



NPGHS NEWSLETTER

3 July 2026

Tēnā koutou katoa

As we reach the end of another wonderful term, I would like to thank our students for the positive contribution they make to our school every day. The enthusiasm, kindness, achievements, and school spirit shown throughout the term help make NPGHS a great place to be.

It is a little unfortunate that Matariki is celebrated during the school holidays, as it means we are not together as a school community close to the national day itself. However, students have had opportunities to learn about and engage with Matariki through our weekly 'Whanaungatanga Wednesday' Kāwai Huia programme, through assembly, and through a range of conversations and activities across the school. Staff also joined in the spirit of the occasion with a Matariki quiz.

As shared in assembly, Matariki is a celebration that belongs to all New Zealanders. While it has deep roots in Māori knowledge, values, and traditions, it is also an opportunity for everyone in Aotearoa to come together. The season reminds us that we are connected to our past, to one another, and to our future.

Matariki is guided by three important ideas: remembering those who have passed, celebrating the present with family and friends, and looking ahead with hope for the future. These are values that resonate with all of us, regardless of our culture, language, or background.

We encourage everyone in our community to celebrate in a way that is meaningful to them. That might be gathering for a shared meal, spending time with whānau and friends, reflecting on what you are grateful for, remembering loved ones, setting goals for the months ahead, or learning more about the stories and traditions that are meaningful to your family or whānau.

For those interested in learning more, Generation Reo has produced a wonderful series of short videos exploring how different New Zealanders celebrate Matariki and the themes of remembrance, celebration, and planning for the future: [Matariki 2026](#)

Matariki is an inclusive celebration that invites all of us to pause, reflect, connect, and look forward with hope. It is a uniquely Aotearoa New Zealand occasion that reminds us that, while we come from many different backgrounds, we all stand beneath the same stars.

Have a wonderful holiday break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back for the start of Term 3 on 20 July. Kia pai ngā hararei me Mānawatia a Matariki.

Ngā mihi mahana
Jacqui Brown



Survey for parents and whānau

We are committed to sustaining a school where every student feels valued, included, and able to succeed. We work at being 'better every day', and this short survey will help us understand how well we are doing. Your feedback will help us celebrate strengths, identify areas for improvement, and guide future decisions and professional learning for staff.

Your feedback is important and will help us better understand how different members of our school community experience our kura. We have also surveyed students and staff.

Link to survey:

[A short belonging and engagement survey - Parents/Whānau – Fill out form](#)



Attendance Matters!

As part of the Ministry of Education's Stepped Attendance Response (STAR) framework, attendance is monitored according to the number of days absent each term:

Green – Regular Attendance: fewer than 5 days absent

Yellow – Emerging Concern: 5–9.5 days absent

Orange – Significant Concern: 10–14.5 days absent

Red – Serious Concern: 15 or more days absent



We have plenty to celebrate from our Term 2 attendance data. 648 students achieved Green attendance in Term 2, and an impressive 546 students remained Green across both Term 1 and Term 2. These students are giving themselves the best opportunity to learn, build friendships, and experience success at school.

It is also fantastic to see positive movement. 94 students improved from Yellow attendance in Term 1 to Green attendance in Term 2, while a further 14 students made remarkable gains, moving from Orange or Red in Term 1 all the way to Green in Term 2. These improvements deserve recognition and celebration. They show what can be achieved when schools, students, and whānau work together.

At the same time, attendance requires ongoing attention. 62 students who were Green in Term 1 have slipped into the Orange or Red categories in Term 2. This reminds us that good attendance habits need constant reinforcement from both home and school.

We know winter can make school attendance challenging. Cold mornings, rain, wind, and dark starts can make staying in bed seem like an attractive option! However, school is a warm, welcoming place where learning happens, friendships grow, and opportunities await every day.

Of course, students should stay home when they are genuinely unwell. But a little sniffle, feeling a bit tired, or a mild headache should not automatically mean a day at home. Every day at school matters, and every day missed is learning, connections, and experiences that cannot be fully replaced.

Let's continue working together to make attendance a priority and keep as many of our students as possible in the Green zone.

Staff vs Y13 Netball

There was plenty of excitement in the Stadium on Thursday 25 June as our Year 13 students took on staff in a great netball match.

The game was a closely contested affair from start to finish, with the Year 13 team taking an early lead and both sides continuing to answer each other's scoring opportunities throughout the match. The staff team put up a strong challenge, showcasing impressive skill, experience, and determination across the court.

With the crowd cheering on both teams, the match came down to the final moments. The Year 13s scored just before the final whistle to level the scores, resulting in a thrilling 16–16 draw.

Congratulations to both teams for their sportsmanship, enthusiasm, and competitive spirit. A special thank you also goes to our referees for ensuring the game ran smoothly.

What a fantastic lunchtime event, and a wonderful display of school community spirit!





Second Hand Uniform Shop Volunteers needed

We are excited to be setting up a Second-Hand Uniform Shop to help parents and whānau easily find affordable, good-quality uniform items for their children.

More information about how to access and use the shop will be shared soon. In the meantime, we are looking for a team of friendly volunteers to help us get this initiative up and running. We know it is harder to be involved when your daughter or young person is at high school, but this could be a way for you, or other members of your extended family or whānau, to give back.

Our goal is to open the shop one lunchtime each week and one Saturday per month, providing convenient opportunities for families to purchase second-hand uniform items.

No previous experience is required. Full training will be provided, and the system is simple and easy to use. The most important quality is a willingness to chat with parents, whānau, and students and help create a welcoming experience for everyone.

If you would like to be involved, please complete the volunteer registration form [here](#) or scan the QR code.

Thank you for considering supporting this valuable service for our school community. We look forward to hearing from you!

NPGHS - Secondhand Uniform
Shop Volunteer Registration Form



Pasifika Fusion Festival

We are incredibly proud of our Pasifika Fusion group, who represented our school with pride and passion at this year's festival. While they did not place, their performance was strong amongst the 18 schools sharing their talents and celebrating Pasifika culture. Once again, we were the only school representing Taranaki, making the occasion even more special.

We also celebrate some fantastic individual achievements:

- Grace Mataafa – 2nd Place, Senior Speech
- Erinei Lokeni – 2nd Place, Junior Speech
- Tanana Boueka – 1st Place, Senior Speech (Kiribati)

A huge congratulations to all students involved and very grateful thanks to staff members Lynda Fromings and Jill Crewe who accompanied the group.



NPGHS & NPBHS

Who's Huia
Fundraising Concert



Thursday 30th July.
6pm. NPGHS Hall. Koha entry.
Featuring our top musical groups from both schools.



FOOD TRUCKS
available from 4-6pm.



CANDY BAR
with EFTPOS.



Upcoming Events

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

Sun 5 July – Sat 11 July	Kiribati Language Week The 2026 theme for Kiribati Language Week is "Karina te ang, tauraoi nakon te mwioko ao kabura rikiara ni Kiribati" - Strive diligently to fulfil our responsibilities and uphold our Kiribati identity.
Tues 7 July	Musical Theatre Club attending a NPOS Show.
	NPGHS 1st XI and Junior Football teams at a friendly tournament against Hamilton schools in Hamilton.
Thurs 16 July to Sat 18 July	NZSS Orienteering Championships.
Sun 19 July	NZSS Rogaine Championships.
Mon 20 July	First day of Term 3.
	Subject selection for 2027 opens.
	Y9 options – second half year options begin. Please encourage your daughter or young person to check their timetable carefully.
Tues 21 July	Applications for 2027 Year 13 Leadership positions close.
Fri 24 July	Get2Go Junior Adventure Race.
Sat 25 July	PTS Cup (Rugby) , Palmerston North. Next game in New Plymouth on 31 July.
Sun 26 to Sat 2 Aug	Vanuatu Language Week.
Mon 27 July	Maatangi Whenua Geography Quiz – an interschool competition, this year held at FDMC.
Tues 28 July	Open Day for students joining NPGHS in 2027. Please note that current students are dismissed at 2pm. Tours run from 3.15 to 6.30pm, with a presentation in the Hall at 4.45pm We are very grateful to those students in Y9 & Y12 who are assisting as guides, and all students who are helping on the evening. We usually welcome around 300 prospective students, and their families, so it's a busy afternoon for all.
Thurs 30 July to Sun 2 Aug	NZSS Swimming Champs , Auckland.
Thurs 30 July	Who's Huia Musical Showcase, at NPGHS. Featuring groups from both NPGHS and NPBHS. Koha entry, starts 6pm
Fri 31 July	Palmerston North Girls High School Sports Exchange , in Palmerston North.
	Next newsletter available. You can click here to see the current and previous newsletters.

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

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