



# AUCKLAND GIRLS' GRAMMAR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Issue 2/17

5 April 2017

*Kia ora, Kia orana, Talofa Lava, Fakalofa lahi atu, Malo e lelei, Namaste, Ni Hao, Greetings*

## Message from the Principal

As the end of my very first term as Principal of Auckland Girls' approaches I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all, parents, whanau and students for the very warm welcome I have received.

It has been a very busy term. We have already made a number of changes to our systems and processes, which I believe will allow for better tracking of student achievement and as a result enable us to identify and support students to reach their potential and experience academic success. Doing this early in the year will help to ensure that your daughters have the best possible chance of doing well in their NCEA examinations.

Many of your daughters have been involved in cultural groups that performed at the recent ASB Polyfest. It was such a joy watching the girls perform and I was so very proud of them.

Now that Polyfest is over, I hope that all of our girls will put their energies into their academic work and will return to school at the beginning of Term 2, on Monday 1 May, ready to work hard and achieve to their very fullest potential.

Nga mihi nui  
Ngairé Ashmore  
Principal



For the first time this year AGGS had a Chinese cultural group performing on the Diversity stage, picture far left. This was also the first time that we had a Filipino Group and they were delighted to place 2nd in the Asian Continent category.

Above a few of the members of the Samoan Group, which performed so beautifully and was placed 2nd overall and to the left a picture of the AGGS Fijian group which placed 1st in the Oceania Continent Award on the Diversity Stage and third with our Filipino Group for the overall Diversity Stage award.

Our Cook Islands Group placed 1st in the Girls' School Comp; our Niuean Group was placed 3rd overall; our Tongan group 4th and Kahurangi ki Maungawhau, our Kapa Haka group 6th.

## PARENT TEACHER EVENING

Thursday 6 April 3.30 to 7 p.m.

Your daughter was given her **Term 1 Progress Report** on Friday 31 March to bring home and a copy has also been sent to you by e-mail along with details of how to book appointments on-line.

### A NEW STUDENT AND PARENT PORTAL

We are in the process of changing our Student Management System from PC School to Kamar. We believe that the reports that we are able to generate from Kamar will allow us to track student achievement more easily and comprehensively.

#### **The Kamar Student and Parent Portal will be available on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April.**

You will receive an email this week with a username and password to log onto the Portal. You will then have the option of changing this password to one of your choice.

The Student and Parent Portal will give you access to up-to-date information about your daughter, for example her NCEA Summary; her results to date; and her attendance records etc.

When you log on, would you also please take a few minutes to check the details we have for your daughter(s). If there are any changes to be made, click on change details and let us know the changes. This will generate an email to our school and our office staff will make the changes. It is very important that the contact details we have for our daughters are correct and up to date.

## LUNCHTIME TUTORIALS, MENTORING AND STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

A number of Committees are running lunchtime tutorials where students can go with their questions and get answers and support:

- **Maths** tutorials are on Tuesday lunchtimes in D33.
- **English** tutorials are on Thursday lunchtimes in A123 and
- **Science** tutorials are in G28 on Friday lunchtimes.

### **AGGS Pasifika Mentoring Programme – POLYCATION.**

This special programme is now in its 5th year and is run by the Pacific Achievement Group made up of staff, former students and current students of the Pasifika committee.

It is an after school programme for students from Year 9 to Year 13. Students on the programme are provided academic support and overall mentoring and guidance to help them succeed to the best of their ability.

Places are limited so students are encouraged to quickly get their applications in. Representatives of the Pasifika committee will promote Polycation at the level assemblies and have application forms. Students can also collect forms from outside Ms Peters' office (C53)

**MATES the Year 13 Mentoring Programme** where selected Year 13 students are provided with mentoring from current University of Auckland students has also started. This year there are 24 Year 13 girls involved and six of their mentors are ex-AGGS students. The girls meet with their mentors every Tuesday after school.

## NCEA 2017 INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS AND THEIR PARENTS, WHANAU OR CAREGIVERS

Students in Years 11, 12 and 13 have been or will soon be given NZQA Information booklets to bring home.

**The booklet contains very important information about NCEA** and is a handy resource for you to keep as it answers clearly and concisely many frequently asked questions about NCEA—fees, financial assistance, credits, etc. This information is also available on the NZQA website [www.nzqa.govt.nz/ncea](http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/ncea). If your daughter has not told you about this booklet or shared it with you please ask her to do so.

Over the next few months, we will be including more information about NCEA in our newsletters and on our website. This will include the dates by which applications for financial assistance must be submitted and the deadline that NCEA fees must be paid to the school.

## TERTIARY PROGRAMMES

This year we are running programmes for some of our Year 12 and 13 students using different tertiary providers. All programmes have a commitment towards behaviour and attendance that the girls need to comply with to be part of their programme.

**Year 12 Catering** – 5 girls are involved in this programme which started on 13 February and will see the girls out of school every Monday for the year.

They will be sitting credits in Hospitality and Catering at MIT. These girls will have a study option line to allow them to catch up on work they miss each Monday.

**Year 13 Tourism** – 9 girls are involved in this programme which started on 17 February. These girls are at the NZ School of Tourism on Queen Street on Friday mornings.

**Year 12 Health Programme** - 25 students are involved in this programme and are out one day a week at the Careers College, where they are taking Health related Unit Standards, visiting Health facilities and listening to talks by guest speakers. Three Year 13 students are also involved in this programme but at Level 3 and they are out two days a week.

This is a different way of learning and providing the curriculum to girls who we have identified as students who will benefit from this type of opportunity.

## STARTING THE YEAR WITH WOMEN SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS

In the first few weeks of the school year, all 200 students starting in Year 9 at Auckland Girls' Grammar School met a woman whose job involves the real world use of science.



Structural engineer Karina Kaufusi from Beca, Civil engineer Ying Yang from Mott MacDonald, former Plant & Food Research scientist Laura Ward and Clinical Research associate Mrinal Murali from Fisher & Paykel Healthcare spoke to the eight science classes. Each student also received a Futureintech brochure about science-rich careers and a matching activity sheet.

Michal Denny, HOF Science explains:

"When students arrive in Year 9 they have a wide range of backgrounds in terms of their understanding of science. So we start with class discussions about 'what is science?', 'what isn't it?', 'why is it important?', and 'what is a scientist?'"

"Asking the girls to 'draw a scientist' overwhelmingly produces pictures of old men in white coats with crazy hair. Further questioning reveals that the male scientists they've drawn are European in ethnicity and are busy 'blowing things up in labs'.

"We wanted to address these narrow perceptions right at the beginning of the year so I said to Futureintech that I'd love to have some young female scientists talk to our girls. Having engineers talk reinforces the idea it isn't all about being in a lab – that science happens in lots of different places."

"New Zealand has a shortage of technologists, engineers and scientists. These careers are among the most exciting, varied and rewarding possible – offering opportunities to travel, discover and create new things, work in teams and really make a difference."

There is lots more information on the Future Intech website [www.futureintech.org.nz](http://www.futureintech.org.nz)

### HANDS ON AT OTAGO

Hands On at Otago was an amazing five day experience where students from all over New Zealand gathered to carry out activities that they were passionate about while getting a taste of uni life. I was one of thirteen or so lucky students that were awarded a Ngā mahi-a-ringā Pūtaio scholarship that covered the \$645 cost and I strongly encourage other Māori students (currently in Year 12) to do the same. I chose to participate in the genetics project and urge others to try science and health science activities.

Hands On at Otago also provides humanities and business projects like law and performing arts. As a part of my project we got to clone a piece of DNA, do some crime-solving using forensic analysis (think CSI) and analysed fruit fly mutations.

During my time in Otago I had the chance to meet a lot of great people, explore the beautiful city of Dunedin, share a flat with roommates, eat truckloads of delicious food and do what I love. It was truly unforgettable and definitely worth the holiday time.

**Ivana Hurley, Year 13**

### SPORTING CONGRATULATIONS to:

**A number of our students** who competed in the **NZTFI Tag Football Nationals** at the end of February .

**Alana Jefferson** as a member of the Auckland Metro tag Football 16 Girls team.

**Tiara Asuao** in the Open Mixed Representative Team representing the Brisbane region.

**Catherine Kautai, Vice Captain, Cah Tum Makara, Saylor Roi, Flo-Jo Adams, Pou Felipo and Karina Marino** all from the Central Knights Club and winning a bronze medal.

**Michaelea Taukolo, Cheyenne Young** who represented North Harbour in Under 15s and Under 17s Softball Teams at the **Softballs Nationals**, the U15s in Wellington and the U17s in Palmerston North. **Sylvana Tuitama** also played in the U17s in Palmerston North.

### FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The next two Board meetings will be held on

- Tuesday 2 May at 5.30 p.m. and on
- Tuesday 30 May at 5.30 p.m.

Board meetings are held in the Jubilee Library upstairs of A Block. They are open to the public and you would be most welcome to attend.

The first two meetings of the Board for this year were busy ones, with a visit from ERO which was in school for a few days reviewing progress on recommendations made in their last report and presentations of 2016 Faculty Reports from the Heads of the English, Mātauranga Māori and Science Faculties.

## NETBALL 2017

The Netball season starts in the first week of Term 2. This year we are fielding seven keen teams, 2 Premier Teams, 3 Year 10 teams and 2 Year 9 teams.

A big welcome and thank you to Finau Pulau, who will be coaching the Senior Premier Team and overseeing both of the Senior Teams and to Nicki Tato who will be taking charge of the Junior Teams.

We are still looking for volunteer coaches of two of our Year 10 Teams. Both teams have very talented Netball players who are in need of someone to coach them for the season. Contact details are on the AGGS Sports Facebook page. Please if you have the time do consider offering your services.

Our teams have been training hard and have already played two practice games against Baradene College.

VISIT FROM HAMILTON GIRLS FOR ANNUAL SPORTING EXCHANGE  
Wednesday 12 April

As part of a tradition, which goes back over 100 years, of sporting exchange visits to and from Hamilton Girls High School. We will be welcoming 70 girls on Wednesday 12 April for a day of sports between our two schools.

Sports played will be Netball, Basketball, Rugby, Lacrosse and Touch. Hamilton girls have had the better of us in last year's exchange, winning in all of the competitions, so we are hoping for better things this year. The girls involved from both schools always have a great day and we are sure that this year will be no exception.

## WAKA AMA NATIONALS—ROTORUA 28 to 31 March

112 Secondary Schools took part in this year's regatta making it the biggest ever.

A younger AGGS team than in previous years meant we did not have quite as much experience. That said our crews were still out to make a name for themselves and continue the school's proud tradition that has given AGGS twelve championship medals in the last 4 years.

On the final day however, our medal prospects hinged on one crew - U16 Kikorangi - the only one of our three crews to progress into finals from the Championship Semi-finals.

The first race for AGGS Kikorangi was the 500m (turns). The AGGS marquee was emptied as every supporter, manager, teacher-in-charge and paddler lined the beachfront. Everyone held their breath for what seemed like an eternity as the race played out. Our 4th seeded team had a good start but lost ground in the leg into the turn. A good turn saw us in front, leading briefly on the return leg. With 100m to go we were being caught and passed by favourites Te Kura-ā-Iwi O Whakatapuranga Rua Mano, with 30m to go second seeds Rotorua Girls passed us.

The team dug deep to hold off Napier Girls' Kahurangi Team which we had duelled with in earlier rounds of the regatta. With the race over we finally had a reason to dust-off the Haka our girls had been practicing and more importantly we had our first medal - **bronze!**

An hour after the excitement of the 500m final U16 Kikorangi were back on the water for the 250m (straights) Championship Final. We were an outside chance for a medal seeded 6th and this was always going to be a much tougher challenge than the 500m race.

Without the ability to make up time on the turn we were out grunted by Rotorua Girls and Te Kura-ā-Iwi O Whakatapuranga Rua Mano again but also Gisborne Girls. AGGS finished a credible 5th place and lost our duel with Napier Girls on this occasion. ...

so sadly, we were unable to add to our medal tally but still left happy with our bronze medal and with the knowledge that our youngest team will return to the U16 race in 2018 to try and go two places better.



Some of the AGGS girls who competed at the Waka Ama Nationals 2017

This is to advise of a small change to our South Auckland Bus Service, provided by Coachways NZ for Term 2.

We have been told by the owner of Coachways that he is unable to continue to provide two buses to cover the two routes, as there are not enough students using the buses to make it viable.

From the beginning of Term 2, he will be running one bus only, a big bendy bus, which will combine the two bus routes and will be able to take the just over 60 girls who currently use the two buses.

The route is virtually unchanged and tickets can continue to be purchased from the school shop or on-line from Coachways. A copy of the new timetable is available from the school office and on the AGGS website and is printed below.

### AGGS SCHOOL BUS—060 Term 2

	<b>Morning Run</b>
<b>7.15</b>	Right into Norman Spencer Drive Papatōetoe
	Right into Puhinui Rd
	Left into Carruth Rd
	Left into St Georges St
	Left into Wylie Rd
	Right into Pah Rd
	Right Ferndown Ave thru Claude Rd
	Right into Portage Rd
	Left into Buckland Rd
	Right into Robertson Rd
	Left onto Walmsley Rd
	Right Mahunga Drive onto Mangere motorway
	Left into Hillsborough Rd
	Right into Richardson Rd
	Right into Dominion Rd
<b>7.45</b>	Mt Roskill Shops
	Valley Rd bus stop
	Onto Ian McKinnon Drive
	Left into Upper Queen St
	Left onto Canada St
	Onto East Rd
	Left onto Karangahape Rd
	Right into Howe St
	Auckland Girls Grammar School

	<b>Afternoon Run</b>
<b>3.30 pm</b>	Depart Howe Street
	Left Wellington St
	Left Franklin Rd
	Left onto Ponsonby Rd
	Thru onto Newton Rd
	Right onto Piwakawaka St
	Left onto Ian McKinnon Drive
	Right thru Dominion Rd
	Left onto Balmoral Rd
	Right onto Mt Eden Rd
	Onto Warren Ave
	Onto Hayr Rd
	Left onto Carr Rd
	Right onto Hillsborough Rd
	Right onto Mangere motorway
	Left onto Mahunga Dr
	Left onto Walmsley Rd
	Right onto Robertson Rd then up
	Bader Drive to Mangere Town Centre
	Onto Buckland Rd
	Right onto Portage Rd
	Left onto Claude Ave
	Onto Ferndown Ave
	Left onto Pah Rd
	Left onto Wylie Rd
	Right onto St Georges St
	Left onto Kolmar Rd
	Left onto Great South Rd
	Right onto East Tamaki Rd
	Right onto Preston Rd
	Right onto Reagen Rd
	Left onto Great South Rd
	Right onto Ronwood Ave
<b>4.25 pm</b>	Left onto Leyton Way
	Manukau City Centre
	Left onto Manukau Station Rd

#### 015 Bus from Britomart

Auckland Transport also provide a dedicated bus for Auckland Girls from Britomart at 8.15 a.m. in the morning which comes straight to AGGS without any stops.

AGGS girls are to use this bus and we have been told by Auckland Transport that they are not to catch the public 020 bus which leaves Britomart at about the same time. AGGS has been provided with a dedicated bus to reduce over crowding on the public bus and it is essential that our girls use the 015 bus.

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## DEPUTY HEAD GIRL SCARLETT PARKES 'Week in Canada'

A week in Canada; not my typical start to the year. Getting a standing ovation from UNESCO; also, not in my expectations for Term 1.

11 students, eight countries, five months of research and blog posts, four mentors and five days to write and present the **International Youth White Paper on Global Citizenship**.

I was lucky enough to be funded by the New Zealand Commission for UNESCO, and after a 20-something hour trip, I arrived at freezing Ottawa, met all the other students (and became family immediately; a 'global family') and the mission began!

Difficult, thoughtful conversations and the fast staccato tap of keys characterised our days as we discussed global citizenship in more detail than I think I've ever discussed anything before! (*'Global citizenship' is basically a way of trying to be a good human being, of 'saving the world' – but less cheesy and more realistic!*)

However, the days were peppered with important 'interruptions'. We had a behind-the-scenes tour of the Canadian parliament by Senator Grant Mitchell; Sébastien Goupil, Secretary General for the Canadian Commission for UNESCO called in to discuss our project and we joined in at

an official ASPnet schools' dinner, all of which involved talking about global citizenship with our strongest 'youthful enthusiasm'!

Our hard work paid off; the room was packed just before we presented and our passion for what we were saying shone through in every single speaker and the audience fed off that. Someone once said *'young people write poems like each one will save the world'*. Our paper is that for us.

The main message I got from the experience was "The right approach isn't to find the definition of global citizenship but to never stop looking for it" as my friend Youssef from Morocco said. Global citizenship is so complex, there are so many interconnections and power structures at play, that there is always more to learn (or unlearn). In that sense, we aren't ever 'educated'; education is a process that never ends.

So if you've ever looked around and found things you didn't like in the world and wanted to change them, don't be scared by high up ideas of 'making a difference', 'creating change' or 'healing the world', or even 'global citizenship'. Do small things, help people close to you. If you don't know how to help, or what people need, just ask them! No one knows everything, and that's ok.



Scarlett is second from left back row in the picture

**The last day for Term 1 will be Thursday 13 April and school will resume on Monday 1 May .**

We wish all of our students a very happy, relaxing and safe Easter break . We hope that you take this opportunity to read lots and to revise as much as possible of the work you have done in Term 1.