



The Last Word

As we finish another school year, I felt it was time for the last word of 2017 to be that of my Head Boy, George Beca.

George completes his 'innings' of eight and a half years and is ready to move to the next level of his education. Our boys are incredibly talented and able, and for staff to witness their growth over the course of their years is quite special. During his time at Saint Kentigern, George has certainly made the most of every opportunity.

The Last Word from George Beca, Head Boy 2017

'Mr Cassie has asked me to provide a reflection of the eight and half years that I have been at Saint Kentigern. It is very hard to distil all that has happened into 500 words but I am going to give it a try!

I started as a New Entrant just before my 5th birthday. The honest truth is that I can't remember a thing about that term other than playing with blocks but my parents remember that I absolutely loved it and made lots of friends - all of whom, I am still friends with now.

The Junior School years started my love for all sport and set me up for learning with amazing teachers who certainly knew how to manage young boys with few life skills. Even getting changed for PE was a challenge in those days requiring a lot of concentration and time.

The Middle School years gave us a lot more independence and responsibility. Everyone was involved in some sort of sport and there were lots of cultural and arts opportunities as well. The Year 6 Expo was a highlight - lots of hard work but really interesting and challenging.

The Senior School has been my favourite time in the School. The opportunities offered to us all are incredible, whether you want to be involved in the arts, music, sport, service or academics. Mr Cassie has always said that you get out of school what you put into it and we Year 8s have all tried to heed this advice. In fact, that would be my main message to boys starting

at Saint Kentigern. Get involved in everything you can - give it a go and don't be scared to do something new. Camp is a great way to meet new boys and do things outside your comfort zone. The camps organised by Saint Kentigern are amazing - thank you to our great teachers for all the time and effort you put into this.

Other events that I will remember forever are Celtic Day and Grandparents' Day. Celtic Day is so much fun and really celebrates our School and its heritage and values. My Nana has come to every Grandparents' Day and she has loved every one of them. I have felt very proud showing her my school and letting her be part of it. And I will always be proud of having been a buddy to the Junior School boys. This is one of the most rewarding things we do - hopefully the young boys enjoy it as much as we do.

One of the most important aspects of Saint Kentigern is service and this has been a highlight for many of us. The Fiji service trip was a real opportunity to make a difference and it was amazing to have 40 boys take this up. Many thanks to Mr Kirk and Reverend Hardie for organising it and to all the parents who came with us.

While many of us are going on to different schools, I'm sure the friendships we have made will last a life time. I am already looking forward to our reunion in five years' time when we all come back to Saint Kentigern Boys' School after completing our secondary education.

Mr Kirk recently talked to the Senior School about values. One of the examples he gave us was the All Blacks saying of 'sweep the sheds'. After every test match, the All Blacks literally sweep the shed and tidy up after themselves. They believe that this shouldn't be done by a cleaner but that it is their responsibility to do it as they created the mess. And it is usually done by the senior players who want to show that this is their job and not the younger players. This is what we have tried to do this year and this is my challenge to the incoming Year 8s. Make sure you uphold the Saint Kentigern values and lead the way by example - make sure you 'Sweep the Sheds!'

George, like many Head Boys before him has been an exceptional student and role model. I wish George has his fellow Year 8 graduates all the very best as they move on to their secondary education.

Fides Servanda Est

Mr Peter Cassie,
Principal



Boys' School Graduation Dinner

In a change of venue this year, over 400 students, parents, staff, Trust Board members and invited guests gathered at Eden Park Function Centre, to reflect back on the Year 8 boys' last eight years of friendship and learning, as they prepare to move on to the next stage in their education. The boys were excited to find themselves high above the hallowed rugby grounds!

The Dean of the Senior School, Mr Richard Kirk, opened the formalities saying that the boys could be proud of themselves for the contribution they have made to the life of the School, particularly this year, when so many have stepped up to show leadership.

This year's special after-dinner guest was a former student of both the Boys' School and the College. Fresh from Emirates Team New Zealand's (ETNZ) America's Cup win in Bermuda, and in the midst of negotiating the logistics for the next challenge, we were pleased to welcome back ETNZ CEO, Grant Dalton. Rightfully full of pride for all his team had achieved, Grant was 'on fire' that night. In his own dry, laconic, 'Kiwi' way, he kept interest high and the laughter coming as he explained some of the behind the scenes secrets that few could know. He also gave us a glimpse of the future, sharing the fantastic new boat design for the next challenge; leaving no doubt that the new 75 foot mono-hulls carry incredible design innovations that will take racing to the next level in 2021.

Graduating Year 8 student, Jackson Horton was a frequent visitor to ETNZ's team base in Bermuda, as his father, Greg was on the ETNZ Board. At the dinner, Jackson proved he was almost as media savvy as the ETNZ boss as he lined him up for an interview! Throughout the interview, Grant reiterated that the drive, ethics and innovation behind ETNZ was Kiwi through and through. 'When resources are limited, you have to make the most of what you've got.' He acknowledged Jackson's searching question about the decisive loss in 2013 to Oracle in San Francisco, saying that the positive to come from that experience is that they 'had to think and do things differently. Adversity can create advantage.' And what did it feel like to win in Bermuda? Sheer relief! Relief they didn't lose!

Deputy Head Boy, Archie Nightingale gave thanks to Grant. Speaking 'off the cuff,' Archie spoke confidently, referring back to key points in Grant's speech; a reminder how well our boys are prepared for public speaking. The evening concluded with one last Haka from the boys, led by Tetauru Cutthers.

In closing, Mr Cassie told the boys, 'Always remember who you are and what it means to be a son of Kentigern. During your life you will encounter change, challenges or pressure: make sure the decisions you make, your actions and words reflect our core values of respect, integrity, service, excellence and love.'





A Cracker Christmas

The joy of the festive season was ushered in with an evening of song and worship at the Boys' School Carol Service at the end of Term 4. It was a joy to stop for an evening, to sit quietly in the grandeur of the Holy Trinity Cathedral and enjoy time with our boys and their families, as we celebrated the true meaning of Christmas.

This annual service is always a delightful time of music; whether it's the congregation singing time-honoured carols, listening to our youngsters raise their voices in song or listening to our talented orchestra, music fills the air. This year, there was a new musical addition, as our fledgling Boys' School Pipes and Drums opened the service, backing Xavier Edmonds as he beat out a rhythm on the snare drum to introduce 'The Little Drummer Boy.' As early summer sun streamed through the stained glass windows, Year 8 student, Oscar van Druten took the solo, singing the first verse before the congregation joined in, setting a wonderful tone for the evening.

The Junior School loves to sing! 'Christmas has started,' was their selection, some of the boys a little wide-eyed as they turned to face a congregation well in excess of 2000! By contrast, our Performers' Choir is well used to an audience, making a superb job of an upbeat, 'Christmas

Calypso' and the heart-warming 'Saint Kentigern Blessing.' For the first time at a Carol Service, the Middle School boys also came forward to sing as one, filling the nave as they sang a moving, 'Mary, did you know.'

No pressure staff, but these were big shoes to follow! The staff came together to sing the beautiful New Zealand carol, 'Te Haranui.' It's fair to say they 'nailed it!'

Every year, Reverend Reuben Hardie's Christmas message is keenly awaited. From boys erecting tents in the nave and playing cricket, to downing strawberries and pavlova, there's always some fun and just when you think you've seen it all, he has another idea up his sleeve - this year it was a Christmas cracker. Of course, not any cracker. Not the little cracker with a hat, lame joke and plastic trinket that waits to be pulled over Christmas dinner. This was a ginormous, shiny cracker with a hint of a deeper message waiting within. Reverend Hardie asked, 'How do you have a Cracker Christmas in the best sense of the word?'

He explained that there are always three things in every cracker - a joke, a hat and a gift. He said the joke was to inject some laughter and joy for when the angels appeared to the shepherds the night Christ was born, they said 'We bring you good news of great joy.'





The second item, the hat, is always in the shape of a crown. The crown reminds us that Jesus was born a King. The three wise men recognised how special the baby would be, for Jesus would learn to love unconditionally. So maybe the crown in the cracker is there to challenge us to find extra love for everyone at Christmas.

And finally the gift. For Mary and Joseph, it wasn't something wrapped in beautiful paper or tinsel – it was a baby boy. Jesus was God's gift to the world. We too can be the gift to people around us at Christmastime and he encouraged the boys to think about ways they could be a gift to others.

Joy, loving and giving of ourselves - three things that make for a Cracker Christmas! But a cracker isn't a cracker unless it pops and pop it did – with three boys tumbling out to share their joke, hat and gift!

The night of the Carol Service is always a poignant moment for the families of the boys in Year 8 as their association with the School draws to a close. At the conclusion of the service, the Year 8 boys came forward to light a candle, before Head Prefects, George Beca and Archie Nightingale led their peers from the cathedral, marking the start of a new chapter in their lives.



A Heart-Felt Exchange

The spirit of Christmas lies in bringing families together, the giving of gifts and sharing of food as we remember the birth of Christ. The spirit of Christmas was shared in a most heart-felt exchange when over 80 massive hampers, and a further 50 meat packs, were donated by the Boys' School to Wymondley Road School in Otara.

Each year, a list of suitable items is drawn up that includes staple food items for a family, along with other items such as school stationery, sports equipment and something to add a little festive cheer. Each class collated enough items for three hampers each, which were lovingly packaged by parent volunteers headed by Mrs Sarah Walsh. In addition, money raised from Term 4's multi day went towards the purchase of the meat packs. This ensured that every family at Wymondley received something to take home.

The boys nominated to receive the Christian Living Award at prizegiving all travelled to Wymondley to share in a special assembly. Wymondley Principal, Mrs Fleur Petelo said she was 'blown away' every year by the generosity shown by Saint Kentigern and said her community was really grateful to the 'amazing boys in blue.' She concluded, 'Thank you does not seem enough but please know that it comes from a deep appreciation for all you have done.'

Over the last six years, the Boys' School has begun to forge a special relationship with Wymondley School. Again this year, three of their boys joined the recent Boys v Wild camp and our boys also assisted at their recent 'runathon.' One of the students who attended the camp gave thanks for the opportunity and said he now realised that he could do more than he thought he was capable of achieving.

Principal Mr Peter Cassie said, 'We are humbled to be accepted into your community and we will continue to seek opportunities where our students and staff can connect and work together. Visiting and meeting with your students is always a pleasure.'

To show their appreciation, the students from Wymondley Road presented our boys with candy leis. Mrs Petelo explained that giving a lei represents an endless line of love, of aroha, to the person you are giving it to.



Boys' School Prizegiving

At the very last Boys' School event of the year, Year 8 Piper, Nicholas Berry had the honour of leading the procession of staff and invited guests into the Prizegiving ceremony. Students, their families, guests and teachers filled the Old Collegians Sport Centre, at the College campus, to congratulate this year's prize winners on their academic, sporting and cultural success.

Following the address by Chairman of the Trust Board, Dr John Kernohan, the Music, Speech and Cultural Awards were presented by Mrs Sarah Bartholomew, who moves on at the end of this year, having completed 14 years of dedicated service in the Junior School. Proud 'Old Boy No 20' and stalwart supporter of the Boys' School 1st XV, Mr Peter Nelson presented the Sports Awards.

Head of Saint Kentigern, Mr David Hodge gave his address before the presentation of the Academic and Christian Living Awards. Junior School Dean, Miss Rachael Fullard, presented the Junior Awards as a final act before she, too, moves on to a new leadership position. The Middle School Awards were presented by Mrs Rosemary Harris, Deputy Chair of the Trust Board and the Senior Awards by Mr Hodge. Dr Kernohan presented the Christian Living Awards. We sincerely thank all our presenters for their time and their constant support of the Boys' School.

Prior to presenting the 'Special Awards', Principal, Mr Peter Cassie gave a heart-felt speech. In his 37 years dedicated to teaching boys, he has seen many changes. This year, he said, he could see three themes emerge that we need to keep at the forefront of our minds and hearts: Firstly, 'It's what you do for others' - a reminder of our strong values and ensuring we live those values by putting them into action. Secondly, 'It's how you play the game' - for long after the score is forgotten, the actions of the players, coaches and spectators are remembered. In all endeavours, it's about how we perform, treat each other and the opposition. And finally, 'Creativity, collaboration and innovation is the future.' Thinking of new ways of doing things, working together and then doing those new things will create students prepared to tackle anything - and that is exactly what this world needs - fresh eyes to look at old problems to find new solutions.

To conclude, graduating Head Boy, George Beca made his final Valedictory Speech, before he joined with his Deputy, Archie Nightingale, to hand the mantle of leadership to the new Head Prefects for 2017, Head Boy, Austin McKegg and Deputy Head Boy, Benjamin Hardie.

In their final act as students of the Boys' School, the Year 8 boys joined the official party as they filed out of the Sports Centre. Congratulations to all of the boys who received awards and we wish our Year 8s well as they move on to secondary school.

DUX

Benjamin Poole

Benjamin Poole has strived for excellence in all areas of the curriculum during his time at Saint Kentigern Boys' School. This year his combined marks were: English 87%, Maths 97%, Social Science 94%, and Science 95%. This was a total 373 with an average of 93.25. Benjamin has been a hard-working young man and is a worthy recipient of the Foundation Pupil Cup for Dux.



Proxime Accessit

Lachlan West

The Jubilee Cup for Proxime Accessit was awarded to Lachlan West, another deserving, hard-working recipient. Lachlan's combined marks were English 85%, Maths 92%, Social Science 87%, Science 97%. This was a total of 361 with an average of 90.25%.



Senior Sportsman of the Year:

Jack Mitchell

The Ross Perry Cup for Senior Sportsman of the Year goes to Jack Mitchell who has represented the School in many sporting codes: Swim team, Inter-Zone Swim team, Senior A Touch team, Eastern Zone Touch team, Senior A Basketball team, AIMS Basketball team, 1st XV Rugby team, Year 8 Cross Country champion, Eastern Zone Cross Country team, Inter-Zone Cross Country team, North Island Intermediate School Skiing Individual Champion, Year 8 Athletics Champion, Eastern Zone Athletics team and Inter-Zone Athletics.





Year 6 Local Community Gardening Service Trip

With thanks to student reporter, Theo Washington, Year 6

Throughout the year, Saint Kentigern students seek opportunities to be of service to others. Last term, a group of Year 6 students from the Boys' School spent a day at Glenn Innes Primary School, a Decile 1 school not far from Saint Kentigern, to offer their service in the school garden.

The school has vegetable garden beds and a fruit orchard that needed some work in readiness for the summer growing season and during the day, children from each Glen Innes class came out to help. Overgrown with weeds since last used, the boys spent time weeding, digging out dead plants and removing 'unwanted guests' in the vegetable garden, notably snails! It was great to see the soil was rich with worms and we discovered during digging that some of the old plants had long deep roots and others had spread out, fine ones.

By morning tea, the gardens were looking good, empty of weeds and ready for planting. After morning tea, the team all headed to Mitre 10 to pick up plant and irrigation supplies. We wanted the vegetable garden to have a variety of nutritious plants, so we selected strawberries, spinach, lettuce, cucumber, parsley, mint, carrots, tomatoes, courgettes, radishes, celery and beans, as well as some marigolds and snail pellets to keep the bugs away. The gardens also needed fresh soil and equipment to extend and repair the irrigation system as we didn't want the plants to dry out and die after all our hard work.

On arrival back at Glen Innes, it started to really rain hard but we were very determined to finish all the planting before the end of the day, so we carried on in the rain and got all eleven beds completely planted out. They looked brilliant! At the end of the day we were all very tired, wet and muddy, but had had a great day with a huge feeling of pride at what we had achieved.



Middle School Sportsman
Ethan Knox



Brian Matthew Citizenship Cup
Harry Lyus
(Junior School)



Joel Campbell Memorial Trophy
Thomas Hiddleston



Junior Citizenship Cup
Sam McLeod
(Middle School)



Knox Family Lion Heart Award
Edward Chaytor



Rex Hooten Cup for School Spirit
Jack Priddy



Senior Citizenship Cup -
Jackson Horton



Remuera Lion Citizenship -
Ben White



Remuera Lions Citizenship -
Ricky Shen

ICAS Medal Awarded!

Congratulations to Patrick Healy who has been awarded a medal for having scored the top mark in the ICAS (International Competitions and Assessments for Schools) New Zealand and the Pacific region in Year 7 for Digital Technologies. This year there were over 980,000 entries in the ICAS exams, but only 100 students from New Zealand and the Pacific Region were awarded medals for their outstanding achievement. A further three medals were awarded to students at the College.



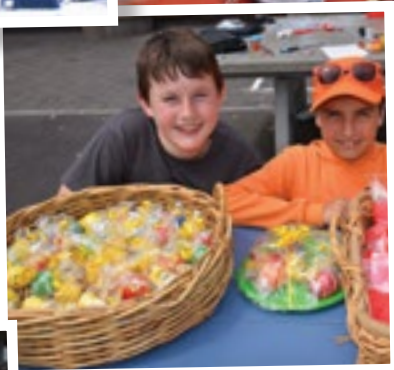
Open For Business!

Bring your 'People' together, develop a 'Product,' decide a 'Purpose,' determine a 'Price,' devise a 'Promotion' and work on earning a 'Profit' – the six 'P's of marketing were put to the test in fine style at the Boys' School! The Senior School quad was abuzz as the Year 7 boys manned their stalls and got trading underway at their Market Day; the culmination of a term-long Social Studies unit on 'Enterprise: Building and Running a Small Business.'

Working in small groups, which included a nominated CEO, accountant, marketer and designer, they were responsible for the launch of their business from product conception to retail. Each group was required to develop a detailed business plan that included market research to determine the purpose and viability of their product, development of a prototype, the working out a suitable marketing plan, ensuring they were on budget, fine-tuning mass production and finally preparing to sell their goods to fellow students and parents.

A virtual economy was used with 'Kents' money as the currency. Each group was given a weekly wage from which deductions were made for services such as using the printer, advertising costs per poster displayed, 'import duties' on such things as electrical equipment or plastic bags required on the day, a music license if required and a 'mobility' license for those who chose to 'wander and sell.' So there was no unfair advantage from stall positioning, an auction was held to pre-purchase each team's location.

And so it was down to trading, the students had two hours to tout their wares to the younger students and parents. Some tied their offerings into the impending festive season and had a range of suitable gifts, others offered miniature games, there was an eye-catching pile of Saint Kentigern pillows and plenty of oozy slime! When trading finished, the students had learnt how to operate a budget, considered the economics of how to allocate their time and 'Kents,' had developed their communication skills and applied all of these into a cohesive business plan!



Junior Masterbuilders

Do all people live in homes like ours? What do people use to create their homes? Does climate influence the type of home you build? What does a home need?

These were all questions the Year 2 boys considered during their inquiry into 'Where we are in place and time,' as they looked into how people adapt their homes according to where they live in the world and their environment. To extend their knowledge, they were fortunate to visit Keith Hay Homes in Henderson to gain an understanding of the construction process.

The Hay family and their staff had prepared an amazing experience for the boys. Dressed in high visibility vests for safety, the boys were guided around the building site to witness the step by step processes. Starting at the beginning, they made their way to a house with only

its frames, then walked along scaffolding erected in preparation to add a roof, and finished inside a house without wall lining; this was to give them an understanding that enclosed inside the walls of our homes are insulation, wires and pipes. The boys then joined a builder who was waiting to quiz them on their tool knowledge.

Taking it in turns, the boys were given the products and tools needed to make their own hammers under the guidance of builders and then worked in groups to make a team catapult. The boys took on the catapult challenge with great delight. Having been shown a prototype, the boys worked collaboratively, selecting parts from a box filled with all manner of plumbing pieces provided by Chester's Plumbing. The trip culminated in a competition with each team seeing who could catapult their ping pong ball the furthest!

Trips beyond the classroom such as this helps to put the boys' learning into context. We are grateful to Keith Hay Homes for opening their site to the boys and taking the time to work with them.





Nevermoor Author Visits

The literary world is abuzz at the moment with a new name on everyone's lips. Recently published author, Jessica Townsend is already being compared to J.K. Rowling with her debut novel, 'Nevermoor,' about a cursed child named Morrigan who was born on Eventide, the unluckiest day of the year. Townsend has created a breathtakingly vivid and compelling new world that explodes off the page and is guaranteed to capture young readers' imaginations. Interest in her book has been so great that the rights have been sold to 28 territories around the world and filming rights have already been snapped up by 21st Century Fox for a Hollywood production. An incredible feat for 'an unknown children's author' in her early 30's! The Boys' School was fortunate to be one of few schools to secure a visit from the author.

Years 4-6 students were privileged to welcome Miss Townsend. With the 'Nevermoor' book tucked tightly under their arms, they entered the hall excitedly. Miss Townsend spoke to the students about her childhood, why she wanted to be an author, how she got to where she is now and the process of writing 'Nevermoor'. She told the students it took her 10 years to write it with a lot of inspiration coming from real world locations and situations. Miss Townsend read

a passage from Nevermoor to the boys before she personally signed their books.

Miss Townsend then led a workshop with selected Year 7 and 8 students about the basics of 'world-building,' using the well-known Harry Potter books as examples. The boys were tasked with using their imaginations to recreate their own bedrooms into a new world. The workshop was a fantastic experience for these students to learn firsthand from an author and gain inspiration for their own writing.



House Spirit!

When students enrol at the Boys' School, they become a member of one of the four Houses which are central to our pastoral care system. Affiliation to the House is strong, with links across generations and family groupings.

House competitions at the Boys' School are always colourful affairs as students represent Cargill, Chalmers, Hamilton and Wishart with a sense of pride and camaraderie. Green, blue, red and yellow House shirts make spectacular bodies of colour by the pool, out on the field, and in the Sports Centre and JC Chalmers Hall as the Houses come together in the spirit of friendly rivalry. House chants ring out with gusto – for the boys do not hold back when it comes to pride for their House!

Right throughout the year, there are House competitions in a variety of activities, including academic, service, sporting and cultural events, along with House points given to reward good behaviour. Each of the events accumulates points that build to winning the prestigious House Cup, presented at the end of each year.

In the latter part of the year, the Houses came together to compete in Chess, Music, Athletics, Running Relays, Spelling and Mathex, with the year culminating with an all-out show of physical prowess at the House Tug of War.

And the winning House this year? Despite the results on this page from these most recent results, across the whole year, it was Wishart who won the House Cup for 2017!



Chess Results

CHESS OVERALL HOUSE RESULTS

1ST	HAMILTON
2ND	WISHART
3RD=	CARGILL
3RD=	CHALMERS

CHESS MIDDLE SCHOOL RESULTS

1ST	SCOTT NEIL	WISHART
2ND	WILL ORMOND	HAMILTON
3RD	OLIVER CORBETT	CARGILL
4TH	OLIVER SCHNAUER	CHALMERS

CHESS SENIOR SCHOOL RESULTS

1ST	ALEXANDER COATES	HAMILTON
2ND	ROSHAN TER WAL	CHALMERS
3RD	FERGUSON MUTHU	CARGILL
4TH	JOHN ZHU	WISHART

House Music



OVERALL HOUSE MUSIC RESULTS

1ST	HAMILTON
2ND=	CARGILL
2ND=	WISHART
4TH	CHALMERS

Tug of War

HOUSE TUG OF WAR CHAMPIONS

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



Mathex

MATHEX OVERALL RESULTS

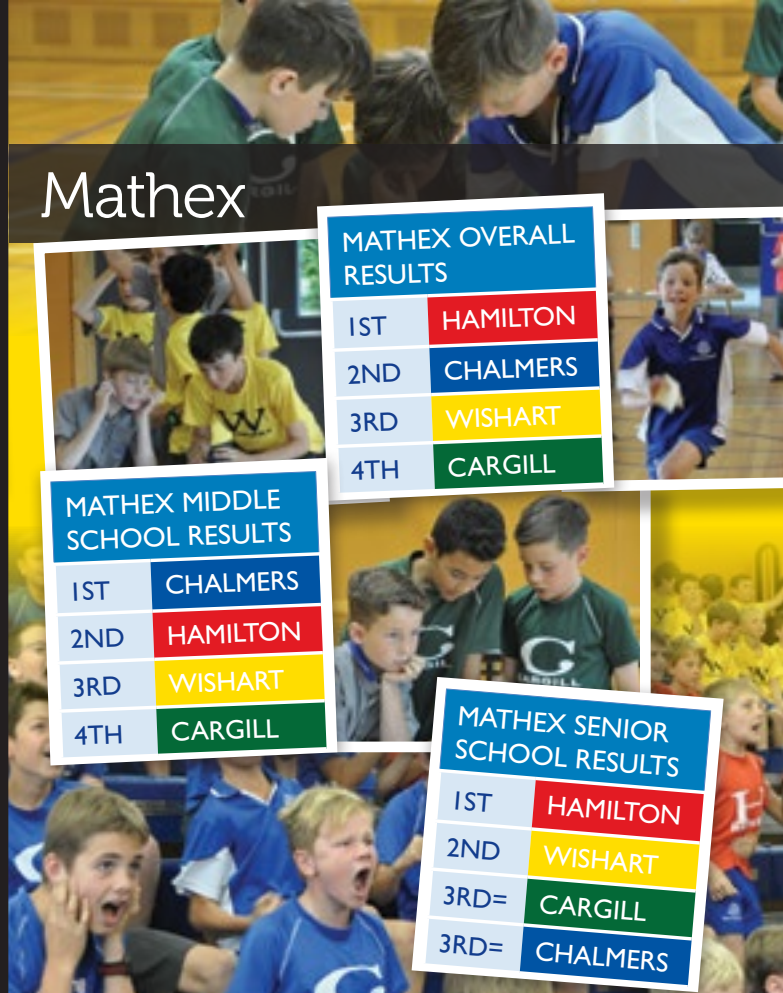
1ST	HAMILTON
2ND	CHALMERS
3RD	WISHART
4TH	CARGILL

MATHEX MIDDLE SCHOOL RESULTS

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

MATHEX SENIOR SCHOOL RESULTS

1ST	HAMILTON
2ND	WISHART
3RD=	CARGILL
3RD=	CHALMERS



House Relays

HOUSE RELAY CHAMPIONS

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



Spellorama

SPELLORAMA RESULTS

1ST	CARGILL
2ND=	HAMILTON
2ND=	WISHART
4TH	CHALMERS



Histoires en Action!

'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 plays a big part of this programme.

Those who attended this year's Junior School concert could not help but be impressed by the Year 2 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.

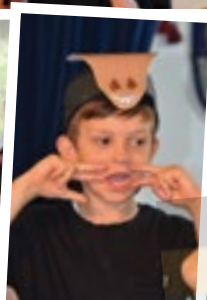
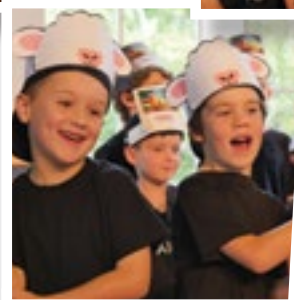
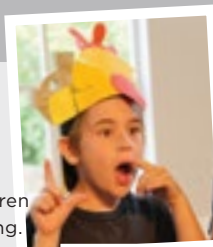
The AIM (Accelerated Integrated Methodology) Language Learning Programme is a verb based, oral language programme. This means that rather than

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, 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 multisensory 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 importance of second language learning has long been recognised and the combination of language and action makes for an inherently 'playful' approach that soon engages the boys.

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!



New Bundles of Life

There was great excitement amongst our Year 3 boys when the first of their chicken eggs began to hatch! A set of ten fertile eggs was delivered in incubators to each of the Year 3 classrooms and as the days went by, the chicks began to hatch! It didn't take long for the bedraggled chicks that emerged blinking into the world to soon dry off and fluff up into healthy looking yellow bundles of life!

The eggs were supplied by the Living Egg company which specialises in providing eggs and all the equipment required for a ten day stay in a school classroom. After arriving in a warm incubator, once hatched and ready, the chicks moved into a brooder box for their next stage of development. Both boxes have big, clear windows so the boys can observe all the action. Prior to the arrival of the eggs, the boys had discussed not only about the life cycle of chickens from a scientific perspective, but also about how they would care for them in the classroom to ensure that the young birds had the best start to life. And, when the time came for them to say goodbye to the chicks, they were happy to know that the Living Egg company rehomed them on free range farms.



Ara Moana – Ocean Roads

Explorers, Adventurers and Traders

Voyagers tell the remarkable stories of New Zealand's rich maritime heritage. Many of the world's greatest maritime pioneers have emerged from our nation's spirit of exploration and discovery. As part of the Year 5 Social Science Inquiry into 'How we Organise Ourselves', with a focus on how explorers and traders have influenced the world that we live in today, the boys embarked on a 'voyage' to the New Zealand Maritime Museum.

Spending time with the Museum's Educator, the boys came to understand the bravery and sense of adventure that our early settlers needed as they left their home shore for New Zealand. Whether it was Kupe's journey by early Polynesian waka, crossing the Pacific under lateen sail; or the long voyage by sea endured by Abel Tasman and Sir James Cook, the first European explorers to reach our shores; or the 'immigrants' who left Europe from the 1840s onwards, the conditions at sea were harsh.

They also explored why people were compelled to seek new lands and came to understand that trade played a large part in this as mariners ventured further to seek not only uncharted countries but the potential riches that could be discovered. As time moved on, this resulted in trade routes opening up as goods were exchanged.

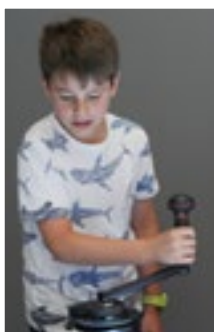
The boys visited the Hawaiki Gallery with the Museum Educator to inspect the various styles of Polynesian canoes. Here, new facts were brought to light. The boys were amazed to discover that no nails or glue were used in the construction of these great ocean-going waka. Even more incredible, the procedure used to lash the pieces together

with sennit, rope made from coconut fibres, used no knots, as knots weakened the rope. They were told of the Maori digging the nails out of James Cook's ship, the endeavour – an early example of an exchange of technology, as the British also came to understand the strength and value of flax.

At the far end of the Museum, in total contrast, they visited the Blue Water Black Magic gallery, the tribute to New Zealand born yachting legend, Sir Peter Blake. Here the boys learned about New Zealand's early foray into yachting technology that claimed the America's Cup for the first time back in 1995, setting New Zealand on a sailing path to claim it again in 2000 and once again this year.

The highlight of the visit for the boys, however, was a brisk sail out on the Waitemata Harbour aboard the Ted Ashby, a traditionally built, ketch rigged scow (a flat bottomed vessel) that, in the days of early cargo trading around Auckland, was ideal for working both the shallower waters of estuaries and the deeper water harbours. The boys were able to 'get a little wind in their hair' as they came to understand how sails are rigged and that the wind could be a primary source of power. Boys being boys, they loved hoisting the sails! As the boat headed under the Harbour Bridge they were delighted to witness bungy jumpers leaping off the bridge!

The Maritime Museum is all about sea travel through the ages from the early waka to the most recent, technologically advanced America's Cup designs. But it's not only about the boats, it's about the people behind them too. The boys came to learn a great deal about the sea-going explorers and adventurers of the past in a rich learning environment.





Music Showcase

JC Chalmers Hall was packed wall to wall with boys, parents and invited guests for the annual Music Showcase; a morning when the leading music groups had a chance to share their talents with a large, supportive audience.

The audience were welcomed into the hall by the Pipes and Drums, before the Symphonic Orchestra picked up the strains with two contrasting pieces, 'Gonna Fly Now' from the movie 'Rocky,' followed by 'See The Conquering Hero Comes' by Handel. The orchestra rehearses a variety of pieces throughout the year, from classical to pop. The group comprises beginners playing alongside our more experienced players. Joining them were three new players who were playing for an audience for the first time!

The Performers' Choir is a polished group of auditioned singers from Year 6-8 who sing at many events throughout the year. They performed 'May the Road Rise' followed by the upbeat 'Sing.' A little later, the younger Saint Kentigern Singers took to the stage. This is an 'all-comers' choir for boys in Year 4 and above who simply love to sing! This was evident as they performed a medley of Maori songs.

In addition, we heard from the flute, recorder and guitar groups, all giving confident performances before the ever-popular Jazz Band finished on a high with a rousing performance of 'Thriller' and 'Uptown Funk.'

Principal Mr Peter Cassie closed the morning, once again in awe of the level of

music being performed by boys who are only 8-14 years old. The music programme has always been strong at the Boys' School and continues to be so. Mr Cassie gave his thanks to the graduating Year 8 boys who have given so much to the programme, singling out Xavier Edmonds, the Cultural Prefect who has shown great leadership in the music groups this year.

Our thanks to Mrs Janet Grierson, Mrs Georgina Jarvis and our itinerant music teachers for the fantastic work they do with the boys. Well done to all the performers!



Kids for Kids Concert

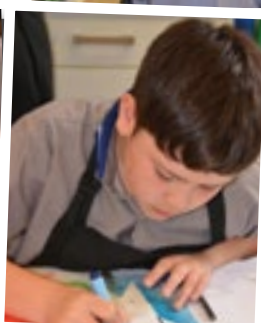
New Zealanders have a proud history of raising their voices for important issues on the global stage

Early in Term 4, the Saint Kentigern Singers combined with other schools to create a massed choir of 500 children in the 'Kiwi As' Kids for Kids Show, singing to raise awareness for those less fortunate than themselves through World Vision.

The Kids for Kids concert series is celebrating its 23rd year. This year alone, 10,000 children around New Zealand will have had the chance to take to the stage in a variety of venues around the North Island, joining in massed choir performances that not only celebrates their musical achievements, but also encourages them to raise their voices for children in need. At each concert, the number on stage can vary from 300-1000!

Our boys joined the concert at the Bruce Mason Theatre. Having learnt the items at school over the previous few weeks the boys had a full day of rehearsal at the theatre before the evening performance. Well known performers, Jackie Clarke and Nathan King, hosted a brilliant show of singing and actions to popular Kiwi music. Dressed in vibrant colours, the boys showed energy and enthusiasm on stage and joined the 'Mod Squad' dancers and the ukelele players for special items. It was a concert thoroughly enjoyed by all, with funds raised for a worthy cause.





Exploring Signs and Symbols

Everywhere we look we see signs. Signs give us quick messages such as how fast we can drive, where to enter or exit, or where to find an item in a supermarket and how much it costs. It offers a simple message with the same meaning for everyone, regardless of language.

In contrast, symbols influence how we feel about something and they work well when we find it difficult to put our thoughts or feelings into words. In visual art, an artist's use of symbolism, such as the use of colour, placement, scale, pattern and shape, can evoke powerful emotions for artist and observer alike.

This term, our boys in Year 6 have been looking at 'how we express ourselves,' specifically exploring the central idea that 'our world can be expressed through visual arts.' They asked, 'What is art, where is art and how is art communicated?'

As cultural documents, works of art provide important insights into both past and existing cultures, helping us to understand how others live and what they value. With this in mind, the boys have explored the many and varied styles of art, and looked at mediums from painting to sculpture. Through their research and discussions, they came to learn that over the centuries, society and particular periods in history have influenced the nature of artistic works, and the way in which they have been used to communicate ideas and feelings.

Above all, they have come to understand that the making, creating and appreciating of art is a personal experience.

To support their unit of study, the boys embarked on an enriching experience at Auckland Art Gallery, exploring the themes of signs and symbols in artwork. The programme was split into two sessions with each group taking part in a self-guided gallery tour and a studio art lesson. During both activities, staff, parents and the gallery educators discussed with the boys some of

the diverse ways artists use symbols in their artworks and what these symbols tell us.

Over the morning they were encouraged to talk about their ideas, opinions and emotions around many themes and subjects, including identity, historic and modern cultures, imagination and emotion. They also took the time to sit quietly and sketch artworks that caught their imagination, building their growing portfolio of work. As they observed each piece of art, the boys could be heard confidently discussing their creative and critical thinking with each other, using a rich vocabulary of descriptors.

In the practical art session, the boys were given a simple explanation about signs and symbols that they could all relate to. A tick at the end of a piece of work means we got something right. What about that same tick when it appears on a pair of Nike sports shoes? It could be argued that the tick is symbolic of choosing the correct sportswear.

The boys learnt how symbols can be representations and how we can use these to tell people about ourselves. Using a template, they were first challenged to express in words what defined them individually, such as their favourite clothing, colour, food, pets, activities or place. From this they built a personal art work, firstly using shapes to block coloured dye sprayed from bottles, before filling in the areas left white with things that are important to them, using lines and colours to compare and contrast the representation of feelings and the meanings associated to these.

The gallery visit encouraged the boys' curiosity, awareness and understanding in the arts, helping develop critical thinking skills that are transferrable to other learning environments. Interaction with the art works opened opportunities for discussion, enabling the students to articulate and share their own artistic insights with enthusiasm and confidence.





Heart of the Pacific Goes Off with a Bang!

What a difference a day makes!

After an early morning start on Saturday 4 November, in readiness for the Boys' School Fireworks Night, steady rain throughout the afternoon sadly prompted the Parents and Friends to put their plans on hold and postpone the event to Sunday. We are so glad they did! Unlike the 'umbrella night' a few years back, Sunday threw up a perfect night sky with just the right amount of cloud cover to set the stage for another fantastic Fireworks Night - and a relieved team from the Parents and Friends could relax knowing that their months of planning could now come to fruition!

After Celtic Day in Term 1, the next most favoured event on the Boys' School calendar must surely be Fireworks Night! The gates opened at 5pm as a capacity crowd of 2000 streamed in, loaded picnic baskets at the ready, for an evening of relaxation and entertainment. With the main focus of the evening skywards, every patch of turf was a perfect picnic spot! As parents set up camp, the children quickly did the rounds to check out the 'fairground' activities.

From late afternoon, the stage came to life, as the Boys' School musicians entertained, drawing a mini-mosh pit of proud parents to record the performances on their phones! Meanwhile the majority of the youngsters flocked to the rides, purchased wrist band at the

ready, to take advantage of as many turns as possible while the daylight lasted. Amongst the adrenaline-filled fun was the 'world's tallest inflatable slide,' that caused more than a few wide eyes as those brave enough to climb, whizzed down the slippery slope! A new addition this year was a maze that proved a true puzzle for some!

Without question, one of the biggest draw cards is the rare chance to target a teacher with a wet sponge! Amongst the staff willing to test their dignity was a very game Principal, Mr Peter Cassie and School Chaplain, Reverend Reuben Hardie - good preparation for next year's castle siege at Celtic Day! The gold coins flowed in as hopeful students took aim!

This year's theme, 'Heart of the Pacific' gave a distinctly New Zealand flavour to the evening. As the night sky darkened, Mr Cassie welcomed the Saint Kentigern community before the Girls' School Kapa Haka group, followed by the Boys' School group, owned the stage with two commanding performances. Keeping to the NZ theme, Mr Cassie and Reverend Hardie returned as Wal and Dog from Footrot Flats, as Wal tried to secure a spot with the All Blacks. As they kicked the ball out wide, Pipers, Nicholas Forgie and Nicholas Berry crossed the field before the Girls' School returned to the stage to accompany Xarya Knox and Jade Nomani as they sang Pokarekare Ana. Their hongi on completion signalling the start of the fireworks!





Year 11 College student, Valance Yates had offered his talent for the voice-over at the start of the show, setting the scene for the discovery of Aotearoa. As the night sky burst into life, the imagery and music took us on a dramatic journey through New Zealand's history; the show including some fiery kiwi!

The logistics for a fireworks night held on school grounds are such that a lesser team, faced with so many hurdles and safety requirements, may have simply placed it in the 'too hard basket' long ago. Over the years, our own determined organising committee has conquered the paper work to ensure that both people and property are safely protected. Planning began at the start of March and the team, spearheaded by Parents and Friends Chairperson, Mr Simon Ward, has been totally focused on ensuring that a safe and successful fireworks night continues as our school's signature event. Well done! It was fantastic!

Our sincere thanks to the Fireworks Organising Team, parents and staff for their immense effort in bringing this to fruition: Naomi Hageman, Simon Ward, Deb Ward, Kathryn Hughes, Robyn Kenna, James McLeod, Michael Hewes and Logan Aves. Our thanks to the staff from the various campuses and many parents who gave their time to assist with the field rides and barbeque. Thanks also to the many others who helped in the clean-up.

A special thank you to the following sponsors: A-Ward, New World Eastridge, Hirepool, True Advertising Agency, Kiwi Flush.



Year 8 Boys Lead and Serve

It was an absolute pleasure to host the Halberg Sportability Day at the Boys' School for the eighth consecutive year; a day that gives visiting students with disabilities an opportunity to enjoy and shine in a range of tailored sports events, assisted by our own Year 8 student mentors.

Over 60 disabled and vision impaired young sportspeople from 25 different schools around the Auckland region competed against each other in ability-appropriate sports, including gymnastics, ambulant football, wheelchair racing, athletics, pop tennis, cycling and more. The adaptive sports allowed our visitors to 'have a go' at something new.

Along with enhancing the lives of physically disabled children through sport, the day also aims to involve our own Year 8 boys in a service element. Our boys diligently played their part in assisting their visitors when and where needed, alongside the families and staff from their support networks. Staff from the Halberg Disability Sport Foundation, who had helped organise the event, were also on hand.

Meanwhile, other Year 8 boys were down at Bloodworth Park in Parnell, involved with the Adaptive Cricket Day run by Parnell Cricket Club. These boys, too, were on hand to assist physically disabled youngsters with an adapted game of cricket. They worked through a set of drills before joining in a game.

We were proud to witness the boys taking responsibility of their physically disabled peers, showing compassion and spirit as they helped them perfect their sports techniques, encouraging them and sharing in their triumphs.

Thank you to all students who helped to make the day run smoothly, and thanks also to our Parents and Friends who were on hand to help serve a rolling morning tea and a barbecue lunch. We hope our visitors enjoyed their day!



Tennis Championships

Congratulations to the finalists in the annual Boys' School Tennis Championships.

Year 4	- Scot Nel Beat Raphael Deperrois	6/0
Year 5	- Marco Alpe beat Tudor Dalzell	9/7
Year 6	- Max Richardson beat William Lawrence-Vaivai	9/0
Year 7	- Dawson Parekowhai-Lage beat Benjamin Hardie	6/0 6/0
Year 8	- Christoph Grant beat Joshua Hartner	6/3 6/3



Boys' School Athletics Results

Run as three separate events for the Junior, Middle and Senior Schools, this year's Boys' School Athletics saw ten records tumble, as eight of our boys out-ran, out-jumped and out-threw earlier standings.

Well done to Year 3, Miki Cronin running 100m in 16.09; Year 4, Charlie Field clearing 1.13m in the high jump; Year 5 Jaden Renault-Pollard throwing 36.04m and fellow Year 5, Pierce Gault high jumping 1.28m. Year 6, Astin Palenski threw 41.87m while Year 7 students, James Ford and Joe Berman both broke two records; James running the 100m in 12.5 and the 800m in 2.24.88, and Joe running the 200m in 26.09 and leaping 4.76m in the long jump. Year 8 student, Eddie Chaytor was also a record breaker running the 800m in 2.26.02.

Whilst these eight boys were record breakers, there were many more who gained podium places for individual events. With points accumulated across all the activities, our year group champions were proud to take the top spots. The final athletics event for the year was the colourful House Relays where Wishart reigned supreme!

Inter-zone Athletics

Congratulations to our Year 7 and 8 students who placed at the Auckland Inter Zone Athletics competition held at Mt Smart Stadium. James Ford cleaned the board in the Year 7 sprints winning the 100m, 200m and 400m. Joe Berman also performed exceptionally well placing 1st in Long Jump and 3rd in the 200m, while Sio Vaolupe placed 2nd in the 100m and 400m, and 3rd in the 100m. Brodey Warren placed 2nd in the 800m and the relay team placed first over all.



HOUSE ATHLETICS CHAMPIONS		
1ST	WISHART	289 POINTS
2ND	CHALMERS	287 POINTS
3RD	CARGILL	252 POINTS
4TH	HAMILTON	240 POINTS



HOUSE RELAY CHAMPIONS		
1ST	WISHART	133 POINTS
2ND	CARGILL	109 POINTS
3RD	CHALMERS	91 POINTS
4TH	HAMILTON	240 POINTS



Year 0 Champions	
1st	Bruno Dickinson CH
2nd	Thomas Bottomley CA
3rd	Austin Watson CH
Year 1 Champions	
1st	Kieran Vaseegaran-Hey WI
2nd	Harry Simpson HA
3rd	Maddox Bedford WI
Year 2 Champions	
1st	Harry Lynn CA
2nd	Harley Evans CH
3rd	Benjamin Durose CH
Year 3 Champions	
1st	Miki Cronin WI
2nd	Ruben Spooner HA
3rd	Ethan Farley WI
Year 4 Champions	
1st	Max Trankels HA
2nd =	Angus Paterson CH
2nd =	Charlie Field HA
Year 5 Champions	
1st	Pierce Gault CA
2nd	Tom Butler CA
3rd	Oliver Hardie WI
Year 6 Champions	
1st	Ethan Knox CA
2nd	Ashan Weerasinghe HA
3rd	Astin Palenski HA
Year 7 Champions	
1st	Joe Berman CH
2nd	James Ford WI
3rd	Brodey Warren HA
Year 8 Champions	
1st	Jack Mitchell WI
2nd	Sio Vaolupe WI
3rd	Eddie Chaytor CA

Grandparents' Day

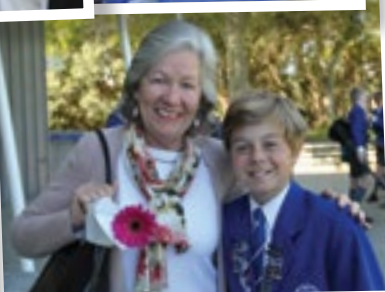
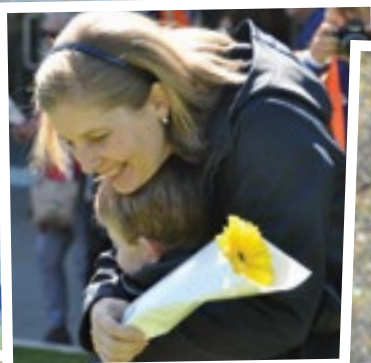
'Blessed are those who spoil and snuggle, hug and hope, pray and pamper...for they shall be called Grandparents.'

Over 550 proud grandparents filled the Jubilee Sports Centre for Grandparents' Day. It is a special morning that gives the boys a chance to proudly show their grandparents around the school, through their classrooms and share what they have achieved this year, while spending quality time with each other. The morning began with a selection of junior boys standing tall and proud at the entrances of the Sports Centre, handing a colourful gerbera to all the Grandmas, Nanas and Grannies before they took their seats.

Head Boy, George Beca welcomed our guests and said, 'This is the eighth year in a row that my nana has come to Grandparents' Day and sadly for us, it will be her last as I move on to College. Every year she tells me how much she enjoys this day and how welcome she feels.' He went on to mention that everyone has so much to learn from our families and especially our Grandparents. George said, 'You are such important people to us all, and we are very lucky to have you, and your guidance, as we learn how to be adults.'

As many had travelled great distances to be there, Principal, Mr Peter Cassie promised they wouldn't be disappointed as their grandsons are worth it. Mr Cassie explained that as a child, he didn't have grandparents as he grew up, therefore, he didn't come to appreciate the very special bond and relationship that exists between grandparent and child until much later. He said, 'It wasn't until my own children were born and right from the outset I was quickly able to see that special connection, that unconditional love, that sheer joy and laughter when the two generations got together.'

Our special visitors were treated to a performance by the Jazz Band and entertaining pieces by both Wishart and Hamilton House, before Reverend Hardie gave a blessing. The boys waited excitedly on the top field for their grandparents to make their way out, greeting them with arms wide open. Hand in hand, the boys led their special visitors around the school and into each of their classrooms, to meet their teachers and show them what they have learnt this year. After building up a hunger, the boys led their guests into the hall where morning tea awaited, some enjoying it out in the winter sunshine. We look forward to welcoming our grandparents back next year!



Boys' School Parents & Friends

If there was one word to sum up our many teams of awesome volunteers and incredible events over 2017, it would be 'WOW!' Raising the bar on our world class goals once again, we have achieved another industrious and successful year within the Saint Kentigern Boys' School community fundraising endeavours. With goals well accomplished for 2017, it is always a case of balancing the promotion of the School's strong community and friendship values, while simultaneously, raising money.

The promoting of values has always been an integral part of the Boys' School mandate, ingrained in its boys and proven in the strong reputation the School has within the general public. The values don't stop there though, and also extend internationally, with Boys' and Girls' School students and accompanying parents participating in annual Fiji service trips. This further reinforces and supports values such as kindness, goodwill and generosity, making this a leading school to be very proud of. With so many diverse service opportunities on offer, I hope that parents have enjoyed getting involved in the action the year has provided.

Every year is kick started with a new parents' morning tea, continued at the start of each term through the year. The aim of this has been to provide constructive insights for parents to help make the transition for their son a smooth one, while giving new parents a chance to socialise and get to know more about The Parents and Friends in an informal environment. Many thanks to the liaisons and all those parents who have helped this year.

The school picnics were crowd pleasing and happy events on the top field and a chance for parents and students to socialise with new families and strengthen connections going into the New Year.

One of the most anticipated events on the school calendar, a Parents and Friends and school joint event, is Celtic Day. This was again very successfully led by Vanessa Playle and her group of team leaders responsible for each activity. Great project management allowed for a quick turnaround of ten minutes per activity and a wide range of action for the boys to participate in added to the fun. From more cultural disciplines such as drumming to the always popular sponge throwing combined with box fort protection, the day was non-stop – and the caretaker was grateful that there were no trenches on Roselle lawn this year!

In May, the Mother's Morning Tea, run by Phillipa Hiddleston, set out to thank our busy Saint Kentigern Mums and for all those who attended, it did just that. The JC Chalmers Hall was transformed with white table cloths and 'all the tea in China'. Individual classes entertained and gave a most enjoyable chance to see what had been happening in the classroom. After being piped to the hall, Mr Cassie and his team of Year 8 boys served the mums their special morning tea. The guest speaker, well known author Nicky Pelligrino, delighted the crowd with her own life stories and insight into her writing. Some guests were lucky enough to leave with spot prizes, certainly all left feeling happy and loved. The proceeds from this event were donated to Women's Refuge and the Auckland City Mission.

Quiz night this year was another fun but always competitive night that filled the hall with a flurry of activity and decorations. This year's theme was 'S & K' and it was incredible to see the effort of the different teams costumes and table decorations. There was everything from a Kitsch Christmas, with all the trimmings to a Sheikh Middle Eastern tent. Taking out top prize and bragging rights as the School's 'Parent Geniuses' was definitely hard fought this year. I look forward to seeing what type of event our new quiz night co-ordinator, Georgina Astwick, can create for Quiz Night 2018.

This year saw the special 'Brushwork and Bids' fundraising event added to our busy calendar. This fantastic event showcased the many skills of every boy and staff member in our school. The Ed Hillary 'pin work' stole the title as top bid, however, I personally felt Peter Cassie's 'spelling puzzle' item was the bargain of the night. Special thank you must go to Fiona Freeland and Thomas Barter for putting this event together.

The annual Father and Son Breakfast was another sell out and highlight for the boys spending quality time with their Dad or significant care giver this year. Guest speaker, Tony Christiansen with his 'I CAN and I WILL' presentation showed what you can achieve with the right attitude. There was an over-whelming number of attendees expressing their enjoyment at this event and feedback was that boys and fathers left feeling really inspired. Always tricky with an early morning start to gather helpers, with so many parents occupied with work and school duties at that time of day, so a big thank you to Cath Costello and the many people who baked pies, served or helped with clean up, you all came through to produce yet another outstanding event and these events would not be possible without your support.

Grandparents are highly regarded within the Saint Kentigern community and the huge contribution they make to our boys lives, so it is always an honor to host them at school for our annual Grandparents Day. While this is a school event, the P & F provides a very memorable morning tea. The grandparents are the kings and queens of 'bring a plate' but still they always are amazed with our wonderful 'spread'. Numbers for this event continue to exceed 500 and thank you to the generous baking contributions from so many of the school families. Thank you to Phillipa Hiddleston for coordinating this.

As the school year neared an end for 2017, the 'Heart of the Pacific' Fireworks Night rolled into action. This iconic event had another record sell out of 2000 attendees, with fantastic feedback of 'best ever.' Tasked with the aim of always creating a better show year on year, the fireworks team 'sparks' into action in March to ensure boundaries are pushed even further with entertainment and pyrotechnics. This included greater pre-fireworks theatrics starring Kapa Haka groups from both the Girls' and Boys' Schools, followed by the unmissable Peter Cassie (Wal Footrot) and Rev Reuben Hardie (as Dog), stealing the stage with their Oscar winning acting skills. World class pyrotechnics were controlled by Dr Martin Van Tiel for a 15 minute spectacular world class theatre and fireworks display.

The fireworks crew is a small team to coordinate what has become now such a major event, so several new members this year were welcomed which helped ensure perfect planning and an incredible result. However, all the planning in the world can't stop 'Mother Nature' and her continuous Saturday rain was no match, eventually forcing our first ever delayed Sunday event. After a full day setting up on Saturday, the team returned to repeat it on Sunday to produce one of New Zealand's best fireworks shows. Thank you to the fireworks team of Deb Ward, Naomi Hageman, Robyn Kenna, Kathryn Hughes, Logan Aves, Michael Hewes, James McLeod and myself.

A final thank you for the amazing community work that Corinne Stilwell does in organising 'Meals from the Heart' which continues to be a really great initiative that has been incredibly beneficial so far to those going through tough times. Also thanks go out to Sarah Walsh for organising the abundant Christmas hampers to Wymondely Road School. An incredible experience to be able to help and many thanks to those who offered their time to make up these very abundant hampers. Along with this, are the many that help to empty the Sharing Shed and Halberg Day volunteers.

Like always, I would like to finish with my small note for 2018.

I know we are all busy people but if you can give a small amount of your time to help out with one event or if you would like to help out with some goods or services, please let us know. Trust me when I say 'every little bit, helps make our school the best in the world!'

Simon Ward,
Chairman

