purpose and the sort of behaviour shown by those misusing the bathrooms is never acceptable. Thankfully most of our students act sensibly in the bathrooms.

You will already know that we took steps to install CCTV and we have noticed a reduction in group behaviours. Unfortunately, there are still some individuals who act in a way that is not acceptable and we are working to eliminate this individual behaviour too.

We have consequences and disciplinary action for those that are caught and, after extensive advertising, we have a new staff member who has joined us and will take a lead role in making sure that students who are in the bathrooms for the wrong reasons are moved back to class or outside. In the interim, we have had a committed group of staff who have been there reducing the inappropriate use of the bathrooms.

We have also taken some very proactive steps which have all had a gradual but positive impact. At the end of last term we introduced the anonymous alert system, Stymie, that students can use to report this sort of behaviour, as well as any other concerns they might have. We have also refurbished the N Block toilets to provide a more welcoming and pleasant space for the vast majority of students who just want to use the toilet. There are also period product dispensers in each bathroom space, and while they were initially misused, the novelty seems to have worn off and students are very appreciative of these.

Sadly, in talking with other Principals, I am aware that this is a problem in a number of schools. At NPGHS are doing all we can to eliminate the behaviour and re-educate students, and that includes reminding students about appropriate bathroom behaviour. As we know, the difficulty is that it is hard to change the perception once a space has a bad name, and the actions of a few can impact many. We are aware that it isn't perfect yet, and probably won't ever be perfect, but we are told by students that there has been a significant improvement and they feel far more comfortable in the toilets. If your daughter experiences poor behaviour in a school bathroom block, we hope she will use Stymie to make a report, or will let a teacher know straight away if there are concerns. Teachers are all aware and are acting to help students too.

Thank you to those of you who contacted us to ensure we knew of these issues. We appreciate your support and knowing that we are acting on something that is important to families is affirming for us too.

2022 DATES

TERM 3

25 July – 30 September

TERM 4

17 October – 16 December

2023 DATES

TERM 1

2 February - 6 April

*Thursday 2 February
8.40am – 3.20pm, Year 9 & 13, and
new students in Y10,11,12.*

*Friday 3 February
8.40am – 3.20pm All students*

TERM 2

24 April - 30 June

*Monday 24 April,
'learning from home' day.*

TERM 3

17 July - 22 September

TERM 4

9 October - 14 December

CONTACT US

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BOARDING

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FOLLOW US

WEBSITE

www.npghs.school.nz

FACEBOOK

www.facebook.com/npghs

INSTAGRAM

[Npgirlshighschool](https://www.instagram.com/Npgirlshighschool)

SCHOOL APP

'schoolappsanz' on app store