



SAINT KENTIGERN  
Independent Presbyterian Education

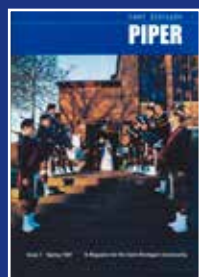
# Piper

December 2023



## 59ers Return for Boys' School Reunion





Issue 1



Issue 10



Issue 19



Issue 22

# A Chronicle Through Time

Since its inaugural edition in 1997, Piper has undergone multiple redesigns, each a testament to its commitment to evolving alongside the school and the changing times, mirroring the school's own progression. Our constant endeavour has been to encapsulate the essence of Saint Kentigern within the pages of the magazine, creating a timeless chronicle that reflects the life and journey of the school. As we look to 2024, we are delighted to announce an upcoming redesign of Piper. Join us on a journey down memory lane as we explore Piper's evolution through the years.

## Issue 1: Spring 1997

The inaugural issue featured the Pipes and Drums on the cover, setting the tone for the magazine's early editions. The Pipes and Drums have remained a vital part of school culture, consistently featured at major events.

## Issue 10: Winter 2000

A milestone issue marked by a new look—introducing a new colour-scheme for the cover, expanded pages, and a revamped layout. The cover montage showcased a young Thomas Buckley at the Boys' School Celtic Day, a perennial favourite.

## Issue 19: Spring 2003

A continuity in cover design with an updated interior, maintaining the magazine's evolving identity.

## Issue 22: Spring 2004

Continuing its evolution, this edition featured articles on the cover, offering readers a sneak peek into the content. The new design allowed for multiple images, covering different aspects of Boys' School, College, and Old Collegian life.

## Issue 33: May 2008

A significant departure with a light blue cover, embracing the Saint Kentigern light blue theme. The issue looked ahead to the Boys' School 50th jubilee, featuring a historical account by then-Principal Mr. Geoff Burgess.

## Issue 40: September 2010

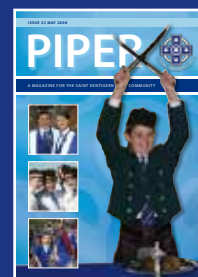
Witnessing the transition towards the current dark Saint Kentigern blue, this issue encompassed articles from the Girls' School, Boys' School, College, and Old Collegians. An advertisement hinted at the upcoming preschool on the Remuera campus in 2011.

## Issue 49: May 2013

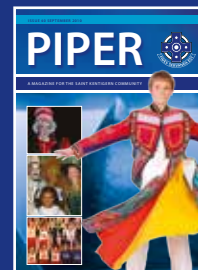
A milestone edition commemorating the College's 60th Jubilee. Under the auspices of the Trust Board, the four schools have their own dedicated sections in the magazine.

## Issue 57: December 2015

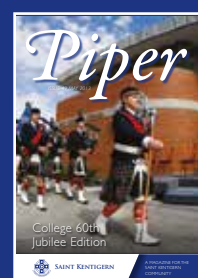
The first edition of the current design introduced a bold 'Piper' typeface, a vibrant interior, and an array of feature images. The magazine continued to capture the essence of students' experiences across our schools, providing an insightful glimpse into their lives and the diverse activities that shape our educational journey.



Issue 33



Issue 40



Issue 49



Issue 57

## Upcoming Saint Kentigern Development Events 2024

Discover opportunities to reconnect and network through the many events and programmes we have throughout the year. Please email Maree Galland at [maree.galland@saintkentigern.com](mailto:maree.galland@saintkentigern.com) if you are interested in attending or contributing towards any Saint Kentigern initiatives.

### Saint Kentigern Boys' School Old Boys' Golf Day

Thursday, 15 February 2024

Think you have what it takes to win the coveted Mungo Cap? Enter with a team of four and enjoy an afternoon on the course followed by drinks with Old Boys.

### Saint Kentigern Boys' School 65th Celebration Cocktail Function

Thursday, 22 February 2024, at Saint Kentigern Boys' School

Celebrate sixty-five years of delivering a world of opportunity and the very best educational journey for boys in Years 0–8.

### 2024 Presbyterian Schools Quad Tournament

Tuesday, 23 April to Friday, 26 April 2024, at Saint Kentigern College

Support our students' passion for rugby and loyalty to the blue and white at one of many events taking place during the week as Saint Kentigern College hosts the 34th Presbyterian Schools Quad Tournament.

### 2024 Saint Kentigern Distinguished Alumni Awards

Saturday, 7th September 2024

A prestigious event honouring and celebrating our distinguished alumni who have dedicated their lives in pursuit of excellence and in service of others. The nomination process will commence in from early 2024.

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In 2024, we will be celebrating a significant milestone – Saint Kentigern Boys' School's 65th year dedicated to educational excellence. For over six decades, our commitment to providing the very best education and experiences to boys in Years 0-8 has shaped a community that embraces the values of family, tradition, faith, service, leadership, and lifelong learning.

As we mark this momentous occasion, we invite Old Boys from 1959-1969 to reconnect and join us for a celebratory event on the 22nd of February, 2024 at 5:30 pm, hosted at the Boys' School Staff Room on Shore Road. This is an opportunity to reminisce and celebrate the pride of our shared legacy. Kindly RSVP to [sk\\_events@saintkentigern.com](mailto:sk_events@saintkentigern.com) by 7 February to confirm your attendance.





## From the Trust Board Chair Firsts and Milestones

This last year has been another busy one across the Saint Kentigern family of schools.

I have been fortunate to attend a number of end-of-year events, including graduation ceremonies, thank-you events for our Parents and Friends community, carol services and the like. From these events, it is very apparent that our community is increasingly interconnected. Many of our families have children at more than one of our schools, and a significant number of our students are children of our alumni. Our staff is increasingly working collaboratively across schools to ensure that the experience of our families is unique to age and stage, yet consistent in that it is genuinely part of one Saint Kentigern family.

Numerous parents have shared with me that there is something truly 'special' about our schools. This distinctive quality emanates from a combination of factors including our special character, our facilities, and the breadth of our offering across curriculum and cocurricular activities. The essence is further enriched by our robust service programmes and the nurturing care provided by our chaplains and teaching staff. It also stems from a community where families actively invest in their young people and proactively engage with Saint Kentigern – a reflection of an organisation with a well-defined identity and a community deeply connected through a strong sense of belonging.

2023 has been a year of firsts and milestones: the first full year post the Covid-impacted years, the first full year of our new Girls' School and the opening of our new Preschool on the Shore Road campus, our new principal for the Preschool, the appointment of a Girls' School Principal, the first full year in office for our College Principal, a special acknowledgement of four exceptional individuals who have supported our Shore Road schools at that campus's Te Pou o te Rīpeka (Garden of Honour), the celebration of twenty years of girls attending the College, and a reflection on seventy years since our foundation students entered the College grounds.

As we reflect on these milestones and our deeply connected community, I am also very pleased to share that the Trust Board continues to focus on the future, envisioning new endeavours and opportunities that lie ahead.

After spending much of the year continuing to work through refreshing the Pakuranga campus Master Plan, we have now completed the process and the financial planning is well advanced. The Trust Board will soon be commencing the staged redevelopment with two key buildings identified as immediate priorities. The first is a significant new classroom building designed for our

Year 12 and 13 students. Key consultants are currently being appointed and concept design work is due to commence in early 2024.

The second key development for the College is a performing and creative arts centre, currently envisaged to begin construction as soon as practicable after the successful delivery and occupation of the initial general classroom building. This announcement marks the start of our Pakuranga campus redevelopment that will see us investing in elevating the learning environment for the next generation of young people who will become sons and daughters of Kentigern. More details are available on page 5.

It is evident that our schools are not just places of learning but vibrant centres where the Saint Kentigern spirit flourishes, enabled by the people who make our community thrive. Nothing happens in our organisation by chance. Everything is well considered, well planned, and well executed by a dedicated cohort of very caring and passionate staff. I am so grateful to our staff across the organization – thank you for all that you do for our students and community. They are led by a great senior leadership team of principals and our chief operating officer through our Executive Trustee, Dr Kevin Morris.

My fellow trustees have been diligent and thoughtful as they have undertaken their governance obligations on your behalf, and I thank them for their ongoing contribution. This year I am delighted to welcome three new trustees: Mrs Hannah McQueen, Dr Catherine Harri, and Ms Sharnika Leleni – all great additions to the Board. At the same time, we farewell our Deputy Chair, Mrs Kelly Smith, and Trustee Mr Yong Tiong who retired from the Board. We also acknowledge that Reverend Ivan Martinez will step off the Board at the end of 2023 as he relocates his family to Dunedin. Several new appointments to the Trust Board will be announced in early 2024.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognise the partners of both our staff and our trustees. Saint Kentigern demands a lot from our people, and we thank their partners and families for letting us share their significant others in advancing our mission.

As we look forward to much in 2024, I know we will have a lot more details to share, particularly regarding the programme of work that will commence on the College campus. You will also see some exciting transformations to our branding which includes the redesign of Piper magazine and the website, reflecting our evolution and importantly articulating the distinctive qualities that define Saint Kentigern.

Our ongoing commitment to you, families of our young people across the Saint Kentigern schools, is to be diligent, to be caring, and to ensure that 'special' essence of who we are is maintained. We thank you for entrusting your children to our care. It is a privilege we take seriously.

Lastly, the theme of the Boys' School Carol Service this year centred on joy, peace, and gratitude. I trust you will find peace in the holiday season, experience abundant joy, and reflect on 2023 with much gratitude.

**Fides Servanda Est.**

**Mr Mark Conelly**  
Trust Board Chair



# Saint Kentigern Trust Board Welcomes Three New Members

We are pleased to announce the appointment of three new board members: Dr Catherine Harri, Mrs Hannah McQueen, and Ms Sharnika Leleni, to the Trust Board this year.

Dr Catherine Harri has a diverse background in science, management consulting, and project management. Earning her PhD in Pharmacology from the University of Auckland where she conducted her research within the Centre for Brain Research, Dr Harri has a passion for knowledge and hopes to never stop learning.

Dr Harri's family has a long history with Saint Kentigern with several members including her father, Dr Bruce Goodfellow, having attended the school and served on the Board. Her two children attended the Preschool and are currently in the Boys' School and Girls' School. An active member of her local Presbyterian church, the NZ Christians in Science, and the Parents in Prayer group, Dr Harri has always fostered a desire to be of service.



Mrs Hannah McQueen is a financial advisor and Chartered Accountant Fellow with a Masters in Taxation from the University of Auckland. Starting her career in auditing, Hannah went on to set up enable.me in 2007, a company that specialises in providing financial strategy and coaching to thousands of clients. Earlier this year she was appointed a director of AdviceFirst, one of the largest service providers of high-quality financial advice and expertise in New Zealand.

Among the many hats she wears, Mrs McQueen is also an accomplished bestselling personal finance author, media commentator, and columnist. Mrs McQueen sits on different boards and is excited to bring her financial strategy and planning skills to the Board of Saint Kentigern. She is passionate about helping young adults build their financial capability from a young age so they can better prepare and successfully navigate the financial headwinds to come. A parent, Mrs McQueen has a child at the College and another at the Girls' School.



Ms Sharnika Leleni was Saint Kentigern College's Head Girl in 2013. Upon graduating, she remained actively involved, serving on the Old Collegians Executive Committee for the past ten years.

Ms Leleni graduated with a Bachelor of Law with Honours and Bachelor of Arts from the University of Auckland. During her time at university, she was awarded first-in-course awards for sociology, dance, and music. She was also awarded the Moana Schwalger Law Scholarship in 2018 and was the Faculty of Arts Student of the Year runner-up in 2016.

Ms Leleni is currently a Crown Prosecutor at Kayes Fletcher Walker and is on the Executive Committee of the Pacific Lawyers Association. Previously a Senior Solicitor at Russell McVeagh, Ms Leleni was an AMINZ (Arbitrators' and Mediators' Institute of New Zealand) scholar in 2021, being identified as a future leader in dispute resolution. She was previously co-lead of Russell McVeagh's diversity and inclusion (ethnicity) committee and co-lead of Young AMINZ. She is passionate about being a voice for young bicultural women.



Each of these appointments brings a myriad of skills, wealth of experiences, and unique perspectives that will strengthen the Board's collective ability to make informed decisions, and renew its commitment to support our schools in delivering educational excellence.

In 2023 we farewelled Deputy Chair Mrs Kelly Smith and trustees Mr Yong Tiong and Rev Ivan Martinez who retired from the board. We sincerely thank each of them for their dedicated service and invaluable contribution to Saint Kentigern.

## Pakuranga Campus Master Plan Development Update

With the completion of the Pakuranga campus Master Plan process and the financial planning well advanced, the Trust Board will soon be commencing the staged redevelopment of the campus.

Two key buildings have been identified as priorities for the College – a general classroom building and a performing and creative arts centre.

The general new classroom building is a significant facility designed for our Year 12 and 13 students. It is currently anticipated to include a combination of both formal and informal learning spaces, socialising areas, new student commons, gathering spaces for year groups and House groups, and tutor-group rooms. The new development will be located on the site of the Wingate block and Goodfellow Centre building.

This new facility will provide the best learning environment to support the latest pedagogical thinking, and will focus on student learning. It will be designed to facilitate engagement and guide students through their transition from College to higher learning pathways.

Key consultants are currently being appointed and concept design work is due to commence in early 2024. Pending progress throughout 2024, including acquisition of the necessary statutory consents and successful tender outcome,

construction work could commence sometime in the first or second quarter of 2025, with indicative completion and occupation sometime in mid-2027.

The second key development for the College is a cutting-edge performing and creative arts centre designed to serve as a purpose-built environment for artistic expression. This facility will support the academic curriculum and cocurricular activities, enriching students' creative pursuits in both realms.

Development of the performing and creative arts centre is currently envisaged to commence construction as soon as practicable after the successful delivery and occupation of the initial general classroom building.

The redevelopment of our Shore Road campus, which included a new Senior Boys' School block, a shared Specialist Facilities, a brand-new Girls' School and a Preschool, was successfully completed within five years. The Trust Board is confident it is well placed to ensure the building activities at the Pakuranga campus are effectively planned and executed, with staff and students' safety in mind, to minimise the impact on College operations.

More updates will follow in 2024 regarding these exciting new developments.

# From the Executive Trustee The Seeds of a Legacy

When I was a student at the College in the 1980s, the students were responsible for marking the cricket wickets and boundaries.

I spent many afternoons learning how to measure and mark the fields in advance of any matches. Around that time, a young groundsman called Graeme Martin joined the property team and he was always there to lend a supportive hand. Today, Graeme leads our property team and has now clocked up a remarkable thirty-eight years looking after the Pakuranga campus. He is one of our longest-serving staff member.

It was not the career he expected. After missing out on a retail role at the Pakuranga Plaza, Graeme walked across the road to Saint Kentigern. The property manager at the time offered him a role on the basis that he knew how to play euchre and would be willing to play with the other three staff at lunchtimes. The rest was history and Graeme learned to love the outdoors and the work assigned.

As we announce the start of the masterplan for the site (see the Trust Board Chair's report), there would be few people who know more about this campus. Graeme recalls that the Property team have moved around the site for a number of reasons and at one point were operating out of shipping containers. It was not that long ago that they finally moved into their purpose-built facility, which houses all the equipment and machinery required to keep one hundred acres looking as good as it does.

In the early days, the grounds team were stationed under the Science building (somewhere near the current entry adjacent to the JPC building).

Outside that building there was a duck pond, and Graeme and his colleagues used to swim in it at lunchtime during the summer months. Among the many colleagues during his time, he fondly remembers Carol Vela working with him for many years, and in those days they ran an on-site nursery to ensure a constant supply of plants.

Graeme has a strong interest in the trees on the property, with some amazing stories to tell. The large oak tree on the high side of the main entrance was originally in the middle of what is now the main entrance. When plans emerged for that entrance (the main gate was previously a loop of two entrances around the chapel lawn), the tree was dug out and moved to its current location. Somewhat amazingly, it survived the move. The elm tree near the Goodfellow Centre had some fans and it was determined it would not be removed, and so the building was designed around it. Another project over the years was planting the Pōhutukawa trees along the fence next to the highway, which were propagated from an existing tree on the property to ensure they were identical.

Much of the campus was a working farm for many years. Subsequent earthworks near the estuary created more playing fields and facilitated the development of the Manor Park entrance and the Sports Centre.

These days, technology makes short work of marking the fields. GPS and robotic equipment ensure that marking a ten-lane running track, which used to take days, can now be done in a morning.

We are all grateful to Graeme and his team for their dedication and the way the campus is cared for.



**Fides Servanda Est.**

**Dr Kevin Morris**  
Executive Trustee

## Saint Kentigern appoints Marianne Duston as new Girls' School Principal

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Mrs Marianne Duston as the next principal of Saint Kentigern Girls' School.

Mrs Duston is currently the Head of Teaching and Learning Excellence at Ravenswood School for Girls, an independent Uniting Church school in Sydney, Australia with 1,400 students from Preschool to Year 12. She brings a wealth of experience, a collaborative approach, a strong faith, and a passion for excellence in providing an exceptional educational experience.

She was previously Deputy Principal at Queen Margaret College, Wellington, and Saint Kentigern College from 2017 to 2020. In her 20 years in education, she has led innovative school-wide initiatives in teaching, learning and wellbeing within several leading independent schools in New Zealand and Australia. We believe her experiences are ideally suited for leading Saint Kentigern Girls' School into the next phase of its development.

Commenting on her appointment, Mrs Duston said, "I am excited about leading the Girls' School and fostering a warm connected community amongst staff, students, and families, which will continue to enable girls to flourish academically, take on challenges with confidence, and thrive in life."

Prior to her teaching career, Mrs Duston trained as a pharmacist at the University of Otago and worked in the medical industry. She has represented New Zealand in triathlon and cross country and has coached and managed several New Zealand teams in both cross-country and athletics. She and her husband John have two daughters who are both studying at New Zealand universities.

Mrs Duston will commence her role on January 30, 2024.







# Inaugural Induction Ceremony of Te Pou o te Rīpeka on Shore Road

On the morning of 17 September, we celebrated the inaugural induction of four remarkable individuals into the Te Pou o te Rīpeka, the Saint Kentigern Place of Honour on our Shore Road campus. Te Pou o te Rīpeka is a special place that acknowledges and honours exceptional individuals who embody the values that Saint Kentigern holds dear: respect, integrity, service, excellence, and love.

Located to the south of our Specialist Facilities area, this serene, contemplative space is accessible to all in the community and has been specially designed to include Saint Kentigern's unique symbolism. At the heart stands a magnificent marble Celtic cross, Te Pou o te Rīpeka, that serves as a reminder of our Presbyterian heritage. The walls on each side of the cross hold beautifully crafted plaques with the names of our honourees etched on them, representing their unique story of service, passion, and dedication to our community.

At the ceremony, Neil Lloyd (Polly) Macky, Dr William Bruce Goodfellow, Rosemary Harris, and student #20 Peter Nelson's plaques were unveiled. Guests also enjoyed performances from the Boys' and Girls' School Kapa Haka groups, and joined together to sing The Blessing.

Each honouree has made significant contributions to Saint Kentigern Boys' School, Girls' School, and Preschool, working tirelessly over the years to shape and make our schools places where excellence thrives. They exemplify the essence of Saint Kentigern, serving as guiding beacons for all who follow in their footsteps.

Te Pou o te Rīpeka is a place where our community gathers to remember, reflect, and celebrate our honourees, whose remarkable contributions form an integral part of our rich history. It is a place where we take inspiration from their steadfast commitment to continuously build on Saint Kentigern's mission to inspire students to strive for excellence in all areas of life for the glory of God and service of others.

## Neil Lloyd (Polly) Macky

Polly Macky's visionary leadership laid the foundation for an exceptional educational institution. He was resolute in his mission to build a Presbyterian Boys' School in Auckland, leading him to secure the donation of Roselle House from John Martyn Wilson and the land for the College.



## Dr William Bruce Goodfellow

Bruce Goodfellow's lifelong commitment to Saint Kentigern, from student to board member, was marked by vision and dedication. He played a pivotal role in relocating the Girls' School and Preschool to the Shore Road campus, uniting all three schools on one encompassing world-class learning facility.



## Rosemary Harris

Rosemary's impact on Saint Kentigern extended far beyond her role as Deputy Trust Board Chair and one of the longest-serving Trust Board members. She has been vital in helping shape the school's strategy and governance, committed to philanthropy through Roselle Foundation, and facilitated the development of what is now the Shore Road campus.



## Peter Nelson

Fondly known as student #20, Peter Nelson is a remarkable alumnus who remains a constant presence at key events and activities six decades after graduating from Saint Kentigern. Peter's dedication to Saint Kentigern lies in bridging the gap between past and present students, actively engaging with the Old Boys' community and reuniting alumni. His contributions paved the way for the conception of Roselle Foundation.





# From the Chaplain

## Let Your Light Shine

In week seven of Term 4, I was up at Tāwharanui Regional Park for Girl vs Wild, our end-of-year service camp for Year 8s who have achieved their Silver Service Award. On the first night, the stars in the sky were brilliant – they are so much clearer away from the city.

In the time of Jesus, people used to think a star was a hole in the sky through which the light of heaven shines, and a big star like the one over Bethlehem was announcing a huge event in history. For this reason, the wise men followed the star over Bethlehem, and in a stable they found Jesus in a manger. They had discovered the light of the world.

Light is one of the great symbols of the Christmas season. My favourite moment is when, after the Christmas tree is decorated, you switch the lights on to see them sparkle in the darkness. For many years as a family, we've been among the thousands or so Aucklanders who make their way to Franklin Street in Ponsonby to marvel at the lit-up houses of Christmas enthusiasts.

Interestingly, before Thomas Edison invented the light bulb, people used candles to decorate their Christmas trees. Little burning candles dangling off dry pine needles is certainly a health and safety disaster! The very next Christmas after Edison's invention of the light bulb in 1879, he strung up lights in his hometown to mark the season, and we have never looked back.

Christmas lights today continue to act as a reminder that Jesus came as the light of the world. Before Jesus was born, the prophet Isaiah told the Hebrew people that light was going to be the symbol of his coming. He said, "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined."

I believe Jesus was born as light to people who feel darkness in their hearts. He came to push the darkness of pride, greed, and selfishness aside. He came so that the light that shines within each of us can shine brightly.

So how can we shine brightly? Let me suggest five simple ways. First, find your passion. Ask yourself, "What do I do that makes my heart sing?" Once found, nurture, practise, and share it with others. Second, build

confidence in yourself. Surround yourself with people who value and treat you well. If only you knew what you were capable of. Remember the wise words of Kurt Hahn: "There is more in you than you think!" Third, spread peace, joy, and hope. Build others up, don't tear them down. As the Prayer of Saint Kentigern reminds us, there is so much that is cruel and wrong in our world, and the world needs you to spread love and kindness. Four, be true to yourself. This is a message our outgoing Girls' School Principal, Ms Juliet Small, has repeated numerous times to the girls over the years. Don't lose your uniqueness in trying to conform. Who you are is God-given. Finally, trust in God. God will be a lamp to your feet and a guide to your path. Faith is the most powerful word we have by which to live. No one knows what the future holds, but we can walk into it with confidence that Jesus walks with us.

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus said this: "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

You might have noticed that light always shines brightest in the darkness. I think that is often our experience of the light of Christ as well. I have found in my life that when it is going well, when everything is sunshine and roses and happiness, I don't seem to notice the light of Christ as much. However, when it feels dark, and my heart is heavy, that is when the light of Christ shines.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world. He will be your lighthouse shining in the darkness. When you need him most, He will be there to guide you. You only need to believe.

Can I encourage you, as one year draws to a close and another one begins: can I encourage you to find your voice, recognise your strength, and allow the glory of God that is in you to shine for all the world to see? And in all that you do, may you be filled with the light of Christ, for He is the light of the world!

**Fides Servanda Est.**

**Rev. Reuben Hardie**  
Chaplain to Saint Kentigern schools





# Service at Shore Road

**Year 8 Service Days** – On 30 November, every Year 8 boy was involved in a service day. Tutor groups travelled around Auckland completing beach cleans and undertaking service at one of the Presbyterian Support Northern sites or at the St Andrews Retirement Home. The boys also climbed the mountain that their classroom is named after.

**Bronze, Silver, and Gold Service Awards** – A programme which recognises the commitment of Year 7 & 8. Progressing through levels, recipients deepen their focus on others, embracing the Māori principle of 'He aha te mea nui o te ao? He tangata, he tangata, he tangata' – What is the most important thing in the world? It is people, it is people, it is people.

**Boy vs Wild Service with Tāwharanui Open Sanctuary Society Inc. (TOSSI)** – 'Whāia te iti kahurangi, ki te tuohu koe, me he maunga teitei' – Seek the treasure you value most dearly, if you bow your head, let it be to a lofty mountain. At the Year 8 Boy vs Wild Service Camp, our boys joined the rangers at Tāwharanui Regional Park to fortify footpaths and put mulch around pōhutukawa trees. They were taught about diverse bird species and refined their culinary skills through crafting menus, shopping, and preparing meals. Amidst the labour, the boys enjoyed moments of leisure such as surfing and beach cricket matches.

**Girl vs Wild Service with TOSSI** – In week seven of Term 4, the girls' Silver Service Award recipients spent three days in the wild of Tāwharanui Regional Park. During their time, they teamed up with the TOSSI volunteers to clean the beach, freeing native trees from invasive kikuyu grass and repairing pathways and sand ladders. This trip was filled with opportunities to serve, surf and have fun, including the infamous MasterChef competition.

**Hāngi for the Homeless** – Each month, two hundred delicious and nutritious hāngi meals were served to the homeless. All the food was prepared by staff, students, and parents in weekends and served in downtown Auckland. A special Christmas service was undertaken on 3 December when the Boys' School Parents and Friends funded free Mr Whippy ice creams.

**Vanuatu Service Trip** – At the end of Term 3, we had the return of the Vanuatu Service Trip: two teams of Year 8s and their parents and staff travelling over two weeks. A container sent in advance contained the installations we were to complete in three locations. A new playground went in at Popowoh School, a new basketball court at Etas School, and the redecoration of the Etas Preschool preschool at another location. Students and parents alike poured their souls into the Vanuatu projects, and the change was dramatic!

**Northland Service Trip** – The inaugural Northland Surf and Serve trip took place at the end of October. The week was split into two trips, with the Year 8 boys, girls, and parents working at Morningside School in Whangārei as well as Whangaruru School an hour further north. We installed an outdoor kitchen including a commercial pizza oven, fencing, pathways, plants, and seating areas, all with the added bonus of evening and morning surfs facilitated by the NZ Surf Academy.

**Boys' School Student Council** – Supported by their dedicated parents, assembled pamper packs for Shine, a Presbyterian organisation aiding domestic violence victims in Auckland. These care packages offer comfort to people fleeing unsafe situations. Mrs Brianna Connelly from Shine visited us on packing day to talk to the student council about the profound impact their contributions will make.

**Girls' School Student Council** – On 25 September, the Girls' School supported the Cancer Society by raising money and awareness through Whacky Wig Wednesday. Girls came to school with wigs, 'hair cupcakes', and many other exciting pieces.

**Shore Road Christmas Meat Packs** – In partnership with the Mad Butcher Glen Innes and the Meat Box, our Boys' School families donated 272 meat packs worth seventy dollars each, totalling \$19,040 in donations. The Girls' School donated 103 packs totalling \$7,210, and the Preschool donated twelve packs at \$840 total. These will be delivered to families at several Auckland schools.

**Shore Road Christmas Gift Appeal** – This year for Christmas, the students of Shore Road each brought in two gifts for a student the same age as them – one for a boy and one for a girl. The gifts arrived in classrooms throughout November and ultimately almost two thousand gifts were delivered to students at Wymondley Road School, May Road School, Glen Innes Preschool, and children who attended the Glen Innes Community Christmas Party.

**Food Drive, ToffeePops, and Saint Kentigern Shed** – This year, the Boys' School continued termly food drives to stock the Pakuranga campus Shed. The Shed distributes hundreds of food parcels to Auckland families in need through the work of Presbyterian Support Northern and other partners. The boys generously donated over six hundred packets of ToffeePops in Term 4, matched by Griffin's.

**May Road School Pātaka Kai** – This year, our Girls' School community has continued to support May Road School in Mount Roskill with donations for their pātaka kai, providing help in times of economic struggle. We look forward to continuing our partnership with May Road School and responding to the needs of their families into the future.



## Preparing our Preschoolers for Primary

Is my child ready for primary school?  
How will you prepare my child for school?  
How will you support their transition to school?

These are among the most frequent questions I get asked. Starting primary school is a significant milestone in a child's life, and like many parents, it is at the forefront of our minds as we shape our curriculum and engage with each child at our Preschool.

There is a lot of research around 'school readiness' and at Saint Kentigern Preschool we are constantly learning, researching, and refining our transition-to-school programme to ensure our children are well prepared when the time comes for them to start primary school.

Our holistic approach extends well beyond traditional academics, nurturing not only intellectual capabilities but also emotional, social, and practical development.

Our primary objective is to facilitate a seamless transition for our children into the school environment, arming them with the essential knowledge and skills needed to thrive and contribute meaningfully in the primary school setting. We believe that a robust knowledge-foundation construct begins when the child joins our Preschool at the age of three. From the outset, they will be immersed in an engaging environment carefully crafted to foster learning, cultivate meaningful relationships, and spark a genuine curiosity for exploration. Our focus centres on building confidence in our young learners, empowering them to embrace experimentation, hypothesise ideas, pursue creative expression, and instil a lifelong love for learning.

As children progress through the Preschool, they not only expand their knowledge and understanding but also forge meaningful friendships, demonstrating the emergence of various skills and a positive attitude towards learning. By the time they enter our transition-to-school classroom, they are well prepared with foundational knowledge,

essential skills, and ingrained values that form the bedrock of success in our transition-to-school programme.

The programme is adaptive and flexible, meticulously designed to strengthen the child's familiarity with the school environment while finely tuning the knowledge and skills essential for their future success. Nestled within our Shore Road campus, we are strategically positioned to easily collaborate with the Boys' and Girls' Schools, as well as our extended community of primary-school educators.

Integral to the programme are key components combined to acquaint our children with both the inside and outside of classrooms within the school environment. Emphasising social development, we provide ample opportunities for group play, teamwork, effective communication, and relationship building. Our introduction of 'school' routines not only aids in the adjustment to a more structured environment but also lays the groundwork for early numeracy and literacy skills, starting with foundational concepts such as letter sounds and number knowledge.

We also recognise the pivotal role our parents and families play. We encourage them to come to information sessions, ask their children questions, and play active roles alongside their child's teachers. Adequately prepared, parents can help children navigate these transitions more smoothly.

We are confident in the programme we are building within our Preschool, where the success of each child is at the forefront, underpinned by strong values, a well-rounded education, and supported by our dedicated teachers. When our children step into primary school, we witness tangible outcomes: heightened confidence, refined social skills, and a genuine love for learning. They are prepared and empowered, equipped with both foundational-school knowledge and the intangible attributes of confidence, belief, and readiness for their future educational endeavours.

The combined efforts of our staff, community, and ever-evolving transition-to-school programme ensure our children are ready for primary school. We will continue to grow and improve in this vital area so our preschoolers head to school armed with confidence. The foundation we provide will inspire our children to strive for excellence and pave the way for a fulfilling and successful educational journey.

**Fides Servanda Est.**

**Mrs Megan Storey**  
Preschool Principal





# Megan Storey Commissioned as Principal of Saint Kentigern Preschool

It was the Trust Board's privilege and honour to officially commission our new Preschool Principal Mrs Megan Storey in July 2023. Gathering at the beautiful new facility on Shore Road, Mrs Storey's family, friends, as well as representatives from the Trust Board, fellow principals, staff, and students all came to celebrate and pledge their support to her during her tenure.

Liam Jarvis, Boys' School student and talented musician, began the ceremony by piping the official guests into the Preschool. Among them were Head Boy of the Boys' School Ben Robertson, Head Girl of the Girls' School Amelia Hardie, Executive Trustee Dr Kevin Morris, Trust Board Chair Mr Mark Conelly, and Chaplain Reverend Reuben Hardie. Mrs Storey was then welcomed to her commissioning with a pōwhiri.

Reverend Hardie officiated the service, drawing from the 1 Corinthians 13 love passage throughout his message to encourage and uplift Mrs Storey in hope, faith, and love. Guests heard from Dr Morris as he confirmed the Trust Board's confidence in Mrs Storey and acknowledged the impact she has made at the Preschool. Before signing to seal

their agreement, Mr Conelly read to Mrs Storey the official pledge and guests responded in support.

Throughout the ceremony, the Preschool students provided a reprise of entertainment for guests with some beautiful singing and cute handmade gifts for Mrs Storey of canvases painted and decorated by each class. The Trust Board also had gifts for the new principal, including a Saint Kentigern tartan and sports supporter gear.

Mrs Storey ended the ceremony by addressing those gathered. In her speech, she made clear her intentions to utilise the incredible spaces in the Preschool to set a strong foundation for learning: "In our vibrant classroom settings, learning spaces [will] become hubs of engagement where ideas are exchanged, perspectives are celebrated, and children and staff alike are inspired to reach their fullest potential." She knows that inspired people inspire people.

From the reception from our community and the children's warmth toward Mrs Storey, it is clear that she is the right person for the job. We look forward to seeing the Preschool flourish under her leadership.





# Radiant Festivities for Diwali

In a kaleidoscope of colours, the Preschool embraced the spirit of Diwali, the Festival of Lights, crafting in celebration of the significant Hindu holiday.

Diwali, also known as Deepavali, symbolises the triumph of light over darkness and good over evil. It is celebrated by millions across the world and holds cultural and spiritual significance beyond its religious roots. For those less familiar, Diwali typically involves the lighting of lamps or diyas, colourful rangoli decorations, and vibrant festivities that span across several days.

At the Preschool, the children were introduced to the essence of Diwali, providing them with a glimpse into the cultural richness and diversity that the festival embodies. The day's festivities were centred on two activities designed to give the young learners a taste of the celebration.

The first activity invited the children to partake in a traditional song and dance. The second, a hands-on arts and crafts session, featured sand art inspired by the vibrant powders thrown into the air during Diwali and the decoration of clay pots traditionally used to hold the powders.

As the Preschoolers painted, danced, and created, they experienced the joy of unity and creativity. Festive activities such as these provide an opportunity to educate our children about different cultures, prompting inquiry and creative questions. With the many different celebrations throughout the year, they gain an insight into the best parts of many cultures, encouraging them to be inclusive and understanding of world religion as they grow.



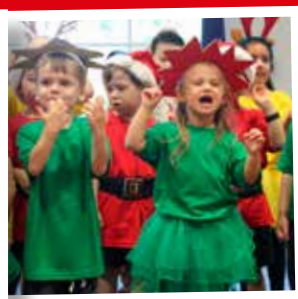
# Twinkling Stars and Jolly Santas at Christmas Show

In a delightful pre-Christmas celebration, the preschoolers at Shore Road took the stage at JC Chalmers Hall on 8 December, captivating their audience with a one-time-only, sell-out Christmas Show. As the preschoolers paraded into the hall, their faces aglow with joy reflected the true spirit of Christmas. Spotting their families in the audience, a collective wave of excitement swept through the children, building anticipation for their performance.

Divided into three groups—reindeers, stars, and Santas—the young performers delivered endearing renditions of Christmas songs, creating a magical atmosphere for the adoring families and staff in attendance. A particular highlight emerged as Santa made a surprise entrance, popping out of the chimney alongside his group. The culmination of the show saw the entire preschool syndicate coming together for some festive carols.

Amidst the festive cheer, a brief intermission featured a small prizegiving ceremony. Tabloid Sports sprint winners and values awards were acknowledged, with proud recipients standing tall with their accolades. Following this moment of recognition, the jubilant winners rejoined their friends for more musical merriment.

In a concluding gesture of gratitude, Executive Trustee Dr Kevin Morris expressed heartfelt thanks to the preschool community for a historic year. Navigating the transition to a new campus, welcoming a new principal, and establishing a foothold at Shore Road marked significant milestones for the Preschool, and Dr Morris acknowledged the collective efforts that made it possible. To bring the morning to a close, Chaplain Rev Reuben Hardie offered a prayer of blessing before families headed to the preschool for a visit from Santa himself and an indulgence in delicious treats.







## Full Moon Rings in Mid-Autumn Festival

The Mid-Autumn Festival, celebrated this year on 29 September, holds a special place in Chinese culture, ranking as the second most significant festival after Chinese New Year. Its roots extend back over two thousand years to an era when families first began gathering under the night sky to light lanterns, savour mooncakes, and bask in the gentle glow of the full moon – a symbol of family reunion. For this reason, the festival carries the endearing nickname ‘the Festival of Reunion’.

The Preschoolers wholeheartedly embraced this tradition, enjoying a week-long cultural celebration. From Monday through Thursday, every class eagerly participated in a variety of engaging activities. The tea-tasting sessions invited our young ones to venture out of their typical palate through a diverse array of fruit-tea flavours. Some elicited contented lip-licking, while others found themselves less favoured among the crowd.

The tasting continued with mooncake baking, introducing our young learners to the beloved red-bean flavour that characterises these well-loved treats. Meanwhile, in the art room, creativity soared as plain lanterns were transformed into vibrant works of art adorned with colourful stickers and foam shapes.

Finally on Friday, the entire school gathered together. Laughter and joy echoed through the hallways as they sang songs and delved into stories that captured the essence of the Mid-Autumn Festival. It was a day of togetherness, shared traditions, and cherished memories.



## Tiny Athletes Make Large Strides at Tabloid Sports and Cross Country

During a lively morning at the Shore Road campus they now call home, the Preschoolers put on a display of budding athleticism for Tabloid Sports. The Jubilee Sports Centre buzzed with energy as the boys and girls embraced a taste of different codes as well as Cross Country, making the most of the facilities in their new setting.

As the young participants eagerly explored eight different sports stations, the atmosphere reverberated with cheers for their teams – green, red, and yellow. The stations catered to a range of interests and abilities, from the bouncing energy of the long jump to the careful coordination required in the egg and spoon race. The hockey course was a favourite, requiring both concentration and speed to weave through the cones. Several balls went flying off into all directions, much to the delight of the watching parents armed with cameras.

Activities extended to the new addition of four-pin bowling, a welcome challenge embraced with enthusiasm by the Preschoolers. The beanbag throw and vortex throw showcased the potential of future shot putters, while a kick competition revealed who had the football finesse.

Following the Tabloid Sports, a short morning-tea break refuelled the children for the eagerly anticipated Cross Country races. Divided into gendered age groups, the Preschoolers sprinted down the field with infectious zeal, cheered on by a supportive crowd of parents and teachers. The parents’ race, a highlight of the day, unfolded with competitive spirit – some may argue more so than the students!

Thank you to the students from the Girls’ School who lent a helping hand; their encouragement and support was really appreciated by the little ones who look up to the future leaders of the school. We also thank the teachers and supporters who contributed to making the event a success.







## Imagination Sparks a Love for Reading at Book Day

Book Day cast a spell of enchantment over our young learners, fostering a love and excitement for reading that will undoubtedly stay with them for years to come. As the sun rose, our little ones arrived at school dressed as their favourite book characters, clutching their treasured tales close to their hearts.

From Nemo to the Hungry Caterpillar, princesses to Rainbow Fish, and brave firefighters to vigilant cops, our Preschoolers transformed into the literary heroes of their dreams. Their faces lit up with delight as they enthusiastically displayed their imaginative costumes, parading around the circular Preschool building.

Not to be outdone, our dedicated teachers also joined in the fun, demonstrating that the love of reading knows no age limits. Their vibrant costumes sent a powerful message to our young readers: the magic of books transcends generations. Preschool Principal Mrs Megan Storey transformed into cult-classic character Mary Poppins, ensuring the Preschool stayed 'spit spot' all day.

Book Day is not just a delightful dress-up event; it's a treasured opportunity to instil in our children the importance and beauty of reading. It's a day where imagination knows no bounds and the pages of their favourite books come to life.

In these precious moments, we witness the seeds of a lifelong love for reading being sown, nurturing their curiosity, creativity, and a world of endless possibilities. Book Day, with its enchanting costumes and boundless enthusiasm, reminds us that the journey of a thousand books begins with a single page turned by a child's eager hand.



## A 'Grand' Morning

Before the busy rush of back-to-school time for the rest of our Shore Road campus students, our Preschoolers invited their grandparents to join them for the morning.

As the guests of honour began to stream in, intermittent squeals of delight and rather loud stomps towards the door indicated a sighting of their beloved family members. Grandparents were met with big squeezes and wide smiles as the children eagerly pulled them into their classrooms.

Each class set up activity stations for the students to craft, create, and play with their grandparents. From potting little plants to beading necklaces, decorating bookmarks to crafting with clay, there was plenty to keep the families busy.

Many of the children ended up outside enjoying the sunshine, showing their grandparents how they play in the sand with the water feature and on the playground. Everyone had worked up quite the appetite as the clock ticked toward morning-tea time. Fortunately, the staff had a beautiful high tea prepared for each class.

Set up in the dining room were platters of fruit, sandwiches, and a tower of sweet treats that had the children ogling! Seated at little tables, families enjoyed quality time together while devouring their nibbles.

Whether grandparents by blood or grandparents by love, our Preschoolers are incredibly grateful to have generations that look out for them, care for them, and can sneak them treats when Mum's not watching! Thank you to our grandparents for carving out time to spend with your little ones, they appreciate it more than they could ever express.





# To the PumpHouse Theatre and Up the Faraway Tree

Earlier in the year, the Loch Lomond room went to The PumpHouse Theatre to see The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch, a morning out enjoyed by all. When the staff noticed that The Magic Faraway Tree would be the next Tim Bray production, they jumped at the chance to book tickets for the whole Preschool.

Leading up to the play, the Preschool classes read excerpts of Enid Blyton's story together, created their own 'faraway trees' for their classrooms, and exploring the mysterious lives of pixies and fairies. They even examined the trees in the Preschool grounds for a glimpse of these magical creatures.

Everyone arrived early on the day of the trip and enjoyed morning tea in each other's company before walking up the road to the buses. The bus journey, as always, was a highlight for many, mainly spotting the Sky Tower and enjoying the drive over the Harbour Bridge.



Arriving in Takapuna, the children excitedly walked down to The PumpHouse Theatre. They had a little snack in the amphitheatre before being invited inside to find their seats.

Once seated, the show's cast made their introductions, the lights were dimmed, hushing the crowd, and the play began. How lovely it was to see everyone so enthralled, delight showing on each audience member's face as continual bursts and ripples of laughter unfolded during the adventures up the magic faraway tree. There were some standout characters who Joe, Annie, and Bessie met on their travels: Moon-Face, Silky the Fairy, Saucepan Man, The Angry Pixie, and the Red Squirrel being firm favourites. After the show, it was a walk up the hill to our buses and then back to the Preschool for lunch.



# Kellie Dawson Visits Preschool with 'There's a T-Rex in my Tummy'

In a whimsical world where emotions take on the form of dinosaurs, Kellie Dawson, a New Zealand-based human rights lawyer and mother of two, joined the Preschoolers with her tale *There's a T-Rex in my Tummy*. Inspired by her son during lockdown, Kellie's journey as an author began as an endeavour to help children understand and navigate their emotions.

The excitable Preschoolers, eager listeners with wide-eyed curiosity, had the pleasure of hearing the story straight from the author herself. Kellie's personal connection to the narrative, born out of a desire to assist her son in coping with anxiety, unfolded as a shared adventure. The book, brought to life at the request of young Xavier, not only became a cherished resource for the Dawson family but a delightful exploration into the world of emotions for children far and wide.

As the pages of *There's a T-Rex in my Tummy* came to life in the hands of the young audience, questions filled the room. Preschoolers, captivated by the 'who', 'how', and 'why' behind Kellie's writing, discovered the incredible ability of literature to illuminate the complex landscape of emotions. The author's visit became a memorable occasion, leaving the students with both a delightful story and valuable insight into the creative process.







## Loch Rannoch's Science Exploration

Throughout the year, Loch Rannoch has been exploring the world of science by choosing one experiment a week to complete together as a class. It has been a great success, with the children very interested in seeing the results. Once the experiment was chosen, they gathered around to hypothesise and estimated what will happen. This fosters our children's decision-making skills as well as giving them a deeper understanding of the world of science and the process of conducting experiments.

Our experiments had included invisible ink, walking water, and growing our own crystals. The children suggested what experiments they would like to see and we offered a science book for them to read throughout the week, diving deeper into the experiments that interest them, what they could look like, and what components each one requires. We have many bookmarks already slotted in and have worked throughout the weeks to explore them all!

Science is a wonderful way to encourage children to begin to understand the world around them. Through discussions and hypothesising as a group, they are developing their vocabulary as well as becoming more confident to share their ideas and problem-solve together. They are encouraged to be active learners, developing research skills such as asking how, what, why, and when, and thus fostering a curiosity of the wider world around them.



## When the Gruffalo Came to Preschool

Our investigation into the idea of 'looking beyond print' came about from a group of Loch Ness children taking an interest in looking for 'Gruffalo food' in the playground. They were in agreement that the Gruffalo needed lots of food for his dinner, and this ritual of collecting it continued for several days.

Their interest in the character was further enriched by teachers reading the well-known story The Gruffalo. The children engaged with the parts of the story they were familiar with, using their oral language skills or actions to depict aspects such as his 'terrible teeth and terrible claws'. Their enthusiasm for the storytelling possibilities and dramatic opportunities the Gruffalo presented was inspiring for children and teachers alike.

The teaching team then reached out to Ms Clare Battersby, an experienced dance and drama teacher within Early Childhood Education. She created an interactive session for the children where they delved into the Gruffalo story yet again, with Clare taking on the titular role. With the children in tow, a magical storytelling experience came to life with the Gruffalo meeting characters such as Snake, Fox, and of course the 'mouse in his underground house'. This was not only a lot of fun for the children but presented them with opportunities to explore concepts of dance and drama such as space, shape, time, energy, and musicality, along with embracing their imaginings about the story from the Gruffalo's perspective.







## Loch Lomond Creates Makeshift Hospital

Loch Lomond Hospital was set up as an area of play after recognition that the children had a vast pool of prior knowledge about hospitals based on their own experiences. The children were involved in the creation of the hospital, and were adamant that a waiting room resourced with puzzles and books was very important. The reception desk was a popular space, with children taking turns to answer the phone and jot down messages on the clipboards as well as type on the keyboard.

The teacher enjoyed watching the children and the ways in which their play became more imaginative and dramatic when wearing doctors' coats, nurses' bibs, or putting an 'important voice' on to answer the phone and book an appointment. It was intriguing to see that children's play can adapt to any situation using the knowledge they have from their own experiences and that of their peers, too.

Loch Lomond Hospital grew to include beds, and teddies became the patients needing doctors. The children embraced their roles and were soon taking turns being patients themselves. Being able to dress up in a doctor's coat and carry a medical bag lent to their play being 'real-life', embracing their imaginations and confidently exploring their knowledge of what a doctor does.

A constant hive of activity was set in motion with a flurry of 'expert' medical care being sought and given. The children were able to share, be cooperative, and explore the art of caring for others through the lens of being a doctor. Likewise, being a patient supported children to experience empathy and to play a meaningful part in the group's shared vision to bring the Loch Lomond Hospital to life.



## The Wonderful World of Spiders

In Loch Ness, we have been investigating, learning, and developing our own working theories on anything and everything to do with creepy-crawly spiders. The teachers have been working alongside the children to build their understanding of why and how spiders make webs, catch their prey, and how they eat their food. Through many group-time conversations and inquiries, looking at and reading books, creating models with clay, drawing and spending time in our outdoor environment, the children are developing their own funds of knowledge about spiders.

Such was the shared passion for these unique members of the living world that the children were noticing spiders at home as well as at the Preschool. There was so much excitement when a spider was spotted that their enthusiasm drew in teachers and older children keen to have a look themselves. The children also delved into formulating their knowledge about spider anatomy, which culminated in the creation of a very large paper-mache spider complete with eight large eyes. The children collectively agreed that the spider was to be named Batman.

Spider webs were another point of fascination within this group project with children becoming sharp-eyed web spotters. The concept of making a web was explored by the children using artistic mediums and resources. They were able to develop their own ideas of the shapes and patterns used by spiders. This investigation offered the students many opportunities to build on their learning through discussion, play, and by being curious explorers of their learning environment. Our Loch Ness children are certainly experts when it comes to their eight-legged friends.



## Reflections from the Head Boy

How fitting it is to have the Head Boy of Saint Kentigern Boys' School, Ben Robertson, have the last word, as he reflects on his final year at the Boys' School after eight years of his sentence. For such good behaviour and his contribution over these years he is now released to the College, where I know he will continue to make his mark!

After a delayed start to the school year due to weather events, we launched into an action-packed 2023. If there is a word which sums up the year, it's EVENTFUL!

We are so lucky at this school to have so many amazing opportunities. So many, it is almost impossible to list every event and even writing about the numerous highlights in the year is a big job.

In the first week, we had our first assembly, the inaugural Founders' Day Service, the Junior School picnic, and the Prefects' Commissioning Service. This was the perfect start to a very successful and exciting year.

After the frenetic first week, the events in Term 1 kept rolling in like waves at a surf beach. There were records broken at Swimming Sports and an outstanding performance of YMCA at the House swimming relays. There were also summer sports exchanges with Southwell and King's.

Education Outside the Classroom is an important part of the experience at our school and throughout the year each year group had the chance to participate in a camp or other activity. These gave us all the opportunity to encounter new things, face our fears, or conquer challenges like jumping off a bridge into freezing water in Tongariro. None of this could have happened without the hard work and dedication of our teachers who make these camps and other activities possible.

Like in Term 1, it was a hectic start to Term 2. We started the first week by honouring those who gave their lives for our country with an ANZAC Day service. We finished the first week with the BIG ONE - Celtic Day.

The highlight of the year is always Celtic Day and this year was no exception. How could you not enjoy a wet sponge battle with the teachers and parents? Celtic

Day is when the essence of the school is on full display with Senior boys looking after Junior boys, everyone bonding with their clan, and plenty of laughter.

We also enjoyed the inaugural and highly anticipated Mother and Son Breakfast, where we heard from the incredibly successful Coast to Coast champion team from the College.

Our traditional winter sports fixtures against Southwell and King's are the pinnacle for our sportsmen as they are always competitive, hard-fought games. As it should be, we won some and lost some across the codes and managed to put away some of the silverware in our trophy cabinet for the summer. The rugby, football, and hockey first teams were lucky to go on a successful Lower North Island tour, playing Wellesley College and Scots College in Wellington and Huntley School in the Manawātū. You learn a lot about yourself being billeted and playing sport away from home.

The events continued to roll on in Term 3. Our musicians put on the Instrumental Showcase - 'The Best of the Best' - an apt description of the talents on display. The audience were certainly entertained, and more than one star was born that night. On the academic front, we had another successful Science Symposium in the Macky Senior School where again, a significant number of our scientists went on to excel at the NIWA Science Fair.

One of the strengths of our Saint Kentigern education is the care and effort put into developing our public speaking skills, which the phenomenal standard of our Speech Competition this year reflected.

The Year 8s were very lucky to have the Year 8 Social, 'Rhythm and Kents', after a four-year break due to Covid. We danced the night away with girls from the Girls' School, the College, Baradene, Dio, and St Cuth's.

The Dads and Lads House Quiz Battle took place late in the term with lots of laughs as we competed in a quiz and finished with pizza. The successful Arts Festival rounded out Term 3, showcasing the many creative and artistic abilities of our boys.

There was no slowing down for the end of the year with a jam-packed Term 4. It started with the Foundation Lunch for the Old Boys from the class of 1959. Grandparents' Day welcomed over eight hundred grandparents to the school to enjoy time with their grandchildren and a tour of the grounds. Our school never sleeps, so we continued through the term with the Class Art Auction, of which proceeds will be channelled to raise





arts experiences for our boys. We also managed to squeeze in the House Tug-O-War, a Book Parade, and the MasterChef competition.

The Senior School then got serious during exam time, revising what we had learnt throughout the year. As soon as exams ended, we were able to enjoy exciting activities outside the classroom including the Boys vs Wild camp at Tāwharanui and the Graduation Dinner for Year 8s.

The highlight of Term 4 is always the Fireworks Show with tickets selling out within minutes of going on sale. Teachers had been practising for their show. I'm partial, but I think it was a performance worthy of Hollywood. The incredible fireworks display capped off the night in style.

The highlight of my year has been the many service opportunities available. In the first term, a group of Year 8s headed down to Gisborne to construct a playground. We held the inaugural Extra Miler where we walked carrying a backpack of food donations from the Boys' School to the College (and back in some cases), raising money for one of four organisations. Term 3 finished with a service trip to Vanuatu where we left behind two outstanding playgrounds and a world-class basketball court – at least in our eyes! Then in Term 4, there were two Surf and Serve trips to Northland where again, the boys put in some hard mahi and built a playground. These are amazing experiences where we witness first-hand the poverty in New Zealand and around the world, and they help us realise we can make a difference by giving up our time and working hard.

What an incredible year! I am very proud of our achievements this year, but most of all I am proud of the way everyone lived by our core values of Respect, Integrity, Service, Excellence, and Love. I think we can all agree, 'a year it was'.

**Fides Servanda Est.**

**Ben Robertson**  
Boys' School Head Boy



## To the Boys of 2023!

As our Year 8 boys' time at the school concludes, students, parents, faculty, Trust Board members, and esteemed guests assembled at the Ellerslie Event Centre to commemorate their accomplishments, growth, and friendships.

This year, the audience had the privilege of hearing from two distinguished guest speakers, both of whom are former Boys' School students and incoming Head Prefects at the College.

Imminent Deputy Head Boy Sam McLeod addressed the gathering first, regaling the boys with humorous anecdotes from his tenure at the school. He continued by sharing how personal challenges had cultivated resilience in him, using his unconventional journey to the 1st XV as inspiration for any boys navigating obstacles on their path to achievement.

Subsequently, Head Boy-elect Ricky Shen took the podium, reflecting on his experiences at the College. He imparted wise counsel to the Year 8 graduates, urging them to explore diverse interests. Despite the myriad reasons one may have to not, he encouraged them to be bold and embrace opportunities as they arise.

Concluding the event with a toast to the Year 8 students, Boys' School Principal Mr Peter Cassie extended congratulations on their remarkable achievements and contributions to the school. We extend our best wishes to all the graduating Year 8 boys as they embark on the ensuing phase of their education.

## Annual Chapel Tie Ceremony Commemorates Year 8 Graduates

The final chapel service of the year invites our Year 8 graduates to the stage to ceremonially receive their leavers' ties from their Year 3 schoolmates. The intimate, cherished tradition of the handing over of ties is representative of the changing of the guard. As the Year 3 boys transition into a new phase of their education, the Year 8 leavers bid a fond farewell to the Senior School, poised for the imminent adventure that awaits them in high school.



During the ceremony, Year 8 Dean Mr Steve Aucamp shared an important message with the departing graduates, unpacking the significance of the ties. Beyond mere articles of clothing, they serve as a symbol of familial bonds, resonating with the rich heritage Saint Kentigern imparts – a legacy that extends far beyond their limited years within the school's walls. Mr Aucamp, wearing his Auckland Grammar School tie, underscored the graduates' connection to the enduring Sons of Kentigern legacy.



We acknowledge the departing graduates for their invaluable contributions and leadership during their time at our school. As they begin high school, we extend our sincere wishes for success and fulfilment in their future endeavours.





## A Wonder-filled Carol Service

The magnificent Holy Trinity Cathedral inevitably evokes awe from any visitor who enters its grandeur. Serving as one of Auckland's most splendid edifices, it provided an ideal backdrop for our Carol Service titled 'A Wonder-filled Christmas'.

Marking a noteworthy first, our Kapa Haka group started the ceremony with performances of Tōia Mai and He Aha Te Hau. Subsequently, departing Year 8 student and piper Liam Jarvis delivered an attention-grasping performance directly beneath the illuminated cross, drawing attendees' focus to a central point within the church.

The service continued through the retelling of the Christmas story by narrators from all year groups, acted out by Year 3 students. Interwoven through the story, guests stood to join various ensembles in singing carols. College Chapel Prefect Catalina Addis joined the service to lend her talent, singing a stirring rendition of O Holy Night.

Chaplain Rev. Reuben Hardie delivered a memorable and important message heading into a season that can be incredibly busy. Following the theme of the evening, his message 'Treasure like no other' asked the very important question: What fills boys with inexpressible joy most in this world? To which he answered (based on his experience with four sons of his own) – food!

He encouraged, "I don't want you just to have full bellies this Christmas, I also want you to be filled with a sense of wonder. A very special thing happened on that first Christmas that ever since has filled our world with wonder. That God would send his only son to be born in a stable."

Rev. Hardie then offered the boys three treasures – joy, peace, and gratitude – exhorting that if they could wrap their hearts around those words, they would have a wonder-filled Christmas. It seems we can never have enough joy, peace, or gratitude in our current world, and to demonstrate the insatiable appetite we have for these treasures, the Reverend invited one very lucky boy to eat as much pavlova as he liked for the duration of his message. The delighted and sticky pavlova-covered face will be an image that will no doubt stick in attendees' minds well into the Christmas season.

Throughout the evening, we know that the music, performances, carol-singing, and encouragement from the Reverend drew out wonder and awe in all who came. As the Year 8s lit their leavers' candles and proceeded out of the cathedral, we were reminded to go forth in joy, be peacemakers, and continue to foster deep gratitude for the abundant blessings in our lives.







## O Night Divine!

2023 marked the first-ever Years 0 to 2 nativity play. With the growth of the school, we decided to give the Juniors their own Christmas celebration, with attendance at the Carol Service beginning from Year 3 onwards. Dean of the Junior School, Geoff Brown wrote the script in conjunction with Sabine Bartlett, Boys' School Drama specialist and gave a large number of boys the opportunity to deliver lines to the audience. Many of the older students were given the opportunity to watch the production during dress rehearsals, before parents and other family were invited in the afternoon.

The nativity was an overload of cuteness, with the boys impeccably dressed as barn animals, angels, sheep, shepherds, or as the people we know by name in the story told in the gospels of Matthew and Luke. Starting with the shepherds seeing the star over the manger, the boys retold the birth of Jesus through reading and music. Cleverly weaving well-known carols throughout the story helped bring context to the songs many of us sing each year without realising the significance of the lyrics.

Head of Music Mrs Georgina Jarvis brought the Christmas story to life with her musical arrangement for the Juniors. Thank you to all the parents who came along to mark this significant time of year with us.



## Two Medals in Mathematics for ICAS Exams

A stellar showing in the ICAS exams saw twenty-two boys score High Distinction, which is awarded to the top one percent of participants in each subject. Two exceptional performances by Louis Kwok and Eason Liu in Mathematics earned them Top of Subject in their year groups (Year 6 and 8 respectively). Congratulations to the winners for their dedication to academic achievement.

### High Distinction Subject Winners

**Digital Technology:** James Doull, Eason Liu, and Oliver White

**English:** Alston Cai, Christian Sun, and Anthony Li

**Mathematics:** Alston Cai, Nathan Zhu, Jeffery Chen, Ethan Tse, Austin Chen, Jun Zhe (Andy) Hu, Louis Kwok, Anthony Li, Nicholas Smith, Cyrus Tong, Zixiang (Paul) Yuan, Ryan Yeh, Eason Liu, Harold McCulloch, and Arthur Zhang

**Science:** Jun Zhe (Andy) Hu, Nicholas Smith, Cyrus Tong, Zixiang (Paul) Yuan, Oliver Bennett, Kousei Chow, Lawrence Li, Eason Li, Samuel Nichols, Oliver White, and Arthur Zhang.





# Celebrating Excellence and Dedication at 2023 Prizegiving

Throughout the academic year, our boys consistently showcased a strong commitment to excellence, achieving success across various facets of school life. As the school year drew to a close, the Boys' School community gathered for the annual prizegiving, a fitting occasion to recognize and congratulate our boys for their accomplishments in 2023.

The College Sports Centre gym was abuzz with the Boys' School community coming together on the final day of the academic calendar to celebrate their various achievements. In his written address, Trust Board Chair Mr Mark Conelly recounted the remarkable year marked by many firsts and commended its strong commitment to educational excellence and spirit of pioneership. He underscored the positive reception of the Special Character review earlier in the year, emphasising the enduring significance of the school's Presbyterian ethos. Mr Conelly congratulated the prize winners and extended best wishes to graduating students as they joined the esteemed ranks of Old Boys.

The award ceremony commenced with the presentation of music, speech, and cultural awards, followed by sports awards and academic accolades for each syndicate. Deputy Principal Mr Grayson Aspinall announced the Christian living award, while the Service awards and Special awards were presented by Mrs Kim McGregor and Boys' School Principal Mr Peter Cassie, respectively.

The audience enjoyed well-rehearsed performances by the Jazz Band, Jazz Combo, and the Performers' choir. In

his principal's address, Mr Cassie commended the boys for excelling both academically and within the broader community. He acknowledged the hive of activity throughout the year, encompassing academic programmes, sports, cultural events, inter-house competitions, and service initiatives, providing the boys with ample opportunities for growth. Mr Cassie highlighted the value of the wider school community, imploring "I hope you feel as proud of the school as I do."

The ceremony concluded with graduating Head Boy Ben Robertson delivering his final valedictorian speech, joined by Deputy Head Boy Campbell Williams, as they handed over the mantle of leadership to new Head Boy Harry Simpson and Deputy Head Boy Tommy Wright. Mr Cassie announced the new leaders, including the prefect team of 2024.

As the ceremony drew to a close, marking the last day for our Year 8 graduates at Saint Kentigern Boys' School, Ben Robertson shared a metaphor encapsulating the deep-rooted legacy and community he feels after eight years at the Boys' School. Using Michael Creighton's words, he likened the Boys' School to a tree, each student a leaf, the teachers and staff the soil and nutrients, encouraging the leavers as they prepare to land in new soil.

Congratulations to all the boys who received awards at this year's prizegiving. We extend our best wishes to all our Year 8 boys as they transition to college.



**The Foundation Pupil  
Cup for Dux  
Eason Liu**



**Jubilee Cup –  
Proxime Accessit  
Harold MacCulloch**



**The Ross Perry Cup for  
Senior Sportsman of  
the Year  
Caden Fuatimau**







## Special Prizes

<b>Middle School Remuera Lions' Citizenship Award</b>	Jonty Dwight
<b>Senior School Remuera Lions' Citizenship Award</b>	Luke Staples
<b>Brian Matthews' Citizenship Cup (Junior School)</b>	Finn Bowkett
<b>Baker/Pilkington Cup (Middle School Year 3 and 4)</b>	Harry Subbiah
<b>Saint Kentigern Poole Cup (Middle School Year 5 and 6)</b>	Austin Watson
<b>Senior Citizenship Cup</b>	Rory Carson
<b>Joel Campbell Memorial Trophy</b>	Eason Liu
<b>Knox Family Lion Heart Award</b>	Samuel Nichols
<b>AW Smith Cup for Middle School Sportsman of the Year</b>	William Gascoigne
<b>Rex Hooton Cup for School Spirit</b>	Kolo Liku
<b>Sandra K Hastie Cup for Deputy Head Prefect</b>	Campbell Williams
<b>Saint Kentigern Cup for Head Prefect</b>	Ben Robertson
<b>Team of the Year</b>	1st XI Hockey
<b>House Champions</b>	Cargill



**P&F Staff  
Scholarship Winner  
Catherine Linnell**



# Boys Dominate NIWA Science Fair with Five of Eight Category Wins

The 2023 NIWA Auckland Science and Technology Fair prizegiving was a night of resounding triumph for the Boys' School which dominated the competition across multiple categories. Six students secured top positions across eight categories. These remarkable achievements are a testament to the dedication and scientific understanding of the students as well as incredible teaching and mentoring.

Asher Tenenbaum and Ethan van der Poll claimed the top spot in the Technology category with their project Chess Reimagined. Their innovative approach to blending a classic game with modern AI technology earned them first place and the University of Auckland's Dean of Science Creativity Prize. Oliver White's project Shutbot secured second place in the same category with the design and creation of a wearable robot device that was programmed to alert him when he spoke too loud. His ingenuity didn't go unnoticed, as he also received the LearnWell ESA Publications Prize.

Sean Doherty emerged victorious in the Human Behaviour category with his project titled Terminator. His exploration of ChatGPT and the impact it will have on the future of classrooms, teaching, and learning was intriguing and enlightening. In addition to winning first place, he walked away with the University of Auckland's Faculty of Science Award.

Another first-place prize went to Theo Spillane in the Planet Earth and Beyond category with his project Lowering Land. Spurred on by the devastating flood damage that he earlier this year witnessed, Theo investigated which materials were best for rebuilding eroded landscapes. This also earned him the prestigious GeoScience Society of New Zealand Award.

Alongside Theo, Harold MacCulloch tied first in the Planet Earth and Beyond category with his project Magnetic Microplastic Magic. His innovative method of using ferrofluids to remove microplastics from water sources impressed judges, and he in turn received the Delta Education Prize for using STEAM.

Eason Liu shone in the Food Technology category, clinching first place with his project The Freshness Formula. His research into preserving and prolonging the shelf life of



foods using his own formula made from natural antibacterials was highly creative and earned him the University of Auckland's Faculty of Science Award and the Microbiological Society Mike Baxter Prize. Alexander Keys achieved second place in this category with his project It Ain't Easy Being Cheesy earning the NZIFST Award for Food Technology.

Liam Jarvis emerged victorious in the Physical World category with his project Turning Turtle, granting him first place and the University of Auckland's Dean of Science Creativity Prize. He investigated the varying stability of boats through oscillations and horizontal load as different amounts of weight were placed at selected positions on the keel.

The Boys' School also received several highly commended awards across various categories, demonstrating their depth of talent and dedication to scientific inquiry.

Our young scientists have showcased their intellectual curiosity and innovative thinking and made the Boys' School exceptionally proud. Their achievements at the NIWA Science Fair testify to their hard work, perseverance, and passion for science, setting a high bar for future cohorts of budding scientists.



## Innovative Projects Highlighted at Science Symposium

The annual Science Symposium invited our top Year 7 and 8 scientists to take over the Science spaces in the Specialist Facilities building and present their intriguing discoveries to peers, judges, and parents. Over two-hundred boys were involved in creating science fair projects, representing hundreds of hours of investigative work.

The boys were encouraged to choose projects they felt passionate about, emphasising a deliberate approach that prioritised meaningful conceptualisation over haste. These projects adhered to scientific methodology with an emphasis on fair testing. With well-defined aims, the boys systematically identified the variables requiring testing and conducted experiments to gather data for subsequent analysis and presentation. Progressing through their lines of investigation, they independently arrived at conclusions that either supported or refuted their initial hypotheses.

This year's Science Symposium showcased forty-one projects shortlisted from the best two or three projects from each Year 7 and 8 class. The weeks of preparation allowed the boys to deepen their knowledge of their chosen topic, and the results of their hard work were apparent as they confidently shared what they had learnt. The selected boys shared their ideas across multiple sessions at the Science Symposium with parents and Middle School students moving around the different stations.





Student(s)	Project	Prizes
Asher Tenenbaum and Ethan van der Poll	Chess Reimagined	1st Technology
		The University of Auckland Dean of Science Creativity Prize
Sean Doherty	Terminator	1st Human Behaviour
		The University of Auckland Faculty of Science Award
Theo Spillane	Lowering Land	1st Planet Earth and Beyond
		GeoScience Society of New Zealand Award
Harold MacCulloch	Magnetic Microplastic Magic	1st Planet Earth and Beyond
		Delta Education Prize for use of STEAM
Eason Liu	The Freshness Formula	1st Food Technology
		The University of Auckland Faculty of Science Award
		Microbiological Society Mike Baxter Prize
Liam Jarvis	Turning Turtle	1st Physical World
		The University of Auckland Dean of Science Creativity Prize
Oliver White	Shutbot	2nd Technology
		LearnWell - ESA Publications Prize
Alexander Keys	It Ain't Easy Being Cheesy	2nd Food Technology
		NZIFST Award for Food Technology
Gordon Hitch	Slip, Slop, Slap	Highly Commended Physical World
		Stardome Bronze Award
Henry Hewes	Which Wad Works?	Highly Commended Material World
		MOTAT Silver Award
Campbell Williams	Getting My Head Around Headgear	Highly Commended Physical World
		MOTAT Silver Award
Fred Spencer	Direct Air Capture	Highly Commended
		Planet Earth and Beyond
		Ballance Agri-Nutrients Prize
Aidan Knight	Send it or Mend it?	Highly Commended Physical World
Oliver Walter	Is Toothpaste a Scam?	Highly Commended Material World




Each of the projects at the symposium displayed the critical thinking necessary to find solutions to real-world problems. As the boys continue to refine their interests and passions, whether in a scientific field or elsewhere, the investigative process utilised in their research projects will undoubtedly serve them well in future endeavours.

From the Science Symposium, eighteen projects were selected for the NIWA Science Fair. Congratulations to the following boys on their selection: Alexander Keys, Oliver Gowans, Henry Hewes, Gordon Hitch, Asher Tenenbaum and Ethan van der Poll, Eason Liu, Ryder Greaves and George Reeves, Campbell Williams, Aidan Knight, Oliver White, Sean Doherty, Theo Spillane, Fred Spencer, Oliver Walter, Nathan Cooper and James Norling, Liam Jarvis, Harold MacCulloch, Tom Gaskell, and Reuben Kennerley.







# Back to the Future for Fireworks Spectacular

There is nothing in the calendar quite like the annual Fireworks Show.

Over two thousand Saint Kentigern community members streamed into the Boys' School on a warm November evening to see the field and surrounding areas of the Macky Specialist Building transformed into a festival, marking the beginning of the summer season.

As the crowds flowed in, parents set up their picnics as students gravitated towards the carnival rides – a towering rock-climbing wall, a miniature ferris wheel, teacups, and various inflatable obstacle courses. An extremely popular activity was the sponge throw, luring in copious amounts of students to hurl a wet sponge at some rather brave teaching staff. Chaplain Rev. Reuben Hardie and Physical Education teacher Mr Chris Hansen copped a few wet sponges at the expense of some well-taught Senior students. Between the rides, food trucks, and families picnicking on the grass, groups of friends played touch rugby, tag, or playful glow-stick battles in anticipation of the night's entertainment.

Going 'back to the future' as this year's theme, staff and students curated a throwback performance to entertain the crowds. Michael Jackson's Beat It with modified lyrics to 'Peter' was a hit, alongside the polished dancing numbers and clever skits capturing wide grins from spectators. Boys'

School Principal Mr Peter Cassie and Deputy Principal Mr Grayson Aspinall made quite the duo in their red suit attire, backed by Rev. Reuben Hardie who made an uncanny Elvis Presley. Girls' and Boys' School staff combined for a disco-themed group performance, followed by the Girls' School AIMS hip hop crew which excelled in hyping the crowd.

As dusk settled over Shore Road, the grand finale of the night was set. Younger students snuggled into their parents while friends laid side by side, anticipating the long-awaited fireworks. Set to timeless music, vibrant colours and lights burst across the sky. The display was impressive, with each new series of explosions eliciting murmurs from the crowd.

The hardworking Boys' School Parents and Friends team led by Mr Michael Hewes were instrumental in orchestrating a spectacular evening. Alongside developing the theme, they ensured there was plenty of food, activities, and that the fireworks went off without a hitch. We thank everyone for their efforts, including staff and students who generously offered their Saturday evening to entertain us. After such an unforgettable night, we look forward to the creativity the team will bring next year.









# Year 7s on Motutapu for Camp

The sky was blue, the sun was shining, and there was lots of excited chatter as the ferry moved slowly out of Half Moon Bay beginning our journey towards the Year 7 camp on Motutapu Island.

MOEC (Motutapu Outdoor Education Camp) is an old army barracks which has been redesigned to accommodate school parties engaging in a range of outdoor activities.

The boys were challenged with water sports including kayaking, snorkelling, stand-up paddle boarding, and the flying fox. High ropes, low ropes, the climbing wall, and the abseiling tower tested the boys with activities off the ground. There were also teamwork and initiative challenges like the Burma Trail, Survivor Challenge, and the Confidence Course. Beach activities and a historical walk to the gun placements and tunnels used by the army in the last war gave a different dimension to the learning.

As the ferry docked at Yankee Wharf, the boys and adults set themselves up for a six-kilometre walk to the camp. On arrival, each tutor group was assigned sleeping barracks where they unpacked, set up their beds, and prepared themselves for their first activities.

We organised two evenings under canvas. The camp site was on the beautiful Home Bay Beach, giving the boys the experience of pitching a tent, cooking their food on a barbecue, and spending a night under the stars. This was a great experience for half the group – the other half unfortunately had to abandon their overnight camp due to heavy rain. Apart from this, the weather held, and we constantly repeated to everybody, "Get that sunblock on!"

The week was a real success as boys interacted with excitement, energy, and chatter about what they had just done. They were exposed to adventurous activities, rose to challenges as they came, and finished the week feeling more confident and satisfied they had achieved something. The ferry journey back was peaceful. The boys returned to school tired, tested, and enriched from the experience.

**Written by Mr David Hessey, Camp Coordinator**



# Year 3 Ventures Out for Overnight Camp

Last year, our Year 3 overnight camp was held on the school grounds, pitching tents on the upper field and enjoying all the incredible facilities on campus. This year, however, the students were excited to venture off campus, heading to Willow Park for one night. The journey kicked off on Monday morning with eager anticipation as the boys geared up for a day packed with excitement. The first day was dedicated to fostering teamwork through a series of engaging team-building activities. The second day unfolded with adrenaline-pumping adventures including the Coastal Challenge, stand-up paddle boarding, rock climbing, and archery. The boys enjoyed every moment of the action-packed itinerary, returning home ready for a good nap. Thanks to the parent helpers, teachers, and organisers – the boys had a blast.

**Written by Miss Hayley Hindson, Year 3 teacher**



# Juniors Explore School Surroundings for EOTC

Towards the end of the year, as the focus turns towards the summer holidays and Christmas excitement begins to bubble up, the Year 0 to 2 students enjoy a morning of Education Outside the Classroom (EOTC). The boys are put into multi-year groups and let loose on several activities around the school and beyond to Wilson's Beach.

The morning's activities involved bug hunting, block building, a confidence course, seashell hunting, and water play. Each engaged the boys in tactile hands-on learning, fostering their inquiry skills through becoming curious about the 'why' to their different observations in nature.

The highlight of the morning for many was the introduction to the Roselle Lawn Confidence Course. Animated and eager faces rushed their way down the field for their group's rotation, excited to take on this challenging course for the first time. The thrill of conquering new obstacles was met with many high-fives from watchful teachers, and the boys loved zooming down the flying fox at the end of the course.

Down at Wilson's Beach, Mrs Sue Castle led the boys in a fascinating exploration of the shoreline. Armed with magnifying glasses and spades, the future archaeologists examined the intricacies of seashells, discovering the secrets hidden within the grains of sand. In addition, Mrs Castle gave valuable insight on the vital role of mangroves in protecting land from erosion and providing shelter for marine life.

There is rightly an excitement around EOTC mornings, with one of the wonderful things about getting outside being the sense of wonder the boys foster for the world around them. The inquisitive questioning that begins to develop is of great benefit in many applications, not isolated to academia. We look forward to seeing that skill continue to develop in our boys.







## MasterChef Mission: Bolognese and Brownie

After its resounding success last year, MasterChef: Saint Kentigern Boys' School edition was back for a 2023 season. We were thrilled that Compass Group chefs Brett McGregor and Juan Pons-Seres De Brauer loved the boys' cooking so much in 2022 they came back to guide our Year 8 chefs again. Alongside Ms Patsy Hindson, Brett and Juan ran a seamless morning demonstrating, helping, and encouraging the boys to produce a two-course meal.

Representing their tutor classes in teams of four, six teams rose to a new challenge: bolognese and brownie. Over the morning, each team worked to create spaghetti bolognese and fudge brownies completely from scratch. The delicious aromas that wafted through the Specialist Facilities corridors had many boys and teachers longingly staring through the windows, drooling over the food.

Though taste is paramount to a good meal, the boys were also judged on their ability to work together as a team, the cleanliness of their stations, and presentation of their final plates. The winning team from 8AW consisting of Ben Robertson, Luke Staples, Harley Evans, and Caden Fuatimau, had a combination of them all, with the best-tasting dishes that pushed them over the other teams to clinch the win. Their pasta was cooked to perfection, ragout meat sauce flavourful, and brownie rich and chewy. As their winners' spoils, they were each given a signed copy of Brett McGregor's latest cookbook, an Edmonds cookbook, and a \$50 voucher encouraging them to fuel their love for cooking. No doubt there will be some happy parents who benefit from a new chef to pick up some slack at home!



## Character Chaos on School Grounds

Infusing a dose of House spirit and whimsical attire, a drizzly Tuesday on 31 October took a delightful turn as the school gates welcomed a procession of characters. The weather was hardly a topic of concern as students and faculty alike shifted their focus to a more entertaining spectacle – classmates who had momentarily shed their Saint Kentigern schoolboy identities to embrace personas such as Willy Wonka or Wally from Where's Wally.

Despite the date, this costumed affair was not for Halloween; rather, it marked the return of the annual Book Parade, a long-awaited revival for the older students who eagerly embraced the opportunity to show their creative dress-ups. The sight was truly a treat, with the standout costume being a lifelike Mr Grinch. Even the school's Principal humorously concealed himself beneath the guise of Winnie the Pooh. Notably, the syndicates of teachers added to the fun by donning matching costumes – the Senior teachers in particular caused parents in attendance to break into laughter with their portrayal of knobby-nosed witches.

As the students paraded throughout the school grounds belting out their House chants and sharing laughs with friends, the joyful atmosphere served as a reminder of the countless lives one can inhabit through the pages of a book. Ultimately, the underlying message of the day was clear: to encourage a genuine excitement for the world of reading.





# Battle of Wits at Dads and Lads House Quiz Nights

In an exciting two-night debut, the school held its inaugural Dads and Lads House Quiz Battle. With back-to-back evenings of intellectual challenges, friendly competition and light-hearted banter, these highly anticipated nights brought together the school community to test their knowledge and teamwork.

The first night pitted the blue Chalmers House against the green-wearing Cargill House, while the second night saw the red Hamilton House facing off against the yellow-clad Wishart House. The anticipation in the air was palpable as the gymnasium was set for these epic showdowns.

The quiz nights were designed to test a wide range of knowledge areas and certainly did not disappoint. The categories included mathematics, literature, and traversed through various subjects, leaving no stone unturned in the pursuit of fast-paced recall. However, the highlight of the evening had to be the hilarious charades round, which had students and fathers alike in stitches as they acted out words and phrases, sometimes with more enthusiasm than accuracy.

The school history round proved challenging for boys and fathers as they dug deep into the memory banks to pull out nuggets such as the theme of Rev. Reuben Hardie's most recent chapel service. Nevertheless, the quiz nights weren't solely about answering questions correctly; they were the conduit to a fun evening between father and son.

Between the intense rounds of questions, spot prizes were awarded to the best-dressed duos and tables displaying exceptional teamwork. These moments of recognition added an extra layer of excitement to the already exhilarating atmosphere. It was terrific to see fathers and sons working together to answer questions, strategise, and show their support for their respective Houses.

The teachers worked extremely hard to ensure the quiz questions were age-appropriate and fun, and the parents who volunteered to mark answers also deserve a big thank you. It's no small feat to keep a cool head while boys madly



approach you with their quiz answers, desperate to get their next question as quickly as possible.

At the end, the results were tallied and the overall winner was the mighty Wishart House followed closely behind by Cargill, Hamilton, and finally Chalmers. The top-performing boys (and fathers) from each competition night were also recognised and awarded a cocktail evening in Term 4 as their winners' spoils. On night one, Jack Stephens and Oliver Hall took out the Junior division, and Joe Graham, Jaden and Samuel Zhang, and Stanley and Theo Maher were the Senior winners. The night two Junior winners were Rupert Yeoman, Logan MacDonald, and Baiyan Chen, and Senior winners Hugo Currey and Harry Simpson.

Behind the scenes, the incredible Boys' School Parents and Friends team, with special mentions to Mrs Philly Lyus and Mrs Jane Cashmore, dedicated their time and effort to facilitate the boys 'taking their dads out' for a takeaway dinner of pizza and fish and chips. The photo booth captured precious memories before families headed home for the night.

These events wouldn't have been possible without the generous support of sponsors like Dynabook Intel and Kirwan Investments. Their commitment to the school community saw our events transformed from ideas into unforgettable memories.

## HOUSE RANKINGS

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







## Family Favourites on Shore Road for Grandparents' Day

After the enormous task of raising your own children is complete, your grown-up children flee the nest and begin their own families. Thus a wonderful privilege is bestowed upon you. The title of 'grandparent' is one of the highest honours and is arguably the most enjoyable position on the family tree.

Recognising the immense joy that grandparents bring into our lives, the boys invited these fun-loving family members to join them for a morning at school. Principal Mr Peter Cassie, with earnest enthusiasm, welcomed our guests and treated them to a brief assembly featuring musical performances by the boys. Mr Cassie proudly shared that he too had recently joined the prestigious 'grandparent club' as his son had welcomed a beautiful baby girl into the world. As expected, he has grand plans for her, and she will benefit from having a grandfather who knows a thing or two about school life.

Following this warm introduction, the grandparents were sent to their boys' various classrooms. As they walked through the grounds, the music from the Pipes and Drums welcomed them in classic Saint Kentigern style.

Some classes had prepared performances for their guests, others took the time to show their personal work from the year. Our guests took great delight in wandering the learning spaces and looking at the art and writing covering the walls, representative of a packed year of learning. In the Middle School quad, some grandparent-child duos challenged each other to a game of pickleball or outdoor chess, putting the equipment to good use.



To finish the morning in true grandparent style, a morning tea was laid out for the boys to serve. After the endless baking, hot chocolates, and meals the grandparents have undoubtedly made for their boys, our students were delighted to play host and give back to the people who've done so much for them. Grandparents, we hope you know how much we love and appreciate you.

## Old Boys Return for Reunion BBQ

The Boys' School resonated with echoes of nostalgia as recent graduates and their families gathered for the annual Year 13 reunion. Old boys from the Boys' School Class of 2018 who went on to attend various Colleges around Auckland relished the opportunity to reunite with their buddies and renew connections.

Our grill masters for this special 'welcome back' gathering—Principal Mr Peter Cassie, Deputy Principal Mr Grayson Aspinall, Chaplain Rev. Reuben Hardie, and SKOCA President Mr Thomas Steel—fired up the barbecue, sizzling sausages and burgers served with a variety of toppings. Meanwhile,

the boys and their families took the opportunity to explore the campus: the Roselle Lawn Confidence Course, the Macky Senior School, and the Specialist Facilities — new additions built and occupied since their school days.

Post-tour, it was time for a hearty dinner followed by some friendly sports action on the top field. Parents mingled, curious about their sons' future plans for university or work. This Boys' School tradition holds a special place, providing a perfect prelude to the graduates' exciting ventures beyond the familiar school grounds.





# Two-Night Arts Festival Opens Door for 2024 Arts Initiatives

In the heart of September, Shore Road campus sprung to life during the two-night Arts Festival. The vibrant celebration of creativity attracted a diverse audience including parents, siblings, students, and community members. Over two unforgettable evenings, the festival showcased a variety of artistic expressions across the campus including visual art displays, class performances, music ensembles, drama acts, and an exciting silent auction.

The festival's opening night primarily showcased the talents of students from Years 0 to 6, inviting families with younger boys to join the festivities. The following evening was dedicated to those in Years 7 and 8. Amidst an array of food trucks that tantalised taste buds was the jewel in the food crown: the Boys' School's very own sweet treats stall with an array of desserts baked in Food Technology classes. When they weren't captivated by the range of live musical and dramatic performances, attendees embarked on an inspiring journey through an enchanting art trail. Footsteps decorated with art guided them through the school's corridors and open spaces, transforming the campus into an immersive gallery showcasing the students' incredible artistic abilities.

Throughout the evening, guest participation was encouraged through a range of interactive exhibits. Attendees enthusiastically engaged in crafting pipe-cleaner animals and exploring animated slide artwork. Some ventured to strum a few guitar chords, sharing a musical moment with their children. Technology enthusiasts had the chance to delve into robotics and engineering displays, leading to some adrenaline-fuelled father/son/robot sumo wrestling matches.

Yet perhaps the most impressive displays of creativity were the art auction pieces housed in JC Chalmers Hall. Each class had invested a monumental amount of time, effort, and creativity into crafting their pieces, and art connoisseurs were able to leave a silent bid, leading up to the highly anticipated Art Auction Evening in Term 4. The proceeds from the auction, totalling just over \$19,000, circle back to the students, funding future arts initiatives slated for 2024.

To orchestrate a series of nights such as this requires some very dedicated behind-the-scenes staff. Alongside their work in the classroom nurturing the boys' artistic talents, staff were inventive in their arts' display approaches, resulting in two entertaining evenings for all ages. We extend our earnest appreciation to everyone who joined this celebration and supported the boys in their creative endeavours.





# Best of Boys' Music at End of Year Extravaganza

The pinnacle event in the music calendar at the Boys' School is consistently the Music Extravaganza. All the music groups across the school come together to enjoy each other's performances while entertaining a packed audience of family, teachers, and students.

As guests rolled into JC Chalmers Hall, they were entertained by the Boys' School Pipes Band. A unique feature to the music programme, the band honours the schools' Scottish roots and gives musicians the opportunity to perform at community events throughout the year.

The opening number of the night was brought forth by the String Ensemble. Their LED-strung bows swept up and down the strings, layering together the Star Wars theme song like Jedis wielding lightsabers.

With a tough act to follow, the Performers' Choir took the stage next. Their rendition of Rock Around the Clock was light-hearted and fun, with students sporting fabulous sunnies, sparkly hats, and performing dance moves that will no doubt be brought out for family Christmas routines. Two instrumental groups, the Jazz Combo and Flute Combo, continued in bringing different styles of music to the Extravaganza, showcasing a diverse programme throughout the night.

The Year 7 and 8 rock bands delivered expressive renditions of cult favourites Don't Stop Me Now and Lonely Boy respectively. Between their numbers, the audience heard our younger performers in the Junior Symphonic Band and the Saint Kentigern Singers. Both groups are all comers ensembles, providing any child who plays an instrument an opportunity to learn basic orchestral and collaboration skills.

The audience was treated to two soloists from the Solo Music Competition earlier in the year, trombonist Reuben Kennerley and winner Ryan Yeh on cello. Both boys are the epitome of a Saint Kentigern musician, playing with poise, technique, and great musicality.

As has become tradition, the finale of the night brought together all the performers (over one hundred seventy musicians in total) to play Scotland the Brave. The Boys' School Pipes Band set the piece off, and by the final verse, the crowd was on their feet singing along.

Head of Music Mrs Georgina Jarvis never ceases to bring a creative end-of-year music concert. From lightsabers to Christmas carols, rock classics to classical ensembles, 'extravaganza' is the only way to describe the night. Thank you also to Mrs Teresa de Vries and itinerant teachers Mr Matthew Baker, Mr Paul Herbert, Mr Thomas Chester, Mr Chris Townsend, Mr Alistair Greenwood and Miss Fayth Doherty.







## Cha-cha-Chalmers Wins House Music

House Music is back for the first time since the pandemic and the Houses came out with guns blazing. Dressed in their House colours, floods of blue, red, yellow, and green streamed into the gymnasium attempting to control their excitement.

Boys' School Deputy Principal Mr Jarred Wilson greeted the boys as they sat down in their Houses ready to perform. Special guest Mr Jonathan Tan was invited to adjudicate the stiff competition. With his background in music, both teaching itinerantly across Auckland and his personal career as a trombonist, the boys could be sure they had to perform at their best.

In order to take home the House Music Cup, each House had to perform the same waiata, Ngā iwi E, and a selection of their own from any movie soundtrack. The students had to use their creativity and draw from the unique talents within their group to stand out in their waiata performances.

Cargill was up first, putting their spin on Ngā iwi E with a ukulele ensemble backing their choir. The fun came when they performed Shrek hit I'm a Believer. The up-tempo tune came with dance moves, props, and great cohesion throughout the number, setting the bar high for the rest of the performers.

Chalmers followed next, unperurbed by the Cargill showing. They leveraged talented brass instrumentalists for their waiata, no doubt scoring favour with the judge. For their movie selection, they went with Under the Sea, fitting their blue theme across the board. Chalmers certainly got

creative with their props, using clear umbrellas for jellyfish and drawing the audience into their underwater world.

The raging-red Hamilton was third up. They too used a ukulele backing with a piano instrumentalist for their rendition of Ngā iwi E. They won this section with a superb rendition. Their own selection, Don't Stop Me Now by Queen, was the most energetic performance of the day. They took the lyrics quite literally, shooting stars like tigers across the stage and 'having a ball'. If we were to peek at the judge's score sheet, the entertainment factor would have been through the roof!

Wishart House performed the finale, with two polished numbers. They took their waiata acoustic, accompanied by a single guitar and piano. Their movie number, Eye of the Tiger, was sung beautifully by the boys, with bonus points for the tiger masks in the front row.

While our judge finalised his score, the staff band played for the thrilled students. Adele's Rolling in the Deep and Sweet Home Alabama had the students on their feet singing along with lead vocalists Mrs Patsy Hindson and Miss Sabine Bartlett.

Finally, the moment the boys had been waiting for – the winner announcement. Mr Tan did not make them wait, as he declared Chalmers House Music champions for 2023! Second equal went to Hamilton and Cargill, with Wishart taking fourth place. Chalmers are on top, but can they stay there for 2024?







# Wishart Takes Athletics for 2023

Despite the Hamilton House supremacy in Athletics last year, a new House claimed the win for 2023. Wishart's athletes sprinted, jumped, and threw to climb to the top of the leader board securing their position as House Athletics champions for the year. Following in second was Chalmers, then Cargill, and finally Hamilton.

The three Athletics Days spanning two weeks saw the Juniors (Years 0 to 2), Middle School (Years 3 to 6), and Seniors (Years 7 and 8) each head to Lloyd Elsmore athletics track to bring their best energy and compete for their brothers. Several records were shattered this year, including an incredible 400m sprint by Year 8 champion Severyn Yuschenko in 55.85 seconds and Austin Kirkham's mega throw of 21.34 metres in the Year 6 discus.

Thank you to the always hard-working Sports department for running another great athletics season. Director of Sports Mr Duncan Grant and the PE department continue to create a fun, competitive atmosphere that encourages the students to have a go and give each discipline a good effort for the boy next to them in the same-coloured shirt.

## HOUSE RANKINGS

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

### Athletics Day Results

#### Year 0 Champions

1st	Daniel Moon
2nd	Aisea Taumoepeau
3rd=	Albie Brink and Mackenzie Wei

#### Year 1 Champions

1st	Jackson Greenslade
2nd=	Nathan Wijaya and Oscar Southam

#### Year 2 Champions

1st	Maddox Maxwell
2nd	Cooper Burroughs
3rd=	Finn Bowkett and Cooper Gage Brown

#### Year 3 Champions

1st	Jake Gilbert
2nd	Sebastian Dow
3rd	Henry McIntyre

#### Year 4 Champions

1st	Allen Liu
2nd	Jack Stephens
3rd	Zavier Makea-Wilson

#### Year 5 Champions

1st	Edward Moon
2nd	Jacob Dow
3rd	Lachlan Richwhite

#### Year 6 Champions

1st	Anthony Li
2nd	Bruno McLeod
3rd	Austin Kirkham

#### Year 7 Champions

1st	Troyden Thompson
2nd	Kai Serlachius-Williams
3rd	Hamish Turnbull

#### Year 8 Champions

1st	Severyn Yuschenko
2nd	Samuel Nichols
3rd	Zac Stanley







## Wishart Wins Tug-O-War

The morning of the Boys' School Tug-O-War brought an undeniable surge of electrifying energy to the school grounds. Each year group had pre-selected teams, with the competitors arriving well-fuelled with plenty of Weet-Bix to sustain them through the rounds.

As the entire school flooded the gymnasium, the boys could barely sit still, wanting to jump up and start the competition. It's safe to say that most boys in attendance spent the morning on their feet, wildly cheering on their respective House's Tug-O-War team. The resounding chants from the Houses echoed through the gymnasium, shaking the walls and firing up opponents.

It wasn't just the students who were caught up in the excitement of the event; the teachers themselves jumped into the fray, rallying the students with uncontrollable enthusiasm. The House battles saw white knuckles and determined grimaces as each group heaved and pulled with unwavering resolve.

Several year groups put up an impressive fight, with some rounds lasting well over a minute. Director of Sport Mr Duncan Grant's commentary kept the crowds engaged and aware of the stakes, playfully warning any overly enthused boys to keep their distance from the competition area or face the consequences. The boys heeded the advice, hovering just outside the boundaries as close as they were allowed to cheer on their teams.

As the battles ended and the results were tallied, the mighty Wishart House came out victorious. Cargill followed in second, with Chalmers then Hamilton rounding out the standings.

Head of Wishart Mr Anton Lorenzon was a constant presence to his teams throughout, unreserved in his advice and support. Full of energy, one cannot deny his techniques paid off, given Wishart's triumphant ascent to the top of the ranks. The question remains: will anyone be able to topple Wishart next year?

## Seeing Double: Two Records Broken at Junior Swim Sports

Towards the end of the year, the Years 0 to 2 students have quite the line-up of sports days with both Athletics and Swimming Sports in Term 4. Swimming Sports has become an opportunity for all the boys to give a lap a go, with the security of our strong Senior swimmers there to help where needed. Whether it's a learner with a flutter board or a club swimmer who confidently charges down the black line, we love seeing each boy brave the water for a race.

Year 2 Kaleb Shek continued his record-breaking style from 2022. Shattering the 25m backstroke mark last year, he took to the pool this time to break both records in his year group. He finished his 25m freestyle in a blistering 20.53 seconds and his backstroke in 24.31 seconds. Pushing the bar higher for future year groups, Kaleb has only become more dominant, and we look forward to seeing his performance next year as a few more strokes are added to the mix.



### Swimming Sports Results

#### Year 1 Champions

1st	Oscar Southam
2nd	Landon Tang
3rd=	Luke Tang and Rio Zheng

#### Year 2 Champions

1st	Kaleb Shek
2nd	Lucas Yin
3rd=	Tommy O'Connor and Lucas Marzuki



# End-of-year Sports Round-up

## Athletics

Mt Smart Stadium hosted the annual Year 5 and 6 Remuera Zone athletics competition, where our boys performed brilliantly. Continuing their winning streak, our Boys' School Year 7 and 8 track and field athletes headed to Mt Smart Stadium for Auckland Champion of Champion Athletics. Severyn Yushchenko broke the Auckland record in the 200m sprint in a blitzing 24.31 seconds. Congratulations to:

Interzone Athletics		
Gold	Year 8 Boys 200m	Severyn Yushchenko
Gold	Year 8 Boys Long Jump	Severyn Yushchenko
Gold	Year 8 Boys High Jump	Zac Stanley
Bronze	Year 7 Boys 400m	Troydon Thompson

## William Gascoigne Strikes Gold at NZ Junior Swimming Festival

Over the weekend of the 4 and 5 November, William Gascoigne competed in the NZ Junior Swimming Festival Auckland. He completed a sweep of the backstroke sprints in the 10 and under age group with several other medal winning performances:

NZ Junior Swimming Festival 10 and under	
Gold	50m Backstroke
Gold	100m Backstroke
Gold	4x50m Freestyle relay
Silver	100m Breaststroke
Bronze	100m Freestyle
Bronze	200 Individual Medley

## Cross Country

After sweeping the teams section at Eastern Zones cross-country, our runners headed to Interzones with their eyes on gold. They put up an incredibly valiant effort with both the intermediate teams take top-three placings in Auckland. Our Year 7s placed second overall in the six-man team category, and our Year 8s placed third in their six-man category.

## Lower North Island Tour

Our 1st XV rugby, 1st XI hockey, and 1st XI football teams headed on a lower north island tour, competing against three schools and billeting with families of the opposition. They first headed to Wellington to compete with Wellesley Independent School for Boys, then to Scots College, and finally, ended at Huntly School. Always a sporting highlight in the year and an incredible experience for our boys.

### Rugby

The 1st XV came away with three wins over their tour. They played three players down against Wellesley to keep the teams even, with the final score 71-24 after a good battle.



They then headed to Scots College where the boys met their match. Scots scored the first try of the match, with the score flipping back and forth until our boys clinched the win 48-42. The final match against Hutt International Boys School was won 64-50, again playing with twelve players against their fifteen to even the teams.

### Football

The Football 1st XI also had three wins during the tour. They started with a win against Wellesley 4-1, working hard for each goal. Up against Scots College they had their performance of the season, hardly putting a foot wrong on the pitch and comfortably winning 8 nil. They finished the triple win against Huntly School 5-3 playing with only six players to Huntley's eleven.

### Hockey

The 1st XI started strong with a win against Wellesley, putting up thirteen goals in the first half. They mixed the teams for the second half to finish with a friendly game. Moving on to Scots College, they won convincingly 5 nil, despite some Year 9 students boosting the oppositions side. To finish, they played Huntly School winning 3 nil.



## AIMS Recap

AIMS Games is the highlight of the yearly sporting season for our boys waterpolo, basketball, and futsal teams who don't compete in the Lower North Island Tour. We also have a number of individuals head down to compete in their sports, many coming away with top three placings.

For the second year in a row, the premier waterpolo team won the tournament. The final game against Sacred Heart College was a nailbiter, all tied up at the end and won off a penalty goal.

The futsal team finished with silver medals, a stellar effort against thirty-eight teams. It was an extremely competitive and tense final against Sommerville Intermediate, down 3-1 at halftime. The boys clawed their way back to 4-3, but ultimately ended on a 5-3 loss.

On the individual sport front, Year 8 Caden Fuatimau collected three gold in the 100m free, 200m free, and 100m IM, two silvers in the 100 fly and 50m free, and a bronze in the 50m fly. Jacob Bargh won bronze in the tennis singles and secured bronze in the doubles with teammate Pancho Whitling. A special mention goes to Jesse Lyne on his Fairplay Award in the squash tournament for which he was nominated by players and parents.





# "What if I fall? Oh, but my darling, what if you fly?"

– Erin Hanson

Behind every decision, big or small, there is a moment before the so-called 'leap off the high diving board' – the crossroads moment.

When I came to the decision to move on from the school that I have called home for the past eight years, I had options, but I did not have a plan. Admittedly, this came with a mix of emotions including fear, doubt, excitement, and anticipation, particularly when asked the dreaded question, 'Well, what's next for you?' to which I had to state that I was not sure yet.

It was when I came across this line from eighteen-year-old Erin Hanson's poem that I was reminded of the reasons I made the decision in the first place. Comfort and familiarity, while comforting, do not foster the courage necessary for personal growth. It is with gratitude that I can now share that my next adventure will be as the principal of a local primary school in the beautiful Coromandel.

Throughout my tenure at Saint Kentigern Girls' School, my mission has been to create a culture where young girls choose courage over fear when standing at their crossroad moments. To foster confidence in our students to the point where they see the horizon of growth or success beyond the immediate confronting sea of doubt, failure, or hardship.

It fills me with pride when our young women, with confidence in their identity, choose courage and embrace the unknown and the uncomfortable.

So as a community there has been intentional focus around creating a space at school where girls feel safe to try new things, be themselves by unapologetically embracing their likes and dislikes, and where who you become is more important than what you achieve.

To each of these points I share stories that leave me reassured that this kind of confidence permeate our school culture.

Over the last few weeks, the rock bands have performed at various functions. I am amazed at the way the girls have enthusiastically explored with different instruments such as bass guitar, guitar, keyboard, and drums, often for the first time. It is great that these groups tried something new and felt safe in the school environment to perform something different in front of an audience. No mean feat!

Our Annie JR. production showcased many talented young students who came alive in front of the crowd. These girls felt free to be themselves as they added their own personality and flare into their singing and dancing, especially the character parts.

No one was prouder than I upon hearing about our EPro8 team who were placed at the Zone competition. These young women knew that success at this event would bring a dilemma as it clashed with their production. However, Saint Kentigern values shone through, and the team passed on their placing to the next school, doing so with graciousness and demonstrating that their character was more important than their achievement.

These stories exemplify the collective effort of our staff, community, and students over a series of unprecedented years. A piece of advice from a past Trust Board Chair that has always stuck with me is, "It's all very well leading in the good times, it's when it gets tough that it matters". This was evident during the Covid years when we were running a school whilst designing and building another. With resilience and commitment to our students, we continued to prioritise safe spaces, celebrate individuality, and encourage students to take challenges head on.

Our latest parent survey highlighted three strengths at our school: strong values, teaching and learning, and pastoral care and support. I take it as no coincidence that strength in these three areas directly builds confidence leading to courage. The survey stated:

"The school successfully fosters an environment which allows female students to feel safe, happy, prideful, and a strong sense of belonging. This environment also teaches students to have respect for themselves, others, and with teachers, and as a result, enjoy being in the classroom."

The final factor I have found to be necessary in courageous decision-making is a deep-seated values system. I conclude my time at Saint Kentigern Girls' School with my faith strengthened and a strong commitment to make a difference in the lives of individuals through helping them achieve their potential.

As I bid farewell, I express my deepest gratitude to the Trust Board, Trust Services, the Saint Kentigern Senior Leadership Team, and the staff at Saint Kentigern Girls' School. My memories here are rich, and I am confident that the legacy we've built will be nurtured in the future by the incoming Principal Mrs Marianne Duston and Girls' School staff. Along with Boys' School Principal Mr Peter Cassie and Preschool Principal Mrs Megan Storey, I am certain that the Shore Road campus will continue to be at the forefront of excellence in education.

**Fides Servanda Est.**

**Ms Juliet Small**  
Girls' School Principal





## Thank You, Ms Small

The first day of summer brought with it a hint of sadness as our school celebrated and said goodbye to Principal Ms Juliet Small after eight years of leadership. She has steered the Saint Kentigern Girls' School through a pandemic; dreaming, building, and moving into a brand-new school; and this year, celebrated the school's first Foundation Day.

It was fitting to have the last assembly of the year commemorate all she has done and the person she has been to each of our staff and girls. Head Girl Amelia Hardie and Deputy Head Girl Sophia Evans shared personal sentiments on what they love most about Ms Small. Sophia recalled the principal coming up to her when she had just arrived at the school and greeting her by name – "To this day, she has never forgotten my name". Amelia shared how Ms Small would always ask her how she was feeling, particularly if she had been off due to illness. It was clear from their speeches – Ms



Small is a leader who cares about the individual just as much as the collective.

This echoed through each of the stories shared by staff and students alike: Ms Small is a kind, empathetic encourager who championed the girls and the Girls' School forward. She is a strong advocate for female education, and we know her words to "Always be yourself" will ring in students' minds as they continue through their schooling years.

The assembly was thoughtful and at times rather hilarious, though not without a few tears. A big box of memories including her infamous quad-House cape, a book of students' dreams for the new school, and letters from each of the staff among other gifts were presented to her at the end of the service. Ms Small generously brought a beautiful piece of artwork for the school to enjoy after she has gone.

Ms Small, we wish you all the best in the sunny Coromandel.



## Celebrating One Year at Shore Road

On 11 August, our Girls' School students and staff gathered near the playground – the same place we stood a year ago for the official opening of our new school on the Shore Road campus. We assembled for a short service to mark our inaugural Foundation Day. Chaplain Rev. Reuben Hardie led the beautiful service with reflections on what makes our Girls' School special. There is so much to love and be grateful for at our new school.







## Celebrating the Journey: Year 8 Graduation Dinner

In one of their final gatherings as a cohort, Year 8 students and their families convened at Ellerslie Event Centre to bid farewell to their primary school journey. This year's invited guests included Head Girl of the College Kaia Ashmore, Old Girl Ms Amorangi Marsala, and Ms Genevieve Mora, Co-Founder and General Manager of Voices of Hope, a non-profit dedicated to destigmatising mental illness.

Girls' School Principal Ms Juliet Small set the tone for the evening, highlighting the celebration of the girls' educational journey. She emphasised their uniqueness, encouraging them to stay true to themselves and uphold Saint Kentigern values. "You are your own destiny," she affirmed, urging them to create opportunities, face challenges, and make a difference.

President of the Saint Kentigern Old Collegians Association Mr Thomas Steel welcomed the girls into the Association, urging them to stay connected within the SKOCA network. Kaia and Amorangi added their encouragement, emphasising the importance of giving things a try.

During dinner, families enjoyed each other's company while the girls eagerly collected signatures on their graduation bears. Guest speaker Ms Genevieve Mora shared her inspiring journey, instilling the importance of seizing opportunities and

moving forward. She left the girls with eight pieces of advice corresponding to their eight years at school, encouraging them to strive for excellence, pursue dreams, and not be afraid to seek guidance.

Deputy Principal Mrs Jill Wahlstrom continued the evening with the presentation of graduation gifts including the bear, scarf, necklace, sending-prayer bookmark, and cherished photos. The symbolic scarves mark the conclusion of the Girls' School journey.

A standout moment was the photo montage curated by Assistant Chaplain Mr Isaac Williams, taking the girls on a nostalgic journey from Year 0 to the present. Amidst squeals and crying-laughter, the girls enjoyed their trip down memory lane, solidifying the bonds forged over their time at the school.

The atmosphere throughout the night resonated with a mix of emotions – hugs, smiles, and a few tears. As they performed the Black Eyed Peas' 'Where is the Love?' between tears, it was evident the room was not lacking love. For our Year 8s, it is the end of an era and the beginning of a new adventure. All the best, Class of 2023.







## Let Your Light Shine!

"Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:16.

The end-of-year Carol Service held in the grand Holy Trinity Cathedral is a beautiful evening where our whole school community comes together on the cusp of Christmas. As you walk in, the breathtaking stained glass and sheer height of the cathedral demand your attention upwards toward the light that streams in.

Aptly, the theme for this year was 'Let Your Light Shine', and in a world where there seems to be much darkness, we can be encouraged that light shines all the brighter.

To begin the service, our Kapa Haka group performed as the official party made their way to the front. Chaplain Rev. Reuben Hardie and Reverend Ivica Gregurec welcomed the attendees to the service, followed by Girls' School Principal Ms Juliet Small who added her greetings.

Throughout the evening, carols sung by the full congregation were intermingled with student performances. During the sharing of the Christmas story, Junior School students provided visual aids and re-enacted the miraculous story of Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem. The Year 2 students delivered an equally adorable and hilarious performance of a Kiwi Christmas story, featuring a very determined kiwi who so badly wanted to be a part of a nativity play.

As entertaining as each of the items were, there would be no Carol Service without the birth of humanity's saviour, Jesus Christ. The evening is ultimately about Him, and though it is a privilege to celebrate our Year 8s and enjoy music together, let us not forget the reason for the season. For Him who came, died, rose again, and is seated at the right hand of the Father, may His light shine through us this Christmas.

This Carol Service was of extra importance to one individual and one group in particular – Principal Ms Juliet Small and our departing Year 8 class, both of whom are finishing their time at the Girls' School. As the girls processed out of the cathedral holding their burning leavers' candles with care, it was clear there was a deep love for the school and its community. Tight embraces, family photos taken, and teachers thanked were proof of this. We wish everyone a very merry Christmas bursting with light.





# Excellence Honoured at Prizegiving

In the culminating event of the Girls' School calendar year, our community gathered to acknowledge and applaud individuals who have demonstrated exceptional dedication and achieved noteworthy success in academics, sports, and cultural endeavours throughout the year.

Deputy Principal Miss Jill Wahlstrom, in her opening address, extended a warm welcome to esteemed guests, parents, and most importantly students, expressing gratitude for their contributions throughout the academic year.

Deans from the Junior School, Middle School, and Senior School subsequently took the stage to recognise our top academic achievers. Members of the Saint Kentigern Trust Board Mrs Kim McGregor and Dr Catherine Harri, alongside Executive Trustee Dr Kevin Morris, took turns presenting the awards.

Principal Ms Juliet Small, reflecting on her words from the 2016 issue of Piper, articulated her goal for the girls at Saint Kentigern to "be strong, competent young women who know their own mind and who can contribute to society with confidence, generosity and ability". Citing highlights from the year, including an outstanding production of Annie JR. and remarkable conversations with gold service award candidates, Ms Small expressed confidence in leaving the school in a position to continue thriving.

The ceremony continued with the presentation of awards for exceptional achievements in performing arts and sports, culminating in the highly anticipated Special Awards which encompass service awards and the top three distinctions: DUX, Proxime Accessit, and Sportswoman of the Year.

Interwoven with musical interludes from the school orchestra, performances by the Highland Belles, and an entertaining drama excerpt from Anne of Green Gables featuring 'Miss Hannigans' Kara Scouller and Rosie Bilkey, the formalities of the morning were both engaging and celebratory.

Graduating Deputy Head Girl Sophia Evans and Head Girl Amelia Hardie expressed heartfelt gratitude to the school before passing on the mantle of leadership to the 2024 Deputy Head Girl Ella Fox and Head Girl Farrah Palmer.

In a concluding address, Dr Morris made a special announcement. He extended gratitude to Ms Small for her outstanding contributions to the Girls' School and announced the renaming of the Social Stairs to the Ms Juliet Small Stairs in her honour. This legacy will serve as a reminder to current students of the school's foundation principal at Shore Road, fostering collaboration and relished moments of play in the atrium.



## Special Awards



DUX  
Rushian (Bella) Chen



Proxime Accessit  
Olivia Tan



Sportswoman of the Year  
Morgan Day

Remuera Lions' Citizenship Award	Molly Boyd Seini Vainikolo
Preschool Cup for Service to the Preschool	Isobel Horne
Junior School Cup for Service to the Junior School	Farrah Palmer
Gillian Eadie Cup for Entrepreneurial Skills	Anessa Thompson
The Roberts Trophy for Resilience and Perseverance	Rosie Bilkey
Dr Sandra K Hastie Cup for School Spirit	Ruby Bryson
The Lightfoot Cup for Citizenship	Sessilis Tu'akalau
Somervell Presbyterian Church Cup for services to Chapel	Sophie Henderson
The Gaudeamus Cup for making a difference	Sophia Evans







## Two Medals in ICAS Exams

Congratulations to the two ICAS medal winners, Mia Hendrickson and Ruishan Bella Chen, for their top-of-subject achievements. Mia won Top of Year 5 in Science and Bella won Top of Year 8 in English. We also had a number of High Distinction winners, listed below.

Student	Subject(s)
Ruishan Bella Chen	English Mathematics Science
Stefanie Li	English Digital Technology Science
Grace Chai	English
Audrey Gu	Mathematics
Mia Hendrickson	Science





# Girls Shine at NIWA Science Fair

At the NIWA Auckland Science and Technology Fair, the Girls' School was well represented as a group of fourteen talented students entered their research projects in the competition. Ten of them received recognition, an astounding achievement that highlights the exceptional scientific talent within the Year 8 cohort. This feat translates to an impressive twenty percent of the Year 8 students being recognised at the regional level for their ability to research, develop methodology, and draw conclusions about the scientific world.

The young scientists representing our Girls' School studied a diverse range of projects spanning various scientific domains. Their exceptional dedication to scientific inquiry and innovative thinking shone through as they presented their findings. Three students placed in the top three of their categories: Philippa Wiltshire, Mima Forster, and Ruby Bryson.

Philippa Wiltshire's project, Clean House v. Clean Water, delved into the effects of household cleaning products on pond-water health. Her research unveiled the concerning impact of these chemicals on water quality, with some products proving especially harmful to aquatic ecosystems. Philippa's work earned her second place in the Material World category and the prestigious Worley Gold Award for projects related to energy and chemistry.

Mima Forster's investigation into phototropism titled Phototropism: A Plant's Dance with Light secured her second place in the Living World category. Her innovative experiments involving light mazes to test plant reactions

to varying light conditions shed light on this fascinating phenomenon. Mima was also recognised with the LearnWell Silver Award.

Ruby Bryson's project Twinkle Twinkle, It's a Scam? explored the efficacy of different toothpaste brands in cleaning and whitening teeth. Her meticulous experiments debunked marketing claims and revealed surprising results. Ruby clinched third place in the Material World category and received the Dental Association Gold Award.

Cindy Yu achieved an exceptional feat by receiving a Statistics Award – a rarity for an intermediate-aged student. Her project Speed and Height: Does Height Affect Running Speed? employed statistical analysis to determine the relationship between the two, ultimately concluding that shorter individuals tend to run faster.

These young scientists not only achieved remarkable individual success but also collectively showcased the scientific excellence nurtured within our Girls' School. Their accomplishments serve as an inspiration to their peers, reinforcing the importance of curiosity, innovation, and diligent scientific inquiry in our educational journey. Congratulations to all these outstanding students for their exceptional achievements at the NIWA Science Fair.



Student(s)	Project	Prizes
Philippa Wiltshire	Clean House v. Clean Water	2nd Material World Worley Gold Award for projects relating to energy and chemistry
Mima Forster	Phototropism: A Plant's Dance with Light	2nd Living World LearnWell Silver Award
Ruby Bryson	Twinkle Twinkle, It's a Scam?	3rd Material World Dental Association Gold Award
Cindy Yu	Speed and Height: Does Height Affect Running Speed?	Highly Commended Living World Highly Commended from New Zealand Statistical Association Awards
Olivia Tan	The P-oo-lant Project	Highly Commended Living World Soil Society Silver Award Department of Conservation Silver Award
Coco Poole	H2O NO!	Highly Commended Planet Earth and Beyond MOTAT Silver Award
Rosie Bilkey	Weather vs Water	Highly Commended Planet Earth and Beyond Tiritiri Matangi Silver Award
Bella Chen	Away with the Rain	Highly Commended Planet Earth and Beyond Ballance Agri-Nutrients Silver Award
Eden Moyle	Pancreatic Feedback	Highly Commended Technology LearnWell Silver Award
Sophie Henderson	To Salt or Not to Salt?	Highly Commended Food Technology LearnWell Silver Award





## Junior Girls Weave Magic with Words

On the afternoon of 27 June, the Girls' School Juniors were excitedly buzzing as they proudly presented their much-awaited Poetry Showcase. The talented Year 0-3 students meticulously prepared and invited their families and friends to witness the culmination of their hard work.

Each class radiated enthusiasm as they animatedly took the stage to perform their chosen poems, and it was evident that humour was the order of the day. Laughter filled the air as young voices took over the hall with verses that had the audience in stitches.

Among the highlights was the uproarious performance by the Year 3 classes who had the audience chuckling with their renditions of *If I Were a Principal for a Day* and *Baa Baa Smart Sheep*. The latter piece stole the show, narrating the hilarious tale of a cunning sheep outsmarting a gullible turkey. The girls' spirited delivery and impeccable storytelling skills made it an unforgettable moment for everyone present.

The showcase also featured individual performances of original compositions. The poems spanned a wide range of themes, from heartfelt descriptions of their mothers to vivid depictions of their favourite colours, demonstrating the creativity nurtured throughout the term in writing class.

Once the curtain fell on the showcase, the excitement continued as parents were invited to the classrooms to experience even more of the girls' incredible work. The passion poured into their creations was truly commendable, leaving parents beaming with pride.

The Junior Girls' School Poetry Showcase was nothing short of a resounding success, celebrating the magic of words and the power of imagination. The event was a testament to the amazing talent and artistic brilliance developing in these young poets and storytellers.





# Triumphant Rehu Tai Speech Competition



In the pursuit of progress, communication stands as the bedrock of understanding, connecting individuals and inspiring collective change.

**A**t the forefront of this art lies the power of an effective speech, capable of captivating audiences, creating connections, and motivating action.

This skill took centre stage for the thirty-four finalists of the Girls' School Rehu Tai Speech Competition finals as they courageously stepped into the spotlight to share their prepared talks. In a moment that combined excitement and trepidation, these young speakers harnessed the opportunity to shape minds, influence decisions, and leave an indelible mark on the hearts of their listeners. Today's young voices will undoubtedly become the influential orators of tomorrow.

For the Year 4s, it was their first opportunity to compete in a school speech competition, and we had four incredible talks on their hobbies with poster boards to supplement their messages. The Year 5 to 8 students were asked to speak on kaitiakitanga (guardianship). Within this, the Year 5s, with a year of experience under their belt, did flash talks with slides to accompany their speaking. The Year 6 to 8s were given the option to write either a persuasive speech or the more lyrical spoken word. The calibre of performance was extremely high, and we congratulate the finalists for their participation.

Guest judge Mrs Del Costello commended the winners in each category for writing an incredible speech and communicating it with the audience. In Year 4, Jayda-Belle Gonzalez-Smith animatedly expressed her love for netball while informing listeners of what they need to know before trying out the sport. Mia Hendrickson was the Year 5 winner for her convincing flash talk on climate change. Her strong visuals, reinforced with her content on the implications of our changing climate, left listeners convinced and enlightened.

The Year 6 persuasive speech winner Emelie Meier-Law performed a punchy talk, her words shaking the predominantly female audience to wake up and stand confident in their abilities. Cecilia Ma was described as one of the morning's highlights with her beautiful spoken word on stars. Her message that they are not simply balls of gas, but balls of hope, earned her the win.

In the Year 7 categories, persuasive speech winner Coco Verber-Nicols took an exciting spin on environmental guardianship that was rather timely, with Mattel in the spotlight after the success of the Barbie movie. Katelyn Klette creatively shared her experience on social media through spoken word, taking a universally understood experience and warning about its dangers.

Sophia Evans and Bree Toatelegese won the Year 8 persuasive and spoken-word categories respectively. The former also spoke of guardianship of our minds while trawling social media. The latter poetically encouraged the audience to not simply identify changes that must be made but take responsibility for the required action. As the last speech of the day, her words put the full stop to the morning with an uplifting message.

Our winners went on to compete at the Remuera Cluster Rehu Tai Finals where Mia Hendrickson won first place with her flash talk, and Cecilia Ma won in the spoken-word category.

At the Auckland Champion of Champion Finals, Coco Verber-Nicols won the Year 7/8 Flash Talk category marking the end of a very successful speech season for her.

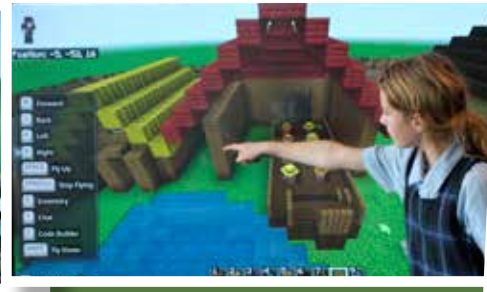




## Speech Champions

YEAR / CATEGORY	WINNER	SPEECH TOPIC
Year 4	Jayda-Belle Gonzalez-Smith	Netball
Year 5	Mia Hendrickson	Climate change
Year 6 Persuasive Speech	Emelie Meier-Law	Women's rights
Year 6 Spoken Word	Cecilia Ma	Stars
Year 7 Persuasive Speech	Coco Verber-Nicols	We need to stop buying toys with plastic packaging
Year 7 Spoken Word	Katelyn Klette	Social media
Year 8 Persuasive Speech	Sophia Evans	Protecting our mental health from social media
Year 8 Spoken Word	Bree Toatelegese	We can be change





## Forging roots to Tūrangawaewae

The phrase Tōku Tūrangawaewae (you are who you are because of where you stand) stood as the pillar of the Middle School inquiry topic spanning two terms of learning. Term 2 was a time of deep exploration, diving into the rich tapestry of local history and forming a base of understanding that several creative projects could be built from.

This foundation was laid by unravelling the stories of Remuera and Ōrākei, the very fabric of the school's locality. The girls relished the opportunity to unearth the hidden tales that have shaped the land they stand on today, connecting them to the essence of Tōku Tūrangawaewae. They also took a trip to Maungakiekie – a historic site steeped in Māori heritage – applied the knowledge the girls had digested to a thrilling treasure hunt.

Returning to the classroom armed with knowledge solidified in experience, the middle schoolers embarked on a creative project that bridged the past with the present. They formed

small groups comprising students from various years, leveraging each other's perspectives and skills to design a functional Māori pā using the popular computer game Minecraft.

The pā was to be an accurate representation of early Māori life. The design process challenged the students to consider not only historical accuracy but also landscape, location, and artistic expression. The result was an array of virtual pā sites, each a reflection of the students' creativity and knowledge of early Māori life. The grand finale of the unit saw the students present their projects to each other.

The journey from uncovering local stories to designing virtual Māori villages was an extensive exploration of heritage, engaging the students in a holistic approach to fundamental education of our land and fostering a deep connection to their Tūrangawaewae.

## Go, Girl, Go!

This year, New Zealand had the unique privilege of hosting the FIFA Women's World Cup alongside our friends over the ditch in Australia. It was a year of firsts in the football world, with a World Cup never having been hosted in the Southern Hemisphere or by two countries. The Middle Syndicate at the Girls' School recognised this trailblazing mentality and decided to capitalise on it as the theme of their Term 3 learning.

Go, Girl, Go! became the umbrella theme for learning over a variety of subjects. In Social Science, the girls explored the evolution of women's sports over the past century. Although in ancient civilisations there are records of female sports competitions, the Victorian age – which our current western culture stemmed from – brought with it the social expectation that women should not participate in any form of strenuous activity. Clearly, a complete culture upheaval has happened in the last century. Now, our students compete in multiple sports teams and can be found dashing through the playground at lunchtimes – a far reach from the early 1900s when informal athletic clubs for females were only just being established.

The English curriculum explored another angle of this topic through narrative writing. The Year 4 and 5 students learnt to structure stories around challenges, creating characters that resonate with readers. Inspired by heroine sportswomen of the past century, the girls set out to channel their strong characteristics into fictional characters in their stories. Year 6 took another avenue altogether, examining newspaper articles and critically evaluating how media channels deem what is newsworthy.

Design time came with an exciting group project where groups of students from all three year groups were tasked to create their own foosball tables. With banana boxes, wooden dowelling, pegs, and creative flair, students crafted tables to be subsequently used in a foosball tournament. Each composed a unique scoring system and goal posts, causing every new game to be an unknown quantity.

Across the different facets of learning explored in this unit, our girls had their perspectives widened and their gratitude deepened. Today, more than ever, they understand how fortunate they are to partake in the friendly competition of sports. Furthermore, by encouraging creativity in written and artistic forums, we hope they begin to dream of ways to continue the genuine and healthy empowerment of women in every area of society.







## Senior School Green Guardians

On 30 October, Ms Michelle Brinsden from the Eastern Bays Songbird Project came to speak to our Year 7 girls to complement their learning in Social Science. As part of their Sustainability theme, the Seniors have been looking at the United Nations Sustainability Goals, with a particular focus on our local environment. This past term the girls worked in groups to put forward a proposal of their ideas for social action at our school. Ms Brinsden's visit taught us more about the issues in our area and possible solutions.

The education session unpacked the impact of pests and predators on birds and lizards, how ink traps are used to identify these pests, and time was spent matching unknown prints to respective culprits. The students then put their knowledge into practice, identifying various birds and classifying them as endemic, native, or introduced. Following

the visit, they were left with the challenge of a five-minute bird count.

Our girls also learnt about the significant rise in intensity of Shore Road campus property managers working together with Eastern Bay Songbird to trap possums and report these trappings. Since the spring holidays, at least ten possums have been removed, identifying a need for more trapping. Evidently, the possums love the native trees and bush that surround the Saint Kentigern School site.

As a Senior cohort, we are working towards an understanding of how a pest-free environment can be established to improve the habitats of native and endemic species. For our girls, the future is now.

## EPro8 Girls Are 'The GOATS'

Our Year 8 EPro8 team The GOATS, made up of Ruby Bryson, Vivi Haworth, Daniella Gillard, and Olivia Tan, were the only fully female team of the twelve teams at the Auckland EPro8 semi-finals on 13 September. In an exciting end to the competition, the girls came from behind, putting their heads together and gaining an impressive 30 points in the last fifteen minutes. This pushed them to a second-place win seconds before the buzzer went off.

They showed great perseverance, steadily working away at their chosen challenges of The Tetris and Space Invaders. Their strength in problem-solving and ability to work well as a team to utilise each other's strengths saw them successfully putting together 18 different five-block combinations and using electronics to trigger a light which activated a counter.

A big congratulations to these girls for their outstanding efforts. They showed great sportsmanship, as their second-place win secured them a spot in the Auckland finals, yet they graciously gave this up in lieu of their commitment to our school production Annie JR. Gifting their spot to the third-place team, the top three teams celebrated together on the night. Our girls truly lived up to their name - the 'Greatest Of All Time!'







# A Hard-Knock Hit: Girls' School Production of Annie JR.

Inside the cosy embrace of the Glen Eden Playhouse Theatre, the warmth of salty popcorn filled the air as eager guests took their seats in anticipation.

After a term of dedicated rehearsals and countless hours of preparation, the Girls' School production of *Annie JR.* was set to take centre stage, and the atmosphere was palpable.

The timeless story of a plucky orphan catapulted into the world of a billionaire is one of those narratives that never fails to evoke nostalgia and hope. It transports us back to a childlike mindset of optimism and resilience, that as adults, we could use a dose of every now and then.

This rendition of the beloved classic, featuring two casts delivering four captivating performances, drew sell-out crowds night after night. The hour-long theatrical masterpiece expertly captured the very essence of the cherished film, reliving the journey of an orphan girl in pursuit of a brighter future.

The two Annies, Cast A's Maddie Denby and Cast B's Farrah Palmer showcased their remarkable talents, using their strong vocals to seamlessly weave together the story of the gutsy orphan. Meanwhile, the two Miss Hannigans, Cast A's Kara Scouller and Cast B's Rosie Bilkey brought the audience to fits of laughter with their spot-on portrayal of the character's careless, arrogant, and vain disposition.

Among the remarkable cast, one character stood out in a truly unique manner – Sandy the dog. Cleverly brought to life as a puppet, Sandy's endearing shaggy hair and playful antics added an extra layer of charm to the show. Operated

with precision by two skilled puppeteers, Sandy became a source of delight, captivating the audience's affection.

An enormous feat likely unnoticed by theatre-goers was the intentional involvement of nearly the entire student body. Whether taking part in ensemble performances by classes, assuming main cast roles, or contributing behind the scenes, each member played a vital role. From the intricacies of lighting, sound, and hair and makeup to the meticulous set and costume design, and even the essential front-of-house and catering responsibilities, it was a true testament to teamwork and dedication, uniting the Girls' School community with a shared purpose.

Co-directors Mrs Melinda Downes and Mrs Judy Norton deserve accolades for their outstanding work. Their attention to detail and creative vision breathed life into *Annie JR.* in a way that prompted some audience members to secure tickets for a second viewing.

The Girls' School production graces the stage only every other year, turning each occurrence into a cherished event. The confidence instilled in these young girls through their participation in the performing arts will undoubtedly serve as a valuable asset as they progress into high school, where more opportunities await. *Annie JR.* is just the beginning of what promises to be a remarkable journey for these budding performers.









## A Morning for the Girls and Grands

There's something deeply sentimental about the warmth of a grandparent's hug, their signature chocolate chip cookies, and the way they hold you close when you need it most. The love they have for their grandchildren is immeasurable, and the connection they share is truly special. Some say that genes tend to skip a generation – maybe that's why grandparents and grandchildren often find each other so endearing.

Recognising the significance of this unique bond, the Girls' School upholds an annual tradition of inviting the grandparents of every student to join in a morning of merriment. The programme this year included a full school assembly featuring excerpts from the 2023 musical *Annie JR.*, ensemble performances, and a warm welcome from student leaders Amelia Hardie and Sophia Evans. Girls' School Principal Ms Juliet Small, who recently joined the 'grandparent club' herself, extended her heartfelt welcome to the guests, reflecting on her own experiences as a new grandmother. The love portrayed as she spoke of her

own family set the tone for the affection shared by all the grandparents present.

After the initial gathering, grandparents, along with their student hosts, explored the various learning spaces at the school. The girls proudly showcased their written work, artwork, Science Fair projects, and a wide range of other accomplishments from this year.

Following an insightful tour of the facilities and classrooms, grandparents were treated to a delicious morning-tea spread courtesy of the Girls' School Parents and Friends (P&F). Each cup of coffee was delivered with a warm smile and a profound sense of gratitude for the invaluable role these special individuals play in each child's life. P&F also organised Polaroid cameras on each of the school levels for the girls and their grandparents to capture sweet memories to take home. This morning remains a cherished highlight on our calendar, and we eagerly anticipate welcoming everyone back for our 2024 event.





# Year 7 Girls Leadership Summit at Mangatāwhiri Campground

In Term 4, our Year 7 girls embarked on a three-day leadership summit at Mangatāwhiri campground, laying the foundation for their upcoming roles as leaders in the school. The combination of favourable weather, satisfying meals, and engaging activities created an environment conducive to personal growth, teamwork, and environmental awareness.

Upon arrival, the girls were greeted by brilliant weather matching their high spirits. The sunshine and clear skies allowed them to freely explore the campsite, tucked away from the usual hustle and bustle of daily life.

Camp activities were carefully curated to entertain and challenge the girls, offering unique opportunities for leadership and personal development. Various tasks tested their problem-solving skills and fostered teamwork, which the girls embraced with enthusiasm, building confidence and forming strong bonds with their peers and soon-to-be co-leaders.

The service activity proved valuable, urging the girls to appreciate their surroundings

and understand the camp's long-term environmental plan. Engaging in hands-on gardening tasks, our students contributed to the preservation of the beautiful site, fostering a sense of responsibility as stewards of the planet.

The Year 7 girls' experience at Mangatāwhiri campground was an escape to grow in confidence and connect with their peers. From conquering challenges to savouring meals under the open sky, each moment contributed to a collective of memories. A massive thank you to the staff involved.



## Girls Make It a Two-peat for Theatresports

The annual College vs Girls' School Theatresports showdown is always packed with quality entertainment and quick-witted acting. This year's edition was no different. College Head of Drama Mr David Sheehan brought the brightest Year 7 and 8 actors to the Girls' School to go head-to-head with our top two teams.

The College teams were accompanied by old Girls' School students who stepped up to judge and MC the occasion. They were thrilled to see their old teachers and help run the workshop before the competition started. One such judge, Keeley Berkovits, was in the Auckland title-winning College team earlier in the year and had plenty of advice to share with the up-and-comers. The most important advice, though, came from Mr Sheehan who encouraged all the Year 8s coming to the College next year to ensure they select Drama!

The competition ran through three rounds and a tiebreaker. The four teams each played one game per round, cumulating scores out of ten. The Girls' School team 'Totally Not Dramatic' made up of Sophia Pike, Jayen Long, Georgia Wang and Phoebe Wakelin gained an early lead with their horror rendition of The Three Little Pigs in the category Genre Replay. 'The Year 7 Girls' from the College were hot on their heels, and it was these two teams that upon completion of the final round were all tied up.

To decide the winner, they went head to head in the game Space Jump. The coveted gnome trophy was clinched by 'Totally Not Dramatic' after their tiebreaking performance. Throughout the competition, their entertainment score was incredibly high, often reducing the audience to quivering wrecks of laughter. Their success follows last year's first-place Girls' School team, setting a winning streak to continue next year. Thank you to Mr Sheehan, Mrs Norton, and Mrs Melinda Downes for yet again putting on another successful Theatresports competition.







## Father-Daughter Ninja Morning Unleashes Inner Warriors

The all too familiar father-daughter play fights which dads will be well acquainted with are usually instigated at home. On a crisp September morning, the essence of these friendly tussles was brought to the Father-Daughter Ninja Morning for our girls and their dads to enjoy. The event took these everyday moments and created a special memory with a purpose for all who participated.

Around two hundred daughter-dad duos eagerly converged in the school gym, ready to channel the legendary fighter spirit of big-screen heroines like Mulan. They were taken through an hour of tactical self-defence training run by Big Judo instructors Ben and Nellie Stallworthy, who've clocked five New Zealand judo titles between them.

The dynamic pair of instructors kicked off the morning by comically acting out a scenario that would result in needing self-defence. In an ideal world, de-escalation is the gold standard for safety. But the girls came ready to throw a few punches! So, they gathered everyone into a huddle to watch them as they demonstrated different defence movements, from ducking, hand-chops, and kicks.

The girls were extremely excited to try these new techniques on their dads. Shrieks of glee ensued as they karate-chopped their dads to the best of their abilities. The dads were kind enough to oblige the beating as the girls' confidence increased.

In amongst the giggles, our girls were taught some important lessons: identifying a threat to safety, diffusing hostile situations, and strong positioning to hold in conflict. While our efforts persist in striving for a world where their skills won't be essential, the acquired knowledge will empower them with confidence as they flourish into strong young women.

After an hour of adrenaline-infused self-defence, appetites were well earned. Breakfast was provided by the Girls' School P&F who put on a delicious array of warm breakfast bites, hot drinks, and nibbles. On their way out, each father was given a bag full of all sorts of things to help cement their new ninja personas, including a gym trial, protein powders, drinks, and an assortment of 'man stuff'.

Thank you to the P&F for putting on an empowering morning for the girls to spend quality time with their dads. We'd also like to thank our generous sponsors who donated items for the take-home bags. Finally, a word of warning to our dads - we anticipate some more evenly matched play-fights coming to your family home soon!





# High School Graduates Return for Reunion

Organised by the Saint Kentigern Old Collegians Association, at the wrap of the school year we extended a warm welcome to our alumnae the Old Girls, who have recently completed their high school years with many having pursued their education at the College. Marking this inaugural reunion at the Girls' School, we were delighted to host a significant number of Old Girls and their families at our new campus. The notable turnout stands as a testament to the cherished environment that defines our school.

The Girls' School Class of 2018 represents Principal Ms Juliet Small's third graduating year group. At that time, the school was still situated at the Remuera Road campus, with aspirations for the purpose-built school premises they stepped into for the reunion.

Rekindling old friendships, both parents and students engaged in lively conversations over light tapas and beverages, savouring the pleasure of one another's company.

Ms Small expressed her gratitude to the attendees, reflecting on the transformative five years that have transpired since she last saw many of the girls. Now matured and undoubtedly ready for greater and more exciting pursuits in 2024, the evening concluded with a guided tour of the new facilities, leaving families suitably impressed at the new learning environment for those who will join their Old Girls ranks in a few short years.

We extend our sincere appreciation to all who attended, and eagerly anticipate hosting the Class of 2019 in a similar gathering next year.



# Splashes of House Spirit at Youngest Swimming Sports

The Years 0 to 3 Swimming Sports is held at the end of Term 4 as a fun way to wrap up the year with a little House spirit. Red, green, blue, and yellow lined the banks of the pool, with parents up above waiting with anticipation to watch their children race.

We were thrilled to see so many girls give a race a go this year, no matter if it was the fun seahorse noodle race or the competitive 25m freestyle or backstroke. Between the races, teachers took over the loudspeakers to play tunes that got the girls up and dancing. Tracks from Annie JR. were a hit, and the girls remembered all the moves to You're Never Fully Dressed Without a Smile!

The morning has always been about giving it a go, however there were some standout efforts on the day. Congratulations to the year-group winners and to Cargill for taking out the House competition.

## HOUSE RANKINGS

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

## Swimming Sports Results

### Year 0/1 Champions

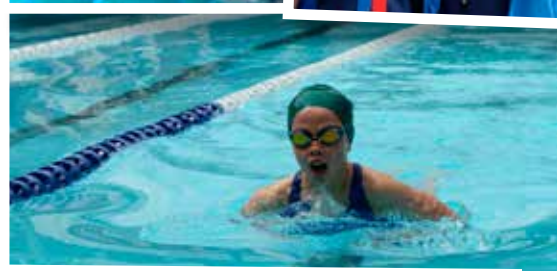
1st	Chloe Liang
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### Year 2 Champions

1st	Sophia Gunn
2nd	Karen Tang
3rd	Anni Li

### Year 3 Champions

1st	Eve Gascoigne
2nd	Olivia Boyd
3rd	Janessa Xie







## Chalmers Speeds to Athletics Day Win

A multitude of enthusiastic students congregated at the Lloyd Elsmore athletics track for Athletics Day, eager to partake in the event and relish the opportunity to compete on a proper track – a departure from the customary setting at the College in previous years. The annual occasion, where each girl fervently represents her House, was held over two days: one dedicated exclusively to the Junior School and another catering to Years 3 to 8.

At the Girls' School, the Junior Athletics unfolded with spirited competition, encompassing competitive sprints, two notable throwing events (push pass and quoit), and the fan-favoured long jump.

The Middle and Senior Athletics Day commenced with a decisive initiation marked by a resounding bang as the 100m sprints were set into motion. Accompanied by spirited cheers from classmates on the sidelines, the initial sprinters raced towards the finish line, propelled by the vocal support that proved instrumental in their triumph. Parents and caregivers, observing with keen interest, clenched fists in anticipation, urging their daughters to accelerate towards the finish.

Subsequent events were held simultaneously featuring a variety of activities occurring concurrently, with each year group rotating through distinct competitions. Embracing an inclusive ethos, every participant opted for either a competitive or non-competitive category, thereby contributing valuable points to their respective Houses. Discus and shot-put throws, the 100m and 200m dashes, and optional 400m and 800m races for those inclined towards longer distances made a dynamic line-up.

From the youngest competitors to the eldest participants, the smiles of achievement radiating as the girls gracefully soared through the air or executed flawless throws attested to the resounding success of the 2023 athletics season.





# End-of-year Sports Round-up

## Athletics

Mount Smart Stadium hosted the annual Remuera Zone athletics competition, where our girls performed brilliantly. Morgan Day broke the meet record in the 800m sprint, along with a collection of other placings from multiple girls.

Continuing their incredible run, our Girls' School track and field athletes went back to the stadium for the Auckland Champion of Champion Athletics. Two of our Year 8s came away with top-three placings, and Morgan Day was named Year 8 Athlete of the Meet.

Off the back of a successful track and field season, Morgan Day has been selected to compete in the Auckland team at the New Zealand Track and Field Championships in March next year. She will be competing in the under-16 age group – a fantastic achievement for a just-turned 13 year old.



Interzone Athletics		
Gold	400m	Morgan Day
Gold	800m	Morgan Day
Gold	1500m	Morgan Day
Silver	Long Jump	Eden Moyle
Bronze	200m	Eden Moyle

## Rhythmic Gymnastics

On 7 September, our top gymnasts headed to Champion of Champions at Tri Star Gymnasium. The girls displayed flair and precision in all their routines, coming away with some fantastic results.

Champion of Champions Rhythmic Gymnastics		
Gold	Year 3 team	Olivia Boyd, Fern Mannond, Charlotte Hedges, Abbie Hall
Bronze	Year 3 individual	Olivia Boyd



On 15 November, we had a large team head to the NHG Gymnastics Stadium for the Woolf School Zone Day. The girls have been attending sessions with Jade Faulkner every week to learn their routine and new skills. It was incredible to see their consistency and dedication pay off. Year 3 student Olivia Boyd won her category, making it a clean sweep across the year in both rhythmic and artistic gymnastics for her. The group collected a series of top-three finishes. Congratulations to:

Woolf School Rhythmic Gymnastics		
Gold	Year 3	Olivia Boyd
Gold	Year 5	Abby Wang
Gold	Year 7	Coco Verber-Nichols
Bronze	Year 3	Janessa Xie

## Cross Country

At Interzone cross country, we had a great group of girls compete on the course. We came away with two top-ten placings in the Year 8 race by Morgan Day and Eden Moyle. The biggest success of the day was our Year 8 team placing first overall in the team category.

The runners then headed to AIMS for Winter Tournament week, where Morgan Day placed third in the Year 8 race. Congratulations to our runners for a great season.



## Football

At AIMS Games, our football 1st XI had a winning streak right until the finals where they narrowly lost to Belmont School, settling for the silver medal. They had a great run with wins against Maidstone Intermediate, Baradene, Diocesan, Albany Junior High, Aquinas College, Tawa Intermediate, and Northcross Intermediate.



## Ski Team

The two-day competition at Coronet Peak in Queenstown put on some stellar bluebirds for the girls. Day one was the individual giant slalom competition, with five girls placing in the top ten on their first effort at ski racing. The second day was the team competition where our Junior girls won gold.







# Grounded in Tradition, Focused on the Future

I extend heartfelt thanks to the entire school community for welcoming me in my first year with warmth and faith, and for allowing me to learn so much about who and what lies at the heart and soul of this wonderful place.

There is much I have learnt, but one of my clearest learnings has been of the great pride and aspirations that sit tangibly over all that we do and stand for – such a sense of value and identity provides me with a humbling motivation to steer the College forward, as both custodian of the past and futurist. Promptly evident to me is how, as a College, our defined purpose and principles offer a shared direction, encouraging resilience to meet the evolving needs of our community today and into the future.

Talk of the future is often a theme at the end of each year where we look towards what lies ahead for our young people once they step forward from their role as students at the College. However, in 2023, it is reasonable to suggest that the future, that once-ephemeral, oft-quoted concept, has arrived; indeed it is trending, it's gone viral. This year, the future has become the topic of much debate and conversations both in the land of education and beyond. I am, of course,

referring to the recent emergence of mainstream artificial intelligence which has shone a sharp light on the role of schools in educating young people. Whilst there are some who view this technology through the lens of fear, wary of what this means for knowledge creation in schools, we welcome the positive disruption to our teaching and learning and embrace the opportunity to be part of the future, not fight it. A school's role in a knowledge economy, now even more accelerated through AI tools such as ChatGPT, is to ensure learning and teaching for understanding are the focus of a child's education. In preparing our students for the future, it has become even more critical to develop human-centric skills such as creativity, citizenship, critical thinking, and

collaboration. We must be bold to not only prepare students for their future but also give them the agency and space to be active citizens within their present. If we consider a school as an ecosystem that encourages growth and seeks to empower the individuals within it to flourish and develop their strengths, then it is essential we are guided by evidence-informed practices that best teach, care for, and encourage our students who have been entrusted to us for this part of their life's journey. It is exciting that the College has initiated pedagogical practice of all teachers, recognising the important influencers of change and development that our teachers are. In addition, we will see the further enhancement of student endeavour through the introduction of learning engagement monitoring, and the continued development of a reporting paradigm that will capture the holistic contributions and achievements of our students. Indeed, the future has arrived and we are ready.

Of course, we know that the future is not linear, and certainly not without its challenges and problems. Collectively, many have personally experienced some of these challenges this year. From flooding to cyclones, climate change, depletion of resources, global conflict, and intermittent employment opportunities. At times this year, it has been difficult to consider the future when the present has filled our phone screens, and our big screens, with harrowing images of uncertainty and devastation. Never has the future been so in need of courageous leaders and creative thinkers, compassionate helpers and generous 'do-ers'. With this in mind, I urge each and every student of Saint Kentigern to appreciate the words of Albert Einstein when he says, 'Try not to become a person of success but try to become a person of value.' Your value is measured by the love you take to your future and the good you do with your faith.

From AI to futurist thinking and action, it is important to stay connected to a clear awareness of our whakapapa – our story and identity which encapsulates where we come from, the future we will navigate, and what we are doing right now. The story of our school has become a part of your story. The pioneers who imagined the future boldly some seventy years ago now, laid the foundation for the school we have today. Their vision has become your present. Your







future beckons you on the shoulders of their robust imaginings. It is this determination and futurist thinking that we carry forward in a spirit of endeavour. Our collective responsibility as members of this community is to ensure Saint Kentigern College remains a leader in education for many years to come. Key to this responsibility is engaged parent and alumni communities, active student citizenship, personalised and values-based learning and care, and progressive educational design and teaching. From the vantage point of viewing Saint Kentigern College as a relative newcomer, I know I speak authentically of the great pride and love students both past and present – and uniquely, sometimes even future – feel for their time in blue and white. How wonderful to thread this love of place and people into your life's fabric both now and tomorrow.

And finally, as I began with reflections on learning, so it is fitting that I end with a final lesson this year has gifted me with. As we know, our motto, *Fides Servanda Est*, translates to Keep the Faith. It has taken me the year to fully appreciate how this motto permeates all that we do and are. In keeping the faith, we seek to honour our Christian heritage and its values of humility, kindness, and courage. In keeping the faith, we show care for each other and for those less fortunate than us. We keep the faith by showing up, bringing joy to our family and friends, taking time to reflect, and understanding the reason for the season.

**Fides Servanda Est.**

**Mr Damon Emtage**  
College Principal



## Thank You, Class of 2023



There is much to say for the Class of 2023. Their cohort led the College through what was the first full calendar year of events post-Covid. They gracefully navigated the flooding disruptions to their start-of-year activities and leadership inaugurations. They courageously instituted 'firsts' such as the Pink Ribbon Breakfast and Lights Up student-led musical showcase evening. They have been unwavering in their dedication to academics in the classroom as well as leading the College in House events and service.

The Year 13s gathered in the Chapel for the beginning of their leaver's ceremony, marked by addresses from College Principal Mr Damon Emtage and President of the Saint Kentigern Old Collegians Association Mr Thomas Steel. Mr Emtage thanked the students for their leadership and for helping him navigate his first year at the College. As such a high-performing year, a few students will go on to professional sporting contracts or to perform at the Globe Theatre in London, while most have their eyes set firmly on career aspirations and will head to universities across New Zealand or abroad after a well-deserved summer break. The tie that will link them no matter where they end up is their alma mater, Saint Kentigern.

Mr Steel welcomed the leavers as the newest Old Collegians. He encouraged them to stay connected, link into the expanding network of Old Collegians, and to hold fast to their ties to Saint Kentigern with pride.

The conclusion of the service was marked with the sound of Pipes and Drums, which led the procession of leavers through the school grounds to the gym where brunch was waiting for them. While enjoying each other's company, they devoured finger foods and received their leaver's scarves, ties, and 'Class of 2023' hoodies. Many took the opportunity for photos with their tutor teachers and to say goodbye to those who have been instrumental in their growth during their time at the College.

Thank you, Class of 2023; the College is all the better for your time and contributions.







# Farewell, Class of 2023

As the calendar winds down at the College, bidding adieu to our Year 13 students follows a series of events culminating on Sunday 3 December with the Graduation Chapel Service, diploma ceremony, and graduation dinner – one last evening of reflection and celebration in a familiar setting.

We commenced with chapel service in Elliott Hall, which was filled to capacity. Year 13s Catalina Addis and George Turner performed both together and individually throughout the ceremony, entertaining the audience around an inspiring message from College Chaplain Rev. David Smith. Beyond the academic lessons, Rev. David Smith urged the graduating class of 2023 to embark on their new journey with curiosity and gratitude for the experiences and relationships that Saint Kentigern College has provided them.

Quoting the Māori whakataukī (proverb), 'Ask me what is the greatest thing in world and I will reply: Māku e kī atu he tangata, he tangata, he tangata!' (It is people, it is people, it is people!), the Reverend emphasised the paramount importance of valuing relationships as the graduates step out into the world beyond the College:

"So, to you, the class of 2023, can I encourage you to be thankful, grateful for your Saint Kentigern years, and for

all the people who have known you by name and been interested in your progress. And don't ever forget that this is the way the world ought to be...

... And may you take with you the proverbial wisdom that 'A good name is a better choice than great riches, and to be esteemed is better than silver or gold.' And the thought that one of the best ways to live life is as the prophet Micah once said: 'To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God'. Yes, may you go out and live lives of empathy, as people who would do for others as you would have them do to you."

Following the heartfelt messages, the stage became the focal point as Year 13 students under the watchful eyes of their proud families received their graduation diplomas from College Principal Mr Damon Emtage in what was a poignant moment at the culmination of their educational journey.







The celebration continued at the College Sports Centre, where Gym 2 had undergone a transformation to an elegantly adorned dining hall with ninety-five tables and seating for 865 graduates, parents, and staff. Deputy Head Girl Kayla Conover and Deputy Head Boy George Turner, acting as the evening's MCs, extended a warm welcome to all attendees.

Speeches were given by Mr Emtage, parent Cam Wallace (on behalf of the Year 13 parents) and, in another first, from our first-ever Year 13 Valedictorian Josh Evangelidakis. Josh commended the cohort for navigating a year filled to the brim with sports, academics, arts, and service. The Class of 2023 was acknowledged for their collective efforts, and well-wishes were extended as they step out into the future. The emphasis remained on keeping people at the heart of their endeavours, holding to a lasting love for the friendships established at the College. The night culminated in many family and group photos by professional photographers White Door Photography.



## Year 12 Graduates Poised for Future

In a poignant commencement of the final term of 2023, Saint Kentigern College gathered to celebrate the graduation of our Year 12 students. This milestone marks the beginning of a new start for our graduates, with some embarking on journeys overseas for sport while others have chosen apprenticeships, all poised for promising futures. The Chapel, providing an intimate setting for this significant event, resonated with an air of profound pride among the close-knit gathering of family and friends.

College Principal Mr Damon Emtage addressed the congregation with his sincere congratulations and reflections on the students' collective journey at the College. Each of the students has covered considerable distance since their initial years in either Year 7 or 9. Delighting parents, a presentation featuring each student's first and last school photos gave proof of this growth. Adding a personal touch to the ceremony, the heads of each House conveyed individual sentiments to every student, accompanied by heartfelt messages from tutors.

The service was mixed with moments of excitement for the future and nostalgia for their school years. A prevailing theme of personal development echoed through the messages, with teachers commending the grit, determination, and progress demonstrated across various facets of student life.

Post-ceremony, students and their families convened in the library to savour delicious refreshments during afternoon tea, capture memorable photographs, and reflect on the shared experiences that have shaped their time together. As these graduates prepare to accelerate into the next phase of their lives, it was a privileged moment to pause, acknowledge the hard work accomplished, and cultivate excitement for the promising future that awaits.

Congratulations to our Year 12 leavers: Chase Bain, Connor Cowan, Vinne Gilbert, Blake Hay, Jack Sladen, Eva van den Brink, and William de Vires. You forever remain sons and daughters of Kentigern, and we eagerly anticipate witnessing the remarkable accomplishments you will achieve in the years to come.





# Academic Excellence Awarded at Senior Prizegiving

As is tradition, the College community of students, staff, families, and invited guests gathered as one to acknowledge the academic achievements of our senior students from Years 11 to 13. The evening, in addition to honouring academic excellence, also celebrated exceptional service and leadership contributions.

College Principal Mr Damon Emtage reflected on his year spent at the College, emphasising the importance of forward thinking despite what may be happening circumstantially.

While celebrating the outstanding academic accomplishments of our students, this year's prizegiving was also an opportunity to highlight the successes of three students who excelled in their respective curricula. Mackenzie Alley, a multi-talented student with a penchant for the performing arts and leadership, secured the Dux for NCEA, exemplifying an admirable balance between cocurricular activities and academic pursuits. Ethan Liu, a naturally gifted scholar, was awarded the Dux for the IB Diploma

– his passion for learning resulting in this extraordinary achievement. Finally, the Proxime Accessit was awarded to Ryan Tsai, a characteristically positive individual who has consistently demonstrated a fantastic work ethic leading to his incredible results.

Mrs JoAnn Wordsworth in her address shared a remarkable achievement by our Year 13 students. The cohort was awarded scholarships to New Zealand universities totalling over \$550,000. This number is a reflection of the hours of hard work, long nights, resilience, and dedication to academic excellence of our senior students.

As we reflect on this year, it's evident that the College has continued to inspire excellence in our students as well as a vision to serve and uplift others. Despite a somewhat uncertain start in 2023, this year saw relatively few disruptions, affording our students the uninterrupted focus necessary for their studies. The dedication displayed by our prize winners undoubtedly positions them for a promising future.







## IB Dux Ethan Liu

Ethan Liu has a natural love for learning which he has paired with diligence, working hard to achieve exceptional results this year. He fully deserves the award of International Baccalaureate Dux for 2023. Described by his teachers as an individual who is driven by the love of learning, his academic journey at the College has been one of prestige. Achieving multiple successes in the 2022 NZQA scholarship examinations, along with successes in his cocurricular activities, Ethan has a perfect predicted grade score of 42 out of 42.



## NCEA Dux Mackenzie Alley

Mackenzie Alley consistently exhibits kindness, empathy, and patience. She has shown immense commitment and talent in performing arts, demonstrating her ability to balance academic and cocurricular activities with fastidious precision. As well as receiving Excellence endorsements in Level 1 and Level 2, she has passed Level 3 with Excellence endorsement prior to external examinations with a perfect rank score of 320 out of a possible 320 and a GPA of 97%.



## Top Academic Student in Year 11 Edison Zhou



## The P.G. Hadfield Prize for First in Year 12 NCEA Katelyn Quay-Chin

## Proxime Accessit Ryan Tsai

Ryan Tsai has been described by his tutor as a source of positivity and inspiration. He has received multiple accolades over his time at the College including Academic Distinction and Colours. Prior to external examinations, he has already passed Level 3 with Excellence endorsement: a rank score of 314 out of a possible 320 and a GPA of 94.2 percent.



## The P.G. Hadfield Prize for First in Year 12 IB Sienna Williams

## Martyn Wilson Bowl for Inter-House Competition: Chalmers





# Middle School Academics Acknowledged at Prizegiving

On the concluding day of the academic calendar, families and esteemed guests convened at the Sports Centre alongside our Year 7-10 students for the Middle School Prizegiving, an occasion acknowledging their accomplishments in academics, sports, and the performing arts. The official assembly of Trust Board members, College leaders, and teaching staff commenced with a karanga, then, accompanied by the College Symphonic Band and soloist Lincoln Jones, all sang God Defend New Zealand.

Before the presentation of awards, College Principal Mr Damon Emtage delivered an address recognising the pivotal role the school plays in providing students with a platform for personal growth and leadership. He emphasised, "Our College fosters an environment where students can explore diverse roles, from scholars and artists to leaders and compassionate citizens. Nurturing these aspirations is vital for the betterment of our world. Our students' aspirations to mend, create, and change, underscore the privilege we have in shaping future leaders."

Here are the top awardees:

<b>Menzies Cup for Citizenship (Years 7 &amp; 8)</b>	Liam Hurley
<b>Cameron Prize for Citizenship (Year 9)</b>	Hannah Lucas
<b>Cameron Prize for Citizenship (Year 10)</b>	Isobel Jacobs
<b>Middle School Prose (Years 9 &amp; 10)</b>	Sarah Zhao
<b>Middle School Poetry (Years 9 &amp; 10)</b>	George McGuinness
<b>Birch Cup for Year 10 Girl All Round Ability</b>	Violet Taylor
<b>J. E. H Kururangi Cup for Year 10 Boy All Round Ability</b>	Leofe Usufono
<b>Junior Speech Award</b>	Millicent MacLeod

In acknowledgment of excellence, effort, diligence, and achievement, the foremost students from each year group stepped forward to receive their accolades from Mr Emtage, Director of Campus Life and Special Character Mr Duncan McQueen, Deputy Principal of Middle College Mr Carl Lidstone, and Head of Year 7 Mr Kevin Taylor.

Following this, Special Awards and Top Academic Awards were presented by Executive Trustee Dr Kevin Morris. Noteworthy among these were the 'All Round' honours awarded to Violet Taylor as the outstanding girl and Leofe Usufono as the exemplary boy demonstrating dedication and commitment to excellence across all facets of College life.

Ending the formal proceedings, the College Pipes and Drums marked the conclusion of the year with the traditional Beating the Retreat from the bridge as the official party departed.

Our deepest congratulations to all our deserving award recipients.



**Top Academic Student in  
Year 7**  
Hank Dai



**Top Academic Student in  
Year 8**  
Peter Hu



**Top Academic Student in  
Year 9**  
Hannah Lucas



**Top Academic Student in  
Year 9**  
Benjamin Lin





# Student Successes

## Middle School Linguists Top Chinese Bridge Speech Competition

Leading the way in language and culture, two standout Middle School students showed great skill at the 16th Chinese Bridge Speech Competition held in Auckland. Among 106 participants, Saint Kentigern students took over the Secondary Middle School Division winning both 1st and 2nd place. Year 10 student George McGuinness emerged as the winner, delivering a captivating speech titled 'Why don't you soar in the sky?' Classmate Quentin Lemusu-Vuletich secured the 2nd prize with 'Learning Chinese makes me laugh happily!' Both students, under the guidance of Ms Laura Deng, showcased exceptional dedication and a profound connection to Chinese language and culture.



## College Tops Three National Mathematics Competitions

The rigorous academic curriculum at the College seems to be paying dividends for some bright young mathematicians. At the 2023 New Zealand Maths Olympiad Competition, Nico McKinlay, Daniel Xian, and Remi Geron achieved Gold, Silver, and Bronze Awards respectively. This is a significant step towards representing New Zealand at the International Maths Olympiad and was the first time a student from the College has won a Gold Award.



At the 2023 Senior Maths Competition, only the top six students are given awards. Daniel Xian, Nico McKinlay, and Oscar Prestidge won half of these individual prizes with a first, third, and sixth place sweep respectively. What makes their results more impressive is the scale of this year's competition. With seven hundred students taking part from sixty-nine schools across the country, our students rose to the top of a stacked field.

We also recognise Karol Zhang who achieved the 'Top in School' for the 2023 Australian Mathematics Competition. Over one hundred students from the College sat this international examination in August, and given the calibre of mathematicians currently at Saint Kentigern, she had tough competition to beat. She also scored well nationally with a High Distinction score (97 to 99.7 percentile). We offer our congratulations to each of these students for their awards, acknowledging the many hours of study and preparation it took.

## Double Victory at Robocup National Final

In a thrilling showdown at the Robocup New Zealand National Final, Saint Kentigern College emerged as the undeniable champions, bringing home not one but two national titles. Not your run-of-the-mill robotics competition, students are required to innovate, create, and, for some, find a dash of soccer rivalry to compete against teams from schools all around New Zealand.



The Nerd Herd won 1st place in the Premier Rescue category. Oliver McGuinness, Bernard Wang, Boaz Lin, and Chace Wang's robot navigated through a black-line maze, avoided obstacles, and successfully found the 'victim'. The College also took silver in the Senior Rescue category with Technobot duo James Wang and Benjamin Berrington.

Additionally, That Random Person in the Corner team-of-one Alex Cole secured 1st place in the Soccer challenge. He built, coded, and navigated his robot to beat all his competitors in rounds of fully autonomous soccer games. The College also took 2nd place in this category with team Cheezy Cheezburger made up of Kai Wang, Leo Lu, Kaden Marzuki, and Ryan Wang. Congratulations to our robotics teams for their creative problem-solving and rigour that have gained them national titles.

## Premier Debaters' Undefeated Season

In September, our premier debaters competed against Rangitoto College in the Grand Final of the Auckland Schools' Debating competition. The moot was complex and relevant: 'This house regrets the extent of school closures during the Covid-19 pandemic.' Our team, made up of Chris Ye, Lucia Tang, and Avik Mehta, opposed the motion, successfully arguing that the nationwide response was justified and necessary from both a health and education perspective. Their journey to the Grand Final followed an incredible pathway of victory, winning every debate in the heats, every tournament debate, and indeed every debate they contested in 2023. The trio has competed together since 2021 and are an oratory force to be reckoned with. We also acknowledge Old Collegian and former New Zealand representative debater Mr Arunabh Prakash (class of 2014) for his expert tutoring of this team. Chris went on to compete in the World Schools Debating Championship as part of the New Zealand Schools National debate team.





# Celebrating the Arts

Every year the growing community of Performing Arts at the College comes together for an evening of celebration. The annual Celebrating the Arts event held at the iconic Elliott Hall is a night to acknowledge the dedication and talent of our remarkable Arts students involved in everything from Orchestra to Theatresports throughout the year.

Guests were welcomed into the foyer with smooth music from the Jazz Combo. Once everyone was settled into their seats, the event commenced with the grandeur of the Pipes and Drums. Miss Sara Standring, Director of Performing Arts, extended a warm welcome to the assembled audience and took a moment to express gratitude to her dedicated colleagues:

“Mr Geordan Wilcox for his dedication to dance; Miss Mary Lin in music for her commitment to excellence; Mr Dave Sheehan in drama for his brilliant sense of humour; Mr Glen Mortensen our production technician for the long hours, the problem solving and support; Mr Andrew Lightfoot for his diligence with our Pipes and Drums; Whaea Jasmine Martin for her passion and wisdom in Māori performing arts, and Mrs Amanda Raea for her dedication to our Pasifika students. Their collective efforts have been instrumental in shaping a year that was nothing short of extraordinary.”

The student voice of the evening came from Arts Prefects Mackenzie Alley and Josh Evangelidakis. Their ‘Year in Review’ recounted highlights from the year, notably the success of the Shakespearean performers, who earned the honour of representing the College at the national Sheilah Winn final in Wellington. Their production of *Timon of Athens*, skilfully directed by Jay Gao, garnered three awards including the prestigious Best Student Direction. Jay’s exceptional performance in the National Shakespeare Schools Production earned him the opportunity to take the stage at the Globe Theatre in London next year.

2023 has been a whirlwind year, featuring outstanding productions such as *The Addams Family* and *Frozen JR.*; a historic year of awards at the KBB Music Festival; the Dance Showcase, and the first student-led show *Lights Up*. The spectrum of events also included Theatresports, Cultural Celebration, Wearable Arts, Play Series, the rock programme, Kapa Haka, and much more, making it an incredibly packed year.

Between each award section, the audience was treated to excerpts of various Arts performances, creating a seamless tapestry of artistic expression. From the Year 13 Dance rendition of *We’re All in This Together* to the rather charismatic musical theatre piece *Hard to be the Bard* from the musical *Something Rotten*, the hilarious Premier Theatresports team, the premier Kentoris choir, and an array of other entertaining items.

The evening marked the end of the year for our current student leaders, as they say their goodbyes to Saint Kentigern in 2023. Josh and Mackenzie have been the supportive, encouraging, lead-by-example pair that has propelled the Arts forward through a year packed to the brim of events and opportunities. We know that the new prefects announced – Keeley Berkovits, Amelie Carter, and Patrick Yu – will do the same.

To conclude the night, the two top awards were announced. 2023 Middle School Performer of the Year went to Violet Taylor, and Senior School Performer of the Year to Jay Gao, both deservedly received. The accolades marked a fitting conclusion to an evening that celebrated the best of all areas of the Performing Arts.





# Athletes Celebrated at Sports Awards Night

“Hard work beats talent when talent doesn’t work hard.” – Tim Notke

Quoting Tim Notke’s sentiment, Director of Sport Mr Mike Anderson succinctly encapsulated the essence of the 2023 sporting year by acknowledging the commitment and diligence of every athlete at the College. Being a student athlete demands discipline, self-motivation, and resilience while simultaneously managing the myriad demands on one’s time. The annual Sports Awards serve as a platform to honour our students for their exceptional achievements at the top of their sports.

Following dinner, our audience enjoyed an interview of Mahina Paul and Jaymie Kolose, both Old Collegians who have risen to represent New Zealand in rugby sevens. Hosted by Mrs Wendy Petrie, the two women shared their post-Saint-Kentigern journeys, leaving our athletes, including those bidding farewell this year, with invaluable insights and advice.

Jaymie, who recently transitioned from touch and netball to rugby and more recently sevens, encouraged the athletes to embrace new challenges, drawing from her own journey into a new sporting endeavour. Mahina, with a longer history in sevens, inspired those who have faced setbacks by reflecting on her personal experience with injury which only deepened her passion for the sport.

The success of this event is not only attributed to the efforts of our dedicated students but also the indispensable contributions of Mr Mike Anderson, Sports Manager Ms Lynne Scutt, the sports administration team, and the Old Collegians Association, who combined to ensure the night reflected how proud the College is of their athletes.



## Dux Ludorum Ruby Spring

Ruby Spring clinched the prestigious Dux Ludorum title for 2023 while balancing her role as Sports Prefect. Her contributions were indispensable to the Senior Girls cycling team which secured a national team time-trial title. Her performances earned her a spot on the Black Magic women’s cycling team, enabling her to compete in international events across Europe which culminated in an appearance at the Junior Road World Championships in Glasgow. In addition to her cycling achievements, Ruby made contributions to Auckland title-winning duathlon and triathlon teams. She also featured prominently in the football 1st XI and competed in the Auckland Secondary Schools cross country as part of the winning Saint Kentigern six-person team.



## Girls Runner-up to Dux Ludorum Olivia Rooney

Olivia Rooney proved remarkable versatility in achieving high-level success across four sports in the past year. While best known for her triathlon accomplishments, Olivia claimed victory in the individual and team U19 NZ Secondary Schools triathlon championship and earned a spot in the NZ North-South Development Squad. Her strength in all three triathlon disciplines translated into victories in cycling, cross country, and athletics. Furthermore, Olivia was an integral part of the national title-winning Senior Girls cycling team and contributed to the Auckland title-winning six-person cross country team.



## Boys Runner-up to Dux Ludorum Coen Anderson

Coen Anderson, a versatile athlete, competed at a national level in multiple disciplines including athletics, triathlon, swimming, cycling, and cross country. He stood out as the individual U19 New Zealand triathlon, duathlon, and aquathlon champion, and was one third of the national title-winning triathlon team. As a member of the Premier Senior Boys cycling team, he finished fourth place in the New Zealand team time-trial. He also competed in the mega-multisport race, Coast to Coast, where his team secured victory in the College division, narrowly missing out on the overall mixed title by just one team.



### Top Prizewinners

Year 11 Boys – Blake McKinnon
Year 11 Girls – Ashleigh Tuumaialu
Year 10 Boys – Alex Bishop
Year 10 Girls – Pia Vlok
Year 9 Boys – Oliver McGuinness
Year 9 Girls – Mischa McLister
Year 7/8 Boys – Eric Jiang
Year 7/8 Girls – Sophie Archer
Team of the Year – Premier Girls Cycling Team
Performance of the Year – Premier Netball Team
Principal Leadership Awards
Jerome Kaino Cup – Tevita Naufahu
Steve Cole Cup – Ruby Spring
Grant Dalton Cup – Alex Smith

### Year 13 Leadership and Service Awards

Adam Morrison
Emma Anderson
George Turner
Isabelle Bannister
Liv Peebles
Olivia Rooney
Rawhiri Martin
Tate Hywood
Zae Mangu





# Field Centre



An un-interrupted 2023 meant the planning and preparations for the 54th Field Centre could get underway early in the year! With systems and procedures well in place, it meant we got the cogs turning to organise this behemoth event again.

In 2023 we had over four hundred Year 10 students attend (approximately two hundred each week), with eighty staff involved, and everyone accommodated in nine ski lodges on Mount Ruapehu over the fortnight. 2024 will prove an extra challenge for the planning team with 450 students in the cohort.

The programme for 2023 was similar to the 2022 edition with students completing a 3-day expedition either in Tongariro National Park or Kaimanawa Forest Park, doing the Tongariro Crossing, white-water rafting, an adventure day either rock climbing or abseiling, or a Tyrolean traverse.

This year had a new addition, with a visit to a local papakāinga in Turangi. A papakāinga is not a marae but a living Māori community where iwi, whānau, and visitors from all around the world can experience the Māori way of life. Students were involved in a pōwhiri, mihi whakatau, waiata, and prepared and laid a traditional hāngi in a nearby geothermal outlet. The aim of this experience was for students and staff to gain an insight into the significance of the land and history of the places they were adventuring in. Students were also involved in building raised garden beds (in which the papakāinga will grow food for the surrounding

communities), building a fence, and general gardening and landscaping tasks. Both students and staff enjoyed this day, especially interacting and listening to Sam Chapman who has a wealth of knowledge.

Field Centre is a jam-packed week of adventurous activities aimed at challenging the students and helping them form new connections and an appreciation of the surrounding environment. Despite the heavy rain at the start of both weeks which resulted in situations where students were drenched, overall the programme ran to plan, and every group was able to complete the Tongariro Crossing and their 3-day expeditions. Students showed great resilience and remained in good spirits whatever the weather threw at them.

Field Centre would not happen if we didn't have keen, competent, and supportive staff to help the students on their journey, we would like to thank all eighty staff and volunteers who gave it their all and provided the students with an amazing experience they will remember for a long time. A huge thanks goes to two remarkable ladies: Mrs Jo Horgan, our food chief who organised the catering for four hundred people over two weeks – a massive task (and the students







rated the food 4.2 out of 5!), and Mrs Leigh Meek, who provided a lot of behind-the-scenes administrative support. Our appreciation also goes to Mr Chris Duncan and Mr Stuart Mudford, who put in many hours in the gear shed ensuring we were well organised and our equipment was up to the highest standard. Field Centre would not run as smoothly as it does without these fine people.

Our Saint Kentigern community can be very proud of our Year 10 students for demonstrating our values of respect, integrity, service, excellence, and love whilst 'up at the mountain'. They showed respect for each other and the surrounding environment, showed integrity by following through on challenges set, completed service for the environment and local communities by building gardens, and displayed excellence by doing their best – and they did all this with kind and caring attitudes.

From the student survey, 94% said they made closer connections with their lodge group and staff involved, 79% said they gained more appreciation for the environment, and 85% gave Field Centre a 4 or a 5 out of 5 for overall satisfaction.

Following are some anonymous quotes from our students:

"I had a very good time and made lasting memories with my friends and lodge members that I will never forget."

"Field Centre was the best memory ever. I will remember it forever, I loved it so much."

"The only bad thing about the trip was the weather, which you can't really change or make better. Despite all the challenges, I had a really good experience of Field Centre."

"I enjoyed Field Centre a lot coming from someone who doesn't like tramping and being so far from home. But I think I learnt a lot about taking risks and just remembering that Field Centre is to allow us to develop skills like leadership, communication, and teamwork. Field Centre was better than I thought. I loved white water rafting."

Finally, a thank you to the following organisations who helped make the 2023 Field Centre a success:

- Adventure Specialties Trust
- Dempsey's Buses
- Tongariro River Rafting
- New World Turangi
- OnRoad Rentals

Onwards and upwards for 2024.

**Written by Mr Will Gage-Brown – Head of EOTC**







## Ancient Civilisations and the Modern Mind

Was there a beginning to humanity? Is there a purpose outside ourselves for this life? What happens when we finally take our last breath?

For as long as mankind has existed, these questions have plagued the greatest empires, thinkers, and scientists – all searching for concrete answers to the great unknowns. For Christians, the answers lie in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. For those who consider themselves naturalists, there is nothing beyond the physical. In the many polytheistic ancient near-eastern cultures, a pantheon of gods required people to perform sacrifices and prepare carefully for their smooth transition into the afterlife.

Throughout history, civilisations have each come up with systems and a worldview to explain these questions. As we – in our 21st-century western worldview – look back, we too begin to develop a framework by which we live and interpret everything around us.

The Year 10 Ancient Civilisations classes explore many of these ideas under their umbrella topics of Myths and Legends, Entertainment, Warfare, and Death and Afterlife. Covering an extensive number of ancient world cultures, students are challenged to learn about the people of these

times and locations. From a solid foundation of knowledge, they are given the opportunity to apply their newfound understanding to creative assignments such as the decorating of a piece of pottery to express the death and afterlife of a chosen ancient world.

In addition to their classroom learning and to enrich their studies, the students took a trip to the special Ancient Egyptian exhibition at the Auckland Museum. There they took inspiration for their pottery assignments, viewing the relief images, vast pottery collection, and an interactive journey through a 3D hologram inside a sarcophagus, Magic-School-Bus style. There were plenty of displays and quizzes, a favourite being 'Would you get into ancient Egyptian heaven?' which cemented the research they had completed.

The incredible (and in some cases daunting) reality of studying ancient cultures is the never-ending depth to which a historian can uncover. As archaeologists work in real time to unravel hidden secrets of groups of people that are far gone, our students know they are only scratching the surface. It is an inquiring mind, bold questioning, and stretching worldviews beyond current realities that will serve the Year 10 Ancient Civilisations students into their fields of choice in the future.



## Year 7s Play Host for Grandparents' Day

Grandparents – bearers of warm smiles, bakers of delicious treats, and sources of hugs that could almost squeeze the breath out of you – hold a special place in our hearts. Traditionally, the roles are reversed as Grandma and Grandpa host their myriad grandchildren, but for a refreshing change, our Year 7 students assumed the hosting duties, warmly welcoming their grandparents to school.

The day unfolded with a delectable reception featuring a spread of morning tea treats accompanied by cups of coffee and tea. Sated with bites to eat, the guests were then 'picked up' by their eager grandchildren and taken to the Chapel for a brief service followed by a tour of the school by their student hosts.

The highlight of each tour was the home-room visit, where each class had meticulously prepared a unique presentation offering a glimpse into their year's learning. From talent show performances to science fairs worked on throughout Term 3, the presentations encapsulated the diverse learning experiences of the past year.

To conclude the day, students engaged in heartfelt conversations with their grandparents, delving into their school memories. The stark contrasts between the generations' school experiences became evident, with some grandparents sharing intriguing differences that sparked lively discussions.

It is a privilege to enjoy our grandparents' company and an even greater privilege to hear their wisdom. Grandparents' Day is an annual highlight, and we eagerly anticipate meeting a new set of grandparents next year.





# Growing Servant-hearted Students

Through the second half of 2023 as exams actualise into reality, sports have their national tournaments, and students begin to see holidays on the horizon, it is easy for our thoughts to be about ourselves. Students at the College wear many hats – friend, learner, athlete, musician, mentor. Perhaps the most important of these hats is that of servant leader. Through engagement in the many service opportunities encouraged at the College, some of which are expanded on here, our students can lift their eyes off their activities and perceived needs to see they can be a blessing to those surrounding them.

A significant College-wide push for service each year is done in partnership with **World Vision**. The longstanding relationship with World Vision has resulted in a staggering \$2,329,469 being raised for various initiatives since 1984, acknowledged with a Milestone Award presented by CEO of World Vision New Zealand Mr Grant Bayldon at a full College assembly in September. He also presented the Ngākau Aroha Compassion Award, celebrating the College's embodiment of kindness and compassion within its community and beyond. This award acknowledged the College's dedication to raising funds and spreading love and empathy, qualities at the heart of the World Vision mission.

This year's fundraising focused on supporting communities in Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands. A total of \$95,165 was raised from the collective effort of students and their communities through creative **40-hour challenges**.

We also recognise the individual efforts of College students who went above and beyond in their fundraising endeavours. Students who raised five hundred dollars or more were honoured with certificates and badges at Middle School and Senior School assemblies. At the full-school assembly, the top five students who stood out for their remarkable contributions were celebrated:

Shu Kay Wong – \$4,056  
Claire Lu – \$1,518  
Sam Gerber – \$1,370  
Archie Lipscombe – \$1,351  
Megan Chen – \$1,040

Additionally, the Year 7 and 8 World Vision Shield was awarded to Ms Megan Williams's tutor group 7MGW for their outstanding fundraising efforts, raising the most money among their peers. In a symbolic gesture, Mr Duncan McQueen and Grant Bayldon presented the Stark House flag to the House Leaders, as they emerged as the top fundraising House overall.

Consistent in the rhythm of the College service initiatives is the **termly foodbank** collection. Near the beginning of every term, Elliott Quad is alive with music, energy, and students coming and going to give food items for the boxes that go out every week from The Shed. Students and families in Cargill House collected the most items in both Term 3 and 4, with Wishart and Wilson in second and third consistently over the two terms. In total, the collective effort brought in 8,231 non-perishable items for the second half of 2023.

Another yearly tradition is the **600 Christmas Hampers project**. The hampers, valued at seventy dollars each, go to Presbyterian Support Northern where they are distributed by their social workers to families in South and West Auckland. The \$42,000 project gives families who struggle at this time of year a reprieve about where their next meal will come from.

New this year, Elliott Quad was home to a **shoe collection** giving students the opportunity to bring in pre-loved or



new shoes for primary-school children in need. Too many Auckland children do not have serviceable shoes to wear to school, and our community was able to make a significant difference.

Students are not limited to service in the context of the schoolwide initiatives. A group of Middle School students led by Ms Petro Els saw an opportunity to bless staff at **Middlemore Emergency Department** – people that put others before themselves daily. Tutor group 8PAE and twenty-five Year 7 students put actions to their gratitude, decorating and filling fifty-two gift boxes that were distributed among medical, nursing, and clerical staff who go the extra mile, displaying the organisational values of kindness, valuing everyone, and excellence.

We understand that a servant-hearted leader is not simply the students' will, but the result of a family behind them supporting and enabling their generosity. Thank you College community for being a part of each of these projects, allowing us as a school to live our values in action.





## Final Formal Dinner for Bruce House Leavers

The life of a Bruce House boarder is one only a privileged few experience and understand. It is the joy of spending every day with your best friends, and the strength required to live away from home. It is the community of being gifted a second family, and the independence to stand on your own two feet. Every year, formal dinners are an opportunity for those who understand these experiences – our boarders – to enjoy a meal together and reflect on the year that has been.

The final formal dinner of the year on 18 October was an especially reflective evening. Family members of the Year 13 boarders were invited to join the collective celebration of a memorable 2023 at Bruce House. As is tradition, families were welcomed with the Bruce House haka then seated with their children to enjoy dinner while listening to various speakers. College Principal Mr Damon Emtage, Head of Boarding Mrs Bridget Anitelea, and Head Prefects

Jacqueline Masamba-Hunter and Zae Mangu each shared sentiments, some in reflection, some in gratitude, and some in anticipation of what the future holds. Through each voice a common thread of togetherness emerged, reflecting the 'no man left behind' mentality this tightknit group has fostered.

Towards the end of the dinner, the mantle was passed to the next group of Year 13s who will lead Bruce House in 2024. Though the current leaders will be missed, we look forward to seeing our new leaders step up to the job.

The night provided an opportunity to recognise those who have made an exceptional impact in various areas of school life over the year. The recipients of the Bruce House awards can be found below. Thank you to all the Bruce House staff, students, and supporters who have been instrumental in filling this year with precious memories to last a lifetime.



<b>MacFarlan Cup - Head Boy</b>	Zae Mangu
<b>MacFarlan Cup - Head Girl</b>	Jacqueline Masamba-Hunter
<b>Morgan Cup for Year 11 Academic Achievement</b>	Cyrus Lau
<b>McGuinness Cup for Year 13 Academic Honours</b>	Ivy Wang
<b>Bruce House Cup for Top All-round Boy</b>	Hwi Chang
<b>Norma Cowie Cup for Top All-round Girl</b>	Jacqueline Masamba-Hunter
<b>Marcroft Cup for Bruce House Sports Person of the Year</b>	Zae Mangu

## Eva Paton Crowned Winner of SKC's Got Talent

On a stunning sunny day, only a few things will lure a student inside for lunch. Yet, a packed-out Elliott Hall and an excited buzz hinted at something they couldn't miss. The last day of Term 3 and the last day of Arts Week marked the grand finale of SKC's Got Talent. With an eclectic mix of performances ranging from soulful singing to break dance, the student body rushed into the hall to cheer on their talented peers.

Eva Paton emerged as the shining star of the event, securing the coveted title of SKC's Got Talent Champion for 2023. Her original song, When We Were Seven, struck a chord with everyone in the audience. Inspired by a close friend's journey with mental illness, Eva channelled those emotions into a healing, powerful piece of art, truly displaying the connecting power of music.

In a close second place was the remarkably talented dancer Austin Wong. Despite being the youngest finalist, his performance to Imagine Dragons' Believer left the audience in awe. Austin's dynamic dance moves lit up the stage and had everyone engaged.

Taking the third spot on the podium was Nathan Dick, who transported the audience to the grandeur of New York City with his rendition of Frank Sinatra's New York, New York. Nathan's velvety voice and charismatic stage presence demonstrated his passion for performance and entertainment.

The event also featured outstanding acts by other talented finalists, including Amelia Evangelidakis's soulful rendition of Billie Eilish song When the Party's Over, Abby Walmsley's emotionally charged contemporary dance, and Manawa Rogers's impressive performance of Alicia Keys' If I Ain't Got You.

As judges Mr Damon Emtage, Mr Duncan McQueen, and previous-winner-turned-English-teacher Miss Brodie-Ann MacDonald deliberated on this year's champion, Year 13 dancers Zoe Nel and Ethan Li took to the stage with their self-choreographed performance Reconstruction. Their dance conveyed a message of hope and the possibility of rebuilding fractured connections.

In a final moment of suspense, the judges returned to the stage to announce the results, highlighting the incredible talent on display throughout the competition. Congratulations once again to Eva, and thank you to all the participants, judges, and students involved in the organisation and running of this event; what a way to cap off Arts Week.





# Orators 'SpeakEasy' at Inter-school Speech Competition

Human experiences are a tapestry of universality and individuality, where each life journey is as unique as a fingerprint. The power to share a perspective, to articulate a worldview with depth and meaning, provides the opportunity to broaden the horizon of our collective consciousness. It challenges us to step into the shoes of another, to walk their path, and to see the world through their eyes.

Just like a well-loved story retold, SpeakEasy returned, offering a platform for Years 7 to 13 students of the Girls' School, Boys' School, and College to celebrate the art of public speaking and discuss topics of importance to them. Congregating in the Goodfellow Centre, students alongside their families and friends came for an evening of intellectual exploration.

The event extended beyond the four walls of the room with a live stream reaching out to the wider Saint Kentigern community. Among those who watched with keen interest was judge and Old Collegian Mr Ben Fraser, whose journey from the College has been marked by his unwavering commitment to using his voice.

This year, the competition prizes were awarded to the following exceptional speakers:

**Senior years (Years 11-13) winner:** Henry Lang – "10,000 Insights"  
Henry Lang, through the lens of his countless Uber rides, shared a multitude of insights, proving that everyday experiences can hold profound wisdom.

**Middle years (Years 7-10) winner:** Milly MacLeod – "I Am Woman"  
Milly MacLeod masterfully built her speech to a crescendo, illuminating the intricacies of navigating the world as a female.

**Future talent (Years 7 or 8) winner:** Rainbow Vui – "Growing up Samoan in Auckland"  
Rainbow Vui, speaking from his personal experiences, engaged with the audience, offering a window into his unique journey.

The Middle School finalists included Bree Toatelegese, Charles Miller, Cherie Jiang, Coco Veber-Nicols, Eason Liu, George McGuinness, Leona Yao, Milly MacLeod, Rainbow Vui, Remo Martinez-Azaro, and Sophia Evans. In the Senior School category, we witnessed the talents of Amelia Evangelidakis, Henry Lang, Morgan Alley, Sam McLeod, Xarya Knox, and Jaime Chandler.

We extend our gratitude to the parents and families of our speakers, without whose support events like SpeakEasy would not be possible. Special thanks also to the dedicated members of the English Faculty who contributed to the success of this evening.



# 'Ready to Wear' Tops Wearable Arts Awards

Art and fashion have had a longstanding annual appointment at the much anticipated College Wearable Arts competition. Kicking off in Term 1, students eagerly gather to form small groups and begin to weave the threads of their imaginative garment designs.

Under expert guidance of teachers Ms Charlotte Pienaar and Ms Jinny Seo, individuals and groups of up to three members started to work on their garments, conceptualising and meticulously crafting their wearable art for one of five categories – Science Fiction, Kiwiana/Pasifika, Much to Sew, Sustainability, or Illumination.

What set this year's competition apart was its heightened emphasis on sustainability. Students rose to the challenge, not only creating stunning pieces of wearable art but also demonstrating a commitment to environmental consciousness. They expertly repurposed old materials, ensuring their creations were as eco-friendly as they were eye-catching.

Term 3 saw the competition heat up as judges arrived one afternoon to deliberate over the 32 remarkable entries. The discerning eyes of Mr Rod Statton, Head of Creative Arts, and renowned New Zealand fashion designer Ms Kathryn Wilson

swept over the incredible display of wearable art and made their decisions. The anticipation in the air was palpable, and College Principal Mr Damon Emtage had the honour of announcing the winners to an eager and excited audience of students.

Senior School Supreme Winner went to Morgan Alley with Ready to Wear. Her entirely sustainable garment contained just under one thousand individually dyed and folded book pages. The final product – reminiscent of mid-19th-century dresses – impressed the judges and elevated her above the competition.

The winning designs were granted a well-deserved moment in the spotlight during Arts Week, gracing a packed gymnasium as their peers and teachers looked on. The assembly presentation was a product of the students' unwavering dedication, passion, and creativity that fuelled the making of each piece. With each passing year, the bar is set higher, and it's a thrill to witness fresh concepts breathe life into the same categories. We eagerly await the arrival of next year's instalment, hoping to see some new designers to challenge the veterans.



<b>Senior School Supreme Winner</b>	Ready to Wear Designed by Morgan Alley
<b>Middle School Supreme Winner</b>	Mother Nature Designed by Milly Russell
<b>2nd place</b>	Melting like Ice Designed by Evalyn Penny and Chloe Van Schalkwyk
<b>Sustainability Winner</b>	Mermaid in Protest Designed by Jacob Johnston, Mackenzie Alley, and Oliver Evans





# Pineapples, Power, and Pressure at the Year 7 Science Fair

The College's Year 7 students once again demonstrated their passion for scientific inquiry and innovation in the annual Science Fair competition. This exciting event which spans the duration of Term 3 challenges young minds to think creatively, develop research questions, and systematically work towards answering them. The culmination of their efforts is not only a testament to their intellectual curiosity but also a celebration of their scientific achievements.

This year's Science Fair saw students embracing a diverse range of topics and projects, each driven by their unique interests. From renewable energy sources to the strength of geometric shapes, the students' projects reflected their ingenuity and dedication to scientific exploration.

Esme Collier's project Pineapple Power centred on the enzyme bromelain found in pineapples. She aimed to investigate the effect of temperature on bromelain activity, particularly in relation to jelly setting. Esme's experiments revealed intriguing insights such as heating pineapple to 90°C significantly affects bromelain's enzymatic activity. Her work shed light on the potential applications of bromelain and the growing demand for this enzyme.

Karmi Steyn with her project Mobile Eco Power delved into the world of renewable energy. She aimed to create an eco-friendly power source using household materials. Her inventive design harnessed the power of natural airflow to generate electricity, providing a solution for reducing pollution and addressing power shortages. Karmi's vision extended to making her invention even more effective, promising a brighter future for sustainable energy solutions.

Isaac Wong embarked on a mission to discover the Strongest Shape. His project explored the weight-bearing capabilities of various shapes and examined whether the quantity of shapes affected their strength. Through meticulous experimentation, he uncovered surprising results, ultimately demonstrating that the cylinder was the strongest shape. Isaac's findings challenged preconceptions about structural stability and highlighted the importance of empirical investigation in scientific research.

William Aitken's project Gravity Defying Magnets explored the phenomenon of magnets slowing down as they fell through a copper tube. His experiments looked at the intricate interaction between magnets and electromagnetic fields. William's project exemplified the captivating marriage of physics and engineering.

The Science Fair competition also served as a platform for the top students to represent Saint Kentigern College at the NIWA Auckland Science and Technology Fair. The top four students mentioned above went on to compete alongside our Highly Commended placegetters Alex Kirke with Sporty Salts, Campbell Orr with Life Gives Lemons, and Luke Porter with Under Pressure.

In the ever-evolving world of science, the Year 7 students of Saint Kentigern College have proven that their creativity, dedication, and thirst for knowledge know no bounds. As they continue their educational journey, their scientific endeavours promise to push the boundaries of understanding and innovation, leaving a lasting impact on the scientific community and, in the future, the world at large.

## Historic Results at NIWA Science Fair for College

The NIWA Auckland Science and Technology Fair draws the most inquisitive minds from schools across Auckland to showcase their research findings. While our College has consistently seen student participation, this year saw historic results. As in years past, the competition provided an excellent platform to spotlight our budding scientists' talent and innate curiosity.

Giving up their lunchtimes, Year 9–13 students as part of the Science Fair Club crafted hypotheses about nature, completed the meticulous work of unravelling possible solutions, and emerged with unique discoveries. The Year 7 projects were conceptualised in their Science Fair unit, with the best chosen for entry into NIWA.

Among the standout projects, Ivy Wang took the crown in the Year 11–13 Open category. Not only did she secure first place but she also scooped up three special awards including the prestigious Premier Award for Best Exhibit of the Fair, Best Use of Statistics Prize, and Best Innovation, Invention or Investigation by a Year 13.

Her research explored the influence of sediment and pneumatophore properties of mangroves on crab size and distribution in the Tāmaki estuary. In collaboration with Professor of Marine Ecology and Aquaculture Andrea C. Alfaro's team at the Auckland University of Technology, Ivy had the opportunity to contribute to a research article to be published in the National High School Journal of Science titled 'Abundance and distribution of New Zealand tunnelling mud crab (*Austrohelice crassa*) in mangrove and pneumatophore habitats'. Her many dedicated hours in the



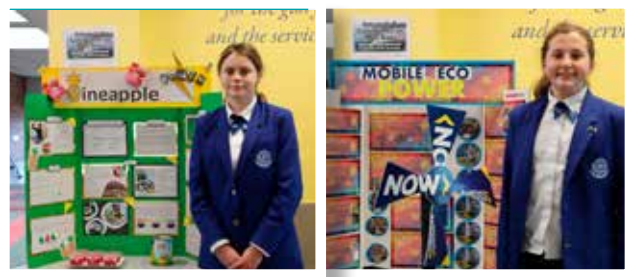
summer certainly paid dividends, as she was crowned the overall winner at NIWA.

Melanie Yin emerged as the winner in the Year 9–10 Environmental Science/Planet Earth and Beyond category with her project on antibacterial inhibition by natural essential oils. Melanie's investigation aimed to identify the most effective essential oil for eco-friendly kitchen wipes. She earned two special awards for her work: the Environmental Award and a tie for Best Innovation, Invention or Investigation by a Year 10 with College students George and Oliver McGuinness.

George and Oliver won first place in the Year 9–10 Physical and Material World category. Their project was an innovative model simulating the force exerted by a syringe catheter system, which is vital for clot-busting drugs used in heart surgery.

Sean Wang secured second place in the Year 11–13 Open category with his intriguing study on the Marangoni effect.





**1st place: Esme Collier**

**2nd place: Karmi Steyn**



**3rd place (tied): Isaac Wong and Will Aitken**

In this phenomenon, particles appear to flow backward when tea is poured from a teapot.

In the Year 9-10 Physical and Material World category, Micah Chen investigated the impact of rosin application on the amplitude of sound produced by a violin, earning him a well-deserved second place. Audrey Lin, highly commended in the same category, conducted a detailed spectroscopic analysis of iron content in different food groups.

Meanwhile, in the Year 7-8 Physical and Material World category, Isaac Wong's project on the influence of the number of sides on a 3D shape's mass-bearing capacity earned him a highly commended award.

Alex Kirke's exploration of electrolyte concentration in various drinks and the effect of temperature on electrolyte levels earned him a highly commended award in the Year 7-8 Consumer Science category.

These exceptional young researchers have proven their expertise in creative inquiry skills and displayed rigour in the process of what can often be arduous testing. As they continue their educational journeys, we eagerly await their subsequent discoveries and contributions in scientific fields.



## Eyes on Innovation at Senior Technology Exhibition

On the evening of 23 August, the Jack Paine Centre at the College underwent a remarkable transformation, becoming a visual sampler of our student's Technology projects during the Senior Technology Exhibition. The event attracted a diverse audience including staff, families, and friends, all eager to view the product of many hours of hard work and dedication to Technology courses undertaken by our senior students.

This year's exhibition represented a wide array of Technology disciplines that reflect the extensive list of courses on offer at the College. Every facet of Technology was on display, from Animation and Motion Graphics to Building and Construction, offering a glimpse into the day-to-day work the Seniors poured into their projects.

Guests could wander around the exhibitions, exploring the myriad displays from each Technology discipline. As they roamed, Food Technology students offered up delectable canapés they had designed and made, ensuring no one's appetite went unsatisfied.

Computer Science students, for instance, showcased their software development projects, including a particularly intriguing implementation of John Conway's Game of Life using their chosen coding language. Design and Visual Communication students impressed guests with their lighting and hanging-planter projects, demonstrating the use of digital fabrication alongside visual communication of design. Meanwhile, Year 12 Product Design students displayed intricate craftsmanship through imaginative wine-bottle and delicate-product holders, showing a balance of aesthetic and functional design.

The mesmerising lighting display from the Year 11 Product Design students garnered significant attention. Many paused to admire the illuminated products, which took on a unique dimension thanks to the innovative use of various mediums. Student Jack Scarlett articulated his thought process in conceptualising a light for his chosen stakeholders:

"I used family inspiration such as shared hobbies, and personality traits from both my stakeholders. As both me and my parents have grown up sailing I decided to heavily base it off a boat and out sailing past. When choosing materials, I used some second-hand sails that were going in the bin so I made it into a lampshade. Using the personality of my stakeholders (parents), I decided to add a moving 'functional' aspect to it with the top of my light having a pulley so the wire can be pulled to move the lampshade. All these aspects give a very nautical feel to the light, almost like rigging on a boat."

The Fashion and Textiles Design segment was the focal point of the evening, captivating the audience with a dynamic fashion show. Guests were treated to a full array of stunning clothing items that students from Year 11 to 13 had meticulously sewed – a testament to their dedication and fashion-forward thinking.

The 2023 Senior Technology Exhibition was a display of creativity and ingenuity of Saint Kentigern College students. It provided a platform to showcase their talents and was an awesome opportunity for parents and caregivers to put an image to the projects they have no doubt heard their children talk about.



# 190-student-strong College Dance Showcase

In a celebration of artistry and talent, the College Dance Showcase took centre stage over two nights at the end of Term 2. The blend of curricular and cocurricular dance featured students from all year groups who performed their meticulously rehearsed routines from school dance classes, cocurricular troupes, and academies.

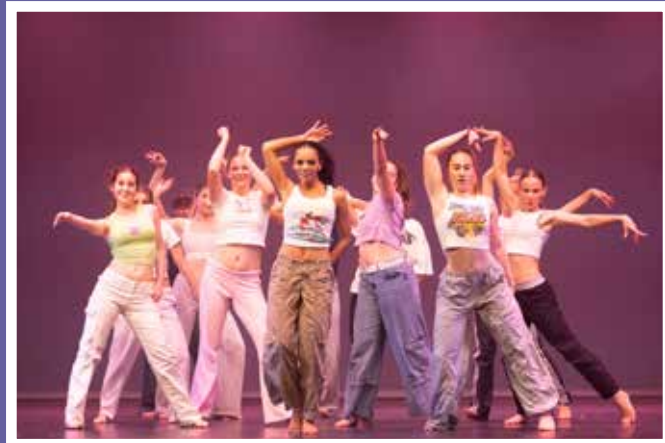
With over 190 students involved this year, the magnitude of the event can be credited to the ever-expanding dance programme at the College led by Head of Dance Mr Geordan Wilcox and teacher in charge of Middle School Dance Mr Ichiro Harada.

Mr Wilcox was full of gratitude and admiration for the students' enthusiasm and unwavering commitment throughout the process. He expressed immense pleasure in witnessing the growth of skills, creativity, and confidence in the performers as they prepared over the weeks leading up to the performances.

Behind the scenes, the dedication of Mr Harada was equally noteworthy. He extended his heartfelt thanks to the Senior cohort who nurtured and guided the younger dancers in the Dance Troupes and Dance Academy. Their unyielding efforts and time invested in mentoring their Juniors resulted in some incredible performances and unification of the dancers of the programme's future.

The success of the Dance Showcase was further enriched by the presence of several guest teachers and choreographers, many of whom were illustrious College graduates. The contributions of Jessica Arden, Henk Tomkins, Melody Lui-Webster, Joseph 'Asi, Raychel Tapsel, Kate Romans, Erin Meek, Danni Greenfield, and Gemma Whitford-Joynt were essential in elevating the performances through their combined experience.

The showcase was divided into two segments each night, offering a unique experience for the audience. The first half featured performances by the Dance Troupes and Dance Academy. The choreography in these numbers highlighted the strengths of our students, with the Megacrew being an audience favourite with their inclusion of multiple styles under the hip hop umbrella. This crew went on to compete



in the Blueprint Schools competition in the July school holidays. They were awarded a trophy for creativity in their choreography in a fierce bracket.

The second half of the evening showcased the creativity and ingenuity of the NCEA student choreographers, displaying their unique artistic voices through captivating routines. Each of these routines explored a theme of interest to the choreographer, who creatively bared their positions through movement.

The night's grand finale was the Year 12 and 13 class dances. The Year 12 students brought a Latin flavour with their choreography set to Camila Cabello's Bam Bam, while the Year 13 students brought nostalgia and cheer with their rendition of fan-favourite We're All in This Together from High School Musical.

The Dance Showcase was a resounding success, celebrating the students' and their mentors' dedication and passion. The variety of numbers, the sheer amount of dancers involved, and the calibre of talent were witness to the power of artistic expression. As the curtains drop on another showcase, we take this opportunity to thank all who were involved in the making and success of this event.

## Students Shine in 'Lights Up'

Students make the arts. The environment of Performing Arts at Saint Kentigern is heavily influenced by the incredible students who make up the different departments. So when the opportunity came for students to direct, do hair and makeup, costume, and participate in or lead a number for the student-led musical theatre and dance extravaganza 'Lights Up', everyone jumped at the opportunity.

All students from Year 7 to 13 had the opportunity to audition, with special dance breaks going to students of all year levels. Led by the incredible Arts Council, a cohort of talented students who are committed and dedicated to the arts and Miss Sara Standring, everything was taken care of. With the incredible Arts Prefects Mackenzie Alley and Josh Evangelidakis, alongside the help of Natan Chadzynski, the word got out about this amazing opportunity just before the Term 2 holidays. By Monday of the second week back, the students showed up with incredibly polished pieces.

The show combined two large areas of the arts – musical theatre and dance. Numbers from Mary Poppins to Hercules, Matilda to Something Rotten, and even an appearance from the upcoming 2024 Senior College musical Chicago. The two-night show made for an unforgettably special evening. Anticipation was through the roof for Arts Council members and performers alike. Being a student-run show, many council members wore two hats, having roles in the stage team as well as the numbers they were in. Students covered every need from backstage managing to ticket scanning, hair and makeup. Performing in musicals for much of my life, I was hit with more stress than expected when I was organising groups and scanning tickets right before







performing two numbers! But now, many of us can say with experience we have a great appreciation for the staff who usually help out.

I believe the biggest reason for the success of 'Lights Up' was that everything came from a place of love and passion. All students who signed up were excited and well-rehearsed and you could really feel that as an audience member. 'Lights Up' also brought so many opportunities to unite the different year levels within the school. Having a combination of age groups and some of the older students working with the Middle College students made the whole experience of the night even more special. Overall, 'Lights Up' let the talent of musical theatre and dance students of Saint Kentigern shine. 'Lights Up' served as an Arts highlight for many in the later year, and as one of the 2024 Arts Prefects, I cannot wait to continue this legacy at Saint Kentigern.

Written by Year 12 Student Keeley Berkovits



# Cultural Extravaganza



The anticipation in the air was palpable as the audience gathered in the bustling Elliott Hall – a vibrant mix of eager family members, friends, and fellow students. It was that time of the year again; a night of celebration, unity, and a showcase of the world's diverse cultures – the Cultural Celebration at the College.

The evening commenced with the call of the pūtātara, the resonant conch shell, echoing through the hall. This was followed by the melodic karanga, a warm welcome call, and the powerful haka pōwhiri, a traditional Māori welcome dance. All esteemed guests were then welcomed with a heartfelt mihimihi, a formal speech of welcome. It was a momentous occasion, an evening dedicated to celebrating the rich tapestry of diverse cultures at Saint Kentigern College.

The first performance transported the audience to the heart of Aotearoa, New Zealand. The Kapa Haka group took the stage, showcasing the beauty of Māori language, identity, and culture.

From the Māori heartland, the celebration embarked on a journey as the animated globe spun, landing on the countries

of cultures that make up the College. Landing first in Scotland, the soul-stirring melodies of the Pipes and Drums reverberated through the hall, a tradition deeply rooted in our cultural heritage. Since the band's inception in 1958, they have become ambassadors of culture, representing the school at ceremonial events and even travelling overseas.

The spirited Irish dancers Caitlin Hunkin, Mia Prescott, and Sophie Felton then graced the stage. Their energetic and uplifting performance vividly captured the essence of Ireland's vibrant dance tradition. Their dedication shone through as they showcased their skills honed at the Doyle Academy and within the College itself.

From the heart of Malawi, Miriam MacFarlan transported the audience with her spoken word performance. She brought the sights, sounds, and emotions of her time in Malawi to life, drawing inspiration from the deep roots of traditional African poetry.

The vibrant and colourful Indian dance group followed, representing a subcontinent of over 1.4 billion people. Their







joyful and upbeat performance provided a tantalising taste of India's rich cultural diversity.

Peicheng Li, with his heartfelt rendition of Jay Chou's Love Confession, took the audience on an emotional journey through the depths of Chinese culture. The song's lyrics expressed the complexities of love, a universally relatable theme.

The Korean K-pop group, representing the country's infectious pop culture, had grown in number since their debut performance the previous year. Their style and sense of joy resonated with everyone present.

For the first time, Thailand graced the stage with a traditional dance performed by siblings Victor and Sara Triamchanchoochai. The dance, with its soft and repetitive movements, had a meditative quality that naturally brought a sense of peace.

After a brief intermission, the Pasifika Gospel Choir filled the hall with their uplifting hymns, singing Fa'afetai i le Atua and the Fijian hymn Noqu Masu. The Cook Islands performers added a touch of tradition with their mesmerising dance to the song Mou Piri. The audience was

soon swept up in the excitement, joining in for an 'around the world' dance to the beat of Cook Islands drums. As is tradition, College Principal Mr Damon Emtage and Mr Duncan McQueen joined in on the action.

Tonga followed with a powerful performance by the boys, dancing to the songs Mate Ma'a Tonga and Fesi Fohe, while the girls showcased a traditional Tongan dance to Nepituno.

The Samoan segment was a true spectacle, with boys performing a traditional dance to Tausagi Mai Manu E, girls dancing the siva to Samoan Mashup, and Nerisa Vavau as the taupou, concluding the Pasifika segment with the sacred Tauluga dance to Usi Lau Faalogo x Si Fe'e. Returning to Aotearoa, the Cultural Celebration ensemble closed the night with He Hōnore.

This evening, full of passion, diversity, and celebration would not have been possible without the effort of many teachers and students. We would like to recognise the director, Miss Naomi Wilson, the Te Ao Māori Director Whaea Jasmine Martin, and the Pasifika director Mrs Amanda Raea for their astounding efforts.







## A Peek Behind the Curtain of Play Series

As the curtains drew to a close on the second term, the Drama Department displayed a depth of talent and creativity with the highly anticipated Play Series performances. Over three weeks, five classes of drama students delivered five captivating plays, leaving each new audience with a thoughtful takeaway.

Opening night began with the Year 11 students presenting two thought-provoking plays: *Heavenly Bodies* by Kerry Lynch and *10 Ways to Survive the End of the World* by Don Zolidis. *Heavenly Bodies* delves into the lives of three Fates who, upon realising they have lost touch with their playful nature, meddle in an unfortunate Kiwi couple's love story. The play's whimsical storytelling and charming narrative captivated the audience. On the other hand, *10 Ways to Survive the End of the World* offered a humorous yet insightful take on humanity's ability to navigate unprecedented events. Transporting the audience back in time, the play urged them to acknowledge life's unpredictability and see the comical side of how we create solutions to unforeseen events.

The Year 12 classes took the stage the following week with two distinct plays. *Musical Differences* by Robin French centres around a young guitar player's journey of self-discovery, delving into familiar themes of individuality and resilience during adolescence. The play's poignant ending left spectators in contemplation, appreciating the complexities

of growing up. Meanwhile, *Ophelia Thinks Harder* by Jean Betts challenged traditional theatre narratives, particularly in works like Shakespeare's *Hamlet* in which the female characters are supplementary. This empowering reimagining of Ophelia's story sheds light on her experiences, giving a new perspective to one of Shakespeare's classic tragedies.

The pinnacle of the Play Series was reached with the Year 13 students' performance of *Love and Information* by Caryl Churchill. The play masterfully weaved a mosaic of scenes, capturing the intricacies of human connections and our profound need for intimacy and love. The diverse range of relatable interactions left many audience members with a 'that's happened to me' moment, consequently showing how much in common we do share.

Throughout the Play Series, the drama students demonstrated exceptional talent, versatility, and dedication, bringing many emotions and themes to life. Their commitment to their craft was evident in every performance, and their passion on stage was infectious, captivating all fortunate enough to witness their artistry.

Congratulations to all the drama students and their dedicated teachers for another successful Play Series that will be remembered for years to come. Thank you to the teachers who have poured hours into the students, and the production team behind the scenes. The stage is set, and the future of drama at the College is undoubtedly bright.





# Harmonies from Holy Trinity

In the earliest records of humanity, we see that music has been ingrained into the very fibres of our being. The process of creativity through sound has provided the backdrop to celebrations, ceremonies, and gatherings for centuries. In our current world, its role has remained constant throughout changing ages. The College's annual Music Gala follows suit with the celebration of beauty in sound, collaborative creativity, and preciseness in honing a craft. Set in the grandeur of Parnell's Holy Trinity Cathedral, our College ensembles entertained an audience of family, friends, and staff.

As guests filed into the cathedral, our two rock bands 3 Day Rain and Drop Owt provided a pre-concert offering and a taste of what was to come. Our Arts Prefects Mackenzie Alley and Josh Evangelidakis opened the night and guided guests through the musical tour.

Starting with the All Comers Symphonic Band led by Mr Matt Baker and Mr Tom Chester, guests heard a pair of pieces. Philip Sparke's A Malvern Suite was the opener, followed by Morning Madness which captured ears with recognisable classical melodies accompanied by a comedic skit during the performance. The Symphony Orchestra directed by Miss Mary Lin followed, performing four pieces from their repertoire. This auditioned ensemble is the premier orchestra at the College, and several of their arrangements featured talented soloists from the group.

The String Ensemble directed by Ms Miranda Hutton was the next to perform. They played two contrasting pieces, Beethoven's Allegretto and Bernstein's syncopated Danzon from Fancy Free. The Concert Band, another premier auditioned

ensemble, then played three selections. A highlight of the night came from this band, as marimba soloist Jason Wong captivated the audience with his intricate four-mallet melody in Monti's Czardas.

The brass section shone in the latter half of the concert programme, with the Stage Band and Big Band, directed by Mr Albert Lee, finishing the ensemble performances. Stage Band performed two songs with bluesy vocals from Eva Paton. Big Band, our premier auditioned band, were the last to perform. They selected a trio from their library of music to offer the audience Count Basie Orchestra's Shiny Stockings, Hoagy Carmichael's The Nearness of You, and finally, Duke Ellington's Caravan.

The gala also provided our Senior Solo Music Competition finalists with an audience for their final round of performances. Section winners Charles Sang (piano), Josh Evangelidakis (vocals), Imogen Perry (clarinet), and Amy Chen (violin) left their souls on the stage, pouring passion and craft into every note. At the end of the night, Charles Sang was announced as the 2023 competition winner.

We are grateful for the opportunity for each of our ensembles to entertain our community and have a practice run in the cathedral before going into the KBB Music Festival the following week. Our Music department has produced some incredible work this year, and if the gala was anything to go by, it was a statement of the success to come. Thank you to the technicians, directors of ensembles, parents, teachers, and of course the dedicated students who are the heartbeat of the music programme at the College.





# Music Ensembles Make Golden Hat-trick at KBB Music Festival

As the lights in Holy Trinity Cathedral dimmed over each of the 140 ensembles gathered for the 2023 KBB Music Festival, our big ensembles showed up poised and practiced. Being one of the pinnacle music events for the year, Auckland's secondary schools came together to celebrate the talent in our city and compete for the coveted Gold Awards, the mark of a top-tier ensemble.

On the last night of the festival, two of Saint Kentigern College's large ensembles were invited to perform at the KBB Music Gala as one of the top four ensembles in their category. Our Symphony Orchestra and Concert Band, conducted by Head of Music Miss Mary Lin, performed their repertoire among the best of Auckland's high-school musicians.

In the Premier Auditioned Ensembles category, our Symphony Orchestra emerged at the top of their field, earning gold and the esteemed Best Performance of Work in Other Style for their rendition of Stravinsky's *Danse Infernal*. The Concert Band also claimed gold with an individual award to Jason Wong for his marimba solo. The Big Band completed the golden hat-trick for Saint Kentigern, earning the third gold award of the night.

The Allcomers ensembles also showed great success, with the String Ensemble and Symphonic Band securing silver awards. The Symphonic Band won an additional prize, Best Performance of a Pre-1950 Work, for their rendition of *Liberty Bell*. The Stage Band rounded out the trio to match the collection of gold awards with their high-energy performance earning them a well-deserved silver.

In the words of the adjudicators, our ensembles left a lasting impression. The String Ensemble's attention to dynamics and cohesion, the Stage Band's vocal brilliance, the Big Band's ensemble sound, the Symphony Orchestra's sophistication, the Symphonic Band's characterisation, and the Concert Band's artistry – all were noted and celebrated.

While the awards certainly affirmed our position as one of the premier music schools in Auckland, we recognise that these are the results of collective effort, not simply a good performance on the night. Thank you to the dedicated teachers, supportive managers, and the entire Music department staff who worked tirelessly to ensure every note struck the right chord. These awards represent countless hours of practice, attention to detail, and a commitment to excellence. We look forward to next year, building upon the momentum we have gained and continuing the standard of excellence we have set.



## Big Sing Silver for Kentoris

Off the back of our choirs' success at the Regional Big Sing, winning runner-up for Best Performance of a Mixed Choir, the premier auditioned choir Kentoris was offered a place in the National Final. There, the group filled the Holy Trinity Cathedral with beautiful harmonies and came away with a silver award.

The last time our premier choir made the national final was in 2019, and after a four-year hiatus and Covid disruptions, our choirs rank among the best in the nation once again. Mr Denzel Panama, among others, has been instrumental in the growth of this group, and has worked tirelessly at lunchtimes, after school, and sometimes weekends with the musicians to propel Saint Kentigern to the top.

## Elisa Wu Wins 2023 European Music Competition

As the only New Zealander to place in the competition, flautist Eliza Wu won 1st prize for her 15-year-old age group in the European Music Competition. This is an incredible feat and projects her to the international stage as an instrumentalist.



## Gold at National Concert Band Festival

Only three bands receive the honour of a gold award at the annual National Concert Band Festival. This year, the Saint Kentigern Concert Band clinched one of those top positions with their performances of *Riverdance*, *Life Eternal*, *Czardas*, and *Sinfonica*.

In the adjudicators' comments, the band was complimented on the "wonderful variation of concert band literature, excellent technical display, and great contrast of colours and expressions".

Marimba soloist Jason Wong won a special award for Most Entertaining Performance for his solo performance of *Czardas* with the band. In the Small Ensemble category, the Sax Octet won a valiant silver award. This group consisted of Senior Concert Band members and Jazz Band programme standouts Isaac Waldin, Ivy Wang, Fiona Yan, Henry Lang, Imogen Perry, Lachlan Gordon, Matthew Bailey, and Ethan Liu.







## Charles Sang with Babadjanian Trio Wins National Chamber Contest

As a part of a multi-school quartet, pianist Charles Sang received first place with the Babadjanian Trio at the NZCT Chamber Music Contest national finals. Their performance of Arno Babadjanian's Piano Trio in F Sharp Minor was executed to near-perfection with heart, soul, and musicality. Being Charles's third consecutive year in the finals, to finally take the win was extremely rewarding and his efforts have certainly paid dividends this year as he also won the Senior Solo Music Competition.



## Ray Yu Reaches Semifinals in Lewis Eady National Junior Piano Competition

Year 11 student and Symphony Orchestra assistant concertmaster Ray Yu played at the semifinals of this year's Lewis Eady National Junior Piano Competition. As one of sixteen competitors in a stacked field of talented musicians, he impressed the judges and received some glowing feedback.



Ray is an active participant in all facets of College music, playing trumpet and percussion in chamber ensembles and Concert Band, and participating in the Solo Music Competition in previous years.

# Charles Sang Crescendos to Senior Solo Music Competition Win

The wealth of knowledge within the faculty of the College Music Department means students can learn practically any instrument under the tutelage of an expert. Together, these high-calibre students form our top-tier ensembles firmly established among Auckland schools. However, it is less often these musicians are heard individually, looking to outside-of-school solo competitions to improve their solo musicianship.

Section Winners	
Piano	Charles Sang
Vocals	Josh Evangelidakis
Strings	Amy Chen
Woodwind	Imogen Perry
Brass	Jayden Tee
Percussion	Jason Wong

To reconcile the standard split between the plentiful school ensemble opportunities and solo competitions provided by outside organisations, the Solo Music Competition was conceptualised. In the countless years this competition has been running, innumerable individuals have taken to the stage, showing flair and musicality through the instruments they play.

Open to any Senior student of grade-five level and above, this year alone fifty students auditioned. From there, winners were selected from the six sections – piano, strings, woodwind, brass, percussion, and vocals. The top four moved on to perform at the Holy Trinity Cathedral for attendees of the Music Gala and guest judge Rod Skipp, Programme Director of Sistema Aotearoa.

This year, the four finalists were pianist Charles Sang, vocalist Josh Evangelidakis, clarinettist Imogen Perry, and violinist Amy Chen. Each showcased their personality and individual identity, playing pieces that allowed them to show off their commanding stage presence.

On the night, Charles effortlessly danced through Polonaise in A-Flat Major, Op. 53 by Frédéric Chopin, his fingers light on the keys. The joy emanating from him as he performed earned him first place and a solo feature in one of next year's auditioned ensembles. A talented musician, Charles effortlessly plays multiple instruments within various groups at the school. His knack for the keys emerged when he started at seven and is now shown in his performances, which are infused with a sense of innate ease.

Congratulations to our section champions, finalists, and the overall winner, Charles Sang. Anticipation builds for next year's showcase, eagerly awaiting the emergence of fresh talents as the Senior Solo Music Competition continues to attract the very best talent our College has to offer.





# The Kents: College's Grand Film Festival

The red carpet was rolled out, the spotlights were dazzling, and the anticipation was palpable as College students celebrated their media and animation efforts at the cinematic awards show – The Kents. This annual film festival showcased the creative talents of Excellence-grade-receiving Year 12 and 13 students, providing them with a platform to display their cinematic creations to an eager audience of parents, friends, and fellow students.

The highlight of The Kents is undoubtedly the presentation of awards, akin to the Oscars, recognising excellence in various aspects of filmmaking. This year, the films faced the discerning judgment of three industry professionals with impressive credentials.

Adam Moorhead has clocked over a decade in the film and television industry across Australia and New Zealand, including stints with Netflix and ABC. JC Scadden, based in Melbourne, brought their mastery of scriptwriting and extensive experience in theatre and film to the judging panel. Alex Cairns, hailing from Tauranga and known for his work on projects like Hunt for the Wilderpeople and Netflix's Cowboy Bebop, provided an insider's perspective.

The Kents 2023 was a testament to our students' passion for the art of filmmaking. As the curtains close on this year's festival, the Year 12s look to next year's coveted Kents while the Year 13s look to their future as budding filmmakers.

## Year 13 Live Action (Media Studies) category

Year 13 Judges Honorary Award: Last Message
Best Cinematography: Soup
Best Sound Design: Crescendo
Best Editing: Crescendo
Best Use of Genre Conventions: Soup
Best Performance: Caitlin Gardiner – Unigaikyo
Best Performance in a Supporting Role: Kassidy Tilleyshort – Last Message
Best Film: Soup
Audience Choice: Soup

## Year 12 Live Action (Media Studies) category

Year 12 Judges Wildcard: Spooky Town
Best Cinematography: The Altar Ego
Best Sound: Wink Murder
Best Editing: I Dare You
Best Use of Genre Conventions: The Watcher
Best Creative Risks in a Film: No Way Out
Best Film: Wanna Sleep Over?
Audience Choice: Wanna Sleep Over?



## Animation category

Best Film: Danielle Clark
Best 2D Animation: Malte Engelmann
Best 3D Animation: Grace Hunter
Best Stop-Motion Animation: Sophie Sampson
People's Choice: Sophie Sampson
Best Sound Design in an Animated Film: Sophie Sampson

# Middle School Rocks the Music Centre

At the end of the school year, the Middle School Rock Showcase took to the Music Centre featuring an impressive line-up of eight bands: J.CKS, Whammy Bar, Burnt Toast Brigade, Minions, Mufti, Prizone, Smooth Operators, and Ice in a Cup. Invited friends and family packed the seating to hear our up-and-comers shred covers to their favourite bands.

What was most impressive about this showcase was the progress made by all the bands within the short span of two terms. With all but one band coming together at the beginning of Term 3, these aspiring musicians dedicated themselves to weekly rehearsals guided by their tutors. Their effort was evident, as was clear that the music had brought more than well-placed chords together, fostering new friendships along the way.

Our more established Middle School band Ice in a Cup, with over two years of playing together, showed seasoned musicality. Term 3 saw a notable addition to their line-up with the introduction of new singer Annan Chai-Rodgers. The band, having competed in the Smokefree Rockquest for the first time this year, is gearing up for more challenges with the aim to compete again at Rockquest as well as Stand Up Stand Out in 2024.

The rock programme at the College has continued to grow under our team of tutors Mr Geordie McCallum, Mr Keith Milbank, Mr Jimmy Olsen, and our Assistant Head of Music Mr Tim Baker. With well over ninety students engaged in the programme, we encourage anyone with an interest to get involved next year.





# Tri-school Jammies Back by Popular Demand

After the success of last year's Jammies in the MC – a rock concert curated by Arts Prefect Tague Bradley as part of his NCEA music event management and research portfolios – the desire for that space again saw two new students pick up the mantle. Year 12 students Josh Shortt and Thomas Pritchard ran with Tague's idea and brought together the senior rock bands of Saint Kentigern College, Sacred Heart College, and Baradene College for another night of jamming, this time in Elliott Hall.

Head of Music Miss Mary Lin adjudicated the longstanding Sacred Heart College music competition, the Walter Kirby Cup, earlier in the year, and invited two of their rock bands, The Rain and Clean Sweep, to join the jams. Both presented solid rock covers with impressive vocalists and instrumentalists.

We also invited Baradene College's rock band annodaM to perform two covers. Recently, they started a Rock Academy for their budding singer-songwriters as part of their music programme. As the girls shredded covers of Led Zeppelin, Blondie, and original pieces, it was clear the Rock Academy is a great asset to their music programme.

Saint Kentigern College bands 3 Day Rain and Drop Owt performed in the second half with a mixture of covers and originals. Our student organisers Josh and Thomas wore



two hats as they MC'd and played in their respective bands throughout the night. It was a privilege to hear them perform, as both were recent finalists in the YMCA New Found Sound competition held at The Tuning Fork.

The progression in our rockers from start of the year to now can be attributed to a sense of belonging, and growing confidence and musicianship on stage. We are grateful for the strong and continued support of the student body and community. Thank you to Sacred Heart's Head of Music Mr Jonny White, and Baradene's Head of Music Mr Nino Sloser for coming with their bands to the concert, and Mr Glen Mortenson and his tech team for again fine-tuning the sound and lighting. We look forward to 2024's Jammies!

## Middle School Hosts End-of-year Music Showcase

For the first time ever, the Middle School Music Showcase took over the College Sports Centre to host a large audience of parents, siblings, teachers, and supportive friends. If transporting a grand piano across campus isn't enough of a feat in and of itself, the night also hosted the Middle School Solo Music Competition finalists, who tirelessly practised behind the scenes to perform for their biggest crowd ever. As guests took their seats, the Junior Jazz Combo entertained the early-comers.

The open-plan floor allowed for a seamless concert with plenty of space for our various groups to set up and perform. Sounding the commencement of the night, our 2nd Pipe Band directed by Mr Andrew Lightfoot played a selection of Scottish favourites. The four solo music finalists performed thereafter, impressing judges Mrs Georgina Jarvis, Head of Music at the Boys' School, and Mrs Teresa DeVries, our Boys' School music teacher.

Annie Ye on piano, Ryan Cen on flute, Matthew Stubbs on violin, and Peter Hu on piano each performed one or two pieces for the audience. Matthew was announced as the winner at the end of the night for the showmanship and feeling he added beyond his technical execution of Sonatina in G Major, Op. 100, B. 183 by Antonin Dvorak. Although Matthew can be seen in various bands at Saint Kentigern playing trombone, his love for his first instrument could have given him the winner's edge in this performance.

Following the soloists, the audience heard from a selection of instrumental and vocal ensembles featuring predominantly Middle School students. The Stage Band, Junior Choir, String Ensemble, and Symphonic Band each performed a series of pieces ranging from the funky Chips and Salsa by the Phil Collins Big Band to the renowned Star Wars/Raiders March by John Williams.

With over 250 student participants over the evening, the College Music Programme is well-equipped with up-and-comers for the future. We are grateful to the Sports Department for allowing the musos to take over their space, try something new, and enjoy a great turnout. Thank you to everyone who has supported music throughout 2023 – on to 2024!





# Sports Round-up

## Cycling

### New Zealand Cycling Championships

These were held at Palmerston North and the Saint Kentigern cycling team had a great showing on all three days. To cap off a great weekend, the Premier Girls were named Top Senior Girls School of the National Championships.



#### Team Time Trial

Gold	Senior Girls	Ruby Spring, Olivia Rooney, Isabelle Bannister, Madeline Ballard, and Dorothy Anderson
Gold	Junior A Girls	Holly Bishop, Sophie Archer, and Ava van Rij
Silver	Junior A Boys	Ben Archer, Alex Bishop, and Hunter Ballard

#### Points Race

Gold	U14 Girls	Sophie Archer
Silver	U16 Girls	Dorothy Anderson
Bronze	U15 Girls	Ava van Rij
Bronze	U17 Boys	Hunter Dalton

#### Road Race

Gold	U14 Girls	Sophie Archer
Gold	U16 Girls	Dorothy Anderson
Gold	U17 Boys	Hunter Dalton
Bronze	U16 Girls	Ben Archer

### North Island Championships

The North Island Cycling Championships were held in Cambridge in the first weekend of the July holidays with Saint Kentigern College athletes producing impressive results.

#### Team Time Trial

Gold	Senior Girls	Ruby Spring, Olivia Rooney, Isabelle Bannister, Madeline Ballard, and Dorothy Anderson
Silver	Senior Boys	Antony Gault, Coen Anderson, Hunter Dalton, Issac Morris, and Jamie Cantell-Roberts
Silver	Junior Boys	Ben Archer, Alex Bishop, Hunter Ballard, and Jack Fox

#### Road Race

Gold	U20 Girls	Ruby Spring
Gold	U17 Boys	Jaime Cantell-Roberts
Gold	U17 Girls	Madeline Ballard
Gold	U16 Girls	Dorothy Anderson
Bronze	U20 Boys	Coen Anderson
Bronze	U16 Boys	Ben Archer
Bronze	U15 Girls	Ava van Rij

#### Criterium

Gold	U20 Girls	Ruby Spring
Gold	U16 Girls	Dorothy Anderson

### Cycling NZ Northern Tour – held during winter tournament week in Auckland

#### Hill Climb

Gold	U16 Girls	Dorothy Anderson
Gold	U20 Boys	Coen Anderson
Silver	U14 Girls	Sophie Archer
Bronze	U20 Girls	Olivia Rooney
Bronze	U14 Boys	Dylan Davies

#### Criterium

Gold	U14 Girls	Sophie Archer
Gold	U16 Girls	Dorothy Anderson
Gold	U20 Girls	Madeline Ballard
Silver	U20 Girls	Olivia Rooney
Bronze	U16 Boys	Hunter Ballard
Bronze	U15 Girls	Ava van Rij

#### Overall

Gold	U16 Girls	Dorothy Anderson
Gold	U14 Girls	Sophie Archer
Silver	U20 Girls	Olivia Rooney
Silver	U20 Boys	Coen Anderson
Bronze	U20 Girls	Madeline Ballard
Bronze	U15 Girls	Ava van Rij

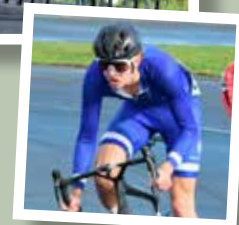
### Auckland Team Tie Trial Series

#### Finals Day

Gold	Senior Girls
Silver	Junior Girls
Silver	Junior Boys
Bronze	Senior Boys

#### Series

Gold	Senior Girls
Gold	Junior Girls
Silver	Senior Boys
Silver	Junior Boys



### Auckland Points Race held at Hampton Downs Race Track

Gold	U19 Girls	Ruby Spring
Gold	U16 Girls	Dorothy Anderson
Gold	U15 Girls	Ava van Rij
Gold	U14 Girls	Sophie Archer
Silver	U16 Girls	Holly Bishop
Bronze	U17 Boys	Mark Liu
Bronze	U16 Boys	Ben Archer
Bronze	U15 Boys	Remi Dalton



## Track Cycling – North Island and Nationals

In July, our track cycling squad competed in the North Island Track Championship and the National Track Championship, achieving outstanding results.



Nationals: Bronze North Island: Silver	U20 Team Pursuit	Hunter Dalton, Jamie Cantell- Roberts, Noah Johnson, and Hunter Ballard
Nationals: Silver North Island: Gold	U20 Team Sprint	Noah Johnson, Jamie Cantell- Roberts, and Hunter Dalton
Nationals: Gold North Island: Gold	U17 Boys Omnium	Hunter Dalton
Nationals: Bronze North Island: Silver	U17 Boys Omnium	Jamie Cantell- Roberts
Nationals: Bronze North Island: Silver	U16 Boys Omnium	Hunter Ballard

## Mountain Biking

### Auckland Series Results

Saint Kentigern College was awarded overall first-place co-ed school at the Auckland Mountain Biking Series. Below are the full results.



Series Results		
Series Winner	U20 Girls	Alex Clark
Series Winner (tied)	U15 Girls	Luuka Petersen
Series 2nd place	U15 Boys	Sam Lawson
Series 2nd place	U16 Boys	Ben Archer

Individual Series Results		
1st: Race 1, Race 2, Race 3, Race 4, Race 5	U20 Girls	Alex Clark
1st: Race 1, Race 2, Race 4, Race 5	U14 Girls	Sophie Archer
1st: Race 2, 2nd Race 1, Race 4, Race 5 3rd: Race 3	U15 Girls	Luuka Petersen
2nd: Race 3, Race 5 3rd: Race 2	U15 Boys	Sam Lawson
1st: Race 4 2nd: Race 1, Race 2, Race 5	U16 Boys	Ben Archer
3rd: Race 4	U16 Boys	Harley Bell
2nd: Race 1 3rd: Race 2	U16 Girls	Holly Bishop
3rd: Race 1	U16 Boys	Alex Bishop

### New Zealand Champs

At Nationals in Christchurch during October, we had several great finishes. Sophie Archer won Gold in the Girls U14 Cross Country and Alex Clark clinched Bronze in the U20 Enduro.



## Duathlon



Auckland Secondary Schools Duathlon		
Gold	U14 Boys	Oliver McGuinness
Gold	U19 Girls Team	Ruby Spring and Immy Barlow
Gold	U20 Boys	Coen Anderson
Gold	U20 Girls	Olivia Rooney
Silver	U16 Boys	Isaac Morris
Silver	U16 Girls	Dorothy Anderson
Silver	U16 Girls Open Bike	Pia Vlok
Silver	U16 Boys Team	Percy Brown and Hunter Dalton
Silver	U20 Boys	Joshua Gordon-Glassford
Silver	U20 Girls	Ruby Cutler-Welsh
Bronze	U14 Boys	Dylan Davies
Bronze	U16 Boys	Alex Bishop
Bronze	U16 Girls Team	Holly Bishop and Aanya Abeysekera

New Zealand Secondary Schools Duathlon		
Gold	U13 Girls	Sophie Archer
Gold	U12 & 13 Boys Team	Dylan Davies and Benjamin Brebner
Silver	U16 Girls	Oliver McGuinness
Bronze	U19 Girls	Olivia Rooney



## Football

The girls 1st XI football team had another successful season, building on last year's young team to improve on their NZ Secondary Schools Premier Tournament fourth-place finish from last year. This year, the girls made it through to the national final but ultimately fell to Baradene to finish with the silver medal.



The boys 1st XI football team made huge improvements from last year's seventh-place national tournament finish. In the bronze final, the play went to a penalty shootout where they defeated Mount Albert Grammar School for the bronze medal. This team placed fourth in the Auckland Premiership and made it through to the semis of the Knockout Cup.

The 15A1 boys team were finalists of the Knockout Cup and placed third in the Auckland competition, while the 14A1 boys placed second and the 13A1 boys third. The Junior A girls team placed third.

Saint Kentigern footballers Pia Vlok, Putri Ardana, and Hannah Saxon have been named in the NZ Football OFC U16 Women's team.



## Swimming

Our swimmers had a strong showing at New Zealand Secondary Schools held in Wellington and the North Island Championships winning a number of top-three placings.

### NZ Secondary Schools

<b>Liv Peebles</b>	Gold	Women's 17-18 Years 100m Backstroke
	Gold	Women's 17-18 Years 50m Butterfly
	Silver	Women's 17-18 Years 50m Backstroke
	Bronze	Women's 17-18 Years 50m Freestyle
	Bronze	Women's 17-18 Years 100m Backstroke
<b>Scarlett Bassett</b>	Silver	Women's 15 Years 50m Backstroke
	Silver	Women's 15 Years 200m Backstroke
	Bronze	Women's 15 Years 100m Backstroke
<b>Lisa Shi</b>	Silver	Women's 15 Years 100m Breaststroke
	Silver	Women's 15 Years 200m Breaststroke
<b>Jordon Iosefa</b>	Bronze	Men's 13 Years 50m Backstroke
	Bronze	Men's 13 Years 100m Backstroke
<b>Liv Peebles and James Crosbie</b>	Bronze	Mixed 2x50m Freestyle
<b>Liv Peebles, Veeran Reddy, Jordon Iosefa, and James Crosbie</b>	Bronze	Mixed 4x50m Freestyle



## Netball

The Premier Netball team had an excellent season, making the Auckland final, UNISS final, and New Zealand Final. The team progressed through the Auckland season with only one loss before the final against Avondale. This game came down to the wire and Avondale were the eventual winners by one goal. At the Upper North Island Champs, this time our girls contested the final against Howick. With both teams even at full time, extra time was needed and again one goal was the difference with Howick taking the title. On to the NZ Championships at Waitākere where they met Avondale in another exciting and very close final. Unfortunately, one goal was the difference again and the girls placed second overall, winning silver.



## Rugby

The 1st XV had a great 2023 season. To go through the 1A season unbeaten is most certainly a unique achievement to be proud of. In the semi-final at home, the result with De La Salle was a draw, however, we qualified through to the Auckland final for the first time in a few years. A huge crowd came out to support the boys in the final at Waitemata Rugby Club but unfortunately, Sacred Heart took the win to advance in the competition.

The 1st XV also competed in the Independent Schools Tournament held at King's during tournament week, where they were unbeaten. Congratulations to Year 13 Tevita Naufahu who has been named in the NZ Secondary Schools rugby team to take on the Australian U18 team.

The Auckland rugby finals were held at Dunkirk Park where Saint Kentigern was represented in two finals, with the U15 team drawing at full time 13-13 to share the trophy with St Peter's, and the 6A team losing to Grammar to finish the season with a silver medal.



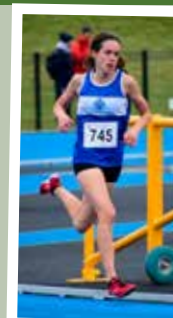
## Karting

Sebastian Manson and Raymond Mallin competed in the National Schools event held at KartSport Auckland. Their second- and third-overall event placings secured them the first-place trophy. Saint Kentigern was the main sponsor for the national event, and the boys were proud to bring home the trophy.



## Athletics

The New Zealand Championships were held in Christchurch in December with gold medals to Immy Barlow in the Junior Girls 3000m and 1500m, and Paige Fletcher in the Junior Girls Hammer. Paige also won silver in the shot put, and was named in the New Zealand Secondary Schools track and field team and Road Championships team.



## Touch

The Junior Girls team won their third Auckland title in a row at the competition in Cocks Bay in Term 4.

The Premier Girls team competed in the NZ Championships in Rotorua in December, narrowly missing out on the semi-final and placing sixth in New Zealand.





## Hockey

The hockey boys and girls 1st XI teams had good results in the Super City Competition. The boys beat King's to place third overall and the girls beat Rangitoto to also place third. The Premier Hockey Boys placed eighth out of thirty-two teams at this year's NZSS Rankin Cup after conceding to Christ's College in the 7th-8th final.

The 1st XI hockey girls team played the NZSS Federation Cup in Napier, finishing fourteenth – the highest placing for this team in Fed Cup to date.

## Waterpolo

The Junior Boys team came third at the North Island Junior Tournament, beating King's College by a penalty shootout in the 3rd-4th final. They came second in the Auckland College Sport Competition, narrowly losing to Sacred Heart in the final.



## Equestrian

Our riders had excellent results at the North Island Secondary Schools Equestrian Championships. In competitive fields, Eva Braithwaite and Eva Brunt both had top-three finishes in dressage and show jumping, respectively.



## Cricket

The Colts Boys team won the Auckland Colts Competition that runs in Term 1 and Term 4. This is a great achievement, playing against the best young cricketers from across Auckland.

## Distance Running

At the Auckland Road Race Championships, Immy Barlow won gold for Intermediate Girls, along with silver in the Intermediate Girls three-man team with Aanya Abeysekera and Lucy Sweetman. Josh Gordon Glassford came away with a silver in the Senior Boys category.

## Yachting

The Premier Yachting team competed in the Interdominion Competition in Sydney where they placed fifth in a fleet of Australian and New Zealand schools.

## Auckland College Sport Young Sportsperson of the Year

The College Sport Young Sportsperson of the Year Awards were held at Eden Park on 23 November. With record numbers in attendance, over 650 people packed in to celebrate the top student athletes in Auckland in their chosen sport. Congratulations to all the Saint Kentigern finalists and winners.

YSPOTY Results	
Ruby Spring	Overall Finalist Winner: Girls Cycling Winner: All-rounder award
Coen Anderson	Winner: Boys Triathlon Winner: All-rounder award Finalist: Boys Cycling
Olivia Rooney	Winner: Girls Triathlon Winner: All-rounder award
Isabelle Bannister	Winner: All-rounder award

Ashleigh Tuumaialu	Winner: All-rounder award Finalist: Girls Touch
Isabel Gilbert	Finalist: Athlete with a disability
Emma Anderson	Finalist: Girls Tennis
Liv Peebles	Finalist: Girls Swimming
Tevita Naufahu	Finalist: Rugby
Tayden Smit	Finalist: Boys Cricket
Joshua Gordon-Glassford	Finalist: Boys Triathlon





## From the President of the Old Collegians

2023 has seen continued success across both campuses in cultural, academic, and sporting endeavours, and all Old Collegians continue to follow and enjoy the achievements of current students.

I would firstly like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Hayden Butler, past president of the Saint Kentigern Old Collegians Association for his commitment to SKOCA over the past six years. He led the committee through the years of Covid and out the other end, holding to his passion for Saint Kentigern and our community. Thank you, Hayden, and enjoy your new role as past president.

SKOCA continues to work on our core goals of fellowship, scholarship support, philanthropy, special grants, and graduation celebrations, and I am pleased to report on these events.

This year marked twenty years of girls at the College and in March a reunion was held for these daughters of Saint Kentigern. The alumni enjoyed reconnecting and touring the College campus. Several past staff also joined to remember their time at the College. This was a well-attended event followed by drinks at Bucks Bistro in Bucklands Beach.

We also had both the Old Collegians Waikato Reunion 1950s and 1960s, and the Bruce House 1950s and 1960s Lunch. With just over fifty Old Collegians in attendance at the Waikato Reunion, the event was well received, and plans are ahead to make it an annual occurrence. A highlight of the event was the roll call and brief update on the past students' endeavours over the last few years. The Bruce House Lunch saw the same number of Old Collegians gathered at Bruce House followed by a campus tour, ending at the Chapel to listen to student performances.

The 25th Reunion Anniversary is an annual event in the SKOCA calendar and is held for past students and staff of the College. This year, it was the graduating class of 1998 who held their reunion in early November. Fifty-two past students and staff reconnected at the College for an initial catch-up in the Chapel followed by a tour of the campus, and finally a barbeque at the Sports Centre Lounge. The reunion is a great opportunity for past students to reconnect with Saint Kentigern, and for those who can't attend to update their contact details for future events. Next year is the graduating year of 1999, and it would be wonderful to get the wheels in motion in early 2024. Please reconnect with SKOCA to ensure this is a well-attended reunion.

Also held in November was the annual SKOCA Golf Day at the Remuera Golf Course. This was again well attended with over 130 golfers. Funds raised continue to go towards the Field Centre Hardship Fund which enables

students facing financial hardship to attend Field Centre, as well as equipment purchases for students for years to come. Field Centre is a week-long experience in Tongariro National Park for Year 10 students and is one of the highlights of Saint Kentigern College life. Thank you to all who supported the golf day by sponsoring a hole, donating prizes, or playing a round on a Monday afternoon. Looking forward to seeing you all again on the course next year.

As part of our yearly commitments, we continue to sponsor graduations across our schools including the Year 8 Boys' and Girls' Schools Leavers Dinners, and the Year 13 Leavers Brunch at the College. As students move onto the next stage of their schooling and lives, we welcome them into the Old Collegian network. Whether they are moving to a different school or into a new stage of life, they realise that Saint Kentigern is still a part of them, and the Old Collegian network is there to support their futures.

A thank you to the SKOCA Committee and Executive Committee for your help and support over the past year in organising and attending events, and most importantly for giving your time to SKOCA. Specifically, thanks to Vice President Ms Sharnika Leleni, Treasurer Mr Daniel Quigley, Secretary Mr Matthew Jones, and both Mr Andrew Morgan and Mr Hayden Butler, our previous two presidents. Also thank you to Mrs Glennis Pearson and Mrs Tasesa Lavea for your work as our SKOCA staff support and administration.

Events to look forward to in 2024 include:

- Recent Old Collegian evenings in Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, and Dunedin
- Old Collegian sporting fixtures with the College
- 25th Reunion Anniversary Dinner for the Saint Kentigern College Class of 1999
- Annual Old Collegian Golf Day
- SKOCA Annual General Meeting
- Biannual Dinner to welcome Mr Nigel Toy as Patron of SKOCA

Remember to stay connected via the website <https://www.saintkentigern.com/old-collegians/update-your-details> or email [skoca@saintkentigern.com](mailto:skoca@saintkentigern.com)

I hope to see you at one of our events this year; please come and introduce yourself to me or one of our committee members.

**Fides Servanda Est.**

**Mr Thomas Steel**  
**SKOCA President**





# Bruce House 1950s and '60s Back to School for Annual Reunion

The second annual Bruce House '50s and '60s Boarders Reunion coincided with Saint Andrew's Day once again this year. On 30 November, over fifty boarders from the 1950s and 1960s came back to the College campus, including many familiar faces from the 2022 inaugural gathering and a few new ones.

The nostalgia was apparent from the very beginning of the afternoon. Old housemates embraced each other upon arrival at Bruce House, eager to dive in and reminisce about their days at the College as well as the many years in between. Once welcomed by College Principal Mr Damon Emtage, they sat down for a classic Bruce House lunch ripe with plenty of roast potatoes and beef, salad, and the cult-favourite dinner rolls. College Chaplain (and former House Master himself) Rev. David Smith gave thanks, and the group tucked into their lunch, continuing discussions about their old roommates, matrons, and the House Masters in their day.

Following lunch, the Old Collegians were taken on a tour of the school, starting with the most familiar location – the Bruce House dorm quarters. Many took the opportunity to peek into what was their old room, commenting on how 'lush' it has become!

The tour moved to the Jubilee Sports Centre and Nigel Toy Sports Lounge overlooking the #1 field, through the Jack Paine Centre housing the technology classrooms, past the Science Centre and Elliott Hall (which was for most both the assembly hall and school gym for indoor PE lessons), and finally on to the Chapel.

There they heard from Executive Trustee Dr Kevin Morris and Director of Saint Kentigern Foundation Mr Richard Lindroos about the future plans of the College, both in building projects and in the Foundation.

As is tradition, any foundation student of Bruce House who attends a reunion is presented with a framed photo from 1954 of himself and his fellow boarders. Mr John Rennie was presented with his frame to join the ranks of the six former pupils who received theirs' last year.

Throughout the gathering, it was precious to witness the amazing fellowship and friendship that has been kept over the years. We would like to thank all who attended for taking the time to join us. We look forward to welcoming past boarders back to Bruce House and the College on 30 November 2024.



# SKOCA Golf Tournament a Swinging Success

A picturesque day unfolded at Remuera Golf Club as the highly anticipated SKOCA Golf Tournament took the course on 13 November. Bathed in sunshine, this year's event brought together a large group of Saint Kentigern Old Collegians, marking a memorable day of golf, camaraderie, and appreciation for our generous sponsors.

Golf enthusiasts travelled from near and far, forming twenty-one teams to partake in the festivities. The day kicked off with a sizzling barbeque, equipping the schoolmates with much-needed energy for the afternoon in the sun. The allure of the manicured fairways and the scent of snags on the barbie ignited the schoolboy competitive spirit that we know so many of our alumni possess.

Under clear skies and ideal conditions, the teams were briefed on the rules before embarking on a shotgun start from their designated tees. A few short hours later, as the sun dipped below the horizon, the day culminated in a prizegiving ceremony for our top-performing Old Collegians. This year's champions – Team Finnigan, comprising of Derek Finnigan, Chris Reid, Samuel Goldstine, and Dan Popely, secured their victory and took home the accolades.

Not to be outdone, Team Spark featuring David Yu, Ray Jiang, our very own Dr Kevin Morris, and Steve Couper, claimed the second spot, while defending 2022 champions Team Smith with Alex Smith, Greg James, Trevor Purkis, and James Flay secured third position.

Individual achievements were celebrated, with Ryan Gillanders taking out the title for the Longest Drive (Men) on Hole 15, and Jenny Marillier with the Longest Drive (Women) on the same hole. Blair Gordon won the Nearest to the Pin on Hole 8, and Ignacio Montenegro showed his keen eye for precision with the Nearest to the Pin on Hole 17.

Thank you to the many Old Collegians who took a long weekend to reconnect with their mates over a round of golf. We look forward to future years when the Year 10s who benefitted from the proceeds of this event will, in turn, be a part of future endeavours of the College.



## In Memoriam

It is with sadness that we recognise the passing of the following members of the Saint Kentigern community. We express our sincerest condolences to their families.

**HASLETT, Timothy Robert**

**#465**

**NIVEN, Gary R**

**#1315**

**JACKSON, Linden Raeden**

**#267**

**PLOM, Andrew**

**#4583**

**LANGLANDS, Gordon**

**#1904**

**SMALLBONE, Quinton**

**#291**

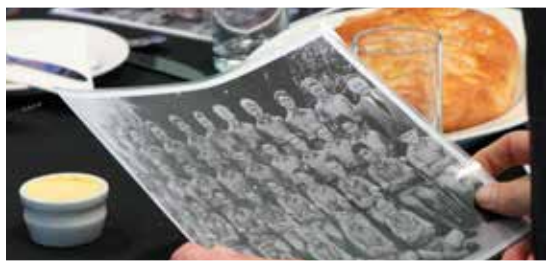
**MCDOWALL, Donald Stuart**

**#831**

**THOMSON, Neville**

**#2375**





## '59ers Back to Boys' School

On 12 October, the Boys' School welcomed an incredibly special group of people back to Shore Road for a lunch gathering. Affectionately known as 'the '59ers', the Old Boys from the school's foundation class were invited to have lunch in the new Macky Senior School. Over a homecooked meal, they heard from Boys' School Principal Mr Peter Cassie and Chaplain Rev. Reuben Hardie on the incredible progress made over the sixty-four years since they started at the school.

This year's lunch had sentimental flavour as Mrs Patsy Hindson had a group of Year 7 and 8 masterchefs prepare, cook, and present the entire meal. The Senior boys had spent the past three days preparing slow-cooked beef, focaccia bread from scratch, and delicious desserts for the '59ers to enjoy. Needless to say, the guests were impressed with the cooking capabilities of these young men, with a few sheepish admittances that they don't often step foot in the kitchen!

The strong network of alumni our current students benefit from is in many ways thanks to Mr Peter Nelson, Old Boy #20. He has worked tirelessly and diligently to foster strong connections to our past students, encouraging them to remain in the fold and engage in gatherings such as these. The fondness with which he caught up with friends of many decades throughout the afternoon was a telltale sign of his deep involvement and care for the school, not to mention that eighteen of the original thirty-three '59ers showed thanks to his commitment.

Mr Roland Lennox-King, first Head Boy of the Boys' School, told Mr Cassie that there is one word he feels encapsulates the school and how it makes him feel – love. The '59ers are incredibly proud of their old school, a major factor in their connection with us for over six decades.

Prior to their departure, Mr Cassie informed the '59ers of a compulsory homework task – it would not be a visit back to school without one. He asked them to put into words their Saint Kentigern story to cement in school history. Their reflections will paint a vibrant timeline of our special school – an entertaining one if the anecdotes told over lunch were anything to go by. We take this opportunity to thank all the Old Boys that have chosen to stay connected; your presence and connection is what Saint Kentigern is built upon.







## SKOCA Celebrates 1st XV Making the Finals

It would not be Saint Kentigern College without rugby – the two are intertwined and school spirit runs deep when a win for the white and blue is at stake. This year, the 1st XV had an extremely successful run in the Auckland 1A tournament. Saint Kentigern hosted rivals De La Salle for the semifinals who they drew with 22-all. Thanks to our round-robin results, Saint Kentigern advanced to the final. With celebrations in order, the Saint Kentigern Old Collegians Association (SKOCA) hosted all alumni in attendance for a post-game gathering, where they enjoyed a good debrief over a light dinner and drinks.

## Trust Board Hosts 1950s and '60s Old Collegians Reunion

The Verandah in Hamilton was filled with nostalgia and camaraderie as the Saint Kentigern Trust Board hosted past students from the 1950s and '60s at an Old Collegians function exclusively for those residing in Waikato and Bay of Plenty. With over fifty guests in attendance, the event proved to be a journey down memory lane for alums of Saint Kentigern College.

As the guests arrived, a steady build of laughter and animated conversation ensued as they caught up and reminisced about their time at the College. Shared experiences set the tone for the event, fostering an atmosphere of togetherness.

The highlight of the function was the sumptuous buffet lunch that satisfied the guests' appetites. Amidst the laughter and conversations, the bond of their Saint Kentigern days was palpable, transporting them back to their time spent on Pakuranga Road.

Following lunch, time was taken to roll-call, with each Old Collegian standing up and introducing themselves by their school number before sharing a snippet of their journey since their time at the College. Upon hearing all the attendees, it was clear that despite the diverse paths taken post-school, they cherish the common thread of their alma mater.

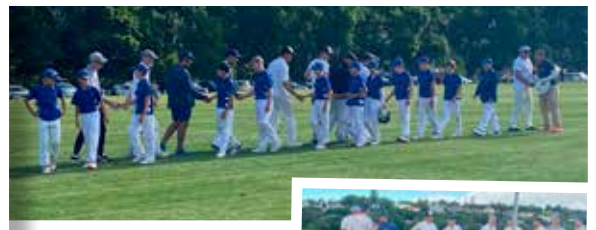
The event featured presentations by Saint Kentigern Trust Board Chair Mr Mark Conelly and the current Saint Kentigern College Principal Mr Damon Emtage. Mr Emtage provided insightful updates on the College's current demographics, highlighting the roll size and the male/female split – vastly different from what the attendees experienced in the 1950s and '60s. He also shared details about the current curriculum and academic options, shedding light on the ever-evolving educational landscape at the College.

As a new principal, Mr Emtage candidly shared his impressions of Saint Kentigern after six months, reaffirming the College's commitment to excellence in education. He passionately spoke about the opportunities for the College in the context of the New Zealand education system, instilling confidence in its future.

Mr Conelly's Board update was equally captivating, emphasising the significance of stewardship in their community and how it has shaped the College's growth. He believes Saint Kentigern College is coming of age, standing as a testament to the collective effort and dedication of the entire community, including the Old Collegians. The Q&A session that followed allowed the Old Collegians to engage with the presenters and gain deeper insights into the school's plans and aspirations.

Dessert marked the sweet conclusion of the formal part of the function, paving the way for further mingling and interactions. This reunion was a testament to the enduring bonds forged at Saint Kentigern College, where the spirit of lifelong learning remains as vibrant as ever. The 1950s and '60s Old Collegians function was a resounding success, weaving together the past, the present, and future of our remarkable College.





## Old Boys Take Back the Wirihana Cup

The Old Boys 1st XI arrived at the 2023 Wirihana Cup cricket match with plenty of stored motivation from last year's loss. Captained by Saint Kentigern Old Collegians Association past president Mr Hayden Butler, the Old Boys had fire in their bellies to take the win this year – and so they did.

The Boys' School 1st XI batted first, clocking up 138 runs with stellar performances from Noah Hammond and Zach Dempsey, respectively clocking 46 and 32 runs each. The Old Boys, however, managed to shut down their momentum and turnover. Their crusade was strong, and the current students did not quite manage to overcome the strong batting from the Old Boys. The match ended with the Old Boys scoring 140/2 to clinch the cup back from Shore Road.

The Wirihana Cup has been a longstanding tradition of the Boys' School 1st XI and the Old Boys 1st XI. First contested in 1961, the match was a consistent calendar event until the cup went missing. The matches were reinstated in 2012, later missing 2020 and 2021 due to Covid. It is now firmly back on the calendar and we look forward to the 2024 match.

The afternoon was an enjoyable one for the boys who witnessed first-hand the camaraderie of being part of the wider Saint Kentigern community. No doubt we'll see a few of them playing for the other side as they join the ranks of the Old Boys in the coming years.



## Class of '98 Reunion at Pakuranga Campus

The Pakuranga Campus of Saint Kentigern College hosted a reunion for the Class of 1998 on 17 November, bringing together twenty-six former students for a relaxed Friday afternoon gathering.

The reunion unfolded with a tour of the campus, allowing attendees to witness the significant changes that have transpired since their graduation. The day progressed with a barbeque at the Jubilee Sports Centre Lounge, providing a space for the rather animated exchanges of memories, some of which may have had a few details modified over the years of storytelling!

The delegates began in the Chapel, a space that has seen a few upgrades since the 1998 boys were at school, notably some necessary modifications such as toilet facilities. College Principal Mr Damon Emtage, Director of Saint Kentigern Foundation Mr Richard Lindroos, and Director of ICT Mr Walter Cheing all addressed the group. Some of the returnees were familiar with Mr Cheing, as he taught during their time at the College.

Mr Thomas Steel, President of the Saint Kentigern Old Collegians Association (SKOCA), also addressed the group, as well as the always witty Mr Duncan McQueen who offered humorous reflections on the transformations that have occurred since the Class of '98 had the run of the grounds.

The tour continued to the Goodfellow Centre, once the hub of administration and principal offices. Alumni remarked on the substantial changes, the distinctive roof shape being mentioned as the remaining recognisable feature of the space.

Extending the tour into the archives was quite the chronological journey through the history of the school. All kinds of items have been kept in memory of the continued evolution of the College. The tour then made its way through the more recently constructed Science and Technology buildings, the infrastructure reflecting the growth and changes in subject options since the alumnis' departure.

The tour concluded back at the Sports Centre, where a light-hearted invitation from Mr McQueen encouraged the Old Collegians to get in a few pull-ups before the evening's barbeque and drinks. The Saint Kentigern Old Collegians Association thoughtfully coordinated refreshments, creating a space conducive to catch-ups on the last twenty-five years.

As the day transitioned into the evening, the gathering moved to The Kingslander where additional Old Collegians joined the Class of 1998. Our twenty-five-year reunions are repeatedly afternoons filled with laughter, nostalgia, and good-quality company. We are incredibly grateful for the turnout each year and will continue to build a school that students are proud to visit long after they have graduated. If you are in the Class of 1999, please consider attending next year's reunion – we would love to see you.







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