Tēnā Koutou katoa,

Another busy term nearly ended and a lot has happened. Our biennial Gala was a huge success with the combined efforts of staff, students and PTA raising over $10,000 for our fundraising goals this year including a new school van and enhanced visual communication in the hall. So, thank you very much to everyone who contributed. The day was tempered somewhat by news coming through regarding the devastating Christchurch attack. Many were left feeling, ‘what can I do?’, in response to this. Students and staff found solace in sharing their thoughts on paper chains sent to Christchurch; our 2 minute vigil; the Super Haka performed by our students and the ‘Colour Your Day’ campaign which raised over $600 for the Muslim community in Christchurch. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with those affected.

Our enviro school leaders are preparing for ‘Waste Free Week’ from the 8th to the 12th April. They have organized a range of events from assembly speakers, making Eco bricks and community clean ups, to raise awareness of climate change. As the upcoming generation to face these challenges they are to be commended for their leadership on this issue and well done to Breanna Greaney who has been selected to attend a YELF – Youth Enviro-leaders Forum – sponsored by the Sir Peter Blake trust, in the holidays. She will come back with a wealth of ideas on developing her leadership and our enviro school status, so well done.

We have triennial Board of Trustees elections coming up in May and June. If you would like to know more about what is involved in being a Parent Representative on the Board of Trustees, then there is a link further in the newsletter advising of Kōrari – a training seminar offered in Oamaru by NZSTA (New Zealand Schools’ Trustees Association). You can also ring our school office and speak to the board secretary, for further information on how nominations work.

As we near the end of term one, summer sports are coming to an end and preparation for winter codes has begun. Assessments in the senior school are also gearing up so this is a busy time. Students need to manage themselves and their time well to ensure they keep on top of everything. Goal setting, managing self and learning how to prioritize are key themes in our Learning Conversation Day to be held early next term on 2nd May. I urge you, if you haven’t already to make an appointment for you and your daughter to have a 15 minute holistic conversation with the Whānau teacher. This is part of our holistic approach to learning and helps our students be the leaders in their own learning.
Raising teenage girls to be young women well equipped for the world is both rewarding and challenging for both us as educators and you as parents. I am enclosing a link to a very interesting and useful article on raising girls — I hope you find something of interest in it.


I wish you a happy Easter and relaxing holiday.

Ngā mihi

Tracy Walker
This term the girls have been researching and designing their own danish pastry recipes. Recipes have included flavours such as chocolate smores, caramel popcorn, cherry cream cheese and much more. We have been impressed with the creativity of flavour combinations this term. This week they had their final assessment where everything was made from scratch. A great effort. Well done girls.

We have been looking at the various reproductive technologies in use in New Zealand to improve livestock genetics, improve economics of production and improve farm management systems. They have hosted two guest speakers as part of this study, firstly Les Ballantyne from Livestock Improvement Corporation (LIC) who talked about artificial insemination and demonstrated how this is done. Then Dave Robertson from the Veterinary Centre Oamaru, who came and explained the process of embryo transfer. Both sessions were very interesting and the girls enjoyed hearing about these techniques.

Food Technology and Nutrition

This term the girls have been researching and designing their own danish pastry recipes. Recipes have included flavours such as chocolate smores, caramel popcorn, cherry cream cheese and much more. We have been impressed with the creativity of flavour combinations this term. This week they had their final assessment where everything was made from scratch. A great effort. Well done girls.

Our Year 11 PE students completed an assessment on two standards based around Rock climbing and High ropes.
Photo Gallery

Year 12 Biology

Gala

Respectful, Responsible, Resilient
Kia kaha Whakaute, Kia Haepapa, Kia Kaha i kā katoa
Parent Portal
The following information is available to you through our parent portal on kamar:

* Important school notices.
* Personal details such as address, medical details etc. If any of these details are incorrect or require updating then please contact Helen Leslie in the school office on (03) 434 8429, or e-mail her the details at hleslie@waitakigirlshigh.school.nz
* Timetable.
* Attendance records. Please note that you may not view current day attendance.
* NCEA results - both past year/s and current year details.
* Fees summary. Any enquiry regarding fees, or how these can be paid should be directed to Mrs Sally Grant (Executive Officer). Sally can be contacted on (03) 434 8429 Extn 206 or e-mailed directly at sgrant@waitakigirlshigh.school.nz
* Library books currently issued out.
* Report details.

The URL for this portal is http://parentportal.waitakigirlshigh.school.nz or click on the link from our website. If you are unsure of your logon and password please contact us via the school office.

On Thursday 2 May Student Learning Conferences will take place for all students in an effort to enable students to take responsibility for their own learning and to deepen the conversations that students, parents and teachers have around student learning. No formal timetabled classes will occur on this day as students will be required to attend the conference session at the appointed time. These Learning Conversations will be facilitated by your daughter’s Whānau teacher and builds on our mentoring programme. The focus of these Learning Conversations is about how our students learn, not about their behaviour and at the core of this are our key values of respect, resilience and responsibility.

It is an expectation that parents and/or significant members of the student’s whānau will attend these conferences with the student. Research shows that home-school partnerships focused on the importance of doing well at school have the greatest positive outcomes for the student. Bookings can now be made on via www.schoolinterviews.co.nz using the code ab8pn If you are unable to book online, please contact the school office who will do this for you.

In Term 3 (Wednesday 14 August) we will run subject-based interviews as last year for all Year 9-13 students, to enable you to catch up with your daughter’s subject teachers and ask subject-specific questions. It is also possible to email any of your daughter’s teachers, or Dean or to request to meet with them, at any time during the year.

We look forward to meeting with you and your daughter on 2 May.

Looking for a quiet place to study.....

Our school library (Whare Mātauranga) is available after school on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday until 5pm for any student who wishes to work in a quiet space.

If any student wants to use the library on other days after school, please contact Ms Williams.

Office hours

Please note the office will be closed over the school holidays and reopen 29 April.

Any queries can be emailed to sgrant@waitakigirlshigh.school.nz
NCEA information

NCEA update:
All senior students have been issued with a copy of our NCEA Information booklet for Students and Parents. The booklet contains information on NCEA that is important for all Year 11 to 13 students to understand. Information about extension applications, re-submission, re-assessment, appeals, and plagiarism is included in this booklet.

We encourage parents to read this document as well. It is on our website under Curriculum and Qualifications and Assessment.

The link below is to NZQA website and fact sheets they have published. These fact sheets contain valuable information about NCEA at all levels.


Any queries relating to NZQA matters, please contact Margaret Williams
mwilliams@waitakigirlshigh.school.nz)

NCEA Student App Update
An updated version of the NCEA Student App can now be downloaded from either the Apple App Store or Google Play Store. It is available to use in English and Te Reo Māori, is free to download and can be used from any smart device. This version displays and better supports multiple levels of NCEA and new users can simply add credits from previous years without having to also add standards information first. This means that students can track their progress towards various NCEA levels over multiple calendar years more quickly and easily. The App allows students to plan, select and set their NCEA credit goals and targets and to see how they are tracking towards NCEA Levels one, two and three, including Literacy, Numeracy and University Entrance.

Student feedback on our parent portal
All assessments that your daughter completes whichever year level she is, have feedback given via our parent portal. Each assessment for NCEA students and comments are written in support of each completed assessment and available on the school portal immediately the assessment results have been finalised. This will give you and your daughters ‘real time feedback’, rather than as in the past having to wait until reports were written.

Students in Yrs 9 and 10 will also have feedback given as they complete assessments or have feedback outlining progress throughout the year. All subjects will have at least one comment giving feedback on progress by the end of Term 1, then regularly throughout the year. If you do not have access to the parent portal via the school website a copy of this information will be posted to you.

If you have any questions about our reporting process please contact Ms Margaret Williams
mwilliams@waitakigirlshigh.school.nz.
We had a lovely visit with the Mukogawa Girls’ High students. Thank you to all our host families that accommodated a student. A huge thank you to Mrs Hellier for your time and many hours of hard work organising this visit.

Mukogawa Girls’ High visit

Respectful, Responsible, Resilient
Kia kaha Whakaute, Kia Haepapa, Kia Kaha i kā katoa
This year we took over 40 students to represent WGHS at the Aoraki Athletics in Timaru, coming away with some fantastic results and many qualifying for the SISS Champs in Nelson. Twelve of those who qualified travelled to Nelson to compete in the SISS Champs held over three days, coming home with three 3rd placings. Jessica Lake - High Jump u14, Briar Johnston - 100m u16 and the under 16 4x100m relay team of Shelby Johnston, Briar Johnston, Maggie Hartland and Sarah Jamison.

**Aoraki Results**

**UNDER 14**

Sarah Jamison – 1st in 400m, 2nd in 200m, 3rd in 100m
Georgia Hawkins – 2nd in 3000m
Ella Hamilton – 3rd in 80m Hurdles
Jessica Lake – 1st in High Jump
4 x 100m Relay Team – 1st (Jessica Lake, Emma Spittle, Georgia Hawkins, Sarah Jamison)

**UNDER 15**

Shannon Burnett – 1st in Long Jump, 3rd in 100m
Meadow Neill – 3rd in 400m
Paige Black – 2nd in 3000m, 3rd in 1500m
Losa Fifita – 2nd in 80m Hurdles, 2nd in Triple Jump, 3rd in Long Jump
Hannah Tiffen – 3rd in Javelin
4 x 100m Relay Team – 1st (Kirsten Lemmens, Meadow Neill, Minetta Martin, Shannon Burnett)

**UNDER 16**

Briar Johnston – 1st in 100m, 1st in 200m
Shelby Johnston – 1st in 3000m, 3rd in 100m
Lily Rawson – 2nd in 3000m, 3rd in 800m
Brooke Meek – 3rd in 1500m
Maggie Hartland – 2nd in 80m Hurdles
Alex Campbell – 3rd in Javelin
4 x 100m Relay Team – 1st (Maggie Hartland, Samantha Slee, Shelby Johnston, Briar Johnston)

**UNDER 19**

Jayda Loper – 3rd in 400m
Anna Scott – 3rd in 3000m
Molly Hurst – 1st in 80m Hurdles, 3rd in High Jump
Madaleine Mansfield – 2nd in 80m Hurdles
Kate Smaill – 2nd in High Jump
Kate Paton – 1st in Javelin
4 x 100m Relay Team – 2nd (Jayda Loper, Madaleine Mansfield, Ruby Smaill, Kate Smaill)

**Aoraki Croquet**

On 27 March the WGHS Croquet pair of Jazmin Davidson and Libby Robb headed to the Aoraki Champs in Timaru. They had a great run, winning 5 matches and tied for 4th. On countdown, this placed them an unfortunate 5th, as the top 4 teams qualify for the National tournament later in the year. The pair are hopeful that they may still be able to attend the National competition as a wild card. Well Done and good luck!
Cross Country reminder
Don’t forget Cross Country is on the first Tuesday back in term two. A meeting regarding organization of this will take place on the first Monday.

Challenge Wanaka, Otago SS Triathlon
On Thursday 14 February a group of 20 Waitaki triathletes loaded up their bikes and headed to Cromwell for the Challenge Wanaka Otago Secondary School Triathlon. Waitaki had entered two junior girls teams and four senior teams. Taylah Arlidge and Paige Black entered the individual sections.

On a cool and windy day our students took off with participants from schools from all over Otago. All the teams completed a 300 metre swim in the lake, a 15km cycle and a 6km run. Luckily the weather was cool which made the going more enjoyable for bikers and runners but the lake was very choppy and swimming was difficult.

Our best junior team was Waitaki White (Sophie McMillan, Holly Taylor, Meadow Neill) and in the senior section Waitaki Red (Nicole Cope, Brylee Milmine, Lily Rawson).

Taylah Arlidge did really well to finish 3rd in the Under 19 girls individual triathlon.

Our triathletes all showed amazing resilience and finished with creditable results.

Well done girls!

North Otago Sports Awards
Monday 18 March was the Network Waitaki North Otago Sports Awards 2018, held at the Rec Centre. Two of our nominees made the finals, Taneisha Fifita for Junior Sportswoman and Shania Kohinga for Official in Sport. Congratulations to Taneisha who won her category, being named North Otago Junior Sportswoman of the Year. Former pupils Morgan Henderson and Abbey McKenzie were also finalists in the Sportswoman and Sports Coach categories, with Morgan being named Sportswoman of the year. A beautiful tribute was made to the late Georgie Salter and her huge contribution to Netball. We were treated to some wise words from Otago rugby coach Ben Herring including the importance of a mentor. The evening was a great showcase of some amazingly talented and dedicated people in the North Otago region.

NZ Secondary School Adventure Race
On Friday 29 March, four girls headed to Cromwell for the adventure race! At the briefing on Friday night they received their map and information and set about planning their route for the next day. They were told to watch out for roaring stags and poachers on the farmland they would be walking through but that didn’t worry our girls!

Once the 4.30am wake-up call got them all up, the girls were away on their bikes, bustling with 31 other teams ready to go (in the dark) - head torches were really helpful!

After 4.5 hours of trekking to 1km above sea level at the top of the Nevis, the girls got on their mountain bikes for a mostly downhill ride with some steep descents to Bannockburn Inlet. The whole time they navigated their
way through the mountains by maps and compasses collecting check points along the way.

Abseiling was terrifying for some, yet fun for others, and an hour’s orienteering up and down hills to find 11 check points kept the girls busy. Then to the lakeside where they hopped into double kayaks for an hour long trip to the last transition point.

With all teams finishing in just less than 12 hours the girls did an amazing job. Congratulations to TJ, Anna, Lily and Alice for taking up the challenge, showing incredible resilience when the going got tough and working well together as a team.

A big thanks to Mrs Aker who, at each transition, kept the girls energized with food and drink and encouraged them to keep going.

**SISS Touch**

Congratulations to the girls that participated in the South Island Secondary School touch competition.

**SISS Triathlon**

This event took place in Oamaru on Sunday 2 March as part of the Oamaru Triathlon and Duathlon. Waitaki Girls had a total of 13 competitors participating in various grades and events and all went extremely well as this competition is open to all secondary school students in the South Island.

South Island Secondary Schools titles were won by Taylah Arlidge (Senior Duathlon Individual), Kirsten Rogers and Annah Brown (Senior Duathlon team) and Alice Petrie, Brylee Milmine and Lily Rawson (Intermediate Triathlon team). Georgia Hawkins was 2nd in the Junior Duathlon Individual and Holly Rayne and Mia Hunt were 2nd in the Senior Duathlon Team. Big congratulations girls.

Anna Scott, Ella Hamilton, Paige Black and Sam Chilton also completed individual events which is a great effort.

Well done girls for coming out on a Sunday to represent our school and to compete so well with the rest of the South Island schools.

**Tania Dalton Scholarship**

Congratulations to Taneisha Fifita on receiving the Tania Dalton Foundation Scholarship. The Tania Dalton Foundation inspires young people to be the best they can through sport. The Scholarship programme supports talented young sportswomen, from all kinds of circumstances and at different stages of their development.

**TGHS Interschool**

In week 8, 40 students travelled to Timaru to compete in our annual Summer Sport exchange against Timaru Gils’ High School in cricket, junior and senior volleyball, junior and senior touch. We had a perfect result, winning all 5 games. Well done to all of those who competed.
Friday 15 March 2019 from 4-7pm was our biennial gala. From 4pm the school campus was awash with people young and old. For a day with dull skies weather wise and with the horrific happenings in Christchurch, Oamaru turned out and supported our school.

We had everything from bouncy castles on the road frontage (a wonderful visual brightness) to trap shooting, gumboot throwing petting zoo, creepy car wash, photo booth, cheese rolls, pulled pork rolls, balloon darts, raffles, lucky spin, hot chips, coffee tea and baking, mechanical bull ride, cakes, garage sale and sports gear sale, sweets, bath bombs and lip balms, books, sumo ring, spider drinks, burgers, bacon butties, face painting, crafts, drinks, music, sausage sizzle, candles, popcorn, nachos, to plants and produce. A wonderful range of items.

We would like to thank the following businesses:

Raffle winners are:
House raffles: M Rawson and L Borrie
    BURN: M Rawson and S Bryant
    FERGUSON: D Cunningham and S Bradford
    GIBSON: S Hellier and R Andreassend
    WILSON: R Willans and N Roughan
Grocery Raffle: 1st Heather 2nd K Willans 3rd S Campbell 4th Gordon 5th J Butler 6th J Reith
  7th G Hurst 8th S du Plessis 9th J Rodger 10th S Grant 11th F Nelson 12th B Wilson
  13th K McLeod 14th S Grant 15th F Nelson 16th D Senior 17th F Campbell

Gala is a fantastic way to make a good amount of money in one night. Yes, it takes work and organization. It is also a community event where it costs nothing for people to attend. It covers all social economic groups, and it is really wonderful to be able to provide a community event that gives our young and old people somewhere safe to promote whanaungatanga (to come together). Whanaungatanga is incredibly important for us all.

A massive Thank You to our school and wider community for your effort, hard work, commitment and support, together we fundraised $10k for our school, this is a truly wonderful effort.

Robyn Judd
GALA Chair
Winter Sport season is ahead, the Uniform shop have Sports bags are $43 and students are allowed to have their nicknames printed on them. Also we have Warm up tops are great for winter sports teams. $32.00
We would appreciate some more reader writers who are willing to volunteer their time to assist senior students doing assessments. Volunteers must be able to write for either one or three hour sessions during the school day. You would be required for a few hours a month. A police check will be required. If you are interested please e-mail Liz Ballantyne: lballantyne@waitakigirlshigh.school.nz