



Strong Minds. Strong Girls.

After my first three terms at the Girls' School, I have taken time to reflect and consider exactly what is most important to me as Principal. My goal is that our Saint Kentigern girls will be strong, competent young women who know their own mind and who can contribute to society with confidence, generosity and ability. In a world when the messaging to girls is so subtle, especially in this age of digital media, our messages from school must be clear. Our Saint Kentigern values programme taught through Chapel, Christian education and homeroom is extremely effective at ensuring that the girls have clear guidelines and high expectations.

Your daughters are the future. What do I want for them?

- To be themselves.
- To be responsible for their own learning.
- To know that there is no substitute for hard work and give 100% effort accordingly

- To see the best in everyone.
- To be able to get along with everyone in this world. Our Auckland community is increasingly diverse in so many ways.
- To be articulate communicators both written and oral. Excellent communication skills are vital - the ability to make and hold conversation.
- To have a curious mind and ask the questions.
- Creativity is not limited to the arts but is important across all curriculum areas, including science and mathematics.
- To think critically about their world and be discerning about information.
- To be creative problem solvers.
- To discover their real passions and follow meaningful career paths. This generation will probably have 3 or 4 career changes over their working life. Through learning experiences at school, I hope the girls find out what they are good at, what they like doing, what they are not good at, and what they may not enjoy doing much at all. It is through this process of self-discovery that girls will be enabled to achieve their full potential.
- Of utmost importance is the ability to get on with other people. We want our students to be able to build and sustain quality relationships.

We know that the relationship with teachers is very important. It is also vital that the girls feel connected to their class members. These relationships are fostered through group work, presenting their work to each other and co-curricular activities. It is critical to create a positive culture in the classroom to promote effective learning. In addition, if the topics studied are relevant to the girls, they are more likely to be engaged.

What does this mean for our curriculum moving forward?

- STEM subjects remain incredibly important for girls' learning. STEM, that is Science,

Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, open pathways to so many opportunities.

- Further developing the leadership opportunities for our girls.
- Emphasising the importance of resilience and independence across all academic and co-curricular opportunities.
- Rewarding the effort that girls put into their work, not just the achievement.
- Foster inquiry, innovation and curiosity across the curriculum, including design thinking.
- All learning is a contextualised learning experience with clear relevance to girls' lives

Teaching has proved to be a very satisfying and rewarding career to date. After 28 years I am still working in education because I believe that teaching is so purposeful. I drive to work every day feeling like I can make a difference. I enjoy seeing the great progress made by students; the delight on their faces when they have a 'light bulb' moment. As teachers, we are the role models and certainly this is a responsibility that I take seriously. I believe in mutual respect. It is important that the girls respect each other and their teacher. It is of equal importance that as teachers we also show respect to the students.

It is hard to believe that this is my 14th year as a Principal. Saint Kentigern Girls' School is my third principalship. Each school and each community was quite different. I am able to use the wisdom of this considerable experience to guide our school to make considered curriculum decisions for the future.

Respect, integrity, service, excellence and love. These are the values of Saint Kentigern that we are passing on to our girls. As Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, 'What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us'.

Ms Juliet Small, Principal





Quilts for Fiji

Rachel Black and Ruby Akolo represented the Girls' School on the Saint Kentigern Service trip to Fiji. The trip, now in its second year, was to the Nawaka District in Nadi, where the group of students, parents and staff pitched in to upgrade facilities in the village and volunteer at the schools. For Rachel and Ruby, their contribution to the trip began well before they boarded the plane. The girls, along with fellow Year 8 students, Charlotte Tse and Tiffany Rodrigo, spent many hours sewing quilt blankets to be donated to the families in need in the village. Working in their own time during lunch breaks and after school, the generous students made a great number of quilts which were packaged with soft toys for the local children. The parcels were gratefully received by a representative of the village to be distributed among the community. Along with the rest of the group who travelled to Fiji, Rachel and Ruby also helped to renovate the village's medical dispensary, installed raised garden beds and helped at the Nawaka School and Preschool by reading, playing sports and leading arts and crafts sessions.



Food from the Heart

At the Girls' School, we take pride in the strong service ethic that our girls develop during their time with us and their ability to seek and respond to opportunities to provide assistance to those less fortunate than themselves. Their charitable initiatives have and continue to provide real benefit to members of the wider community.

Bringing food to people in our communities during times of celebration or need is an ancient custom. Whilst we are active in the wider community, there are also times when support is greatly appreciated closer to home, amongst our own school families. Whether during times of illness, injury, bereavement or stress, or the joyful yet busy time of welcoming a new baby, the ability to quickly put food on the table can be of huge benefit.

In 2013, the Parents and Friends received donations to purchase a freezer to enable the 'freezer meal' initiative to be realised with parents, Lisa Bottaro, Rosie Donnelly, Barbara Chin and Kaila Pettigrove taking turns to organise the contribution and subsequent donation of meals. With many prepared meals offered by class groups over the last two years, the School has been able to help a number of school families during times of stress. The meals are always greatly appreciated.



Shoe Drive

A call for shoes in good condition resulted in a staggering collection of 306 pairs being brought to school, with Hamilton House going all out by supplying 103 pairs of the total!

From gumboots, to sports shoes, school shoes and dress shoes, the footwear that's been grown out of at home will be gratefully 'repurposed' by families in need who attend schools in Glen Innes. Steve Farrelly, who runs the Breakfast club in Glen Innes schools, was on hand to receive the shoes which will go a long way to assisting families in need with growing children.



Flora MacDonald Day

'Today is a school day like no other
Today is a day for friendship
May God bless you with great friends
Today is a day for fun
May God bless you with deep and lasting joy
Today is a day for celebrating
May God bless the spirit of our school
Today is a day for all things Scottish!

Scottish dancing, Scottish singing
Scottish shortbread, Scottish kilts
Scottish Pipe Bands, Scottish games
And....Scottish weather!
It only snows in Scotland for 15-20 days of the year.
Well today it snowed - six tonnes of it!
May God bless the traditions of our school
And may you feel like you truly belong.'

Reverend Reuben Hardie





When a fire in the School Hall prevented Flora MacDonald Day being held in Term 1, the Girls' School realised that, weather-wise, moving the event into Term 2 could be a bit of a gamble. Wow! Who could have predicted such a perfect day! Cold and crisp with the sun shining down, the scene was set for a day that mixed a taste of tradition with a taste of fun and games, a taste of porridge with a taste of hot chocolate and yes, a taste of snow – a great mound of it piled high on the back lawn!

Founded to honour Saint Kentigern's ancestry from a feminine perspective, the day is named after an 18th century Jacobite heroine who risked her life to smuggle Prince Charles Edward Stewart – 'Bonnie Prince Charlie' – from exile in Scotland over the sea to the Isle of Skye. It was on account of her bravery and strength of character that Flora was chosen as a strong namesake for the day of celebration.

No Saint Kentigern function would be complete without the skirl of the bagpipes! As the College Pipes and Drums headed off along the driveway, the clans fell in behind with the girls from the Preschool skipping along in the rear. The Pipes and Drums then flanked the entrance way to the hall as the girls, staff and special guests filed in. The orchestra made its debut performance of the year, opening with Scotland the Brave, setting the scene for Principal, Ms Juliet Small to tell the tale of Flora's extra-ordinary bravery. She went on to tell the tale of 'Robert the Bruce and the Spider' – a tale of resilience in the face of difficulty, that even when the odds seem stacked against you, try, try again and you may succeed.

With the formalities over, the guests were invited for a morning tea with shortbread, whilst the girls readied themselves for a day of activities; a day when the older girls take on a big sister role to the younger students mentoring them throughout the day.

Without question, the highlight was a chance to romp in the snow! As Auckland-dwellers, this was a first for most of the girls bringing a heightened sense of joy – until they went on to discover that a gum-boot full of snow can be pretty chilly! But in anticipation of this, a hard-working group of mums were waiting on the side-lines brewing up huge pots of hot chocolate!

Another first was 'bubble-soccer' on the lower field. Quite a challenge to kick a ball while enclosed in a giant zorb-like sphere! There was much laughter as the girls wobbled off in pursuit of the ball, bumping into each other – many ending up rolling away head over heels!

Golf in the newly re-opened School Hall brought a taste of St Andrews, as the girls took on an obstacle course with golf club in hand. Other activities saw them make a woollen spider and replica sporran. The final activity was another to warm the soul as the girls measured out and prepared a bowl of steaming Scots porridge oats with a variety of tempting toppings.

Like Celtic Day at the Boys' School, Flora MacDonald Day is a 'school day like no other!' If happy laughter is a measure of a successful day, then this year's event certainly had the winning formula!



Bake With Words!

Cooking is a fantastic way for students to learn the practice of procedural writing. By reading, following and writing recipes, cooking teaches the need to be specific about word choice, especially verbs – the difference between folding and beating, or boiling and broiling, can have a drastic impact on the final product! The Year 4 students at the Girls' School were privileged to have respected Kiwi chef and Saint Kentigern parent, Mrs Allyson Gofton join them in the Food Technology kitchen to bake some delicious treats, while embedding their knowledge of procedural writing.

The students had spent time observing several examples of procedural text. They then worked in groups to come up with suggestions for when procedural writing is relevant. The girls asserted that procedural writing is used everywhere from iPhone manuals, to craft books, and guides about caring for pets. An assortment of recipes were used as exemplars and the students were able to review the layout and the features of the procedures that are found in published forms.

The icing on the cake was inviting Mrs Gofton to spend two sessions working with the girls, to follow the recipe for plaited French bread and chocolate chip cinnamon buns. The girls' level of writing ability increased significantly as a result of the practical experience.

'Some features of procedural writing are verbs, adverbs, listing the equipment, the method, and using bullet points and numbering.' – Caroline Heeley

'I liked it when we worked with our writing buddies and they made comments on our drafts to tell us what was good and how to improve our writing.' – Amelie Heeney



Butter Making



The Junior School's visit to Ambury Farm prompted a fun and eye-opening session of butter making! The girls had been learning about the purpose of a farm by focusing on the products that farming provides. They discovered how milk comes from the cow and ends up in their glass and on their cereal via the milking process. At Ambury Farm, they saw the many types of animals that are farmed in New Zealand, such as sheep, cattle, goats, pigs, lambs and chickens, which provide milk, meat, hides, wool and eggs. These raw materials can then be turned into cheese, gelatin, leather and much more, which led to the opportunity to make butter.

The girls mixed cream and salt in a jar and added a marble. As the jar was shaken vigorously, the marble helped to separate the cream and salt into butter and buttermilk. The buttermilk was strained off and the remaining butter spread on bread and gobbled up! The experience was also used as a literacy exercise as the girls explained what they had done in a piece of procedural writing.



Ruapotaka Marae Visit

The Girls' School students who visited Ruapotaka Community Marae in Glen Innes have a short personal history. They are between the ages of 7 and 10 years and were born around 2006, when Helen Clark was Prime Minister, 'Sione's Wedding' was a box office hit and Joe Rokocoko and Doug Howlett bookended the All Blacks backline. For some that may seem a long time ago, but the girls certainly didn't have years of experiences to share, unlike the iwi of Ruapotaka Marae. However, as Daughters of Kentigern they are collectively part of much older community. This they did have in common with the marae elders, and these shared histories were united during this culturally enriching trip.

The 70 girls from Years 4-6, along with 20 parents and teachers, were guided into the whareniui, the marae's meeting house, with a karanga, or call. During the powhiri, Year 4 teacher, Mr Andrew Finn gave a whaikorero (speech), thanking the kaumatua for welcoming the girls onto the marae and giving them a brief immersion in Maori culture. Mr Finn explained the history of Saint Kentigern and played guitar as the girls sang two beautiful waiata.

The School's last visit to the marae had resonated strongly with a number of students, and subsequently a kapa haka group was formed. The group now has 40 keen girls involved, with many on today's trip who were able to lead their fellow students in performing the first song they learnt, called 'Rona.' To recognise the special relationship between the marae and the School, and as a show of appreciation for the warm hospitality, a framed photo of the kapa haka group was offered as koha. The formal proceedings were concluded with the girls exchanging the traditional hongī greeting with their hosts. The kaumatua explained that because the girls had been part of the customary powhiri, they are now spiritually connected with the marae and welcome to come back to visit at any time.

The girls then split into two groups to be taught tikanga Maori. The methods and protocol of flax weaving were explained as the girls created their own putiputi (flower). The second group were led through the actions and words of more waiata, which added to their vocabulary and singing repertoire!

The trip provided practical experience to support the girls' classroom learning. As part of the Middle School social science unit, each class had been studying a different topic of enquiry, such as the history of Auckland and what it means to be a New Zealander. Being on the marae was a special way to reinforce the girls' knowledge and expand their understanding of our unique Maori culture!



Co-operative, Contemporary Cloak

In support of their trip to the marae, the Year 5 girls worked co-operatively to design and produce a, kakahu – Maori cloak. Having been learning about line and pattern in art, a competition was held to create an overall design, with Charlotte Higgins' and Zoe Taylor's designs chosen. Another competition was held to select a colour scheme, this time won by Alisa Iosua.

All of the girls then drew zentangle patterns onto feathers using sharpie pens which were hand coloured with water colour pencils before cutting them out and gluing them onto the cloak. The result was a stunning, contemporary artwork!

Let the music play

With thanks to Deputy Principal, Mrs Judith Dobson

'Let the music play' was a line from the opening song, 'Sing It' at the first performance of the Girls' School Musical Soiree season. With a huge enthusiasm, 200 students from Year 0-8 gathered on the stage to open the biennial music festival with this toe tapping piece; setting the scene for a night of great music!

Following the whole school opening number, the orchestra played three magical show tunes: 'When you wish upon a star' from Pinocchio, the lyrical show piece 'Music of the Night' from Phantom of the Opera, and then wrapped up their section with 'Raindrops keep falling' from Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid.

Actions, movement, stamp, clap and sing were all incorporated into Year 0-2s special song 'Lean forward, lean back' after which the Year 4 instrumentalists demonstrated their skills on the violin, recorder and percussion. For the first time ever, we were treated to a world premiere at Saint Kentigern Girls' School! Year 4 student, Endrica Dhani presented and conducted her own composition entitled 'Endrica's Piece' for recorders and percussion. Well done!

Rhythm and movement were to the fore as Year 5 swung and danced in time to the Latin American music of Cuba, after which there followed an intricate and nimble routine using ribbons, hoops and balls. Both items thoroughly tested the dance skills and athleticism of all these students.

Three part singing and the combination of two songs showed that Year 3 could multi task as they slapped their hands, sung their parts and then cleverly combined the music of two songs to produce a new two part rendition of the songs 'Shoo Fly' and 'Get that Fly.'

Year 6 presented a haunting rap; full of atmosphere and menace which built to a crescendo of 'We are not alone.' But who was there? *'Spiders gathered beneath your bed, shadows lengthen round your wall, wallpaper full of eyes'* were some of the frightening images which made up this moody piece!

Two separate choral groups entertained the audience with a wide variety of music. The Performers Choir executed their two pieces 'A Joyful Song' and 'Daughter of the Water'; sung a capella, which clearly demonstrated why they were a silver medal choir at the Kids Sing this year. The One Voice Singers are a group of singing students who love to sing and entertain at school. Singing songs that are a little different and at times challenging is just the test they enjoy. Adding a dance routine enhanced the performance of 'Walking in the Air'; one of two songs they presented, and Anastasia Mulcahy provided a beautiful interpretation in dance. The singers other piece was a Liberian folk song entitled 'Banuwa' which also featured traditional African sounds in percussion.

Proving that oldies are still goodies, the Year 7 & 8 class orchestras rocked into 'Little Brown Jug' and 'Mango Walk' finishing with the one of the irresistible greats, 'Rock Around the Clock'. Toes tapped and hands clapped as the audience showed their love for the golden oldies!

Being mindful of what Saint Kentigern stands for in love and service, it was fitting to conclude the Soiree with the whole school joining together to sing the lyrics of Michael Jackson's song 'Heal the World.' Making the world a better place through love, service and song is so intrinsically bound into the Saint Kentigern Way and the joy of the performance was evident to all in the audience! What a great opening night!



Supporting Wig Wednesday!

All shades of fluorescent hyper-colour; midnight black; platinum blonde; spiky; wavy; curly; bob cuts and Princess Leia buns – the range of hair styles being worn by the Girls' School and Preschool students for Wig Wednesday left no stone unturned! The inaugural nationwide Wig Wednesday was an initiative of the Child Cancer Foundation to raise funds to help provide practical, financial and emotional support to Kiwi children with cancer and their families. The Girls' School and Preschool were among hundreds of schools and businesses around the country donning wigs and donating money to support this worthy cause.

The wigs looked particularly out of place with the Girls' School students formal uniforms as they arrived in the morning! The whole school, including the teachers, then paraded their funky hairdos along Remuera Rd on their way to the weekly chapel session. The strong winds proved to be good test of how firmly the wigs were attached! Reverend Reuben Hardie, looking resplendent in a spiky blue style ala Sonic the Hedgehog, tailored his sermon to the sea of multi-coloured heads in the congregation, retelling the Bible stories which refer to hair: Samson and Delilah, Esau and Jacob, and Mary Magdalene. He said that Wig Wednesday offered a prime opportunity to do a good deed for someone and not expect anything in return, in line with the Prayer of St Ignatius – 'to give and not to count the cost.' With the girls unrecognisable under their wigs, that someone may not know who is doing the good deed!

Congratulations to the Girls' School community for getting behind this cause and helping to raise money and awareness for the Child Cancer Foundation!



Silver at Kids Sing!

Four years competing and four Silver Awards for the Performers' Choir at the New Zealand Choral Federation's Kids Sing music festival! The Performers' Choir was formed four years ago and has now grown to 38 members from Years 5-8, all of whom have auditioned to take part.

The requirements for the primary/intermediate category state that each choir must sing the same test piece as well as two other songs, one of which must be written by a New Zealand composer.

This year the test piece was 'A Joyful Song' by Mary Lynn Lightfoot – a two part work incorporating mixed metre which created a catchy rhythm. The girls really enjoyed this piece and rose to the challenge

of singing the difficult Latin vowel sounds. For their New Zealand composed piece, the girls sang 'Nurse's Song' by Janet Jennings. The text, by William Blake, tells of children begging to keep playing outdoors as their nurse calls them to come home for bed. The girls' third piece was 'Daughter of the Water' by Bid Cousins, which was bravely sung without piano accompaniment.

Following their competitive performance, the choir was invited back to the Town Hall that evening to sing at the Gala Show where they were awarded the Silver Award. The judges viewed their performance of all three songs very favourably. Congratulations girls, you should be very proud!



Cross Country

Fierce determination was in abundance at each of the two cross country mornings this term – one for the Junior and another for the Middle School girls. The girls in Years 7 and 8 raced earlier in the year with the girls from the College.

Superb sunshine blessed both mornings as the girls gathered to race, with the Year 4-6 event taking place on the College grounds and the Years 0-3 on the Boys' School track.

As always, competition was fierce amongst the leading pack as the girls dug in for House points and the chance to represent the School at zone level.

Well done to all the girls!



HOUSE POINTS	
1ST	CHALMERS
2ND	WISHART
3RD	HAMILTON
4TH	CARGILL

	1st	2nd	3rd
YEAR 0 CHAMPIONS	Kasey Wray H	Indi Jury H	Bella Guthrie H
YEAR 1 CHAMPIONS	Amelia Hardie W	Violet Lindsay-Smail Ch	Queenie Lang C
YEAR 2 CHAMPIONS	Sienna RobertshawCh	Brooke Rowntree C	Elise Leport-Symonds W
YEAR 3 CHAMPIONS	Charlotte Ray H	Amie Hiliam H	Phoebe Wood H
YEAR 4 CHAMPIONS	Sahara Knottenbelt W	Sienna Hirst Ch	Endrica Dhan Ch
YEAR 5 CHAMPIONS	Isabella Hughes Ch	Frances Revell-Devlin W	Kate Green W
YEAR 6 CHAMPIONS	Zoe Wong H	Bridget Dennis W	Cassandra Wood H
YEAR 7 CHAMPIONS	Grace Paul C	Verity Ward Ch	Lola Wiltshire C
YEAR 8 CHAMPIONS	Elyse Tse C	Florence Dallow W	Lily-Belle Sawyer W



Ocean Races in the USA!

After the Girls' School dominated the National finals of the Soap Box Trolley Derby earlier in the year, Year 7 student, Ocean Scott was crowned New Zealand champion, qualifying her to travel to Ohio, USA to compete in the All American Soap Box World Championships during the July holidays. What an amazing opportunity to compete on the world stage!

Under the watchful eyes of the officials, Team Kiwi unpacked the crate at Derby Downs on the first day and started assembling Ocean's soap box ready for inspection to ensure it met the race criteria.

Once 'brake-tested,' Ocean was allowed only one practice run!

On a scorching hot day, the parade of 489 champions took place in readiness for race day. It was 32 degrees on international race day with Ocean competing against an American and two Canadians. Ocean had two races against one of the Canadians, but was unfortunately eliminated by the Canadian who was the eventual winner of the International title.

The following day was the Super Stock Subway Challenge where Ocean placed first in the first race and 3rd in her next two races, which meant



her total elapsed time was slower than the overall winner, so this meant Ocean was eliminated from the Subway Challenge.

The final day was the World Championship race. Ocean came 3rd in her race, which meant she was eliminated from the event and her racing sadly came to an end but what an amazing experience with so many new people to meet. Ocean would sincerely like to thank the sponsors who made this possible: Auckland East Rotary, Carotrans, Electropar, Saint Kentigern Trust and Parent and Friends.

Welcome to Rangi Ruru!

The strong bond our Girls' School shares with Rangi Ruru School in Christchurch was plain to see during the eagerly anticipated sporting and cultural exchange. This annual reciprocal exchange has been disrupted in recent times due to the Christchurch earthquakes, and was revived last year with the Girls' School making a long-awaited trip down south. This year it was our turn to host the Rangi girls, with 47 of their Year 7 and 8 students staying with Saint Kentigern families.

The visitors were welcomed to the Girls' School with a beautiful powhiri. Kapa haka groups from each school performed their waiata before the traditional hongī greeting. The Rangi girls then met their Girls' School billets, and the early seeds of friendship were sown as they got to know one another. Day two of the exchange kicked off with sporting contests in basketball, indoor football and netball. Home ground advantage came to the fore with our girls winning all of the matches. The girls then engaged in cultural activities, taking part in music and drama sessions. Both schools then demonstrated their musical prowess with a combined concert in the school hall.

The final day commenced with Rangi Ruru attending our weekly Chapel service followed by joining the Year 7 and 8 classes. Too soon for the newly made friends, it was then time for our Rangi counterparts to head home. The connection between the two schools is even more special with former Girls' School Principal, Dr Sandra Hastie now Principal of Rangi Ruru, and we look forward to the exchange continuing to be an annual fixture!



Fantastic AIMS Games!

It was a fantastic week of sporting competition for the girls who travelled to Tauranga to take part in the AIMS Games – the biggest sporting competition in the southern hemisphere with over 8000 athletes representing 260 schools!

Students represented the Girls' School in tennis, with others joining the girls from the College to create a combined netball and a combined football team. The Year 7 & 8 girls travel to the College each Wednesday to play sport and firm friendships have been formed amongst the girls.

Entered in the tennis event, sisters, Charlotte and Elyse Tse were the first to see success when they were awarded the bronze medal for their combined points in the school team event. Individually, Elyse placed 5th with Charlotte in 12th place out of a field of 46 competitors. Well done to the girls, they played some great games of tennis!

The football girls also played well with the team finishing in 11th place out of 33 teams but it was the girls' netball team (Tessa Birch, Florence Dallow, Rosie Emus, Rachel Funnell, Mia Harries, J'adore Harris-Tavita, Danielle Mayer, Ava McKenzie, Addison Peebles, Khanye Nonoa) who had a superb run of wins. Out of the 120 teams at the Games, the girls worked their way through to medal contention, eventually beating Bucklands Beach 22-13 for a bronze medal!



Top Hip Hop Crew in NZ!

Eight students from the Girls' School hip hopped their way to an Intermediate School National title at the end of term!

Having earlier won the Auckland regional competition, the 'Saints Crew' flew to Dunedin; the only Auckland school to make the competition. With three new members added to the team and only three weeks to learn a new dance, the girls were hungry for a chance at a National title!

Only three of the eight girls dance outside school but clearly this didn't hold them back. With hair and makeup done by 3pm, it was off to Dunedin Town Hall. The girls performed a 32 count 'round up' at the start of the night to introduce themselves, which they did proudly in their Saint Kentigern hoodies before dressing ready for the showdown.



Making it through to the finals, their last performance was flawless in front of a crowd of about 700 cheering them on!

Well done girls, a fantastic achievement!

Saints Crew: Eva Colyer, Kate Frazer, J'adore Harris-Tavita, Meletaufo Lolo, Anna McKenzie, Khanye-Lii Munro-Nonoa, Addison Peebles, Irava Upu

Speech Competition

In welcoming students and guests to the 2016 Girls' School Speech Competition, Principal, Ms Juliet Small said, 'Having the confidence to speak well is such an important life skill.' Whilst for many, the idea of public speaking may invoke a sense of trepidation, that certainly wasn't evident amongst the 27 girls who took to the stage to deliver their prepared speeches to a large audience.

The School welcomed Ms Emma Bishop, Head of Drama at the College as adjudicator.

Each year group had an assigned topic on which to base their speech to ensure variety across the age groups with the Year 4-8 competitive speeches interspersed with talks from selected students in Years 1-3. Regardless of the age group, the confidence was astonishing!

Jiya Raj was the winner for Year 4 with her information-packed speech about skiing – it pays to learn how to stop, there's no brakes on skis! Year 5 student, Xarya Knox notched up her second consecutive win with her humorous personal experience about getting her ears pierced and offered up some tips on how to persuade parents to allow you to get your ears 'blinged.' Year 6 was tasked with exposing the mysteries of chocolate, with winner, Julia Koeman explaining the devastating effect of the palm oil industry on rainforest habitats – 'A chocolate bar lasts a minute but extinction is forever.' In the Year 7 persuasive speech category, Lola Wiltshire made it quite clear why women make better leaders than men, finishing with two simple words to prove her point – 'Donald Trump!' J'Adore Harris-Tavita won the Year 8 section with a worrying, yet humorous look at the amount of time spent on cell phones.



In summing up, Ms Bishop gave the girls some sound advice. Successful speechmakers don't only know their words but know how to deliver them, connecting with their audience using expression, pace and pitch to drive their message home. This skill set two students apart. Xarya and J'Adore were chosen to represent the School at the zone competitions. Well done girls!

YEAR 4	Jiya Raj	Skiing
YEAR 5	Xarya Knox	Getting my ears pierced
YEAR 6	Julia Koeman	The origins of chocolate
YEAR 7	Lola Wiltshire	Women make better leaders than men
YEAR 8	J'adore Harris-Tavita	Cellphone addiction



Poetry Competition

The quality of writing and performances at the Girls' School Poetry Competition was so high that professional poet, Paula Green would have been proud to have written them herself!

We were privileged to have Paula, who is a regular visitor and friend of the School, adjudicate the winners, which proved to be was an extremely difficult assignment! The girls had been writing, rehearsing and performing their poems in class, with Paula paying a visit to offer tips. She'd emphasised that the students needed to deliver the complete package – a great poem on the page needs to be matched with a convincing and entertaining presentation. In announcing the winners, Paula said all of the girls showed great bravery and confidence. 'The girls have worked very hard and loved writing which shows in their poetry.'

Congratulations to all of the students who performed and especially to our winners:

YEAR 4	Sienna Haar, 'My Mum'
YEAR 5	Keeley Berkovits, 'Lollies'
YEAR 6	Cameron Paje, 'Tomato the Devil'
YEAR 7	Eva Colyer, 'Water'
YEAR 8	Rachel Black, 'The Mountain of Fire'

Renowned Author Visits



Here in New Zealand to take part in the WORD Festival in Christchurch, the Girls' School were fortunate to secure a visit from renowned American author, Nadia Hashimi. Nadia proudly supports women's and girls' empowerment and was excited to share more about her latest book and her life with our senior girls. Drawing on her Afghani heritage, she recently released her first fiction novel for teens. Set in Kabul, 'One Half from the East' is a coming of age journey in Afghanistan that explores life as a bacha posh – a preteen girl dressed as a boy. In Afghanistan, boys are valued over girls for many of the same patriarchal reasons that exist worldwide. Some parents without sons feel that their family is lacking and by transforming a daughter into a bacha posh, they are able to restore their honour.

Nadia's parents left Afghanistan in the early 1970s and from a distance, Nadia watched the life of her cousins as they grew up in their war-torn homeland, where girls lived a life repressed by the Taliban; a very different experience from her own. In writing her books, she wanted the world to know what these girls are going through and the obstacles they have to overcome to succeed. She told the girls that even western society doesn't always afford girls the same potential as boys and hopes that her books encourage young readers to reflect on their own lives. A very lively discussion ensued when the question was raised as to how men and women are treated differently in the media!

She finished by telling our girls to keep reading, to keep exploring the world, to find something that inspires them and to be inspiring in turn!

Mother and Daughter High Tea

The inspiration for holding our Mother and Daughter High Tea is simple; to give thanks, pay tribute, reward and spend quality time with our mums, grandmas, sisters, aunts and other special women in our lives. This event is one of the most anticipated and popular on our calendar, with the venue changing four times in the last four years to accommodate more and more guests! This year, the afternoon of fine company and refined refreshments took place in the Tasman Room at Alexandra Park Convention Centre, which was decorated to stately standard with colourful balloons and elegant table coverings.

Principal, Ms Juliet Small welcomed the girls and their family members to the occasion by sharing the story of a mother, who when asked her occupation gave the following answer. 'I am Research Associate in the field of Child Development and Human Relations. I have a continuing programme of research, (what mother doesn't), in the laboratory and in the field, (normally I would have said indoors and out). I'm working for my Masters (the whole darned family), and already have four credits (all daughters). Of course, the job is one of the most demanding in the humanities, (any mother care to disagree?) and I often work 14 hours a day, (24 is more like it). But

the job is more challenging than most run-of-the-mill careers and the rewards are more of satisfaction rather than just money.'

Deputy Head Girl, Nieve Campbell read a poem which summed up the occasion perfectly, starting with these words:

'Thank you mother for being the special person that you are, Thank you for your mother's love that seems to stretch so far, Thank you for always being there, for the way that you care, Thank you for the true and special understanding that we share.'

Head Girl, J'adore Harris-Tavita then graced the delicious savoury morsels, sweet treats and hot drinks which were thoroughly enjoyed by all.



Father and Daughter Breakfast



It was an early start for almost 200 fathers and their daughters at this term's shared breakfast. In her words of welcome, Principal Ms Juliet Small spoke of the unique bond between girls and their dads, reminiscing with fondness about her own father as she grew up. She thanked all the fathers present for supporting the girls in their learning and for being their greatest advocates.

Speaker for the morning, Chaplain to the Schools, Reverend Reuben Hardie, has certainly had some practice at fatherhood! With four lively young boys, it was his greatest joy to welcome his fifth child, a daughter, into the world. He said that 'daughters are the sunshine of our lives and a gift to fathers!'

He spoke of the ten best things about being a dad ranging from the moment the baby is born to the day they reach out to hold your hand or share in something you both enjoy. A video of parenting 'bloopers' were a funny, yet stark reminder to always be vigilant around our

youngsters - that one extra, high push on the swing may not turn out quite the way you imagined!

There's nothing like giving the last word to the daughters themselves. Rev Hardie filmed the girls after asking what they loved about their dad and what they could improve on. The girls universally loved the hugs, the help with homework and the 'open' wallet! Equally universal was the need to do the dishes more, work on their jokes, dance moves, and ...um...the delicate issue of excess wind!

In giving thanks for breakfast, Head Girl, J'Adore Tevita-Harris thanked all fathers for 'standing on the sidelines of our lives to cheer us on.'

