



Kids are like Popcorn...

A few years ago, I went to an Educational Leadership Conference in Singapore where I heard Professor Yong Zhao speak. Yong Zhao is the Presidential Chair and Director of the Institute for Global and Online Education in the College of Education, University of Oregon. One of the main messages through his speeches was that education should focus on developing the child's strengths, not 'fixing their deficiencies.'

Professor Zhao talked about a high school teacher in America who told parents.... **'Children are like popcorn. Some pop early, some pop late.'** I have used this analogy a thousand times over as a Principal talking to parents. It is especially reassuring to consider when children first start school. Professor Zhao also comments on wider educational issues by extending this thinking about children as individuals who learn at different rates, to a wider community context. He emphasised the importance of having a diverse society of talented and creative citizens.

Children learn at different rates and we can accept this and support their learning journey. There is real pressure and expectations on children to meet certain achievement benchmarks at school. Whilst no one would argue that we want children to be learning and on track, we also have to remember that children learn at different rates. Children take their own time to crawl, to walk and to talk. The analogy of the popcorn reminds us to accept that each child will develop at their own pace.

Children not only learn at different rates, they also have different strengths and weaknesses. Often I use an animal fable, written by George Reavis, to illustrate this concept with teachers as part of our professional development. The fable was about different animals who were in the same class and learning the same things and being assessed on the same things, even though they were very different. The rabbit was having the same lessons as the duck and the eel. He started at the top of the class in running but had to stop because he had so much makeup work to do in swimming! The moral of the story is that we all have different talents and instead of trying to make children the same we can appreciate their individuality. We

can support them with subjects that they find more challenging and at the same time, nurture what they are good at and love doing with a passion. Naturally, the balance of this looks different from time to time.

As a parent, you know your child so well. In fact, you know them better than anyone else in this world. Don't be afraid to go and talk with the teacher and share what you know about your son or daughter. Talk about what they might need help with at school. Also share what they are really good at and what they love doing at school. This information may relate to the school curriculum or it may simply provide more relatable contexts for learning, if the teacher knows about your child's interests such as horses, BMX riding or insects. Good teachers will appreciate learning more about one of their students as it helps make learning at school more relevant and meaningful for your child.

When I was a classroom teacher I had a big, fluoro pink poster on the wall for students. I used this poster every year, and it was just as relevant for all ages, new entrants through to intermediate. The opening lines read: 'I am me. I am special. There is no one else in the world like me. ...' Encourage this uniqueness in your child. Remember to concentrate on your child's strengths and develop those as well as working on areas for development.

As a parent, encourage individuality in your children. Try to develop their strengths whilst supporting them to improve in all areas.

As educators, we also need to do focus on what children can do and at the same time provide the scaffolded support for children to improve, while encouraging children to celebrate and nurture their areas of strength.

The ultimate success is when we all work in partnership to allow children to be their own person - to grow and learn at their own pace.

Miss Juliet Small
Principal



Giving Service in Fiji

Year 8 students, Kate Frazer, Verity Ward, Eva Colyer and Mariana Paravicini represented the Girls' School on the annual Saint Kentigern Schools Service Trip to Fiji. Whilst the girls are outnumbered by the boys on the trip, they worked hard to make a meaningful contribution. With each successive year, the number of students making the journey has grown and the relationship with the villagers of the Kawaka District in Fiji has strengthened.

Uplifting Service!

As part of the Saint Kentigern Gold Service Award, students are required to work with a charity. In anticipation of her upcoming trip to Fiji, Eva Colyer was introduced to the North Island Coordinator for Uplift Bras. This charity distributes bras, swimwear and new underwear to girls and women throughout the Pacific Island regions. Having grown up with a Fijian Nanny, Eva felt this was the charity she wanted to get behind.

Eva arranged to take an initial package with her to Nawaka Village and on arrival in Fiji, with help from Preschool Director, Mrs Sue Nash and Head of Boys' School Science, Mrs Patsy Hindson, she set up tables. Word spread quickly and soon the villagers were queuing in the hopes of obtaining a bra. Eva distributed 800 bras to women and girls over a two-day period.

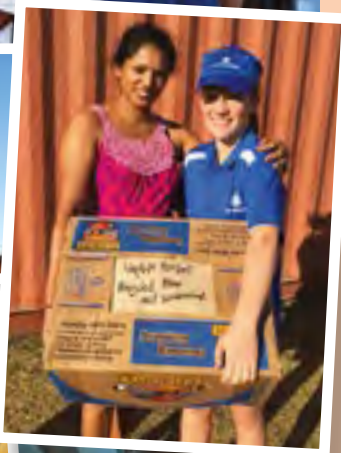
Following the incredibly moving and positive experience of distributing the bras in Fiji, Eva has initiated a collection campaign since her return from the Pacific. Her efforts are based at both the Girls' and Boys' School campuses with collection boxes available in both offices. The donations will be packaged up later in the year for delivery to the Pacific Island women in time for Christmas.

Handmade Cushions

Before leaving for Fiji, the girls, together with fellow Year 8 students, put their creative hats on to make comfortable cushions to take with them and donate on behalf of the Girls' School.

New to sewing, the task was an ideal opportunity for them to extend their skills, become a little more creative and show empathy by donating their finished work to others. In the process, the girls strengthened their personal research and idea developing skills. They were tasked with thinking creatively and critically, and worked collaboratively to develop a useful product. Putting in many hours during their lunchtimes and after school, the girls made a great number of colorful cushions, which were gratefully received by the Vatutu Kindergarten.

Along with the rest of the group who travelled to Fiji, the girls also helped paint the community centre, install a new adventure playground in the Nawaka School, and install outdoor furniture in the school and community. The preschool playground was also furnished with new swings, and a computer and printer were installed in the preschool office.



Wig Wednesday!

The Girls' School certainly turned heads when they walked along Remuera Road to chapel at Somervell Church! Neat and tidy in their formal uniforms, they were a sea of blue from shoulders down, but their usual navy blue winter berets had been set aside for a parade of wild and funky hair dos blowing in the wind! Wigs of every shade and style entered the church in support of Wig Wednesday, the nationwide appeal for the Child Cancer Foundation, to raise funds to provide practical, financial and emotional support to Kiwi children with cancer and their families.

The Child Cancer Foundation provides strength and comfort to families, parents and children impacted by child cancer; they provide strength in times of doubt, comfort in times of sadness and celebration in times of joy. Every family's experience is different and so is the support they receive - that support is powered by the funds raised by people like us.



Speech Competition

Why we should stop wearing lycra and using toilet paper, and why woman athletes should be paid more and have equal media coverage. These were some of the persuasive arguments presented at the Girls' School Speech Competition.

In her words of welcome, Principal, Ms Juliet Small said, 'One of the stand out educational features here at the Girls' School is the high level of achievement in Speech and Drama. In the world today, whatever your career path or choice in life, there is such an advantage in being able to speak with confidence, whether it be in conversation or making presentations.'

We were fortunate to welcome communications practitioner, Ms Glenda Pearce to adjudicate this year's speech competition. In a technology, social media and device driven world, Ms Pearce is a firm believer in the future needs of effective communication. She said, 'Keep getting up to speak, don't ever lose that because our ability to communicate is going to be a very powerful tool.'

Selecting the winners was no easy feat; Ms Pearce was looking for passion, engagement, presentation, constructive content and delivery. She said she also looks for someone who recognises their purpose, lands the ending and shares stories to keep the passion alive. Whether speaking competitively or not, the confident delivery of the finalists' speeches was seen from our Juniors right through to our Seniors and it is something they can be very proud of. Well done girls!

Year Group Winners:

Year 4 – A Skill or Activity

Millicent MacLeod – 'Art Lessons'

Year 5 – A Personal Experience or Event

Sienna Hirst – 'Camping at Waiheke'

Year 6 – Something I am Passionate About

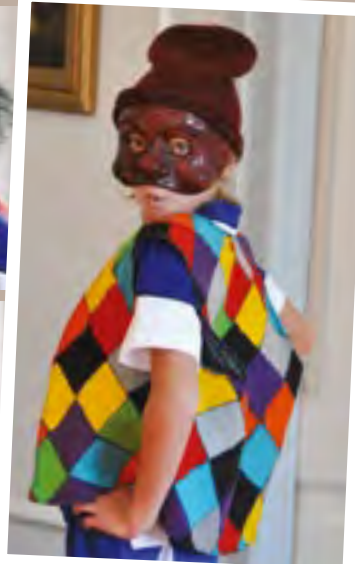
Chloe McGregor 'Human Trafficking'

Year 7 – Persuasive Speech

Miabella Robertshaw – 'Kids should be able to vote'

Year 8 – Persuasive Speech

Lola Wiltshire – '16 year olds should be able to vote'



Exploring Commedia dell'Arte

The Commedia dell'Arte characters came to life at the Girls' School, when the Year 7 and 8 students participated in a workshop as part of their Drama curriculum, investigating the functions of drama in cultural and historical contexts. Commedia dell'Arte, also known as Italian comedy, is a form of improvisational humorous theatre using different types of masks, which started in Italy over 400 years ago. Each character is driven by the desire of something, is led by a body part and is based on an animal.

The workshop gave the girls an introduction to mask work, while learning and experimenting with the characteristics of each main character. They were guided by Lisa Brickell, who trained at Jacques Lecoq Drama School in Paris and specialised in Commedia at the Kiklos Theatre School in Italy.

During the workshop, the girls learnt about the history and its impact on modern comedy, the rules of mask work, such as audience members cannot witness you putting the mask on or taking it off; once the mask is on, you are in character until it is removed. They also learnt how a mask forced actors to project their characters' emotions through their bodily movement.

After the girls looked at each character in detail, some were selected to have a go at portraying the masked and unmasked characters to their peers. It was wonderful to see the girls fully engage with the genre and have fun extending their acting skills.





How Different it was Then!

Imagine living in an era without electricity or anything readily available. This means no lights or power points, no TV, computer or iPad, no washing machine, no stove or vacuum cleaner, no fridge or freezer - which also means, absolutely no ice cream!

The Year 0-3 students got a glimpse at what life was like back in the mid-1800s when they visited the Howick Historical Village as part of their Social Science Inquiry into 'New Zealand: Then and Now'. The girls' focus questions included - 'How does life in colonial NZ compare to your own life today? How was family life different then and now? What games did they play long ago? How and why are the games and toys different today? What materials were household items and toys made of in the past?'

In groups, the girls undertook four different activities, getting a hands-on and interactive experience relevant to the mid-1800s. Already in period dress, the girls received a lesson on fashion from the Victorian times. Using replica clothing, some of the girls were dressed as female and male, in age-dependent clothing to demonstrate the practicalities of the 19th century fashion items. The students learnt that boys under the age of five were dressed like the

girls, the only difference being, they wore a cap and their hair was parted on one side.

The Village is run as a living history museum that provides an opportunity to learn about Auckland's colonial period. Howick founder, Governor Captain George Grey requested soldiers to help protect Auckland from possible attack, but retired soldiers from the Royal New Zealand Fencible Corp were sent instead. The fencibles had served in the wars of Britain in the 1830s and 1840s. The girls had the privilege of finding out what type of items a typical Fencible family would bring on the boat from England to New Zealand. Each family had only one trunk to fill with the many necessary items from their home. It was hard for the girls to grasp the concept of how different the original Victorian appliances were compared to the 21st century, as well as the effort the colonials needed just to get water, light a fire or make dinner.

After playing with a variety of replica and authentic Victorian era toys, and stepping back in time for a typical 1847 school lesson, the girls explored the Village in its full glory. This learning opportunity gave the girls a sense of understanding on how things were done more than 150 years ago and how different it was back then!





Playground Designers

It all began with the Year 5 students' Social Science inquiry into 'Continuity and Change,' with a focus on green spaces, natural resources and their uses. After a series of events, the girls are now helping the Orakei Local Board to design a new playground at the Wairua Reserve across the road from School! They have become official playground designers!

Going back to where it all started, through their inquiry in Term 3 last year, the students were focusing on how communities interact with the local environment and the impact of human activity. Some of their intentions were to identify natural resources in Auckland city and their purposes, map key locations and differentiate between economic, agricultural, recreational and cultural uses.

After noticing how under-utilised Wairua Reserve is, Year 5 Teacher, Mrs Dee-Anne Gonzalez thought it would be an ideal piece of public land for the girls to focus their attention on, as each worked to create their own suggested models of development on paper. Attached to each design, were letters written by the girls to Auckland Mayor, Phil Goff explaining their projects and why it would be effective to develop the reserve.

Proud of how artistic and well thought out their development designs were, the Year 5 class invited Orakei Councillor, Desley Simpson in to view their projects, in the hope they could become a

reality. Ms Simpson took the letters back to council. With no further word, the girls thought that was the end of it, until Deputy Chair of Orakei Local Board, Mr Kit Parkinson visited the Year 5 class during a Girls' School Open Day!

Intrigued with what they had done, he questioned the girls about the projects. From there he took their ideas back to the Local Board and to the girls' astonishment, the Board agreed to develop the park, putting \$130,000 towards it. Before proceeding, Council members met with the students to discuss designs and what they thought would be appropriate to put in the reserve.

Mr Parkinson said, 'Effectively, we held off this decision until we had spoken to the students because they have the ability to influence the design of the playground to what they want it to be as children, rather than what we, as adults, would want. We are trying to get their input, so we design something that they will use and their future brothers and sisters will use.'

Park Central Playground Consultant, Mrs Tina Dyer ran through designs with the students before they agreed that they should utilise the dense trees and open reserve, as it would make for great natural play. Council members then took the design back to the Board to be signed off. Weeks later, the girls were asked to design arches to be built in the park. They have researched, designed and have submitted various designs that they think would be effective. With luck, the playground should be in ground by February. What a fantastic way of leaving a legacy – watch this space!

Get Wise

Learning the importance of budgeting, saving and understanding GST sets students up for a great start in life. The Year 8 girls were fortunate to learn this as part of their Social Studies inquiry into the Economy. A representative from the ASB 'Get Wise' programme visited the girls to run a workshop on financial literacy and to help them work through real-life money situations. They focused on budgeting, how to budget, why we budget and what things can hinder us saving money; for example, credit cards and everyday incidentals.

Assigned a certain amount of 'money,' the girls were put through an exercise budgeting for a fictional trip overseas, including putting money aside for insurance, GST and airport tax. They were required to work out how much money they would spend for the overall trip, break it down to day-by-day expenses, and then work out whether they would pay by cash or credit card. If paid by credit card, the girls had to be aware of the interest free period; would they pay it off before the free period runs out or would they make minimum payments every month, accruing interest that must be paid back? The group that was left with the most money, after taking all these factors into account, were declared the winners – but the real win, was the knowledge they had gained.

The ASB Programme is dedicated to the development of financial literacy and essential money management skills of students. The girls were informed about saving, the cost of day to day living, the traps of GST and using a credit card, hidden costs and scams. The girls also explored opportunities to earn money and appreciate that different jobs have different incomes, consumer rights and responsibilities, and choosing the best mobile plans. Through the workshop and in class activities, the girls are developing the capability to make sound financial decisions.



Three Special Awards at Science Fair

A love for science saw six Year 8 Girls' School students receive an award after being selected to represent their school at the NIWA Auckland City Science and Technology Fair. This followed on from their in-school competition where 10 students were selected to go to the Auckland finals. The annual event celebrates excellence in scientific and technological investigations carried out by students in Years 7-12 across Auckland City.

Katie Dirks was awarded 2nd place in the Physical category for her project 'Pocket Rocket' and also received a silver special prize awarded by the Science Award Trust. Katie's aim was to find the ideal amount of water relative to compressed air that makes a bottle rocket go the highest.

Kaythi Finn received a silver sponsor's award from Auckland Transport - 'A day in the life of Auckland Transport,' she was also highly commended for her project 'Think outside the Soapbox'. Kaythi aimed to find out key factors that will affect the speed of her soapbox car. She looked at four ways to help her car go faster for a better chance at winning, which included aerodynamics, weight distribution, wheel alignment and axle alignment.

Mia Hooton received the bronze disk award from Baking Industry Trust and was highly commended for her project 'How Sweet is too Sweet' in the Human category. Mia wanted to find out whether the 'bliss point' of sugar and sweetness for 12-year-old girls is the same as a standard cupcake recipe.

The judges who are all experts in each of the different categories, were looking for thoroughness, technical skills, presentation, originality and a high level of scientific thought and understanding.

NIWA RESULTS:

2nd Place in Physical Category and Special Prize

Katie Dirks - 'Pocket Rocket'

Highly Commended and Special Prize in Physical Category

Kaythi Finn - 'Think outside the Soapbox'

Highly Commended and Special Prize in Human Category

Mia Hooton - 'How sweet is too sweet'

Highly Commended

Torie Pickering - 'Bubble Trouble'

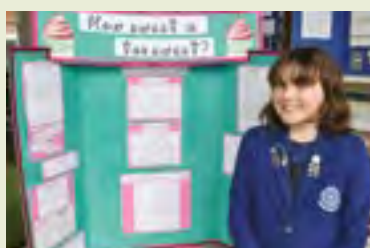
Kate Christie - 'Rethink your Drink'

Grace Paul - 'Sight vs taste'

Materials Category

Living Category

Living Category



Science Helped Kaythi

After being crowned New Zealand Super Stock Soap Box Champion, Kaythi Finn travelled to Akron in Ohio during the July holidays to compete in the All-American Soap Box World Championships. This is 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.

Knowing she needed to create a science fair board when she returned, Kaythi decided on Soapbox racing as it involves a lot of physics and is also her passion. While racing and watching others, she collated a lot of data to add to her board. Through watching videos and viewing photos, she concluded that her new body position was a lot like the best American drivers, which helped her times. By looking at the weight set-up of the best drivers, Kaythi found that some were 0.5lb lighter in the back. Her wheel alignment was set up accurately, enabling her car to go faster which helped her to reach the final of the International Soap Box Division.

As part of her project, she built a 3m race track with the exact proportions of the USA Derby Down track, and made two soapbox cars on the 3D printers. These were weighted up to demonstrate front and rear weight distribution variations and to prove her hypothesis that weight at the back of the vehicle results in a faster ride due to Newton's Law of Gravity.

Although Kaythi missed her goal of winning the International Soap Box Division by millimetres, she still managed to place second. Such a great experience and achievement, well done Kaythi!





Creative Arts Evening

'Absolutely everybody, everybody, everybody, absolutely everybody in the whole wide world!'

The cheerful, upbeat song that concluded the Girls' School Creative Arts Evening summed up the sense of support and inclusion that emanated from this year's show. Over the course of three nights, 'absolutely everybody' from Year 1 to Year 8 stepped out on stage to showcase the Arts through music, dance and drama.


The Kapa Haka group opened with an exceptionally polished performance. Year 8 student, Sharmaine Tapling sang the karanga - the traditional call of welcome, setting the tone for an evening high with expectation. Over the three nights, the group presented a variety of songs with the inclusion of Pokarekare ana on the final night. Xarya Knox and Jade Nomanani took the solo spots, both singing with beautifully clear voices.

Next, 45 eager Year 0-3 students commanded the stage as they got 'All afloat in Noah's Boat.' The ark was built on stage in readiness for animals of all shapes and sizes. This was the first inkling for the audience that the tales we thought were so familiar might just have a different twist in this show! The ark was full, busy and noisy...and the animals were bored! It seems they had cabin fever waiting for the floods to subside! Noah found a solution to ease the boredom - a talent show! The animal pairings strutted their stuff, building to the caterpillars' transformative ending, as they spread their wings for a beautiful finale, returning the tale to shine a light on God's creations.

In complete contrast, the next item was a calm, balletic interpretation of the Chinese folk song, the Jasmine Flower. Originally composed during the Qing dynasty (AD 1616-1912), it was one of the first Chinese songs to become popular abroad. A team of dancers combined classical ballet and traditional Chinese dancing styles in a mesmerising performance, holding the delicate petals that came together to form the flower. This was a truly beautiful piece.

In complete contrast, with Roald Dahl's Matilda on stage in Auckland, it was only right that the Middle School girls got the chance to be a 'little bit naughty,' as they relished the opportunity to explore Dahl's inverted fairy tales. When Roald Dahl gave the classic stories a work over, they emerged as 'revolting rhymes' that the girls clearly loved delivering to their audience! The formerly predictable Snow White, Cinderella and Goldilocks took quite different turns as surprise endings took the place of the traditional happily-ever-after conclusions.

Rollicking along in splendid rhyme that built with each tale, we found Snow White calling on Uber to get to her destination as a maid for seven jockeys who happen to be compulsive gamblers! She snuck back to steal the magic mirror, to predict the winning horse and made the jockeys millionaires, declaring that 'gambling is not a sin, provided that you always win!' Year 6 delivered this offbeat tale with sheer delight!



Year 5's Cinderella tale followed tradition until one of the ugly sisters swapped the 'silver slipper' for one of her own. In a curious twist, faced with marrying the 'ugly' owner of the shoe, the prince cut off her head and Cinders, deciding that marrying a prince probably isn't all it's cracked up to be, ran off with a local boy instead!

In Year 4's production, Goldilocks is a rebel and a most unlikable character! So much so, you can't help but side with the bears. As she invades their home, decorated largely with furniture from IKEA ('what a price, Mama Mia!'), she cuts a swathe, eventually breaking 'one small child's dining chair, bought at Kmart, very rare!' The narrator finishes by saying it would be a far preferable ending if the bears came back and ate her!

Year 7 and 8 concluded the year group performances with a combined circus act, putting on display the skills they had learned and choreographed themselves as part of their physical education programme. Again, every girl had a part to play.

When the whole school came together at the end to sing 'Absolutely Everybody,' the smiles were infectious! With each performance, the girls' self-confidence had grown and they finished each evening knowing that it was a job well done.

The Arts Show was a fantastic platform for the girls to show off their theatrical creativity, and the enjoyment they gleaned from the buzz of being on stage was palpable. Well done to everyone who contributed to the success of the show and in particular a special thank you to Mrs Janine Bennett and Mrs Judy Norton who took on the role of producers.





Bronze Award at Kids Sing

For the fifth year running, the Girls' School Performers' Choir received an award at the New Zealand Choral Federation's Kids Sing music festival. With stiff competition this year, our Performers' Choir managed to secure a Bronze award in the Primary/Intermediate category, going up against 35 other Auckland schools.

The requirements for the competition state that each choir must sing the same test piece, as well as two other songs, one of which must be written by a New Zealand composer. Following their morning performance, the girls returned that evening to sing at the Gala Concert, where they received their award. Congratulations to the Performers' Choir on another outstanding year at the Kids Sing music festival.



\$2,292.90 Raised for Westpac Helicopter

The Girls' School students put on their entrepreneurial hats when setting up their Market Day stalls, to sell a wide range of handmade products and food to raise money for the Westpac Helicopter. As the lunchtime bell rang, crowds of students armed with their 'SK Dollars' packed out the school hall to see how many goodies they could obtain. A completely student-led initiative, the Market Day was organised by Student Council leader, Sharmaine Tapling and her team.

The Council chose Westpac Helicopter for the incredible work that they do to save the lives of those who need urgent medical assistance. Sharmaine said, 'My family and I regularly watch Code 1 on television and I was very surprised at the amount of effort the Westpac Helicopter puts into each rescue, especially the tricky places they have to land.'

In the lead up to the day, the Student Council put out a call for the girls to submit designs for the monetary token of the day, the 'SK Dollar.' There were two requirements – it had to say '1 Dollar' and represent Saint Kentigern in many ways. Sharmaine said, 'We decided to do the 'SK Dollar' to replace real money on the day. The students

could exchange their real money for the equivalent of 'SK Dollars.' This made purchases easier, especially for the Junior students, as no change had to be given. It was also a great opportunity for the girls to design something and use their creativity.'

The winning design was submitted by Year 6 student, Xarya Knox, who included the Saint Kentigern Houses and crest, Principal, Ms Juliet Small's photo, a tartan pattern, along with the Saint Kentigern motto 'Fides Servanda Est – The faith must be kept.' The Council thought these were core representations of the School.

From delicious, sweet treats, to 'Old Things in Good Shape' and 200 handcrafted bows, the Market Day was a great success. It taught the girls a thing or two about being entrepreneurs, while having a service aspect and giving back to their community. Well done to the Student Council for their outstanding effort in organising the day and to the rest of the students, parents and staff for their support and donations, the money is going towards such an important cause!

With a goal of raising \$500, the girls well exceeded expectations by raising a total of \$2,292.90! Well done!



A City Built on Maths!

While studying Geometry, the Year 4 students put their new-found knowledge to the test – to design and build a 'Geometrocity' that used 2D and 3D shapes, practising both plane and solid geometry. The unit also focused on social science (mapping skills), writing and problem solving.

Before they started, the girls had to do their own independent inquiry on 'Geometrocity - building a city with maths.' As a project-based learning activity, they used their geometry skills to design their own city. This multi-tiered activity allowed for differentiation because of its size, and the students could select to complete parts of the city or the entire project.

The Year 4 city was broken into four phases including permits and reviewing geometric terms and visuals to create a mini-map. The girls had to use the iPads to find the definition of a shape or angle and then draw pictures of each one before drawing a bird's eye view of the area they had chosen.

Phase two was design and build. Up to nine city sections could be built with 10-14 requirements for each. During the design process, the girls had to make sure they included a downtown, suburbs, a city hall, an industrial park, public walks, a business district, a city living area, entertainment and a park district. Phase three was construction followed by phase four, building the city up. The girls had to shade in a net of a 3D shapes, draw on windows, construct it and then build their area skywards. The girls put their heads together once they had completed their area to discuss their entire city layout.

While the project's main aim was on geometry, there were so many other elements of learning present. The girls learnt how to work independently and collaboratively, how to communicate their ideas, showed their creativity through design and expanded their imagination. They also learnt how to immediately problem solve – as all roads needed to link together. What a great way to build knowledge in a subject!

Three Medals At AIMS Games!

It was a great week of sporting competition for our Year 7 and 8 girls at the AIMS Games in Tauranga. It is one of the biggest sporting events in the southern hemisphere, with over 10,000 athletes representing over 300 schools, this was a non-stop week of competition.

We had 15 girls competing across eight different sporting codes as individuals, and some joining the College to create combined teams. Year 7 student, Sacha Earnest brought home two gold medals in the BMX event, despite the howling wind and rain during her event, while the combined Gymnastics team, including Zoe Nel and Tiffany Thompson, won Bronze on Day 2 of the competition. Also, a special mention for the combined netball team who had a great run of games, winning 12 out of the 13 games played. The girls placed 5th overall out of 122 teams

Well done girls and congratulations to those who have come away with medals.



Sports Round Up

The Girls' School sports teams have had a great winter season, including gaining places in the Zones competition. The Year 7 and 8 Mystics Netball teams have been part of a development programme run by coaches, Mrs Courtney Rowson and Mrs Jill Wahlstrom, supported by strength coach, Mr Gareth O'Donnell and mental performance coach, Mr Dave Neithe. The girls have made significant improvements, which were seen throughout the season and during their two netball exchanges involving Huntley School, Queen Margaret and Diocesan School for Girls.

Both netball teams competed at the South Eastern Zone, with the Year 7 girls placing 2nd and the Year 8 team coming away as SEZ Champions! Qualifying for the Interzone Competition, the Year 8 Mystics competed and placed 3rd in the competition behind Glen Eden and Takapuna. During the July school holidays, Khanye'-Lii Munro- Nonoa was selected to represent New Zealand in the 14 & Under Girls Indoor Netball Team to compete in South Africa.

The Year 7 combined Football team have had a fantastic season, finishing on a high as Auckland Champions in their division! During the zones competition, the team did not have any goals scored against them. Well done girls, such an incredible achievement (see page 75 for more).

The Basketball team also had a great season, placing 2nd in the South Eastern Zone competition. The girls were undefeated until they played Sir Edmond Hillary in the final, who managed to take the win in the last three minutes. This is the third year running that the girls have placed second to them, which has created heightened determination for next year's season! Also, a special mention to the Year 3-4 Basketball girls who won their first ever game while playing against the Saint Kentigern boys team!

Our girls have played exceptionally well during the winter sports season, displaying excellent sportsmanship and skill. Well done girls on your fantastic achievements.



Cross Country

It was an excellent turn out at the annual Junior and Middle School cross country events, with fierce determination dominating the courses. The Senior girls ran their event earlier this year with their peers from the College. The Year 4-6 event took place on the College grounds and the Year 0-3 on the Boys' School track.

At each event, the Girls' School students took it in turns with the Boys' School to line up. Recent heavy rain made a late change to both the Junior and Middle school tracks but this didn't deter the students' determination. At the sound of the clapper, there were a few trips and tumbles resulting in some muddy knees but it didn't put the students off from giving it their best effort, getting straight back up and running on!

Well done to all our runners for their effort and in particular the age group champions and House champions Chalmers.

Year 0 Champions

1st	Lola Leport-Symonds	W
2nd	Else Taylor	W
3rd	Lulu Lang	CA

Year 1 Champions

1st	Kasey Wray	H
2nd	Indi Jury	H
3rd	Ninsi Finn	W

Year 2 Champions

1st	Amelia Hardie	W
2nd	Violet Lindsay-Small	CH
3rd	Olivia Lidstone	CA

Year 3 Champions

1st	Brooke Rowntree	BA
2nd	Rosie Ward	CH
3rd	Alexi Bower	W

Year 4 Champions

1st	Phoebe Wood	H
2nd	Amie Hilliam	H
3rd	Emily Cornaga	H

Year 5 Champions

1st	Sahara Knottenbelt	W
2nd	Sienna Hirst	CH
3rd	Zambezi Butler	CH

Year 6 Champions

1st	Alexandra Campion	CH
2nd	Isabella Hughes	CH
3rd	Kate Green	H

Year 7 Champions

1st	Olivia Rooney	H
2nd	Arya Blackler	H
3rd	Jade Nomani	H

Year 8 Champions

1st	Grace Paul	C
2nd	Lola Wiltshire	C
3rd	Savannah Samson-Tuinukuafe	W

HOUSE POINTS

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



1st Olivia Rooney

2nd Arya Blackler

Zone Cross Country

Congratulations to the Year 7 and 8 students who competed in the South Eastern Zone Cross Country Championships held at Saint Kentigern College.

The best runners from the Girls' School came away with outstanding results competing against over 100 students from different schools. Year 7 student, Olivia Rooney placed 1st after staying well ahead of the group, with Arya Blackler coming in 2nd. Also, the Year 7 team placed 1st with six Saint Kentigern students in the top 15, of which three were Girls' School students: Olivia Rooney, Arya Blackler and Jade Nomani.



High Tea

What better way to spend some quality time with our mums and daughters, than spending an afternoon together sharing a high tea. A sell-out event every year, the Girls' School hosted their annual Mother and Daughter High Tea at the Ellerslie Events Centre.

Principal, Ms Juliet Small welcomed our girls, their family members and our invited guests before sharing a small piece of 'advice' from the font of current popular knowledge - Facebook! Details on how to be a perfect mother in 2017 was received with much laughter!

'Make sure your children's academic, emotional, psychological, mental, spiritual, physical, nutritional, and social needs are met while being careful not to over-stimulate, under-stimulate, improperly medicate, helicopter, or neglect them in a screen-free, processed foods-free, GMO-free, negative energy-free, plastic-free, body positive, socially conscious, egalitarian but also authoritative, nurturing but fostering of independence, gentle but not overly permissive, pesticide-free two storey, multilingual home preferably in a cul-de-sac with a backyard and 1.5 siblings spaced at least two years apart for proper development, also don't forget coconut oil. How to be a mom in literally every generation before ours: Feed them sometimes.'

Our thanks to the Parents and Friends Association, and its Chairperson, Mrs Rebecca Scoones, Mrs Abbie Griffiths and their team of volunteers for the time and effort put in to organise the event, it was thoroughly enjoyed by all.



Father and Daughter Breakfast

It was an early start for our girls when they hosted their fathers for a delicious breakfast at Ellerslie Events Centre. Principal, Ms Juliet Small welcomed our girls and their fathers saying, 'What I see here this morning is absolute commitment from you all to your daughters. Thank you for supporting the girls learning, for driving them to practices, for helping them with homework and for being their greatest support and advocate! Thank you for believing in them.'

Following the meal, we welcomed guest speaker for the morning, Mrs Dianne Levy, a counsellor, family therapist and the author of the bestselling book 'Of course I love you...NOW GO TO YOUR ROOM.' Mrs Levy said that the relationship between a father and a daughter is a very protective one. She said that her father led her to believe that there is nothing she couldn't achieve as long as she worked hard enough. She told the girls to use the morning as a chance to think about their father's strengths, to value them and let them know they are appreciated.

A big thank you to our wonderful sponsors and to the Parents and Friends Association for organising such a special event.

