

# Piper

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SAINT KENTIGERN

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SAINT KENTIGERN  
COMMUNITY

# GIRLS' SCHOOL



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often just a small brass plate on the side of a building marks the school entrance. Visitors are screened by armed security guards and have their identity checked and bags inspected! Parents have special ID swipe cards and no children are allowed to wait outside the school to be collected or dropped off!

**Selection criteria:** All prospective students (even at the youngest year levels) must sit an entrance test as part of the application process. The School at Columbia University used a ballot system - if your number was selected and you passed the entry requirements then you could attend. The other schools had a similar philosophy and there was no concession for family connections (i.e. a sibling already attending did not guarantee entry for younger family members). When I asked about children who struggled academically, I was told there were schools they could attend - just not these ones! It made me appreciate how special Saint Kentigern is in terms of the range of children we accept - we do not accept solely on academic results and I believe we are the richer for it.

**Cost of Education:** The cost to attend independent schools in New York is incredibly high. Tuition fees range from US\$44,000 to over US\$50,000 per student (and that is fees only!). Most schools do, however, have large endowment funds and are able to offer a substantial number of scholarships to their top students.

**Outdoor Play Areas and Sport:** Due to the nature of New York city, schools tended to have play areas either in the basement as a gymnasium or on the roof top where there were small, artificial surface areas. Riverdale and Shady Hills School were the only two campuses that had outdoor grass areas. At the primary school level, team sports (baseball, ice hockey and basketball) are played by students at their local clubs outside the school day. Physical Education consists of lessons in their gymnasiums.

I reflected how fortunate primary school students are in New Zealand to have outdoor play areas and opportunities to play a range of sports within their school programmes. Many American students spend their entire day in a multi-storied building, not venturing outside until the end of the school day and then under adult supervision at all times.

**Educational Programmes:** Educational programmes were similar to New Zealand. The emphasis on inquiry learning, practical activities and differentiation are certainly in line with current practices in New Zealand. The school day is also equivalent to us in terms of length. It was evident that we have greater subject specialisation, especially for our Junior and Middle School students in New Zealand. There is a strong emphasis on students passing national testing and School League Tables are commonly published.

**Overall Impressions:** The school principals and their senior staff made me feel very welcome and were very willing to share their time with me. They hadn't had a visitor from New Zealand before so were fascinated to learn about our school system. One thing that we all have in common as school leaders is a passion for our own schools and the desire to provide the very best for our students in terms of educational opportunities.

I came away feeling very proud of the Saint Kentigern family of schools and the amazing opportunities that our young people have as well as the incredible learning environments they are part of. I think we sometimes take this for granted or consider it the 'norm.' New Zealand children are very well served educationally.

Sandra Hastie, Head of Primary

## Visiting Schools in New York and Boston

In June I attended Harvard Business School in Boston to complete a course on Strategic Management. I used this opportunity to visit some Independent Schools in New York and Boston to look at their students' educational experience and how it compared to New Zealand. I was fortunate to visit three schools in New York and one in Boston:

- **Marymount School** – Girls' Catholic Independent School K-12, 500 students. This school was built around three old houses and had the most amazing winding staircases. There was no outside play area at all and the classrooms were a collection of small rooms.
- **Grace Church School** – Co-educational, independent, 600 students, founded in 1894 as the first choir boarding school in New York City. The church is an integral part of this school.
- **The School at Columbia University** - Established in 2003. This is a co-educational, independent K-8 school affiliated with Columbia University and has a roll of 500 students. The school has the advantage of having access to the facilities at Columbia University. It is very new and modern.
- **Riverdale School** – Riverdale is one of the oldest country day schools in the United States. It has an enrolment of 1125 students, is co-educational and is in the Riverdale section of the Bronx. Of all the schools I visited, Riverdale had the most beautiful grounds and some real grass!
- **Shady Hill School** – An independent, co-educational day school in Cambridge, pre-kindergarten to 8th grade, 500 students. It is a very progressive school and is known for its programmes of positive psychology. Shady Hill reminded me very much of New Zealand primary schools with large outdoor areas and separate classrooms with students able to move freely between inside and outside.

**Security:** Apart from Shady Hills School in Boston, the high level of security was difficult and very foreign to me. The schools have discrete entrances,





# Studying Political Science

As the election debate heated up in August, the Girls' School had a well-timed visit from children's political author, Maria Gill, writer of 'Running the Country: A Look Inside New Zealand's Government.' Maria's afternoon workshop, held in the library, was part of the Year 7 & 8 Social Science unit that introduces parliament and elections.

Maria was able to share her knowledge with the students surrounding New Zealand's democratic political system, Mixed Member Proportional (MMP) voting system and discussed the history behind voting and how women got the vote. To demonstrate how the voting system works here in New Zealand, Maria held a mock vote which the girls posted in their own 'kids referendum ballot box.'

Before voting and to give the classes a grounding on MMP, the students took turns reading out loud the guiding principles of some of New Zealand's major electoral parties. After hearing these summaries, Maria then posed the questions to the girls, 'What is it that you value and what is important to you?' As she explained, 'Your answers will help you decide your two preferred candidates and party votes.'

The aims of the Parliament and Elections enquiry topic are geared at students being able to understand how groups make and implement rules and laws, and how people make decisions about access to and use of resources. They will also gain knowledge on how the ways in which leadership of groups is acquired and exercised can have consequences for communities and societies, and will understand how formal and informal groups make decisions that impact on communities.

During this study, the girls worked in small groups which had a set of target questions to understand and present. Each member had a role within the group; leader; recorder and creative director; and participated in the shared reading and interpretation of the material. At the end of the unit, the girls had a final presentation where they shared and explained their findings to the class.

The girls found Maria's fun and interactive lesson helpful in piquing their interest in introductory politics. It was a great opportunity for the students to explore not only the politics of New Zealand, but also to learn about and compare the political systems of a range of countries worldwide.



# Adopting Mindfulness

*'A large part of everyday is not lived consciously.'* - Virginia Woolf

Saint Kentigern Girls' School is the first all-girls school in New Zealand to introduce a mindfulness programme for its senior girls in Years 7 and 8. The internationally run school programme, '.b' [pronounced dot-be] stands for 'Stop, Breathe and Be' and teaches the girls how to embrace their thoughts and be fully present in the moment. Mindfulness is the latest buzz coming out of California where tech giants like Google, Twitter, Intel and Facebook have embraced mindful meditation and are setting a standard for corporations around the world, building better support frameworks for the health and wellbeing of their staff.

The nine lesson programme is led by the only mindfulness teacher trained to teach .b in New Zealand, Dr Nick Penney, and began in Term 2. It was initiated by Principal, Dr Sandra Hastie after hearing Dr Penney speak on the subject at an Independent Schools conference. Dr Hastie says at the most simple level, .b is an awareness raising exercise to give the Year 7 and 8 students tools to use throughout their life to deal with stress and anxiety. She says the Girls' School is excited about the introduction of this programme into their school and believes that it will make a difference to the students as they transition into young women.

The Year 7 and 8 students each have a weekly one hour session with Dr Penney. The classroom sessions are fully interactive and involve a combination of breathing exercises and class engagement through feedback and video clips. Additionally, staff at the Girls' School have undertaken professional development with Dr Penney on how to use the tools of mindfulness and have reported the benefits that this approach has given them in their own everyday lives.

Dr Penney says the reason why mindfulness is important is because stress levels in society are running at an all-time high. He believes the art of this practice is likely to shape society over the next ten years. 'The tools from the lessons teach them how to take control over whatever is happening in their life,' he says. He also believes that resilience levels in young people have dropped. 'Resilience is the ability to bounce back when things go badly, and mindfulness can help to strengthen this part of the brain,' he says.





When 11 year-old Ava Beca decided to help out with Middlemore Foundation's 'Jammies in June' drive, she really grabbed the bull by the horns. There was no 'badgering mum to buy a pair', instead she grabbed a slot at school assembly to convince as many girls as she could to take part and help out Kidz First Children's Hospital.

Ava's desire to help out came from visiting Middlemore Hospital with her Mum and learning that giving warm PJs to children in winter could

help them avoid getting sick and having more trips to the hospital. And she must be a pretty convincing girl because Saint Kentigern mum, Kirsten Stanfield was soon helping Ava to get started along with other mums and friends who collected at work and other places. Ava got busy at lunchtimes gathering up the PJs her fellow students had bought in and before they knew it they had managed a staggering 73 pairs of girls' PJs and 52 pairs for boys.



But that's not all. They also managed 67 toothbrushes and 22 tubes of toothpaste, a couple of dressing gowns and 83 pairs of underwear! They might have pleased with all that but they were on a roll and also collected 14 singlets, 4 pairs of tights, 3 onesies, 44 pairs of socks and 2 pairs of gloves. That's when they realised that this mountain of clothes was all for children, so they managed 17 pairs of bootees, and 9 baby hats!

Once they were all collected, Ava personally delivered the winter clothing donations to Middlemore Hospital where she was thanked by the Foundation's Executive Director, Pam Tregonning. 'It was a great feeling counting them all the night before and handing them over,' Ava said. 'We didn't think we would collect as many as we did.'

## School Council

*'It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving.'*

- Mother Teresa

The School Council is made up of representatives from Years 1-8 and acts for all age groups across the school. They meet regularly in the Boardroom with Deputy Principal, Mrs Judith Dobson to discuss ways that the School can work together as a family to demonstrate service action to community groups, both within our community and beyond.

As leader of the School Council, Year 8 student, Charlotte Lindsay Smail felt that the students' effort in 2014 needed to be geared towards supporting other children. So earlier in the year she put to the Council that the Starship Foundation would be a worthy charity to support. She researched the Foundation and wrote to the Chair of the Starship Fundraising Committee pledging the support of our School.

The School has now received two letters from the Starship Foundation thanking them for the donations they have received.



The first letter thanked the parent community for their generosity in donating \$850.40 from a Family Service. A similar letter of thanks was also received for raising \$367.10 from the mufti day held at the end of Term 2. The School Council is thrilled to have been able to give these donations to the Starship Foundation so far this year.

**\$8,277.00 raised!**



## World Vision

Our World Vision Organiser for the 40 Hour Famine this year was Chapel Leader, Fayth Doherty. Fayth, along with Terri-Jane Warner, worked tirelessly sending out information to the students, collecting their donations at lunchtimes and keeping all of the administration records accurate.

Year 7 Teacher, Mrs Jan Davidge said Fayth was 'extremely reliable and responsible in her role for World Vision.' The girls who participated all put in a fantastic effort in generating sponsors and our parent and overseas community supported them so well that we raised a total of \$8,277.00 to help change the lives of children in Malawi living in poverty.





## Ruapotaka Marae Visit

For many New Zealanders, 31 December means celebrations to welcome in the New Year. These celebrations are an important way of marking the passage of time as well as heralding new beginnings.

Maori also have their own New Year, which is marked by the rise of Matariki, the group of stars also known as the Pleiades star cluster or the Seven Sisters, and the sighting of the next new moon. Like Chinese New Year and the Christian festival of Easter, its exact timing varies from year to year but it usually occurs during the month of June. In 2014, Matariki began on 28 June, so it was timely that the Year 4-6 students at the Girls' School had the chance to visit the Ruapotaka Community Marae in Glen Innes in the lead up to this celebration.

The visit provided the girls with hands-on experiences to support their classroom learning. As part of the Middle School's Social Science unit, each class level had a different topic of enquiry. The Year 4 students were looking at the way Auckland has changed, the Year 5 students focused on myths and legends and the Year 6 students were studying how Maori lived in pre-European times.

As the girls waited at the gates, one of the elders, or kaumatua, gave them a brief explanation of the protocol involved so they knew what to expect. As a first visit to the marae, the powhiri ceremony would formally greet and welcome them, beginning with a karanga, or call, which would guide them onto the grounds and into the wharehau, or meeting house. Once this formality was over and they had been formally invited in, the girls learnt that they were then welcome to come back at any time to visit.

The girls also heard the differences in the roles and responsibilities of males and females at a marae. Only males are allowed to sit up the front in the wharehau and speak in the formal speeches at the powhiri. Mr Andrew Finn, the School's only male teacher, was able to speak on behalf of the School and he extended the School's appreciation of the Marae's warm hospitality.

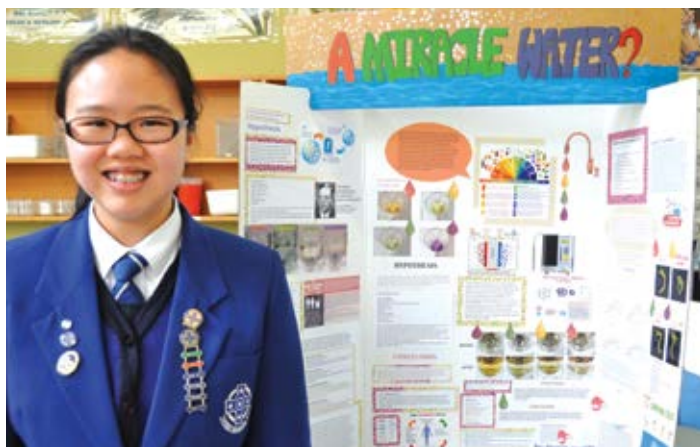
The girls then offered their thanks by performing a beautifully practised two part Maori waiata followed by all of the guests exchanging the traditional Maori greeting of a hongi. The kaumatua explained to the girls that there is a deep and spiritual meaning behind the traditional Maori greeting which means 'sharing of breath.'

After the formalities, the girls were intrigued to learn some history and interesting facts about Remuera, before splitting into two groups to take part in some cultural activities. Flax weaving was challenging but the girls were all determined to create their own flax flower and the help they gave to one another was pleasing to see. In the wharehau, the second group was led through the words and actions of a Maori song before putting them all together to the strum of Mr Finn's and the kaumatua's guitars. At the end of their visit, a blessing was given to the visitors to go forth and be safe on their journey.

The trip was a very culturally enriching experience for the girls and they all enjoyed learning the history of Maori and their ancestors. And what did the girls think of their trip? Ka Pai! Thank you to the parents who took time out to join the girls on their trip to Ruapotaka Marae.







### NIWA Auckland City Science and Technology Fair Results:

**Year 7-8 Highly Commended**  
Sharon Susanto 'A Miracle Water' Material World

**Year 7-8 Highly Commended**  
Kate Pennycuick 'Produce Power' Material World

**Year 7-8 Highly Commended**  
Sharon Hung 'Wire Me Up' Physical World

**Year 7-8 Highly Commended**  
Georgia Roberts 'Is Your Cat Fat?' Living World

**Year 7-8 Highly Commended**  
Zoe Spencer 'Is Your Patty Fatty?' Material World

## NIWA Science Fair

Five girls with a love of science saw Sharon Susanto, Sharon Hung, Kate Pennycuick, Georgia Roberts and Zoe Spencer from Year 8 all receive placements at the NIWA Auckland City Science and Technology Fair. The annual event celebrates the excellence in scientific and technological investigation carried out by students in Years 7-13 across Auckland city.

The girls' 'Highly Commended' winning entries were amongst ten Year 8 projects entered into the competition that had been judged earlier in the term at the Girls' School Science Fair. A team of judges, including scientists, educators and industry representatives selected the winners at the 55th regional fair where the projects sat on display. Sharon Susanto's project, 'A Miracle Water' entered in the Year 7 & 8 Material World category, also claimed a Special Prize - a Bronze Sponsor's Award by the NZIFST Award for Food Technology.

The girls all attended the NIWA Prize Giving Ceremony held at King's School War Memorial Hall in Remuera. The main speaker for the evening was NIWA meteorologist and forecaster, Chris Brandolino who spoke enthusiastically and was very encouraging of persevering with science and making a commitment to finding and discovering answers. He also encouraged students to keep working at getting the 'tools' for the great jobs in engineering and science and to 'be good at maths and science' to learn the skills. His final plea to the young students was for more women to be strong in science and continue to be good scientists.

## Science Roadshow Visit

In Term 2, the Year 7 and 8 girls had an exciting, interactive, learning experience at the Science Roadshow mobile discovery centre enjoying live shows and interactive experiment exhibits. The visit to the travelling show, held at Dilworth Junior School, was the conclusion to the Girls' School Science Week.

To explain the science behind each exhibit, the experiments included context boards with detailed information about how to use the exhibit and where this type of science occurs in everyday life. A number of the exhibits also had student 'explainers' - senior students from Dilworth Junior School, who were there to assist the girls so they could gain the most from their Roadshow experience.

The girls were able to watch a number of shows put on by the Roadshow staff, one of which focused on reactions and the gases in the air using liquid nitrogen and hydrogen bombs. The girls now know that when you fill a balloon with the right mix of hydrogen and oxygen, it will result in a

very loud bang as the chemicals react! The Roadshow quiz also kept them challenged and tested their scientific knowledge with a task to discover the science at work behind three non-explained exhibits.

Science Week at the Girls' School is a fantastic opportunity for the girls to observe and practise specialised science topics in an environment set outside the classroom. Science Teacher, Mrs Jess Francis said that the activity programme enables extended learning for the girls making their experience in the classroom richer. 'It provides an extra layer to their learning and it's fun,' she said.



## ICAS Science

Congratulations to the following girls who received letters of commendation for being awarded Distinction in the University of New South Wales ICAS Science examination. This places them in the top 10% of candidates. Commonly referred to as ICAS, the competitions are conducted annually in Australia and over 20 countries globally.

These are independent skills-based assessments in the key scientific areas of observing and measuring; interpreting; predicting and concluding; investigating; reasoning and problem solving.

### Distinction

**Year 4:** Amy Bartlett

**Year 8:** Sharon Hung Kate Pennycuick Sharon Susanto



## Cooking with Words

Adding a dash of flavour to their English writing classes was top chef, Edward Paje who ran a couple of master cooking lessons for the Year 4 girls in Term 3. Edward, whose daughter attends the Girls' School, is the owner of Neptune Café and Bar in the Viaduct. During his visits he demonstrated how to prepare and cook a substantial dinner that the girls then made themselves.

The practical lessons were an introduction to the girls' procedural writing classes where they used their time in the kitchen to succinctly describe the process of making and/or doing something. For their writing, the students watched Edward model how to cook a particular dish, then in small groups they worked in collaboration following the recipe steps. Back in the classroom, the girls deconstructed Edward's instructions by writing them in a structured and ordered format.

On the menu for their first lesson was 'En Papillote' which is French for 'paper bag cooking'. The dish is unique in the way it cooks by steaming and baking inside tin foil and baking paper parcels. Under the skilful guide of the culinary whizz, the girls prepared layers of chicken and vegetables and drizzled the dish with a herb and stock butter sauce before putting their folded pouches into a hot oven. The results were worth the wait as the delighted class of girls carefully opened their parcels and had the pleasure of eating!

In their second lesson, the girls were challenged with another of Edward's signature dishes - roast Latin rubbed chicken breast, roasted Portobello mushrooms, kumara mash with crusted feta and pistachio nuts served with a honey mustard sauce. In stages, Edward talked the girls through preparing the chicken and vegetables and making the finishing sauce. For the presentation, he showed the class how to plate up the food in a stack like a professional.

Year 4 Teacher, Mr Andrew Finn, said the practical lessons for the writing classes started off simply by making bite-sized, hors d'oeuvre snacks earlier in the term, with the girls working their way up to more complex dishes. As the difficulty level of the recipes progressed, so did their writing.

Mr Finn said that aside from building on their cooking and writing techniques, there were other valuable attributes the girls were learning. 'Communication skills, self-discipline and knowing your role are all very important when you're cooking as part of a team,' he said. 'There has also been great parental support with a number of Year 4 and 5 parents coming along to help out.' He said it was pleasing that some of the girls took the lessons a step further and extended themselves by making the dishes for their families at home.

The two lessons were highly successful with the girls enjoying learning new skills in the kitchen and turning these practical experiences into theory on paper.

### Edward Paje – Owner/Head Chef, Neptune Café and Bar

Philippines-born Edward started out in the kitchen at the age of 14, cooking with his aunts, uncles and mother who was a chef for 27 years, so he knows how it feels to learn at a young age. 'Cooking is now natural to me so I love passing on my knowledge,' he said. 'For me it's all about that moment when I see the girls get inspired by the little things that I teach them.'

He said for him as a chef, food is life. 'When you eat really good food it makes your soul happy and it brings everyone together. That's why it's important for children to learn how to cook when they're young.'







## Soiree

Just like the Sunday evening gatherings in Victorian times, the Girls' School Musical Soiree featured a medley of songs and dance performances from different genres and showcased the talents of each and every one of our students. Involving over 190 girls across Years 0-8, the event was spread across two performance nights for the girls' families and the school community.

Opening the entertainment for the evening, the whole school joined on stage to sing the uplifting ballad 'Colour My World', after which the 14 member strong Orchestra played the classical piece, 'Catavina'. The show tune 'Sixteen Going on Seventeen' from The Sound of Music followed, before Elton John's 'Can You Feel the Love Tonight' wrapped up the Orchestra's trio of songs.

Choral harmony is one of the highlights of our Performers' Choir who replicated their silver award winning performance from the Kids Sing Concert earlier this year with their delivery of 'The Moon' and 'Three Little Fishes.'

Sharon Hung's solo cello piece, 'Cello Concerto No 1 (1st movement)' was in preparation for her ATCL music exam next year; the next stage after having completed Grades 1-8. Sharon's nimble-fingered talent for her age was incredible and this was evident in the depth of the emotion and skill that Sharon poured into her recital. With a nod of her head as her final bow was strung, the audience erupted into a thunderous applause that was well deserved.

From classical music to pop, the Year 6 dance troupe burst across the stage to the robust energy of pop artist Sia's 'Chandelier'. Clearly enjoying the chance to perform, the girls mimicked each other making for a mirrored sequence of dance.

Playing one of the most challenging of instruments for the evening were Year 8 students, Kate Pennycuick and Fayth Doherty. Walking slowly on to the stage, the sound of the bagpipes filled the Hall as they played the traditional Scottish tune, 'The Barnyards of Delgaty'. Having previously learnt the chanter, the girls are now well on their way to becoming accomplished bagpipe players and can be congratulated on their sterling effort.

The giggle-worthy entertainers' piece, 'Pots and Pans' by the Year 5 girls awakened the senses as the girls banged kitchen instruments as props!

After the girls came together once more for the finale to sing the now familiar, 'Saint Kentigern Girls' song, Dr Hastie expressed to the audience just how special it was for them to all be on stage at once as a family and thanked her dedicated team of staff for all of their hard work that had gone into preparing for the evening. All the students can be proud of their polished performances and tremendous showmanship that made the evening such a success.

## A Gift of a Baby Grand Piano

In Term 2 the Girls' School warmly welcomed Tyler Butler's parents and her Grandmother, Anne Butler as special guest visitors to their assembly.

Mrs Butler had recently moved from her home and had gifted to the school a beautiful Kawai baby grand piano which is taking pride of place in the hall. Originating from Japan, Kawai baby grand pianos are renowned for their legacy of quality, craftsmanship and tone.

Director of Music, Mrs Nicola Brown is enjoying playing this wonderful instrument which will be treasured and enjoyed for many years to come. Our very special thanks to Mrs Butler for her wonderful gift to the school.





# Silver at Kids Sing!

**In their second year of entering the Kids Sing Festival, the Girls' School Performers' Choir was once again awarded Silver for their polished performance.**

Organised by the NZ Choral Federation, the competition encourages primary and secondary school students to take part in regional festivals designed as an opportunity for children and conductors to perform in a supportive environment with constructive feedback.

This year, each school was required to sing three songs including a test piece, a piece by a New Zealand composer and one 'other' song chosen by the school. The test piece for all schools this year was 'The Moon,' a lyrical piece by Andy Beck with wonderful long phrases and a lovely melody that the Choir performed beautifully.

All eyes were on the Choir's conductor, Music Teacher, Mrs Nicola Brown as the 31 girls opened their performance with their New Zealand piece, 'May God Bless You', a blessing especially written for the Girls' School with lyrics by Rev Reuben Hardie and music by Chris Artley. Chris was the last Music Director of Corran School before it merged with Saint Kentigern and we thank him for collaborating with Rev Hardie on this special piece. The girls' third piece was The Three Little Fishes, a Southern children's song written in



1939. While it was a #1 hit in 1939, it has also been sung by the Andrews sisters and Madonna.

The adjudicator, Stephen Rapana told the students that each time they walk on to a stage, to think about how much they love singing; it will make a difference to the way they perform. He said that in his judgement, he was looking for their dynamics, tempo changes and in particular, energised singing! He commented that the girls had 'lovely tone and breath support' in their 'beautiful' performance of The Moon and there was 'lovely attention to dynamics and a good song choice' for May God Bless You. Three Little Fishes was another great song choice, he said with lovely choralography and facial expression, and he appreciated the energy and diction in this piece. Stephen was also able to give the choir some really positive pointers about their performance which will help further develop their singing skills.



## Exploring Signs and Symbols

Our junior girls embarked on an enriching experience when they visited the Auckland Art Gallery to explore the themes of signs and symbols in artwork. The morning programmes for the Year 0-3 girls included a guided gallery tour and studio art lesson where they learned some of the diverse ways that artists use symbols in their artworks and what these symbols tell us.

In the practical art session, the girls heard how we can use representations to tell people about ourselves. Using a template, the girls were challenged to draw a picture of themselves without drawing any defining facial features or hair. Instead, they were to identify things that were important to them and sketch these to use as clues. The girls were able to express their own ideas on paper on what defined them such as their favourite clothing, colours, food, jewellery, pets, activities and their homes and school.

Out in the gallery, the girls explored the use of symbolic objects of identity and culture within portraits of Maori and Pakeha by prolific New Zealand painters, Charles Goldie and Gottfried Lindauer. The girls also enjoyed drawing lines and colours on paper to demonstrate signs of feelings and the meanings associated to these.

The purpose of the art gallery learning programme is to nurture the girls' curiosity, awareness and understanding in the arts and develop critical thinking skills that are transferrable to other environments. Through the creation of opportunities for discussion through interaction with the arts, the students are enabled to articulate and share their own artistic insights with enthusiasm and confidence.



# Poetry Competition

*'There are endless images and words to use when you write, but only the right combination will do.'* - Joy Cowley, Author



The Girls' School annual Poetry Competition proved once again to be a highly successful and entertaining morning full of laughs and some impressive original poetry. The competition was adjudicated by Paula Green, an accomplished Auckland poet, who is now well known by the girls, having adjudicated on a number of previous occasions. She enthused about the high standard of poetry she heard and thought this year's poetry was the best yet. As she kept saying to the audience when presenting her decisions, she found it very difficult to pick a winner in each age group.

Some of the highlights of the morning included a medley of nursery rhymes from a group of Year 1 students and descriptive animal poems from Year 11. A selection of confident Year 2 students took to the stage to present their autumn leaves poems. Paula thought their language was 'sizzling, simmering and hot!'

## Congratulations to the winners:

Year 3:	Lucy Grant	Leaves
	Chloe McGregor	Peaches the Pirate
Year 4:	Cassandra Wood	Hillary's Ice Cracker
Year 5:	Vivian Pettigrove	Suvin my Cat
Year 6:	Nieve Campbell	Nature's Autumn
Year 7:	Kristen Hansen	If Only
Year 8:	Sophia Pettigrove	The Snowy December
Runner Up:	Annie Yu	Kereru

The Year 4 competitors presented poems as objects from history, sharing their point of view on historical people and events. These included French impressionist artist, Claude Monet, South African politician and philanthropist, Nelson Mandela and New Zealand mountaineer and explorer, Sir Edmund Hillary. Year 5 then presented purr-fect cat poems and shared their tales on mischievous cats.

Full of great detail, there were also a couple of powerful war poems and a poem about our native wood pigeon, the Kereru which Paula thought had stunning detail. The Year 8 winner, Sophia Pettigrove drew us into a tale about one snowy December which Paula described as 'haunting and mysterious.'

## Kereru

By Annie Yu

He's the deepest  
Olive green.  
With his smooth,  
eggshell white  
chest exposed,  
he crashes clumsily  
through branches adorned  
by fresh morning rivulets.

His slow, heavy  
Wingbeats break  
Through the stark silence.  
His eyes,  
Droplets of cranberry red wine.  
He picks  
On the last of the berries,  
Then, calling a soft farewell,  
'Coo-coo, coo-coo'  
He escapes Winter's grasp,  
A bird of serene hues,  
He is the Kereru.

## That Snowy December

By Sophia Pettigrove

No-one believed me when I  
tried to tell  
What happened when deep in  
the snow I fell.  
They thought I was lying  
And I went home crying.  
But I still remember  
That snowy December.

I walked to the well with a  
bucket in hand  
Wishing I was on a beach with  
warm sand.  
I looked into the distance  
at things non-existent.  
I'll always remember  
That snowy December.

I'd reached the small well when I  
spotted a stream.  
I followed the water; I walked in  
a dream.  
Then I started falling  
For something was calling.  
Oh, how I remember  
That snowy December.

The rest of the story you'll have  
to work out  
You'd think I was mad if I told  
you, no doubt.  
Or think I was lying  
And I would start crying  
Perhaps you remember  
That snowy December.

# Speech Competition

Wrapping up weeks of research, writing, practising and judging was the prepared Speech Competition held in front of staff and parents in the hall. The annual event is an opportunity for students from Year 3 up to refine their public speaking skills at a competitive level and is a continuation of the skills being developed in their Speech and Drama classes at school. Each year level had an assigned general subject from which students were to choose a specific topic of their own.

The adjudicator, Mrs Anna Coleman, was impressed with the choice of topics, the way the younger students utilised their visual aids and the conviction with which the older students shared their persuasive speeches. She said the girls 'chose subjects that you're obviously passionate about and that showed in your convincing arguments.'

Amélie James Power, Year 5, spoke with enthusiasm about her once in a lifetime experience of being in the Auckland stage show 'Annie' and Alicia Lynn, Year 6, convinced the audience that children should have the vote. Ava Beca, Year 7, made the audience laugh with her reasons why children and parents should be treated as equals and Sharon Susanto, Year 8, expressed why children should not base their aspirations in life on Walt Disney characters as they are flawed and do not make good choices.



Congratulations to Year 8 winner; Sharon Susanto who also won the Impromptu section and Alicia Lynn, Year 6 who represented the Girls' School at the Year 5/6 Remuera Zone Prepared Speech Competition and was awarded 1st place.

## Well done to the winners from each year group:

Year 3: Charlotte Higgins	Year 6: Alicia Lynn
Year 4: Zoe Nel	Year 7: Zara Smith
Year 5: Amélie James-Power	Year 8: Sharon Susanto



# AUT Sports Workshop

As an extension of our sports programme, 20 of our Year 6-8 girls were selected to attend a full day workshop onsite at AUT Millennium as part of the Millenium Athlete Development programme. Three representatives from AUT Millennium worked with the girls to perform an 'IPA' (Individual Performance Assessment); a personalised testing system specific to each individual and tuned to their favourite sport.

The day's workshop was fully tailored to the needs of Saint Kentigern Girls' School with the girls completing fitness assessments and learning new strength training exercises to help prevent injuries along with ways to lift their performance.

The girls really engaged and showed a great interest in the topic of Sports Nutrition, learning that drinking liquid 'Up and Go' is not a good breakfast option! During the tests, Year 8 student, Nazanin Tuua achieved an amazing result with her 'forward squat jump' of 2.10 metres!



After the workshop the parents joined the girls for the IPA Results Seminar. Here, AUT's Programme Director gave an insight into what the girls' results meant, the positives and negatives, and the necessary steps moving forward to ensure the girls can be the best they can be.

Director of Sport, Ms Kristie Richards and PE and Sports Teacher, Mrs Courtney Rowson said they were both really impressed with the girls' behaviour and the effort they put in to what was a hugely valuable day.



# Raising Funds for Halberg

After weeks of training, the day of the annual Halberg Games finally arrived for the girls who were all ready to compete in this year's Skip Off and Cross Fit Challenge! Dressed in their most fabulous and funky sports gear, the students had fun whilst raising money for the Halberg Disability Sport Foundation. The Foundation works with physically disabled young people and their families to ensure they don't miss out on health, wellness and social benefits that sport provides.

The girls were treated to a VIP visitor to inspire them before the big event, paralympic athlete, Stacey Roche who shared a few words of wisdom about how to achieve success in sport. Stacey has represented New Zealand to the highest level in Boccia and has attended a few Paralympics as Team Captain. After a quick Boccia demonstration, she also answered pupil's questions, leaving the girls with the determination that anyone can achieve anything if you work hard enough!

The girls had two ways they could raise money for Halberg; by participating on Halberg Day in their most colourful or creative sporting outfit with a \$2 gold coin donation or by collecting sponsorship for the Games from family and friends. The timetable was split into three sessions and competitions across the day; the Year 0-3 Jump Off, Year 4-6 Crossfit Games followed by the Year 7-8 Crossfit Games.

We were pleased to welcome special guest and Chief Executive of the Halberg Foundation, Mr Geoff Burgess who came to spectate and remind the girls of the good cause that their hard work was contributing to. With Dr Hastie cheering on the side lines, the girls all tried their best and showed some impressive stamina. It was a fabulous, fun-filled day enjoyed by all and was a fantastic effort in raising funds to help change the lives of physically disabled New Zealanders through sport and recreation.





# Chalmers Wins Girls' School Cross Country

Weeks of long distance training was put to the test for the Year 4-6 girls as they joined together with the Boys' School at the College to compete in their annual Cross Country.

Our Juniors joined the Juniors at the Boys' School where they had a fast and dry run. The hilly course was mapped out across the Boys' School, starting at the top field, looping up and down the driveway and around the rolling paddock of Roselle Lawn.

**Congratulations to the following students on their placings.**

YEAR 0			YEAR 1		
1st	Sienna Robertshaw	Ch	1st	Charlotte Ray	H
2nd	Brooke Rowntree	Ca	2nd	Ella Taylor	Ca
3rd	Chloe Chester	W	3rd	Claudia Stewart	Ch

YEAR 2			YEAR 3		
1st	Endrica Dhani	Ch	1st	Isabella Hughes	Ch
2nd	Sophia Starrenburg	Ch	2nd	Frances Revell-Devlin	W
3rd	Jing Jing Qiao	Ca	3rd	Audrey Lee	Ca

YEAR 4			YEAR 5		
1st	Mary Stanfield	Ca	1st	Verity Ward	Ch
2nd	Bridget Dennis	W	2nd	Laura Lightfoot	H
3rd	Cassandra Wood	H	3rd	Harriet Lightfoot	H

YEAR 6			YEAR 7		
1st	Ella Grayson	Ch	1st	Zara Smith	W
2nd	Olivia Connolly	W	2nd	Ava Beca	Ca
3rd	Rylie Cleaver	H	3rd	Mia Dobbe	W

YEAR 8					
1st	Zoe Spencer	Ch			
2nd	Georgia Roberts	H			
3rd	Emerald Bendall	W			

## HOUSE POINTS

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

The College was pleased to welcome the Year 7 and 8 girls who ran alongside their fellow College students at the end of Term 2. The track set off from the bottom field over the flat and hills, then once on the home straight, many runners managed to find it in their energy reserves to sprint the final leg. This made for a last burst of fierce competition between Houses!



## Sports Round Up

### FLIPPA BALL SUCCESS

With a continual growing interest in Flippa Ball, Saint Kentigern Girls' has three strong teams who have shown great commitment and determination each week. With only a few close losses early in the season, all three teams played for a top placing at the semi-final round. The finals saw all teams sitting in the top four for their division. Our newest Year 3/4 team, Leopard Seals played a strong win in the final Plate Division. Our stars for the season, were our Yr 5/6 Orcas who won 1st place in their division after a heart racing final against Saint Heliers Snappers. The girls demonstrated great skill work and determination and were the stronger team scoring the final goal to secure the win.

### GYMNASTICS

Year 8 student, Kate Pennycuik scored 29.1 out of a potential 30, and placed 2nd at the Champion of Champions gymnastics competition held at Waitakere Gymnasium in Term 3. Fantastic work Kate!

### AIMS GAMES

Five Year 7 and 8 girls joined with students from the Middle School at the College to compete in the annual AIMS Games held in Tauranga. Congratulations on the fantastic effort and team work that these girls put into their netball and football games over the action-packed and challenging week. The full AIMS report can be read on page 75.





# Mother and Daughter High Tea

The Mother and Daughter High Tea is a special afternoon dedicated to honouring the women and their mentoring role in the lives of our girls. Once again, it was a hugely popular event with brisk ticket sales!

To accommodate the special visitors, the occasion was held offsite in the JC Chalmers Hall at the Boys' School. The venue was decorated beautifully by a team from Parents and Friends, the tables laden with tasty afternoon fare, including Saint Kentigern branded cupcakes made by food technology students at the College. As the girls took their seats, they were excited to find gifts of craft activities and a jar of brownie ingredients to take home and bake.

Principal of the Girls' School, Dr Sandra Hastie warmly welcomed all the guests and expressed how special it was to have her own surprise guest joining the occasion - her own mum! Mrs Sue Nash, Director of the Preschool, had secretly arranged to bring her to tea - her first visit away from her rest home in two years!

Head Girl, Emerald Bendall read out a fitting poem devoted to mothers and all that they do, which was followed by an accomplished cello performance from Year 8 student, Sharon Hung, who played a piece by Bach. Explaining the history of afternoon tea, Dr Hastie said that the British tradition is believed to come from Anna, the 7th Duchess of Bedford in the early 19th century. In subsequent years the names 'Low Tea' and 'High Tea' derived from the height of the tables on which the meals were served.

Before High Tea was served, Dr Hastie shared a clip she found on YouTube. 'The Mum Song' - what a mum says in 24 hours condensed into two minutes and sung to the William Tell Overture, was a humorous reminder to all mums and ladies that they are not alone!

Our grateful thanks to the Parents and Friends Association and the team of volunteers, along with Vittoria Coffee, Illumina Soy Candles and the Old Collegians Association who generously donated food and other goods. Our thanks is also extended to Food Technology teacher, Mrs Susanna Pattison, Year 13 College student, Shana Du Toit and the Boys' School who contributed to the smooth and successful running of the event.



# Father and Daughter Breakfast

It was a crisp, pre-dawn start to the day for the girls and their Dads who attended the Girls' School annual Father and Daughter Breakfast. Two hundred and eighty five Dads, Grandads and their daughters filled the Ellerslie Events Centre for an early morning, hearty breakfast.

Dr Sandra Hastie, Principal of the Girls' School welcomed all guests to the special occasion that has steadily grown in number each year - now outgrowing two former venues! She reflected on the important role that Dads play in the girls' lives and the importance of quality time spent together. Head Girl, Emerald Bendall gave thanks with a grace dedicated to the Fathers before a tasty and nutritious breakfast was served.

Guest speaker, Rod Emmerson, an award winning cartoonist with the New Zealand Herald, then took the guests through the process of producing a cartoon, while divulging a little about life as a cartoonist. Each girl was provided with a clipboard and pencil to create their own cartoons and doodles, sharing their creations with each other and their Dads during the course of breakfast.

At the conclusion, Dr Hastie drew some lucky names out of a hat for the keenly awaited spot prizes, all donated from generous sponsors. There were even a few surprised and pleased Dads whose names were pulled out - some who walked away with baskets of skin care!

This year's breakfast was again a wonderful opportunity for Dads to spend time at an event 'just for them and their daughters' with the chance meet and catch up with other parents.

The Saint Kentigern Parents and Friends Association would like to recognise and thank their event sponsors who gave generously to help make the



Father and Daughter Breakfast possible. Thanks are extended to Impact PR, The Khan Family, SW Morris, World Moving and Storage, Shelley Horton, Rebecca Gadsdon-Green and the Saint Kentigern Old Collegians Association.

A huge thank you is also given to the three Year 1 mothers: Anna Avery, Barbara Chin and Julie Bolton who undertook the large-scale job of organising the event to ensure its success.