

St Mary's Diocesan School



Mini Newsletter October 2017



With just six weeks until NCEA External Examinations starting on the Thursday 9 November the focus of all our senior girls will need to be on their learning. Year 11 - 13 students will have gained a sense of their progress and achievement through the year from their September school examinations and their mentoring meetings.

Term 3 also culminated with Y12-13 Mentoring conferences. It was pleasing to see so many caregivers taking the opportunity to engage with their child and the Mentor teachers in conversations around their wellbeing, achievement to date, vision boards, future pathways and assisting with making informed decisions with subject selections for next year.

It is important that the girls now use the feedback from exams to develop next-step learning strategies and work alongside their teachers to complete final internal assessments and prepare for external examinations.

Parents and caregivers can also assist their daughters to maximise achievement. All caregivers are encouraged to make contact with appropriate staff members at any time for any further support and guidance. Ensuring that your daughter knows where they are at with their progress toward their NCEA. Students will continue to work alongside their Mentors to access updated NCEA credit information. Teachers will work alongside your daughter to develop a study plan for the next 6 weeks. Please encourage your children to utilise the 'study it' website: <http://www.studyit.org.nz/>

Year 9 and 10 students also need to be focussing on their learning and achievement. Options interviews have just taken place for course selection for 2018. Parents and caregivers can assist junior students further by discussing with them their recent course selections for 2018. Making sure that they attend school every day. Setting evening routines to ensure students sleep well, and are rested for the day ahead and are not spending too much time on-line in the evenings.

I wish the senior girls all the very best in their upcoming examinations and know that they will prepare well.

Term 3 has been a busy, engaging and exciting Term and I would like to thank the board of trustees, staff and students for allowing me to lead the school during Mrs Fiona Green's sabbatical leave. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time in charge and look forward to Mrs Green's return.

Karla Ralph, Acting Principal



Next term is shaping up to be a busy one as we begin the final weeks before the NZQA external examinations for seniors.

The last day for formal senior lessons is Friday November 3. We will also have the Sports Prizegiving on this day starting at 1.45 pm.

There will be tutorials available for the three days prior to NCEA exams. Students should book a time with their subject teachers should they require individual examination preparation support.

Year 12 students will be attending a leadership camp from Sunday December 10 until Monday December 11, further details to follow.

The leavers dinner for year 13 students will be on Monday December 11 in the evening and the whole school will attend the Christmas Dinner (6.00 pm) and Carol Service (7.15 pm) on Tuesday December 12.

The final prizegiving for the year will take place on Wednesday December 13 starting at 11am.

Further information will be made available to parents about these events in the first few weeks of term and if you have any questions please contact the school office.

Barry Skinner, Acting Deputy Principal

Uniform change over dates

With the move from Winter to Spring to Summer we are now planning for the change-over in uniforms.

Girls must return to the boarding house in winter uniform and will remain in winter uniform until after Labour Weekend, Tuesday 24 October 2017.

During the weeks of 24 October until 03 November girls can select to wear either full winter or full summer uniform depending on the weather forecast.

After seniors leave for NCEA study prior to examinations commencing on 9 November all girls must be in full summer uniform.

The following special events will require formal winter uniform

29 October Founders Day Chapel Service

03 November Sports Assembly

13 December Prizegiving

Department Updates



Drama

This term the senior girls attended the performance of "Lord of the Flies" in Palmerston North as their live theatre option to help them complete an achievement standard as part of their Drama NCEA. Year 11 and 12 Senior Drama classes also performed items at Ngaere School on Thursday 10 August. This group also ran a drama workshop for junior students following their performance. Darin Ramsay has asked the girls for early expressions of interest for a musical St Mary's Diocesan School show in 2018. This would allow the school to continue their bi-annual involvement in Stage Challenge in Palmerston North. This was recently presented at assembly on Friday 8 September.



Languages

Ms Fleur Karasawa has continued to develop the pathway from primary school to secondary school for Japanese language with the ALLiS programme in Toko, Huiakama and Kaimata Schools. Our visiting Japanese intern, Saho, attended a Japanese Day at Toko school during her visit where she taught the Year 7 and 8 classes to write their names in Japanese and make origami Ninja Stars.

Art and Photography

Year 11, 12 and 13 are working on folio boards. Shani Jonker has set up a timetable to ensure everyone gets one on one time and support. Holiday workshops and Term 4 workshops will give further support and time for completion of folio boards. The Art room is always open after school and some students are using this opportunity productively.

Attendances

In Term 3 weekly monitoring by our form teachers and deans has improved attendance and also allowed follow up on any concerns. Letters have been sent home to parents and caregivers for students with attendance below 90%. Please contact the school if you have any questions or concerns.



Japanese day at Toko school

Cyber Safety - John Parsons Workshops

On Tuesday 22 August John Parsons an Internet Safety and Risk Assessment Consultant to schools delivered workshops. He provided specialist advice and direction on the safe use of Digital Communication Technology. John was named and awarded a "Paul Harris Fellow" by Rotary International for his work in child protection online and in the community.

John led workshops at each year level during his visit. Each session lasted for over an hour and looked at how each student can keep themselves safe in a digital environment, cleaning up their digital footprint and valuing themselves as young women. Each session was modified slightly to match the year group. After school he worked alongside our staff visiting some of the material he had given to our students but he had a greater focus on being professional online. Separating personal online social interaction with school interaction. The day finished with an evening session for parents and the community. Helping our students be responsible users of digital tools, emphasis on trust and openness. Parents made glowing comments. A big thank you to Julie Larcom who purchased 2 copies of John's book for the school library. John's message resounded throughout the day. He wanted to ensure that we build Resilient children who understand what is theirs by right. Where we educated them to be respected, to be valued, to be supported, to be heard, to be protected and to learn. Information technology connects us with the world and at the same times separates us from others. Now, more than ever before, empathy, the ability to think about how another person is feeling, should be the foundation upon which we educate children on matters of judgement whether in the home, in the school or in the community.

Empathy is a gift children share between themselves every day, so when we see it we should acknowledge it, and when possible, reward it....John Parsons

Please discuss with your children the appropriate use of social media and monitor and supervise their use - it is not the platform or the technology that is the issue but the behaviours of some users that is of concern. Children must check what stories they tell on social media by asking themselves "is this my story to tell?" Parents can clearly assist by putting boundaries around the use of social media and by regularly checking the content of both what is being received as well as sent.

Professional Development

Effective Writing

On Monday 31 July & Tuesday 15 August Denise Hitchcock from the Ministry of Education and Literacy expert has met with staff members to continue to offer support and guidance for effective writing within our School. She is supporting new learning in effective writing practice in context, monitoring inquiries and reviewing progress. All of our teachers are now registered on the Learning Progression Framework site and have had an opportunity to look at a sample of the writing expectations by the end of year 10. Staff continue to grow capacity in the identification of the subject-specific writing needs of their students. How they can use in-depth analysis of focus students' writing and ways to address identified learning needs. How to use the Learning Progression Framework to understand the writing expectations of their students by the end of year 10. Denise has worked alongside our teachers having 1-1 meetings to look at more depth at their students' writing. She continues to undertake observations and offer feedback on effective writing practice.

Co-Curricular Sport

In Week 7 of this term Mrs Asi arranged for our students to have the opportunity to Roller skate and learn some new skills. Thank you to Mrs Larcom who organised the use of the skates from the Hawera Roller Skating club. Well done to Anne Larcom for sharing some of her knowledge. This was a popular activity and the girls are keen to participate again in the near future. Some have even expressed an interest in taking up the sport.

Our senior 'A' netball team have competed at Lower North Island Secondary Schools here in New Plymouth Monday 3 September to Friday 8 September. Well done girls on some hard fought games and being competitive throughout the week.

Congratulations to Megan Jackson and Rebecca Schrader who have competed in the New Zealand Secondary Schools Indoor Bowls competition in Wellington during tournament week and have finished fourth in the pairs section. This is a fantastic effort.

Congratulations to both Katie Neild who has qualified for Nationals in Gymnastics and Anne Larcom who gained a bronze medal at the National Indoor Roller Skating Championships.

Congratulations to Claudia Taylor and Nikita MacDonald who have recently returned from competing at the NZSS Swimming competition in Hamilton on 15-17 September.

Co-Curricular Cultural

Special Character

We have celebrated St Mary's Day. We give thanks to Reverend Annie and Reverend Sue Pickering who led our St Mary's Day service on Wednesday 16 August. This was held in our chapel. The entire day was a positive, uplifting experience, which began with a service and mass in our Chapel, a St Mary's Day feast and a school wide Tough girl challenge event. The girls were all active participants and this was a great success.

Our whole school service at All Saints Church, King Edward Road, Eltham was held on Sunday 27 August. This was an opportunity to build stronger relationships with our local parish. The attendance for staff and students was high at this service. Thank you to Peter and Jan Barleyman for their warm welcome and the wonderful service.

International News

We successfully hosted 3 students from Dongguan Middle School in China for 4 weeks. This was a great success and the girls had a wonderful experience. A big thank you to Leslie Sutherland, and Christine Hucker (International Dean) for their involvement.

Japanese intern Saho Kageshima from Nihon University in Mishima (New Plymouth Sister city) Shizuoka, Japan also spent 4 weeks at School and has assisted with our Japanese teaching.

Kapa Haka

Our Kapa Haka group are continuing to prepare and work hard in order to perform at Puanga in October. This year we have 22 girls involved in the festival.

Environmental Week

From Monday 3 September to Friday 8 September. Megan Vind and her environmental council coordinated a successful environmental week Programme which included quizzes and recycled totem pole building competitions.

Monthly Accounts

The final base fee instalment for 2017 has now been added to your account (Instalment 10 of 10), if you are paying your account by weekly instalments then please remember that this account will need to be paid in full by the 31 December 2017. If you are having trouble making your payments then please feel free to phone Alison Chamberlain, Executive Officer to discuss this to ensure that you will not be charged interest on the outstanding debt.

All accounts for students who are leaving us at the end of 2017 must have their accounts up to date.

National Student Commonwealth Heads of Government

Mrs Caroline Gonouya accompanied four students Sophie Burns, Charlotte Helms, Alexandra Howard, and Rachael Judd to the National Student Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting.



This was held over three days 13-15 August in Wellington at Parliament. Our students worked on world issues and represented different countries of the common wealth, they also got to experience a debate in parliament and intensity of discussion first hand.

Overnight Trips

A year 13 NCEA Geography and Tourism trip to Rotorua Monday 18 September to Wednesday 20 September with Mr Barry Skinner and Mrs Shani Jonker. The girls researched a Tourist destination and sort feedback from stakeholders.



2018 Intentions

Final planning is in place for timetabling and staffing for 2018, as such we need to know from parents by the end of week two, term 4, if they are intending on withdrawing their daughter(s) for 2018.

We would remind you that one terms fees are charged in lieu of a terms notice in writing if we have not been advised and your daughter does not return.

Gymnasium completion

The completion of the gymnasium build is going well and we hope that all work will be completed by Week 1 Term 4 and we hope to be using this facility at the beginning of next term.

Our Property Team are currently painting the walls. Shower linings are in. Lining for the walls has been completed as well as doors and skirting boards. All Toilet partitions are completed. Electricians are currently finishing off the plugs and emergency lights, and WORMALD will also hook up the fire protection.

A big thank you to Lindsay and Harvey for their commitment to this project as well as maintaining the school.

Your PTA needs your help please!

We are expecting 100 stalls of quality arts and crafts and food on our field and in our gym.

Last year we had over 1000 visitors through the school gates. Our biggest influx of people at school all year!

Volunteers warmly welcomed to help:

- Lay the carpet squares in the gym on Friday
- Set up the grounds early Saturday morning
- Direct and help stall holders
- Host the pre-start cuppa for stall holders
- Sell raffles
- Man our PTA food tent
- Be on the gate welcoming and collecting donations
- Baking for our Bake Stall
- Pack up after and later in the weekend picking up the carpet squares!

We also need your help with:

- distributing posters
- checking our facebook page "Under the Mountain Arts and Crafts Fete"
- donations of sausages for our BBQ

Please contact the school office if you have any suggestions, offers or can distribute posters!



ST MARY'S SCHOOL STRATFORD

Entry off Pembroke Road

LABOUR WEEKEND SATURDAY

(21st October) 10 am-3 pm

100 quality arts and crafts & food stalls Gold Coin Donation Gate Entry