



Principal Jenny Ellis

PRINCIPAL'S COMMENT

Kia ora koutou katoa

If we regard children to be the most important members in society then surely teaching has to be the most revered profession. This is certainly the case in some cultures. I have no doubt there are many teachers who would say with conviction that teaching is the best job in the world and we know that teachers are second only to parents in influencing the lives of young people. With this in mind I would like to acknowledge the contribution to the school and education of some long-serving members of staff leaving us this year and to thank them for a life-time of commitment and dedication to the profession.

Ngairie Riley joined the staff in 1998 and her teaching career began in 1971 at Normanby Primary School. Ngairie has been a Dean and Head of the English and Drama Departments and was instrumental in establishing the school's Drama curriculum. She has a wealth of theatrical experience and there are many students who have her to thank for their love of Drama and the Arts. We are hopeful that Ngairie will continue teaching on a part-time basis next year.

Beth Welham began her teaching career at Waitara Central Primary School in 1971. She joined our staff in 1995 and has been a valued member of the Learning Support team at Awhina for the past 16 years. Beth is retiring from teaching at the end of this year.

Melinda Stevenson has been on the staff for 22 years teaching mainly in the area of Digital Technologies. Melinda is held in high regard at the national level as a facilitator and leader in her field. She is now on the staff at Sacred Heart and we wish her well in her future career.

Two other long-serving members of staff, Susan Freemantle and Suzanne Eagles left at the end of Term 2 and we paid tribute to their service in the June newsletter.

Last week I had the pleasure of attending the Young Enterprise Scheme (YES) regional awards ceremony. Every year our students do exceptionally well and this year was no different. The team *Traceable* was third in the competition and our teams won ten regional awards between them. All credit must go to their teacher Emma Cronin, the students themselves and their business mentors for their success. Thank you to the sponsors and the many supporters who enable the YES to be delivered in Taranaki schools every year.

The challenge of fitting what is normally a ten week Term 4 programme into eight weeks has been very difficult and placed considerable pressure on teachers and students. This has been particularly so for those involved in external examinations. A number of people have asked me why this has happened - the Rugby World Cup. School buses in Auckland had to be requisitioned to meet the increase in demand for public transport hence the shift of the school holidays. Worth it, do you think? I'm not so sure. The impact will be reflected one way or the other in the NCEA results. Whilst winning the Cup was a wonderful achievement we should also celebrate the national achievement of our 15 year olds who were ranked fourth out of 34 OECD nations in reading and scientific literacy and seventh in mathematical literacy - a pity that was not front page news.

On Tuesday 8 November we celebrate the achievements of our senior students at the annual Prizegiving and this is followed by the Year 13 Graduation Dinner in the evening. An exciting junior Outdoor Education programme will run through 29 November – 1 December and Clearance Day will be on the morning of 2 December. Also on 2 December will be the orientation programme for our 2012 new enrolments. The school will finish for the year with our Junior Prizegiving on 7 December.

This is the final newsletter for the year. We will continue to keep you informed of events through our website. I wish all those sitting external examinations and those leaving the school all the very best and I hope to see many of you at our end of year functions.

Jenny Ellis
Principal



Inside this Issue:

Principal's Comment	1
Student News & Information	2-7
Sports	8
PTA News	-
Calendar	9

Next Issue

February 2012

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www.npghs.com

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We're being social!

Join us on Facebook and Twitter

With our on-going support and enthusiasm for social networking, we are expanding our Facebook page to include Daily Notices and other relevant school information. We use Facebook to show what is happening around the school and beyond the gate. It is a great way to keep up-to-date on daily events, news and photos. We also use Twitter to send out quick updates and news.

Please visit our Facebook page and click "Like" <http://facebook.com/npghs> and follow us on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/npgirlshigh>

STUDENT NEWS & INFORMATION

Teacher Only Day

A reminder that Teacher Only Day is **Friday 11 November**. Students who attend on that day will be supervised in the Library.

Senior Clearance Day

Friday 2 December between 9.00 am – 10.00 am

All seniors will have received a clearance form in week 2 – if not please collect one from Student Services.

Students can return text books and get their clearance form signed off prior to exams, during exams, or on Clearance Day. Teachers will be available to receive text books and sign forms between 9 – 10am on Friday 2 December. Once the clearance form is completed it should be handed in to Student Services. It would streamline our processes if sports uniforms and library books were returned and accounts paid before clearance day.

Seniors who cannot be at school for Clearance Day can pay \$3.00 at Student Services and all your end of year material will be posted to you after that date (as long as all uniforms/books etc., have been returned and accounts paid.)



Pick Up of Students (65 Mangorei Road)

It has been noted that whilst waiting to pick up students from school, parents have been parking in the old medical centre at 65 Mangorei Road. This property is **private property** and the car parks at the front of the property are not for use by the general public.

Student Absences

Please telephone student absences through on



757 3897

or email

absentee@npghs.school.nz

Newsletter by Email

If you would like to receive the Newsletter via email, please email the office at admin@npghs.school.nz



Year 9 and 10 School Examinations – November 2011

The Year 9 and 10 Examinations for English, Mathematics, Science and Social Sciences will be held on Tuesday 15th November and Wednesday 16th November.

	Tuesday 15 th November Day 5	Wednesday 16 th November Day 6
Group Time 8:40am – 9:00am		
AM Examination Start 9:05am - 11:05am	Year 9 Mathematics Year 10 Social Sciences	Year 9 Science Year 10 English
Interval 11:05 – 11:30am		
Normal Spell 3 Class 11:30am – 12:20pm	Day 5 Spell 3 Class	Day 6 Spell 3 Class
Lunchtime 12:20pm – 1:10pm		
PM Examination Start 1:15pm - 3:15pm	Year 9 English Year 10 Science	Year 9 Social Sciences Year 10 Mathematics

Teachers will inform their students on what will be covered in the examinations. For all examinations girls will need their own equipment - pens, pencil, ruler, compass, calculator (not to be used in Year 9 Mathematics) in a clear plastic bag.

There are no alternative times if your daughter is sick or otherwise unable to sit these examinations. If required, other assessments from during the year will be used for decisions on class placement.

Students sitting NCEA Examinations during this time will have alternative arrangements and these will be outlined in a letter to you.

Note: 8:40am start for all Year 9 and 10 students on Tuesday 15 November.

Unwanted Uniform Items

Attention Year 12 or 13 students leaving school at the end of this year; please consider donating your uniforms if they are no longer required. Mrs Bennett will gratefully receive any uniform items you may wish to donate.

Likewise, **Year 11 students changing to the navy skirt next year,** Mrs Bennett has many uses for your tartan junior skirts if you would like to donate them to the school.

All uniform items are required. This includes sandals, shoes and shorts, for which there is a real need. The 'airtex' and polo shirt are **not** uniform items. Please deliver donated items to the school office. All donations are gratefully received for students who have difficulty purchasing uniforms.



Unwanted Books and Equipment

Any books that can be donated would be great, thank you. Revision books, homework books, course notes etc, are invaluable for girls who cannot afford to buy them – even if they are partly filled in – they are better than nothing! Exercise books that are not used up are also wanted.

At the moment we are very short of Year 12, Level 2 workbooks. Year 13 students may like to donate these from last year – this would be very much appreciated.

There is also a need for calculators, art equipment and graphics gear. Please hand in donated items at the school office.

Smart Study Fuel

Boost your energy levels and keep your mind alert by choosing healthy foods for breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks. The better fuel your brain gets, the better you will perform in your study and examinations.

- Breakfast is the best study buddy. Students who eat breakfast perform significantly better than those who don't.
- Carbohydrates fuel the brain with glucose. Wholegrain bread and cereal products, fruit and vegetables provide sustained energy. They also help boost serotonin, a calming brain chemical. Try banana on wholegrain toast, creamed rice or toasted sandwiches for a great breakfast or study snack. Avoid refined carbohydrate foods such as fizzy drink, and lollies.
- Protein rich foods can help increase production of chemicals to boost mental alertness and energy. Omega 3 fatty acids can enhance brain memory and performance. Snack on nuts and seeds and include tuna in salads and sandwiches.
- Drink plenty of water. Over 80% of your brain is water. 8 glasses a day is recommended to help maintain concentration and focus.



VISUAL ARTS DEPARTMENT OPEN AFTER HOURS TERM 4, 2011

Art Department

The Art Department requires jars with lids, and old cotton rags/sheets. Any donations would be much appreciated. Please drop them into the Art Rooms.

TERM 4

Weekdays

Tuesday, 25 October

After school – 6pm

MX

Monday, 31 October

After school – 6pm

PI

Tuesday, 1 November

After school – 6pm

CI

Weekends

Saturday, 29 October

10am – 1pm

SH

1pm – 4pm

PI

Sunday, 30 October

10am – 1pm

CI and FS

1pm – 4pm

GR

Saturday, 5 November

10am – 1pm

SH

1pm – 4pm

GR

Sunday, 6 November

10am – 1pm

MX and PI

1pm – 4pm

GR and FS



Careers Department

2011 has seen the Careers Department services continue to develop in our goal to provide comprehensive personal career advice, career information, career guidance and career counselling at all levels for all students with their parents.

This career development has also been facilitated in the curriculum classroom and in a variety of other ways. Visiting speakers have provided specific job career information. Taranaki Careers Expo at the TSB Stadium provided an opportunity for all students to discover and investigate possible career and tertiary education pathways. Tertiary institution visits for students to WITT, Waikato, Massey and Victoria Universities have been provided to help senior students determine their place of study on leaving NPGHS. Visits from tertiary liaison staff to NPGHS from providers also occurred to assist Year 13 students with their study choices for 2011 and beyond. Subject choice counselling gave career development planning assistance to all students with their parents in term 3 through individual interviews and a comprehensive subject information booklet.

In the classroom and workplace the Gateway Programme continues to flourish under the professional guidance of Mrs Heather Chisholm, our Gateway Coordinator and Gateway Teacher, with the assistance of Mrs Chris Goldsworthy, our Gateway Administrator. This programme has continued to provide valuable workplace training for senior students and excellent job opportunities for some.

Classroom-based STAR Courses have provided senior students with valuable insights into a variety of career areas and in many cases the opportunity to also gain NZ Qualification Framework credits. Mrs Lofton-Brook, our STAR Coordinator, supported by our Careers Administrator, Whaea Kimiora Taite, has managed this excellent career development option. The programme has included success in the completion of a range of standards and includes the provision of first year university papers for approved students.

The Employment Skills classroom subject programme at Years 11 and 12 has been well taught by the teacher in charge, Mrs Dale Lofton-Brook and Mrs Josie Cleaver. This subject has provided valuable life and work skills education for Year 11 and 12 students who have made this subject choice.

The final 2011 term 4 focus in the Careers Department is putting appropriate 2012 career development planning choices for both students leaving and those returning. This includes NPGHS course choices for our returning students, tertiary training choices for those leaving to study further and job seeking skill assistance for those preparing to enter the workforce.

Please contact the School Careers Department if you have any career development planning concerns. We are always pleased to provide further information about our career development planning and the career specific programmes available.

It has been a very positive year and the NPGHS Careers team wishes all leavers successful career paths in the years ahead. We also look forward to assisting all those returning in 2012 with their career development education and planning.



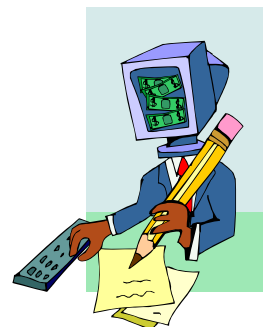
Senior STAR Agriculture Team

After winning the Taranaki Land Based Training Interschool Agriculture Competition, the NPGHS senior Agriculture team went on to compete in the Lower North Island Interschool Competition. They gained second place, narrowly missing out to Palmerston North Boys' High School. It was a wonderful experience for the team which consisted of Emma Hawley, Blaire Bolt, Jorja Gower, Stephanie Harrison, Zoe Harris and Becky McKee as the reserve. Congratulations girls on a tremendous effort.



Mathematics

This year saw the introduction of the 'Mathematics Badge'. The criteria for the award involves participation in competitions and the practices leading up to them, peer tutoring, involvement in Maths Week, and the Methanex Maths Spectacular. The badges generated much excitement amongst the students and by the year's end 25 students had met the criteria. Mr Andrew Bone is to be congratulated and thanked for this initiative and his work in making it happen.



The following girls participated in three significant extra-curricular Mathematics events in order to gain one of the inaugural Mathematics badges:

- Year 9 Alexis Allen, Amy Benton, Olivia Holt, Zoe Holyoake, Sarah Innes, Gloria Jeong, Mandy Khoo and Shalom Muzondiwa
- Year 10 Erika Barr, Tapiwa Chimbwora, Ellie Heal, Ashleigh Wei and, Bingying Zhang
- Year 12 Katherine Bell, Astoria Delaney, Courtney Muggeridge, Georgia Rudd, Karri Shaw, Anna Wang and Jiaqi Zhou
- Year 13 Jasmine Chan, Himashela Doluwe Gedara, Jiwon Jung and Jay Lee

Australasian Mathematics Competition (the AMC)

Now in its 25th year the Australian Mathematics competition is the original and largest of its kind in the world, with approximately 400 000 competitors. The competition consists of multiple choice questions involving problem solving.

- Distinction** Rachel Boswell (Year 12)
- Credit** Alexis Allen; Amy Benton; Lily Dingle; Zoe Holyoake; Rachel Hopkinson; Emma Hopkinson; Mandy Khoo; Minji Shin; Jean Chua; Mandi Silvennoinen; Mina Su; Ellie Tvrdeich; Ashleigh Weir; Anna Kang; Lauren Tooley; Keari Harvey; Hannah Pollock; Courtney Muggeridge; Katherine Bell; Ha-Lam Jeong; Ju-Yeong (Jay) Lee; Jiwon Jung; Tamsin Robb

The Otago University Junior Mathematics Competition

- Jean Chua Year 10 Merit - top 20%
- Georgia Snell Year 11 Top 200 - top 2.5%

The University of New South Wales ICAS competition

- Distinction** Alexis Allen (Year 9); Zoe Holyoake (Year9)
- Credit** Sarah Innes; Phoebe Livingstone; Dilan Watson; Reanne Bell; Ellie Heal; Madeline Heal; Ellie Tvrdeich; Bingying Zhang; Rachel Boswell; Astoria Delaney; Jiwon Jung; Tamsin Robb

The CASIO Senior Mathematics Competition

- Rachel Boswell Year 12 Top 200
- Georgia Snell Year 11 Top 200 - top 2.5%
- Jean Chua Year 10 Merit - top 20%

The Mathematics department would like to congratulate these students for their efforts and achievements. We wish all our students the success they deserve in the upcoming NCEA examinations.



Results from the ICAS English Contest

Here are the results of the ICAS English contest, held earlier in the year and run by the University of New South Wales, Sydney. Each student who entered receives a data sheet, giving a detailed analysis of their strengths and weaknesses. They will be presented with their actual certificates at some suitable point before the end of the year. Warm congratulations to all who took part.

Participation

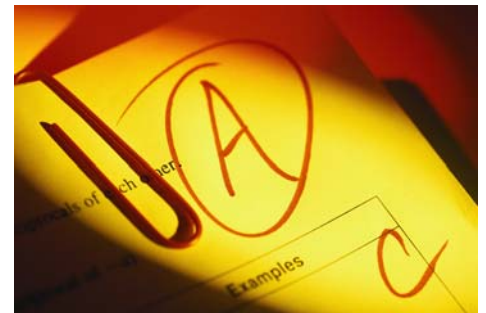
Sarah Bowyer
Rosie Devaney
Teresa Jones
Shannon Lal
Steph McGrath
Belle Moller
Kate Mora
Dayna Olsen
Ashna Rai
Pilar Robinson
Acacia Wall
Charlotte Hooper
Paddy Miller
Katherine Bell

Credit

Amy Benton
Amy Barron
Gabrielle Cathie
Jean Chua
Mandi Silvennoinen
Karri Shaw

Distinction

Laura MacDonald
Rachel Boswell



From the world of writing...



Irish Essay Competition

Registrations are now open for the Ireland Essay Competition 2012. The prize attached to this writing contest is one of the most valuable and prestigious in New Zealand. The winner receives a fully paid expenses trip to Ireland in July/August of 2012, to participate in a number of summer school activities and stay with an Irish family in Dublin for four weeks. This is a marvellous opportunity for one very lucky student. There are prizes of Irish Waterford crystal and book vouchers for other place-getters.

You do **not** need to be of Irish descent or nationality to enter. You must be a permanent resident of New Zealand and a full-time student; plus be 16 or over on 31 December 2011 and under 19 on 31 August 2012.

Last year a year 12 Girls' High student received a special Certificate of Merit plus voucher. Maybe this time some one from Girls' High will hit the jackpot?

You must register for the contest **NOW**. (See Mr Bates for the entry forms.) However the actual essay does not have to be submitted until April of next year, 2012.

As for the topic....well, that's up to you. It's open, but must have something to do with Ireland, such as Irish music, history, myths and legends, the Irish diaspora, Guinness, humour, the troubles, rugby in Ireland.....anything at all.

Winning essays from previous years can be read on www.ireland.co.nz



Junior Speech Competition

The annual Girls' High speech competition is now being organised for students in years 9 and 10. The winner receives a cup at junior prize-giving. Further details will be given to students in class. If your daughter is interested in public speaking, do encourage her to enter this contest, which will probably take place around week five.

SPORT

New World Secondary Schools Netball League Tournament

Three of our teams won their respective grades. They were Premier (Senior A), Intermediate A1 (Yr10) and Junior A1 (Yr9)

Representative Teams

Congratulations to Michaela Blyde and Letitia Hansen who have made the Central Football U23 team. Congratulations also to Ruby Fraser who is in the Aotea U21 Hockey team.

TSSSA Girls A Hockey

Having just won the Mary Clinton Cup, our 1st XI Hockey team added another title to their name, winning the Taranaki Secondary Schools A

TSSSA Gymnastics

We had success at these championships, with the winning combination of Layla Brogden, Samantha Clarkson, Meg Jordan and Rosie Devaney in the Novice A class. Nikita Mischewski was top scoring individual gymnast in the Club B Section, which she won. Emma Larsen took the Club C Division title.

TSSSA Basketball League

This competition was won by our Senior Hawks team.

Surf Life Saving NZ National Pool Championships

Congratulations also to Olivia Eaton and Lily Dingle who performed well at the recent championships with Olivia receiving an individual bronze for the 50m with fins and a gold and silver in relays and Lily receiving a gold medal in the relay.

TERM DATES 2012

Term 1	31 January – 5 April
Term 2	23 April – 29 June
Term 3	16 July – 28 September
Term 4	15 October – 11 December
<i>NB: Term dates coincide with New Plymouth Boys' High School</i>	

Week 1, 2012

Monday, 30 January

Tuesday, 31 January

Wednesday, 1 February

Thursday, 2 February

Friday, 3 February

Teacher Only Day (not open for instruction)

Year 9 and Year 13 – Powhiri for all new students

Year 9, Year 13 leaders only, Year 12 timetable checks and assembly

Year 9, Year 13 leaders training, Year 11 timetable checks and assembly

Full school, Year 13 Peer Support. Timetable begins. Year 10 starts with timetable check and assembly.



CALENDAR

NOVEMBER		
Tuesday	8	Senior Prizegiving Graduation Dinner
Thursday	10	NCEA Examinations (until 30 November)
Friday	11	Teacher Only Day
Sunday	13	TSSSA Junior Touch
Tuesday/ Wednesday	15-16	Junior Exams
Thursday	17	CEM Entrance Yr9 2012 Entrance Testing Catch-up
Thursday	24	TSSSA Tennis/Softball
Tuesday	29	TSSSA Show Jumping
Tuesday-Thursday	29-1 Dec	Outdoor Education Year 9 and Year 10
DECEMBER		
Friday	2	Year 9 2012 Orientation Day
Friday	2	Clearance Morning
Wednesday	7	Junior Prizegiving TERM 4 ENDS

Uniform Shop December Opening Hours

The Uniform shop will be open from 9.00am until 4.00 pm from
Thursday, 8 December until Wednesday, 14 December 2011.



Win \$2,500 for your school!

The Royal Society administers a travel award on behalf of Freemasons NZ to support students who have won the right to attend science based activities and camps in New Zealand. We call it the 'Freemasons NZ Student Science Travel Award' but would love to have a more innovative title for the fund.

Can your school come up with a new name for this award?

Secondary Schools can enter multiple times.
Please email entries to Debbie Woodhall,
Debbie.woodhall@royalsociety.org.nz or fax to 04 473 1841
by 12 December 2011

Name of secondary school: _____

Email address: _____

New title of award _____

Entries will be judged on being innovative, original, appropriate and concise.