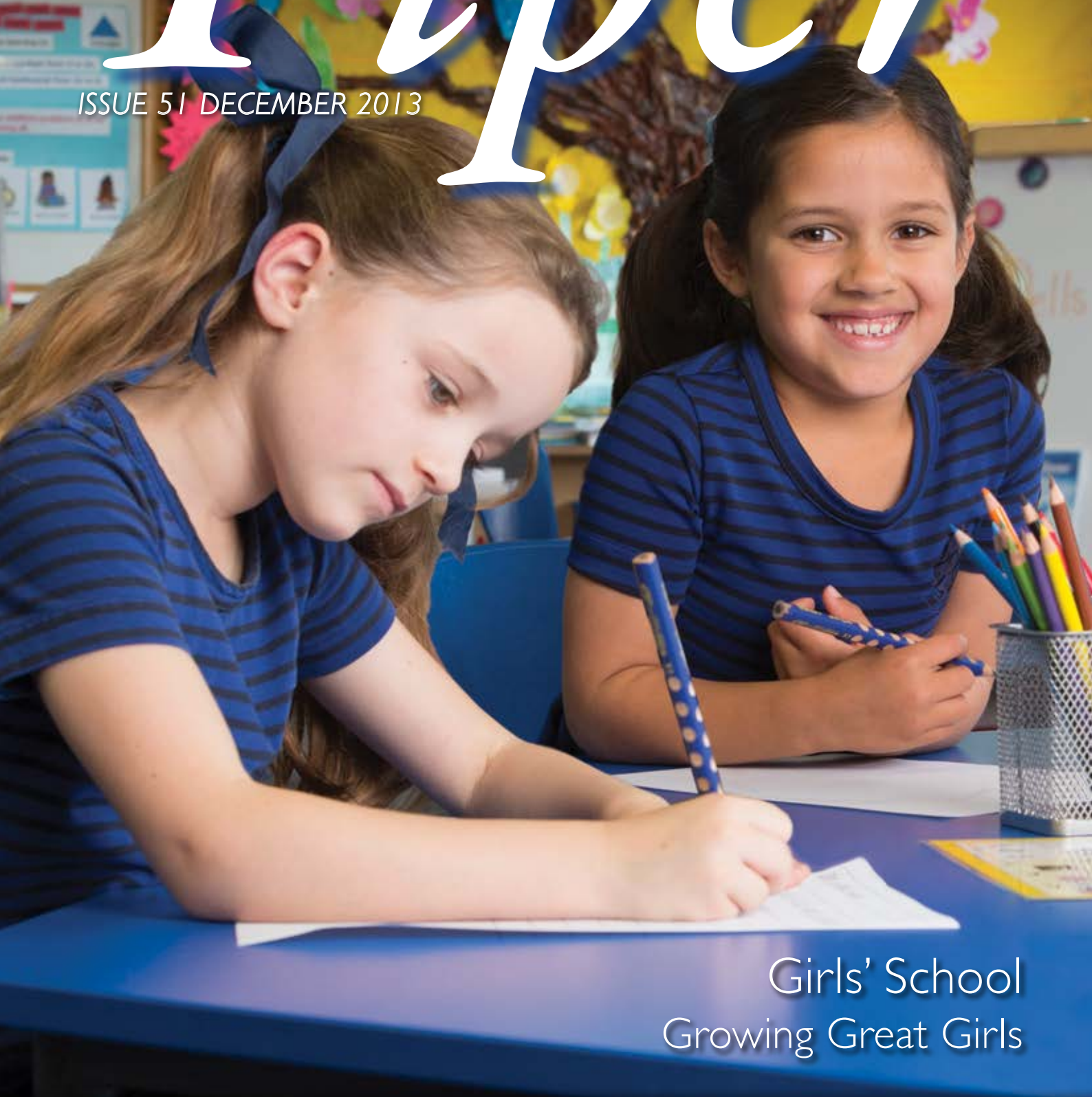


Piper

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Girls' School
Growing Great Girls



SAINT KENTIGERN

A MAGAZINE FOR THE
SAINT KENTIGERN
COMMUNITY



PRESCHOOL

When City Met Country

An amazing morning at the Mt Albert Grammar School working farm started with 56 excited gumboot-wearing Preschool children and 39 adults boarding a bendy bus for an adventure. To their astonishment, the children were met by Farmer Larney, a very large mother pig and 10 piglets walking in the car park!

Off first to hand feed the pigs with old fruit, vegetables and bread; there were some very excited squeals from the piglets and the children alike... then they were off to roll in the mud! Next was the paddock to pat the calves and Farmer Larney showed us how to milk the cows and the children had a turn hand milking a very large and patient, beautiful, brown eyed cow – an interesting experience for some children – especially when the milk squirted on their gumboots!

The sheep needed to be shorn, so we watched Farmer Larney with his great skills as he cleverly took all the fluffy wool off five sheep. Lots of excited 3 and 4 year old farm hands helped to clean up the wool shed and put the wool into a big sack. He even asked if any of the children wanted a haircut with his shears!

Morning tea and photos on the tractor and quad bike completed the morning before 56 very weary children and 39 coffee-needing adults boarded a bus back to Preschool.



Science in Nature

'Did you know – the butterfly has just laid an egg – lots of eggs on our swan plant?'

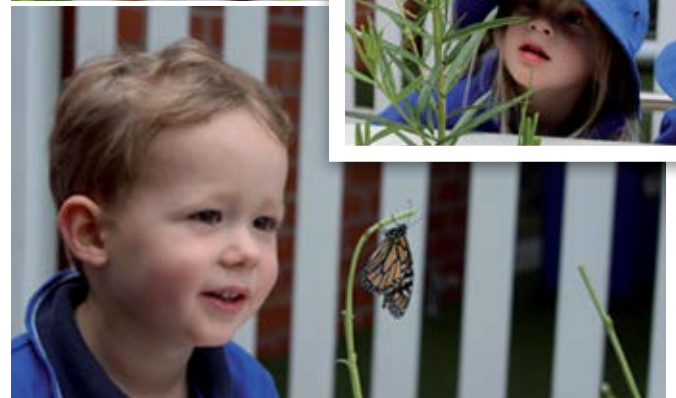
'The caterpillars are getting bigger and bigger and their black and yellow bodies are stretching fatter and fatter'

'When the caterpillar hangs upside down he looks like the possum tail – in our Casey the caterpillar workbook!'

'Look the caterpillar is hanging upside down and doing a wriggle dance to get into his chrysalis' – the children called from their outdoor garden.

'Quick – come and see the chrysalis – it is all black and WOW the monarch butterfly is coming out'

The past term has been blessed with an influx of caterpillars on the swan plants in our children's garden. The fascination as they watch the caterpillars grow, turn into chrysalis and hatch has meant an amazing 'science experience' is happening in a real life setting at Preschool. The children have used magnifying glasses to get up close and others go straight to the garden when they arrive in the morning to watch the changes happen. We have chrysalises hanging from our rosemary plant, wooden railing and frames – the caterpillars travel to find just the right place for their new life to evolve, making a great learning experience for our children.





Carol Services

The Preschool children joined Saint Kentigern Girls' School in singing 'Away in the Manger' at their Carol Service, complete with actions – but the highlight for everyone was their performance on stage at the Boys' School Service at Holy Trinity Cathedral. With nine real 'Drummer Boys' on stage, the 45 children and staff sang with enthusiasm and sounded fantastic. A special part of Preschool is being included as 'One Organisation' with the schools and was much appreciated by our parents.



Grandparents Day

Grandparents Day at the Saint Kentigern campuses is always an exciting time for everyone. It was certainly a special time at Preschool when we had lots of Nanas, Poppas, Grandads, Grandmas and special elderly friends come spend the morning with us. The children loved showing them around their Preschool, singing some of their favourite songs and spending time with them at activities inside and out. Our visitors had a delicious morning tea before leaving with a handmade, personalised bookmark with a poem about how special Grandparents are. We really enjoyed their visit!





Pirates and Fairies Disco

We decided to ask the children for their choice on the theme for our Disco – and what a surprise – Pirates and Fairies it was. Families came and ate their dinner with us before everyone boogied away in the special Disco room. A life sized Pirate with sand and treasure as well as fairy lights with pink and purple tulle and glitter made for an exciting evening. Lots of very tired children had danced, played and giggled themselves through another great Saint Kentigern family event.

Say Cheese

Information Technology has taken on a stronger emphasis in Early Childhood over the years with the digital camera being a favourite as it provides instant feedback of images to everyone. Children love to see themselves on the screen and are using their own photography skills in their play. They can competently take photos, play them back and erase them as they see fit. The iPads are now used extensively by both staff and children to take photos of each other as well as movie footage of themselves in their learning environment both inside and out. The joy on their faces when they see themselves on the big screen TV is priceless.



Christmas Party

Our third Christmas Party was a highlight of the year. Sixty five children all had their moment in the spotlight as they performed a rendition of Christmas songs. Headbands featuring the theme of their song were adorned and worn - and they looked great! The children learned the words of ten songs including Silent Night in French! Santa got stuck up the chimney, Reindeer dance, Santa wear your shorts, Away in the Manger and Lets clap hands for Santa Claus were some of the favourites. Much cheering and clapping from the Mums, Dads, grandparents and families made the children sing louder!

Following the concert the children and their guests tucked into a Christmas feast before Santa's arrival on a Harley motorbike driven by a reindeer – he was greeted with shrieks of delight! All the children loved having photos with Santa and getting a present – a maths game - before heading outside to expend all their energy on the Bouncy Castle. This was an amazing morning to end the year.





Uke Can Do It!

After 5 of our Preschool staff went on a ukelele course, the children were all very excited to have new ukuleles at Preschool. Lessons are always such a fun time. All the children had their own Preschool-sized ukulele as they sat and learnt how to strum and move their fingers – it took a lot of concentration! There was a lot of giggling when the children decided they were in a 'Preschool rock band' as they sung along to the music on the CD!



Numeracy

Pre-numeracy is a major part of our learning programme at Preschool. Counting, seriation, maths games, shapes, size, colours, grouping, measurement and lots of number games and activities are entered into with enthusiasm by the children. We had a focus on 'Maths and me' and some amazing results have been shown by the children. Number recognition was the 'Goal of the Term' for our 4 year old children – as well as the children learning the correct formation of numbers through our 'Casey the Caterpillar' writing programme



Swimming Lessons

Five of our Preschool staff have now completed their 'Learn to Swim' instructor programme over winter through New Zealand Swimming and have implemented the lessons this term. We have had a hugely successful swimming programme at Preschool in Term 4 – with the children so positive about learning to swim with their teachers! Thirty six girls and boys were involved with each of them having 10 or 20 lessons over the term in the Girls' School heated pool. 520 lessons were entered into with enthusiasm by all and the advancement of their skills, ability and confidence had to be seen to be believed – it's been a very successful term of swimming!



Preschool Graduation

Term 3 saw eight girls and two boys continue on to our Saint Kentigern Schools and then in Term 4 a further eighteen children graduated - nine to the Girls' School and nine to the Boys' School. All these children have a term of transition to their schools to meet their teachers, other class mates for next year and get a real sense of belonging to their new school. This helps the settling process immeasurably.

We are thrilled with how successful this has been over the years and know that the children graduating from Preschool have a real advantage in the way they settle into their new environment as positive, inquisitive learners from day one!