



NPGHS NEWSLETTER

December 2022

Tēnā koutou katoa

We are almost at the end of another year, which always prompts us to look back as well as forward. This year has been one of celebration as the activities that we enjoy so much slowly returned after a Covid-19 enforced break. You will have seen many of these on Facebook as students enjoyed waka events, school sport and exchanges, tournament week, graduation dinner, and just being in class without the need for masks. We had an amazing senior prizegiving, with some staff giving it the accolade of 'the best I have ever attended anywhere'. I believe this was largely due to the way the students showed their engagement, supporting each other and celebrating the achievements they all shared. We also valued the presence of so many families and whānau as none of these achievements happen without collaboration. Junior Prizegiving on Friday will be a wonderful way to mark the end of the school year.



Since then, senior students, and some Year 10s, have completed NCEA exams, and the junior students have worked through their school exams. Feedback has been provided to Year 9 and 10 students and will be shown as part of the end of year report. I hope your child has shared their results with you. We now wait with anticipation for the official NCEA results, which will be released in January.

Alongside the regular school events, we've experienced a change as a school with the move to vertical Kāwai Huia classes, and the end of the accelerated class groups. In the past, a Year 10 class group worked a year ahead in certain subjects but this year we instead offered students the chance to complete NCEA Level 1 in the subject or subjects of their individual choice. We believe this aligns more appropriately with student goals and aspirations and is better for wellbeing. The wellbeing and connection focus is also central to the vertical Kāwai Huia classes. The first year of implementation shows positive changes are happening and in 2023 we will continue to embed this across the school. We have also seen some changes to the [jewellery rules](#), after our student council ran a very collaborative consultation process. While everyone has different views on jewellery and its place at school, I am pleased that student voice was heard alongside staff, parent and whānau voice to determine these changes.

In the classroom teachers have continued to work with innovation to meet the needs of the learners in their classroom. Often this includes the use of technology, and we are pleased that we have been able to provide assistance as needed to ensure all of our students now have a device to use in the classroom. You will be aware as the holiday break gets closer, that it is hard to keep engagement levels high and boredom levels low every minute of the day, but our staff do an amazing job every lesson. Over the last fortnight, teachers have arranged diverse and purposeful experiences for their students including an English class which produced children's books and then visited Merrilands School to share these with young students, while another English class acted out scenes from Shakespeare as they revised film techniques. Maths classes focused on a financial literacy project, and one investigated if games of chance are really fair. Social Sciences classes have been looking at myths and legends



including gods, goddesses, monsters, heroes and villains. Some Science classes focused on problem solving investigations around forces which included designing and building a small catapult, another looked at the physics involved in rollercoasters and began by creating a paper rollercoaster.

The adventures continue this week with the annual Outdoor Education activities. I'd again like to thank the teachers who have worked so hard to provide a range of options providing a good level of challenge to all, and keeping it within budget. A particular thank you to those who have taken time away from their own families at a busy time of year to accompany overnight trips. I know that families and whānau recognise the value in these activities and the learning that takes place, in addition to the impact that activity and exercise has on our wellbeing. We look forward to the feedback and reports from this year's adventures soon.

It has been a big and eventful year, and I'm sure every student and family or whānau will have their own highlight. I'd like to leave the final comment to two of our long-serving staff who leave us at the end of this year. They were asked for a highlight of their year, or their time at NPGHS. It was a difficult decision for them, but the words below are something we can all treasure from amazing people who have given so much to so many students and the school as a whole.

Karilyn Findlay, Head of Home Economics, staff member at NPGHS from 1986-2022:

"I have had an incredibly rewarding time at New Plymouth Girls' High School, meeting two wonderful generations of young women. And the very BEST part of my job, getting to know them, allowing them to develop their skills and knowledge, empowering and providing opportunities for their learning so they can reach their potential. To current students, make the most of every opportunity that comes your way, embrace the challenges and enjoy the journey."

Jenny Saunders, Teacher Aide, staff member at NPGHS from 1997-2022:

"A highlight was helping a student in sewing. I did a huge amount of unpicking, the student tried so hard... she wore the sweatshirt to show her Nan. When I asked if her Nan liked it? she replied "She loved it, but I couldn't have done it without you". And that is all it takes to make my day, my month, my year..."

Ngā mihi mahana

Jacqui Brown

Principal

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

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For more information on how to connect, please click on this link : <https://www.npghs.school.nz/schoolbridge>



Board Chair Report 2022

It has been a settled third and final year for our Board's elected term and the hard work put in by all the Board members during the two years prior has established firm foundations for the governance of our school. Effective policies that are relevant and aligned with strategy are one of the key levers to successful governance, and the Board has now completed a full review cycle of all policies and developed additional ones where there were gaps or opportunities for clarity. Sound policy continues to empower the school's senior and middle leaders to make timely and strategically aligned operational decisions.

With the resignation of a Board member late in 2021, a new Board member (Chris Cave) and a co-opted Board member (Daniel Harrison) were welcomed into the group to further broaden the great range of skills and expertise in service of the school. Chris and Daniel have been wonderful additions to the team. In line with the current three-year review cycle, the school and Scotlands hostel completed the new evaluation approach known as Te Ara Huarau, with representatives from the Education Review Office (ERO) this year. This approach is a more improvement-focused and less compliance-based review, which the school concluded with pleasing results. These reports are available on the ERO website.

Scotlands Hostel continues to enrich school life and is yet another selling point of the school. During the year, the hostel farewelled Marina Walsh as Hostel Manager and welcomed Cimone Wright into the role. The hostel staff have done a wonderful job throughout the year to continue to build positive relationships with the students, supporting them to feel a sense of belonging and pride as hostel students. After some staff resignations post-Covid, the Hostel kitchen team and the school Café team have amalgamated, ably led by Head Chef, Justin. This change has created excellent synergies in terms of high-quality food preparation across both areas for our students.

Several major property projects were completed this year, despite significant delays due to Covid. Waimārie, the school's complex and high needs centre, now has a wonderful new extension with some much needed upgraded facilities, which was funded by the disability fund for schools. The N Block toilets have had a wonderful facelift and when reopened were a popular location for Tik Tok posts for the first few weeks. The school's Grounds Staff have done a great job to transform an existing building into the school's new Uniform Shop along with a lot of their regular maintenance work throughout the year. Roofing remediation continues to consume much of the school's property budget and the constraints for additional property funding has been a source of frustration for the Board. During the year, the Board has worked with the Ministry of Education and the school's property Project Managers, Ardern Peters Architects, to successfully develop the school's ten-year property plan. The Board remains hopeful that the additional funding signalled by the Ministry will be delivered, so that all the other remediation work required can be completed for the school.

The school has continued to make good use of the one-off School Investment Package (SIP) funding, with new signs being installed across the campus to give the school better wayfinding and to also give an improved presence within the community at the school entrances. The Board is also pleased to have prioritised funding measures to reduce anti-social behaviour (CCTV installations) and improve attendance in class and at school (the new Roving Mentor role within the school). Financially the school has carefully managed the budget during the year, to ensure it remains in a strong fiscal position, despite the upsets related to Covid. Once again, the school made the decision to continue to opt-in for the school donations scheme funded by the government and will await with interest what the new equity index recently released by the Ministry will provide for the school in terms of funding and reducing inequity.

The Board has reviewed our strategic plan and have endorsed it for 2023 in support of the newly elected Board and will await with interest the changes brought about from the introduction of the National Education Goals and the retiring of the National Administrative Guidelines. As the year draws to a close, the Board would like to acknowledge the fantastic work done by the Senior Leadership Team and the wider staff on the school's annual goals, especially in relation to school culture and belonging.

I would like to thank all our Board members for their service and contribution to the school over our three-year term. It has been a privilege to work alongside such a talented group of people who want the best for our school and students and will work to make that happen. The Board has continued to enjoy working with our incredible Principal Ms Brown in her second full year at NPGHS and wishes to thank her for her amazing dedication and wholehearted commitment to the students and staff. She continues to lead the school in such an exemplary and professional way and remains steadfast in unashamedly striving to achieve excellence at all levels within our school. We farewell and wish Holly Stoddart (our 2022 Student Representative) every success in the future and thank her for her exquisitely written and informative student reports into the Board.

To all our staff at NPGHS, on behalf of the Board, we give our thanks and appreciation for all that you do. Your dedication and support of our students this year has been incredible once again. To our students, our collective focus is to provide you with a safe and engaging learning environment, so you can be your best and have the courage to believe in yourself as you go forth in the world. We wish you every success for your results and a wonderful summer holiday break.

Ngaio Mārama
Presiding Member (Board Chair) – NPGHS Board



Outdoor Education 2022



2023 DATES

TERM 1

2 February - 6 April

Thurs 2 February 8.50am – 3.20pm
Year 9 & 13, and new students in Years 10, 11 & 12.

Friday 3 February 8.40am – 3.20pm
All students

KEY DATES TERM 1

- Mon 6 Feb - Waitangi Day
- Fri 17 Feb - Swimming Sports
- Tue 7 March - Athletics Sports
- Mon 13 March - Taranaki Anniversary

TERM 2

24 April - 30 June

Mon 24 April - 'learning from home' day.

Mon 1 May - Teacher Only Day

TERM 3

17 July - 22 September

TERM 4

9 October - 14 December

CONTACT US

RECEPTION

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ABSENTEE

via SchoolBridge

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