

# Waitaki Girls' High School

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## Newsletter 24th February 2017

*‘Young women well equipped for the world’*



Tēnā Koutou katoa

Welcome back everyone. In particular, I wish to extend a warm welcome to all our new students – welcome to the Waitaki family. We have five new staff members to introduce: Miss Olivia Gonzales who is our new Music teacher: Mrs Jessica Wright who is teaching Agriculture and Science and Katrina Ramsay who has joined our Teacher Aide team. Mrs Tangiwai Robinson is our new librarian. Mrs Lil Cunningham has joined our Itinerant music team, teaching saxophone and clarinet. Nau mai Haere Mai.

We have a busy term ahead of us with the usual array of school activities such as Swimming and Athletics. I commend the staff and students for their organisation – we have had classes in full swing since 1<sup>st</sup> February; Athletics and Tabloids have been held despite some challenging weather. Peer Support – where Year 13 students mentor Year 9 students is up and running with several sessions already held. Girls should now be settled into their academic programme but also have had a chance to be involved in sporting and cultural events. We held our Expo giving them an opportunity to see what is on offer – you name it: we probably play it or are involved in it! It is our expectation that every girl participate in at least one cultural and one sporting co-curricular activity during the year. We have held our Student Leader Badge Assembly in which our 18 student leaders were presented with their badges – I have every confidence in these young women and look forward to working with them throughout the year.

Highlights from our NCEA results include rising numbers of Level One and Two students attaining Merit and Excellence endorsed certificates and we had 90 girls cross the stage in our recent Academic Excellence Assembly. Congratulations to Gabrielle de Reus who gained a Scholarship in Classics. Congratulations also to Tara Willans who has been awarded an Oceania Scholarship – the first female recipient – this will put her in good stead as she embarks on her tertiary career. Well done to all girls who achieved their goals last year. For all students excellence means doing the very best they can do and realizing that no one ever accomplished great things without practice and learning. We are extending our Mentoring programme this year to include every girl. The Whanau teacher will be assisting students to set and monitor goals with support of Deans and Senior Leadership. We want to involve parents in a three- way conversation regarding their daughter's progress. We were inspired by the success of students at the Excellence awards and want more girls to experience success in all they do. This fits in with our values of encouraging learners who are respectful – respectful to themselves by aspiring to the highest possible levels of achievement; being responsible in the learning process by taking an active role, and having the resilience to persevere when the learning gets hard.

We are striving hard to ensure we are flexible and meeting student need especially in terms of senior class placement. To this effect we have over 40 girls engaged in Dual Pathways and Gateway; another 25 learning subjects through Distance Learning and 33 girls going to WBHS for shared senior classes.

I do want to remind students and parents about the importance of regular attendance. Research is very clear – to achieve you need to be at school; to be engaged and motivated – you need to be at school. Attendance matters – at school – on time – in class – all day.

**A reminder about attendance and absence procedures:**

- If your daughter is absent please make contact with the school. This can be done by a phone call or email.
- The school office will ring you if your daughter is absent and there has been no contact.
- If the office is unable to reach you, a Dean or Principal will contact you either by phone or email. We may also visit you at home if we can't make contact.
- Serious or persistent truancy may be referred to the Attendance Service.
- If you know your daughter is going to be absent for a period of time which does not include illness, then the principal's permission for the absence needs to be sought. Please be aware it is the principal's discretion as to whether an absence from school is justified or not and extensions for internal NCEA work will only be granted due to illness or family trauma (not family holiday).
- The school is currently considering a policy that to attend the Formal or represent us in sporting or cultural activities a student needs to have an 85% or better attendance record. Our thinking around this is that if you don't attend us you can't represent us (there will be exceptions based on chronic illness or other extenuating circumstances).
- If there are reasons why your daughter is unable/unwilling to come to school please talk to us about it. Together we can make a plan.

We hold our biennial School and PTA Gala on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March at 4pm here at school. It is our major fundraiser – please support us – there is more information on how you can do that within the newsletter. We held our Year 9 Meet the Teacher Evening on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February and it was great to meet Year 9 parents. I very much look forward to meeting and working with not only new parents but all members of our community as, "it takes a village to raise a child".

Ngā mihi

Tracy Walker  
Principal



Katrina Ramsay



Olivia Gonzales



Tangiwai Robinson



## International Holocaust Seminar – Yad Vashem

14<sup>th</sup> January – 2<sup>nd</sup> February Israel

I feel incredibly privileged and grateful that I was chosen to participate in this amazing experience. A group of 26 very keen, yet nervous educators flew out of Auckland airport early on 13<sup>th</sup> January, flying to Seoul, South Korea, where we stayed the night, then we re-boarded our Korean Air flight to fly us to Tel Aviv the next afternoon. We arrived quite late into Jerusalem and then it was up early, to begin our time at Yad Vashem. Yad Vashem dominates a whole hillside in the heart of Jerusalem and is the World Holocaust Remembrance Centre. The campus contains the most amazing museum, an archives building, the International Centre



for Holocaust Studies,

incredibly moving monuments and statues, an art gallery and a synagogue. There were so many professional and personal highlights during our time in Israel. Without a doubt, the most humbling were the times we spent with the four Holocaust survivors. Their messages were harrowing, heartbreaking, as well as demonstrating true resiliency and inspiration. To be asked to carry their message back to New Zealand and to our wider communities was a very moving experience and one that has affected all 26 participants.

During our day trips, we were very lucky to be able to travel to some amazing sites throughout Israel, which demonstrated not only the diversity of this great country, but also the awe-inspiring history which exists there. Jerusalem is an amazing city, one where I felt incredibly safe and almost at home within. The markets in the Old City were not only rich in their own version of history, but were also entertaining and a lot of fun.

By the end of our time at Yad Vashem, we had completed 115 hours of study. We had had the opportunity to listen and ask questions from a range of

fantastic lecturers, we had covered a range of complex issues, and had been moved to tears on numerous occasions, but overall, we had been inspired by the depth of courage, resiliency and perseverance, the Jewish people displayed during the Holocaust.

As we said our goodbyes to our new and lifelong friends at Yad Vashem, most of us realised that we were leaving a bit of our hearts in Israel. Having gone through so much together, the tears and the laughter, I realised I am now part of a new whanau, one that is spread throughout New Zealand and over into Jerusalem, one that I am very privileged to be a part of. A huge thanks must go to Efraim, Steffi and Dorit at Yad Vashem, who made our time in Israel so magical and life-changing and to our two team leaders – Rick Sahar and Chris Harris, who at times, did struggle to herd 24 teachers all together into one place at one time, but always managed to do this with their sense of humors in-tact – a miraculous feat.

Ms Sonya Hull



This year, we are introducing academic mentoring for all students. This will be based around our Whānau and House system as each Whānau is a vertical group who remain with the same teacher as they move through years 9 to 13. The Whānau teacher is the key link person between students, families and staff. The Whānau teacher will be responsible for this academic counselling, meeting regularly with each student and monitoring their academic progress on an ongoing basis. Further support is available via Year Level Deans who have a pastoral role.

The focus of this mentoring is to gain increased engagement from students as well as increased involvement of parents in their daughter's learning. As teachers work alongside students, the school is able to tailor and offer programmes in response to the students' wellbeing and needs. It is anticipated that this process will also lead to increased communication between home and school. Parents of Year 9 students will have received a letter of welcome from their daughter's Whānau teacher.

This student centred support will enable us to closely monitor student achievement as well as focussing on improved attendance at school. Our focus is on resiliency, less anxiety, and a greater understanding and awareness of the various vocational pathways and NCEA qualifications available. Yr 12 and 13 students have been working with their Whānau teacher already to ensure they have selected the correct subjects and are aware of the qualifications these subjects contribute to.

There will be the opportunity for parent interviews early in Term 2 (where parents meet with subject teachers to evaluate progress so far and set goals) and a conferencing opportunity for senior students early in Term 3 prior to school exams with parents, students and Whānau teacher to ensure each student is on track..

If you have any questions regarding this programme please contact your daughter's Whānau teacher (email is preferred) or Margaret Williams (Deputy Principal) [mwilliams@waitakigirlshigh.school.nz](mailto:mwilliams@waitakigirlshigh.school.nz)

#### **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.

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

Any queries relating to NZQA matters, please contact Margaret Williams ([mwilliams@waitakigirlshigh.school.nz](mailto: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.

#### **Congratulations to Tara Willans**

Former Waitaki Girls' High school pupil Tara Willans is justifiably proud of being awarded an Oceania Scholarship. What makes it even more special is that it is the first time it has been awarded to a female.

Tara learned of the three year \$3,000 scholarship by email, following a skype interview, as she was part way through a six week trip to India where she lived with an Indian family and taught Math and Cultural Studies in their privately owned school.

Having gained NCEA Level 3 with an Excellence endorsement, Tara is attending Otago University where she will study for a BA in Art and Science majoring in politics and environmental management and minoring in Accounting. As part of the scholarship Oceania will provide the opportunity for Tara to gain work experience during her holidays at their factory north of Glenview.





## Gala and Monster Garage Sale

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2017

4pm – 7pm

We will be holding our biennial gala on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March and would love your help. The purpose of Gala is twofold: to raise as much money for the school through one event as possible to provide the things the government operations grant doesn't cover. Money raised from this Gala will go towards new seating and a landscaped area in front of the new library. But Gala is also about whānaungatanga – coming together as a school community to strengthen our links with our wider community.

It is a home, school and community collaboration involving stakeholders such as the PTA, WGH SOGA, hostel and community groups. Every whānau class will be operating a stall and this also develops a sense of service and the key competencies of participating and contributing.



### How can you help?

Ask your daughter what her whānau class is doing for Gala. Can you donate items for produce, plant, books/magazines, jumble, white elephant or crafts stalls? Can you donate your time and assist your daughter's whānau class running their stall? Can you give your daughter \$20 towards her whānau stall? Can you help on the day or beforehand?

Each House is having a raffle to be run on the day by the PTA. Burn has a chocolate theme; Ferguson is Beauty; Gibson is Gardening; Wilson is Food. Please assist by donating an item to your daughter's House Raffle. Items can be dropped off to the school office.

Stalls include: Tombola, Books, Candy Floss and Bouncy Castle, Candles, Chips and Treats, Recycled Picture Frames, Photo Booth, Haunted House, Baking Table, Chocolate Wheel, Sand Pit Treasure Hunt, Plants, Freakshakes, Hair and Face Paint, Lemon Coins, Waffles, Pony Rides, Nachos, Cake Stall, Hamburgers, Raffle Stall, Hot Pork on a spit, Craft Stall, White Elephant.



As well the school is having a Monster Garage Sale including selling decommissioned chairs, desks, computers and shelving amongst other items.

Talk to your daughter and her whānau teacher about how you can help and come along on the day and spend money at the fun, creative and tasty stalls.

Everyone who returns their Gala Flyer on the night with their contact details on the back, including email, goes in the draw to win a Lynne Sinclair Travel Voucher valued at \$500.

# CAREERS EVENTS 2017



An invitation is warmly extended to students and their parents to attend any or all of the following events:

Event		Proposed Date
<b>Visits to School</b> Liaison Officers from these Universities & Polytechnics will be visiting our school. They will talk with senior students and their parents about courses, applications, accommodation and will answer any questions.	<b>Canterbury University</b> <b>Otago Polytechnic</b> <b>Otago University</b> <b>Lincoln University</b> <b>Auckland University</b> <b>Victoria University</b> <b>S.I.T. (Southern Institute of Technology)</b> <b>Massey University</b> <b>ARA Institute of Technology</b>	13 March 8.40am 3 April 2:30pm 23 March 12.00pm 2 June 10:00am 6 April 8.40am 3 April 8.40am TBC 13 March 2:30pm
<b>Otago University Law</b>		TBC
<b>Tertiary Open Day</b>	<b>Year 13 Students visit</b> Canterbury University, Lincoln University, ARA or Dunedin	<b>8 May – All day</b>
<b>Canterbury University Information Day</b>	<b>The University of Canterbury</b> will be holding an Information Day (formerly known as Open Day) for 2015 on 9 July. As this is held in university term time, it allows visiting school students the opportunity to experience the campus, to attend special presentations and tours, and to visit the Halls of Residence.	<b>13 July 9am- 5pm</b>
<b>Massey University Open day</b>	<b>Manawatu – Palmerston North</b> <b>Wellington Campus</b>	<b>2 August</b> <b>1 September</b>
<b>Victoria University Open Day</b>	<b>Wellington- Check website for more details</b>	<b>1 September</b>
<b>Auckland University Open day</b>	<b>Auckland- Check website for more details</b>	<b>2 September</b>
<b>Lincoln University Open Day</b>	<b>Lincoln- Check website for more details</b>	<b>14 July</b>
<b>Armed Forces</b>	<b>Holiday Experience</b> , each of the Armed Forces (Air Force, Army & Navy) offers adventure and hands on challenges held during the October school holidays this year. Anyone thinking of the Armed Forces should apply for these. Applications information will be emailed to Year 12 & 13 students	<b>Defence Force Bus visit –</b> <b>July and September</b> <b>holidays</b> <b>All day</b>
<b>Waitaki Girls' High School Careers Week</b>	<b>A school wide focus on Careers</b>	<b>22-26 May</b>
<b>Dunedin Careers Expo</b>	<b>Year 11 Students visit</b> the Dunedin Careers Expo where most Tertiary providers throughout NZ have stands. The Armed Forces and most ITO's along with a lot of private sector trainers are there also.	<b>1 June</b>
<b>Employment Expo</b>	A range of different job options are represented from our local community answering questions about the job and training involved. A light lunch will be supplied for students.	<b>26 May- School Hall</b>
<b>Studylink</b>	Representatives talk to <b>Year 12 &amp; 13</b> students about student allowance, student loans and budgeting at a Tertiary Institution.	<b>Term 4</b>









Aoraki Secondary School Girl's 'A' Grade Champion – Tayla Ludemann, Caitlin Judd, Mackenzie Phillips and Mikayla Sutherland



Congratulations to Jasmine Hunter and the rest of the Otago U16 Girls Touch Rugby team. They came away from the recent Junior Touch Nationals in Auckland with a silver medal. Jasmine has also been selected for NZ Under 16 Girls team, to play in Australia (September).



WGHS had 9 teams enter this year's OSS Triathlon/Duathlon in Cromwell last week. Congratulations to Emma Petrie, Kate Galbraith and TJ Arlidge for coming 3rd



### WGHS Drama Club

WGHS Drama Club were invited to perform a short play written especially for the occasion by their teacher, based on the history of Clark's Mill for the 150th celebrations.

The play was set in a 1940's classroom and the girls had the challenge of performing in an outdoors venue and wearing costumes appropriate to the era. The play was performed twice during the day and in between times the girls were able to view the old flour mill in action and take a ride in a Victorian horse-drawn carriage.



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### CENTRE OF ATTENTION NORTH OTAGO

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February – Waitaki Community Rec Centre**

1pm – 3pm Steel Team Training  
4pm – 6pm Year 9 – 13 Players      3:50pm - Registration

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February - Waitaki Community Rec Centre**

10am – 12pm Southern Steel v Beko Team  
1pm – 3pm Year 1 – 8 Players      12:50pm Registration  
1pm – 3pm Coaches Workshop





## New Zealand Newcomers Network

Connecting People

Have you moved here from another part of NZ or from overseas? If so, you may like to connect with the Waitaki Newcomers Network.

They will assist you with your settlement and help you meet other people who are also new to town.

Contact Christine on 0272428643 or 4347544.

Friendly assistance is only a phone call away.



## Waitaki Rec Centre

Information for Secondary School students

### 2017 Rates

Casual

\$5.00

	WGHS	Other schools
Terms 1-4	\$130.00	\$150.00
Terms 2-4	\$110.00	\$130.00
Terms 3-4	\$85.00	\$110.00
Term 4	\$45.00	\$55.00

Membership entitles the student to

- use of the weights room PLUS
- all our group fitness classes (RPM \$2), and
- a discount on any of our other programmes

**Do you or your kids want** something to do which is **FUN & Adventurous?** And Cheap to do? Why not join Scouting. Scouting is an amazing way to meet new people, go on awesome adventures and get you out of your comfort zone. Scouting has 4 different areas. **Keas, Cubs, Scouts, Venturers.**

**Scouts** - is from Year 7-10. The scouts offer action packed activities that encourage them to make their decisions for themselves. The scouts go on outdoors activities like Tramping, Rafting, or indoor activities like scout craft, pioneering.

**Venturers** - is from Year 11-14. As a venturer they will be able to make up their own programs, if it interests you go and do it with the **Venturers**. You can also meet new people, make lifelong friends and go on AMAZING trips.

**ADULTS** - **don't** let the kids have all the fun! You can come as a leader, join in the fun with your kids and go on adventures with them.

**# So** come and join one of the best Scout Groups in Oamaru

**The Columba Scout Group** at their **Awamoa Park Scout Den**, look for the **Adventure Plus** sign

**Scouts** - Thursday nights 6.45pm till 8.45pm - Start back for the year on the 9<sup>th</sup> of February

**Venturers** - Wednesday nights 6.45pm till 8.45pm starts back on the 8<sup>th</sup> of February

For more info contact Group Leader Neville Corry PH  
437-2531

## WGHS PTA 7 March

At the Whare Mātauranga (library) 7pm. All welcome. We really need more members to join us. Any queries please contact Robyn Judd 43 12565



## Upcoming Events February/March 2017

1 March	Gateway First Aid
2 March	Get Ahead Day: Agriculture
2 March	First Aid: Life Skills (13B)
3-5 March	SISS Tennis
4-7 March	Yr 12 PE trip to Wanaka
5-7 March	Yr13 Biology trip: Portobello
5 March	SISS Triathlon: Oamaru
10 March	Aoraki Lawn Bowls: Timaru
11-12 March	SISS Rowing: Twizel
13 March	Canterbury University planning
14 March	Aoraki Athletics: Timaru
15 March	Yr 12 Biology trip: Portobello
16-18 March	Yr 12 History trip: Central Otago
16 March	Swimming Sports: Aquatic Centre
20 March	Otago Anniversary Day: No School
23 March	Aoraki Volleyball: Timaru
23 March	Otago University planning
23 March	First Aid: Life Skills (13B)
24 March	GALA

For more detailed information on upcoming events, go to the school website [www.waitakigirlshigh.school.nz](http://www.waitakigirlshigh.school.nz) and click on calendar to view.

## Whāia te iti kahurangi ki te tūohu koe me he maunga teitei

*Seek the treasure you value most dearly: if you bow your head, let it be to a lofty mountain*