

# News From The Top Of The Hill

Napier Girls' High School Newsletter

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*Tēnā koutou*

We have finally reached the end of Term 2 which has been a really busy and productive time at the school.

We finish on a high note having received the interim ERO Review which is looking very pleasing. This will be finalised in the next few weeks and will be made available to you as soon as this is done.

Ms Suzanne Downs and I spent last week in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, at the International Thinking Conference. We made a presentation with 4 other Hawke's Bay schools and presented our Thinking Project and the collaboration process of secondary schools working together to ease the implementation of the curriculum.

It was a very worthwhile experience and the conference was very stimulating. There were a large number of educational researchers who presented the latest information about Thinking and Learning in Secondary Schools and there were also people from the medical and business world. We were able to take advantage of attending these high quality presentations. As a result of this, we are feeling very pleased with the direction in which Napier Girls' High School is heading. We are establishing programmes such as our Thinking Project and Enterprise Education which tie in very nicely with developing skills for ensuring the success of our students now and in the future.

Over the next couple of years we anticipate developing further opportunities in the junior and senior school for girls to become more aware of their strengths, and link these to their lives which will help make school more interesting and relevant to them. This will encourage them to develop a wide range of skills. The other aspects that are very important for the future are leadership both in self and others, communication skills, and the ability to adapt to a range of new situations.

We are finishing this term strongly with Women Watch Week. The girls and teachers have made a large number of blankets by knitting peggy squares. For many of the girls this meant learning a new skill. These are going to be sent off to Africa for Youth by Mothers for their new born children. This is a tremendous effort by the staff and the girls and we are very proud of them.

The week is focussing on presentations by a range of different women, including the head of Red Cross, former Principal Claire Hague, Vanushi Walters, a New Zealand woman currently completing a Masters degree in International Law at Oxford University, and Haja Ali an 18 year old Afghanistan student who came to New Zealand in 2005 with her family. These women are speaking on a range of topics but are basically encouraging the girls to be the best that they can be and consider the wide range of opportunities there are for their futures, both career-wise and developing their sense of community responsibility. It is a tremendous week organised by Barbara Foote.

Also this week Barbara Hewitt, Principal's Secretary and her support staff team organised and ran a Hawke's Bay wide professional development day for support staff from all local intermediate and secondary schools to encourage collegiality, sharing of ideas and good practices. This is the 7<sup>th</sup> Support Staff Day to be organised by Napier Girls' High School with 109 people attending. For the first time this year a

large number of property, maintenance and grounds staff members attended, who will continue on with a professional development group, meeting each term to share ideas on maintenance plans and bulk buying projects.

The day included 3 fantastic motivational speakers. Pam Dickson – grandmother of 9 who recently swam Cook Strait, Cocksy – building consultant, and Marg Foster – former Silver Fern netballer and breast cancer survivor.

Twenty seven of our students and 5 staff are attending the Scholarship Symposium to be held at Massey University in the holidays. This is an opportunity for them to meet students from other schools and get some good development in their subject areas.

We wish the group of students and staff travelling to Malaysia under the leadership of John Seaman and Nikol Stirland, all the very best of luck and I know they will have a wonderful experience in this very different country.

The building of the new entranceway to the hall is nearing completion. We expect to be using this in Term 3.

We finish a very busy term where we have achieved a lot. I wish everyone a very happy and relaxing holiday and look forward to seeing you back next term.

Mary Nixon  
Principal



Just a few of the blankets knitted for African babies

## Student Absences on Mid-year Reports

The school uses a system called KAMAR to record attendance. This system has to follow Ministry of Education rules about how to record and report absences from school. One of these MoE rules is that if a student is marked absent from one lesson in either the morning or the afternoon, that is recorded as one half-day absent. The other absences which are included in reporting the number of half-days absent are:

- Absent with an explained but unjustified reason (e.g. family holiday)
- Absent for a medical reason
- Absent for a justified reason within the school policy
- Absent through Stand-down or Suspension
- Absent for an unknown/unexplained reason – truant.

Entry mistakes do occur.

Our Vertical Form teachers follow up on individual lessons marked absent. The student is asked to get the teacher's signature to say that they were in class if that is what they claim.

***If the student does not do this, the absence remains as unexplained/truant.***

This reflects badly both on the student and the school. We ask you to encourage your daughter to follow up any incorrect entries when asked to do so. Thank you.

Seamus Harty  
Assistant Principal

## Malaysia Trip Departs

Friday July 3<sup>rd</sup> at 3.30am sees 27 Geography and History students together with five adults set off from Napier for a 12 day trip around the Malaysian peninsula. The group have been meeting every Tuesday lunchtime since February to learn more about the country, the language and customs as well as to prepare themselves for the tropical heat and conditions of a country lying adjacent to the equator. We look forward to hearing some of their travel tales on their return.



## Community Survey

Thank you to the randomly selected families who returned their community survey to the school by the end of Term 2. Staff and randomly selected students will be surveyed early next term. Results will be published in the newsletter by the end of Term 3.

## Young Enterprise

Congratulations to the Year 13 Business Studies class who recently were placed second in a Hawke's Bay Young Enterprise business planning competition. The students are making a child's chocolate chip cookie kit which is presented in a bright plastic bucket containing the dry ingredients, a cookie cutter, a mixer, and an apron.

A group of successful local business people judged several teams on their ability to present their product as a worthwhile investment. They were generous with their encouragement and awarded cheques to the teams they considered would be successful. Our team, calling themselves "Make 'n Bake" won \$250 for their efforts.

The students are moving quickly to their launch and the kits will be available next term for \$20 each.

## Orienteering – HB Schools Champs 2009

Relays - June 28<sup>th</sup> - Tangoio

In a repeat of 2008's surprise result, Napier Girls' High School has won the Hawke's Bay Secondary Schools title after winning all 3 relays on Sunday.

This win will give the team a boost before the New Zealand Schools' Championships next month in Manawatu.

### Winning Teams in running order:

Junior	1:30:20	Monieka Scott	25:47
		Brianna Massie	28:13
		Holly Edmonds	16:20
Intermediate	1:21:47	Naomi Anderson	22:27
		Georgia Lindsay	34:15
		Abigail Temple	25:05
Senior	1:52:00	Sarah Hawkins	37:01
		Sarah Anderson	33:08
		Georgia Wedd	41:51

Other girls to catch the eye in the supporting teams were Zivana Donnelly and Emma Pullen in Senior, Laura Kaan and Elizabeth Atchley in Intermediate, and Chelsea Peters and Sophie Rose (in her first attempt and despite a missed control) in Junior.

## School Ball

The Napier Girls' High School Ball is Friday 24 July. Tickets are \$45.00 each and will be on sale during lunchtime the first week of Term 3. Students must return their signed ball contract before they can purchase tickets.

## Sports and Cultural Photographs

These will be taken on Tuesday 4 August for selected groups. The timetable of photographs will be published in the school notices early in Term 3. Photographs may be ordered through the Sports Coordinator later in the term.