



NPGHS NEWSLETTER

28 August 2026

Tēnā koutou katoa

Next week marks one of the highlights of the sporting year as several NPGHS teams head around the country to represent our school.

Hundreds of hours of training, early mornings, weekend fixtures and countless kilometres travelled have all led to this moment. For our athletes, coaches and managers, Tournament Week represents the culmination of a season's hard work and an opportunity to test themselves against the best secondary school teams in New Zealand. For those in their final year of school, it is a final opportunity to enjoy the teamwork and camaraderie of school sport and make one last statement.

While results and placings are always part of the story, Tournament Week offers so much more than competition. It is a chance for students to strengthen friendships, develop leadership skills, demonstrate resilience under pressure and create memories that will last long after the final whistle sounds. Most importantly, it is an opportunity to showcase the values that define NPGHS: respect, responsibility and relationships, as well as teamwork, pride and perseverance.

Our teams head away with ambitious goals after some strong performances in 2025. There are more than 350 schools catering for secondary students in Aotearoa New Zealand, so earning a place at one of these tournaments is a significant achievement and a reflection of the hard work of our athletes, coaches and managers. To all of our athletes, coaches and managers travelling next week, we wish you the very best. Compete hard, support one another, embrace every opportunity and represent your school with pride.

Whether you're chasing a win, making the most of every moment, or learning from a loss, remember that you carry the spirit of NPGHS wherever you go. Play fair, play hard and play safe.

We would also like to say a massive thank you to the coaches, managers, parents and supporters who travel with the teams to make this possible. We know that many of you take annual leave in order to support the students you have coached all year and your commitment to our teams and your dedication to sport is genuinely appreciated.

If you are lucky enough to be out supporting one of these tournament games, or any school sport throughout the year, please remember that we love passionate support of sport. However, abuse or inappropriate behaviour towards students, officials, volunteers, coaches or other supporters is not what we are about. We continue to be very proud of the way our supporters bring the best to sport and the best out of our athletes. Building a 'supporter legacy' is important to us.

I am very lucky to get to games around the country each year and this year I look forward to seeing football, netball, badminton and basketball in action. I know that while most staff and students won't have the opportunity to watch the games in person, they will be following your journeys and celebrating your achievements throughout the week. Good luck to all our teams. We'll be cheering you on every step of the way.

Ngā mihi mahana
Jacqui Brown



Takitahi Day

On Wednesday 26 August, students took part in a Takitahi Day (our NPGHS non-uniform day) and raised \$1,267.20 for the Roderique Hope Trust.

This was a fantastic whole-school effort, and we are incredibly grateful to everyone who donated and helped support this worthwhile cause. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

To learn more about the Roderique Hope Trust and the important work it does, visit:
<https://www.roderiquehopetrust.co.nz/>.



Tournament Week Teams

Basketball: Chasing a Return to the Podium

The NPGHS basketball team travels to Palmerston North for the AA Zone 3 Premierships after another very strong local season. Following last year's impressive third-place finish at regionals and 16th place at nationals, the team will be looking to challenge the top contenders once again. With a blend of experienced players and emerging talent, they have every reason to be confident of another strong campaign.



Netball: Looking to Climb the Rankings

Our Senior A netball team heads to Wellington for the Lower North Island Secondary Schools Tournament. With 32 teams in the A Grade alone, and qualification for nationals on the line, this tournament always provides fierce competition. Following a 13th-place finish in 2025, the squad will be aiming to move further up the standings and showcase the progress made throughout the season. The team is excited for the challenge ahead.



Hockey: Two Teams, Two Opportunities

The NPGHS 1st XI Hockey team makes the journey north to Whangārei for Federation Cup, the premier school hockey tournament in the country. After finishing 13th last year, the team will be eager to measure itself against some of New Zealand's strongest hockey programmes and push for a higher placing. The promotion-relegation system keeps every game meaningful, and maintaining a place among the top 32 teams in the country is an achievement celebrated by every school that secures its spot.



Meanwhile, the 2nd XI will compete in the Eveline Hankers Memorial Tournament in Napier. The tournament provides an excellent opportunity for players to gain valuable tournament experience, continue their development and represent NPGHS with pride on a national stage.

Football: Building on a Strong Foundation

The NPGHS Football 1st XI will travel to Taupō for the NZSS Girls Premier Tournament. Having placed 15th in 2025, the team has worked tirelessly throughout the year with the goal of improving on that result. The Premier Tournament is the very top secondary school football competition in the country, and our players are looking forward to testing themselves against the very best.



Badminton: Aiming for Consistency

After earning a silver medal with a runner-up finish in Division 2 last year, the badminton team heads to Porirua full of hope and ambition. The squad has been working quietly week after week and is hoping to perform at their very best again this year too.



Equestrian: Aiming to do well

We have one student competing in the NZSS Equestrian Cup competition this year. This is a very competitive sport and she will be taking part in four disciplines: Dressage, Arena eventing, Show hunter and Showjumping.





Following the action:

If you would like to keep up with the tournaments from home, there are a number of ways to follow the action throughout the week:

Basketball (AA Zone 3 Premierships, Palmerston North, 2-5 September) - Draw: 2026 AA Zone 3 Premierships Draw - Results will be available through GameDay, with selected matches streamed by Whakaata Māori.	Netball (Lower North Island Secondary Schools, Wellington, 30 August-3 September) Draw and results will be available through Hawke's Bay Netball, with coverage available through Whakaata Māori.
Hockey (Federation Cup and Eveline Hankers Memorial, Whangarei, 31 August-5 September) - Draw: Federation Cup 2026 Draw - Results can be followed through Hockey New Zealand's Altius platform.	Football (NZSS Girls Premier Tournament, Taupō, 31 August-4 September) Draws and results will be available through NZSS Football, with updates and livestreaming posted on the NZSS Football Facebook page.
Badminton (NZSS Championships, Porirua, 30 August-2 September) Draws and results can be followed through Badminton New Zealand, with coverage available through Whakaata Māori.	Equestrian (NZSS Equestrian Championships, Taupō, 30 August-3 September) Results will be announced at the competition on Thursday.

Social Action in Practice

One of the key components of NCEA Level 2 Social Studies is taking informed social action, giving students the opportunity to move beyond learning about social issues and make a positive contribution to their community.

Over recent weeks, our students have organised a wide range of activities including raffles, bake sales, sausage sizzles, awareness campaigns, collection drives, guest speakers, library displays and kindness initiatives, all designed to support causes they care deeply about. Students also engaged with community organisations and speakers, helping them better understand the issues faced by different groups in society and inspiring meaningful action.

Collectively, the classes raised more than \$4,200 for a variety of organisations supporting areas such as women's and family welfare, health and cancer support, youth wellbeing, animal welfare, food insecurity, and assistance for people who are blind or have low vision. And all of this while also completing their internal assessment for NCEA.

We are incredibly proud of the leadership, empathy and commitment shown by our students throughout this project. A special thank you goes to the teachers who work so hard to make this meaningful for the students – Mr Jeff Sanders and Mr Sam Moon. We are also very grateful to the guest speakers, community organisations, and wider school community whose support helped bring these projects to life. Together, they have demonstrated that even small actions can make a meaningful difference.





Taranaki Symphony Orchestra
To Teira Pūoro o Taranaki

2026 Concert Season
*"... keeping music alive
 and well in New Plymouth"*

STUDENT STARS!



Nancy Chen, Samuel Lim, Angela Wang, Isabella Kwong,
 Maya Horne, Arabella Waugh, Indiana Waugh,
 Mac Waugh, Delavan MacKey, Yanis To

Taranaki Symphony Orchestra
 Christopher J. Luke *conductor*

Beethoven | Hummel | Schubert | Mozart | Lalo | Vivaldi
 Bohme | Scriabin | Mouquet | Verdi

Saturday 5 September 2026 | 7.30pm
 TSB Showplace | Theatre Royal

Book at  eventfinda | fees apply | www.eventfinda.co.nz

TSB SHOWPLACE  NPDC



Student Stars

Congratulations to Angela Wang (Year 9, piano), Maya Horne (Year 11, flute) and Yanis To (Year 12, violin), who have been selected to perform as soloists in the Taranaki Symphony Orchestra's Student Stars concert. This is a prestigious opportunity that showcases some of the region's most talented young musicians.

Student Stars performers are selected following the Taranaki Symphony Orchestra's Concerto and Aria Competition, which is open to young musicians from across the region. Competitors perform concerto or solo repertoire, and adjudicators then choose students who will have the opportunity to perform with the full orchestra.

For aspiring musicians, Student Stars offers a rare and invaluable experience. Performing as a concerto soloist with a full symphony orchestra is a significant milestone, providing young performers with professional-level performance experience and the chance to share their talent with a wider audience.

We are incredibly proud of Angela, Maya and Yanis for earning this honour and look forward to hearing them on stage with the Taranaki Symphony Orchestra.

COMING MAY 2027
 Auditions October 2026



Will you walk this road with us?

Sign up for auditions
 for **LEAD ROLES** in
 the 2027 NPGHS
 Show

The Wizard of OZ

Audition packs available outside
 student services





Upcoming Events

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

Sun 30 Aug to Sat 5 Sept	Tournament Week
Mon 31 Aug	Year 10 Social Sciences trips to Pukerangiora begin, with all classes visiting over the next three weeks.
Thurs 3 Sept	Y9 ' Lean in Girls ' leadership programme continues
	2027 Year 13 Leadership voting closes
Sat 5 Sept	Taranaki Schools' Debating Championship
Mon 7 Sept to Fri 11 Sept	Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori celebrated at school (due to senior exams next week)
Mon 7 Sept to Fri 11 Sept	Numeracy and Literacy Co-requisite exams (CAAs) take place.
Mon 7 Sept	School Board meeting
Fri 11 Sept	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

2027 DATES

<https://www.npghs.school.nz/term-dates>

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SCHOOLBRIDGE
'SchoolBridge' on app store