



SAINT KENTIGERN

Piper

December 2015

Saint Kentigern's
Brightest

Celebrating the success
of our top-achieving
academic students



Embracing Change

At the beginning of 2015, we had little idea of the changes that our School would be preparing to undertake. Change is healthy in an organisation and the School community is looking forward to new beginnings in 2016. As our roll continues to grow, we continue to seek new ways to challenge our students in all aspects of their school life.

The Saint Kentigern Way is based on the values by which we all try to live and work; one which we want to encourage in our students by developing confidence, resilience, enthusiasm, positivity, a work ethic, empathy and all the other attributes we hold dear, while always urging the girls to reach for the sky to become the people they aspire to be.

John Holt, teacher and later a lecturer at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, says, 'Since we can't know what knowledge will be most needed in the future, it is senseless to try to teach it in advance. Instead, we should try to turn out people who love learning so much and learn so well that they will be able to learn whatever needs to be learned.'

Every year we look for ways to showcase student stage talent and this year we presented a Creative Arts Evening. For those of you who attended, I hope you were impressed with the depth of talent we have in the school in singing, dancing and acting. I was immensely proud of the work that went into getting the girls stage ready, and I acknowledge every staff member who understood the value of performance and continued to challenge the students to realise their talent. Events such as these create memories of learning; far beyond memorising times tables and basic facts; memories that will never be forgotten by the girls.

Having a positive view of themselves is also encouraged by the wide variety of sporting opportunities offered. The number of activities that are available to them is commendable as is the level of success that is attained from a school the size of ours. Sporting events this year demonstrated excellent examples of team work, good sportsmanship and recognition of natural talent enhanced by hard work. Teaching our children to value each other's strengths is as important for us as developing individual talents because, while we may not achieve Olympic status, we can be inspired by those who reach the pinnacle of their career. My thanks go to all staff who have supported the girls through the sport programme.

Through our service programme, we endeavour to instil in our students the understanding around service to others. This is embodied in the prayer of St Ignatius of Loyola which we say every week in chapel; part of which encourages us 'to give and not to count the cost' and 'to labour and not to ask for any reward'. To all those girls who remembered to bring

a donation of food to chapel each week, your contribution made a difference to someone else's life; for those of you who donated clothing and toys and other goods through our Sharing Shed, you made a difference to someone's life at Dingwall; for those of you brought a gift to Carol Service, you made a difference to a child's life at Christmas.

We also recognise that the link between home and school must be strong and this has been especially evident with the incredible contribution made by Parents and Friends this year. How fortunate we were to have been offered the opportunity to make Gibbs Farm the centrepiece of the Parents and Friends fundraising this year and for this we are very grateful to Greg and Shelley Horton for being the conduit between Allan Gibbs, the owner of this extraordinary sculpture park, and the School. From that initial contact, a wonderful group of dedicated parents managed and marketed this event to the wider community and as a result, the School was able to develop a new playground for our younger students. The School is immensely grateful for the contribution made.

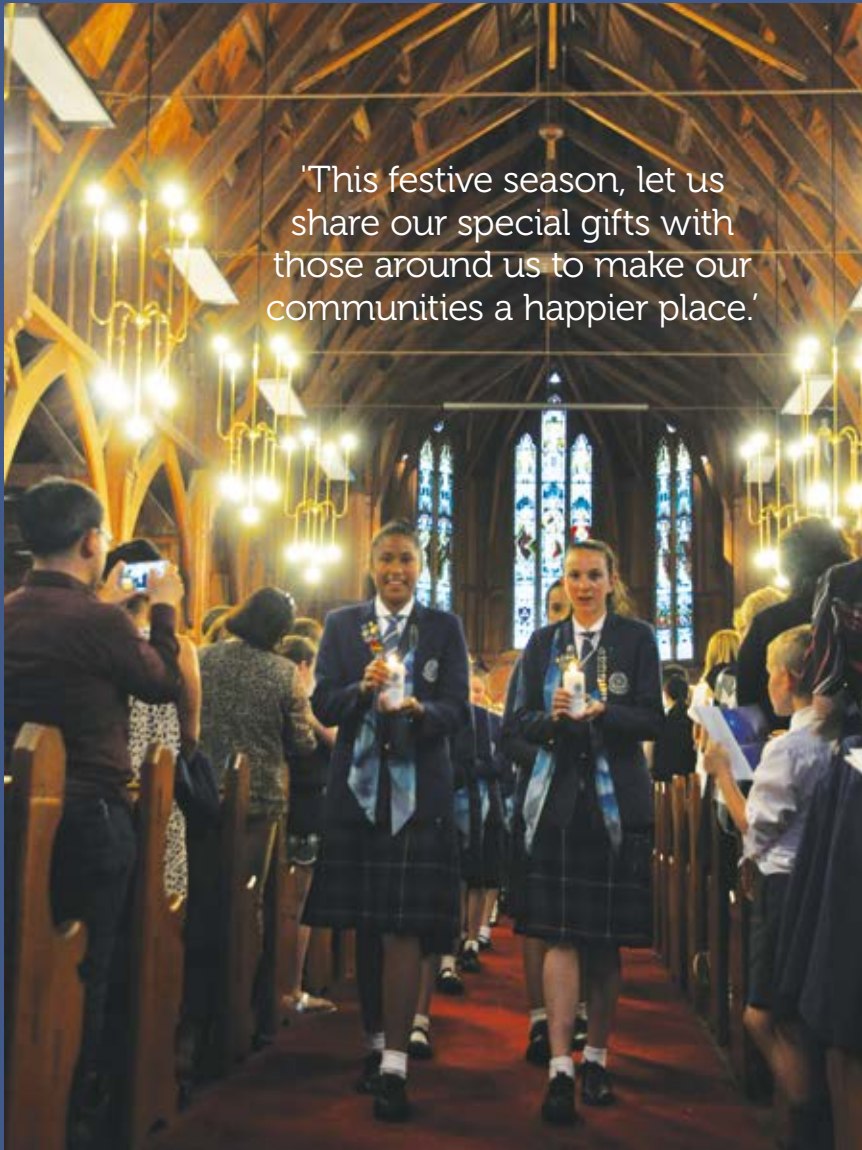
There have been a number of other occasions throughout the year where the school community has joined together and supported Parent and Friends events, including the Mother/Daughter High Tea and the Father/Daughter Breakfast and the ever popular disco. A very big thank you is due to Chairwoman Rebecca Gadsdon-Green and her team of willing helpers, all of whom believe in the future of our School and who work so hard to support School initiatives. We are also grateful to the Old Collegians, led by Mr Andrew Morgan. They have been wonderful supporters of our School from the very beginning.

In August, we farewelled the first Principal of Saint Kentigern Girls' School, Dr Sandra Hastie. She came into this school to do a very challenging job; to build a new all girls Year 1-8 school community which would become known as Saint Kentigern Girls' School. Sandra worked tirelessly to achieve this goal and departed from our School leaving it well set up to meet the ongoing challenges of modern education.

At the beginning of 2016, we welcome Ms Juliet Small as Principal to Saint Kentigern Girls' School. I know that she is very excited about the prospect of leading a school such as ours and she will bring her own unique experiences to our community. New ideas and different perspectives are essential in any organisation. Our staff are looking forward to working with her in 2016 and the girls are excited to meet their new principal.

Judith Dobson,
Acting Principal





'This festive season, let us share our special gifts with those around us to make our communities a happier place.'

The Gifts of Christmas

Christmas being a special time of giving was the pervading theme of this year's Girls' School Carol Service.

The giving of time to be shared, of gifts under the tree, of love between family and friends, and of thanks for the birth of Jesus Christ were celebrated during the jubilant service at St Mary's Church. After the congregation was welcomed by The Very Reverend Jo Kelly-Moore, Dean of Holy Trinity Cathedral, followed by Acting Principal Mrs Judith Dobson, the guests rejoiced in the gift of music with the opening carol, 'Once in Royal David's City'. It was introduced with a beautiful duet by Head Girl, Moiralisa Aneru and Chapel Prefect, Selena Agaimalo which inspired the guests to be in full voice for the following verses.

The readings and hymns chosen for the service all touched on gifts to remember during the festive season: those of love, hope, joy, peace, friendship and God's gift to the world. The students from Saint Kentigern Preschool made a cameo appearance to sing 'Go Tell It on the Mountain', with big voices and enthusiastic actions! The girls reading Bible verses, poems and Christmas messages were interspersed with carols performed by the students, who were joined by the congregation for traditional favourites such as 'Away in a Manger' and 'Mary's Boy Child'.

Year 8 student, Ava Beca's reading invited her schoolmates to bring forward offerings that would be provided to Auckland City Mission for families in need. 'The joy of brightening other lives with gifts is part of our service to the wider community,' said Ava. 'As the shepherds and the wise men brought gifts of love to place at the manger for the new baby, so we too leave our gifts.' Alexandra McOmish, who is in Year 5, expressed similar sentiments: 'As we celebrate the birth of Jesus tonight, let us reflect for a moment on these important gifts and what Christmas really means. This festive season, let us share our special gifts with those around us to make our communities a happier place.'

Accompanying the School Choir singing 'Child in a Manger Born' were the Year 1 girls arranging themselves in a cherubic nativity scene at the front of the church. The Performers' Choir appropriately followed with 'The Angel Song'. Reverend Reuben Hardie's message was based around people's reactions to gifts. He presented a handful of girls with a variety of presents from a rubber chicken to chocolate coins, with their reactions making plain how desirable their gift was! He imagined what Mary and Joseph's reactions to the gifts from the wise men would have been. Gold would have been a very welcome gift, while the unusual gift of frankincense might have confused them, until the wise men pointed out that it was used to anoint those who served God. Myrrh was traditionally associated with death so could have been disappointing for Mary and Joseph. 'Yet the wise men who gave it perhaps knew that the death of Jesus on the cross was going to be the significant moment in his life,' said Rev Hardie.

The service ended with a moving moment as the Year 8 girls came forward to receive their leavers' candle from Rev Hardie and Mrs Dobson. The candles had each student's name printed on it, and will be a lasting reminder of their time at the School, along with their leavers' scarves and bracelets. The congregation sang 'O Come All Ye Faithful' as the students lined up in front of them before filing out ahead of the guests. The recognition of the gift that the leaving girls had provided to the School, through their personalities, dedication and leadership, was a fitting way to end this merry and joyous occasion.



Rewarding Success

Excellence, progress, diligence, spirit, and promise – whether it be in academics, the cultural programme, sport or citizenship, these qualities were all recognised at the Girls' School prizegiving. There wasn't a spare seat available in JC Chalmers Hall at the Boys' School as families gathered to conclude the school year with a celebration of the girls' achievements.

The ceremony opened with Girls' School graduate and now College pupil, Fayth Doherty giving back to her community by piping in the official party of Trust Board members and staff, School leaders and special guests. The Chairman of the Trust Board, Dr Bruce Goodfellow, congratulated the School on another successful year and encouraged the girls to continue to maintain and enhance the standards of excellence they have set. Acting Principal Mrs Judith Dobson recapped the many accomplishments the students have achieved this year, both individually and in performance groups and sports teams. 'The Saint Kentigern Way is based on the values by which we live and work, which we want to encourage in our students by developing

confidence, resilience, enthusiasm, positivity, a work ethic, empathy and all the other attributes we hold dear, always urging the girls to reach for the sky to become the people they aspire to be,' she said.

Academic prizes were awarded from Year 0 to 8, with awards for individual subjects starting in Year 5. The prolific cultural and sports programmes at the School were celebrated with awards for speech and drama, art, and music, and for the winners of our School sports championships and most valuable players of our teams. For the second year running, multi-talented athlete Zara Smith was named Sportswoman of the Year. The first of the special awards was for citizenship, which went to Selena Agaimalo. Head Girl, Moiralisa Aneru is the inaugural recipient of the Dr Sandra K Hastie Cup for School Spirit, for her embodiment of the values of Saint Kentigern.

As well as being a successful sportswoman, Zara Smith is a musician, actor, all-round academic and accomplished public speaker. Zara gained distinction in her oral assessment this year and won the senior speech competition, as well as winning the

Remuera Zone speech competition. She was first in social science and Christian education in 2015 and is this year's Proxime Accessit.

Kristen Hansen received distinction in her Grade 4 Trinity College speech and drama examination. She was selected as the most promising performer in her age group at the Auckland speech and drama competitions and placed first in the School in Science. She is a well-deserved recipient of the Dux of the School for 2015.

While this was largely a time of celebration, there was a tinge of sadness with it being the final gathering of the Year 8 girls before they embark on their various new challenges next year. In her vote of thanks to the School, Head Girl, Moiralisa Aneru paid tribute to this group of girls who will always be daughters of Kentigern. 'This School has no doubt brought out the best in us and allowed us to explore our full potential.' She encouraged her 'little sisters' that she is leaving behind to follow their dreams as they continue on their path to becoming bold young women.



Dr Sandra K Hastie Cup for School Spirit - Moiralisa Aneru



Citizenship Award - Selena Agaimalo





Leaver's Scarf Presentation

The final Chapel of 2015 was made even more poignant with the presentation of leavers' scarves to the Year 8 girls. These scarves are unique to Saint Kentigern Girls' School as they are handmade of silk with each one being individual in design. They have four symbols that signify specific events in the life of Saint Kentigern: the tree, the fish, the bell and bird. The girls were presented their scarves by the Year 0 and 1 students in the customary tradition of gratitude from the youngest members of the School to their older role models. 'I hope that you will wear it with pride, that you will treasure it in the years ahead and that wherever you are next year, you will always remember this School and that you will always be a daughter of Kentigern,' said Acting Principal, Mrs Judith Dobson.



Dux – Kristen Hansen

Kristen placed first in Year 8 science and excelled in English, demonstrating maturity and innovation in her writing. She has shown great interest in the arts, and has successfully participated in outside competitions and external examinations. She sat Grade 3 and 4 Trinity College speech and drama examinations and received distinction in her Grade 4 examination. She was selected as the most promising performer in her age group at the Auckland speech and drama competitions.



Proxime Accessit – Zara Smith

Zara has achieved results of the highest standard throughout her time at the Girls' School. She has continued to work hard and achieve excellent academic results this year, and has succeeded in being placed first in social science and Christian education. She has combined her accomplishments in the classroom admirably with her leadership role as Deputy Head Girl and sporting success, which also saw her receive the Sportswoman of the Year award for the second consecutive year.

Girls Host Local Heroes

What does a spray paint artist, an ear, nose and throat specialist, an Olympic athlete and an optometrist all have in common? These were some of the local heroes who shared a morning tea with the Year 4 class as part of our social sciences curriculum. After an initial brainstorm about global and national icons, the girls devised their own definition of a hero: 'a hero is someone who thinks about other people and keeps working hard at doing good things for the world.'

The girls then nominated eight different local heroes. A nanny, a hairdresser, a physiotherapist and a psychology student were also included in the list. These nominees were all people who had made a considerable contribution in one of the girls' life by going above and beyond their expected professional requirement.

After making an appointment to interview the local heroes, the girls all set to task generating a slideshow to celebrate their nominees' achievements and hard work. They also created songs, acrostic poems and raps about their local hero.

Along the way, the girls gained a lot of knowledge about a range of different professions. They also learned about the value of people's work and the way people give back to society without any expectation of reward or recognition.





Year 4 give to new Kiwis

With thanks to Year 4 teacher, Mr Andrew Finn

For our social sciences unit, the Year 4 girls learned about the plight of refugees. At the start of the unit, the girls had a very good conceptual understanding of the factors that cause people to become refugees in the world. They also conveyed as a class a strong sense of sympathy towards displaced people. The class was asked if there was anything they could do to help refugees 'within the next 24 hours' - to see how connected they were with the aid process. One girl, Frances Revell Devlin, went home and found out about the refugees from Afghanistan who had helped NZ troops as interpreters, and made a financial donation to the Red Cross refugee appeal to help with their settlement in the Manawatu. She returned the next day to school with a receipt of the donation.

The girls learned through a simulation in class of the tough decisions refugees have to make, sometimes with little or no time, using the Rwanda conflict with the Hutus and Tutsis as an example.

Using the book 'One Day We had to Run' by Sybella Wilkes as inspiration, the girls also took time to generate artwork to represent the situation facing refugee children. Many of their drawings portrayed overcrowded boats crossing the Mediterranean Sea, trains overflowing with people and countless tiny dots walking along long roads.

When the refugee crisis began to occur in Syria, the girls were already very knowledgeable about aid agencies and the work they do. At a Parents and Friends meeting, it was discussed about how the School could help with the cause as refugees began to arrive in Auckland. The Year 4 class decided to gather items from home to donate to the Mangere Refugee Centre through the Red Cross. The girls donated a huge pile blankets, pillows, duvets, quilts, soft toys and clothes which have now been delivered to the new Kiwis in need.



Singers Shine in Prestigious Competition

At the prestigious New Zealand Aria Celebration of Song competition, Amélie James-Power, Scarlett Jacques and Addison Peebles came away with a number of great results!



Tip Top Factory Visit

The trip to the Tip Top factory for the Year 4 girls was more than just seeing where their favourite ice cream is made! The tour of the iconic factory was to freeze in their minds the process they had been learning for procedural writing.



Citizenship Awards

Hannah Timo (Year 8) and Vivian Pettigrove (Year 6) were chosen as this year's recipients of the Remuera Lions Citizenship Awards. They were presented with certificates and a badge to wear on their blazer at a special ceremony at the Boys' School.



Halberg Day

The Girls' School Halberg Day pushed the students' physical capabilities all in the name of raising funds for a great Kiwi cause. It also gave the girls a chance to push the limits of fitness fashion, as they dressed up in funky sports gear for the day! Each girl donated \$5 to be in mufti, and they also collected online sponsorship from family and friends.

The money raised went to Halberg Disability Sports Foundation, which works with physically disabled young people and their families to provide the health, wellbeing and social benefits of sport. Saint Kentigern has a special connection to the Halberg Foundation with former Boys' School Principal, Mr Geoff Burgess now the Endowment Executive of the organisation. Mr Burgess, whose wife, Mrs Barbara Burgess is a teacher at the Girls' School, visited the Halberg Day three times to offer his support.

The Junior, Middle and Senior School each had a session of activities, with the Year 0-3 girls getting the fun underway with skipping relays and a jump rope jump-off! The Year 4 to 8 students took part in a cross-fit circuit programme, featuring stations for skipping, shuttle runs, planks, basketball shooting and step-ups.

The girls had to complete the entire circuit as many times as possible within 20 minutes with awards presented for first, second and third as well as spot prizes for categories such as best supporter and best dressed. The girls ended up raising more than \$2000. Prior to the day, the girls were inspired by a visit from four-time Paralympian, Dave MacCalman, who has won three Paralympics medals, including two gold at the 2000 Games in Sydney. The Year 7 and 8 girls had also received special training sessions from Newmarket Crossfit.





Year 8 Leavers Encouraged to Think Big

As the Year 8 leavers celebrated their time at the Girls' School during the Graduation Dinner, they were reminded to maintain the spirit of youth as they continue their journey into adulthood. During the evening at Sorrento restaurant in Cornwall Park, a great mix of inspirational speakers encouraged the girls to be brave and believe in themselves as they move on to their college years and beyond.

Acting Principal, Mrs Judith Dobson greeted the girls, parents, teachers and other members of the Saint Kentigern community followed by Mr Andrew Morgan, President of the Old Collegians' Association, who gave the sponsor's address. 'The special memories you have built up in your time at the Girls' School will help guide you in your times ahead,' he said. 'Be proud to be a Saint Kentigern girl.' He welcomed the girls into the Old Collegians' Association and urged them to connect with their fellow members as they embark on their careers in future years. Likewise, Old Collegians committee member and 2013 Head Girl of the College, Sharnika Leleni said the girls will always be daughters of Kentigern. 'You must be so proud of what you have achieved and of the privilege of having the opportunity to attend such a wonderful school. The values that have been instilled in you will hold you in good stead for the future.' The 2015 Head Girl of the

College, Grace Wood, had some sage advice for the girls as they enter secondary school. 'Don't be afraid to try new things and meet new people. Be openly friendly from day one – learning to make friends is a skill needed for life.'

The special memories you have built up in your time at the Girls' School will help guide you in your times ahead,'

The guest speaker was pioneering shoe designer, Mrs Kathryn Wilson, whose line of work immediately had the girls hanging on every word. She regaled the audience with the seemingly crazy things she had done to build her brand, such as creating a shoe covered entirely in diamonds, building a store in the shape of a shoebox, and inviting her idol, Jimmy Choo, to come to New Zealand. In keeping with the theme of the night, Mrs Wilson enlightened the girls to the power of thinking big. 'Just because it hasn't been done before, doesn't mean you shouldn't try,' she said. She referred to the mindset of eminent scientist Sir Ray Avery, whose philosophy is that people are

born with 30,000 days in their life and the challenge is think in a way to take advantage of every one of those days.

Mrs Dobson began by making special mention of the four girls who had been at the School since Year 1: Katherine Fletcher, Chelsea Rose Haydon, Alexandra Knox and Hannah Timo. 'It is what makes the job of an educator so special, so joyful, when a quiet shy five-year-old develops into a confident young woman on the brink of an exciting new adventure and we are there to witness that.' An avid reader who has charted the lives of successful authors, Mrs Dobson shared the story of 'Harry Potter' writer JK Rowling's rise to prominence. Mrs Rowling's manuscripts had been rejected a dozen times before finally being accepted. The qualities of hard work, perseverance and self-belief in her story are traits that Mrs Dobson hopes the students will emulate. She also read a message from former Principal, Dr Sandra Hastie which reiterated her final words of advice before she left for England earlier this year: 'be kind, have courage and be a friend.'

The occasion was a special way to celebrate and reflect on the students' primary school years and mark their transition from girls into strong, accomplished young adults.



Learning in the Field

With thanks to Mrs Jess Francis, science teacher
Photos by Mrs Deb Ward, parent

Tiritiri Matangi translates to 'buffeted by the wind', but after the previous day's stormy weather, we trusted the forecast from MetService that our trip would see fine, calm and sunny conditions. Our day of nature watching started on the ferry ride as the girls kept their eyes peeled for signs of dolphins, whales and korora (little blue penguins), but to no avail. As we approached the jetty on the island, torea (oyster catchers) could be seen walking the stony shoreline and kingfishers were darting into nesting holes in the cliffs.





Once we had disembarked the ferry, we were in the expert hands of the volunteers who guided us through the tracks leading to the lighthouse. The guides' invaluable skills in spotting well camouflaged and fast-moving species allowed the girls to tick off plenty of names on their list of rarest birds in the world. We walked quietly as we patiently listened to the chorus of birds, with the call of the tieke especially pronounced.

As the track curved its way through the bush, we were able to see many birds we had studied in class: toutouwai (NZ robin), hihi (stitchbird), tieke (saddleback), piwakawaka (fantail), tui (parson bird), korimako (bellbird), kereru (NZ wood pigeon), and tauhou (silver eye) were easy to spot. Popokatea (whitehead), miromiro (tomtit), pateke (brown teal), kakariki (parakeets) and takahe were harder to find but some groups managed a glimpse. Some even spotted the beauty of the kokako and many heard its song. Less visually appealing were the tree weta found in the roosts distributed along the board walks!

At the visitors centre, education officer Barbara Hughes spoke about the ways we can ensure the sustainability of our special wildlife in NZ. Her talk included many aspects of conservation the girls had learnt when studying the impact of plastic on the world's oceans.

The afternoon saw us walk along the ridge track and down to Hobbs Beach, where some groups helped to tidy the coastline. We were warned away from the nests of the oyster catchers by territorial cheeping and carefully tiptoed past the timid dotterels, who were a rare but precious visitor to the island this season. Finally we boarded the ferry with the sun still shining for a smooth crossing.

The experience of being outdoors, travelling to a mini paradise is now a lasting memory for the students. The skills and knowledge they gained by being in the field are important – learning from a book or a web search can only inspire so far – we were seeing, hearing and feeling the call of the wild. The students can confidently take pride in the native species they now know and continue to support the long-term future of endangered species.





Girls' School Athletics Days

After the senior girls had competed alongside College students in Term 1, it was the Junior and Middle School's turn in Term 4.

Junior School

The determination and exuberance shown during the Girls' School Year 0-3 Athletics Day was perfectly encapsulated during one race in particular. The final of the Year 0 50m sprint was closely contested right down the last metre, and then many more! Instead of stopping at the finish line, the girls carried on sprinting around the track for at least another 50 metres! The Year 8 girls who were helping as officials could only just catch them, such was the youngsters' excitement! It was a brilliant display of the competitive spirit that was evident throughout each of the events by all of the students. With the previous day bringing heavy downpours, we couldn't have asked for better weather for the competition, with clear skies greeting the girls as they arrived at the Boys' School track. There were individual titles up for grabs in ball throw, 50m sprint and long jump and there were also House points available during the sack race, Frisbee and obstacle course events.

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

Middle School

The extra day's rest from the long Labour Weekend came in handy for the Girls' School's Year 4-6 Athletics Day. The girls travelled to Pakuranga Athletic Club at Lloyd Elsmore Park to compete in sprint races, shot put, long jump, discus, high jump and an optional 800m event. While the sun was out, a chilly southerly breeze kept the temperature down and provided a handy tailwind during the sprints. The House competition was extremely tight with Hamilton winning by just four points! Congratulations to all the winners and place-getters!

Girls' School Year Group Champions 2015

	1st	2nd	3rd
Year 0	Amelia Hardie	Violet Lindsay Smail	Phoebe Wakelin
Year 1	Sienna Robertshaw	Laura Koeman	= Rosie Ward, Brooke Rowntree
Year 2	Claudia Stewart	Ashley Cheeseman	= Alianna Hay, Milly Macleod, Amie Hilliam
Year 3	Sienna Haar	Priscilla Zhong	= Sienna Hirst, Endrica Dhani
Year 4	Isabella Hughes	Alisa Iosua	Audrey Lee
Year 5	Mary Stanfield	Gracie Curtis	Zoe Wong
Year 6	Coco Hewitt	Eva Barry	Verity Ward
Year 7	Florence Dallow	Addison Peebles	Ella Grayson
Year 8	Zara Smith	Moiralisa AINU'u Aneru	Aimee Johnson



South-Eastern zone

Year 8 Discus	Moiralisa Aneru	1st (new record)
Year 8 Shot put	Moiralisa Aneru	1st
Year 8 High Jump	Zara Smith	3rd =
Year 7 High Jump	Florence Dallow	3rd =

Interzone Championship

Year 8 Discus	Moiralisa Aneru	2nd
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House Relays

The House relay race competition is an afternoon when friendships are put aside, classroom allegiances left behind and House loyalty comes to the fore! Teams of four from each House were selected featuring the top runners from each year level, based on results from sprint races at Junior, Middle and Senior School Athletics Days. Having the fastest runners isn't necessarily a guarantee of relay success, however, with time and places to be gained with a clean and efficient baton exchange!

HOUSE RELAY CHAMPIONS	
1ST	CARGILL
2ND	WISHART
3RD=	CHALMERS
3RD=	HAMILTON





Teamwork Day

The 2016 Year 8 girls are going to have a fantastic final year if the leadership and camaraderie displayed during their teamwork day was anything to go by! The girls spent a day at Adventureworks outdoor education park learning about how to work together to gain individual and team outcomes. They made a group contract to be encouraging, supportive, attentive, caring towards others, fun, humble and inclusive during the challenges ahead. The activities involved problem-solving tasks and conquering their fears by negotiating the high ropes. In thanking the instructors, J'adore Tavita-Harris summed up what the girls had realised throughout the day: 'We've learnt that we have an impact on others and others have an impact on us.'



Girls vs Wild

With thanks to student reporters, **Zara Smith** and **Mia Dobbe**

Girls v Wild lived up to its name on the first day with some crazy weather on Motutapu Island. The groups thought they were moving pretty quickly through the scavenger hunt challenge but when the thunder and lightning went off, they realised they were capable of much faster speeds! That wasn't all though, the black clouds, pounding rain and water spout certainly made our trip one to remember! However, we woke up the next day to a beautiful morning – a day perfect for wharf jumping. After helping the Department of Conservation to pull out weeds from the river bank, we were all ready for a swim. The water was crystal clear and very inviting. As soon as we were suited up in our togs, we had built up enough courage to take the leap of faith. A moment of free falling ended with a bomb into the cold but refreshing water. A truly amazing experience.

Zara Smith

Throughout Girl v Wild, we faced many challenges and obstacles to be overcome. One of the first major challenges was to go on a tramp around the island to learn about its history. We relied on our teammates to support us and help us when we found it difficult. If someone was struggling, we'd make sure to help them by carrying their bags and jumpers. If someone couldn't complete challenges, such as eating wasabi or sardines, the team would divide their share. If a teammate wasn't strong enough to hold others, we would make sure they would be on the top of the pyramid. This was a great exercise as it helped us forge relationships which would assist with teamwork. We know that we can rely on each other if we are ever in trouble.

Mia Dobbe



Grandparents' Morning

The pleasure of being a grandparent was encapsulated perfectly by Acting Principal, Judith Dobson in her welcoming speech at the Girls' School grandparents' morning.

'I had been told by others what a joy it was to be a grandparent but until you become a grandparent you never really understand the uniqueness of that role,' said Mrs Dobson. 'I was blessed with two wonderful grandmothers. Both of these women held a special place in my heart and whilst they have long since departed from my life, I hold the fondest memories of them.'

'Children learn so much from the

connections they make with adults from various generations. The world I grew up in is so very different from the one our grandchildren will inherit yet the need for human companionship and relationships will always remain.

Children can absorb from their grandparents a sense of history, identity, heritage, and the vital connection with the past. The life stories will grow in value as the children become adults.'

The school hall was packed full of proud grandparents eager for the opportunity to see their granddaughter's school and what she has been learning about. The students were waiting outside the hall to meet their grandparents, peering over the

heads of their schoolmates to spot them. There was an overflow of emotion when the two generations were united, especially for those grandparents who had travelled from outside of Auckland. The girls gave their family members a tour of the School and their classroom, with the art studio, engineering laboratory and library being must-see highlights. Many of the students were keen to show off their latest work

and introduce their teacher and grandparents to one another.

The visit was capped off by morning tea with a hot drink back in the school hall. Neither the students nor the grandparents wanted

the experience to end and extended their time together as long as possible. Mrs Dobson had concluded her welcome earlier in the day with a challenge to the girls. 'Listen to the stories that your grandparents share - in time those stories will become so important to you as part of your history,' she said. The students had definitely taken the advice on board as they listened to their grandparents' tales intently!

'Children learn so much from the connections they make with adults from various generations.'



Girls' School Parents and Friends Association

Chairperson's Report 2015

It is with great pleasure that I reflect back upon the 2015 year and share many of the wonderful achievements of the Parents and Friends' Association and that of our numerous parent volunteers.

The Parents and Friends Association plays an important role to enhance our school spirit and camaraderie along with providing many exciting events for our families to enjoy. The year started with our annual school picnic on a beautiful Auckland evening.



The amazing Gibbs Farm fundraiser excursion was simply outstanding. With a stunning autumn day and a 'sold out' crowd, we were all left to marvel at the incredible surroundings. This event was superbly organised and executed and we once again thank the organising committee of Shelley and Greg Horton, Deborah Higgins and Kim McGregor along with the many and varied supporters on the day.

The Mother and Daughter High Tea assembled together a wonderful turn out of mothers, grandmothers, sisters, aunts, carers and friends. A special thank you to the organising committee led by Barbara Chin with assistance from Aiko and Alistair Stewart, Henry Ray, Kim Gear, Sharon Bluck and Jennifer Duncan.



This year's Winter Wonderland-themed School Disco was eagerly anticipated by all of our girls. Our appreciation goes to the many volunteers who prepared the school hall and assisted during the evening so magnificently. Particular acknowledgement goes to Justine Murchison who led the organising of this event again.

The Father and Daughter Breakfast was timed to coincide with Father's Day, and was another special event which was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. The organisation of this event by Cate Scragg, Rebecca Scoones and their teams was greatly appreciated.

It has been a real thrill to see some new developments at school which have been due to the efforts of the Parents and Friends Association. The completion of the Junior School playground was a major highlight and one that is well received every day by all the Year 0 to Year 2 girls.

The Parents and Friends' Association would like to sincerely acknowledge the hard work and dedication of Dr Sandra Hastie throughout the year along with Judith Dobson, Janine Bennett, Karyl Kidd and staff. Many of our achievements would not have been possible without the support of the school staff who have been

so accommodating to our many requests. My personal thanks also go to the Parents and Friends' Association immediate past Chairman, Paul Fletcher.

I have been extremely fortunate to have worked with a very supportive and energetic Executive Team of William Black and Stacy Colyer along with our fabulous Committee of Shelley Horton, Deborah Higgins, Kim McGregor, Andrea Dennis, Michele Parent and Denise Yonge who continue to work tirelessly behind the scenes. We are a very cohesive team who want the very best for our girls and the School.

The 2016 year is shaping up to be an exciting year and the Parents and Friends Association look forward to fully supporting our new Principal, Miss Juliet Small as she settles into her new role. The parents are all excited by Juliet's announcement and we have total confidence that the Trust Board has chosen an excellent candidate who can continue to take the School forward during this exciting period of growth that we are experiencing.

Rebecca Gadsdon-Green,
Chairperson, Girls' School Parents and Friends



Open for Playtime

The popular Gibbs Farm visit organised by the Girls' School Parents and Friends was a successful fundraiser which paved the way for the new Junior School playground. The Parents and Friends along with the Old Collegians' Association combined to fund this initiative, which was opened in Term 4. After eagerly watching its construction throughout the year, the girls in Years 0-2 couldn't wait to get in the sandpit, get on the slide and start planting in the garden. Rebecca Gadsdon-Green, Parents and Friends Chairperson, cut the ribbon to mark the opening of this fantastic new development before the girls christened the new equipment with its first playtime.

