



NPGHS NEWSLETTER

April 2025

Tēnā koutou kātoa

As we begin Term 2, I have been reflecting on the incredible variety of events and activities that brought our school community together in Term 1. From sporting events to cultural celebrations, academic endeavours to community engagements, Term 1 was a whirlwind of excitement and achievement. Here's a look back at some of the highlights.

Waka Events: Swimming, Athletics, and Cross Country

Our Waka events kicked off the term with a splash, quite literally, as students competed in the annual swimming sports. The enthusiasm and commitment displayed were truly commendable. Following this, our athletics day saw students pushing their limits in track and field events, showcasing their talents and determination. The term culminated with the Cross Country event, where students navigated the 3km course at Vogeltown Park, demonstrating endurance and speed in equal measure. At the end of Term 1, the Waka standings were:

1 st	Aotea - 26 Points
2 nd equal	Tainui & Kurahaupō - 22 Points
4 th	Tokomaru – 14 Points

I'm sure the points available in Term 2 will be just as fiercely contested!

Hosting Orchestra Day

Our school had the privilege of hosting Orchestra Day, bringing together young musicians from various schools around Taranaki. The day was filled with harmonious melodies and collaborative performances, highlighting the importance of music education and the joy of making music together. The concert in the afternoon was thoroughly enjoyed by all those – young and old – who had the pleasure of listening to the talented musicians in our region. A huge thank you to the teachers who make this happen each year.

Field Trips

Field trips in Term 1 spanned a variety of subjects, providing students with hands-on learning experiences. From science excursions to Rotokare, to the RYDA Safe Driving Programme for Y12 students; these trips enriched

our students' understanding and brought classroom lessons to life. The enthusiasm and curiosity displayed by our students are the reason that teachers plan these events.



Guest Speaker: Alumni Toni Street

There is no doubt that the favourite assembly of Term 1 was when alumni Toni Street spoke to the school (or was it the staff lip synch?!). Toni's journey from NPGHS student to becoming a renowned media personality was both motivating and enlightening. Toni encouraged students to give lots of things a go, to back themselves and their ability, and to make their own opportunities rather than waiting for things to happen. This resonated strongly with our students and staff and we wonder which of the students in the audience will be the next media personality to come from NPGHS.

ANZAC Assembly and Commemorations

The ANZAC assembly was a poignant finish to the school term. Our students participated in commemorations with respect and reverence, understanding the significance of ANZAC Day and honouring the legacy of our veterans.

As we move into Term 2, we continue to place a strong emphasis on routines, particularly entry and exit routines, to create calm classrooms and reduce cognitive load. By establishing clear and consistent routines, we aim to help students focus better on their learning, strengthening the environment to enable academic success.

We are excited to announce that the refurbishment of our stadium is nearing completion. The upgraded facilities will be enjoyed by students and staff for many years to come and we are grateful for the funding from the Ministry of Education programme to allow this to be completed.



Additionally, the drainage work, new concreting, and new steps off Mangorei Road will significantly improve safety for our students and staff.

There are several exciting events on the horizon. Please check Facebook for the weekly 'Coming Events' post, and photos and short messages about student successes. You will likely see more about each of these events which are areas of interest for Term 2:

- Y9 Activities Days in Week 1: A series of engaging activities designed to build teamwork and camaraderie among our Year 9 students.
- School Production of Annie Jnr: Our talented students will bring this beloved musical to life, showcasing their acting, singing, and dancing skills.
- Y13 Ball: A highlight of the school year, the Y13 Ball promises to be a night of elegance and celebration for our senior students.
- CAAs for Y10 and Y11: Students will have the opportunity to complete their numeracy and literacy requirements through these assessments.
- Whānau Subject Teacher Meetings: Scheduled for the start of June, these meetings will provide an opportunity for whānau to discuss progress with subject teachers.

- Waka Videos: A showcase of creativity and talent as students perform in their respective Waka groups.
- Pasifika Fusion: A celebration of Pasifika culture, featuring performances, food, and community engagement.
- Winter Sport: As the seasons change, our focus shifts to winter sports, with students gearing up for competitions and training.

Amidst all these activities, our primary focus remains on ensuring that classroom learning continues strongly. We are committed to creating engaging learning programmes with our students and achieving strong attendance rates. Our teachers are dedicated to providing quality education and fostering a love for learning in every student.

We love the variety in our days and know that we have some of the best jobs in the world as we work with outstanding young people every day. Thank you for your continued support and involvement in our school community. Here's to another successful term ahead!

Ngā mihi mahana
Jacqui Brown
Principal

Uniform

A reminder that full school uniform is to be worn at all times, including to and from school. Uniform regulations can be found here <https://www.npghs.school.nz/enrolment/uniform-information>. We continue to work with students and families/whānau who need assistance with uniform items and at the end of last term all students had access to the correct uniform items.

If there is a temporary reason that your daughter or young person does not have the right uniform, they should see Student Services before the start of Spell 1. They will either be provided with a loan item, or a uniform pass, as appropriate. If you are experiencing financial challenges in providing any uniform items, please contact Deputy Principal, Suzanne Bradburn, in the first instance. sbradburn@npghs.school.nz

As the weather turns cooler it is a good time to check that school jerseys and school jackets still fit and are ready for use. Non school jerseys, hoodies or jackets are not to be worn in class. A plain black or navy scarf may be worn. We advise making orders for jerseys and jackets soon through our school uniform provider. They have informed us of a delay to jerseys, and we understand back orders have now been met. Please see this [link](#) for a letter from the providers regarding that stock delay.

Uniform items can be ordered online, or through the uniform shop. The regular opening hours are: Monday 9.30am – 4.00pm, Wednesday 11.0am – 4.00pm, Friday 9.30am – 2.30pm.

New Plymouth Girls' High School
Presents



Book by Thomas Meehan Music by Charles Strause Lyrics by Martin Charnin

Original Broadway Production Directed by Martin Charnin
Based on "Little Orphan Annie" © By Permission of Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

Friday 16th May, 7:30pm
Saturday 17th May, 2:00pm and 7:30pm
Sunday 18th May, 2:00pm and 5:00pm

Location: New Plymouth Girls' High School Hall
Mangorei Rd, New Plymouth

Tickets Available from:
www.iticket.co.nz



Scan me!

Annie Jr. is presented through special arrangement with and all authorized materials are supplied by Music Theatre International, New York, NY (212) 541-4684 mtishows.com



Attendance

One of the things we are continuing to focus on in 2025 is student attendance. You will already have received emails from us regarding attendance, it shows on reports, and it remains a vital part of our conversations with you and with our students. It is also a strong subject of conversation in the staff room.

If a student misses, on average, one day of school every two weeks, they miss a whole week in a term, and more than a whole year of school by 16 years of age. As parents/whānau, you, alongside our school, play a key role in building strong habits of regular school attendance.

Attendance is a shared responsibility between parents/whānau, school, and the student. We really appreciate families/whānau who let the school know in advance when your child is going to be absent for a portion of the school day or term. The reasons, for example: illness, tangi or dental visit, determine the way that an absence is recorded. Justified and unjustified absences are determined by the nationwide codes. While we understand that a form of learning and genuine experiences happen through family holidays or outside extracurricular activities, these are not considered as justified absences. The Education and Training Act does allow for a Principal to code up to 5 days as justified absences. This is generally for exceptional circumstances, such as visiting a sick relative overseas.

If you're finding it hard to get your daughter or young person to school, please talk to us so we can work together. Our school is committed to supporting everyone to attend school as often as possible. 'Regular attendance' is viewed as attendance of at least 90%.

Alumni Network Launch with Toni Street & Sophie Braggins

New Plymouth Girls' High School recently marked a significant milestone with the launch of its alumni network, hosting a special evening featuring two of its former students, Toni Street and Sophie Braggins. The event, complete with canapés and mocktails, served as a heartwarming reunion and a platform for reflection on the lasting impact of school friendships and life lessons.

Toni Street, a well-known New Zealand broadcaster, and her close friend, Sophie Braggins, well known for her work in Taranaki, shared fond memories of their time at NPGHS, reminiscing about the experiences that shaped their lives. Their discussions underscored the enduring bonds forged within the school's walls and the importance of maintaining those connections through the Alumni. But most importantly, it was a chance for a lot of laughs and for groups of Alumni to get together to talk and reminisce. The gathering was a huge success,

with many alumni enjoying the chance to reconnect. The event was made possible in part by a generous grant from the Toi Foundation.

We are grateful for the work done over many years by the Old Girls' Association. Although they have recently ceased operating, they have generously passed their collection to the school. The funds remaining from the Old Girls' Association will be used to create a digital collection of memories that we can share and enjoy in the future.

A huge thank you to Sophie and Toni for helping us to launch the new Alumni network in such a fun and positive way. The Alumni network is open to all former students and staff, and if you would like to register, please go to <https://www.npghs.school.nz/alumni>. There is no intent to ask for money from Alumni, and the focus is on people and connections.





Toi Foundation Loan laptops for NPGHS

The school applied for a grant from the Toi Foundation, to support the purchase of loan laptops for students. Students use online resources, and also prepare for digital exams, which is fantastic, but also brings about an annual problem. Some students just don't have reliable laptops and this can lead to missed assignments, and a general feeling of being a bit behind.

We feel very grateful to receive the grant from Toi Foundation, and when the laptops arrived at school, it was a quiet sort of win. Nothing flashy, just a stack of decent machines ready to go.

We have a process to ensure that the students with greatest need are issued the laptops first. Students and parents know the value of these to learning and are generally respectful and appreciative of this support. The support from Toi Foundation didn't create a revolutionary new initiative but, perhaps more importantly, it did create a bit more of an even playing field.

With a loan device, students who don't own a laptop are able to participate more in class, assignments are handed in on time more often, and accessing assessments on exam.net is much easier!

We are very appreciative of the Toi Foundation and the grant we received. It provided practical support, making things more equitable for students and allowing all to engage in their learning.

Support has also been provided in various ways by Centuria, Anchor, and many others who support individuals or sports teams financially or through sponsorship. We appreciate community support to help provide the additional extras that make school learning and events more equitable and more fun!

Another way you might be able to give is here: [PGG Wrightson](#)

Pick up and drop off

DO NOT DRIVE ONTO SCHOOL GROUNDS

In the interests of safety, please do not drive on to the school grounds for pick up or drop off. You are welcome to use the dedicated 'drop off zone' beside the courts but please do not drive onto the school site or into any carparks, including the space beside the Art Room on the corner near the pou, or the hostel driveway. Even if it is raining, it is important to drop students off or pick them up outside the grounds please.

With approximately 1400 people moving around the site, it is important that we all take responsibility for safety and limit the number of vehicles on the school grounds.

If you are visiting for a meeting with a staff member, there are dedicated visitor parks outside the Main Office and in front of the Hall. These are the only places that visitors to the school should park, with parking available on the street if there are no available visitor parks.

We have had occasions where parent/whānau vehicles were blocking driveways, in the way of staff who were trying to get to after school sports events with students. We have also had damage to school property through a parent driving through the grounds and not following the correct paths.

Thank you to the vast majority of parents who help us to keep the school site safe for all.

2025 DATES

TERM 2

28 April - 27 June

Monday 2 June – King's Birthday

Thursday 5 June – Whānau Subject Teacher Meetings

Friday 6 June – Teacher Only Day

TERM 3

14 July - 19 September

TERM 4

6 October - 12 December

CONTACT US

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