

Issue 2 - 16 February 2023

WHAKATANE HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

E ngā reo, e ngā mana, rau rangatira mā, ngā matā waka, tēnei te mihi nui atu ki ā koutou katoa. Ko te wawata me te tumanako ka noho ora mai koutou katoa.

It's been a wonderful start to the year at WHS with a strong focus on relationship building across the school. This has helped create the foundation for learning in the school, as a result, classrooms are settled and quality learning is taking place. It was a shame that we had to close the school because of the bad weather but it was the right decision, to make sure we keep people safe.

Student attendance

Student attendance is a national and WHS priority in 2023. We have been really pleased with our attendance in the first couple of weeks and we really want to make sure we maintain this momentum.

The government has advised schools that improving student attendance is a high priority for 2023. WHS will be constantly reinforcing our attendance expectations of students this year. We ask that parents and whānau assist us in this process by reinforcing school expectations at home.

Students who are truant from class (or have developing patterns of unjustified attendance) may have to catch up on work missed or be called into a meeting with their parents to put an attendance plan in place. Our Student Attendance Policy can be found on SchoolDocs and is currently under review this term.

We look forward to improving attendance rates in 2023 as we know that attendance alongside quality teaching and school leadership is one of the biggest factors in achievement at school.

School policies and procedures

We are always reviewing our policies and procedures at WHS, and we need your help!

We use SchoolDocs as a company who help us update, modify and create policies in response to changes in legislation or Ministry of Education guidelines, significant events and reviews/requests from schools.

Every term you will receive information in the newsletter regarding policies that are due for review that term and we would encourage you to have your say and participate in those reviews.

Policies for review this term:

- [Legislation and Administration Policy](#) (Board review)
- [Student Attendance](#)
- [Enrolment](#)
- [Privacy](#) (Board review)
- [Official Information Requests](#) (Board review)
- [Uniform / Dress Code](#)

To review please follow these instructions:

1. Visit the website <https://whakatanehigh.schooldocs.co.nz/1893.htm>
2. Enter the username (whakatanehigh) and password (whs100).
3. Follow the link to the relevant policy as listed.
4. Read the policy.
5. Click the **Start your review** button at the top right-hand corner of the page.
6. Select the reviewer type.
7. Enter your name (optional).
8. Follow the prompts to show that you've read the topic and enter your feedback if you'd like to comment.
9. Agree to the privacy statement and click "Submit review".

If you don't have internet access, school office staff can provide you with printed copies of the policy and a review form.

MENTOR INTERVIEWS change of date due to PPTA STRIKE on MARCH 16th

Currently there is an intended strike on March the 16th for all PPTA members. This means that the Mentor Interviews will take place on March the 15th from 3:30-6:30 and all day at school on March the 17th. The purpose is to discuss the school values reports and set goals for 2023 as a team (whanau, students and school). Your child's Mentor will be in contact over the next few weeks and bookings will be available online.

Year 9 BBQ: Thur 23rd Feb: 5:30pm at the shade sail

The annual Year 9 BBQ is a great way for Year 9 students and whanau to make connections with their Mentors and teachers face-to-face. There will also be an opportunity for Sport Sign-ups. If your child is in Matai or Kauri could you please bring a salad, and if they are in Totara or Rimu could you please bring a dessert.

Scholarship success

New Zealand Scholarship assessments enable candidates to be assessed against challenging standards and are demanding for the most able candidates in each subject. New Zealand Scholarship provides recognition and monetary reward to top students in their last year of schooling. In the recent 2022 published results, WHS students achieved 8 scholarships. One of the best years in recent memories.

- James Elliffe secured Scholarships in Calculus, Physics, History and English. He received an Outstanding Scholarship in English. The first in over 15 years for the school. James will receive \$2000 a year for his studies from the government.
- Lara Longney received Scholarships in English and Health and PE and will receive \$1000 from the government for her success.
- Tahu Weenink-Smith and Abby Gow both gained Scholarships in English. Both will receive \$500 each from the government for their success.

ATHLETICS

FOR ALL STUDENTS

Friday, 24 February

Come in your house colours and get ready to support your house on one of the school's biggest days of the year.

Athletics is about getting out there and giving things a go. Every event you enter equals points for your house.

Remember to **be sun smart, bring water and wear appropriate clothing** to run, jump and throw.

And, most importantly - HAVE FUN!!!

IMPORTANT

High jump for all Year levels will be held this Friday, 17 Feb at lunchtime on the school field, as well as Junior Boys and Girls long jump.

Kael's visit to Japan

In December I was fortunate to be able to go to Tokyo, Japan to spend two months with a host family and attend school with my host brother. The exchange company that I went with was Your Education. I chose to go to Japan as I have learned Japanese since primary school and I have always wanted to visit and experience the culture and work on my Japanese.



The family I stayed with had a Mum, Grandmother and host Brother. It took me one hour to get to school, I walked half an hour to the station and took the train to the school. The school day was from 8.30 am to 3.20 pm and students often stayed at school until 6.00 pm to attend club activities or study. The subjects at school were different to what I study here at WHS. I enjoyed the three hip hop dance clubs that I joined. I went to Kyoto on a school trip two hours away by bullet train to visit temples, architecture and experience traditional Japanese culture.

My host family took me to the snow at Shirakabako, a two hour drive from Tokyo. In Tokyo I explored a lot of the city and enjoyed the shopping, and the variety of food options within a small area, not just sushi! I was excited to go to the Japanese Theatre to see Bakemono no Ko based on the anime The Boy and the Beast. I was also lucky enough to attend the traditional Japanese theatre, Kabuki, where all the performers are male and the costuming is traditional with kabuki makeup. It was very flamboyant and interesting and would enjoy seeing more of it and would recommend it to anyone visiting Japan.

Going to Japan has made me realise that it may be somewhere I would like to go again following high school, perhaps to study. I am very keen to return to Japan.



WHAKATĀNE
HIGH SCHOOL

Welcomes
**INTERNATIONAL
STUDENTS IN 2023**



and we need you!

"We have been really blessed to have Alicia become part of our family. She fitted in right away as she is friendly, helpful, respectful and participates happily in family activities. I thoroughly recommend hosting an international student to other families with teenagers at high school."

Wei Mei Leong, Host Parent



Contact us now!

Email michelle.cossey@whs.co.nz

Phone 027 287 6570



Get2Go Nationals

During the school holidays, I had the honour to represent Whakatane High School at the Get2Go Nationals, held on Great Barrier Island. The team including Ashlyn Bennett, Ben Peat, Finn Jones, Jai Julian, Lily Isaac, Monique Prasad, Sam Little-John and myself (Zoe Giles), travelled across to Great Barrier along with the most of the other teams.

After getting settled into our cabins we had our first challenge. It was a 4km run up a hill, followed by an orienteering challenge around the Orama campus and the surrounding waters. We gathered letters and had a hard time unscrambling them to form the word 'circumnavigation'. Finishing with a balance and teamwork challenge involving balancing a ball between two people, where we picked up a placing.

The next two days involved 3 "Head to Head" challenges and 2 "All In" challenges. The team did well throughout these challenges smashing out the high ropes, Waka Ama, rock climbing, as well as finishing with a convincing lead in the raft building and paddling. Our team was 5th into the water picking up three placings in the short course and passing the final team on the way out and around an island.

The next two days were an expedition across the island. The first day was around 30km of running up and down muddy hilly terrain, finishing with a short rogaine where our team finished 5th. We then camped out for the night in the pouring rain. We set out the next morning on a 6 hour expedition

heading back to the Orama campus. We had a bit of trouble collecting the first checkpoint but picked it back up and headed to the rafting part of the expedition. We set out with the conditions proving hard to paddle against, but made our way around the course picking up the checkpoints along the way.

The final morning was individual challenges where each team member had to complete a different task including, swimming, kayaking, running a tyre up a hill, hauling a tyre up the high ropes, rolling a mussel buoy blindfolded around a course, flexibility, getting dressed a into full kayaking outfit and catch a ball in a bowl on your head. The team worked hard through these and finished a close second.

Throughout the week our team worked well together, at times proving difficult, however we pushed through and helped one another. We had a once in a lifetime opportunity and even though the weather didn't cooperate we still had a very enjoyable and unforgettable experience. Our team learnt a lot from the week, learning to listen and work together to overcome obstacles, as well as learning to slow down and think before jumping into things.

It was a team of awesome students which I was grateful for and lucky enough to experience the week with.

By Zoe Giles



FIJI 2023

Year 9 and Year 10 students can now sign up to go in the ballot for the two Marine Studies 2023 Fiji Trips.

The sign-up Google Form is available in your child's Mentor's Google Classroom.

You MUST sign up by 3pm Friday 24th Feb to be included in the ballot.

COACHES WANTED

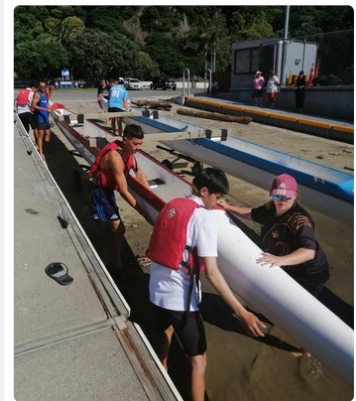


WHAKATĀNE
HIGH SCHOOL

Whakatane High School are looking for experienced and enthusiastic coaches for the following winter sports:

- rugby
- football
- netball
- basketball
- hockey

If you are interested in coaching a team, please email expressions of interest and any questions through to:
sport@whs.co.nz



Waka Ama and Futsal

Futsal and Waka Ama have kicked off this year with lots of interest in both sports. Futsal players will be attending the BOP Secondary School Champs in Tauranga on Friday 3rd March. Waka Ama are training for the NZ Secondary Schools Champs to be held in Rotorua 27th to 31st March. They are also looking to possibly attend a warm-up event to be held Friday 4th March in Rotorua.

Futsal for boys are training Wednesday afternoons at the War Memorial Hall with the girls training in the school gym on Fridays.

Waka Ama are looking to train Thursday afternoons with the possibility of adding another day.

Surf Lifesaving

A huge congratulations to Coco Wren who finished 2nd overall in the U13 division at the Eastern Regional Surf Life Saving held in Waihi over the weekend. Summer Pearson also competed well at the event. The event was scheduled to run over 2 days, however due to the weather it was condensed down to just 1 day of competition with some events not being held. Full results for the girls were -

- Coco, part of Whakatane A 13-14 Female Board relay team - 6th (17 teams)
- Summer, part of Whakatane B U13-14 Female Board relay team - 10th (17 teams)
- Run Swim Run - Coco 5th, Summer 19th (41 entrants)
- Diamond - Coco 1st, Summer 13th (16 entrants)
- Surf Race - Coco 2nd, Summer 17th (35 entrants)
- Board Race - Coco 13th (16 finalists)
- Flags - 2nd (36 entrants)

Well done ladies.



Motocross

Our first ride together for our high school motocross students is scheduled for next Thursday 23rd February, at Awakaponga. This year our group will have National Race Competitors and avid trail riders, our first meeting will cater for all abilities with the mini track and main track open. We will leave school at 12.45 lunchtime and meet at the track. If you would like to join our group please email kim.moore@whs.co.nz.

WANT TO JOIN A CLUB?

Club	Venue	Meeting times	Extra info
Enviro	B3	Wednesday lunchtime - Week B only	Everyone welcome
Chess	Library	Monday/Tuesday lunchtime	All students and staff
Mural	C2	Thursday lunchtime	Everyone welcome
Debating	B4	Wednesday - Week A only	Everyone welcome
Robotics	T5	Thursday 3-4.30pm	Years 9 and 10
Rainbow and Diversity	B3	Thursday lunchtime	Everyone
English Scholarship	B4	Wednesday lunchtime - Week B only	Year 12 and 13s
WHS Interact	B7	Friday lunchtime	Everyone welcome
Yoga Group	TBC	Tuesday lunchtime	Everyone welcome, bring PE gear + water
Young Enterprise	B8	Friday lunchtime	Everyone
Mountain biking at Onepu	Field	Friday 3pm-6pm	Bring bike, helmet, water. Cost: \$5 to cover van
EPro8 - Science and Engineering group	L4	Wednesday 3-4.30pm	Everyone
Rock Climbing	Trident	Monday 4.30-5pm	Limited numbers must sign up \$20 per term - to sign up, email james.hagger@whs.co.nz
Surf school	West End	Wednesday 3-5pm	Limited numbers must sign up - to sign up, email james.hagger@whs.co.nz
Iti Pounamu	Staffroom/Library	Wednesday after school	Everyone welcome. Just meet in staffroom
Writer's Club	B3	Monday lunchtime - Week A only	Everyone welcome
Pasifika	Careers Room	Wednesday lunchtime - Careers Room	Students who whakapapa Pasifika and anyone who wants to learn more
Build-a-bike	T2	Term 2 & 3 - Wednesdays - 3-4:30pm	Seniors
Kapa Haka	Te Katau	TBC	
Acoustic guitar group	Music Room	Friday lunchtime	Everyone welcome

Young Enterprise Scheme

Our school is preparing for the Kickstart Event held in Tauranga for our young entrepreneurs at our school. The event will allow students to speak to business mentors about their ideas and how they intend to sell their products. There is still time to join our group. If you are a Senior Student and you want to run a small business this year, bring some friends, or join others and come along to B8 on Fridays at lunchtime or email kim.moore@whs.co.nz



Volunteering to help

WHS Interact Club doing more of what they are good at, volunteering at another community event.

This is their second volunteering event for the year. On Sunday the 12th of February, 12 students from the WHS interact Club helped out at the Whakatane Arts Festival and Jazz in the Park from 2-6pm.

They helped out with a variety of jobs including, selling of tickets for the event, helping at the gate collecting money, putting on wrist bands, waste management, selling raffle tickets, sausage sizzle, etc. The organisers were thrilled with the turnout of WHS Interact Students, as we have volunteered at this event for a number of years now. It was overall a successful event, and many thanks to everyone who helped out. It must be said that Mr Warner and Belle Warner were the first performers of the evening, and it was just delightful and a pleasant way to get into the feel of the afternoon event.

By Charlotte Billings.



All students wanting to purchase a calculator please order and pay at the student office **by 24 February**

Uniform Reminders

The following are key points you need to know about the uniform. Please make sure you are wearing the correct items.

- HATS - are to be black and/or white. No other colours of hat or writing are permitted
- White POLO - must have a collar. No T-shirts
- JERSEY - ONLY jerseys with the school logo are permitted

- SHORTS - ONLY shorts with the school logo are permitted
- LONG PANTS - Must be plain black dress pants. NO track pants, cargo pants or Jeans
- SHOES - No boots, this includes Doc Marten boots

Confirmed measles case in NZ

A measles case has been confirmed in New Zealand for the first time since the 2019 outbreak.

'Measles is a very serious illness that spreads very quickly. It is much more contagious than COVID-19, particularly amongst people who aren't immune. Symptoms can include a fever, cough, runny nose and sore and watery 'pink' eyes. These are followed by a blotchy rash. If you catch measles you're infectious four days before and until four days after the rash appears".

People are considered immune if they have received two doses of measles, mumps, rubella (MMR) vaccine, have had a measles illness previously, or were born before 1969.

If you are unsure if you are immune and may have been exposed, you should talk to your doctor or phone Healthline. Symptoms normally take 7 - 14 days to develop after being exposed to someone with measles. If you are immunocompromised and have concerns that you may be a contact or were at any of the below exposure events, please contact Healthline or your doctor/GP.

WHS SPORT UNIFORMS

Please return all WHS
Sport Uniforms to school
ASAP





UPCOMING EVENTS

Below is a small list of events coming up.

For the full calendar of events, check out this link:

<https://portal.whakatanehigh.school.nz/index.php/calendar>

- **ID Photos** - 22 February
- **Year 9 BBQ** - 23 February
- **Athletics Day** - 24 February
- **Swimming Sports** - 10 March
- **Student Mentoring Interviews** - 15 and 17 March
(booking link advertised at a later date)
- **PPTA Strike Day** - 16 March
- **Class Photos** - 23 March

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Student Health Notice

Health services provided FREE in school:

- School Nurse: daily except Wednesday morning
- School Doctor: Tuesdays P2

Visit the Student Office to make an appointment.

School bus information

If you require information about your student/s bus route or timetable for any in-zone routes, please contact Go Bus directly on: 07 846 8796. If you're wanting information for out-of-zone bus routes, please contact Uzabus on 07 308 6169.



Rangiatea Whakatane School For Young Parents

Check out the Rangiatea Facebook page and see what our fantastic teachers have been up with with our young parents:

<https://www.facebook.com/RangiateaWhakatane/>

2023 Term Dates

Term 1 - Wednesday 1 February to Thursday 6 April
Online Learning Day - Friday 17 March (*Student Mentoring*)

Term 2 - Wednesday 26 April to Friday 30 June
NCEA Teacher Only Day - Monday 1 May

Term 3 - Monday 17 July to Friday 22 September
Teacher Only Day - Friday 21 July
Online Learning Day - Thursday 7 September (*Student Mentoring*)

Term 4 - Monday 9 October to Tuesday 12 December

Our Website

Parent portal

Download
SchoolAppsNZ
then search for
Whakatane High School

GOOGLE PLAY

APP STORE







WHAKATANE HIGH SCHOOL

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