



NPGHS NEWSLETTER

25 September 2026

Tēnā koutou katoa

One of the most valuable things schools can do is look beyond their own gates. Visiting other schools gives us the opportunity to see new ideas in action, reflect on what makes our own school special, and recognise the many things that connect young people and educators wherever we go.

This week I had the privilege of visiting Carmel College, Westlake Girls High School, and St Cuthbert's College as part of the symposium run by the International Coalition of Girls' Schools. They are three very different schools, each with its own character, traditions, strengths, and challenges. Yet there was one thing they all had in common - students who were deeply proud of their school and able to talk confidently about the opportunities available to them and the experiences that shape their learning. It felt like being at our kura.

It is easy to notice the physical differences between schools. Some have impressive new buildings and facilities, while others are more modest. But what stood out was that the most important thing was not the buildings themselves. What matters most are the people inside them, the students, the staff, and the ideas they bring to life each day.

I left these visits feeling both proud and inspired. Proud because they reinforced that what we do at NPGHS is every bit as good as anywhere else. Inspired because there is always more to learn. Seeing different approaches challenges us to think creatively, refine what we do, and find new ways to empower our students.

Through these visits, and talking with other school leaders, we have the chance to learn from one another, share successes, and celebrate the unique and powerful work of educating young women.

Returning to NPGHS, I am reminded of just how much we already do to prepare our students for the future. Every day, our staff create opportunities for young people to develop confidence, resilience, curiosity, and hope. Looking outward has strengthened my appreciation of what we have, while also encouraging us to keep growing, learning, and striving to be even better.

I wish you all an interesting two weeks ahead, with the opportunity to spend more time together at home or away.

Ngā mihi mahana
Jacqui Brown



A & K Scanlan Memorial Prize for Writing

Open to New Plymouth Girls' High School students

\$500 Cash Prize

Theme: overcoming adversity

The work must be original and of a literary form, e.g. a short story, poem or essay.

- The work should not exceed 1500 words.
- The work should reflect a theme of overcoming adversity.
- All work must be titled and word processed.
- Entries must be submitted on one side of A4 paper only, stapled in the top left-hand corner.
- The entrant's name is not to be written on the work itself. An entry form must be attached. See your English teacher or Mrs. Perret for an entry form.

Submission Instructions

- The adjudicator's decision will be final and no correspondence will be entered into.
- The winner will be announced at Senior Prizegiving 2026.
- All work will remain the property of the author, but New Plymouth Girls' High School shall be entitled to publish the entry in the school magazine.

Due 8.30am 14th October

All entries must be given or posted to: Principal's Personal Assistant
New Plymouth Girls' High School
Private Bag 2049
New Plymouth 4342.



Year 10 Market Day - a Triumph of Creativity and Enterprise

The annual Year 10 Market Day, held in Week 10 of Term 3, was a celebration of creativity, teamwork, and entrepreneurial spirit. While students were hoping for another warm, sunny day like last year, nothing could dampen the enthusiasm and determination that made the event such a positive experience.

A significant change to this year's format provided an extra challenge for every business group. Students had just under one class period, approximately 40 minutes, to set up their stalls and prepare for their first customers. Despite the tight timeframe, the Year 10 students rose to the occasion, demonstrating impressive organisation, collaboration, and problem-solving skills as they transformed the space into a bustling marketplace.

When the market officially opened at 1:15 pm, students from Waimarie and Awhina quickly arrived and the crowds soon gathered. From that moment on, sales amassed as visitors eagerly explored the wide range of products on offer.

The variety and quality of the stalls were outstanding. Popular food options included freshly cooked doughnuts, spring rolls, ice cream, cake pops, cookie dough, and an assortment of sweet treats. Alongside the delicious food, students showcased their creativity through unique trinkets and novelty items. One particularly popular attraction gave customers the chance to capture the day with a classic Polaroid photograph.

Market Day provided a valuable opportunity for students to apply the business skills they have been developing throughout the year in a real-world setting. The success of the event reflected their hard work, innovation, and determination. Congratulations to everyone involved in making Market Day 2026 such a memorable and successful occasion.

We will present our selected charity with our 20% "tax" early in Term 4.





Fun Run

We ended Term 3 with our annual school fun run which was enjoyed by everyone. The sun was shining and the Waka spirit was strong!

Congratulations to our three fastest student runners:

- 1st Eve Cross Yr 10 (Kurahaupo)
- 2nd Amber Corkin Yr 10 (Kurahaupo)
- 3rd Bethan Mullis Yr 13 (Tainui)

And the fastest teacher back: Matt Innes (Tainui).

Well done to everyone who participated.





Upcoming Events

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

Mon 28 Sept to Sat 3 Oct	NZSS Basketball 'AA' National Championships NZSS Scholastic Surfing Championships
Sun 4 Oct to Fri 9 Oct	NZSS Mountain Bike Championships
Mon 5 Oct to Sat 10 Oct	Hillary Challenge finals
Mon 12 Oct	Term 4 begins
Wed 14 Oct	SMART assessments for Y9 and Y10 begin in Mathematics, Reading and Writing
Thurs 15 Oct	National Shake Out Day focusing on earthquake response readiness
Mon 19 Oct	School Board meeting, 5pm
Thurs 22 Oct	Poroporoake , a celebration of graduating Year 13 ākonga Māori and Pasifika students
Fri 23 Oct	Exam briefing for those students completing NCEA subjects
Fri 23 Oct	Next newsletter available. You can click here to see the current and previous newsletters.

Building Resilience

Parents and caregivers are invited to join local adolescent psychiatrist Dr Yariv Doron for a discussion on how to build resilience in girls and develop a stronger understanding of their mental wellbeing.

Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased through Humanitix: [Building Resilience in Our Girls](#).

Changes to getting a car licence

There are some significant changes coming to New Zealand's driver licensing system from 25 January 2027, aimed at making the process simpler, more affordable, and focused on developing safer drivers. Students currently working towards their licence should note that the current licensing system remains in place until January 2027.

Please check here for more details: <https://www.nzta.govt.nz/driver-licences/apply-for-a-car-licence/changes-to-getting-a-car-licence>

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' on app store