



The Value of Mistakes

I have a favourite picture book which I love to read to children as it has such a positive message. Barney Saltzberg's 'Beautiful Oops!' is itself a work of art. [1] The book shows children that we can get creative results through relaxing about our mistakes and actually using what we think are errors to create beautiful pieces. This three-dimensional picture book focuses on creativity and imagination, turning mistakes into animals and mysterious shapes.

Is your child that person who starts drawing, makes one little line and says, 'Oh no, that's not right!' before scrunching the paper into a ball and throwing it into the rubbish bin? Does she then try again and throw it in the bin repeatedly in frustration? In situations like these, children need to be encouraged to embrace any imperfections and be told that they can draw, they can write and they can create!

Our New Zealand Curriculum states that we want our young people to be, 'Creative, energetic and enterprising.' [2] The document lists values which are important and makes specific reference to 'Innovation, inquiry and curiosity, by thinking critically, creatively and reflectively.' Sir Ken Robinson is an English author, speaker and international adviser on education. He speaks a great deal to educationalists about the importance of creativity in schools. Robinson says, 'Creativity is as important in education as literacy and we should treat it with the same status.' [3]

As teachers and parents, we need to create situations where we encourage risk-taking.

It is essential that we demonstrate to children that making mistakes is part of learning. We must model having a go, making a mistake and taking a risk. We need to share our feelings by verbalising what is going on for us during frustrating moments, because it shows our children that it is normal to get frustrated and cross with ourselves. In fact, we can model working through this frustration by using strategies such as taking a break and coming back with 'fresh eyes'.

Many inventions in the modern world actually resulted from a mistake. Some of these inventions also illustrate that creativity is a very important part of scientific endeavour.

Creativity is not limited to the arts but is important across all curriculum areas, including science and mathematics. It's a great idea to talk about some of these inventions with your children.

Frank Epperson was only 11 years old when he invented the popsicle. He was stirring drink mix and water and then accidentally left his drink outside over night with the stirring stick in it, only to discover in the morning that it had frozen solid.

Safety glass was invented when a French chemist, Edouard Benedictus, accidentally knocked over a glass flask in his lab. Instead of shattering into a million pieces, the fragments hung together because he had lined the flask with cellulose nitrate.

Velcro was invented by a Swiss engineer, George de Mestral, in the 1940s. George was trying to get the burs off his clothes after walking through a field. He was so intrigued that he put the burs under a microscope and discovered the fibre had little hooks. Ultimately, he was able to adapt this concept to produce Velcro which is made from thousands of little hoop and loop structures.

Why am I sharing these stories? Because we need to share these scientific illustrations with children and young adults. These examples teach them not to be afraid of making a mistake but instead to relish the opportunity to think differently and outside the square. If your child is battling with a Science Fair project, think of the invention of the popsicle. Sometimes the simplest idea is the most effective.

It doesn't matter if the resulting idea is different to what was first planned. It doesn't matter that the outfit that your child put together for Book Week looks more like 'Thing One' and 'Thing Two' than her first idea of a character from Harry Potter. If one of the hip hop dancers is away sick on the day that your child's group is recording the video entry for the school competition, help your child to look on the bright side. Maybe the asymmetric look of the choreography will start a new dance craze?

So the next time there are tears over a homework project because it doesn't look right or the work didn't come out as planned, encourage your child to view it as an original piece of work. To use Barney Saltzberg's phrase, 'When you think you have made a mistake, think of it as an opportunity to make something beautiful.'

[1] Beautiful Oops! by Barney Saltzberg. Workman Publishing, New York.

[2] nzcurriculum.tki.org.nz/The-New-Zealand-Curriculum

[3] Creative Schools by Ken Robinson. Penguin.com.au

Ms Juliet Small,
Principal

Girls' School Leadership Team

At a very special chapel service, the Girls' School Prefect Team for 2017 was commissioned with proud parents and invited guests in attendance. It was a particularly proud moment for newly elected Head Girl, Lola Wiltshire, Deputy Head Girl, Zoe White and their families.

At the commissioning service, Principal, Ms Juliet Small welcomed the Principal of Senior College, Mrs Suzanne Winthrop, who introduced this year's College Head Girl, Isabella Denholm to address the girls. Isabella spoke to the girls about what it really means to be a leader, why a strong team is always important to the success of any school and the biggest challenge for school leaders being getting other students involved.

Isabella quoted writer, Steven Covey, 'What you do has far greater impact than what you say.' She said, 'Actions speak louder than words. Being a leader is not about simply saying something and then expecting other people to do it all. It's about me or in your case - you, being involved personally, rolling up our sleeves when we need to and getting stuck in.'

Ms Small called upon Lola to join her on stage to accept her duties as the 2017 Head Girl followed by Deputy Head Girl, Zoe. Ms Small asked all the 2017 Prefects 'whether they promise to uphold the values and standards of Saint Kentigern School and to serve its students, teachers and parents to the best of your ability and for the glory of God'. Each new leader then signed the Prefect Book and received their badges.



HEAD GIRL - Lola Wiltshire



Lola joined Saint Kentigern Girls' School at the beginning of 2016 as the recipient of the Margaret Lamb Performing Arts Scholarship, and quickly became part of the school community through her involvement in a wide range of activities with specific interests in the Arts and in Sport. Lola was proud of winning the Year 7 speech competition and is highly committed to her dance interests.

Currently she takes jazz, ballet and contemporary dance classes and has danced with her troupe in Los Angeles. A big dream for her is to be accepted to a University overseas. Lola is well respected by the school community, understands the values of Saint Kentigern and is excited about this important role she is undertaking; appreciating that she will be responsible for making sure that the leadership team work together and is inclusive of all others.

DEPUTY HEAD GIRL - Zoe White



Zoe started at the Girls' School when she was a Year 5 student and quickly became involved in a range of school activities. She demonstrated that she understood the values of Saint Kentigern and remains committed to making sure that students are supported at school.

Drama and the arts are of special importance to her and she has especially shone in acting. Zoe has been successful in her speech exams and intends to continue this year with her grade examinations. At the 2016 end of year prize giving, she was awarded the prize for exceptional achievement in Speech and Drama. Zoe also won the Year 7 prize for diligence and she was placed first in Social Science in Year 7. Going forward, Zoe would like to apply for a scholarship in performing arts. She has ambitions to run her own business and perhaps be in a movie one day.

Leadership Team 2017

Head Girl	Lola Wiltshire
Deputy Head Girl	Zoe White
Head of Student Council	Sharmaine Tapling
Head of Chapel	Vivian Pettigrove, Kate Frazer
Head of Cargill	Grace Paul
Head of Chalmers	Verity Ward
Head of Hamilton	Ocean Scott
Head of Wishart	Kaythi Finn



Kate Frazer (Chapel), Sharmaine Tapling (Student Council), Vivian Pettigrove (Chapel)



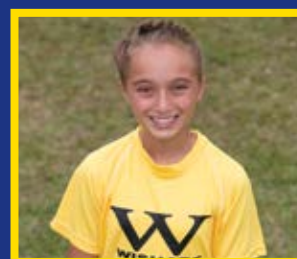
Head of Cargill: Grace Paul



Head of Chalmers: Verity Ward



Head of Hamilton: Ocean Scott



Head of Wishart: Kaythi Finn

Flora MacDonald Day

After her first Flora MacDonald Day last year, Principal, Ms Juliet Small felt a need to research her own Scottish ancestry. Like the Saint Kentigern community's strong ties to Scotland, Miss Small discovered that she too can trace her roots back to the far side of the world. Her great grandfather, William Baird, was the first of the Baird clan to be born in Invercargill, after his parents sailed to New Zealand in 1862 from Scotland. Also, on Ms Small's paternal side, her Irish ancestors from Galway, Ireland crossed the water to fight in support of the McMurray clan in Scotland.

No matter how tenuous the link, many of us feel a deep sense of pride in the connections we have to Scotland; so cheerfully celebrated by the Girls' School at their annual Flora MacDonald Day.

The Saint Kentigern Pipes and Drums are a feature of many Saint Kentigern events, travelling from the College to lead the parade, with Fayth Doherty among their number - a former Girls' School student. Following on were invited guests and the clans of Glasgow, Kirkcaldy, Inverness, Roxburgh, Dundee, Stirling, Argyll and Skye, dressed in an array of colourful tartan. The final group in the parade were our 3 and 4 year old girls from the Preschool marching in time!

As everyone made their way into the hall for the official ceremony, Ms Small welcomed one and all, explaining that the purpose of the day is to celebrate our Scottish Heritage with a female flavour and naturally a Scottish heroine - Flora MacDonald. Flora was chosen as a strong namesake for the Girls' School day of celebration for her act of bravery when she risked her life in June 1746, to 'smuggle' Prince Charles Edward Stewart, better known as Bonnie Prince Charlie or the Young Pretender, over the sea to the Isle of Skye. It was because of her immense courage, that Flora was chosen for the day of celebration.

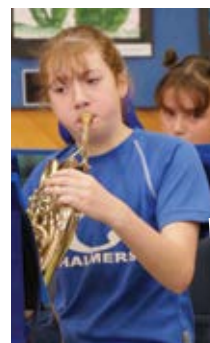
Ms Small then introduced the School Orchestra who gave their first performance of the year with a traditional Scottish Folksong. To the

surprise of our guests, Ms Small joined the orchestra to support the girls, playing her violin!

Ms Small set a challenge for the girls, she said, 'We have girls here at school who are learning the chanter. It would be ideal to have a couple of new learner pipers at the Girls' School - particularly for our formal occasions, the prize giving and Chapel services. It's an especially good opportunity for girls moving through to the College. So, the challenge is out!'

With the formalities over, the guests were invited for morning tea of shortbread, whilst the girls prepared themselves for a day of activities. The girls made their way around to each activity, conquering the inflatable obstacle course on the back field, racing down the soapy water slide and testing their balance in the aqua-orbs in the pool. The girls also enjoyed Scottish country dance, made soap in the science lab and learnt how to weave Celtic knots. In another link to Scotland, the girls learnt about Alexander Bell's invention of the telephone and went on to make cup and string phones, discovering if they pulled the string tight, they could hear each other's commands 'down the line.' The smell wafting out of the cooking room was divine, with the girls making oat pancakes for immediate consumption!

Experiencing new things and learning about our Scottish heritage - it was another highly successful Flora MacDonald Day!





Loving Piping!

In 2013, when past Principal, Dr Sandra Hastie threw out the challenge to the girls to learn the bagpipes, only two determined girls accepted; Fayth Doherty and Kate Pennycuik. Now four years on, Year 11, College student, Fayth returned to the Girls' School to perform with the Saint Kentigern Pipes and Drums at Flora MacDonald Day. As well as playing in the parade, Fayth was also invited to the stage to demonstrate her skill on the bagpipes - and show everyone how far she has come since she and Kate were the first students at the Girls' School to learn how to play the chanter, both eventually progressing to a full set of pipes. Both Fayth and Kate will be travelling overseas with the Saint Kentigern Pipes and Drums in July when they take part in the Basel Military Tattoo, in Switzerland.





Year 4 Learn Judo Moves!

It took one smooth move for Year 4 Girls' School student, Emily Swain to throw judo expert, Sensei Lester Harris over her shoulder to the ground on the day our 'Local Heroes' were invited to morning tea!

On the surface there doesn't appear to be much in common with a judo sensei, a shoe designer, a ship captain, surgeon, church minister, dance teacher, student nurse, tennis and ice skating coach but in the eyes of our Year 4 girls, they are all 'Local Heroes'!

As part of their Social Science unit, with links to English, the girls hosted a special morning tea for their heroes, during which each group of students presented their guest, outlining what they do and why they were nominated, finishing with a jingle that was crafted especially.

They were then treated to a Judo demonstration by Sensei Lester Harris. It was during this session that Emily rose to fame!

Sensei Lester Harris gave a brief history of Judo and how it differs to other martial arts. The girls learnt that the bow before entering the mats is a greeting like shaking hands and that the focus of the exercise is to bring your

opponent to the ground. He demonstrated a few moves before calling for a volunteer. Year 4 girl v. fully grown man - it hardly seemed a fair contest so there was little reticence to step up at first!

Emily bowed as she walked onto the mats and bowed again when facing the Sensei. He showed her how to grab him by the shoulder, rotate, bend and flip him over her head. He counted to three and in one fell swoop, 'Bang' he hit the ground; Emily had done it! The girls erupted with laughter, so surprised their class mate had pulled off the move! Having proved it could be done, all the girls were keen to give it a go. One by one, each student came forward with a bit of hesitation but left brimming with confidence having pulled off the seemingly impossible!

Well done girls on your presentations and for defeating the Sensei!

Our thanks to the following members of our community for giving up their time for the girls: Judo Sensei, Lester Harris; Shoe Designer, Katheryn Wilson; Ship Captain, Andy Light; friend and neighbour, Shannon



Doctor; Church Minister and Youth Pastor Nicky Watkin; Ice Skating Coach, Tracy Danbrock; Tennis Coach, Melanie Reeves; VP Dance Teacher, Tim Wilson; Student Nurse, Rachel Graham and Surgeon, Stewart Walsh.

Leavers' Mural Now Installed

Every year, the graduating Year 8 students create an art piece that is left for the younger girls to enjoy and remember them by. The 'magical garden' mural created by the 2016 Year 8 leavers, which includes a monarch butterfly, a dragonfly and a snail among flowers, is now installed high on a wall brightening up the Junior School.

At the end of last year, the girls took on the mammoth task of collecting the plastic bottle tops, enlisting help from friends and family, fellow students, local cafes and teachers to amass the large number required to complete the work.

The giant flower and insect patterns were sent away to be cut from marine plywood and once back at school, were undercoated and painted with exterior house paint to survive in all-weather conditions. The bottle tops were then arranged and glued down. Art teacher, Mrs Roband said, 'The finished mural has exceeded all of our expectations. Glimpses of it can be spotted from different parts of the school and it has certainly brightened up the wall.'





Making A 'Greener' School

The Junior School has taken on the challenge to be 'more green.' Years 1-3 have been studying 'Recycling' as part of their Social Science and Science units, with a focus on the '3 Rs' which will help look after our planet; Reduce, Recycling, Reuse.

To reuse, reduce and recycle in a fun way, the girls have been using their recently acquired sustainability skills to come up with ideas on how they can help and get stuck in.

Papier Mache Bottles: As a way to explore how to reuse waste and make it into 'something better,' the Year 1 students made 'Bottle Faces' out of discarded, large, plastic detergent bottles, designing their face on paper before constructing it with papier mache.

Wrapper-less Wednesday: The Year 2 class came up with the idea to reduce waste at school by having a 'Wrapper-less Wednesday' which entails the girls coming to school with no wrappers in their lunch boxes to create rubbish. After trialling it in the Junior School, the Year 1 students each wrote a letter to Principal, Ms Juliet Small to ask if the rest of the school could join in on the initiative. As part of their persuasive writing unit, they also made posters to encourage the rest of the school to join in for house point rewards.

Recycled Paper: Paper is used every day at the Girls' School; it is scribbled on, cut, glued, folded, ripped and the recycling bin is always full. So instead of throwing it all away and buying new paper, why not reuse it all by making recycled paper? The idea fitted perfectly into their sustainability unit, so all the Junior classes made recycled paper and used it in a variety of ways. This helped the girls have a greater appreciation of what happens to the paper they discard at school.

The Worm Farm: The Year 3 students were given the responsibility of looking after the school's two worm farms as part of their Science unit about recycling. By teaching the students

how to recycle, we are embedding sustainability skills and ideas, not only for our school but for our community.

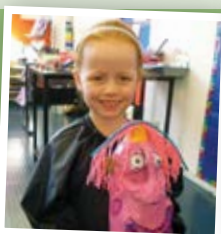
The focus questions for the girls were: 'How can I look after our environment by reducing, reusing and recycling? How does a worm farm help the environment and how can we use the products from the worm farm?'

Science Teacher, Mrs Jess Francis said, 'Education and knowledge on how to treat rubbish, making good choices in the home and creating sustainability is becoming more widely accepted. Emphasising these ideas at Year 3 level encourages the girls to think about what they can put into the worm farm instead of the rubbish bin.'

The Worm Farm process has become a full cycle. Mrs Francis said, 'Scrap foods from lunches go into the worm farm, we collect soil from the worm farm, the soil then goes into the school gardens and the worm tea created from the farms also goes on the school vegetable garden instead of using fertiliser. The vegetables from the garden are then used in Food Technology'.

The next stage was for the girls was to collect the 'Worm Tea' and sell it. They have been bringing in food scraps from home to help build the food source in the farms, they have also been supplying plastic bottles to fill with worm tea. They were given the task of discussing with their families what price they would like to sell the worm tea for and what they would like to do with the proceeds. The girls wanted to donate the money to help others and a suggestion was made by a parent to donate to World Vision Pacific Partners Charity.

Labels, prices tags and advertisement posters were made to promote the Worm Tea stall, which was a great success. The Girls made \$365.00 on the day and had a further \$70.00 in orders, which took their total to \$435.00. It is a great way to make money out of food scraps, a good lesson in helping others, as well as caring for our environment and planet whilst recycling waste.

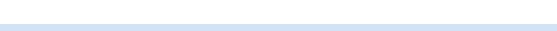


Experiencing Shakespeare

During Speech and Drama at the Girls' School last term, the Year 7 and 8 students delved into the world of Shakespeare. For an authentic Shakespearean experience, the girls headed to the Pop-Up Globe to enjoy the vibrant, dynamic and thought-provoking performance of 'As you like it.'

The girls witnessed that Shakespeare's plays are indeed alive and well; with this play challenging literacy, action and listening. Our girls were up close to the action as 'groundlings' and were literally on their toes as the action unfolded. The play was exceedingly well executed, showing the ability of the Globe's cast to bring out the best in the audience. There was no doubt that their use of energy, humour, love, song, physical agility and fighting aggression, ensured entertainment was sustained for all.

The students continued exploring the play for the rest of term, studying the scenes and acting them out in response to the performance. Reflecting back on the live show was great inspiration and had a great influence on their own work.



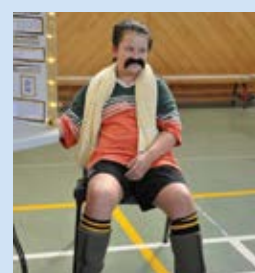
National Treasures

Many famous historians, sporting greats, singers and New Zealand icons were brought to life when the Year 8 students dressed in character to tell their stories. Queen Victoria, Lorde, Sophie Pascoe, Sir Edmund Hillary, Sir Peter Jackson, Anne Frank, Billy T James, Dame Silvia Cartwright and Margaret Mahy were among those who gathered to recount their lives.

The presentations were part of an English unit to introduce the concept of biographical works. The girls were given the task to choose a famous person to research, with the assignment requiring them to produce a visual presentation board with information that covered, in chronological order, the person's life achievements, timelines, quotes and photos, as well as a biographical speech.

The girls set up in the hall ready to entertain and at the ring of a bell, they switched into role play. At the beginning, the girls looked a little nervous and relied on their speech cards but as the afternoon wore on, the students' oral language skills, eye contact and voice projection improved immeasurably as their confidence grew, to the point where they recited their speeches without prompts or hesitation. Parents, friends and fellow students all enjoyed the informative, yet fun filled afternoon.

Head of English and Year 8 teacher, Mrs Jill Wahlstrom said, 'Having the girls research, write and present their biographies, not only covered many skills but made the whole experience more authentic and a great deal of fun for the students'.





Girls' School Go On Camp!

Stunning weather all week, House competitions, beach cricket, glow worms and camping under the stars were some of the experiences for the girls in Years 5 - 8 when they headed away to camp last term. The Year 5 and 6 girls went to Shakespear Lodge in Whangaparaoa which has it all - farmland, bushes and beaches right at their doorstep, whilst the Year 7 and 8 girls joined together for a week at McLaren Falls in Tauranga.

The Year 5-6 girls enjoyed many activities including orienteering, raft building, archery, kayaking, climbing, swimming and taking a night time walk to see glow worms. Adventure camps, being at one with nature and putting themselves in new situations helped to build the girls' confidence, determination and teamwork.

McLaren Falls Park is an idyllic venue where the older girls had the opportunity to experience a variety of

water sports. The girls all jumped at the chance to give windsurfing, paddle boarding, surfing and Frisbee golf a go. Their time at camp, gave opportunities to develop confidence, responsibility and initiative both in individual and group activities.

This group camped in tents for the duration of their stay, looking after their own campsites but on the last night they slept under the stars. Each student was also responsible for cooking her own breakfast, lunch and dinner - under parent/teacher supervision.

Cargill won the House competitions, which was a combination of paddle board races, team initiatives, fire starts and swamp running. They also won the House skits! Well done Cargill.



Year 5 & 6 Camp

Hiking up the towering mountain with the dazzling sun in my eyes. I saw a panorama of lush dancing trees dotting the parks and the gorgeous deep blues was a highlight for me even though climbing a mountain was exhausting.

- Mia Li, Year 6

My biggest achievement was facing my fear in coast steering by swimming when I knew there were fish.

- Charlotte Higgins, Year 6

Something I found challenging was getting to the top of the yellow climbing wall.

- Alisa Iosua, Year 6

My biggest challenge was rock climbing because I got up high then I wanted to come down. I was inches from the top.

- Lucy Grant, Year 6

Year 7 & 8 Camp

I loved the wind-surfing. It was difficult as it required lots of balance, strength and concentration to stay on the board and sail.

- Ayra Blackler, Year 7

I found some of the challenges on camp really frightening but I had my group to encourage me to do my very best.

- Qing Qing, Year 7

I think the cooking on camp with burners was challenging because you had to try not to burn things and it had to be edible.

- Megan Yeo, Year 7



Wishart Wins Swimming

For the fifth year in succession, Wishart achieved a head start to the year, claiming victory at the swimming sports. The day got off to a great start, beginning with the youngest swimmers in Years 1-3. For this age, the full length of the pool may seem a long way to go but the juniors had been well prepared during lesson time and each gave their race their absolute best. The senior girls did a fantastic job assisting the youngsters in the pool when they needed it, cheering and encouraging them along the way.

The Middle and Senior School finalists stepped up to the mark in the afternoon, beginning with the 100m freestyle. As the starter beep sounded, the girls dived into the water, their Houses lining the pool to cheer them on. Next was backstroke and breaststroke followed by butterfly – what an impressive display of skills across all swimming styles!

Congratulations to all swimmers, age-group champions and Wishart for holding onto their title at the first House event for the year.

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



GIRLS' SCHOOL SWIMMING CHAMPIONS 2017

Overall Champions	1st	2nd	3rd
Year 8	Eva Colyer (CA)	Kate Frazer (CA)	Isabel Li (WI)
Year 7	Olivia Rooney (HA)	Zara Nelson (WI)	Grace Gilbert (WI)
Year 6	Alexandra Campion (CH)	Frances Revell-Devlin (WI)	Alex Lamb WI)
Year 5	Sienna Hirst (CH)	Katie Donaldson (CA)	Priscilla Zhong (CH) Sienna Haar (WI)
Year 4	Emma Scholtz (HA)	Ella Taylor (CA)	Sophie Grant (CH) Amy Hilliam (HA)
Year 3	Brooke Rowntree (CA)	Sienna Robertshaw (CH)	Charlotte Albrecht (HA)
Year 2	Violet Lindsay-Smail (CH)	Daniella Gillard CA)	Phoebe Wakelin CH Olivia Lidstone (CA)
Year 1	Kasey Wray (HA)	Maggie Griffins CH	Sadie Fitness (CA)

Year 7 & 8 Athletics

The Year 7 and 8 girls competed alongside the College students in the annual Athletics Championships. Congratulations to Year 7 student, Jade Nomani, who came 2nd overall, competing against over 100 girls, also placing 1st for the Girls' School. The girls ran, jumped and threw to the best of their abilities, giving almost every event a go to collect House points. After the first athletics day was cancelled due to torrential downpours, the rescheduled preliminary day and finals day were more than anyone could have asked for.

Congratulations to all the girls for their efforts representing the Girls' School and to our Year level podium winners.

Girls' School Athletics Champions 2017

Year 7

- 1st Jade Nomani (WI)
- 2nd Olivia Rooney (HA)
- 3rd Arya Blackler (HA)

Year 8

- 1st Khanye'-Lii Munro-Nonoa (CH)
- 2nd Savannah Samson-Tuinukuafae (WI)
- 3rd Eva Barry (WI)



Zone Swimming

After finishing at the top of the Girls' School events, the winning swimmers went on to represent Saint Kentigern at the Zone Championships with great results. Well done to the Year 5 and 6 girls who competed in the Remuera Zone held at the Boys' School. There were 9 podium finishes including placing 2nd in the girls' event with 3rd place overall (boys and girls combined). A most notable achievement was Year 6 Girls' School student, Alex Campion gaining 1st place in five events! Well done Alex!

The Year 7 and 8 representatives competed in the South-Eastern Zone competition and won 3 medals. Well done to all our swimmers who qualified and achieved placings in their events.



SOUTH EASTERN ZONE SWIMMING

Year 7 Girls

Grace Gilbert	2nd	50m Backstroke
Olivia Rooney	3rd	100m Freestyle

Year 8 Girls

Eva Colyer	3rd	50m Backstroke
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REMUERA ZONE SWIMMING

Year 6 Girls

Alexandra Campion	1st	25m Freestyle, 25m Butterfly, 25m Backstroke, 25m Breaststroke, 50m Freestyle
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RELAYS

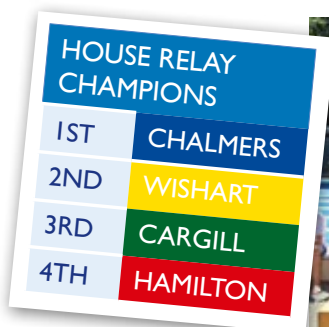
Year 6 Girls 4x25m Freestyle	2nd	Alexandra Campion, Frances Revell-Devlin, Alex Lamb, Keeley Berkovits
Open Girls 4x25m Medley	3rd	Alexandra Campion, Frances Revell-Devlin, Alex Lamb, Katie Donaldson

Remuera Zone Swimming Champions

Girls' School	2nd	Girls Champions
Girls' School	3rd	OVERALL BOYS/GIRLS CHAMPIONS

House Swimming Relays

What a great way to end swimming sports with the top swimmers from the Girls' and Boys' Schools battling it out for the House Relay title. Coloured wigs and costumes created a sea of colour as the House chants rang out in full force, for a fun filled morning of House Relay rivalry. With all the points tallied, Chalmers won the House Cup. Well done to all the participants who swam on the day, dancers and their supporters.



Sacha's Title Haul!

Year 7 student, Sacha Earnest is currently a three-time age group Union Cycliste Internationale BMX World Champion and has recently added a few more titles to her name!

Over Easter weekend, the keen BMX rider competed in the 2017 BMX New Zealand National Championships in Te Awamutu, winning Gold in her age group and becoming the 11 year old Girls' National Champion. She also won gold in the SuperNats (professional) Female Junior Class taking home her first big cheque.

As well as becoming a National Champion in her age group, Sacha has been selected to represent New Zealand and captain the BMXNZ Mighty 11 girls test team, travelling to Sydney in June to compete at the Trans-Tasman Mighty Elevens Test. Congratulations Sacha and we wish you all the best for the competition in June.



Off to World Soapbox Champs!

Congratulations to the Girls' School 'Soap Box' drivers and pit crew who held onto their 2016 national title after winning the final of the National Rotary Soapbox Derby, following on from their win at the regional event the previous week. Year 8 student, Kaythi Finn was crowned New Zealand Super Stock Soap Box Champion and will travel to Ohio in July to compete in the All-American Soap Box World Championships! This will be the second year in a row that a Girls' School student has travelled to the States to represent New Zealand after Ocean Scott took the honour last year.

The win did not come without its challenges though!

After the success of last year, many girls were keen to get involved in the lead up to this year's competition. A determined group of ten students gave up many of their lunchtimes to build a second Soap Box car from a kit set, comprised of hundreds of parts! The girls did all the work on the car precisely to specifications, due to the rigorous scrutineering that occurs at each competition.

An intensive six weeks of trials and training followed to select two teams to compete in the Super Stock class at this year's East Auckland Rotary Regional Soap Box Derby. This was first taste of competition for some of the girls but they did really well - often finding themselves head to head with drivers from the Boys' School! Girl power won on this occasion with Kaythi and Year 6 student, Emily Hall selected as the fastest drivers to go through to the National competition.

At the Nationals, the first race of the day resulted in a crash for Emily but luckily she was not disqualified and nor did the mishap deter her; she went on to race fearlessly through to the final 12 cars, but unfortunately did not place. It was a fantastic outcome for a 'rookie' to the sport.



Up next was Kaythi. Having reached the New Zealand Finals for the previous two years, she knew what to expect and showed composure and focus throughout the day. Kaythi believed she could do it this year, firstly making the final eight before executing two great final runs to win!

Soap Box racing is not for the faint hearted - the girls were speeding down the newly sealed Brightside Road hill in Whangaparaoa notching up speeds of well over 60km/h! They really were hurtling like professionals! Year 8 student, Ocean Scott also competed in the Masters Division placing 3rd.

Masters Division placing 3rd.

A lot of work has gone on behind the scenes, so we would like to say a big thank you to everyone who has been a part of the process and journey so far. There have been many hours of work gone into the building of the car, making repairs, researching, fixing parts, arranging logistics, practice sessions on weekends and organising the girls. We would like to sincerely thank our parents for their input and especially our sponsors, Mr Warren Linn from iSign It for the vinyl wrapping of the soap box car, Black Fasteners Ltd for the training t-shirts and Blueriver Creative for supplying the graphics.



Tartan Inspired Soap Box

Towards the end of last year, the Girls' School students were encouraged to design their best Saint Kentigern inspired shell for the new Soap Box Derby car that had been built by the girls themselves. There were about 100 entries ranging from unicorns and flames to house colours and one very impressive Porsche design, but one design stood out from all the rest. Year 8 student, Torie Pickering created a design using the Saint Kentigern tartan. Torie was asked to unveil the new car at assembly.

The new Soap Box design look fantastic, well done Torie!



Girls' School Parent and Friends

Welcome to all of our new families who have joined the Saint Kentigern Girls' School community this year and welcome back to our returning families. We have had a great start to 2017 and the year is already flying by quickly.

We recently held our Parents and Friends Annual General Meeting and it is my absolute pleasure to be writing this article as your newly elected Chairperson. Mrs Rebecca Gadsdon-Green and Mrs Kim McGregor have stepped down from their respective executive roles as Chairperson and Deputy Chair after three years and one year respectively.

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Parents and Friends committee and fellow parents to thank Rebecca and Kim for their contribution to Girls' School. Their dedication and commitment to their roles and to the School have been exceptional.

Our 2017 Parents and Friends Executive now comprises returning members, Mr Stacy Colyer (Secretary) and Mrs Julie Bolton (Treasurer), who are joined by new members, Ms Gretchen Weightman (Deputy Chairperson) and myself.



Rebecca Scoones, Girls' School Parent and Friends Chairperson

I would like to thank Mrs Slavka Yildiz for her fantastic organisation of the annual School Picnic early in the year. This event was a huge success on a beautiful Auckland evening. It was an amazing sight to see the school lawn filled with so many of our families who enjoyed getting to know each other and talking about the excitement of the year ahead.

All our girls thoroughly enjoyed Flora MacDonald Day, participating in a range of different activities while sporting the tartan of their clan. Our thanks to the parents who offered their services on the day.

As we progress into Term 2 and the rest of the year, we have many events to look forward to on the school calendar. These include the Mother Daughter High Tea, the School Disco, and the Father Daughter Breakfast. We welcome any support from parents who would like to assist the committee with these events and would encourage you to get involved and to help out where possible.

Lastly, I would also like to thank our many volunteers that helped to make our 2016 events such a success. I look forward to 2017 and working with you all to make this another exciting and fulfilling year at Saint Kentigern Girls' School.

Rebecca Scoones, Chairperson

Family Picnic

Families and friends of the Girls' School set themselves up on the lawn in front of Corran House for their annual family picnic. It was a beautiful evening with sausages and steak cooking on the BBQ, treats ready to be purchased and a Sushi Truck for those who wanted something different.

The scene was perfect for a relaxing picnic under the shade of late-summer trees, sheltering families from the evening sun, while music played in the background. It was a fantastic opportunity for parents to socialise with fellow parents while the girls happily played.

The girls and their siblings were kept entertained with face painting, playing on the playground, playing cricket on the tennis courts and having a cool dip in the pool, with on-duty lifeguards to keep watch. A wonderful evening was enjoyed by all. Thank you to the Parents and Friends Association for organising this successful event.

