

A Voice in this World

It is well-recognised that currently in our society, there is more time being spent using technology – and this is usually alone.

Our social patterns and the way we converse are changing rapidly and this, in turn, is changing the way we interact.

As families, we once watched a television programme together, at the same time, in the same room. Now it is more likely that each individual watches their own online choice at a time and place to suit them. It is not unusual to see couples or families dining out, sitting at the same table, without talking or connecting with each other – yet each one, young or old, is fully engaged with the screen of their phone. No conversation, no eye contact, no laughing or fun together. How often do we pass a bus stop and see those waiting with heads down on devices with no casual conversation evident, even amongst friends?

It has never been more important to actively teach students the art of conversation or for schools to promote oral language to facilitate 'human' connectedness and collaboration. It is essential that we give students the ability to step back and look up from their device and concentrate on making real world connections in order to communicate freely and comfortably.

How do we compensate at school for the change in our social interactions? In prioritising our curriculum at the Girls' School, we create structured opportunities for girls to converse with each other and work in collaboration. We prioritise the value of structured and purposeful conversations as part of all lessons across all curriculum areas.

There are various ways that we can do this in classes such as:

Setting up a group project with assigned roles for one outcome. Our Year 4 students demonstrated their research skills through an inquiry into 'Local Heroes.' Each group gathered information, visited the local hero and interviewed this person, with all the work culminating in a presentation. This illustrates an inquiry unit structured to promote oral language and to be successful, it was essential for the girls to collaborate together and connect with the community.

Partner Work: Whilst working individually on their own project, the girls also have the tools to collaborate and converse online to give each other feedback and facilitate each other's work. This correlates strongly to the collaborative interaction now seen in many work environments. Many 'challenges' are now so complex that a multidisciplinary team can facilitate an outcome which far exceeds what an individual could achieve working alone.

The Art of Conversation: As we spend more time on technology and teaching e-learning, we need to balance this with teaching interpersonal skills such as active listening, making eye contact, taking a turn, attentive body language and responding appropriately to the speaker. By teaching the art of conversation, we contribute to the development of strong oral language skills.

'Informal' Opportunities: At school, opportunities are many, such as older girls buddying up with the younger ones to walk to Chapel together, providing a chance to simply chat. They share personal experiences, ask each other questions and listen to each other. There is also a great deal of laughing along the way! House lunches provide another chance for chatter; another opportunity to build and nurture relationships from Year 0 to Year 8 that endure over time. Other conversational opportunities include Year 8 girls, who visit a retirement village as part of their service activities – their interaction with the elderly has further developed their social and communication skills.

Speech and Drama: At the Girls' School, Speech and Drama is taught from the age of five. As a result, the girls are extremely articulate and able to converse and make presentations in many situations. Highlights of the programme include: drama, mimes, plays, Theatre sports, oral language assessments and the presentation of poetry and speeches. Opportunities for all girls to develop their speaking skills include presenting the school assembly, sharing Bible readings at Chapel or assembly, meeting and greeting visitors, and saying grace or a karakia.

As the renowned English writer Ben Jonson said, 'Talking and eloquence are not the same: to speak and to speak well, are two things.' It is important to me for our girls to have a voice in this world; this means having an impact by voicing their thoughts, knowledge and opinions in a compelling way. Strong girls with strong minds, leading the way with confidence, dignity and confidence.

Fides Servanda Est

Miss Juliet Small,
Principal



Fiji: 'A Life Changing and Humbling Experience'

At the end of Term 3, five of our girls joined with a large group of Year 8 students from the Boys' School, parents and staff to visit Fiji to continue the support we offer to Nawaka Village. Months in the planning, there were specific projects to be completed for the Nawaka community, the Nawaka Primary School, and Nawaka and Vatutu Preschools.

Alongside this, Zoe Nel, Zara Nelson, Hazel Rei, Alexia Oscan and Miabella Robertshaw collected 2000 bras from around Auckland as a part of the Uplift Project; a charity that distributes bras, swimwear and new underwear to girls and women throughout the Pacific Island regions. They also organised and took over more than 250 hygiene packs containing soap, underwear, toothbrushes, toothpaste, lip balm, hair ties, shampoo and conditioner and body cream.

The effort put in by our students and the Saint Kentigern community was incredible to ensure that the girls could make a significant contribution during their time there.



Year 8 student, Zoe Nel reported on the trip:

At the beginning of our trip, one of the members from the Nawaka School management spoke about the difference that Saint Kentigern had made over the last 4 years; it was incredibly humbling to hear. With tears in her eyes, the lady spoke about the effect that we have on a whole generation of Fijian children whose aspirations are being broadened, who are benefiting from the resources provided, including the clothes and shoes that we bring, and who are enjoying the playgrounds. She spoke of what it means to have us there, our friendship, love, and willingness to work hard and make their community and in particular, the Nawaka schools and preschools better.

The Uplift Project and seeing the bras being handed out brought me much joy! Seeing the happiness and smiles on all the girls' and ladies' faces was special because you could see the difference we were making!

The most challenging moment for me on the trip was drilling holes into the table legs at Vatutu with an electric drill! This was something most of us hadn't done before and we learnt how to improve on our drilling as we went along. I learnt many physical skills on the trip, like how to make cement

by hand and how to build and work an incinerator, but most of all I learnt that giving is better than receiving as the joy of an entire school outweighs the joy of oneself.

From now on, I will not take things I have for granted! I realise now how fortunate we are and even things like having shoes is something many kids in Fiji don't have. Every time I 'want' something I will think back to the trip and ask myself if I really need it, because in the end, money doesn't buy happiness. I will also lend a hand and try to help others more often because actions are louder than words. It is so easy to say that you will do this or that, but you actually need to put the effort in and to split your time, so you can help others.

The trip was a life changing and humbling experience! It brought so much realisation to us about the comparison of the Fijian schools to ours. We are all shocked by how little they had but also grateful that we could fly to Fiji and help them. There was so much joy and happiness shared when we finished our projects. The schools and villages really appreciate what Saint Kentigern does every year to help build their community.





Peace on Earth

The Carol Service is a highlight of the Girls' School calendar; a time when family and friends come together and reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. It's an evening that many look forward to. This year, the girls' service focused on the theme, 'Peace on Earth.'

In her opening address, Principal, Ms Juliet Small thanked everyone for attending the special evening and made a special mention of the Preschool who were excited to also be taking part in the service.

Reverend Reuben Hardie gave the call for worship before Year 7 student, Jamie Chandler gave the first reading, setting the tone with, 'Christmas is not a time or a season, but a state of mind. To cherish peace and goodwill is to have the real Spirit of Christmas. If we consider these things... over us will shine a star sending its gleam of hope to the world.' This led to the congregation joining the Girls' School Performers' Choir to sing, 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing.'

The preschoolers made their way to the front to perform, 'The World is One on Christmas Morning' and the girls progressed through their readings and songs, including the 'Peace to the World' performance by the whole school.

While the choir sang, 'Carol of the Children' and 'O Little Town of Bethlehem,' junior students made their way down the aisle in pairs to create a nativity scene at the front of the church. As the 'Three Wise Men' presented their gifts to the 'New Born King', the whole school sang, 'Let There Be Peace' and 'Away in a Manger.'

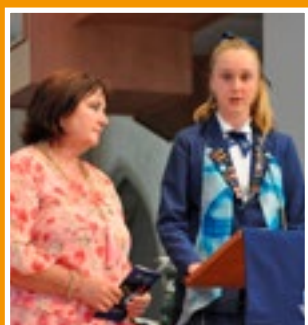
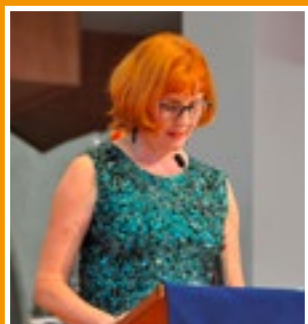
The girls had prepared gifts for the Dingwall Trust that were presented as the choir performed, 'Peace Song,' before. Head Girl, Katherine Thibaud and her mother, Mrs Maddie Thibaud gave their blessings and the whole school sang, 'Midnight.'

Reverend Hardie addressed the congregation saying that when the stress of Christmas starts to build, we must remember to 'keep the peace and keep it simple'. He reminded us that God chose a simple stable and a very simple town for Jesus to be born. 'If we want to keep the peace this Christmas, we must keep it simple, just like he did.'

Reverend Hardie explained how his family go camping at Christmas to 'keep it simple'. He brought a tent, some sleeping bags, camping chairs and a barbeque with sausages, bread and tomato sauce to the front to demonstrate just how simple Christmas can be!

Deputy Head Girl, Miabella Robertshaw offered a prayer and thanked the teachers and her friends and family for her years at the Girls' School. As the choir sang the 'Saint Kentigern Blessing', the Year 8 students came forward to receive their leavers' candles from Ms Small and Mrs Wahlstrom.

This was a touching moment for the girls and their families as their time at the School has come to an end. To finish the evening, the congregation sang, 'O Come All Ye Faithful' as the girls processed out of the Cathedral ahead of our guests.





Farewell Year 8

'Value your soul over popularity and appearance, value your morals and your treatment of others before you value you an image, value your mind and knowledge not followers, nor likes, and value the love you give to your family, your peers and yourself.'

These are the strong messages that guest speaker and Old Collegian, Samantha Louie left our Year 8 girls to think about at their Graduation Dinner. Students, parents, staff, Trust Board members and invited guests gathered at Sorrento in the Park to reflect back on the girls' time at the Girls' School, as they ready themselves for the next step in their education.

Girls' School Principal, Ms Juliet Small warmly welcomed the guests before Trust Board member, Andrew Morgan and Old Collegians' representative, Samantha Louie, gave their messages to the girls. Andrew congratulated the girls and reminded them be bold and to be the best they can be. 'Life is about making the most of every opportunity, so step up and challenge yourself.' Samantha also congratulated the girls and said, 'You will have endless opportunities in the coming years so seize them, aim for success and be humble.' College Head Girl, Laura Porteous spoke about the range of opportunities they will be exposed to at the College, saying, 'Give everything a go and you might find something new that you love.'

Following dinner, the girls mixed and mingled seeking signatures on their white and blue Graduation Bears before Assistant Principal, Helen Prescott introduced the guest speaker for the evening, Frances Valentine, the founder and chair of The Mind Lab by Unitec and Tech Futures Lab. Frances spoke about future innovation and the endless amount of opportunity the girls will have presented to them in the coming years. 'Say yes to every opportunity that aligns with your morals and it can open up an endless number of doors and opportunities. You are truly the translators from the analogue to digital world and we need to listen very closely to the things that matter most to you! Your future will be nothing like mine or what I ever imagined for my children, but with your talent, your curiosity and your determination you are going to make this planet an incredible place.'

With the night coming to an end, Ms Small concluded by wishing the girls luck on their new adventure and advised them to always remember to 'Be yourself', before handing out their leaving bracelet and rose, gifted from the Old Collegians Association.

The girls and guests had a wonderful evening and shared many hugs and tears on their departure.



Girls' School Prizegiving

As the school year came to an end, students, their families, guests, and teachers filled the JC Chalmers Hall at the Boys' School for the annual Girls' School Prizegiving. The morning was a time to reflect and congratulate the students on their academic, sporting and cultural success.

College Piper, Fayth Doherty, the first Girls' School student to take up the pipes, led staff and invited guests into the ceremony before, Principal, Ms Juliet Small officially welcomed everyone. Chairman of the Trust Board, Dr John Kernohan spoke about the role that the Trust Board plays and congratulated the girls on how far they have come this year while Head of Saint Kentigern, Mr David Hodge gave thanks to staff, students and parents for a great year.

In her address, Ms Small spoke about the year in review and the great achievements the girls have made this year, and the excitement that next year will bring with the introduction of further new world-class technology for the STEAM programme.

The Junior and Middle School Academic Awards were presented by Deputy Chair of the Trust Board, Mrs Rosemary Harris, followed by a drama performance by Charlotte Scoones and Zoe Wong; an example of the outstanding talent in the Girls' School. Cultural Awards were presented to students for their art, speech, drama and music talents by Mr Hodge. After these, Sports Awards were presented by Chief Operating Officer, Mrs Merle Boniface to students



who have achieved great things this year. In this, Alexandra Champion was awarded 'Sportswoman of the Year'.

Senior Academic Awards were presented by Senior College Principal, Mrs Suzanne Winthrop before several Special Awards were presented by Ms Small to students who have shown outstanding results, resilience, service and initiative throughout the year. To finish the awards ceremony, Amelia Paris was named Proxime Accessit and Katherine Thibaud was named Dux of the School.

Miabella and Katherine gave thanks and reminded the younger students to 'spread their wings' and to stay true to their values and look after each other. To finish the morning, the Performers' Choir sang the blessing.



DUX

Katherine Thibaud

Having entered the School as a Year 7 student in 2017, Kate has had an eagerness to learn and do well in all areas of learning. Over two years, Kate has demonstrated her passion for academic study and has maintained a mature outlook to her learning. She excels in English and has a talent for not only narrative writing but also speech making.

With her enquiring and methodical mind, she also won the 'Human Behaviour' category in the Science Fair. Kate was invited to attend the Royal Academy Science Fair in Auckland and was the only Year 8 Primary student to be asked to present her project. Kate has made the most of every opportunity she has been given whether that be academic, in the sporting arena, in leadership, or in service to others.



Proxime Accessit

Amelia Paris

Millie joined the Saint Kentigern community in Year 7 in 2017, and has shown determination and ambition to achieve, especially in the academic arena. With her quirky sense of humour and enquiring mind, Millie demonstrates a maturity in written language and won the Year 7 Poetry Competition last year. She enjoys sport and was involved in netball, and in 2017 was an integral member of the Soap Box Race Team that competed in the Regional Competition and went on to win Nationals. Over her time at the Girls' School, Millie has enjoyed participating in the choir and attended private speech lessons.



Senior Sportsman of the Year:

Alexandra Champion

Alex has had a successful year in swimming, achieving multiple places in regional and national competitions, and gaining top national rankings. Alex also competed at AIMS in Tauranga winning seven medals in the three day national competition. Alex also competed in cycling, triathlons and aquathons, and within a few short months, she became the U13 cycling and triathlon champion. She also competed in the Year 7/8 Cycling Time Trial Team at the North Island Championships placing 2nd and also placed 3rd in the Under 13 NZ champs for the Aquathon.

This outstanding competitor is the Girls' School champion in three codes: Swimming, Athletics and Cross Country. Alex has also represented the school in netball, touch rugby, cross country, athletics and swimming at South Eastern zone, and interzone level. She achieved Most Valuable Player Award for netball in the Year 7 A team and was selected for the Touch Rugby Counties Manukau U14 Elite team.





Deputy Head Girl Award
Miabella Robertshaw



The Gaudeamus Cup
Grace Gilbert



Lions' Citizenship Award
Brooke Murdoch



Lions' Citizenship Award
Charlotte Massey



Sandra K Hastie Cup
Zoe Wong



Lightfoot Cup
Danielle Levy



Roberts Trophy
Amy Skidmore



Preschool Cup
Rosa Willis



Junior School Cup
Xarya Knox



Year 7 Discovery Day

Our Year 7 girls put their leadership skills to the test towards the end of Term 4 as they prepared to take on more responsibility in the Senior School. The girls spent the day at Unitec's Adventure Works site, developing their leadership skills both individually and in groups.

The action-packed day of extreme heights and laughter pushed the girls out of their comfort zone and challenged them to work collaboratively to complete team challenges and problems on the wire course. In some activities, the girls were hoisted up high to find themselves balancing on high ropes and poles and had to navigate their way to get from one place to another using limited equipment. This was a challenge!

Each student faced their own fears and the girls worked well together, supporting each other in group activities. They were all able to effectively plan their strategies, try new ideas and above all, think on their feet. Acting Senior School Dean, Ms Rebecca Price said it was wonderful to see how well the students encouraged each other.

'All of the girls got up to at least one of the high levels on the wire course, with nearly all students managing to conquer the leap of faith; scaling and standing on the top of one pole, over 15 metres off the ground and then throwing all caution to the wind and leaping into the air to hit a suspended target.'

Throughout the day, the girls learnt how to be influential, to value the opinion of others and to work together. It was a great chance for the girls to discover more about themselves and how to be a leader!





Art on Show!

The Girls' School was one of 16 schools in Auckland to be selected to be part of the NZ Sculpture On Shore Exhibition during November. The event is one of New Zealand's largest and most vibrant outdoor sculpture exhibitions, held at the spectacular Fort Takapuna Historic Reserve on Auckland's North Shore.

Our talented Year 5 artists were selected to take part in the event, which raises money for Women's Refuge, with their 'It's a Bug's Life' exhibition. They worked carefully over the term creating 3D papier-mache bugs, beetles, spiders and butterflies for inclusion.

Having their work displayed at the exhibition was an exciting achievement for the girls, especially when they travelled to Takapuna to see their work next to 100 large scale pieces made by some of New Zealand's best artists! The sun was beaming as the girls set out to investigate the variety of artwork on display. Hundreds of sculptures were purposely placed on the reserve's bank with the open water and city skylines complementing the works.

The girls spent two hours wandering the paths looking at the different ways that artists installed their work to express their creativity. One of their favourite pieces was a beautifully sculptured fist enclosing a bird called, 'Fist that knew' by Joshua Olley. This incredible piece represented social and human behaviours and symbolised protection in times of challenge, and how it is important to nurture rather than resort to anger.

Another piece the girls liked was called, 'Water Lily' by Darren Wise. This was a kinetic artwork that turned into 'sparkling beauty'. The girls also found 'Shipley Bell' by Michael Kennedy particularly interesting as he placed 103 small scale wax bell tents on sand to represent the tents that were used by the Anzacs in WW1.

The girls' exhibition of bugs was on display in the Fort Tunnels - a unique, dark, underground environment which proved to be the perfect setting for their work.

Art Specialist, Diana Roband said 'Being involved with NZ Sculpture Onshore was a lot of work but was worth it. To see the look on the students' faces yesterday when they stepped into the tunnels was fantastic. They were all thrilled to see their sculptures together in the bush scene.'

The outing was both an educational and inspirational introduction to contemporary sculpture in New Zealand. A big congratulations to all the Year 5 students for their great achievement and fantastic work!





Wearable Arts Collaboration

In a fantastic and colourful display of creative costume-making, seahorses, great whites, whales and penguins were some of the sea creatures presented at a special assembly for parents and friends. In a collaboration between our Year 5 girls and the Preschool, an 'Under the Sea' Wearable Arts Show graced the stage to raise awareness of our polluted oceans and how it negatively affects the health and habitats of sea animals.

The costumes showcased had been created by Year 5 students, with the help from the preschoolers who made some of the props. All the materials used for the costumes were recycled and the Year 5s worked carefully to measure and personalise their designs to fit their young Preschool models.

Whilst both schools focused on the topic in class at their own level, they joined together for a trip to Kelly Tarlton's Sea Life Aquarium, which helped the students to visualise their ideas. The Year 5 students were briefed to research, locate, define, organise, summarise and innovate their ideas into a wearable art sea animal, displaying the type of pollution endangering their animal. This was a huge challenge!

On the day, there were 14 designs on display - a jelly fish, a penguin, a shark, an octopus, a clown fish, a turtle, a stingray, a seahorse, a dolphin, a swordfish, a whale, a giant squid, a seal and a pufferfish!

While their work was being modelled on the catwalk, the Year 5 girls explained their inquiry

question and design process, indicating the things that worked and those that hadn't worked so well. With their newfound knowledge, each speaker also gave sage advice to 'future designers!'

Emily Cornaga, who helped design the squid, shared her advice and said, 'Don't cut things without permission, big is better, have fun and keep calm.'

Phoebe Hirst, part of the octopus team, shared her challenges with the audience stating, 'Bits of material fell off when we tried to glue them onto the costume with a hot glue gun. We had to be open-minded and try different options.'

The students had some great inquiry questions behind their work and focused not only on plastics and rubbish but also on other pollutants such as oil spills and chemicals, and how they affect animals under water.

The girls enjoyed their experience and learned many new skills. They had to work cooperatively and collaboratively within their group, especially when costumes needed adjusting. They loved working with the preschoolers and some very special bonds were formed.

Thank you to all the parents who came along to help the girls with their costumes! We applaud your patience and versatility when you were being directed by our 'young designers!'





Exploring Tiritiri Matangi

As part of their study of New Zealand birds and their environment, our Year 5 and 6 girls spent the day on Tiritiri Matangi Island. Situated just offshore from Gulf Harbour on the Whangaparaoa Peninsula, the predator free island is home to many of our native birds, such as the flightless takahe and tuatara.

Despite the weather warnings and unseasonable plummeting temperatures, our eager girls climbed onto the bus and ferry, lugging their rain jackets and notepads ready for the adventure. As they arrived on the island, the sun came out and they were blessed by Tawhirimatea.

After their formal welcome, the girls were greeted by educator, Barbara Hughes and her willing and able group of volunteers. The volunteers embraced the enthusiasm of our girls, answered their questions and explained how the island sanctuary has developed.

The volunteers guided the students around the island in groups to observe the birds. By this time, many of our girls had developed a keen eye and were eagerly waiting with a pencil and notebook ready to tally the number of birds they saw. By lunch time, the girls had nearly ticked off their list of birds to watch for.

At the end of the day, the girls went down to Hobbs Beach to carry out a beach 'clean-up' where they were able to further explore and observe the birds in their natural habitats. The students were able to spot more tui, oystercatchers and dotterels. They were even lucky enough to visit the nesting boxes of the little blue penguins.

The girls had a fantastic time on the island and were able to identify New Zealand native birds they had been studying and recognise their specific calls.

Girls vs. Wild

Each year, students at the Boys' School and Girls' School who have already attained their silver Saint Kentigern Service Award and are working towards their gold are invited to attend a service camp at the end of the year where they are responsible for planning all aspects of their adventure, whilst also offering service to the community.

Year 8 student, Dany Levy reports on their recent trip:

The Girl vs Wild service camp was a massive highlight for the 23 Year 8's who attended. On our way up to Tawharanui Regional Park, where we set up camp for the night, we stopped at Warkworth Countdown for supplies. We were given a budget and charged with the task of buying the ingredients for breakfast, lunch and dinner for our group. The group who were able to get closest to the budgeted amount won the first group challenge.

For all our meals, we were given a cooker and fry pan, and using the food we bought at the supermarket, we attempted to make a



'restaurant quality' dinner. Each cooking group produced a 'tasting dish' which was judged by one of the teachers with a range of tasty fare on offer!

The main reason we were on the trip was to offer service. Throughout the two days, we completed many acts of service including spending 3 hours helping reseal the paths on one of the tracks on the Eco Trail at Tawharanui Regional Park. This involved carrying a mountain of gravel along a 300m path. It took a chain gang and a lot of hard work, but we managed to get the gravel along the path, which had steps, and many inclines uphill and down!

On our final day, we picked up rubbish around Goat Island. Afterwards we had a well-deserved swim in the ice-cold sea!





STEAM to the Rescue

STEAM - an educational approach to learning that uses Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics as access points for guiding student inquiry, dialogue, and critical thinking - has become well embedded at the Girls' School over the course of 2018. Underpinning STEAM is a focus on design thinking; a mindset and approach to learning that includes collaboration and problem solving.

Since their early exploration at the start of the year with new technological equipment, the girls in Years 7 and 8 have extended their ability to code and think critically, learning to work in groups to pool ideas for the best outcome. Over the year, problems posed have become increasingly complex as the girls' knowledge and skill base has widened.

Early in the year, the girls experimented with Spheros, a spherical, rolling robot which the girls learnt to program to complete circuits whilst applying mathematics-based geometry. From learning how to code the Sphero to roll around a square, they added further constraints such as specific distances, then moved on to other more complex shapes such as scalene triangles.

Now well versed in programming, the girls were posed a bigger challenge.

Having learnt about the plight of refugees during World Vision, the girls were tasked with designing and building a small water-borne vessel, powered by Spheros, to cross the swimming pool accurately to rescue 'refugees' (Lego people) and return them safely to the other side.

The girls had to use their science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematical skills to design the vessel, before building them using recycled materials. They had to consider buoyancy, density, surface areas and discover what types of materials would float in water. Following the design process, the girls collaborated to create prototypes to test in 120-litre containers of water to see if they would float and then revisited their designs to create more efficient boats, adding bottles, ping pong balls or air bags for increased flotation.

Once they were happy with their designs, they prepared to launch them on the pool - but there was a catch. They were also presented with a heart-breaking, ethical dilemma - there were 130 'World Vision refugees' waiting to be rescued on the far side but they could only take eight. Who would they take and why? This caused some impassioned discussion. Year 8 students, Millie Paris and Brooke Murdoch both said they would choose to take eight children on the vessel because 'they would live longer and could have a better life ahead of them.' They added that 'the parents would be more capable to fight for themselves and their country.'

The boats were launched and driven across the pool, dodging obstacles and carrying the load. The girls were pleased with both their vessels and their ability to code accurately to drive them remotely - but they were left with an understanding of ethical dilemmas and the realisation of the difficulties faced by both refugees and those tasked with helping them.



EPRO8 Challengers

Congratulations to four Year 7 girls, Edith Li, Jaime Chandler, Abby Cheazlewood and Chelsea Wijntjes, who placed first equal in the EPro8 Challenge semi-finals - an engineering and problem-solving competition! With their exceptional teamwork, calm manner and problem-solving skills, team 'Nano Girl Bosses' managed to win a place in the semis at St Thomas's School, qualifying them for a place in the finals the following week.

The challenges are no easy task and require students to work collaboratively on projects that require them to draw on scientific, technological and mathematical principles. This is all while having a live leader board keeping track of all scores, increasing the suspense and adding pressure to the competition! It also teaches them to listen and value each other's opinions which are all valuable skills for future learning. Whilst a top placing eluded them in the final round, the experience was invaluable!





Girls' School Athletics Champions 2019

Year 0 Champions

1st	Alyssa Wray	HA
2nd	Isla Ryan CA	
3rd	Eknor Kaur	WI

Year 1 Champions

1st	Elsa Taylor	WI
2nd	Lydia Tang	HA
3rd	= Emily Albrecht	HA
	= Emily Folkard	CH
	= Erica Yang	CH

Year 2 Champions

1st	Kasey Wray	HA
2nd	Willow Carnegie	CA
3rd	= Lucy Davis	CH
	= Eve Van Aalst	CH

Year 3 Champions

1st	Amelia Hardie	WI
2nd	Lulu Fairbairn	CA
3rd	Violet Lindsay Smail	CH

Year 4 Champions

1st	Laura Koeman	CA
2nd	Brooke Rowntree	CA
3rd	Sienna Robertshaw	CH

Year 5 Champions

1st	Emily Cornaga	HA
2nd	Emma Scholtz	HA
3rd	Amie Hilliam	HA

Year 6 Champions

1st	Lucy Hawes	CH
2nd	Priscilla Zhong	CH
3rd	Sophie Yan	HA

Year 7 Champions

1st	Alexandra Campion	CH
2nd	Cilla Fa'afua	HA
3rd	Alisa Iosua	CA
	Edith Li	WI

Year 8 Champions

1st	Jade Nomani	WI
2nd	Arya Blackler	HA
3rd	Danielle Levy	CH

Wishart Win Athletics!

Despite the incredibly blustery wind and drizzle, nothing could dampen the enthusiasm and energy of our girls in Years 0-6 when their athletics events got underway.

The Middle School girls in Years 4-6 were first to put their running, jumping and throwing skills to the test on a day of unrelenting wind! Held at the College track, friendly support and competitive determination went hand in hand as each tried for a personal best whilst encouraging others around them.

Later in the week, it was the turn of the Junior School girls in Years 0-3. For many of these girls, it was their first taste of competitive athletics, but help was on hand from the Year 8 girls who helped to get them organised. Who can resist a sack race? The highlight of the morning, the girls were eager to clamber into their House coloured sack and leap their way to the finish line!

The senior girls in Years 7 and 8 competed earlier in the year along with their peer group at the College; the combined groups making for a tougher field of competition. At this meet, Jade Nomani (Year 8) broke the record for the 200m (29.25) and 300m (47.57) whilst Arya Blackler broke the 800m record (2.44.68).

When all the points were tallied, Wishart were overall winners for the second year in a row!

Well done to all the competitors, especially those who earned a place on the podium!



OVERALL HOUSE ATHLETICS CHAMPIONS

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



Record Breaker!

After two demanding days in unseasonably cold and wet weather, our senior girls turned in some fantastic results at the South Eastern Zone Athletics event! Medals were won and a record was broken as the students ran, jumped and threw to gain places on the podium. Olivia Rooney streaked past the finish line to break the 800m record with an outstanding time of 2.38.79 - she also placed first in the 1500m race! Fellow Year 8 Girls' School student, Jade Nomani also retained her high jump record, having blitzed the jump last year. Arya Blackler was also part of a combined College/Girls' School Year 8 Relay team that placed 2nd.



Year 8 Girls' Results (College and Girls' School combined)

Olivia Rooney (GS)	1st 800m, 1st 1500m
Jade Nomani (GS)	1st High Jump, 2nd 200m
Alexandra Campion (GS)	1st 400m, 3rd High Jump
Arya Blackler (GS)	3rd 1500m



House Relays

In a blaze of summer sunshine, the Girls' School joined the Boys' School at Shore Road for the annual House Relay event towards the end of Term 4. Yellow, red, blue and green House shirts cut a swathe of colour across the top field as the runners got ready to race!

Each year group fielded a team of runners, whilst the rest of the boys and girls, joined by many parents, sat on the bank cheering on their House representatives. It's well known that Reverend Hardie likes to 'boogie' at the School House events and he kept the music and moves alive between races! Girls' School Principal, Ms Juliet Small also joined in the dancing on the field, whilst Boys' School Principal, Mr Peter Cassie kept the Houses singing! House chants rang out, the cheering was loud and the runners were fast!

With all the points tallied, Wishart took the top honours for the girls! All in all, it was fantastic finish to the athletics season. Well done to all our runners – including the game parents who picked up the baton to compete!

Our sincere thanks to parent, Andrew Cornaga from Photosport who shared some of his photos.



GIRLS' SCHOOL HOUSE RELAY CHAMPIONS

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



A Taste of Bowling!

Once largely associated as a restful sport for the older generation, lawn bowls is beginning to gain traction with younger players as the skill, combined with social opportunities, comes to the fore.

The Girls' School was one of the first schools to be selected to take part in the new Junior Jack Attack programme during Term 4 at Remuera Bowling Club.

The Junior Jack Attack kit is designed to enable school children to participate in a taste of bowling on a range of flat surfaces, including greens, carpets, concrete or wooden floors, eliminating the restriction of requiring a bowling green to introduce new players to the sport. Our Year 7 and 8 girls, however, were particularly fortunate to be hosted on a prime bowling green by members of the club!

The junior bowls are made of rubber, designed with children in mind, making them lighter and easier to handle. The girls have been learning the basics of rolling the bowl, understanding the role of bias in a bowl, and enjoying a number of games to help with their understanding of the sport.

Bowls is a game of concentration, co-ordination and precision – and it didn't take long for our girls to focus their attention as they developed their skills to accurately roll their bowls close to the jack.

Our sincere thanks to the Remuera Bowling Club for hosting our girls this term. The programme is engaging and proving to be a great deal of fun as the girls develop skills in a sport they may otherwise not have a chance to try.



Girls' School Grandparents' Day

'God couldn't be everywhere, so he made Grandparents.'

Grandparents' Day is an event that is thoroughly enjoyed by both generations, old and young alike, with many of our grandparents travelling vast distances to join the girls for the morning.

The sun was out as the girls flooded into the school hall ready to entertain their guests. It didn't take long before necks were craning and smiles were seen filling the room as the girls caught glimpses of their visitors!

The Kapa Haka group opened the morning with a beautiful performance before Principal, Ms Juliet Small welcomed our guests and thanked them for their support of the School and their granddaughters. She assured the guests that their visit meant everything to the girls and said, 'Being a grandparent isn't a big thing.... it's a million little things. It's the hug, the walk, the birthday card or the phone call'.

Ms Small went on to make light of the many technological advances witnessed from one generation to the next, and how our girls can lead the way in helping their grandparents with new technology. As if on cue, there was an unfortunate 'glitch' with the sound system and after a brief moment of 'head scratching' by grownups, the tech-savvy generation stepped in with a fix!

The Year 2 girls took their turn on stage, warming the room with their 'Kindness is

a muscle' action song; the 'Chinese Dance Group' performed a polished 'Umbrella Dance' and the School Choir, the 'Highland Belles,' took their turn to sing a beautiful rendition of 'Firefly,' followed by 'I am a small part of the world', accompanied by Year 8 student, Arya Blackler on the flute.

The entertainment wasn't over yet for our guests. The Year 8 students performed an entertaining piece, originally performed at the Music Mania evening, and then all the girls gathered as one to perform the ever-popular 'We're Saint Kentigern Girls'.

With the entertainment over, the moment the girls had been waiting for finally arrived; with gleeful hugs, the girls collected their grandparents for a tour of the School. Those without their own visitors were quickly adopted for the morning as the groups toured the campus, visiting classrooms and specialist areas. One of the highlights of the morning was the chance for our grandparents to check out the brand-new virtual reality equipment under the guidance of their young charges - a glimpse at current technology and what may lie ahead.

The library book sale proved popular again with the excited girls buzzing around to choose a book to be donated back to the library. The visits were capped off with a morning tea before the grandparents headed home after a busy and enjoyable morning!



Girls' School Parents and Friends

It is hard to believe that the 2018 school year has come to an end and it is with great pleasure that I share the tremendous achievements of the Saint Kentigern Girls' School Parents and Friends this year.

Our hard working committee is comprised of myself as Chairperson; Deputy Chairperson, Ms Gretchen Weightman; Secretary, Mrs Dee Wakelin; Treasurer, Mrs Julie Bolton and Parent Liaison, Mr Paul Whitford. I am incredibly appreciative of the efforts of the committee and the extended committee that is made up of numerous parent volunteers. It is an absolute pleasure to work with such a dedicated group of parents.

The year began with the highly anticipated annual school picnic. We had to make use of the rain date this year and were so glad we did as the sun shone on a warm summer evening. The girls had fun swimming, face painting and even bouncing on a vertical bungy. A special thank you to Mrs Slavka Yildiz and her team for organising such a fabulous evening.

The annual Flora McDonald Day did not disappoint. The Parents and Friends were major financial supporters of this event, providing fun and games for the girls which included an inflatable water slide, an inflatable obstacle course and the popular water rollers in the school pool. Our parent volunteers staffed the water slides, the water rollers, making bows, and more. It was a fabulous day for the girls, celebrating the Scottish heritage of the School.

Mothers, grandmothers, aunts, sisters, daughters and special friends all enjoyed a delicious afternoon tea with the girls at our annual Mother and Daughter High Tea. The photo booth was popular to capture some casual pictures with friends and family and everyone was inspired by our speaker, Ms Georgina Higgins, from the SPCA who spoke to the audience about animal care and the important work the SPCA achieves. A significant contribution to the SPCA was also collected from our families. A huge thank you to Ms Slavka Yildiz for organising such a special day.

This year's 'Mamma Mia' themed disco, complete with a Greek restaurant, dance instructor, Mamma Mia movie and timeless music was incredible. The girls had a fantastic time and it was heartwarming to see Year 8 girls looking after their little sisters to ensure the younger girls had a fabulous evening. A big thank you to the organisers, Mrs Caroline Leighton and Mrs Yasmin Newland and their team of helpers for their efforts in giving the girls such a fun-filled evening.

The annual Father Daughter Breakfast was held in September at the Ellerslie Event Centre against the backdrop of the iconic Ellerslie racecourse and was a very enjoyable, well



attended event. Fathers, grandfathers, uncles, special guests and the girls were all treated to an entertaining presentation from guest speaker, Mr John Cowan from The Parenting Place, who is a writer and speaker that shares insight and opinions in parenting and family life. A huge thank you to the organisers of this event, Mrs Denise Nel and her team.

The Girls' School Parents and Friends has been able to give back to the School in a variety of ways this year, through events and other purchases. Our main contribution to the School was providing top of the range virtual reality equipment to support the STEAM programme at the Girls' School. The \$30,000 worth of VR equipment will be used in a variety of ways to enhance the girls' learning across all year groups within the school. We are currently waiting on the delivery of an enclosed trailer to support camps, sports days and other events requiring the transport of equipment.

I would like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the school staff, especially Ms Juliet Small, Mrs Jill Wahlstrom, Mrs Nicky Clapp and caretaker, Mr Ross MacDiarmid throughout the year. Many of our achievements this year would not have been realised without the tireless support of the dedicated school staff.

It is with tremendous appreciation that I also acknowledge the continued support of the Old Collegians Association for their generous contributions and support. These contributions were put towards our friend-raisers, namely the Mother Daughter High Tea and the Father Daughter Breakfast.

Lastly, I would like to sincerely thank Dr John Kernohan and the Saint Kentigern Trust Board, with special thanks to Mrs. Rosemary Harris who is a regular supporter at our Parent and Friends meetings. To have the backing of such a supportive group of individuals is a privilege.

I would also like to thank Mr David Hodge, Head of Saint Kentigern for his generous support of the Girls' School Parents and Friends, and for keeping our community updated on the changes and happenings at Saint Kentigern, and for also keeping our community encouraged.

Our monthly meetings have continued to be busy and well attended with strong support for the Girls' School. I want to thank all of the parents that have offered help, time, and support to our events. I have often been amazed by the sense of community and support within the School and this has been especially apparent this year throughout the Building Futures process. I am very fortunate to have such a supportive and dedicated team on the committee and wider support from the school staff and parent community.

I look forward to the 2019 school year.

Rebecca Scoones,
Chairperson

