

IB Top Scholars Awards Ceremony

The success of some of New Zealand's finest young scholars was celebrated at the annual International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Top Scholars' Awards Ceremony held at Kristin School in early February with proud families in attendance. The students received their awards from The Rt Hon Sir John Key and the keynote address was given by Saint Kentigern Old Collegian and former Head Girl, Tessa Meyer.

To achieve the title of an IB Top Scholar, graduates must achieve a score of at least 40 points out of a possible 45 in their final examinations. Four Saint Kentigern students were among those who were presented with an award in recognition of their exceptional personal achievement: Tate McGregor (41 points), Laura K Smith (41 points), Chris Lee (41 points) and Josh Looker (40 points). (See below for an explanation of the point system.)

In New Zealand, thirteen schools are accredited to offer the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. Students from ten of these schools were present at the ceremony. Tim Oughton, chair of the NZ IB Heads' Association said, 'The challenging and world-renowned qualification has been embraced by a growing number of our nation's leading schools and our IB scholars ranked among the world's highest achievers.' Last year 460 New Zealand students joined students from 150 countries around the globe to sit the International Baccalaureate qualification. There are more than 1.61 million International Baccalaureate graduates worldwide.

In honouring the students, Sir John said that gaining 40+ points was a phenomenal achievement which benchmarked the students against the highest achieving students in New Zealand, and also, importantly, against students internationally.

The keynote address was delivered by Saint Kentigern Old Collegian Tessa Meyer, a former Head Girl who graduated with the IB class of 2011. Throughout her time at Saint Kentigern, she favoured artistic pursuits, with one of her artworks being displayed in the MacFarlan Centre. However, the broad nature of the IB Diploma Programme ensured that Tessa continued studies in both Science and Mathematics, these subjects were invaluable to her when she decided to read Environmental Science and Geography at university before going onto to complete her Master's degree. Tessa's Master's thesis on community resilience was inspired by the CAS programme she followed as an IB student. She believes that the IB Diploma



Programme equipped her with the knowledge, awareness and confidence to succeed at university and beyond to her work with Panuku Development, Auckland.

Our congratulations to Tate, Laura, Chris and Josh on their -wonderful achievement and we wish them well as they begin their tertiary studies both abroad and in New Zealand.

Debating Win for Premiers!

Prior to Easter, our Premier Debating teams competed in the Auckland Regional Debating championships - regarded as the most prestigious and demanding debating tournament of the year. The College entered two teams in the competition, with both teams winning the majority of their debates on the first day of competition, securing them a place in the Sunday 'knockout' round.

Our Premier 2 team, comprising Henry Ewen, Daniel Mar and Ben Fraser, reached the quarter final, only to be knocked out of contention by fellow College debaters, our Premier 1 team! From there, the Premier 1 team of Andrew Chen, Ben Shepherd and Abigail Pool talked up a veritable storm, winning every debate, finally leading them to a spot in the Grand Final to face Macleans College, a very worthy adversary. Our students successfully affirmed 'This House would treat assaults on the sports field as criminal offences' and in a close but clear victory, took the Clare Ryan Cup. This is the second time in three years that a Saint Kentigern team has won this cup, a testament to the skill and strength of our College debaters.

Premier 1 team member, Abigail Pool was recognised as a top speaker in the tournament and named in the Auckland Regional Team as an outstanding third speaker. Ben Fraser, of Premier 2, was also recognised and named in the Auckland Development Squad - a pool of talented Year 12 speakers who will receive extra training. These



selections affirm the quality of speakers we have in our College squad, currently being coached by Old Collegian, Arun Prakash, a talented former College debater.

Fourth Time Win for Andrew!

The current Academic Prefect at the College, Andrew Chen is a busy person. Not only does he work hard to achieve at the highest level for himself, but he also mentors others to follow in his footsteps.

Whilst Andrew is focused on all aspects of his learning, he has a particular gift and passion for mathematics. For the fourth time in four years, Andrew has won the Auckland Mathematical Olympiad – making it his second time win in the Senior Division (Years 12&13), having earlier won the Junior Division for two years in a row. In addition, he was awarded an Outstanding NZQA Scholarship in Calculus, Statistics and Physics in 2017 (as a Year 12) and was Top in NZ in Statistics Scholarship and Scholarship in Calculus in 2016 (as a Year 11).

The competition attracted up to 180 participants in each category for a taxing set of mathematical challenges. Joining Andrew in the senior division were Year 12 students, Alex Zhang and Grace Chang, whilst Year 11 students, Xavier Yin and Tony Yu competed in the junior division. Saint Kentigern won 5 of the 30 awards on offer.

Run by The University of Auckland, the Auckland Olympiad is part of a nationwide programme that builds to the selection of a New Zealand team to compete at the International Mathematics Olympiad. This year, it will be held in Romania during July and Andrew is already confirmed as part of the 6-person team to compete. He is no stranger to this prestigious competition, it will be the third time he has represented New Zealand!

Andrew enjoys inspiring and mentoring other students at all levels to achieve mathematically. He has been coaching the College Mathex team since Year 10 and has led the Maths Club for three years. To assist other students, he has prepared many Mathex questions and trial papers for all year levels – a fantastic resource for the College. At a higher level, he has tutored Grace for the last two years. Grace also went to the Maths Olympiad camp in January and has been selected into 12 squads this year. To help and encourage other students to attend the Olympiad, he contacted potential contestants, wrote documents such as 'useful things to know' (available on OLE), shared resources, ran tutorials during the holidays and term time, wrote trial papers and organised a trial test. He is very pleased that it has helped to lift the total number of College students who were



placed in the top 15 this year, and that more students now enjoy the challenge of maths.

Congratulations Andrew on your latest achievement and thank you for your commitment to helping others. A true son of Kentigern who is already fulfilling our vision that 'Our Graduates will Serve and Lead with Distinction.'

Scholars Welcome Old Collegian

Our Year 13 Scholars group were delighted to welcome Old Collegian, John Beckett back to College to share insights about his university studies and working life.

John is the only Old Collegian to have been awarded a Rhodes Scholarship to attend Oxford University. Having initially studied engineering as an undergraduate at Auckland University, he went on to complete a M Phil in Management Studies, specialising in Economics at Oxford. John has had a varied and distinguished career in government, economic consultancy and as an Executive Director on a number of Boards.

Overseen by the Enhanced Learning Centre (ELC), the Scholars Group comprises students who perform at a level significantly beyond their peers and benefit from extension and enrichment opportunities such as this. The students welcomed the opportunity to gain insight from John's diverse career and to gain sage advice about choosing a university pathway as they begin to plan for their future careers.



Auckland World Scholar's Cup Win

With thanks to Year 11 student reporters, Amelie Murphy and Heeju Rho



After success in the World Scholar's Cup last year, our students were looking forward to this year's event. Over two days of intense academic competition, four College teams topped the Auckland round of the World Scholar's Cup, paving the way to the next round of international competition!

The College entered eight teams of students, divided between the Junior and Senior divisions. They soon discovered that the level of interest in the Auckland round of the competition had grown significantly from last year's event, with a strong field of contenders.

The first World Scholar's Cup took place in Korea in 2007; a small regional tournament, since then it has grown to reach tens of thousands of students in dozens of countries with the ultimate goal of working through the regions to take part in a final global competition.

Each year, the competition takes on a theme, this year it was entitled, 'An Entangled World', with a focus on six broad areas of focus. With a unique theme chosen each year, it's a chance to challenge students to extend their knowledge and capacity for learning.

Special Area	Human Relationships
Science & Technology	The Science of Memory
History	The History of Diplomacy
Literature	Voices of the Inseparable
Art & Music	Braving the Distance
Social Studies	Black Markets

This was further split into four different components to test different areas of learning: Collaborative writing, Team debating, The Scholars Challenge and The Scholars' Bowl.

A fun element of the competition is its alpaca mascot. Contestants 'adopted' the stuffed animal to balance out the serious academic side of the event. Congratulations to all the students who entered this challenging competition, but particularly to the following teams who have qualified for the Global Round to be held in Melbourne this August.

Senior Division

- Josie Lu, Heeju Rho, Amelie Murphy
- Esther Oh, Christina Chen, Michelle Guan

Junior Division

- Lucas van den Brink, Daniel Huang, Sarah Harper
- Danielle Mayer, Charlotte Cornwall, Sarina Wang



College Musicians Play with NZSSSO

The New Zealand Secondary Schools' Symphony Orchestra (NZSSSO) has convened annually since 1960, selecting the top students in each instrumental category from around the country. Many of New Zealand's top professional musicians have taken part in the group which provides a stepping stone to the exceptional National Youth Orchestra.

This year, four of our College students were selected to join the orchestra to perform in the 2018 concert at St Margaret's College, Christchurch during the April holidays. Head of Music, Mr Ross Gerritsen was absolutely delighted to see his music students, Nicholas Scott (trombone), Evan Metcalfe (French horn), Ercia Chang (violin) and Joshua Pan (violin) perform at this level and represent Saint Kentigern admirably. They join the list of past students who were also selected whilst at College: Thomas Scott (trumpet), Emily Young (cello), Ethan Blight (principal clarinet) and John Moon (double bass).

The repertoire prepared by the orchestra this year pushed the abilities of the musicians to their limit, requiring significant input from NZSO, CSO and local Christchurch section tutors. The programme for the concert included the testing Finlandia (Sibelius),

Violin Concerto No. 2 in G minor (Prokofiev) and Symphony No. 2 (Rachmaninoff).

We congratulate these students for their selection and performance and look forward to hearing them as part of their College music ensembles as our musicians prepare for the KBB Festival later this term.



Business Venture to Singapore

With thanks to Year 13 student reporter, Jayden Lal

During the April school holidays, I had the privilege of being one of ten selected students from all over New Zealand to attend a fully paid business trip to Singapore. With the help of fellow student, Cameron McCormick, I submitted a 60-second application video that ultimately led me to being selected as an ambassador for New Zealand Entrepreneurs.

Meeting the other students at Auckland Airport was exhilarating. The 10 of us got on extremely well and the time spent together helped develop a better understanding of cultural differences in

NZ. Ahead of us lay seven full-on days of business trips, touring Singapore and seeing its culture.

On the last two days, we undertook a 48 hour shark tank/dragon's den presentation, working in conjunction with a Singapore student business group. We formed mixed groups and went straight into building a business idea and prototype, as well as creating and practising our presentation. Yes, I will admit it was a stressful time, but we all worked extremely hard in the limited time assigned and achieved as much as we could. My group created a prototype app called FOODPAL, designed to help track the food you have in your pantry and what you have spent on items, as well as keeping records of all your recipes. We had to demonstrate its functionality and use to the judges in the NZ Chamber of Singapore. My group won the challenge: 'Winners of the 2018 Southeast Asia Centre of Asia-Pacific Excellence.'

We visited many people including the High Commissioner of NZ and his team, and NZ entrepreneurs who run successful businesses, which gave us insight to their professions. We also went to visit and speak in places such as the Singapore Stock Exchange and High Commission, which was very interesting. Singapore was a truly enriching experience. Beyond the business knowledge I have taken away from the trip, the differences in New Zealand and Singapore's lifestyle allowed me to gain a new perspective on culture.



Sharing Hero Stories

In their English classes, the Year 8 students have been studying the conventions of children's literature, with the aim of writing their own hero story and supporting it with a visual component. As inspiration, the students looked the nature of Greek myths. After considering the storyline or 'journey' of each central character - 'the heroes' - they used their learning to plan their own writing, applying their new-found understanding about the narrative features of story-telling, parts of speech and increased vocabulary to create interesting and engaging stories.

To test their final piece on a discerning audience, the Year 8 girls visited East Tamaki Primary to share their stories and show the visuals they had made. They received a wonderful welcome from the school and their students really enjoyed the interaction. Later in the week, the boys headed to the Boys' School to coincide with the end of their Book Week. To their surprise, their young buddies were all dressed in character, having just taken part in a parade. At both schools, the youngsters loved the engagement with the older students and there were certainly plenty of questions fired their way! Both groups enjoyed having a genuine audience for their writing, hearing their own stories come to life and the pleasure of receiving of feedback - a highly valuable experience for our students!



Inspiring Creative Writing

Experiences that weave together real world texts with learning opportunities, offer students the most enriching and engaging connection with their studies. With this in mind, our Year 9 English students visited Auckland Art Gallery to take part in Vision and Verse; a programme that works to encourage students to create their own written work using original works of art as a starting point.

The outing was part of the Middle College English programme, which works to challenge students to use their creative and critical thinking to make sense of the world around them in a range of forms, from the written and oral texts they typically meet in the classroom, as well as, in this instance, visual texts such as those found in the gallery environment.

The students spent time in the galleries exploring visual language through the guided exploration of artworks. Starting with the paintings in the Mezzanine Gallery, moving on to interactive art in the Obliteration Room and then viewing the modern sculptures downstairs, the students used the artworks as inspiration. They were encouraged to experiment and craft written work independently, with guided tasks to support their efforts.

EOTC (Education outside the classroom) opportunities such as this help bring student learning into context, adding another rich layer to their classroom studies.



A Balance of Aesthetics and Function

In times past, woodwork, metalwork and acrylicwork featured on the curriculum in the Jack Paine Centre (JPC) but in recent years, there has been a shift in thinking as the JPC reviewed its practice in response to our changing world. It is no longer enough to just know; tomorrow's work force needs to be able to apply their knowledge.

The earlier curriculum was largely focussed on developing the practical skills required for each medium. In more recent years, good design and the ability to problem solve has been given equal footing with learning and applying practical skills. Now embracing all mediums, the Product Design course is diverse, with each year level focussed on the design of innovative products through designerly observation, while developing the practical skills to bring their idea to fruition.

Early in Term 1, the year-long 'Stand by Me' project for our Year 10 Product Design students was launched. Parents were invited to attend with the intention that they would work alongside the students on a research task to prepare for the year ahead. Homage Furniture store kindly displayed a diverse range of classic mid-20th century chairs; designs

that have stood the test of time and are as popular today as they were over 50 years ago. Over the coming year, the students will design and produce a side table that is inspired by a classical chair of their choice. The end result is required to be practical, be matched aesthetically to the classic chair and constructed using the appropriate techniques and procedures.

Together, students and their parents were tasked with choosing two of the chairs on display to look at critically, examining the material used, the joinery and any special features incorporated. The information gathered will form the basis of their research as the project gains momentum.

If we are to move forward as a nation of creative and critical problem solvers, design has to be a valued part of our culture. That means investing in education that promotes problem-solving through 'designerly' thinking, risk taking and intelligent failure – exactly what Product Technology offers those who take it on.

Our sincere thanks to Kent Hemingway and Dale Clothier from Homage (Newmarket and Takapuna) for their kind assistance with this project.



'Living' Latin

With thanks to Teacher in charge of Latin, Mr Jared Banham

As a 'dead language,' some may question the relevance of Latin in today's world. Teacher in charge of Latin, Mr Jared Banham will argue differently and has some compelling reasons for its place in today's curriculum. The chance of a sabbatical last year gave him an amazing experience to be immersed in the language, bringing back new teaching ideas to Saint Kentigern.

Mr Banham reports: During 2017, I had the incredible opportunity to spend an intensive two months in Villa Falconieri, Frascati, about 20km SE of Rome, home of the internationally recognised organisation Accademia Vivarium Novum. The Accademia strives to encourage the study of Arts and Humanities by providing a fully immersive Latin experience for students.

The course itself was definitely one of the most challenging and rigorous academic experiences of my life. From the very first day, all interactions with both the teachers and students were conducted solely in Latin! The daily timetable kept us busy from dawn to dusk with classes, pedagogical learnings and evenings given over to Latin readings, performances and songs. In keeping with Italian culture, dinner was finally served at 9pm each night after long and enlightening days!

Every day we worked through Hans Ørberg's book 'Lingua Latina Per Se Illustrata: Familia Romana' and then 'Roma Aeterna'. These differ significantly from other popular Latin courses, by adopting an immersive, linguistic approach. Latin is generally taught as a language to be read and translated, but these contained a gradation of texts and, unusually, conversations which introduced new vocabulary and grammatical concepts. The objective was not to focus on translating Latin into English, but rather to understand Latin through Latin (hence per se). This was complemented by scaenae, or performances which act out the various scenes in order to help facilitate students' understanding and also allow the teacher to monitor each student's language acquisition. Latin moved from being words on a page to once again become a living, spoken, conversational language.

One of the most interesting aspects of the experience was getting to know some of the other students. As we had gathered from all corners of the globe, we had no common language other than Latin. In the early days, the conversations were simple but that changed as the days progressed to the point that I could explain in Latin how to play touch rugby, leading to a short game one afternoon! The other students had incredibly diverse backgrounds from teachers to priests, retirees, university students and even high school students - the youngest being just 11 years of age!

Every evening we had carmina, certamina et scaenae (songs, contests and performances) which were always a highlight. The scaenae were often related to the content we learned that day, but we also branched out and performed farces and comedies, complete with costumes and props. Every Sunday we had a field trip to various places of interest and relevance around Rome and with sites dating back well over 2000 years, it brought the source of the language back into focus.

On return to Saint Kentigern, I was keen to put my new-found 'living' language to practice. At a time when school curricula world-wide are giving a great deal of focus to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) subjects, it has become increasingly clear that 'A' for Arts has been a notable omission, hence the more recent move to STEAM. Latin and the Classics are perhaps more relevant than ever, not just as the language learned, but the access and insight that it gives to some of life's most challenging philosophical questions. It allows students to access and discuss some of the greatest thinkers, writers and leaders who have ever walked the earth; whose works and deeds are still studied today



because of the relevance and impact that they have had on our world.

The study of Latin also has significant cross-curricular benefits, as it has been proven to exercise the analytical and sequencing faculties in the brain - giving benefit to the STEM based subjects, as well as supplying students with an incredibly broad vocabulary in English from Latin derivatives, and a sound grammatical understanding. Our modern Latin classrooms are now filled with costumes, props, music and communicative Latin, while still upholding the traditional values and benefits that its study offers.

At Saint Kentigern, Latin is a language option that begins at Year 9 through to Year 13 with both NCEA and IB options. Additionally, there is an extension class in Year 8 called Ancient Languages and Cultures which gives students a broad understanding of the ancient world and is a great introduction to what Latin and the classics has to offer in the 21st century.

Past Saint Kentigern graduates who have taken Latin to Year 13 have gone on to courses as varied as Bio-medicine, Law, Psychology, Engineering and Ancient History. Listen at the door of our classroom today and you will be left in no doubt that Latin is definitely not a 'dead' language!



Journey to China

With thanks to Year 12 student reporter, Ben Fraser

Visiting one of the Seven Wonders of the World, exploring the historic Forbidden City or enjoying the second largest Disneyland in the world were all 'just another day' on our fantastic trip to China. Mr Stead and Miss Yan accompanied 15 excited students on the almost 12-hour flight to China at the start of the Term 1 holidays to begin 14 days of cultural immersion in the language we'd been learning at school.

We began the trip in Beijing where we quickly discovered that street vendors are to be avoided and that the Chinese food tasted delicious! We visited the Summer Palace, home of Emperors throughout Chinese history and were in awe of its beauty and size. Covering 44 hectares, Tiananmen Square was massive, and we were only able to explore a small part before heading to the Forbidden City. There we were again reminded of the incredible scale we saw throughout China - there wasn't quite enough time to look in all the 9,999 and a half rooms in the Forbidden City! We also stopped off at the Temple of Heaven, set in a park four times the size of Central Park. It provided the perfect opportunity to get into some traditional Chinese costumes and take a photo with our newly crowned emperors/teachers!

The next day, we explored the Great Wall of China. We were left in awe of its scale, despite only exploring a few kilometres of the full 21,196 km! We rounded off our time in Beijing with a visit to Keystone Academy which gave us a fascinating insight into education in China and gave us valuable but intense practice of our Chinese skills. Our thanks to all those at Keystone who generously gave up their time to host us.

After a challenging 14 hours travelling by overnight train, we arrived in our second city, Xi'an. The city was a hive of activity, with the bustling Muslim quarter offering us an opportunity to try adventurous traditional food and experience interesting, local activities like fish foot spas! Our Chinese language skills were challenged in buying food and gifts as all the vendors spoke very fast. But the absolute highlight of our time in Xi'an was the Terracotta Warriors. Considered by many as

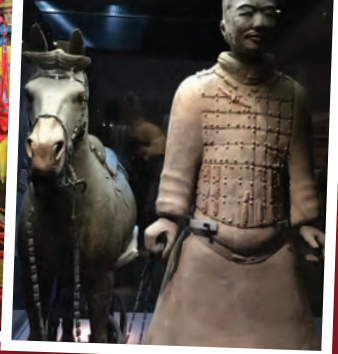
the Eighth Wonder of the World, we were again amazed by the scale of the discovery and the dramatic historical stories of how they came to be.

The final leg of trip took us to Shanghai where we quickly discovered the opportunities and challenges of living in a city of 24 million people! There were so many places to shop from the vast Nanjing Road to the Wujiaochang Roundabout which had five different malls around it. But some of us preferred the vast Fake Markets or Old Shanghai where you had to barter to get the best price possible. I found that appearing like you didn't want to purchase something was the best strategy, one vendor pursued me across multiple streets to try and sell me a watch!

While in Shanghai, we also travelled to The Warehouse Group, one of the offices that supplies goods for The Warehouse in New Zealand. They gave us a fascinating presentation on their processes for finding goods to sell in New Zealand and the significant challenges they face. Thanks to everybody who made the visit possible, it was extremely valuable! Another highlight was exploring Zhujiajiao, a river town just out of Shanghai; its historical buildings provided a fascinating insight into how people lived in China throughout history.

The most fun part of the trip, though, was our day in the Shanghai Disneyland, where we explored all the fantastic rides and activities. The park is the second largest Disneyland in the world with just the castle larger than the entire original Disneyland!

For all the students, exploring China was a once in a lifetime opportunity. We gained a greater understanding of Chinese culture and society as well as exploring some incredible places along the way. We were challenged by the language and cultural barriers but ultimately found the experience to be enriching and valuable. The trip motivated us to continue studying Chinese and highlighted the benefits of being bi-lingual. Thanks a lot, to Mr Stead and Miss Yan for supporting us in this incredible opportunity. As we said many times in China: Xiexie! (Thank you!)





Performing Arts Tour USA

With thanks to Year 13 student reporter, Georgia Cook

San Francisco

After delays and a couple of long and restless flights, 42 students and 6 teachers touched down in San Francisco. Once customs were cleared, we headed to Fisherman's Wharf with its unique array of shops and the sea lions noisily chilling on the wharf. Before checking into our hotel, we ate at the famous Hard Rock Café. A great first day!

The next day we all toured the fascinating San Francisco War Memorial and Performing Arts Centre before the dancers headed to ODC, to participate in a contemporary class, tour the amazing facilities, watch the company rehearse and participate in a class to live music; a new experience and a highlight for us all. Meanwhile, the drama and music students went to the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, connecting with Sam Rich, a former College student, to see how the facility provides programmes to enhance talent. We visited Alcatraz, hearing about the complex and crazy great escapes as told by former prisoners and officers and back on land, we visited the Golden Gate Bridge, caught a tram and shopped!

New York

Barely able to contain our excitement, landing in New York was unreal! The yellow cabs and constant hustle and bustle was an exciting sight. We headed to Times Square at the heart of 'The City that Never Sleeps.' We saw Manhattan, the Statue of Liberty, Central Park and the Lincoln Centre and finished with most of us attending a fantastic performance of 'Kinky Boots' whilst two dance students attended YAGP Ballet to observe top ballet dancers competing.

The next day we met a member of the cast of 'Kinky Boots' for a Q and A session; a fascinating chance to learn about her journey to Broadway. That afternoon, the dancers headed to Broadway Dance Centre to participate in street jazz, hip hop, heels, contemporary classes and more. The Drama students toured the NYU Tisch Drama Department while Mr Gilmour took Amy Savory to the NY Guitar School for a lesson with Alana De Lage. That night we saw the city lights from the Empire State Building.

Day 3 included an 'Aladdin' Broadway Workshop with a vocal warmup and a chance to learn the opening number from a chorus

member. That afternoon we took the subway to the Apollo Theatre to meet Billy Mitchell a.k.a Mr Apollo; his story was a highlight. We then toured the streets of Harlem with a guide who explained the Performing Arts history of the area. That evening we attended another Broadway show, 'Chicago.'

On our last day in New York, we headed to Radio Music Hall, meeting one of the Rockettes who compared her training regime to an Olympic sport. Time for more shopping before watching 'Aladdin.' The set was unbelievable and the singing and dancing was beautiful – how did that magic carpet fly?! Ending the night, we went to the 9/11 Memorial to absorb the enormity of this tragedy.

Los Angeles

Following a smooth transition to LA, we were excited to join a live audience for 'American Idol' shortly after landing. Broadcasted to 10 million people worldwide, it was a treat to be in the same room as Katy Perry, Lionel Richie and Luke Bryan as well as getting an insight into how live TV works. On Day 2, we headed to Warner Brothers Studios, touring the various sets including that of 'Friends.' Next the dance students headed to Millennium Dance Complex where they were challenged to dance from the heart whilst the drama students went to the Stella Adler Academy of Acting for a character workshop and the music students toured the MI College of Contemporary Music. Dinner that night was the famous Bubba Gump's on Santa Monica Pier.

After an amazing day at Disneyland., we went on to visit Walt Disney's Concert Hall with its incredible architecture and acoustics. Finally, we explored Venice Beach where we spent our last dollars, literally!

Overall our tour was an experience we will never forget. We would like to say a huge thank you to all who made this trip possible. We will be forever grateful!





Physics Trip to the USA

With thanks to Year 12 student reporter, Tarryn Gill

On the 27th of April, 35 physics students and 5 teachers set off on the 2018 Physics Trip of a lifetime. We arrived in San Francisco and embarked on our first tourist attraction, walking across the Golden Gate Bridge. This really was 'Supersized America' with their bridges, motorways and the Berkley University building housing electron microscopes the size of a whole room. We caught the famous San Francisco Cable Car, went to the top of Twin Peaks and had dinner at the Hard Rock Cafe on Pier 39. All these iconic locations made for an amazing first day!

After a tour of Alcatraz, our physics experience started in earnest as we visited the California Academy of Sciences. What an amazing place with a massive aquarium, planetarium and an indoor rain forest. We saw the science behind animal colouring leading to a greater understanding of how light waves work. Next was a tour of the Johnson and Johnson Innovation Laboratory (J-Labs), learning how they assist other companies to produce breakthrough healthcare technologies. A visit to the Molecular Foundry at the Lawrence Berkley National Laboratory gave us insight into the use of electron microscopes in nano-technology.

We journeyed south to Santa Clarita and on the way we visited Blade Therapeutics where they are researching life changing

treatments for fibrotic diseases. It was awe-inspiring to hear scientists explaining their passion to make the world a better place. The day ended with a tour around the gigantic campus of Stanford University, led by Old Collegian, Harry Mellsop. Harry had much to share, opening our eyes to the possibility of studying abroad in the future.

Our second day in Santa Clarita was a fun visit to Six Flags Theme Park. What a hands-on way to learn about gravity, inertia, centripetal acceleration and G-Force! A little different from our physics experience at Rainbow's End!

In Los Angeles, the 'City of Stars,' we did the walk of fame, visited the Griffith Observatory and took a tour of the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory. The NASA tour was one of the highlights as we were able to see them constructing the new Mars 2020 Rover. This gave us an appreciation of how much more of the universe there it to be discovered. Next was the California Science Centre where we visited the Endeavour Space Shuttle. Very few of us realised that there were 125 Space Shuttle Missions! We then tried our hand in IFLY's wind tunnels with winds going as fast as 100-120mph. The day ended with a Dodgers baseball game where we cheered on the team and ate classic stadium food.

San Diego opened our eyes to the world of aviation. We explored the Air and Space

Museum and the USS Midway Aircraft carrier which was decommissioned in 1992. It was amazing to see how much work it took to be able to land a plane onto the deck of the ship.

Our final destination was the big, bright city of Las Vegas. Not the traditional shows and gambling but the mysterious world of Area 51. We visited the National Atomic Testing Museum and had a lecture from Dr Marylesa Howard, Senior Scientist and Mathematician from the Nevada National Security site. This was a sobering reminder about nuclear warfare. On our last day on the tour, we visited the solar fields of the vast Nevada Desert and the massive Hoover Dam where electricity is generated, solidifying our experience of 'Supersized America.'

During our two-week trip we managed to travel 2,150 miles, averaging 44 mph (traffic slowed us down) and we spent a whopping 48hrs on the bus and ate 20 pounds of candy. The experience will last us a lifetime.

I would like to thank every one of the teachers, tour guides, guest speakers and our parents for giving us this opportunity. The knowledge we gained about the world outside New Zealand will allow us to apply the skills we learn in the classroom to the world around us. This trip has broadened our horizons allowing us to see career paths we might never have thought of before. The world is much bigger than I ever imagined and there is so much we can accomplish.



Phantom of the Opera

Over the last decade, the Saint Kentigern stage has seen some of the 'block busters' of musical theatre superbly delivered by our talented student cast, crew and musicians. Whether the epic masterpiece, 'Les Miserables,' the rollicking fun of 'Spamalot' or the fairy-tale fantasy of 'Beauty and the Beast,' our students have risen to the challenge, and our audiences have left Elliot Hall in awe of the ability of our students and the overall staging of each show.

There was one piece missing in the 'masterpiece' puzzle; one of the most successful theatrical productions of all time and the longest running musical on Broadway and the West End - Andrew Lloyd Webber's smash-hit musical, 'The Phantom of the Opera.' With the recent release of the rights to allow staging by schools in New Zealand, Saint Kentigern led the charge!

As a show that is largely sung-through, with only occasional spoken lines, it requires a tremendously talented cast of singers. Knowing we had the necessary flair within our current student cohort to do the show justice, the College is proud to be the first school in New Zealand to bring this amazing production to the stage. West End, Broadway, Elliot Hall...the College is in fine company!

Based on the 1910 novel 'Le Fantôme de l'Opéra' by Gaston Leroux, Lloyd Webber's musical tells the story of a disfigured musical genius living in the dark shadows of the Paris Opera House. In the title role of the Phantom, Year 13 student, Harrison Griffiths brought everything we have come to expect and more to the show. Those who attended the earlier Masquerade Evening and saw Harrison sing alongside Tim Beveridge, the professional singer who played the original New Zealand Phantom, were left in no doubt that this was a young man with an exceptional voice who gave every ounce of his being to the role.

Shamed by his physical appearance and feared by all, the Phantom lives a shadowy existence. After hearing the hypnotic voice of a young soprano, Christine Daae, the Phantom becomes besotted, taking her under his wing to groom for operatic fame - but turns mad with jealousy when he discovers she is in love with another man, Viscount Raoul de Chagny. Year 12 student, Millie Elliot, is a stalwart of the Saint Kentigern music scene and proved once again that her vocal range can handle the most demanding of roles; switching convincingly between the young girl in love with Raoul and the upcoming soprano in fear of her musical mentor. Year 13 student, Jacob Borland-Lye took on the role of Raoul, another young man with a powerful voice and incredibly strong stage presence.

Played as a 'show within a show', the audience is pulled into the story by many characters as the parody of French grand opera unfolds in the first act. Venice Qin (Year 12) played the role of preening Italian Diva, Carlotta Giudicelli to a tee, with a strong voice and beautifully affected, over the top mannerisms. Sam Ashton (Year 13), playing opposite Carlotta as Ubaldo Piangi, was long-suffering as the 'underdog' to Carlotta's demands, a role he played with wit.

Natalya Trombitas (Year 13), brought poise to the stern ballet mistress, Madame Giry, stalking the stage commandingly. In contrast,





comedic relief was delivered superbly by Matthew Farnell (Year 13) and Matthew Turner (Year 12) as Richard Firmin and Monsieur Gilles Andre – two men who have no experience with the arts but have purchased the opera house and try to assert their influence on the upcoming operatic and ballet production – which goes badly awry as the Phantom becomes increasingly angered.

The show music is so well-known that there is no room for 'hitting the wrong note!' As soon as the orchestra struck up the ominous, thundering organ chords, it became clear that this was a well-rehearsed and capable group of musicians who were able to take on a difficult score.

Stage crews are usually only seen fleetingly as they change props, but in this production, they moved as one, often remaining on stage as the large set pieces turned and changed. Despite the limitations of the available stage space between props, the choreography was also superbly executed by those with focussed dancing roles.

The vocal range, strength, power and beauty of this performance was breathtaking – just reward for months of detailed work. It was an enthralling spectacle and the staff and production team, along with their student cast and crew, are to be applauded for having the courage, talent, dedication and commitment to be the first to bring this to a school stage in New Zealand. Well done, the audience loved it!



Challenging Makeup!

Costuming a production such as this takes months as each performer is sized and fitted, with some requiring numerous costume changes. Alongside the team caring for the wardrobe, is another undertaking hair and makeup. Harrison, in his role as the Phantom, spent the longest of all in makeup as the silicone mask of a tortured soul was carefully applied to the side of his face for each performance – only seen when Christine tears away his mask. For the girls charged with applying the silicone mask, this was a rare makeup opportunity, last offered when the College staged *Beauty and the Beast*.



Phantoms Join Force

In the build up to the show, Tim Beveridge, New Zealand's original Phantom, was invited to perform at the fundraising Masquerade Evening. For the final song of the evening, Tim and our own Phantom, Harrison Griffiths, joined forces to sing 'Music of the Night.' The joint performance was a powerful piece and made it clear that Harrison has the depth to sing with the best! The standing ovation was well-deserved!





The Little Mermaid

Middle College Production



Based on one of Hans Christian Anderson's most beloved stories, it's hard to believe in 2018 that the story of The Little Mermaid who was willing to give up her life in the sea, so she could win the heart of a human prince, was actually written in 1837!

152 years later, in 1989, Disney released the enduring, animated film, with an irresistible sound track and stunning underwater visuals, to give the story new life. Now, almost 30 years on since the film was released and 181 years after the story was first published, Saint Kentigern Middle College has added its own unforgettable layer of magic to the timeless classic!

Year 10 student, Chloe Haerewa was cast in the coveted role of the determined little mermaid, Ariel. In her time at the College, Chloe has proved herself over and over to have a strong stage presence and a superb vocal range. She channelled just the right mix of charm, head-strong stubbornness and vulnerability into the part, making her a superb selection for the title role.

The story is familiar. On her 15th birthday, like her five sisters before her, Ariel swims to the surface for a glimpse of the world above. As she yearns for a life on land, sea-faring Prince Eric hears her sing from afar and is captivated by her voice. Sam Everitt (Year 10) is also well-known to Saint Kentigern audiences having played Peter Pan in last year's Middle College production. A year on and Sam's voice has further matured, making him an equally strong selection for this key part.

Transporting the musical to the stage created many opportunities for supporting characters to shine, like Ariel's loyal companion, Flounder, the rambunctious fish (Arwyn Stevens, Year 9) and Sebastian, the music-conducting Jamaican crab, brought to life with great humour by Josh Rose (Year 9), as he reluctantly assists his head-strong, young charge in her pursuit of Prince Eric! Alongside Sebastian, Jack Webber (Year 10) provided comic relief as Scuttle, the know-it-all seagull with a just bit of attitude!

As ruler beneath the sea, King Triton (Daniel Short, Year 10), tried in vain to keep his wayward daughter away from the humans he so fears. Whilst Daniel played the caring father well, he also mastered the role of the explosive solo-father venting his frustration!

From deep below, the sea witch, Ursula, emerged, flanked by her eely henchmen, Flotsam (Emma Canton, Year 9) and Jetsam (Lucy Lyons, Year 10). Year 9 student, Melody Liu-Webster does a superb job as the larger-than-life, malevolent, calculating and betentacled villainess who rues the day she lost control of the kingdom to her brother, Triton. Waiting to take revenge, she seizes on Ariel's desire to be human, creating a pact with the young mermaid to trade her beautiful voice for legs, for three days only, during which time she must win the prince or pay the consequence - relinquishing her soul forever to her wicked Aunt Ursula. To complicate matters, Prince Eric is seeking a bride and whilst his heart was captured by Ariel's singing, he hasn't seen her. How can Ariel persuade Eric to kiss her and break the spell?



Our thanks:

Our thanks to staff who, along with the students, spent countless hours to bring this production to the stage. Produced by Head of Performing Arts, Ms Jane Horder and Mrs Kim Smith, the roles of Director, Musical Director and Choreographer were taken on by three Old Collegians, Mr Ashton Brown, Mr Oliver Gilmour and Ms Morgan Heron, who were all actively involved in the Performing Arts whilst at College. Along with Technical Designer, Mr Glen Mortensen, a host of other staff took on roles in costuming, hair and makeup, backstage and front of house. We thank them sincerely for bringing out the very best in our students.

Not easily!

As a song contest unfolded at Prince Eric's 21st birthday party, in his bid to find the 'girl' behind the voice, Chef Louis (Lucy Horsnell, Year 10), the diabolical palace cook, was busy in the kitchen trying to serve up Sebastian as the main course! Meanwhile Grimsby (Jonathan McCabe, Year 9), Eric's slightly stuffy, faithful servant is charmed by Ariel and the course to marriage is set.

Almost!

Ursula doesn't keep to her word and captures Ariel, but distracted, Ariel smashes Ursula's magic shell and in a moment the wicked witch vaporises. King Triton is free and now recognises where his daughter truly needs to be - on land with her one true love, Prince Eric. As the entire cast gathers on stage, they join in one rapturous final song, leaving the audience with the sense of a really 'feel good' show!

The costumes and makeup were beautiful! In particular, the costume worn by Sea Witch Ursula, with its undulating tentacles hiding the dancers beneath was masterful! The choreography was superb, backing up many of the scenes with delightful action, and the young orchestra was faultless. The large cast, musicians and crew clearly had an absolute ball bringing the show together! The audience had an absolute ball watching it!

Well done Middle College!





Shake the Quad

*'Never was there a tale of more woe,
Than that of Juliet and her Romeo.
Never was there a tale of more strife,
Than that of Macbeth and his stabby knife.
Never was there a tale more sad,
Than that of Hamlet and his spooky Dad.'*

MC, Sam Ashton's opening lines at this year's Shake the Quad left the audience in no doubt that this was Shakespeare, just maybe not as we have come to know it! Playing the role of the 'Fool,' Sam kept the evening rolling along at a cracking pace, keeping the wisecracks and knock, knock jokes coming between scenes!

For fans of The Bard, 'Shake the Quad' was a wonderful way to spend a summer evening. Under a perfect twilight sky, family and friends gathered outdoors in the Goodfellow Quad, ready to watch a series of scenes from Shakespeare's plays.

Fifty two young thespians from Years 7-13 had been rehearsing since the start of the year in preparation to perform on the outdoor stage, with students involved as cast members and directors, to those working behind the scenes to ensure costumes and props were at hand. The event was part of the build up to competing in the SGCNZ University of Otago Sheilah Winn Shakespeare Festival.

The students largely had free rein – the scene could be set in any time, place or costume, there was just one essential, the lines spoken had to be true to Shakespeare's words! The

one exception was MC Sam – where did he get all those 'Shakespearean' puns?!

The Merchant of Venice, Romeo and Juliet, Much Ado About Nothing, Richard III, Macbeth, Midsummers Night's Dream, Henry VIII - whether it was the youngest of our students making their first foray into Shakespeare's works or our more seasoned actors taking command of the stage, each performance was a joy to watch as the carefully rehearsed words were delivered. An earlier weekend workshop with one of New Zealand's top Shakespearean actors, Stephen Butterworth had paid dividends and each scene had an air of confidence.

The evening concluded with our Year 13 extension drama students swapping genders to explore what it means to be male and female, opening with pressures of the modern day, before switching to a scene from Henry VII, as the king pursued his obsession for a male heir, making his way through six wives and changing the course of history in England forever. These students were all very strong character actors and brought a depth of passion to their roles, honed through the years they have given to the stage during their time at the College. This was a powerful piece of work; one they can be proud of.



Best Overall Actor

Following on from Saint Kentigern's 'Shake the Quad,' our 52 young thespians from Years 7-13 went on to take part in the Auckland Region of Shakespeare's Globe Centre NZ, University of Otago Sheilah Winn Shakespeare Festival held at Botany Downs College.

The College entered several pieces from the Bard's plays, performed to a panel of judges. Each piece could be either 5 or 15 minutes long.

For the second year in a row, a Saint Kentigern student was awarded 'Best Overall Actor.' Rafe MacDonald (Year 13) won the NSSP (National Shakespeare Schools Programme) Direct Entry Award. This is awarded to one student from every region of the country for the most outstanding performance on the day.

Rafe gave a passionate performance as part of the Year 13 production of Henry VIII. As part of the extension drama programme, these students elected to swap genders with Rafe playing the part of one of Henry's wives. Rafe's performance was particularly impassioned leaving a powerful impression of a strong character actor.

Rafe will go to Dunedin in the October school holidays with 47 other students across the country for a week of intensive workshops. From this group, 23 of the students will be selected to perform at the Shakespeare Globe Theatre in London during 2019. Well done!

