



SAINT KENTIGERN

# Piper

December 2015



Saint Kentigern's  
**Brightest**

Celebrating the success  
of our top-achieving  
academic students





# Celebrating Festive Season



## Go tell it on the mountain

In the beautiful St Mary's cathedral on a very hot evening, our preschoolers waited in anticipation for their performance at the Girls' School carol service. It was soon our turn and up we all went to arrange ourselves on the stairs in front of all our family and friends. An amazing rendition of 'Go Tell It On the Mountain' rang out throughout the cathedral from the mouths of the youngest children in the Saint Kentigern community. Much pride was felt and smiles were seen before loud claps of appreciation saw lots of very excited and tired children sit through the rest of the service, with many sleeping innocently in their teachers' arms.



## Come on ring those bells

Excited Preschoolers sat up the front of Holy Trinity Cathedral at the Boys' School carol service intently watching everything going on. It was their turn to perform and up they went—with the boys transitioning to School ready with their bells. 'Come on ring those bells' was sung with great gusto—much to the delight of not only their parents but all members of the Saint Kentigern community. A true 'strawberry moment' as spoken about by our very own Reverend Reuben Hardie.



Sue Nash, Preschool Director



# Here Comes Santa Claus

Our annual Christmas party seems to get better every year...

Fifty-five preschoolers and 11 staff up on stage at the Girls' School waited for the curtain to open and, wow, when it did there were more than 250 mums, dads, grandparents, friends and siblings all watching, including our special guests from the Trust Board and Principals of Boys' and Girls' Schools. But no stage fright for these accomplished performers. Every child had their moment to be the star performer up the front as they took turns to sing each song accompanied by the rest of their friends and teachers.

'Santa got stuck up the chimney' started the show, and 'Rudolph's cheeky reindeer dance' went down a treat with our guests.

Seven more songs including our song in French about a Christmas tree and our carols from the carol services were rounded off with a great rendition of 'We wish you a Merry Christmas'.

Off back to Preschool for special party food before we hear the bell of the 'big fat man in the red red suit—with the twinkle in his eye' - he must have heard the children singing about him! Down the driveway, driven by Mitchell the elf, he arrived in a beautifully restored vintage car (borrowed from Kai's grandparents) as Santa's sleigh was not road worthy. Photos with Santa, a present of buckets and spades, and the morning was complete! Another amazing Christmas party!



## Performing our Carols

At Christmas time our students look forward to receiving gifts from family, friends and, of course, Santa. Our Director, Sue Nash, feels it is important to teach the children at a young age about the importance of giving to others—not just receiving. Her motto is: 'Never get tired of doing little things for others, because sometimes those little things occupy the biggest parts of their hearts.'

With this in mind, the opportunity for our Preschoolers to go and give some Christmas cheer to the elderly residents of retirement villages saw all of the children go on two trips out of Preschool. First, they boarded a bus in early December to go to Grace Joel Retirement Village where they performed two shows - one in the lounge and one in the atrium. On another occasion they went to Epsom Retirement Village during the last week of the school year. How rewarding to see the delight on the elderly residents' faces and many tears of joy as our three and four year olds excelled.





# All Creatures Great and Small

'Did you know that snails are slimy?'

'Snails eat cabbage and broccoli'

'How do they breathe inside their shells?'

'Their eyes are on the end of their antennae.'

After finding two snails in our Preschool vegetable garden trying to eat our cabbages, it was decided to make a snail garden. Carefully designed and constructed in a large tank by the children, the garden had dirt, plants and branches added to make the snails feel like they were at home. The arrival of 30 more snails made the snail garden complete. After the first few days of the snails escaping at night and walking around our Preschool, a special lid was made by caretaker Ross. Our snails then became our children's friends, with daily turns to hold them while they slithered up their little arms - to much delight and giggles. Many a moment was spent watching them with magnifying glasses as they crawled around their amazing enclosure. What awesome learning about little creatures.

## ERNIE THE EEL ARRIVES AT PRESCHOOL

Abigail and Harrison took three students on an adventure to Auckland Fish Markets. What were they going to buy? WOW—an eel! Slippery, slimy and wiggling around in its bag on the way back to Preschool. Our snail garden had been replaced with fresh water, stones and a filter all ready for our new surprise to arrive. There was much excitement as the eel slithered out of the bag into the water. A naming ceremony got underway as to what we could call our eel - Ernie was the name decided.

Daily feeding of bread, mealworms, liver and mince kept Ernie in good form. Visits out to swim in the big water trough with the children stroking and holding him, with squeals of 'ooohs' as he squirmed in their little hands, ensured Ernie had a great adventure at Preschool. Ernie was released into a stream to live with his friends, although our Preschoolers are adamant Ernie the eel will come back to Preschool next year.



# Grandparents' Morning

'What is a grandparent? A hugger, a kisser, a grandchild misser; a carer, a sharer, a sometimes grey-hairer; a thinker, a winker, a cup of tea drinker; a pleaser, a teaser, affectionate squeezer.'

The treasured family members who attended the Preschool grandparents' morning had all of these traits on display during their special visit. There was an air of feverish excitement as the students waited for their grandma, granddad, or both, to arrive, then gasps of delight followed by huge hugs when they spotted their nan and pop.

With education having changed dramatically over the last couple of generations, especially with the proliferation of technology, there was much for the students to share, including iPads and the many apps they use. The learning at the Preschool also retains a traditional flavour - which the grandparents could definitely relate to! The students showed them their favourite books and recent artwork, and the fun of playing with wooden blocks will never get... well, old!

After the students had led the grandparents to every corner of the Preschool, everyone gathered for a singing performance by the young ones, including, appropriately, 'Grandma's Glasses'. The grandparents then enjoyed morning tea before saying goodbye to the students, with more hugs, of course. Thank you to all the grandparents who made the morning so special for the students!







## Blackout Day!

Saint Kentigern blue was swapped for Kiwi black as the staff and students showed their support for the mighty All Blacks during the Rugby World Cup. Everyone came to Preschool dressed from head to toe in black to get behind Richie McCaw and his team as they sought to defend the William Webb Ellis Cup! Our encouragement for the All Blacks, albeit from afar, certainly did

the trick as the lads went on to make rugby history by becoming the first team to win consecutive world championships and the first to win the world cup three times! Congratulations Richie, Steve Hansen and the All Blacks, Saint Kentigern Preschool was with you all the way!

## ShakeOut!

'If the earth begins to shake, what do we do for safety's sake?

'Get under a table and hold on tight, and everything will be alright.

'If there aren't any tables or you're outside, we have a different way to hide,

'Crouch on the ground and cover your head, just like a turtle tucked up in bed.'

The boys and girls at the Preschool were among the 1.36 million Kiwis to take part in the ShakeOut drill to practise what to do in the event of an earthquake. The old adage of drop, cover and hold still applies: DROP to the ground (before the earthquake drops you!), take COVER by getting under a sturdy desk or table, and HOLD ON to it until the shaking stops. For the preschoolers, they were taught to be 'turtle safe', by finding a table to be their turtle shell if they are inside when a quake starts. If they are outside, they know to get curled up in a ball, 'just like a turtle tucked up in bed'. They practised what to do in both situations, making the Preschool look like it was full of little blue turtles dotted around the playground!

