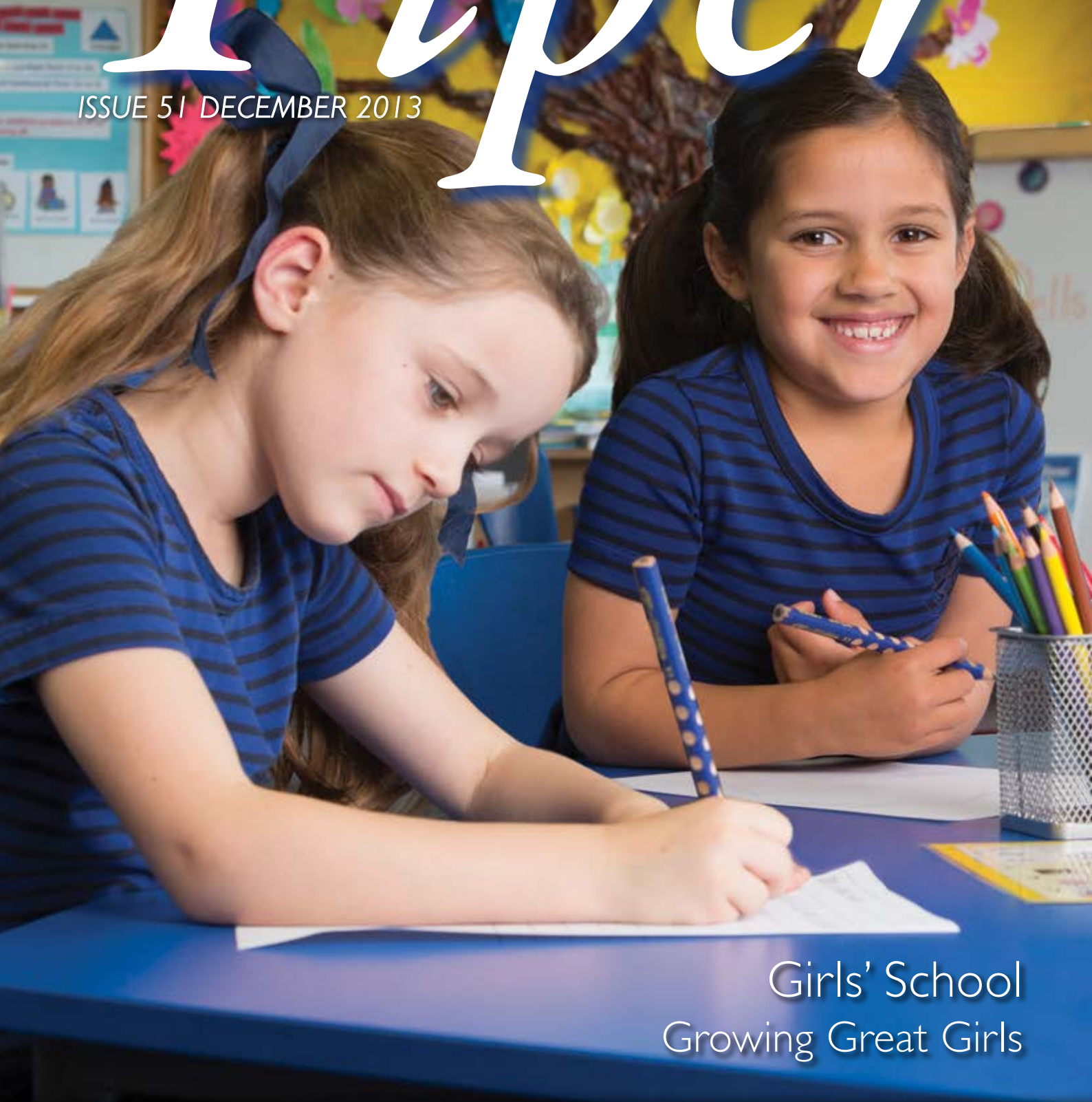


Piper

ISSUE 51 DECEMBER 2013



Girls' School
Growing Great Girls



SAINT KENTIGERN

A MAGAZINE FOR THE
SAINT KENTIGERN
COMMUNITY

BOYS' SCHOOL

A Time for Honest Reflection

The end of another school year provides opportunity for honest reflection and a chance to be critical when determining the success of the academic year completed. Sure there are many highlights and successes that we can trumpet, however, have we really hit the mark for all students? There is no doubt that we have tried and we have not always got it right but that should drive us to continue to make adjustments or changes that will make a difference ahead, as no organisation can afford to rest on their laurels, believing there is nothing more that can be done.

Education is regularly criticised in the media for failing its students by not preparing them for the real world or for 'dumbing down' standards. How disappointing it has been recently to be told that New Zealand Education is slipping in global rankings, according to a report released by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). Academic rankings internationally in Science has fallen from 7th to 18th, Maths from 13th to 23rd and Reading from 7th to 13th. Quite frankly, these results are not good enough!

New Zealand teachers are highly regarded internationally with many teaching, and in demand, in top international schools throughout the world, however, in my 31 years of teaching, I too, have noticed glaring mistakes made when schools and teachers jump on the bandwagon of a popular idea or new initiative that is purported to be the next best thing since sliced bread.

Over the years I have seen many students enter our schools at varying levels as parents wish to provide an education that truly prepares their children for secondary school and life; where for the first time they are going to hit nationwide external examinations, albeit now with a large number of internal assessments. While my experiences are anecdotal, rather than based on research, I sometimes feel that with so many added subjects to the curriculum, the core basics in numeracy and literacy are being watered down purely due to the lack of hours in a school day.

Too often we have to go back to the basics or demand greater depth to fill in the gaps or to extend thinking and, therefore, understanding. The Numeracy Project which was introduced to New Zealand Schools many years ago has its merits but also its downfalls. I find that students are now too busy strategising and trying to solve mathematical problems in their head where simple algorithms that we learnt years ago are much faster, more accurate and less confusing. What is wrong with learning tables from an early age? Why are we spending an inordinate amount of time on number at the expense of algebra, measurement, geometry and real life problem solving? An answer only is not good enough, as it can only be right or wrong, not allowing teachers to identify where students are going wrong.

It is important that schools review new initiatives and then make decisions based on both experience and understanding of how children learn, thus engaging them in the learning process. Primary schools need to regularly communicate with the secondary schools that their students will attend as

this will ensure the best possible transition for our students; something well addressed in the Saint Kentigern schools.

Too often schools work in isolation. Ask the right questions: 'What gaps are noted in our students? What are the minimum requirements you wish our students to have in each of the subject areas? What strengths do our students bring to your school?' These are the hard questions that will allow schools to take ownership of identified weaknesses so that strategies can be put in place to rectify and, therefore, ensure that all students are adequately prepared for the next level of their education and for life-long learning.

Primary Schools should review the latest PISA results and, instead of looking for excuses, act.

1. Subject specialisation is important as to be taught by a teacher with a passion and true depth of understanding in their particular subject field does make a difference.
2. All teachers are responsible for the teaching of English and should be correcting students at all times demanding accuracy, correct usage and quality of all written responses.
3. Reading on a daily basis, including a variety of genres, is essential as enjoyment of reading needs to be instilled at an early age rather than becoming a chore later in life.
4. Times tables and basic facts must be known from an early age to the point where you don't have to think of the answer; it is known.
5. Understand basic scientific principles of how the world works, as this will allow investigations and new ideas/theories to be developed.
6. Use technology and the wealth of information available to aid learning and not as a gimmick.
7. Mistakes are part of the learning journey.
8. Success and achievement is attributed to real effort.

Tim Elmore, founder and president of a non-profit called Growing Leaders and author of 'Habitudes®' offers the following advice:

1. 'We need to let our kids fail at 12 - which is far better than at 42,' he says. 'We need to tell them the truth (with grace) that the notion of 'you can do anything you want' is not necessarily true.'
2. Kids need to align their dreams with their gifts. Every junior rugby star won't play for the All Blacks.
3. Allow them to get into trouble and accept the consequences. It's okay to make a 'C-'. Next time, they'll try harder to make an 'A.'
4. Balance autonomy with responsibility.

As a school, we are certainly reviewing what we do and we have made or are making changes to ensure our boys receive the best possible start to their continued educational journey where they will leave our gates confident, articulate, engaged in their learning and prepared to accept challenges with enthusiasm.

Mr Peter Cassie, Principal





Boys' School Graduation Dinner

Our Year 8 boys, proudly sporting their Old Collegians ties, gathered with their parents, staff and invited guests at the Ellerslie Convention Centre to reflect back on the boys' last eight years of friendship and learning as they readied themselves for the next step in their education.

The Dean of the Senior School, Mr Carl Lidstone opened the formalities by reading out a series of numbers, asking if anyone knew their meaning. No, they were not telephone numbers but the boys' individual Saint Kentigern identification numbers. He told the boys that as they moved on, they would not be remembered for their numbers but for their actions – the things they have said and done; the service and excellence they have exhibited as young men who led the School so well in 2013.

The School is grateful to the Old Collegians for sponsoring the dinner each year and welcomed the president, Mr Andrew Morgan to speak. Andrew encouraged the boys to reflect back on their time at school and to keep in touch through the Old Collegians Association. He concluded by saying, 'Have faith and belief in yourself, be caring of your friends and family. Always remember the real strength that develops from honesty, hard work and the inclusion of others in your life.'

Following dinner, we were pleased to invite former professional adventure athlete, Steve Gurney to speak. Steve is best known for having won the challenging Coast to Coast event nine times and being appointed a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to endurance sport. Whilst Steve may be slight in stature, his personality, drive and passion for life was larger than life and his many tales of adventure, such as the perils of kite surfing across the Sahara Desert, were perfect anecdotes for a mixed age audience. In finishing, his words of advice to the boys included not to have any regrets in life and to choose to do things that they can look back on with pride.

Each year the boys receive a Saint Kentigern pennant to be signed by friends. Amid much laughter, the boys quickly circulated, gathering as many signatures as possible, including queuing for Principal, Mr Cassie and guest, Steve Gurney to add their names.

In his closing, Mr Cassie said, 'This evening acknowledges the importance of our senior students, recognising the contribution they have made during their time at Saint Kentigern Boys' School. You should look forward to the next five years of your education with excitement and anticipation. Your understanding of the world around you will broaden, subject knowledge will deepen and your personal interests and strengths will be nurtured. You have been given a very solid grounding academically where further independence is critical for your continued growth. You have had many opportunities to get involved in both physical and cultural activities and you have been provided with exceptionally strong Christian values and leadership that make for good citizens.'

A final set of 'reflections,' a DVD prepared by Paul and Victoria Wilkes, parents of Head Boy, Edward, looked back on the boys' time together provoking many memories as images scrolled across the screen dating back to when some were new entrants! The evening finally concluded with one last haka from the boys.

We thank the Prefects' parents who lovingly decorated the venue with the star attraction being bags of lollies inscribed with Saint Kentigern hanging on the Christmas tree. Our thanks also to Wendy Hart from 'Flowers after Hours' for providing the beautiful floral centrepieces for the tables. We are also indebted to Subaru New Zealand and Winger Auckland who arranged for Steve Gurney to be our guest speaker.



Carol Service

In this busy and chaotic season, as we build up to the end of the school year and start to focus on the holidays ahead, it is always a pleasure to stop for a moment and make time to enjoy the annual Boys' School Carol Service, held in the grandeur of the Holy Trinity Cathedral in Parnell. As the jazz band played, the boys, their families, staff and special guests, along with the children from the Preschool, filled the cathedral to capacity. Soloist, Desmond Yong opened the service with the first verse of 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing' before the congregation joined in.

In his opening words of welcome, Principal, Mr Peter Cassie said that the service marked the beginning of the Year 8 leavers' journey; a poignant time for the families as we prepare to finally farewell the boys in Year 8 as they move on to the next stage in their schooling.

Mr Cassie also welcomed graduating College student, Manase Latu as a guest soloist. Manase has become well known at the College over the last two years for his superb tenor voice and was recently singled out by the judges at the New Zealand Aria competition for his exceptional potential, awarding him the title 'NZ Aria Most Promising Singer U21 Years.' Manase joined the boys' Performers' Choir to sing 'Sleep Holy Child' and led the congregation in 'O Holy Night,' his voice beautifully amplified by the acoustics of the cathedral.

The staff prepared an item to sing - this year, the upbeat 'Midnight,' however, it was the children from the Preschool and the Junior School boys who offered the 'cute factor' for the evening! The preschoolers came forward to sing 'The

Little Drummer Boy,' with the boys who are moving on to the Boys' School next year playing the drums. The Junior School boys, who had sat so quietly in full view throughout the service, stood to sing the 'Donkey Song.'

Each year, Reverend Reuben Hardie develops a tableau on a Christmas theme, always a novelty that the boys look forward to but always with an underlying message. This year a stable was brought forward, albeit a very small one, and a nativity scene was brought together – definitely a Boys' School version! There was an oversized donkey and a sheepish Mary and Joseph but that's where the resemblance to a traditional nativity ended as squawking chickens and cheeky monkeys started to fill the space. The shepherds paid homage to Fred Dagg and the Three Wise Men...well, as Reverend Hardie pointed out, as Year 8's they had clearly outgrown the Christian Education dress up box! The angels, however, were very angelic! Just as there was no room at the inn and not much room in the stable on that first Christmas, this stable was bursting at the seams.

Reverend Hardie said that this reflected a common experience for many of us at Christmas time – not in terms of lack of physical space but that we often find there is not much room left in the calendar for any more events; not much room for unexpected guests or interruption; not much room in our heads for any more ideas or responsibilities; or, as most discovered on arrival, not much room to find a car park in this city of ours!

'But what changed everything on that crowded first Christmas is that God created that unique moment in space and in time to send his son. Jesus was



born in a crowded stable to help us make room in our lives for God because when we are able to make room in our hearts for God, then we also discover how we can make room for other things...like peace and family.

We can discover ways of making room for people who are different from us and people who we don't always get along with - and especially people who are in need of extra help and support. Because Jesus showed us that there is always room for compassion - there is always room for understanding - there is always room to show others that you love them and you appreciate them.'

At the end of the service, the Year 8 boys came forward to light a candle while the Performers' Choir sang the Jubilee Blessing. Reverend Hardie said, 'I want to tell you boys how special it is for us, as staff, and as your parents to see how much you have grown and how far you have come. We are so proud of you - and we are so excited about the future that awaits you. Go with confidence and humility and may you know God's love all around you; God's peace in your heart; God's wisdom to guide you; God's strength each day.'

The School offers thanks to Rev Tony Surman for his words of welcome and for hosting our service once again in cathedral, and to the cathedral organist, Mr Philip Smith, for providing the accompaniment to our carols.

Mercy Hospice Visit

We were saddened to hear of the sudden passing of former long-serving Head of Art, Mrs Robyn Spooner. Mrs Spooner was hugely respected by students, staff and parents alike. Her son Joe, a grinder on the winning America's Cup boat, Oracle, visited the School with his family to attend an assembly on a day when the boys were dressed in mufti to raise money for Mercy Hospice in Mrs Spooner's memory. Reverend Reuben Hardie accompanied some of the boys on a visit to Mercy Hospice to present them with a cheque representing the proceeds of the boys' fundraising efforts.



Dr Di Winstanley met with the group for a brief tour of the hospice gardens before explaining how the money we raised would be put towards their art programme and the care of children who are affected by losing a parent with terminal illness. This is to honour Robyn Spooner's love of art and children. Our thoughts are with the Spooner family, she will be very fondly remembered.

Hamper Donations

Towards the end of term, the boys who were recipients of the Christian Living Awards at this year's Prizegiving, travelled to Wymondley Road Primary School in Otara to deliver 66 Christmas Hampers overflowing with food and gifts, as well as \$2000 worth of vouchers for the local butcher. The boys, at all year levels, had been collating the items to donate to the Wymondley families.

Caleb Boyce, who was awarded the Christian Living Award for Class 8BW describes three highlights:

'My first highlight was seeing how excited and thankful all the students and families were at receiving their gifts. It gave me a warm feeling inside to know that we have done something great for somebody else and I could see just how thankful they were. My second highlight was the song that they sang for us. It was called 'Somewhere in the world tonight'. It had an awesome message and they sounded incredible. And, my final highlight was the lollie leys that they gave us. There were so many people coming up onto the stage and presenting us with the leys. It was really cool to see how grateful and generous they were. Finn Jorgenson had seven weighing him down!'



We would like to extend a sincere thank you to the entire school community for the contribution that each family made to the Christmas Hampers and to those volunteers from Parents and Friends who wrapped each item and accompanied the boys to deliver them. It was an amazing and humbling experience to be involved in this act of generosity.

Boys' School Prizegiving



DUX

DANIEL MAR

Daniel has been a self-motivated and diligent student who has received many awards for excellence during his time at the School. This year his combined marks were: English 95.8%, Maths 85.4% Social Science 89.8% Science 91% creating a total of 362 and an average of 90.5%. In his examination marks only, Daniel received: English 94%, Maths 89%, Social

Science 82%, Science 91%. This was a total of 356 with a grade average of 89%. Daniel is a worthy recipient of the Foundation Pupil Cup for Dux.



PROXIME ACCESSIT

JONATHON DANESH-CROUGH

The Jubilee Cup for Proxime Accessit was awarded to Jonathon Danesh-Crough. Jonathon's combined marks of English 89%, Maths 89.8%, Social Science 91.2%, Science 86% created a total of 356 and an average of 89%. In his examination marks only he received English 89%, Maths 91%,

Social Science 86.5%, Science 86%. This was a total 352.5 with a grade average of 88.125%.

In a change of format this year, we celebrated the Junior, Middle and Senior School prize winners at one ceremony rather than three. To accommodate the increase in numbers, the students, their families, invited guests and staff members gathered at the Sports Centre on the College campus to congratulate this year's prize winners on their academic, sporting and cultural success.

Dr Bruce Goodfellow, Chairman of the Trust Board, opened with an address that reflected back on 60 years of Saint Kentigern history. The College first opened in 1953 in a humble fashion with just 92 boys sharing three wooden classrooms. The Boys' School was opened six years later in 1959. Over the intervening years, the roll has grown to almost 2,400 boys and girls aged 3-18 over four schools on three campuses. Dr Goodfellow encouraged the boys who were returning in 2014 to make the most of every opportunity, and to the boys who were leaving, he hoped they continued to live the Saint Kentigern Way and wished them every success.

As is traditional, the staff who are leaving came forward to present the awards. Mrs Jane Mackie presented the Junior School Academic Awards, Mrs Barbara Burgess, presented the Music, Speech and Cultural Awards and Mrs Denise Coleman, presented the Sports Awards. We thank them for their years of loyal service and wish them well as they move on.

In his address, Principal, Mr Peter Cassie said 'Today marks the final and formal conclusion to the 2013 academic year. It is fitting that we are gathered as an entire community to celebrate the achievements and successes of all students as they are the ones who have combined to make this such a special year. To those in Year 0 who have just begun their educational journey in the school system, to those in Year 8 who are well-prepared, excited and ready to embark on the next stage of their education, it is right that we recognise the huge contribution and many successes you have achieved academically, culturally or on the sports field, as well as acknowledging the very real service and citizenship that you have provided.'

Mr Cassie also gave his thanks to all staff whether teaching, administration or grounds, and said that 'the school is a credit to you due to your commitment, enthusiasm and attention to detail in all that is asked of you.' He paid tribute to Head Boy of 2013, Edward Wilkes, by saying, 'You have completed an outstanding year and have been an inspiration to your generation. You have led by example and the pride you display has been evident throughout the year.' To summarise, Mr Cassie left the audience with the following thoughts on winners, 'To be a real winner requires an attitude where the head and the heart need to be aligned. Winners plan and prepare to win, and the key word is preparation. Let 2014 be your year to be a winner!'



Between awards, the guests were entertained by a selection of our talented musicians. The clarinet quartet performed 'Jumping Clarinets' and the Jazz Band, one of the School's showcase groups, displayed their talents with their recital of 'It Don't Mean a Thing if it Ain't Got That Swing.' The final musical ensemble for the morning was the Performer's Choir, an auditioned choir for boys in Year 6-8 who, along with a special guest from the College, Year 13 soloist, Manase Latu, sang 'Sleep Holy Child.'

To conclude, graduating Head Boy, Edward Wilkes made his final Valedictory Speech before handing the mantle of leadership to the new Head Boy for 2014, Benjamin Lerner. Edward shared three important beliefs that have guided him over the past eight years at the Boys' School – to be good, work hard and smile! Edward has certainly been known for all three! He expressed to his fellow leavers that, 'We all have received the best foundation possible and that the values of the School will be carried with us for the rest of our lives.'

ADDITIONAL SPECIAL PRIZES:



Charlie Knox
The Ross Perry Cup for Senior Sportsman of the Year



Will Bason
A.W. Smith Cup for Middle School Sportsman of the Year



Mark Hutchinson
Joel Campbell Memorial Trophy



Lewis Elliott
Rex Hooton Cup for School Spirit



Edward Wilkes
Senior Citizenship Cup



Michael Hiddleston
Junior Citizenship Cup (Middle School)



Austin McKegg
Brian Matthew's Citizenship Cup (Junior School)





Farewell To Staff

At the end of Term 4, staff and invited guests gathered at the Boys' School to farewell three long-serving members of staff: Mrs Jane Mackie, Mrs Barbara Burgess and Mrs Denise Coleman.

JANE MACKIE: 28 YEARS

Jane has spent a remarkable 28 years watching the Boys' School evolve.

She cited changes as wide ranging as:

'From corporal punishment to peer mediation; from pen and ink to the wonders of technology; from maths cuisenaire rods to digital Mathletics; from one page long reports, where a child's entire 8 years at school were encompassed in one book, to a complete book for every report; from a small male oriented staff to a 'balanced' and large staff of more than 60; and from boys in whom obedience was promoted to boys who are very sure they are right!'



In the early days, Jane taught boys in the Middle School (having been at Corran teaching girls in the years prior) and then in 1997 she set about organising the School Library, the Information Literacy programme and centralising and cataloguing teachers' resources in the Resource Room. As the role developed to include digital media, her title changed to become the Director of Information Services. Jane was also very active in the co-curricular activities at the School, coaching a variety of sports and organising cross country for many years.

A role she thoroughly enjoyed was being a Mentor for The University of Auckland Consortium of Schools Teacher Training programme – liaising, taking seminars and assessing students. She was also a Tutor teacher for several beginning teachers providing support and guidance in their early years of teaching.

Jane will leave one enduring legacy, the history book she wrote for the 50th Jubilee. 'Sons of Kentigern' was a three year project entailing many, many hours of research, writing, proof reading and re-writing until the finished item was published. Documenting the first 50 years of the Boys' School was a massive achievement and one that Jane can be extremely proud of. We wish her well as she heads into her retirement years.

BARBARA BURGESS: 19 YEARS

Barbara, wife of former Principal, Mr Geoff Burgess is moving on after 19 years at the Boys' School, 17 of those in residence, to concentrate on teaching maths and English to the girls in Years 6-8 at the Girls' School. Barbara has been involved at the Boys' School for many years, sharing her time between the two schools for the last three years. Her contribution to the daily life of the Boys' School has been enormous, whether supporting Geoff as the principal's wife or in her own right as a member of the teaching staff. The boys, who have come under her guidance, are all the richer for her knowledge and enthusiasm. The staff will miss her but know that she will be just 'up the road' as she continues her teaching at the Girls' School.

DENISE COLEMAN: 11 YEARS

Denise started in 2003, taking on the specialist role of teaching practical science to the boys in Years 5-8. Denise will be well remembered for her involvement with the NIWA Science and Technology Fair where she has been a committee member and judge for over 11 years. She has long encouraged a high level of work from the senior boys for this annual event. She has also promoted and been actively involved in the Trees for Survival programme with the Auckland Regional Council, the Rotary Club and farm owners, taking the boys to plant upwards of 200 trees on each visit. We wish her well as she retires to spend more time with her grandchildren.



Arts Festival

BOOKS ALIVE

Over two fine evenings at the end of October, the Boys' School campus was transformed into a carnival of performing and static arts as our boys and their families were invited to celebrate 'Books Alive.' Throughout the campus there were exciting displays of visual arts, drama, music and dance; a superb showcase of student talent, supported by the combined efforts of staff and so many helpful parents. On both evenings, delighted families enjoyed the artistic talents on show in every corner of the School.

Held every second year, the Arts Festival was originally conceived as an opportunity for each and every boy to be involved in both the static and performing arts. Each boy had at least one item of his art work on display and also took part in at least one performance, featuring his class or year group. Additional entertainment was provided by the School's specialist music groups, with many boys also taking the opportunity to busk during the course of the evening.

As the packed programme featured up to three items simultaneously in different parts of the campus, families were not short of entertainment. For those lucky enough to be there for both nights, they witnessed a subtle transformation. With first night nerves out of the way, the boys exuded a new level of confidence as they took to their various stages. Voices were stronger; movement had renewed self-assurance and the boys were loving the applause!

The theme for the festival, 'Books Alive,' placed the focus clearly on children's literature and the love of reading. Fantastic colourful, wall hangings were mounted around the School, prepared by the various age groups to promote the theme of their performance.

Families packed the Junior School for the first entertainment of the evening as the Year 0's re-enacted 'Giraffes can't dance' – showing that given the right music, even a giraffe can dance! Year 1 followed with a most impressive piece, 'La Poule Maboule' (adapted from Chicken Little) all in French! This reflected a very strong second language learning programme in the Junior School. Year 2 presented a tribute to Joy Cowley and the Year 3's gave a very strong and moving performance to 'Kohiatanga,' demonstrating unity, oneness and harmony.



Combining technology, music and visual arts, Year 4 created an adaptation of Prokofiev's classic story of Peter and the Wolf with a variety of musical instruments they had made themselves. Year 5 took to the stage in the hall for two separate enactments of two Greek myths – Orpheus and Eurydice, and Perseus and Medusa. These were both powerful pieces combining monologues and group choreography. Year 6 had divided into small groups to each select a play from the School Journals with a distinct moral to the story. Each boy had created a fantastic puppet for their chosen character and put on a short puppet play.

Year 7 each produced a short play based on a scene from a chosen book or poem. 'The Highwayman,' was presented as a contemporary, part digitised rendition of Alfred Noyes' poem. A moving scene from 'War Horse' – when Joey is auctioned after the war – was well retold. The final piece was a scene from the well-loved novel, 'Holes' by Louis Sachar.

The Year 8 boys had created a number of movie trailers for books that were categorised into: Home Grown, Adaptation, Favourite Book and Saint Kentigern Values with the audience invited to vote.

The Arts Festival is all about teamwork. There is an enormous amount of work behind the scenes by a large number of people but the aim is clear; to give our boys the experience to discover inner self-confidence and pleasure from preparing and giving a public performance. Talents are no longer hidden! Our boys have discovered that each and every one of them has what it takes to put creativity on display.

A special mention must be made of the assistance from so many parents and the commitment of the Parents and Friends Association. The Senior School area was transformed for the evening into a decorated 'Café Courtyard' with a food court serving a tempting variety of meals – the youngsters, however, were largely drawn to the bright blue candy floss! With the weather so kind on both evenings, dining outside was a pleasure, adding to the enjoyment of the event.

All in all, the 2013 Boys' School Arts Festival was a huge success!



Published Author!



It was a proud moment for Year 5 student, Carter Tang when he saw his work published for the first time at the launch of this year's Starship Foundation story book at a special function held at Eden Park.

Earlier in the year, Carter entered the Barfoot & Thompson 2013 Young Authors Challenge with his story about two unlikely friends - a hermit crab and a turtle. Carter was delighted when his story was one of six selected from 899 entries to be prepared for publication. The winners were selected for stories that 'involved the reader and had engaging characters, interesting situations, warming themes and satisfying resolutions.' The other stories selected were written by students from Pukekohe Intermediate, Northcross Intermediate, Glen Eden Intermediate, Ramarama School and Redoubt North Primary School.

The six young authors were invited to attend a workshop with renowned children's author, John Parker, to be helped through the editing process. John suggested that Carter add some dialogue to his story to help establish the friendship between the two characters; a suggestion that Carter was pleased to work on. Once finalised, the stories were illustrated by rugby hero, Kevin Mealamu.

This is the sixth year that John and Kevin have worked in partnership to produce a book for Starship. 'Room 23 and Mysterious Miss P - and Five More Fantastic Stories' has now gone on sale with all proceeds benefiting Starship Children's Hospital's Magic of Reading Programme, which provides all overnighting patients at Auckland's Starship and Whangarei Hospital's Children's Ward with their own book to read and keep. Carter is proud to know that his work is helping such a good cause.

At the launch, Mr Cassie purchased a book for each Middle School classroom and two for the library. Carter was presented with his own copy along with a mounted poster promoting his story with his favourite extract, 'And when they reached the sand they watched the full moon glowing brightly and listened to the breaking waves and spent time together - just as friends should.'

Copies can be purchased online for \$15 from Barfoot and Thompson: www.barfoot.co.nz/storybook

Citizenship Awards

Congratulations to Fintang Wong (Year 6) and Angus Williams (Year 8) who were recipients of this year's Remuera Lions Citizenship Awards. These awards are presented each year by the Remuera Lions Club to students who best exemplify the ideals of the Lions Junior Citizenship Code. The code includes values such as 'Honest in word and deed', 'Willing to accept responsibility' and 'Generous with your time and talents for the improvement of your community without thought or personal rewards.'



Fintang and Angus are worthy recipients of these awards. They were selected for their courtesy, caring natures and consideration of others. We congratulate them on being selected as representatives from our School. At a ceremony held at Dilworth Junior School, the boys were presented with their badges to wear with pride on their blazers and were also acknowledged at our Prizegiving.

A Week Of Authors

With thanks to Mrs Jane Mackie, Director of Information Services

In conjunction with the Books Alive based Arts Festival, the School hosted five special authors during Festival week.

The first, who enthralled all areas of the School, was Mark Somerset, author of 'Baa Baa Smart Sheep' and its sequel revenge, 'I Love Lemonade'. These books appeal to young and old alike with a special blend of boy humour. Not only did Mark treat us to a reading of his yet to be published book 'The Boy in the Cherry Tree'; he also demonstrated his musical prowess by playing his guitar and singing to us. His message, which he related to his own life story, was that if you have a dream you need to dive in and do it as things have a curious habit of turning out well.

Des Hunt has written many wonderful action adventure stories set in New Zealand. He talked to Year 6 and 7, using his considerable prowess as a chemistry teacher as metaphors for the ingredients for a good story. His expertise in using mini explosions and other experiments explained writer's block and how to get the story moving again! Using magnets which attract and repel, he demonstrated how a story needs to capture the reader and keep them reading faster and faster. He talked about getting conflict into a story as readers were unlikely to enjoy a story about everyone being good friends! All his stories have the main



ingredients of a NZ setting, nature, technology and humour. His writing workshop for Year 6 in the afternoon inspired a greater level of editing and evaluation of their story writing and the boys were intrigued by his tips for improving a story. It is little surprise his own writing captures the imagination of many. He has prodigious talent for touching on topical issues and 'hotting' them up with escapades and excitement.

Bruce Potter is well known as an illustrator. He treated us to his latest book and his remarkable skill with doodling. The creation of a myriad of what he would call doodles and we would call detailed caricatures was stunning. He shared his latest book, 'Penny the Prodigious Pooing Cow!'

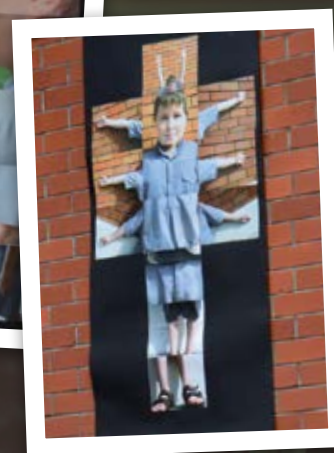


Photo Portraits

With thanks to Head of Art, Mr Thomas Barter

Inspired by the work of David Hockney and Chuck Close, the Year 7 students worked on a self-portrait photo collage project.

The project started out as an exercise in making a nine picture portrait of the student's own face and then expanding it into a more complex work that involved the entire body and included elements of Saint Kentigern. The challenge for them was to work over several weeks and maintain the same idea that they started with.

The boys worked with a simple 'point and click' digital camera and had to take into consideration each time how and where they were taking the photos so that the final work appeared to belong as one piece. The photographic work was initially printed in black and white so that they could do a rough sketch of how their idea would look prior to working with colour prints. The colour photos were printed on glossy photo paper and manually cut, arranged and pasted onto black card.

The work was so successful that as a teacher I saw the value in trying to make some of the better ones into large scale portraits. The challenge in this was to make sure that it looked like the boys' original work. It was

also important that the student made the work and not have it become a 'made by the teacher' effort. Out of fifteen boys selected, eight managed to get the work done and I commend these boys for their individual effort. These were displayed at the Auckland Intermediate Art Exhibition among the work of 400 students from 40 Auckland schools who were exhibiting their best artwork at a week-long exhibition held amongst the planes at Motat. Each year, the Auckland Intermediate Art Association organises an exhibition to display a variety of artwork that includes mixed media, paintings and sculptures from Year 7 and 8 students in the Auckland region. The annual exhibition has been running for over 20 years showcasing the talent of students from Albany to Pukekohe.

On their return to school, the artworks were displayed on outside walls around campus for the biennial Saint Kentigern Boys' Art Festival drawing many appreciative comments. These made particularly striking displays showing a surprising level of sophistication in the individual works.

Boys' work displayed at the Auckland Intermediate Art Exhibition: George Burns, Luke Gee, Thomas Hussona, Lachlan Kenna, Benjamin Lamb, Sam Looker, Tommy Lui, Daniel Mar, Tom Moloney, Zachary Morrow, Caleb Pese, Tom Petit, Junior Schaumkel, Leo Van der Kroft



It was also set to music so he sang to us accompanied by his guitar. His creation of cartoon characters based on our ideas was impressive and he also left us with a message of following your dreams. As a musician, illustrator, author and weight lifter, he certainly is following his dreams.

Maria Gill is a renowned non-fiction writer with a New Zealand flavour. She used her many published books and an array of interesting props to demonstrate how she goes about the research, collection of ideas, writing in a variety of genre and getting suitable illustrations to enhance her work. Her enhanced and integrated e-books are fine examples of the power of this medium and constitute several reference books in one. Her

experience, knowledge and enthusiasm for New Zealand ecology and conservation are certainly contagious.

Author and illustrator, Stu Duval, performed at the Arts Festival on both nights. Although the weather conspired against his full-on routine of storytelling and artistry combined, he nevertheless produced three amazing pastel paintings and entertained many with his cartoon drawing.

We are grateful to all these talented people for giving their time to inspire our community.



students are spoken to in full sentences and a response is encouraged in the context of a full sentence. All the learning is oral and there is no written component at this stage.

Young children are very receptive to learning a second – or for some of the children – third language. For the boys entering from our Preschool, they arrive with a good grounding in French; there it is taught across the age range from age 3. Full of confidence and willing to give anything a go, the Year 0 students at school are already questioning and answering in full sentences.

One of the important tenets is the 'French only' rule in the classroom so that it becomes a true immersion experience. The approach is a multi-sensory one that applies gestures to high frequency vocabulary. The gestures are used in a fashion similar to sign language rather than 'acting out' the words. The combination of language and action makes for an inherently 'playful' approach that soon engages the boys.

Those who attended this year's Arts Festival could not help but be impressed by the boys' recital of 'La Poule Maboule,' a long story retold with passion and humour entirely in French, complete with actions. The children concentrate on this one story throughout the learning unit. Adapted from the English version, 'Chicken Little,' the familiarity, predictability and high level of repetition in the story ('histoire') helps the children to build vocabulary in context quickly. Songs, dances and plays are used to engage the boys ('en action' – in action). Even at this young age, the boys also memorise grammar raps to learn and use the grammar rules effectively.

The importance of second language learning has long been recognised and French has been taught higher up the School for a number of years. As a result of the success with the Juniors, the School has invested in resources for the full AIM programme with the intention of gradually bringing the programme to all levels of the School.

The Junior School French classroom is a noisy, active place as the boys go about their new language acquisition – there is no question that this is an enjoyable, engaging experience!

Histoires en Action!

With thanks to Mrs Karen Ducros, French teacher

'La classe commence en Français.

Ouvre la tête, enlève l'anglais.

Je mets l'anglais dans la poche, c'est vrai!

Et je parle seulement en Français.'

French lessons for the Junior School boys in Years 0-3 start outside the classroom with the boys all reciting this rhyme. If you're not familiar with the French language, then watching their accompanying actions soon gives you a clear idea as to the meaning as they 'open their heads, take out the English and put it in their pocket' for later! The premise being, that as they enter the French classroom, they leave their English behind and only French is spoken. The use of gestures play a big part of this new programme.

Introduced to the Junior School this year, the AIM (Accelerated Integrated Methodology) Language Learning Programme is a verb based, oral language programme. This means that rather than reliance on word lists of nouns, the children are given a story context for their learning. Through storytelling, the children are quickly drawn into the activity, making sense of what is happening, building their own versions, listening, telling, retelling, talking about, reflecting upon and ultimately responding. During the programme, nothing is taught in isolation, with gestures from the teacher;



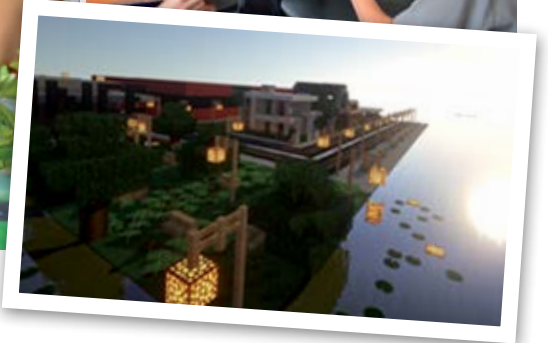
Music Showcase

The high point of the Music Department's calendar at the Boys' School is the Music Showcase held in November. The Showcase features our very best musicians, who are selected through an audition process to perform in front of students, staff, parents and invited guests.

In her introduction to the Showcase, Director of Music Mrs Janet Grierson told the audience that this year the Boys' School has had musicians perform in assemblies, at Open Day, Grandparents' Day, Chapel Services, Fireworks Evening, in our community, the local library, the local supermarket and shopping centre, retirement villages and Town Hall concerts. They've been busy!

Opening the Showcase this year was the recital from the Symphonic Orchestra, who played 'See the Conquering Hero Comes' by Handel. The large audience were then treated to polished individual performances across a broad range of piano, violin and wind and string instruments.

Amongst the talented solo musicians, a variety of groups also presented their pieces including the flute and guitar ensembles, the jazz combo, recorder trio, clarinet quartet and the jazz band. Many of these students have been playing



Architecture in Focus

With thanks to Mrs Betsie Warner, Year 8 teacher

As part of their Social Science Unit, the boys in Year 8 were tasked with the challenge of designing their own redevelopment concept for the Tank Farm area on the waterfront in Auckland City. To start the ball rolling, an architectural walk was organised to provide the boys with an understanding of architectural concepts and to gather inspiration for their work.

The day began with a tour of the School campus led by four visiting architectural experts. The focus for this walk was to look at the School's contrasting buildings, identify their features and discuss their design and function. The historical Roselle House and the modern Jubilee Sports Centre present a superb contrast in styles, highlighting to the boys the changes that have evolved in form and function over time and providing a fantastic springboard for discussion. Our thanks to Mrs Katie Wilson (Jasmax Architects), Ms Evelyn Liu (Architect, Wellington), Mr Matt Chaplin (Sumich Chaplin Architects) and Mr David Gaze (Gaze Commercial) for taking the time out from their day to work with our boys. This was hugely appreciated and provided the boys with a great grounding for the next stage of their research.

The second part of the morning was an architectural walk from the Tank Farm in Beaumont Street through to The Cloud. The boys' focus was the redevelopment of the Wynyard Quarter; the Events Centre, Prince's Wharf, the Ferry Building, Shed 10 and The Cloud. A highlight was a tour of the world class, sustainable ASB Building in Wynyard Quarter where

the boys were hosted by Mr Derek Shorrt (ASB General Manager).

The eco-friendly building provided many interesting features and ideas to consider. In small groups the boys then made their way along the waterfront photographing and considering the vast array of architecture and design work.

The morning finished with Mr Matt Glubb, Principal at Jasmax Architecture & Planning, touring the boys through Shed 10 and The Cloud. He shared his wealth of experience in the background and development of the buildings.

Back at school and armed with new knowledge, the boys set about their task. In their proposal, they were asked to meet a need within the community, explain that need and how their proposed structure would meet that need. As well as explaining the function of the structure, they were also required to ensure it represented the culture and beliefs of their chosen community. They were required to make a 3D representation to scale and create architectural drawings.

The resultant work was as amazing in ideas as it was in execution. From sports centres to a Performers' Park dedicated to music and open green spaces; a Southern Hemisphere Theme Park, urban gardens and a centre to host parties and fine dining to a city farm - the boys' ideas could well prove food for thought for the Auckland City Council!



their instruments from a young age, some starting as early as Year 3.

In closing the Showcase, Principal Mr Peter Cassie said he wished he had even half the talent of the boys! He said that the performances were examples of real excellence that only comes because each student has put in the hard yards. 'Music', he said, 'is a full

time, all year commitment.' Mr Cassie expressed his delight in the music bringing joy to the audience, 'People just couldn't stop moving - heads were nodding, toes were tapping, people were swaying. Music just makes us feel good!'

At the conclusion, the audience was piped out by Year 8 student, Lachlan Broadhurst. Lachlan has done a fabulous job piping at many events through the year and we appreciate all the times he has represented the School.

Congratulations to all boys for their performances and for sharing their talent with us. Also thank you to Director of Music, Mrs Janet Grierson, and Assistant Musical Director, Mr Edwin Randell, for a very successful and entertaining morning of music.





Boys vs Wild

With thanks to student reporter, Louis Ribiere

During Term 4, the boys in Year 8 who received the silver badge as part of the Saint Kentigern Service Award were offered the opportunity to participate in the annual Boys vs Wild camp. This year there was an added aspect of service involved as six boys and two teachers from Wymondley Road School were invited and it was our responsibility to look after them.

The camp was held at Tawharanui Regional Park, about an hour and a half drive north of Auckland. On the way we stopped at a supermarket where we were given \$100 per group to buy all the food we would need for five boys. It was our choice!

After arriving and setting up tents and having lunch, we went to help the local ranger fulfilling the service component of the camp. The job consisted of filling buckets with gravel and slowly making our way down one of the nature trails and then depositing the gravel to improve the track. It took us two hours and it was particularly tiring! The ranger said it usually took him at least a month to do this job so we had a huge feeling of achievement that we had accomplished such a useful task.

On returning to camp we went to the beach for a well-earned swim before it was time to cook our dinner and wait for it to get dark. Before playing a game of spotlight, we spent five minutes lying on the sand, looking at stars and reflecting on our year; with no light pollution, the stars were amazing!

The next day it was time to tidy up our campsite and say goodbye to our friends from Wymondley Road before we started the trip back home. The trip will definitely be one of our lasting memories of Saint Kentigern Boys' School!



School Tennis Championships

For keen tennis players, the Year 4 - 8 annual school tennis championships brings out the best in competitive spirit. The weather was very mild without the strong winds that have plagued other years so we managed to get through the preliminary rounds fairly easily. The semi-finals were hotly contested and even though they were only one set, some games went on for well over an hour.

The boys umpire themselves under the guidance of Mr Grant and they always have their Saint Kentigern values tested. All the boys responded with outstanding respect for one another, something that the boys can be extremely proud of. Well done to all boys that put their names down for the championship but there can only be one winner per age group in tennis!

| | | |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| Year 8 | Conor Ansell Beat Oliver Cranshaw | 7/5 6/4 |
| Year 7 | Chris Zhang beat Benjamin Lerner | 6/0 6/1 |
| Year 6 | Henry McLachlan beat Joshua Stephan | 6/1 6/ |
| Year 5 | William McLachlan beat William King | 6/3 6/0 |
| Year 4 | George Beca beat Campbell Joyce | 6/3 3/6 6/4 |

A PLAYER TO WATCH!

CHRIS ZHANG

Year 7 student, Chris Zhang is proving to be a tennis player with a good future. In late October, Chris won the U12 title at the Tennis New Zealand Masters Top 8 competition. Entry to the competition is based on players gaining points from tournament placings over the course of a calendar year. Chris entered this tournament ranked Number 3 overall from his points but was seeded Number 1. He played strong matches throughout, qualifying to play in the finals against a Christchurch player which Chris won convincingly 6-3, 6-1. As a result, Chris was invited to take part in a two day NZ talent ID camp to further his skills at the Millennium Institute.

Chris then went on to play at the North Island Primary and Intermediate School Tennis Finals 2013 held in Wellington. He worked his way through pool play for a spot in the finals where he was up against the No. 1 seed, Isaac Beecroft, a Year 8 student from Wellesley College.

After some valiant play, Chris lost in the 3rd set. As the weather was wet in Wellington, the matches were reduced to only 4 games a set which was disappointing for Chris but he is clearly a young tennis player to watch!

STOP PRESS!

Congratulations to Chris who was recently crowned as the National 12s Boys Champion age group Nationals in Christchurch.

Boys' School Athletic Championships 2013

With thanks to Mr Duncan Grant, Director of Sport

November is always an unpredictable month for weather and it was no exception for the Junior Year 0 to 3 athletics day. We managed to complete all events just before the heavens opened! The Year 8 sport monitors ran each of the athletic stations and once again they did a superb job, leading by example. We introduced discus and shot put this year to get the younger ones used to these disciplines in readiness for when they enter Year 4. This was a great success. The sprints provided the competitive element with the boys trying their hardest to qualify for the finals that were run in front of a big crowd! The parents thoroughly enjoyed themselves as they got involved in the round robin athletic events which their sons enjoy tremendously. Thank you to all those who helped make the day a success.

The Middle and Senior Athletic Sports this year were held at Mt Smart stadium. What an impressive stadium it is since its 2012 renovations with a new track and new seating. The weather was superb and perfect for a great day of athletics. The majority of times and distances were taken during physical education lessons to work out the top 8 finalists for the events that were run as straight finals on the day. All boys had the opportunity to qualify in the shot put, long jump and 100m at Mt Smart stadium. The timing machine was used to bring an extra piece of professionalism to the day. Well done to all those boys who achieved their personal goals and a big thank you to all the staff who made the day a success.

REMUERA AND EASTERN ZONE

Our top athletes went on to compete in the Remuera and Eastern Zone athletics. The Remuera Zone was held at Mt Smart stadium where we had some great results. The Eastern Zone event was held at Lloyd Elsmore and was run and organised by Saint Kentigern School. Our boys achieved some top places against some talented athletes from schools around the Remuera/Eastern Zone.

Well done to all those boys who gave their all in athletics this year.



SCHOOL ATHLETIC CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

| | 1ST | 2ND | 3RD |
|--------|-------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Year 0 | Max Trankels | Scot Nel | Finlay Peterson, Jacob Hageman |
| Year 1 | Pierce Gault | Lachlan Hay | James Hiddleston |
| Year 2 | Ethan Knox | Harry Becker | William Lawrence Vai Vai |
| Year 3 | Benjamin Hardie | Ben James | Brendan Meyer |
| Year 4 | George Beca | Nicholas Forgie, Edward Chaytor | |
| Year 5 | William McLachlan | Vinay Chichester | Robert Jones |
| Year 6 | Tom Lorimer | Benjamin McCutcheon | Flynn Cornelius Gilbert |
| Year 7 | Thomas Moloney | Theodore Thomson | Maia Scott |
| Year 8 | Dylan Bartholomew | Oliver Parkinson | Grayson Gaze |

HOUSE ATHLETIC CHAMPIONS

| | |
|-----|---------------------|
| 1st | Cargill 350 points |
| 2nd | Chalmers 274 points |
| 3rd | Hamilton 212 points |
| 4th | Wishart 188 points |

HOUSE RELAY CHAMPIONS

| | |
|-----|--------------------|
| 1st | Cargill 173 points |
| 2nd | Chalmers 94 points |
| 3rd | Hamilton 73 points |
| 4th | Wishart 61 points |

REMUERA ZONE RESULTS

| | |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| Year 5 High Jump: | 2nd, William McLachlan |
| Year 5 Ball Throw: | 3rd, Robert Jones |
| Year 6 Ball Throw: | 2nd, Ben McCutcheon |
| Open 800m: | 2nd, Vinay Chichester |
| Year 6 Relay: | 1st, SKBS team |

EASTERN ZONE RESULTS

| YEAR 7 BOYS | |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------|
| 400m | 3rd, Thomas Moloney |
| 800m | 1st, Benjamin Anderson. 2nd, Thomas Maloney |
| 1500m | 2nd, Liam Batts |
| Relay | 1st, SKBS team |
| Long Jump | 2nd, Thomas Moloney |
| High Jump | 1st, Jack Dufaur |
| Shot Put | 3rd, Maia Scott |
| Discus | 1st, Maia Scott |

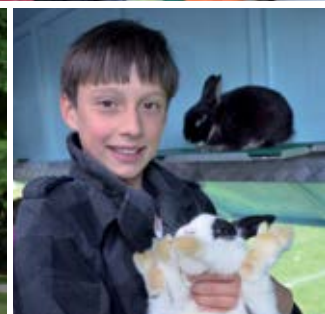
YEAR 8 BOYS

| | |
|-----------|------------------------|
| 400m | 2nd, Dylan Bartholomew |
| 1500m | 1st, Charlie Knox |
| Long Jump | 2nd, Dylan Bartholomew |
| High Jump | 2nd, Max Shorter |
| Discus | 3rd, Grayson Gaze |



Boys' School Fireworks Night

PHOTO: Stephen Penny, The Hobson



'Fire Away!'

A perfect night sky with just the right amount of cloud cover set the stage for another fantastic Fireworks Night at the Boys' School on Saturday. As families gathered with picnic fare on the top field, the high winds from earlier in the day dropped away and a relieved team from the Parents and Friends could relax knowing that their weeks of planning could now come to fruition.

The gates opened at 5pm as a capacity crowd started to stream in; the children quickly doing the rounds to check out the 'fairground' activities. A new activity this year proved a huge success – a travelling farm show brought pony rides and a large, old fashioned caravan full of rabbits, guinea pigs, mice and ...um....rats to pet. Naturally the boys, being boys, egged each other on to handle the rats!

Without question, the biggest draw card each year is the dunking machine with a large crowd gathering to watch those brave enough to face an unexpected drop into the icy November water! The numbers doubled when word got around that Principal, Mr Peter Cassie had taken on the challenge. He received more than his fair share of dunks from a keen set of boys with the skill to throw an accurate ball and hit the target! Those that couldn't were eventually invited forward to press the release, dropping their good natured Principal for yet another dunking!

The food court offered up some fabulous fare this year with a range of wood fired pizzas, paella, sushi and gourmet pies. There were brisk sales on the students' favourite – make your own lurid snow cone!

As the evening moved towards the main event, there was entertainment on the stage – of particular note, the School Jazz Band, the School's Song Writing Competition winners, rock bands from the College and Songbird, Choral Director, Mr Edwin Randall's band.

As the sun set and darkness encroached, Year 8 student, Lachlan Broadhurst piped Mr Cassie to the stage. Mr Cassie welcomed the Saint Kentigern community and took the time to publicly thank a long-time organiser and stalwart of the Fireworks Night, a former Chairman of the Parents and Friends, Mr Ants Hurdley, who has continued to assist in planning this special night long after his son has moved on.

The College Pipes and Drums made a spectacular, floodlit appearance before eight boys, representing the four Houses, carried flares on to the field in House colours. This year, Mr Hurdley was given the honour of igniting the flame that set a spectacular firework show in motion choreographed to Titanium (Fire away, fire away...) by David Guetta.

Anthony Lealand, the CEO of Firework Professionals based in Christchurch, said the show had 500 separate elements timed to the music. Unlike a fireworks night at home, a show such as this has a huge amount of work and planning. Once the budget has been allocated, the show is pre-planned, working out the quantity of igniters, mortars, cables, firing systems and safety gear required and then selecting the colour, size and effect of each element of the pyrotechnics. When set to music, such as this show, they also take into account how long it takes from pressing the button to the effect actually firing, how long before it reaches the point



when it explodes and, finally, the distance the audience is from the effect and the music to allow for the differential in the speed of light and sound!

A firework show also involves a great deal of paperwork to comply with New Zealand regulations. A Test Certificate (permit) is required to fire the show. This involves obtaining written permission from the Fire Service and the legal landowner; submitting this, together with a detailed site plan, application form and supporting information to an independent Test Certifier. The Department of Labour, Police Communications and Fire Communications must also be notified and a NOTAM (Notice to Airmen) issued by the Civil Aviation Authority. In addition, a permit is required to close off the Shore Road boardwalk to allow for the larger fireworks with security guards required from 8am to 10pm to keep residents away!

With this amount of work, it's little wonder the Parents and Friends team are relieved when the weather is settled on the night and the show is guaranteed to go ahead!

This was a great family occasion that combined great food, top class entertainment and plenty of things to do to keep younger family members engaged. With over 1500 tickets sold, generating a healthy income, our thanks go to a hardworking group of parents and helpers who not only got the show underway but attended to the clean up the following day.

Thank you to: Jane Sheetz, Kerry George, Peter Green, Lyzadie Renault, Annie Fraser, Jason Mar, Simon Ward, Kathryn Hughes, Chris Pettit, Maryanne Looker, Laura Lane, Robyn Kenna and Naomi Hageman.

Our thanks also to the following sponsors: A-Ward Attachments, Hirepool, TPI Waste Management, New World Manurewa



Boys' School Parents and Friends Association

Parents and Friends (P&F) is a group of dedicated, enthusiastic parents who volunteer their time to help the School host events as well as planning their own events with the objective of promoting and nurturing friendship within the wider school community.

The AGM saw us farewell our co-chair, Alison Hudgell, Secretary, Cathie Woods and Treasurer Havana Mar. Huge thanks must go to Alison, Cathie and Havana who all worked tirelessly in their roles.

The new executive is Jane Sheetz as Chairperson, Richard Beca as Vice Chair, Laura Lane as Secretary/Volunteer Co-ordinator and Donna Berry as Treasurer. We are especially privileged to have many new P&F class co-ordinators who all helped to support a very productive 2013.

Donna Berry and Laura Lane, in their roles as Treasurer and Secretary, and our Parent Liaison Team – Sarah Becker and Amanda Wilkinson for the Junior School, Carole Beggs for the Middle School and Annie Fraser for the Senior School - have done a fantastic job in organising and supporting Parents and Friends events. We are very grateful for the support offered from the Parents and Friends team and all those in our school community who volunteer their time and energy to support our activities and events.

We continue the productive partnership with Principal, Mr Peter Cassie, school management and staff, and are appreciative of their encouragement and assistance in all that we do.

Our calendar starts every year with the New Parents' Morning Tea on the first day of Term 1. This is an opportunity for new parents, once they have dropped off their sons, to come along to the Staff Room and enjoy a much needed coffee with other new parents and settle those nerves! The year also begins with the Year 7 picnic, an opportunity for existing families to welcome new families into our school community and build on the relationships between our boys.

We hosted and funded a number of events this year – Meet the Teacher, Senior Information Evening, Celtic Day haggis, morning tea and field activities, the Father and Son breakfast, start of term morning tea events for new parents and our now famous Quiz Night.

A perfect night sky with just the right amount of cloud cover set the stage for another fantastic Fireworks Night. As families gathered with picnic fare on the top field, the high winds from earlier in the day dropped away and a relieved team from the Parents and Friends could relax knowing that their weeks of planning could now come to fruition.

Parents and Friends Christmas Hampers for families in need are back for the fourth year. Thank you to Reuben Hardie and Laura Lane for facilitating this.

Last year saw the development of the Saint Kentigern Cookbook which raised \$30,000 for the Boys School, enabling the P&F to purchase a Winger Subaru Van and Trailer. It looks really smart and has been really appreciated by all.

P&F is all about fundraising and we do raise funds for the School, but our main aim is 'friend-raising' and community building. We have a team of dedicated, hardworking people who tirelessly work together to make events happen, but parents leave as their sons move on to secondary school and we hope that new parents will fill their shoes. We look forward to new parents joining the P&F and volunteering to help with a particular event. We appreciate all offers of help, no matter how small, to spread the load and we are sure you will enjoy working with our friendly, enthusiastic team. By volunteering, parents take the opportunity to see the School working, meet other parents and get to know various members of staff in a relaxed and informal way.

On behalf of the P&F Committee, staff, parents and boys, a very big thank you to all our committed volunteers who have given so generously of their time throughout the year. We can't do any of this without you.

Jane Sheetz - Chairperson, Boys' School Parents and Friends Association