



Hamilton Girls' High School

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Kia ora tatou to our parents/caregivers and wider community.

Please note the following very carefully:

Tuesday 31 August: Final day for enrolments for all 2011 Y9 students (out of zone and in-zone). Any 2011 Y9s out of zoners who enrol after this date go on after the balloted waiting list. They are not eligible to be included in the ballot. 2011 Y10-13 your final day for enrolments is October 15. For further details refer to our website.

What's happened recently? Just a sample ...

- It has been an absolute pleasure to see the Hall filled up for both our Option Nights for 2011's Y13 and Y12 on Tuesday and for 2011's Y10 and Y11 on Wednesday of this week. Thank you to all our parents and caregivers who are showing such a keen interest in ensuring your daughter is making

the choices which will help her to be one of our wise women shaping her own destiny. Do check our website to read in full about the courses, information about NCEA or other websites we refer you to from which to glean further updates.

- Y12 and Y13 girls in our Hospitality courses are hosting some of us over the next couple of weeks to evening meals as part of their "restaurant" set up in Anderson Block. Those of us lucky enough to be invited to attend are thoroughly enjoying their sumptuous offerings!
- Thank you to all parents and members of the community who supported our Y9-10 Community Service and Y12-13 Work Experience day last Friday. It is a valuable day for our girls to experience first hand what it is to give service and to see how much they can gain as well as give. As well our 2011 Senior leader candidates enjoyed a morning's leadership training with Janine McKay from WILS and our current senior leaders. We begin our shortlisting process as of this Friday through until the end of term, with our final interviews occurring after senior exams at the end of November. Once shortlisted the Y12s "shadow" the 2010 Senior Student leaders for Term 4.
- We are also incredibly grateful to the Waikato Sunrise Rotary Club, and to BOC and NZ Steel who help sponsor the course, as well as the police for organising a great day for Y11 with the RYDA (Rotary Youth Driver Awareness) course. The girls were provided with a thought provoking day which has been described as "life changing" – which is so important when as teenagers there often seems to be a sense among them of being "ten foot tall and bulletproof".
- We had Les Roa, Managing Director from Langveld Engineering in as "Principal for the day" on Wednesday. This is a superb opportunity to showcase our school and also to learn how we can work even more closely with industry. It was inspirational to see over 20 of our girls choose to stay back on Wednesday afternoon and have a lunch seminar with Les. We hope to see more of our girls considering the trades. Langveld is very prepared to host our girls and show them the range of opportunities we could be accessing with them with Gateway work experience or other options as well as considering apprenticeships in a variety of trades.

As a Board of Trustees we have already had a very pleasing oral report from ERO's recent visit. They identified seven "areas of strength", which highlighted such breadth and depth across a range of dimensions in our school. These seven areas of strength were identified as:

- Governance
- Reflective practice
- School culture
- Success for Maori
- Our hostel and international programme were highly recommended too.
- Leadership
- Engaging students
- Teaching and learning

- Di Johnson, our previous BoT Chair, and who was a "friend of the school" for this review, has always said "our teachers are our greatest resource". Nowhere is this "greatest resource" more evident than in the above list of strengths ERO has just identified to us in their initial oral report. With a supportive visionary Board showing commitment through fine governance and resourcing as well as we can, we clearly have a mission in action which is to be envied.
- The range in the "areas of strength" is a fine reflection on the quality of our teachers, and our support staff who ensure as teachers that we can do the best we can for all our girls, at all times. As parents you will be as aware as I am as the Principal that at Girls' High our teachers do so much beyond what we can ever reasonably expect - and with such goodwill. They are never compensated as well as we would wish for in the monetary sense or via conditions of work.
- It was refreshing to have Les Roa, our "Principal for the day" saying to me that he thought if any group deserved more accolades and affirmation in our community, and as one measure, to be far better paid, it is our teachers. I find it gratifying to have such comments endorsed also by our own parents. The number of parents who make a point of feeding back about teachers who go that extra mile for their daughter is significant.

- At Girls' High, it is our teachers' "goodwill" which makes us really shine. It is about their preparedness to do what they see we need – and want to do - to make our school the fine place it is. Their devotion, professionalism, passion and goodwill ensure our girls have every opportunity possible. The fine relationships we enjoy between our girls and our teachers are assisted immensely when (as they do) our BoT and community value them and all they do.
- In our case, for our girls' sake, it is important that this relationship with our teachers is enhanced and is preserved. We know that when this happens we all (girls, staff, BoT and community) are in the position to aspire to ongoing improvements, and are able then to offer in a sustainable manner the fine educational opportunities such as ERO applauded very recently as our areas of strength.

We wish good health to all! Thank you to all who have respected our request that our girls should stay home until fully recovered from flu.

Our nurses have noted a pleasing reduction of students coming in for help when unwell. This means all of us will keep better health. Those at home recuperating will be back with us as soon as they are well again. It has impacted on our statistics which is entirely understandable at such times.

Attendance:

(MoE audit figures)	Justified absences	Unjustified absences	Intermittent unjustified absences	Students on overseas holiday (unjustified)	Attendance rate
Term 3 2009	5.3%	7.8%	21.1%	0.4%	65.4%
T3 2010 to Wk 1	5.8%	6.3%	11.9%	1.0%	75.1%
T3 2010 to Wk 3	8.8%	5.8%	15.4%	0.7%	69.3%
T3 2010 to Wk 5	8.9%	5.7%	14.3%	0.5%	70.5%

Going forward: What's coming up? Do diary the following!

28 Aug – 5 Sept: "Winter tourney": Our girls in our top netball (Auckland), basketball (Rotorua and Tauranga), hockey (Greymouth) and soccer (Nelson) teams head away to represent us this next week at national or North Island secondary tournaments. We are so proud of them and all they have achieved. We thank all who have made this possible for each group to go.

8 to 15 September : Senior examinations: Our Y11-13 girls should all be studying really hard now and we expect them all to be aiming only for those grades which reflect their personal best.

Saturday 28 August	Auckland University Open Day NZSS Basketball Juniors SISS Cycling - 2 day tour
Monday-Sunday 30-5 Aug./ Sep.	Winter Tournament Week
Monday-Friday 30-3 Aug./Sep.	NZSS Badminton
Tuesday 31 August	Whanau Hui-in the Wharekai at 6.00pm
Wednesday 1 September	Y11/12 6 subject PDP Y10 Rich Task Line 3
Thursday 2 September	12HOS Restaurant Evening—in Anderson building 6.00pm-8.00pm
Saturday 4 September	Hostel Set Leave
Monday 6 September	Otago University Course Planning
Tuesday 7 September	AUT - International Students
Wed.-Wed 8-15 September	Senior Assessments

Arohanui,
Mary Ann Baxter

