



NPGHS NEWSLETTER

May 2024

Tēnā koutou katoa

The Importance of School Attendance

I have never met a parent who doesn't want the best for their children. Hopes, aspirations, and ideas of what 'the best' looks like might be different, but everyone wants the next generation to have opportunities and a strong belief in themselves. Education plays a pivotal role in shaping that future and attendance really does matter for academic success, social development, and a sense of connection.

We know that attendance needs to improve across the country, and we would like to see attendance at NPGHS higher too. We have an opportunity to work together to make sure that every student has the best chance of educational and future success. There is no 'safe' level of non-attendance and every day at school matters.

What can we do together

- *Establish Routines*

At school we will be setting regular routines for students to check their own attendance, and class teachers will continue with regular routines in lessons. We know that social media, gaming, sports, part time jobs, and lots of other commitments keep tauria/young people up late in the evenings. Help them achieve at their best by working with them to set regular bedtime and morning routines to ensure they get enough rest and feel energised for the school day. We all want them to be ready for learning and be able to focus and learn during the day. Please don't just let your child stay at home because they are feeling tired. Instead help them work out how not to be too tired for school in the future.

- *Communication*

We've increased the number of staff looking at attendance, and refined our systems so that students, and parents/whānau, will be provided with more regular information about their own attendance. Parents/whānau can help by letting us know in advance if your child is unable to attend due to illness or other valid reasons. Wherever possible, please make appointments, holiday plans, and other commitments for outside of school hours. Absences, justified or unjustified, all mean that students are not in lessons. Let's address any attendance concerns early on.

- *Monitor and Encourage*

Keep track of your daughter's or young person's attendance and punctuality. Celebrate milestones and improvements in attendance, reinforcing the importance of regular school attendance. Offer encouragement and support when challenges arise, help them overcome any obstacles to attendance. We will be recognising those who attend regularly, and we'll be more proactive in letting students and parents/whānau know when attendance is decreasing.

- *Address Barriers*

If your conversations at home identify any underlying factors that may contribute to absenteeism, such as bullying, anxiety, or learning difficulties, please let us know. We will continue to do the same and talk with you if we notice anything that could be a concern. We will work with you to address these barriers and provide interventions to support attendance. Please don't let your child stay at home because there is an assessment that they don't feel prepared for, want time to catch up, or because they are worried they aren't making progress. Absences will likely compound that feeling.

- *Lead by Example*

It is true that there will be times when students and staff are unwell and need to have time away, or when Paid Union Meetings or Teacher Only Days interrupt the pattern of the school week. On shorter days we try to still offer four lessons rather than the usual five, so don't be tricked by the call from student's that it is 'only a half day'! Please support us by prioritising attendance and actively engaging in conversations about learning

Every additional day at school is positive, and an opportunity for learning. Ultimately, our young people are responsible for their own actions, but we can encourage them to make the best of their opportunities at school. Every day at school matters. We can now take the opportunity to work together to make a real difference to their attendance and participation at school.

Ngā mihi mahana
Jacqui Brown
Principal



Winter Sport - Hockey

NPGHS Hockey is the largest group of Secondary School girls hockey players in Taranaki and many players play in the U15 & U18 Taranaki Representative teams. We currently have six school teams with a total of 98 players. Senior A (Blue) plays in the Secondary School Premier Grade and the other five teams play in the championship grade. NPGHS has two teams playing in the Taranaki Hockey Federation Club competition: Senior A (plays as NPOB Black in Premier Club Grade) and Junior A (plays as NPOB Black in Championship Club Grade).



ANZAC Tournament 2024

The ANZAC tournament, held in Hamilton during the recent school holidays, offered some great pre-season games. Players are excited to get back on the hockey turf with school games now underway.

Coach for Life Foundation

The Coach for Life Foundation believes in the power of sport to transform lives. By growing the quality of coaches in New Zealand, the foundation believe they can inspire and make a positive difference. The foundation is creating inspirational digital content, including documentaries on world class coaches Yvette McCausland-Durie and Tony O'Connor.

The next stage of Coach for Life's evolution is the establishment of the COACHING HUB - <https://hub.coachforlife.nz/>

You are invited to join the new COACHING HUB which is loaded with hours of inspirational coaching stories, advice and lessons from some of New Zealand's special sports coaches.

Everyone who joins the **COACHING HUB** goes into the draw to win **\$1000** worth of adidas product!



A HUGE thank you to all our student, parent and community coaches and volunteers. We don't know where we would be without you!

Paid Union Meeting Wednesday 22 May

School will close early, at 12.00pm, on Wednesday 22 May and students can make their way home at that time. Buses will run at the normal times.

Paid union meetings are opportunities to bring together PPTA members to give them time to consider, discuss and agree on the next steps for the union on important issues.

The focus of this PUM will be PPTA's response to the government proposals to channel money out of public education and into charter schools and how the PPTA as a union will continue to develop constitutional objectives to affirm and advance Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

Teacher Only Day Friday 31 May

Students are not required to be at school on 31 May, but there will be teachers at school to supervise any students who do attend and they should report directly to the library.

Teacher only days are for schools and kura to prepare for the changes to NCEA. The Ministry of Education is in the process of strengthening NCEA. They will be working to ensure the NCEA changes are implemented in a way that is responsive to the diverse and evolving needs of our education system and communities. The focus for the upcoming teacher only day is to embed the curriculum and assessment changes to Level 1 NCEA.



Awhina Focused Learning Classroom Team - New Teacher Aides in the school

At NPGHS we want to see every student make progress and achieve at their personal level of challenge. Taura or young people learn at different rates and in different ways, and we recognise that some need a bit more support to achieve.

We have always supported learners through a range of initiatives, including the option of working with our Awhina Learning Centre, or with teacher aides. In 2024, we have increased this provision by introducing the Awhina Focused Learning (AFL) classroom. The AFL classroom will support students, particularly in English and Mathematics.

In 2024, the Awhina Focused Learning Classroom Team includes: Kat Bolton, Melanie Christensen, Louise Gillum, Tasha Pringle, Tenaya Richardson, Bridget West-Harkness.

The Awhina mainstream Learning Support team includes: Jill Chamberlain, Sharon Church, Kim Cribb, Vicki Holder, Leanne Joe-West, Kerry Johanson, Sheryll Martin, Shirley McVicar, Kirsten Probyn.



The AFL team took up the challenge given by their students on the last Takitahi Day

Celebrating TOPEC – Taranaki Outdoor Pursuits and Education Centre

Through Outdoor Education, people broaden their life skills and develop aspects of hauora and wellbeing. At TOPEC, students are given the opportunity to set goals and are encouraged to strive for success in all activities. Students accept responsibility for themselves and others. TOPEC believe that through personal challenge, students grow as individuals. Level 2 Sports Science recently had a great time at TOPEC. They completed a Risk Management assessment which required them to participate in challenging outdoor activities. They also completed caving at Mahoenui.

Our Year 9s had a wonderful time at TOPEC in Term One, participating in a range of adventure based learning, climbing, bouldering, flying kiwi, an amazing race, bush survival and water safety.



Attendance Matters

*If a student misses just five days of school per term, they miss a whole year of school by 16 years of age.
Parents and whānau, and our school staff, play a key role in building strong habits of regular school attendance.*



Request for Volunteer Reader/Writer or Reader/Computer Assistants

Previously, we put a call out for volunteers to act as Reader/Writer assistants to help students with special assessment conditions. We are so grateful to those who responded to this call and offered their time and commitment assisting students to achieve their full potential. This role is rewarding and students express much appreciation for the help they are given.

We are looking for a few more volunteers. Generally, this means assisting a student for 1-2 hours, three or four times each term, when they have an assessment during the school day. Training will be provided, but the main attribute you need is to have a calm, patient and supportive personality. You do not need to know anything about the NCEA subject being assessed as you are not permitted to help the student, but you do need to be able to read instructions out clearly and write or type at a reasonable speed.

If you can volunteer some time to help these students show what they know and can do, please email Shirley McVicar, Head of Learning Support: smcvicar@npghs.school.nz or phone: 028 2554 2802.

Making money go further - Applying for funding

We appreciate that finding the money for extra school activities can be hard. We have two funds that can be accessed when students want to take up opportunities but finances are tight at home.

- The Jain Gaudin Aroha Fund: Former Principal, Jain Gaudin, left a bequest to the school to support students with extra opportunities, further education, achievement in a particular field, or funds/resources to overcome hardship. This can be in any field including but not limited to academic, sports, culture, the arts. The guidelines for this fund ask for consideration be given to benefitting Māori and Pasifika students, as well as all current students. To apply, please complete the form available at [this link](#).
- [WaddellAssociates](#) have brokered two generous donations for us. Both are specifically for students who might otherwise find it difficult to be involved in sporting activities due to financial pressures. These funds could be used to access support for Winter Tournament Week trips, as an example. Our grateful thanks to [Centuria](#), and Kate & Kieran McCorkindale of [Anchor](#) for their Amazing Support. To apply, please complete the form available at [this link](#).

While the amount available in each fund is limited, we encourage you to apply if you need assistance, as money is still available in each fund for this year. All applications are received by Jacqui Brown, Principal, and information is not shared outside the application process. Any money awarded from these funds is paid directly to the school activity or the organisation running the event, not to individual students or families.

2024 DATES

TERM 2

29 April – 5 July

<i>Wed 22 May</i>	<i>Paid Union Meeting</i>
<i>Fri 31 May</i>	<i>Teacher Only Day</i>
<i>Mon 3 June</i>	<i>King's Birthday</i>
<i>Fri 28 June</i>	<i>Matariki</i>

TERM 3

22 July - 27 September

TERM 4

14 October - 16 December

CONTACT US

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