



# NPGHS NEWSLETTER

March 2026

## Tēnā koutou katoa

We are over halfway through Term 1 and the school continues to feel positive and purposeful. Students and staff alike have commented on the strong sense of engagement across the school, and it is encouraging to see students settling into routines and finding opportunities that motivate them. As I was walking around the school at lunchtime last week, a Year 9 came up to tell me how much she loves the school. I feel confident that is a sentiment that many others also share.

High school is a time when young people are developing independence, while still valuing the guidance of parents and whānau. Each day, a wide range of opportunities are shared through the Daily Notices, from academic competitions and leadership experiences to sport, service, and cultural activities. While these opportunities are readily available, students often benefit from conversations at home that encourage them to take part or to try something new.

We encourage families to take a few moments together to look through the notices, helping students feel supported to make choices, try new experiences, and build confidence. With so much on offer, we hope every student finds activities that challenge, inspire, and bring them genuine enjoyment as the year unfolds.

Ngā mihi mahana  
Jacqui Brown  
Principal



## Takitahi Day - supporting the Cancer Society Relay for Life

Students who choose to take part in Takitahi Day are asked to show their support of the Cancer Society by bringing a gold coin donation which will be collected at Kāwai Huia time on Wednesday morning.

If you do not have a gold coin, donations can be made at Student Services using EFTPOS, or through bank transfer.

Takitahi Days at NPGHS are a way for us to help our wider community through our donations.

Let's all support the Cancer Society on Wednesday 18 March by wearing pink and purple, and bringing our donations.

Relay for Life

# TAKITAHI DAY

Wednesday 18th March

**Dress Code**  
If you want, dress in **purple** and **pink!**

**Donation**  
Bring a gold coin donation — bank transfer & Eftpos available at student services

**Proceeds**  
Go to NPGHS Relay for Life team → Cancer Society NZ

All funds raised support the **Cancer Society** through our school's Relay for Life team.  
👉 Thank you for your Donations 👈

👉 Cancer Society 👈 Relay for Life



# Swimming Sports

Swimming Sports was a wonderful occasion with Waka Huia points on the line! Going into the event, Aotea and Tainui were tied for first, and there was very little between all the waka. The winning waka at Swimming Sports was Tainui, with Kurahaupo second, Aotea third, and Tokomaru fourth in this event.

The total Waka points to date are: Tainui 27, Kurahaupo & Aotea 23, and Tokomaru 15.

There are further photos on facebook which celebrate the school spirit, waka pride, amazing synchronised swimming (they would give Olympic synchro routines a run for their money!), and the fun of the day.

There were also outstanding competitive swims, with a special congratulations to the junior, intermediate and senior champions and those who broke records.

Junior Champion: Blakey Stewart-McDonald  
 Intermediate Champion: Kaia Prince  
 Senior Champion: Emma Icton

New records:  
 Senior:  
 100m Breaststroke – Emma Icton in 1.23.22  
 (breaking Bella Wansborough’s 2024 record)

Intermediate:  
 100m Backstroke – Kaia Prince in 1.17.00  
 (breaking Emma Icton’s 2025 record)  
 50m Butterfly – Simone Cameron in 0.33.37  
 (breaking her own 2025 record )  
 Individual Medley – Simone Cameron in 1.18.13  
 (breaking Emma Icton’s 2025 record)

Junior:  
 100m Freestyle – Blakey Stewart-McDonald in 1.08.22  
 (breaking Lilah Eager’s 2025 record)  
 50m Butterfly – Blakey Stewart-McDonald in 0.34.40  
 (breaking Lilah Eager’s 2025 record)





## Upcoming Events

Please check <https://npghs.bridge.school.nz/notices>, or the 'Coming Events' post on facebook, for even more information.

- 16-20 March **Arts Week** – look out for fun lunchtime activities to get involved with. Details of fun Visual Arts, Music, Drama and Dance activities are in the notices. <https://npghs.bridge.school.nz/notices>
- Mon 16 March 39 of our Year 13 elected leaders will be attending the **GRIP Leadership Conference** for secondary students. They are looking forward to interacting with leaders from other schools in our region and gaining some practical insights to help them lead and get their ideas into action.
- Tues 17 March A team of 23 student athletes are off to the Taranaki Secondary School Sports Association (**TSSSA**) **Athletics** event at TET Stadium in Inglewood. This is the premier regional competition between schools, and we wish our students well as they compete in their chosen disciplines across Track & Field events.
- Tues 17 March University visits continue with **Otago University** in B6 at lunchtime today. 138 of last year's Year 13 students have gone on to university and visits like this help students make decisions and plan courses.
- Tues 17 March **Pūhoro STEM Academy** continues in Spell 3. If your daughter or young person is in Y11 or Y12, Māori, and keen to explore opportunities in Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths and Mātauranga Māori, this might be a group to support her. This is the second year that Pūhoro have been operating in New Plymouth, and NPGHS has been involved since the beginning. Please see [www.puhoro.org.nz](http://www.puhoro.org.nz) for more information, and contact Matua Rihari [rbrown@npghs.school.nz](mailto:rbrown@npghs.school.nz) or Suzanne Bradburn [sbradburn@npghs.school.nz](mailto:sbradburn@npghs.school.nz) to help your daughter or young person attend.
- Wed 18 March Takitahi Day, supporting the Cancer Society – Relay for Life. **Takitahi Day is a non-uniform day**, where students make a gold coin donation to a charity in exchange for a day without uniform. The name 'Takitahi Day' was chosen by the Head Girls (Manu Tāiko and Kaitiriwā) and School Council in 2021 to represent the spirit of expressing your individuality.
- Thurs 19 March Summer Tournament Week is just around the corner, and we will be well represented by futsal, cricket, volleyball, adventure racing, rowing (Maadi Cup), tennis, and waka ama teams. Students have the opportunity to support one last **fundraiser for the Volleyball team** who will have a sausage sizzle and cake stall outside the Hall at lunchtime.
- The **Pasifika Roadshow** is on in D1 at lunchtime today. Students heading to Pasifika Fusion later in the year will hear about the event theme, the different categories to enter and start conversations about how they will participate and perform at their best.
- Fri 20 March Celebrating student successes in **NCEA 2025, assembly** will be a chance for students to acknowledge the work of their peers.
- Tues 24 March Senior students depart for the **Sydney Visual Arts/ Art History trip**. This trip runs every second year, so students might want to start saving towards the next trip now!
- The first part of the University of **Otago Junior Maths Competition** takes place today. Payment and entries are needed by Friday 20 March. See the notices <https://npghs.bridge.school.nz/notices> for more details and to enter, or email Andrew Bone [abone@npghs.school.nz](mailto:abone@npghs.school.nz) for further information.



- Wed 25 March **Year 9 assembly** in Kāwai Huia time to hear about Outdoor Ed activities for Term 2.
- 'Your Education'** are in B6 at lunchtime. 'Your Education' is a high school exchange organisation. Students need to be between the ages of 15 and 18 years of age at the time of departure.
- Thurs 26 March **Queenstown Resort College (QRC)** visiting in Spells 2 - 5. Please contact Brett Zimmerman [bjzimmerman@npghs.school.nz](mailto:bjzimmerman@npghs.school.nz) if your daughter or young person wants to attend.
- Fri 27 March **Orchestra Day** with a concert from 2 - 2.30pm in Ryder Hall at NPBHS. Last year it was held at NPGHS, this year NPBHS will host around 150 students, and more than 15 instrument tutors and music teachers, from around Taranaki. Musicians from various schools have been learning pieces which they will polish in workshops during the morning before the concert, open to the public, in the afternoon.
- Scotlands Hostel Open Day.** NPGHS has a proud history of boarding, and this year 125 boarders call Scotlands Hostel their 'home away from home'. If you are thinking about boarding for your daughter or young person, or know someone who is, please see <https://www.npghs.school.nz/boarding/boarding-enrolment> or get in contact with Cimone Wright [cwright@npghs.school.nz](mailto:cwright@npghs.school.nz) to register for this Open Day.
- University of Waikato** visit in B6 at lunchtime.
- Next newsletter available.** A link to the newsletter is sent via Schoolbridge and email, and is also available on the school website. You can click [here](#) to see this and previous newsletters.

## A message from Te Henui Community Dental Clinic

The DHB have asked us to share the following message. We ask that you are considerate of the Dental Clinic, and all our neighbours, when dropping off or collecting students. Please do not park in the driveway to the clinic or in their carpark. Please click [here](#) for a message from the dental clinic.

## SchoolBridge

If you are having difficulty accessing the SchoolBridge app, or would like help to set it up, please contact the main office and ask for Amber Sigvertsen or Brett McFarlane. They will talk you through the issues you are having or arrange a time that you can come in to school for further assistance in person.

## Variable Speed Signs on Northgate

Have you seen the new variable speed limit (VSL) signs on Northgate, outside the school? These have been installed as part of a nationwide programme to slow the traffic around schools which are on state highways.

The speed limit is now 30km per hour when the signs are on. The regularly scheduled times are for school days, 8.10 - 8.50am and 3.10 - 3.40pm, although the sign might also operate at other times.

We have asked that the variable speed signs on Mangorei Road are set to match and expect that will happen soon. You can find more information, along with a map, and a frequently asked questions sheet [here](#).





## Communication Survey Results

In our first newsletter of the year, we asked for feedback about the newsletter and communication from the school. We kept the survey open for just over a month, and while replies were still coming in, they had certainly slowed so the survey has now been closed. We received 485 responses, which is approximately 35% of the school roll. If you were one of the parents/whānau who replied, thank you very much!

Given that we all have our personal views on how we like to receive communication it probably isn't a great surprise that there was diversity in the views. However, there was also some real consistency, and you can click [here](#) for more detail about the results.

As a result of your responses, we will undertake to do the following:

- Provide a fortnightly newsletter. We had previously noticed that the newsletter was not being opened or read, but in response to your feedback, we are bringing back the fortnightly newsletter.
- Include information about upcoming or recent special events in each newsletter, with the remaining most requested items featuring across the term. The other most requested items were, in order, learning in and out of the classroom, academic progress, processes and procedures reminders, attendance updates, and school history.
- Provide regular reminders about where information can be found – for example, 'Coming Events' and student achievements on facebook, information about your daughter or young person via email, important or time sensitive reminders via Schoolbridge.
- Do all we can to keep the number of weekly messages sent via Schoolbridge to five or less, while keeping the communication with you strong.

## ERO Surveys

ERO's research centre wants to hear from parents and whānau about two topics: their children's use of AI, and their experience with the school in general, as part of two national projects.

If you have a few minutes to share your views here are the links to the two short surveys:

- [Parent and whānau survey School supports](#)
- [Parent survey AI in schools.](#)

## 2026 DATES

### TERM 1

30 January - 2 April

### TERM 2

20 April – 3 July

*Mon 27 April Anzac Day (observed)*

*Mon 1 June King's Birthday*

### TERM 3

20 July - 25 September

*Fri 21 Aug Curriculum Staff Only Day*

### TERM 4

12 October - 11 December

*Mon 26 Oct Labour Day*

*Fri 20 Nov Curriculum Staff Only Day*

## CONTACT US

### RECEPTION

reception@npghs.school.nz

### ABSENTEE

attendance@npghs.school.nz

### ENROLMENTS

enrolments@npghs.school.nz

### BOARDING

hostelenquiries@npghs.school.nz

## FOLLOW US

### WEBSITE

www.npghs.school.nz

### FACEBOOK

www.facebook.com/npghs

### INSTAGRAM

Npgirlshighschool

### SCHOOLBRIDGE

'SchoolBridge' on app store