



GIRLS' SCHOOL

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New Beginnings

Saint Kentigern Girls' School is looking forward, with anticipation, to new beginnings following the resignation and farewell of Dr Sandra Hastie to her overseas posting in England. In any community there is always a sense of loss, of the unknown and at times, of worry when change is announced and yet it is the most natural thing in the world today. It is part of what makes this an innovative, exciting and challenging place to live.

We know that children like routines and respond well to boundaries set and we know we have to prepare them for changes that will occur throughout their lives. At times children can become stressed about the new teacher that they will have at the beginning of each school year; about the fact that the family moves house and friends are left behind, about the fact that parents may separate and new living conditions need to be established. Parents play a vital role in helping children learn how to cope with change, arming them with valuable life skills along the way.

Developing resilience is key for children to learn coping skills. At one time it was thought that resilience was an inherent trait that we were all born with, but we now know that it is one of the most important qualities that parents can teach their children. But how do they learn it? In the same way that they learn many things from adults; by observation.

Some studies have shown that children as young as two will copy the coping, stress-management and thinking styles of the adults around them. They may also sense if parents are anxious or worried and include that as part of their own behaviour development. There are other studies that suggest that strong relationships at home help make children more resilient. And surely the earlier this resilience building begins, the better for the child. For some children it is important not to spring change on them. Talking through the changes early will help them process what is happening and give them the opportunity to ask questions. It is also good to understand that children take time to adapt to change. This is particularly evident when students change schools. There is sound research to suggest that children making a transition to a new school could take up to six months to fully

settle and adapt to their new surroundings. During that time, learning may slow down as adjustments are made to new routines. There may also be a sense of loss, or even a sense of grief as friends are left behind. Such emotion is normal and reassuring talk is key on these occasions.

Schools are places where change is not always welcome but is essential in order to develop new learning, create and encourage new thinking and embrace new technologies. Starting with small but visible changes that make a positive difference is the key. As these small 'wins' accumulate, children become more open to trying out new things. If something that is undertaken does not work, or has unintended consequences it is important to say so and indeed let it happen; failure is also a learning experience. Dealing effectively with setbacks is critical if change is going to be an accepted part of a school's culture and a child's life. It is part of building resilience for the future.

There are many participants in school education; students of course, but also teachers and parents. The challenge for schools about to embark on change is that all of the above participants have been to school and have a firm view on school structure, teaching methods and curriculum delivery. After all, there have been few changes in school structures in recent times. Children still come to school for the same fixed time, have the same fixed holidays and work in classrooms that are not unlike those that many of their parents sat in, even if the technology that now surrounds them has changed!

At Saint Kentigern Girls' School, change has been managed in a positive way over the last six years. Much has been added to the teaching and learning programme as well as to the physical environment. In 2016 the school will welcome a new principal, Ms Juliet Small, who will bring new ideas, changes and challenges to staff, students and parents. This we must embrace for our 'small but mighty' school to continue to grow and flourish into the future!

Mrs Judith Dobson
Acting Principal



A visit to Rangi Ruru

With thanks to Mrs Judith Dobson, Acting Principal

Four years ago a plan was made to visit Rangi Ruru School in Christchurch during which time our students would share a sporting and cultural exchange with the Rangi girls. The devastating earthquakes struck and our plans were put on hold. We had the pleasure of hosting the Rangi girls at Saint Kentigern in the past and looked forward to the day that we could visit them.

At the end of Term 2, the last of the plans were in place, bags were packed and an excited group of students and teachers boarded the bus for the first leg of the exchange. On arrival in Christchurch we encountered very cold but beautifully fine weather:

First stop on the way was at Orana Wildlife Park. Over the years the park has developed into an open range zoo which allows visitors to be close to a wide range of animals. The girls roamed freely in groups and loved the view of rhinos, lions, meerkats; all the while exclaiming at the cuteness of the fluffy creatures as well as admiring the king of beasts. The gift shop also received brisk business as souvenirs for family and friends were purchased.

On to Rangi where we received the warmest welcome from the organising team lead by Helen Joblin. Meeting the billets was so exciting and friendships were quickly forged by all the students as they happily headed away to their first night with strangers.

The first major outing of this tour was to central Christchurch to look at the aftermath of the earthquakes and the rebuild of the CBD. Particularly sobering was standing in front of the ruined Cathedral and trying to understand what this meant to the people of Christchurch. Many of the students had not visited Christchurch prior to the earthquake so were not fully understanding and realising of what had stood in the main square. However, the evidence of cleared spaces and partly reconstructed buildings gave them some inkling of what had gone before. A brisk walk to the 'Cardboard Cathedral' where a talk was given explaining how the temporary building had been conceived and constructed was enlightening to the students. This was followed by a Celtic Communion service. Still standing in the CBD is the upmarket store of Ballantynes. Prior to travelling to Christchurch the students had studied not only the earthquakes of the recent past but also the history of Ballantynes. As a result they were eager to check out what this store had to offer to today's customers. The accompanying school staff were so proud to hear from passers-by that our students' behaviour was impeccable.

Our final full day in Christchurch involved the girls taking part in team sport and music making. Team sport included basketball and netball. It is with pride that Saint Kentigern girls won the basketball soundly with a score of 71-12 and one of the netball games 47-16. The other netball game was a close finish. Music was represented with a combined orchestra performance which gave our girls an opportunity to work with a much larger group of musicians. Our Performers' Choir presented some of their prepared pieces as did the Rangi choir. We rounded off the concert with our now well known, 'Saint Kentigern Girls' song.

The trip to Christchurch was a wonderful learning experience for our girls. Living in the home of strangers provides its own challenges so we were delighted to hear from hosting parents how much they enjoyed getting to know our girls. For those girls who were a little anxious about embarking on such an adventure; we were proud of the way they conducted themselves. We are all looking forward to hosting Rangi girls again and sharing our town with them.





Farewell Dr Hastie

Over the first three weeks of Term 2, the Saint Kentigern community, staff and students all had opportunities to say their farewells to Dr Sandra Hastie as she stepped down from her role as the first Principal of Saint Kentigern Girls' School and Head of Primary. We wished her well as she moved on to become Headmistress of Tavistock & Summerhill School in Haywards Heath, West Sussex, UK at the beginning of their new academic year in September.

In a career at Saint Kentigern spanning over 20 years, Dr Hastie has contributed hugely to the success of both our primary schools. She has been in her current role at the Girls' School since the start of 2010, prior to which she was a senior member of staff at the Boys' School for 15 years. There, she served initially as Dean of Senior School and latterly as Deputy Principal.

In the last five years, under Dr Hastie's leadership, the roll at the Girls' School, the only independent girls' primary school in Auckland, has more than doubled. Sound academic programmes have been introduced, together with numerous co-curricular activities. At the same time, she has had oversight of the very successful Preschool that was opened on site in 2011.

Dr Hastie has always had a strong commitment to professional personal growth in education, having earlier completed her Masters in Educational Administration, she went on to pursue and be awarded a Doctorate in Education with the University of Auckland. She has recognised expertise in the design and implementation of programmes which identify, track and develop the progress of students as individuals, and has particular experience working with gifted and talented students.

Dr Hastie can be very proud of the way in which she has contributed to the growth and development of our schools and, in particular, the strong sense of family community that has been built. At each of the events held in her honour, current and former staff, students, parents and members of the Trust Board all spoke of a woman who offers 'tough love and a warm heart'; a lady with a competitive spirit, professional integrity and a wicked sense of humour! She cares deeply about her students and staff, seeking to develop the very best in each of them.

In the early days of her leadership, following the merger with the former Corran School, Dr Hastie coined the phrase that the developing Girls' School was 'small but mighty.' The school is no longer so small but it is mightier than ever. At the final assembly, Deputy Head Girl, Zara Smith said, 'Dr Hastie has started Saint Kentigern Girls' School on a magnificent journey.'

We wish the very best to Dr Hastie, her husband, Bruce and dogs, Skye and Meg as they move on to their new life in the UK. She can be assured that she has left a school in good heart and that she will be remembered with fondness for the enormous contribution she has made to Saint Kentigern.



DR HASTIE'S OFFICIAL PORTRAIT

Painted by Craig Primrose, one of New Zealand's leading contemporary artists, Dr Sandra Hastie's official portrait in oil is now on display in the Board Room at the Girls' School. Craig has done a superb job of capturing her likeness and Sandra is absolutely delighted with the finished result. As the first Principal of Saint Kentigern Girls' School, Dr Hastie is the first Girls' School leadership portrait to be painted. Similar paintings hang at both the College and the Boys' School, recognising former Principals and key former members of the Trust Board.

Craig Primrose is known throughout the world for his skilful portraiture, sporting imagery and stunning landscapes which led him to being commissioned to paint Sir Edmund Hillary, in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the first ascent of Mt Everest in 1953. He was subsequently appointed as Sir Edmund's preferred artist.

With many private commissions worldwide, especially in the world of sport, Craig has become one of New Zealand's most sought after artists. His work is on display throughout New Zealand, Australia, Europe, Asia and America.



A Night to Reflect on The 'Hastie' Years

As a tribute to Dr Sandra Hastie's years at Saint Kentigern, many members of the Saint Kentigern community, including current and former staff, students, parents and Trust Board members gathered for an evening hosted by the Parents and Friends to fondly wish her farewell. This was an evening with much laughter, tinged with sadness, as guests reflected on their personal associations with Sandra.

MC for the evening was former Boys' School parent, Mark Leishman who spoke of the great respect amongst the parents at both schools for Sandra's work over her many years at Saint Kentigern.

The evening opened with former student, Sharon Hung performing a cello recital. Sharon was a gifted musician during her time at the School and has gone on to become an accomplished cellist.

Trust Board member, Mrs Rosemary Harris was the first to speak. In her role, Rosemary has dedicated much time to both schools over the years, building an enduring connection with Sandra. She said, 'Sandra is passionate about education and her ability to engage, inspire and lead is legendary. She cares deeply about her students and wants the very best for each and every one of them.'

Chairperson of the Girls' School Parents and Friends, Rebecca Gadsdon-Green and President of the Old Collegians Association, Andrew Morgan both thanked Sandra for her work, presenting her with gifts. The Old Collegians' Association had arranged for a painting of the School as a keepsake for Sandra.

Key speaker of the evening was former Principal of the Boys' School, Geoff Burgess, who had a long professional association with Sandra which developed into a lasting close friendship. Geoff has always been a speaker of note and he spoke from the heart with both respect and wry humour, referring to Sandra as a 'dynamic and feisty educational leader; who has touched us all through her personality and achievements.'

The greatest testimony of the evening came from three of her former Head Girls, Georgina McLeish, Anna Lowther and Emerald Bendall, along with current Head Girl, Moiralisa Ainu'u Anerau. Each of the girls spoke with great fondness for the mentorship they had received; being encouraged to become strong, bold young women with a belief in themselves.

The last words of the evening were given to Sandra who spoke with wit and compassion about the School she was about to leave and how her excitement for new horizons was tinged with sadness for all she would leave behind. She offered thanks in particular to those parents who either stayed or joined the School at the time of the transition from Corran to Saint Kentigern Girls' School in 2010 when she was first appointed. 'Your loyalty, positivity and belief in me as a leader helped me in what was a challenging first year.' She said that she's learnt that it takes courage and hard work to grow a school. She hopes to be remembered as a principal who cared. 'Saint Kentigern Girls School has left a permanent footprint on my heart and I am indeed richer for it.'

A PARTING GIFT

During Dr Hastie's final chapel service, the Year 8 girls were presented with a special farewell present by Dr Hastie. They were the first girls in their final year to receive a Leaver's Bracelet, made of blue beads and bearing a silver disc engraved with the Saint Kentigern crest. There was hardly a dry eye in the room among the students, teachers and parents as each girl accepted their gift and a giant hug from Dr Hastie!



Tasty Fractions!

During their maths learning, our Year 0 and Year 1 girls have been exploring the beginnings of proportional thinking, introducing division, fractions and the associated language - considering the 'whole' of an object, 'part' of an object, 'equal parts' and their mathematical names, notably 'halves' and 'quarters'.

Understanding fractions underpins many of the mathematical concepts that the girls will go on to learn and so it's important that these early building blocks are well consolidated.

There are many ways to teach fractions, some more successful than others and the final lesson of the unit was most definitely a successful, as well as tasty, one! Learning is greatly helped if fractional analogies are used that students identify with - like the equal sharing of a pizza!

Visual learning greatly helps and having earlier cut paper shapes in half, the girls were already familiar with 'dividing' the paper into two. Most children are familiar with the sharing of food and if it's something tasty, quickly know whether the division has been equal or not! With the help of some willing mothers, the girls went to the Food Technology room to create a pizza between two. A bamboo skewer was laid across the base and measured to make sure it was even before each girl selected their own pizza toppings. It was interesting to note the distinct difference in toppings between the halves!

A patient wait while the mums watched the pizzas in the ovens and then the girls were back to cut their shared pizza, taking their own half and cutting it in half again.

Question, Clarify, Summarise, Predict!

With thanks to Director of Curriculum, Mrs Trudi Edwards

Nowadays, in the age of e-books, iPads and hyperlinks, readers can find out the meaning of a word or read a review of a book with one touch of a screen. While this is a handy tool for leisure reading, it is not a particularly effective strategy for developing reading skills. At the Girls' School, reciprocal reading is used in Year 5 as a teaching technique to ensure the girls are constantly thinking about what they are reading. The approach allows the girls to double check with their peers about anything they are not sure of, discuss what might happen next in a story, and consider the actions of characters or intention of the author.

Reciprocal reading places students into one of four roles - questioner, clarifier, summariser and predictor - to actively encourage them to think about their comprehension. They take charge of their understanding by guiding and being involved in discussions about set texts. It was adopted at the Girls' School based in part on the backing of renowned education academic, Professor John Hattie, who ranked it amongst the most effective teaching strategies following extensive research. Such research regarding ways to improve student achievement has empowered teachers to become evidence based in their selection of teaching and learning techniques. The days of 'I think', 'I believe' and even 'I reckon' have thankfully been replaced with 'I know!'

The process, which is modelled and guided by the teacher until students are proficient with using it independently, ensures students justify and debate responses, therefore engaging higher-order thinking skills through structured discussion about a text. This enables them to develop well-refined comprehension skills and well-rehearsed critical thinking through



analysis and evaluation. These skills and the strategies learned are subsequently transferred to all other reading tasks across the curriculum.

Book clubs are making a big comeback among readers who love having a good natter about their latest bedside tome. Groups of people holding the same book and energetically debating their opinions about characterisation, plot and language is a regular sight in cafés, homes and workplaces. Through the process of reciprocal reading at the Girls' School, the Year 5 students are getting an early introduction to being in such a club and taking part in literary discussion.

Primary Science Week

Science is one of the eight compulsory learning areas of The New Zealand Curriculum (along with English, the arts, health and physical education, languages, mathematics, social sciences and technology). Encouraging children to take an interest in science as a subject, and as the possible basis for a career, is a key motivator behind the annual National Primary Science Week.

2015 marks the International Year of Light and was the focus for this year's week of experimentation, discovery and fun at the Girls' School. The theme was introduced during a 'hands-on' assembly at the start of the week, which acted as a great spring board for the week's activities. Over the course of the following days, all age groups were given many opportunities to 'have a go' with a variety of experiments and science-based activities that aroused curiosity.

From weather stations to electrical circuits, thinking about shadows and the light from the sun, experiments with colour mixing to robotics and coding, lenses, prisms and refraction of light, to finally tending the vegetable garden, the girls thrived on the exciting daily challenges. They came with keen, enquiring minds and fiddling fingers eager to have a turn – even when it poured down on the last day scheduled for gardening! Raincoats went on and the girls simply got stuck in, ready to get their hands dirty!

A giant pumpkin had taken on a life of its own in the vegetable garden, a product of regular watering and an earlier summer of beautiful sunlight. It provided a great opportunity to divide chunks from the giant into individual herb bags, ready to go home and make soup – giving the girls an appreciation of 'garden to table' and encouraging sustainability.

In conjunction with Science Week, NZAPSE (New Zealand Association of Primary Science Educators) organised a competition that focussed on light and photography. Some of our girls took the opportunity to explore the effect of light on photography techniques with some great results.

All in all, it was a fabulous week of activities that the girls took on with enthusiasm!



Linking Science and Service

The girls in Years 4 and 8 were fortunate to host parent, Dr Gretchen Weightman, who spoke to them about the biomedical development of rice. Understanding the nutritional needs of people in developing countries was relevant for the girls, as many of them had recently participated in the World Vision 40 Hour Famine. Dr Weightman discussed the worries about global population increases and staggered us with the fact that that by 2050, the world population would be 9 billion. Because there simply won't be enough food to feed this population, production of staple food groups such as rice and corn is an important consideration.

Dr Weightman further inspired the girls by explaining her own path into the world of science. She discussed next generation employment opportunities which now exist as a result of technology, the development of the double helix and DNA profiling, and urged the girls to 'lean forward' towards global problems as opposed to stepping aside.

The Girls' School can proudly report that collectively, they raised over \$7,000 for World Vision this year.



On with the Show!

The magic of Shakespeare was juxtaposed with the exuberance of rock and roll in the Girls' School Creative Arts Show, with fantastic singing, dancing and acting talent on display! The show opened with a matinee performance followed by two evening programmes. There was hot demand to see the girls' on-stage talents, with tickets for two of the productions selling out!

After weeks of rehearsing, the time had come for the girls to strut their stuff in front of a live audience, with the school hall full of proud parents and eager supporters. The opening act saw the entire school on the stage to sing 'On With The Show.' Every line was belted out in full voice, especially the chorus with its pertinent lyrics.

'We're glad you've come to hear us
We've practised for so long
We hope that you will cheer us,
As we make our debut
Right here for you.'



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A Midsummer Night's Dream

The Year 7 and 8 girls put on a vignette of Shakespeare's comedy 'A Midsummer Night's Dream.' Amongst girls posed as an enchanted forest, the mischievous sprite Puck, played by Abigail Mills, was up to his usual tricks. After encountering King Oberon (Zara Smith), Puck was instructed to find a magical purple flower. Meanwhile, in the very same forest, a group of actors were rehearsing a play entitled 'Pyramus and Thisby.' One of the main characters, Terri-Jane Warner as Bottom, became another victim of Puck. Bottom was transformed into a donkey! Oberon dropped the juice of the flower upon the eyelids of the Queen of the Fairies, Titania (Addison Peebles), and she woke up to discover that she was in love with a donkey. Much hilarity and trouble ensued, and it was only when Oberon took pity upon his Queen, that the situation was resolved.





Little Red Rockinghood

From Shakespeare's era in the 16th century, the audience was transported to the height of the rock and roll generation for 'Little Red Rockinghood.' Written by Jeffrey Leask, the play gives a rock and roll twist to the well-known fairy tale featuring a young girl, her granny and a big bad wolf. It starred the Year 6 students with support from the girls in Years 1 to 5. The Year 3 class was on stage first, singing and dancing an introduction for Red Rockin' Hood, played by Kate Frazer. When it came time for the refrain, the whole school joined in.

**'Little Red, Little Red Rockin' Hood,
'She could rock 'n' roll like nobody could.'**

With logistical precision, the singers and dancers exited the stage for the Year 6 narrators to initiate the conflict between Little Red and Wolf O'Malley, who was performed by Amelie James-Power. With long sideburns and dark sunglasses, O'Malley was 'a real big bopper, but real bad news.' The Year 1 girls moved onto the stage to sing and dance the 'Purple People Eater' song to convey his menace!

Then it was time for Granny (Vivian Pettigrove) to meet the nasty villain. O'Malley drove his convertible car to the soda shop, where some of the Year 5 girls were dancing to 'Bee-bop-a-loola-bop-aloo-bam-boo.' Wearing brightly-coloured Hawaiian skirts, it was a classic hula scene! Granny stood no chance when O'Malley pounced and put her in the closet. His plan to disguise himself as his hostage was to put into action, with the Year 4 girls giving him a Granny-makeover complete with pink wig, red lipstick and flower boa.

The scheme was plain to see for Little Red though, who exposed the wolf's true identity with the help of the Year 2 actors.

**'Oh Granny, Oh Granny, you look so strange!
Am I right in thinking there has been some change?'**

Alongside the rest of the Year 5 girls doing a groovy hand jive, Little Red took O'Malley down just as the police arrived. The only thing left to do was rescue Granny from the closet and cue the happy ending! The entire cast took the stage to close the show – 'with music, dancing, singing and laughter; they rocked around the clock and rocked happily ever after!'

The Arts Show was a fantastic platform for the girls to show off their theatrical creativity and the enjoyment they gleaned from being on stage was palpable. There was also a positive buzz emanating from the audience after the final curtain as they recalled their favourite parts of the programme. Well done to everyone who contributed to the success of the show!



Speech Competition

Public speaking is often described as people's greatest fear but that certainly wasn't the case for the finalists at the Girls' School Speech Competition. The school hall was a hive of eager anticipation as the contestants waited to take the stage in front of the whole school and supportive parents. In Speech and Drama classes, the girls had spent weeks investigating and writing about their topic then rehearsing and delivering their speeches. The Speech Competition featured the top orators from the Middle and Senior School vying to be named the best in each year level, as well as non-competitive entries from Years 0 to 3.

The show began with the chosen girls from Years 1 to 3 who had an opportunity to display and refine their public speaking skills. What made all of the speeches even more impressive was none of them had notes!

Year 4 kicked off the competitive section with speeches on a chosen skill or activity. Xarya Knox was named the winner for her information-packed speech about the violin. Mary Stanfield was awarded first place in Year 5 for her blow-by-blow account of snorkelling in Tahiti, under the topic of a personal experience or event. The Year 6 students delved deep into their imaginations to forecast what the future of technology will bring. Alexandra McOmish was the winner for her evaluation of the pros – such as fast access to vast amounts of information – and cons – like cyber-bullying – of the proliferation of technology.



Year 8 winner, Zara Smith

Persuasive speech was the brief for the Senior School students, who all provided fervent arguments for their topic. J'adore Harris-Tavita was the Year 7 winner for her passionate claim for why New Zealand should change its flag. Year 8 winner, Zara Smith, used comedy, academic studies and personal anecdotes to support her case for why men should watch less sport on television.



The judge, Mrs Anna Coleman said all of the speakers displayed confidence and self-assurance. The lack of nerves and confident stage presence made her job to decide the winners very tricky!

Well done to the winners from each year group:

Year 4: Xarya Knox

Year 5: Mary Stanfield

Year 6: Alexandra McOmish

Year 7: J'adore Harris-Tavita

Year 8: Zara Smith

REMUERA ZONE SPEECH COMPETITION

Our girls were successful in both age groups of the Remuera competition. Congratulations to Zara Smith who went on to win the Year 7 and 8 section and Alexandra McOmish who placed second in the Year 5 and 6 section. Well done girls!

Good Deeds

From helping at-risk Kiwi youth, contributing to an impoverished African nation to helping children to play sport by providing the necessary footwear, Service at the Girls' School takes a variety of forms. The Girls' School is an on-going supporter of the Dingwall Trust, a charitable organisation that provides residential care for young people in need. Through our Sharing Shed, the School collects significant donations of toys, clothes, books and other items for the Trust and the girls regularly visit to see how it helps the children at the facility. The Director of the Trust, Tracie Shipton, acknowledged the assistance Saint Kentigern provides with a heart-warming letter. She said, 'We are constantly overwhelmed with the quality and care given to the donations through the Sharing Shed and this helps us to honour the children and teenagers we support with high-quality items. Please know that you make a difference in the lives of the children we support.'

Presbyterian Support has also recognised the support the Saint Kentigern provides by making the Boys' and Girls' Schools the first in New Zealand to become Guardian Angel schools. Through food bank and monetary donations, Saint Kentigern assists Presbyterian Support to deliver services such as social work and counselling, parenting programmes, emergency food parcels and budgeting support to families in need. As well as helping those less fortunate close to home, Saint Kentigern also assists the people of Malawi through our World Vision target project. This year, our community raised more than \$134,000 through the 40-Hour Famine, with the Girls' School contributing \$7090.

Year 7 student, Addison Peebles went the extra mile with a wonderful individual act of service. Addison asked the school community to donate good quality second-hand sports shoes. She then organised for the 50 pairs of shoes to go to decile one



primary, Manurewa East School. The Principal of Manurewa East, Mr Phil Palfrey was delighted to accept the donation and was especially excited about the number of football boots as it would allow more of his students to play team sports.



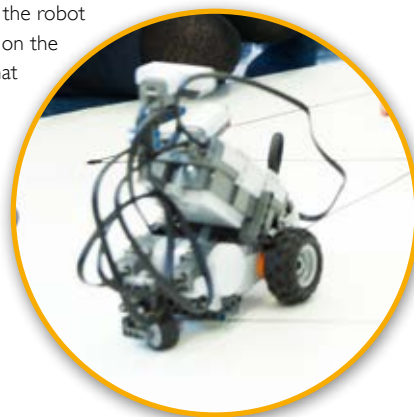
Rapid Progression in Robotics



In a short space of time, the level of skill, understanding and interest in Robotics has grown immensely at the Girls' School. After being introduced this year in the Senior School, the girls have taken to the subject with gusto and seen their engineering know-how enhanced greatly. The Year 6 and 8 girls were the first to undertake the engineering programme with an investigation into pneumatics. The girls were given an initiation into robot construction by building systems and small machines operated by air pressure and exhaustion. Alongside this, they learnt about the role compressed air has in engineering, when utilised in the likes of trucks, forklifts, elevators and aeroplanes.

Since this introduction in Term 1, the girls have progressed to coding movements for Lego Mindstorm robots. The first task was to design the code for the robot to follow a predesigned circuit in the shape of a rectangle or rhombus. This involves mathematics such as calculating distance for when the robot is travelling in a straight line, and geometry to tell the robot how to rotate around a point. Ultraviolet sensors that can ascertain between black and white materials are then added to the robot and the girls have to programme the machine to follow a black line on the white floor. The latest challenge has been using ultrasonic sensors that emit radio waves and coding the robot to avoid obstacles in their path.

As well as the mathematics, computing and construction skills the girls are learning, robotics is an excellent vehicle to gain problem solving capabilities. When the robot isn't following a code as intended, the girls have to systematically go through and assess each possible issue until it is corrected. The Girls' School has a well-resourced engineering laboratory with a robotics set per student, meaning the girls can work independently and collaboratively.



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3D Success

As part of the Engineering Programme at Saint Kentigern Girls' School, the senior students have been designing their own 3D creations. Using a programme called 123D Design, the girls have been letting their imagination run wild as they attempt to build objects.

Year 8 student Stella Ralphs was the first student to successfully design an object. Her koru inspired 'Capital S' was initially meant for herself, but when the school learned that Dr Sandra Hastie was departing, Stella saw an opportunity to present the outgoing principal with a gift. 'Dr Hastie loved it,' Stella said. 'She said she was very proud of me and that she'd treasure it and she gave me a big hug.' The shape took several hours to make using 123D Design. Stella used a series of curves to make the closed shape which she then extruded vertically to make 3D. It took about ninety minutes to print at school after being converted to Makerbot Software by Mr Finn.

Maddison Hickling of Year 7 generated a complex Pac Man ghost. This shape required many long and short curves, calculated and grouped together to make the closed shape. After extruding the shape, she added two half-spheres as eyes. 'It took ages but it was great when we printed it off at school,' Maddison said.

The girls have learned however that the saying, 'If you can imagine it, you can build it,' isn't necessarily easy to achieve all the time. Because the 3D printer disperses ultra-hot plastic from a suspended nozzle, building items which are suspended in mid-air has proven a challenge. There have been many failures along the way which have all contributed to the learning process. The next phase of the programme will be for girls to generate useful household items such as pencil holders, or to construct an accessory for their Mindstorms Robot.



Silver Award at Kids Sing

For the third year running, the Girls' School Performers Choir earned a silver award at the New Zealand Choral Federation's Kids Sing music festival. The Girls' School Performers Choir was in its third year competing in the Primary/Intermediate category, having also been awarded silver medals in its first two outings. The choir is an auditioned group drawn from Year 5 to 8, which meets weekly during lunchtime to rehearse.

The requirements for their competition stated 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. The test piece this year was 'O Wind', the lyrics of which come from Robert Louis Stevenson's 'The Wind' and the music is by Mary Lightfoot. The girls also performed 'The Angels Song'

by Chris Artley, who was the last music director of Corran School, as their NZ entry and Benjamin Britten's 'This Little Babe'. They were conducted by music teacher Nicola Brown and accompanied by Dr Michael Jenkins on piano.

The competition was adjudicated by well-known choral conductor and composer David Hamilton, who assessed the performers' intonation, tone and blend, staging and presentation, vocal technique, diction and interpretation. The Girls' School received 9.5 points out of the maximum 10 for their staging and presentation and were said to have 'a lot of fine singing across a varied programme.' 'O Wind' had 'lovely sustained singing' and 'The Angels Song' was a 'nicely controlled performance' with 'good energy'.



Bumper Basketball Season

Our Year 7/8 Basketball Team are the proud champions of their division, following tough competition against local schools. Facing teams with mainly boy players, the girls won the majority of their games by large margins.

They also had a fantastic result at the South Eastern Zone championship! The girls finished pool play unbeaten and in first place with wins over Kia Aroha 20-11, Elim 33-4, Farm Cove 23-1 and Bucklands Beach 14-9. In the semi-final they came out on top of a close battle with Mission Heights 27-25, putting them into the final against Sir Edmund Hillary College. In their most physical match of the tournament, the team went down 23-29 to place second overall.



AIMS Games

This was the fourth year we have travelled to the Bay of Plenty to take part in the AIMS Games and it was definitely our most successful tournament. We had 11 girls competing across seven different sports,



including some in teams alongside students from the College. Abigail Mills returned with our first AIMS Games medal, after she earned the bronze in open senior girls trampoline.

Our girls helped the Saint Kentigern Netball team to a top 10 finish, placing ninth out of 96 schools! Moiralisa Aneru was identified as one of the 12 best players by being named in the A Grade all-tournament team.

Well done girls!



Cargill Wins Cross Country

The Girls' School cross country races were amongst some of the most competitive yet, with two dead heats for places across the year levels!

The Senior School girls raced at the College event earlier in the year competing alongside the College girls. Terri-Jane Warner was first across the line for the Girls' School and won the overall first place in the Year 8 girls' race. Well done Terri-Jane!

The Year 4 to 6 girls also travelled to the College to race on a cold, wet day on a challenging muddy track; the underfoot conditions and undulating course putting their training to the test!

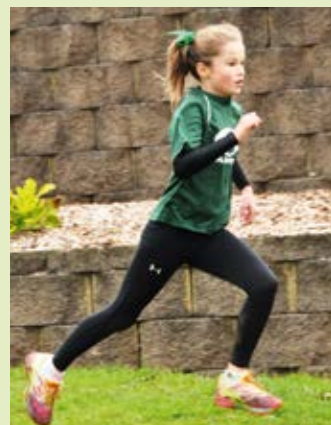
The Junior School joined with the Year 0 to 3 students from the Boys' School on a largely fine day with just the odd sprinkling of rain. There was a lot of encouragement from parents and supporters around the hilly course, especially at the finish line on the top field.

Congratulations to the following girls on their placings.

CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONS 2015

	1st	2nd	3rd
YEAR 0	Molly Griffiths (CH)	Holly Carnegie (C)	Queenie Lang (C)
YEAR 1	Chloe Chester (W)	Brooke Rowntree (C)	Alexi Bower (W) & Sienna Robertshaw (CH)
YEAR 2	Charlotte Ray (H)	Amie Hilliam (H)	Laura Bowden (H)
YEAR 3	Sienna Hirst (CH)	Jing Jing Qiao (C) & Endrica Dhani (CH)	
YEAR 4	Isabella Hughes (CH)	Frances Revell-Devlin (W)	Kate Green (H)
YEAR 5	Mary Stanfield (C)	Zoe Wong (H)	Kate Dryden (W)
YEAR 6	Coco Hewitt (CH)	Verity Ward (CH)	Kate Dirks (CH)
YEAR 7	Kaya Blackler (H)	Elyse Tse (C)	Florence Dallow (W)
YEAR 8	Terri-Jane Warner (H)	Zara Smith (W)	Ellie Lazzaro (H)

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





Father and Daughter Breakfast



The unique bond between a father and daughter was fully evident at the Girls' School Father and Daughter breakfast. Nearly 300 doting dads and their girls shared a special morning together at the Ellerslie Events Centre before the school and work day started. They were welcomed by Girls' School Acting Principal, Mrs Judith Dobson who expressed the importance of the father-daughter relationship. She quoted American author John Sinor: 'It is admirable for a father to take a son fishing, but there is a special place in heaven for a father who takes his daughter shopping!' Chapel prefect, Selena Agaimalo said a lovely prayer to grace the food.

The guests enjoyed a hearty breakfast and following the meal, the dads and daughters worked on a fun activity together. Each family was given a rubber-band powered plane to construct as well as an origami jumping frog. There was a lot of competition to see who could be the first to finish the plane, and a lot of instructions being ignored!

Our sincere thanks to Cate Scragg and Rebecca Scoones for organising such a great event! A big thank you also to the Paravicini, Murray Whitford, Wong, Ward and Fleming families for their donations and to the following for their support: Saint Kentigern Old Collegians' Association, Primal Earth, Abe's Bagel Bakery, Huawei, Fifth Ave Menswear, Ricoh, Benson Road Deli and Countdown.



Thank You Nigel Latta

JC Chalmers Hall was filled to bursting when TV presenter, bestselling author and well known psychologist, Nigel Latta offered his time, free of charge, to present to our parents. The primary aim of the evening was to continue to raise funds for Sir Ray Avery's Life Pod Appeal to create infant incubators especially designed for Third World conditions.

Late last year, Sir Ray's charity, Medicine Mondiale, launched a \$2 million global fundraising appeal with the aim to get the high-quality, affordable baby incubators into production for Third World hospitals. Designed for a hot climate where supplies of clean water and power are intermittent, the incubators will cost around \$2000 per pod - this is compared with more than \$40,000 for the models currently available that are not suitable for hot, unsanitary conditions.

Sir Ray has a daughter at the Girls' School and another at the Preschool and is an avid supporter of Saint Kentigern. Through his connections, Nigel Latta willingly offered his time to talk to our parents in his own inimitable style about the trials and tribulations of raising children in today's society.

Sir Ray introduced Nigel as 'the horse whisperer of children,' with an equally well known penchant for 'blowing things up!' - referring to his most recent television series.

Nigel's professional experience spans over two decades with his work reflecting a dual interest in both forensic psychology and working with young people and their families. To most, he is best known for his 'Politically Incorrect' guides to raising children. Whether speaking on television or delivering his message in person, his style is upbeat, funny and somewhat irreverent! Above all, he encouraged our parents last night to relax, 'Kids just need good parents.' They need to learn how to take responsibility for themselves; to become resourceful and resilient - and understand that 'their effort is linked to outcome' and they need to take responsibility for their own actions!

Well over 300 parents attended the function with all ticket proceeds going towards Life Pods. Last year, the Girls' School committed to raising \$20,000 for the appeal and it wasn't long before all the Saint Kentigern schools came on board. To date we have collectively raised \$23,000 for the cause and we sincerely thank Nigel Latta for the part he has played in this.



TEE SHIRTS FOR SALE TO RAISE FUNDS FOR LIFE PODS



The Nigel Latta evening also served as the launch of a tee shirt to help raise further funds for Sir Ray Avery's Life Pod Appeal. A collaboration between Director of the Preschool, Mrs Sue Nash and Preschool parent and leading NZ Fashion Designer, Yvonne Bennetti, the striking shirts are now available for purchase.

The shirts are available in black or white with a large silver or gold sequined heart on the front and three small hearts on the back to represent the Life Pod slogan to 'keep little hearts beating.' Yvonne was thrilled to put her name behind this great cause. Tee shirts can be purchased in girls' to ladies' sizes and can be ordered through the Preschool with all profits going to the Life Pod Appeal.

To order a shirt, contact the Preschool at skp_admin@saintkentigern.com.

To read more about Sir Ray's work or to make a donation to the Life Pod Appeal, visit: <https://mondialelifepod.com/>





High Tea

In the tradition of an old fashioned, formal high tea from the finest establishments of yesteryear, Saint Kentigern Girls' School held their annual Mother- Daughter High Tea at the Guineas Ballroom in the Ellerslie Event Centre. Such is the popularity of this event, tickets sold at lightning speed! Mothers, grandmothers, friends and sisters joined the students for an afternoon of fine company and fine refreshments.

As guests were shown to their tables, the Allura Quartet played in the background. This is an outstanding ensemble of female musicians who feature prominently in the New Zealand music scene. We thank Charlotte Ray's family (Year 2) for arranging the opportunity for our girls to hear a professional chamber group of this calibre.

Principal, Dr Sandra Hastie welcomed the guests, acknowledging mothers for all the work they do that often goes unnoticed – the meals, the taxi service, the fixing of 'things' and most importantly, the unconditional support and love they give to their children.

Head Girl, Moiralisa Ainu'u Aneru, offered a grace giving thanks for the food and for mothers in particular. The tables were laid out with a wonderful array of food that was thoroughly appreciated by all. This was definitely an afternoon to set aside any notion of weight watching as young and old tucked into the dainty fare on offer!

We offer our grateful thanks to the many parents who worked so hard to make it such a special event, in particular; the organising committee led by Mrs Barbara Chin and assisted by Aiko and Alistair Stewart, Henry Ray, Kim Gear, Sharon Bluck and Jennifer Duncan.

Our thanks to the following sponsors and donors who supported the event:

Ray Family (Year 2) for arranging for the Allura Quartet to play; Bowden Family (Year 2); Murray-Whitford Family (Year 2); Stanfield Family (Year 5); Saint Kentigern Old Collegians' Association; Boys' School Parents and Friends Association, Cuthbert Interiors – Anna Cuthebert; I do Photography – Jody Lidstone; Illumina Soy Candles – Jennifer Duncan; South Pacific Books; New World Eastridge, Made 4 Kids Natural Skincare; Mainly Toys.

