



Our first term is well and truly over and what a wonderful term it has been. Our girls and staff have been fully engaged in all the activities that we offer and I am sure have enjoyed the change of pace and routine that a holiday break brings.

This term has seen Athletic and Swimming sports robustly competed and completed with enthusiasm and maximum participation. The house system builds a sense of identity and belonging and provides a structure and set of expectations for our girls. Girls who enjoy a more competitive environment have had the opportunity to participate in a range of TSSSA events including Rogaine, Athletics, Dressage, Swimming and Triathlon. Congratulations girls on your representative achievements and special congratulations to Jasmine Gibbon who represented St Mary's at the National Secondary Schools Triathlon competition gaining a creditable 14th place in her first year of senior competition. Payton Agent, Nikita MacDonald and Claudia Taylor continue to represent our region as swimmers and we follow their progress with much admiration.

The winter term provides the opportunity for girls to play in a team sport whether this be competitive or social and we are delighted to build on our Indoor Bowls foundation by working through a programme of coaching and support that will allow our girls to play socially after school on campus and for the keener players to also play club competition locally and enter into provincial competitions.

We have also been successful in gaining funding from Sport Taranaki, through Kiwisport, to establish a programme to support student officials who take on a coaching or officiating role. The recent news article <http://www.stuff.co.nz/sport/other-sports/5231906/School-sports-teetering-due-to-ageing-coaches> highlights the need for confident and competent officials to sustain school sports and to remain involved in sporting pursuits beyond secondary school.

Our Outdoor Education programmes have enjoyed the full four seasons of Taranaki weather, with year 9s up the mountain at the beginning of the term enjoying the opportunity to make new friends and year 10s and senior students at TOPEC demonstrating resilience through a "challenge by choice" outdoors programme whilst managing activities in between deluges.

It is always a pleasure to join our girls and their dedicated staff on these adventures, to witness the St Mary's Diocesan family in action and to recognise opportunities for girls to explore our values of care, respect, responsibility, perseverance and service.

In our cultural sphere we have thoroughly enjoyed the choir participating in our chapel service and we are grateful for the work of Katie Burns (Conductor) and Fiona Martin (Accompanist) as the choir undergoes a rebuild. We have seen a similar burgeoning of numbers in our Kapa Haka Roopu who support and enhance our desire to be a bicultural representation of our community.

Stage Challenge practices have continued during the holiday break and senior girls are using this opportunity to design costumes as a component of their NCEA Fabric Technology course. We look forward to their performance early next term.

Our Sheilah Winn contestants were wonderful ambassadors for the school at their performances at the recent regional heats. The senior girls, directed by Eva Greensill, are to be congratulated for a singularly outstanding performance that was both sophisticated and poignant as *Troilus and Cressida* was reset in the Taranaki land wars.

Uniforms

As the new term approaches it is timely to remind all parents and caregivers of our uniform expectations. The uniform requirements are outlined below and we expect all uniforms to be in immaculate condition. The skirts are purposefully designed to be flattering to a range of sizes and body shapes and all skirts are to be at mid-calf length.

The change over into winter uniform will be after Queen's Birthday, girls may wear either full summer or full winter uniform up until this date. All girls will also wear full winter uniform at the Holy Trinity Sunday service on 18 June.

Please see page 3 for a list of the winter uniform requirements.

Mrs Volzke is available for winter uniform appointments. Please phone and leave a message on her home answer-phone 06 765 7480.

The Victoria University employability skills survey http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_Services/careers/resources/employment_skills_survey.aspx and the New Zealand Curriculum <http://nzcurriculum.tki.org.nz/Key-competencies/About> identify a group of soft skills that young people need to develop to live and learn today and in the future. Skills such as relating to others, participating and contributing, team work and interpersonal skills can be honed in a sporting and cultural activity. If your daughter is not yet engaged for the winter terms in these key areas of her personal development we would encourage her to chat with our Arts, Deputy Arts, Sports, Deputy Sports Captain or our Kapa Haka Roopu Leader.



Sophie Burns
Arts Captain



Sarah Taylor
Deputy Arts Captain



Katelyn Dyer
Sports Captain



Emily England
Deputy Sports Captain



Bianca Stewart
Kapa Haka Roopu leader

As well as developing soft skills in a team environment the other major benefit from participating in a sporting or cultural activity is that our girls have high quality social time off-line. With at least 24% of teenagers being on-line almost constantly we as the adults in their lives have to assume some responsibility for providing an environment that engages and encourages girls to socialise face to face.

FOMO is a phenomena that our girls experience and if this term is new to you it was added to the English Oxford Living Dictionary in 2013 as an acronym for Fear Of Missing Out and defined as *anxiety that an exciting or interesting event may currently be happening elsewhere, often aroused by posts seen on social media*. It can be seen as a combination of envy and insecurity and can be debilitating as some teenagers procrastinate and delay making decisions or not commit to anything in the fear that something that they perceive as better will happen as soon as they have agreed to participate. Others experiencing FOMO will over commit and then not accomplish anything to their unachievably high personal

standard This fear of missing out is linked to feelings of dissatisfaction which may result in anxiety and depression as our daughters compare their lives to those of celebrities and friends on instagram, snapchat and other social media platforms.

Dr Darlene McLaughlin, a US based behavioural health specialist, says: “FOMO is especially rampant in the millennial community because they see a peer achieving something they want, and somehow in their mind, that achievement means something is being ‘taken away’ from them.”

“The problem with FOMO is the individuals it impacts are looking outward instead of inward. When you’re so tuned in to the ‘other,’ or the ‘better’ (in your mind), you lose your authentic sense of self. This constant fear of missing out means you are not participating as a real person in your own world.”

Columbia professor [John Cacioppo](#) says “If you use Facebook to increase face-to-face contact,” he says, “it increases social capital.” So if social media lets you organize a game of football among your friends, that’s healthy. If you turn to social media instead of playing football, however, that’s unhealthy.

So how can we support our girls who have become FOMO centric?

Firstly we can model the behaviour that we are wanting our girls to adopt; we need to have time off from our phones, we don’t check new posts when we are at dinner, family events, the movies, recreational activities we demonstrate that we are fully involved in the moment, engaged and interested in the people around us and we pay attention to real life.

Secondly we can display a genuine attitude of gratitude and count our blessings in our life right now where life is actually going on. We can also model this to our girls, genuinely praising the unique actions and achievements of others rather than comparing their clothes, looks, talents and abilities to our own perceived deficits.

Take time to plan activities and share with our girls how you have made informed and sincere decisions discussing the process, and explaining that we are not motivated to be better than or have a better time than what our friends provide for us.

It is also important that we spend quality time pursuing our own recreative and creative hobbies and interests and that our girls can see the key adults in their lives can live fulfilling lives off line.

If FOMO is leaving your daughter unable to make decisions because she is scared of not being happy with the outcomes, seek support from the Dean or the Chaplain.

We look forward to working with your daughter this next term to encourage and support her to be a unique and confident young woman.

P. M. Sreen

Board of Trustees

At the first meeting of the year for the Board of Trustees Mr Aaron Langton stepped down as the Chairperson, and Mr Andrew Judd was subsequently voted in as the new Chairperson going forward.

The Board continues to strive to ensure that each and every girl can achieve holistically to their potential.

If you have any queries for your Board please contact

Andrew Judd (Chairperson)

Aarun Langton (Deputy Chair)

Duncan Burns (Parent Rep)

Donna Katene (Parent Rep)

Craig Taylor (Parent Rep)

Matt Coleman (Staff Rep)

Rachael Judd (Student Rep)

Rev. Pat Scaife (BOP Rep)

Christine McCallum (BOP Rep)

Student Leaders

At a special communion service in the first week of the term we inducted our 2017 Leaders to the school



Head Girl	Alex Howard
Deputy Head Girl	Charlotte Helms
Head Boarder	Bianca Stewart
Deputy Head Boarder	Krystal Couchman
Arts Captain	Sophie Burns
Deputy Arts Captain	Sarah Taylor
Sports Captain	Katelyn Dyer
Deputy Sports Captain	Emily England
Sacristan	Eva Greensill
Wilson	Caera Joyce
Roberton	Katelyn Bishop
Stanford	Molly Hutchins
Fleming	Tyne Paine
International	Katie McGregor
Head Librarian	Rachael Judd
Academic Committee	Megan Poehler
Environment Committee	Megan Vind

Winter Uniform

Winter Junior Uniform

White shirt

Kilt (mid-calf length)

School Tie

Navy School Blazer

Navy V-necked jumper

Black Opaque Pantyhose

Black Bata Becca shoes or similar Mary Jane black shoes as per Hannah's catalogue 2017

Winter Senior Uniform

Navy Skirt (mid-calf length)

White Shirt

School Tie

Navy School Blazer

Navy V-necked jumper

Black Pantyhose

Black Bata Becca shoes or similar Mary Jane black shoes as per Hannah's catalogue 2017

For Year 13 2017 Black Full Length or ¾ coat an approved plain black rain jacket (not puffer jacket)

Physical Education and Sports Uniform – Winter

St Mary's Navy Fleece Top and Navy P.E. top

Dri-Gear Navy Shorts and/or BizCool black ¾ tights and/or Canterbury Navy track pants

Optional

School scarf

Staffing Changes

The end of term signalled some staff changes as Ms Taylor returned from her sabbatical investigating effective writing practices in the English curriculum and we farewelled and thanked Mrs Leona Mazengarb for all of her work with the senior English classes in Ms Taylor's absence.

Ms Carly Sarten also left us for a year of maternity leave with the birth of her baby due mid May; we send our good wishes to her and Kurt in their new role and thank her for her many contributions inside and outside the classroom. Her position is being taken by Mrs Shani Jonker, who is a Taranaki educated teacher with a degree in Visual Arts and a post graduate diploma in secondary teaching. Mrs Jonker has been in the school for a day and we are confident of a smooth transition for our Art students.

Mr Skinner will now be teaching the Year 11 Business Studies class and Ms Taylor will be teaching 10 Social Studies alongside years 11, 12 and 13 English as well as resuming the Year 13 Dean's role.

International Homestay Coordinator



At the end of last year we welcomed Mrs Lesley Sutherland who has taken over from Mrs Fleur Karasawa the coordination of the Homestay Placements in 2017 for our International Students.

Born and raised in southern England, I came to NZ as a Registered nurse and enjoyed many years district, public health and GP practice nursing, residential care nursing and as a Community Palliative Care Nurse with Hospice Taranaki.

While working in Wellington I met and married my husband, Jock, a Taranaki boy. We sold our house and bought a herd of cows! Yes the mountain pulled him back!! So for the next 21 years we farmed in South Taranaki and our two sons went to Auroa Primary School and then boarded at New Plymouth Boys' High School, for 5 years. I juggled the farm, kids and their social life, and part time nursing.....as farming mothers do! ...until 2007 when we put share-milkers on the farm and moved to New Plymouth.

In 2011, I started at St Mary's Boarding House as Weekend Activities Matron. As well as taking the full boarders out and about in Taranaki, I love encouraging their creative talents in designing wearable art garments, learning from the international girls cooking amazing meals for us, and not forgetting the awesome gingerbread houses we made at Christmas. Now another challenge has been thrown my way as Homestay

Coordinator for the St Mary's International girls! I see this as two complimentary positions that will surely benefit our international girls.

My family have been fortunate to have had the opportunity to establish close friendships with many of the Gap Students hosted at St Mary's, and their families (when they have visited New Zealand), which has given us a wonderful opportunity to experience a little of other cultures.

We have also travelled through different parts of Europe, and a little in Asia, while visiting my family and friends in England. We have many visitors from overseas stay in our home. Family, friends, friends of friends and occasionally people we have met while travelling around New Zealand. In 2014 we met 6 of our 'German Gappie Girls' in Heidelberg for the most amazing weekend together, and also enjoyed being hosted in Germany by some of their parents. Something we will always treasure.

My interests outside of my family, include floral art, our Mazda MX 5 sports car club, and exploring the wonderful outdoors we have in this country. My philosophy in life..... I always want to see round the next corner! My family know that only too well ☺

I am so fortunate to have been welcomed and lived in NZ most of my life and look forward to sharing what I have grown to love with our international girls and their homestay families.



Assistant Principal



Walking the Talk – Lifelong Learners

Earlier this year Mrs Gonouya and myself were offered the opportunity to participate in ‘The Mind Lab’, a 32 week post graduate diploma course looking at digital leadership and collaborative learning. For 16 weeks, we attend a workshop at Spotswood College from 4-8pm each Wednesday, added to this is 4-6 hours each week of homework. The payoff for us in terms of our teaching has been tremendous and challenging. Each week we have been introduced to new digital tools including video publishing, coding, 3D design and numerous online sharing platforms. We have begun to introduce these tools into our own classroom practice, much to the delight of the students. Girls have been challenged to create and publish videos online within a one hour period, with no instructions as to how to record them, being told only to publish them on our secure Schoology platform. Being given the same challenge at ‘The Mind Lab’, our girls were a lot more proficient than teachers at this task.

Our course is not just about playing with digital tools, but rather how to introduce them effectively in our school so that the learning that takes place is engaging and relevant to modern society. As we are now halfway through our workshop sessions, (4 hours each week just flies by), I look forward to another 16 weeks of online self-paced discovery. I now have a greater understanding of what it is like on the other side of the desk after teaching for 30 years and I relish the opportunity to once again step out on the learning dance floor, (although my moves are a bit rusty). My thanks to Mrs Green and the Board of Trustees for their continued support of my learning journey.

Barry Skinner, Assistant Principal

Heads Up

From next Friday we are going to trial sending through a ‘Heads Up’ for the coming week. This will give you a snap shot of what is going on in the school from week to week.

We will email this initially each week as well as put it on the Website – eventually we will just put it on to the website for you to view.

Health & Physical Education



Term 1 Review

It has been a slower than normal start to the year for the students and staff in the Health and Physical Education Department, due to the changeable weather conditions in Stratford. Year 9 students have been involved in a range of activities for getting to know each other, as well as taking part in Athletics in preparation for the school Athletics held in Week 4. We have tried to utilise the school pool whenever possible with the Year 10 students who were learning about and practicing their survival swimming skills. For their assessment, they swam 100m fully clothed, completed an 8 min distance swim and demonstrated energy saving floating techniques. This was to lead onto the Outdoor Education unit which culminates in a week-long camp at TOPEC in Week 10 of this past term.

Senior students are also well underway with their NCEA courses. Level 2 students have already participated in a rock climbing camp in conjunction with TOPEC, stepping out of their comfort zones and supporting each other to gain the best grades possible. The level 1 PE girls have also successfully completed their “Aquathon”, a multisport event consisting of a 200m swim followed by a 3km run.

The Level 3 girls prepared to be a River Safety and Adventure based learning leader later in Term 1 when they went to TSB TOPEC for 3 days. The girls have learnt about the different styles of leadership and used this knowledge to attend Year 9 camp and lead on two tramping trips alongside Mrs Ralph. This authentic learning enabled them to see whether each leadership style worked and what was not effective. The level 3 class also learnt about the risk assessment management systems when participating in outdoor activities with groups.

TOPEC provides an excellent platform for students to learn in the outdoors in a safe and supportive environment and for senior students they will work towards gaining NCEA credits. It has been a busy and productive term for us all!!!

Nicola Carver, LAH

Japanese Club Term 1 2017

In Term 1 we focused on the celebration of girls day – Hina matsuri. This was on March 3rd and is celebrated by families with daughters. We made origami dolls as a school on Friday March 3rd in assembly, made a mobile using authentic Japanese materials during Japanese club time and ended the term eating traditional girls day food; chirashi sushi and snacks. Visiting Japanese Masters student Yu Ueda shared her knowledge with us both in Japanese club and Japanese classes.



Girls hard at work sewing pieces using authentic Japanese material to make a mobile to celebrate girls day.



The girls preparing to eat



Visiting Japanese Masters Student, Yu Ueda, helps the girls make origami dolls to celebrate girls day



Enjoying Hinamatsuri food

Young Enterprise

This Year we have two teams participating in the Young Enterprise scheme. Year 12 team; Page Corner and Year 13 team: Nifty & Co.

Our first event was E day held in February, where the girls pitched their product ideas to local business people. Both groups have since decided on their products, submitted business card designs for the Business card competition, carried out Market Research and are writing their Business plans for submission for their next competition in week 1 Term 2



The School Ball

Our annual ball was a wonderful occasion in a new venue at the Inglewood Town Hall, which ideally suited the “Great Gatsby” theme. The student committee spent many hours in preparation to ensure that our girls had a wonderful night and can be proud of their efforts.



Ballroom dancing lessons, prior to the ball, once again proved popular and many of our girls and their partners are now adept at waltzing; it is always wonderful to see our girls confident in this setting and ensuring that their partners are introduced to others and have an enjoyable night.

Thank you to all parents who supported our values through the ball, we especially appreciate you picking up your daughters at midnight to ensure that we host a caring and responsible event. We are aware of many schools who no longer offer this opportunity to their students for a variety of reasons, however we see this as a key teaching opportunity for girls to be wonderful hostesses instead of princesses!



PTA News

Our PTA is a friendly active group that welcomes all families to all meetings, or just come to one meeting a year. There is no pressure to take on a formal role - ideas and suggestions are welcomed at any time.

The PTA has recently supported the school with ongoing donations to the school gymnasium to finish the ablution block, the Visual Arts department to purchase a new school camera, the Outdoor Ed department to purchase new equipment, and the Stage Challenge girls to assist with costs for make up and costume as an acknowledgement of their support at the Under the Mountain Arts and Crafts Event in 2016,

Our Under the Mountain Arts and Crafts Event 2017, now in its 4th year, is planned for Labour Weekend and we would welcome any helpers on the day!

End of term Assembly Term 1 2017

Excellences

Year 9

English

Independent Reading

Alena Hojdelewicz
Jazlin Marsh
Bethan Upton-Hansen
Jade Simons

Creative Writing

Ella Coulton
Alena Hojdelewicz
Jazlin Marsh
Bethan Upton-Hansen
Jade Simons
Olivia Towler

Visual Art

Food Paintings

Jade Simons
Jazlin Marsh
Ella Coulton
Awa Lewis
Trinity Kumeroa
Alena Hojdelewicz
Anne Larcom

Year 10

English

Independent Reading

Kaylen Hojdelewicz
Emma Hughes

Creative Writing

Emily Armistead
Diana Greensill
Kaylen Hojdelewicz
Emma Hughes
Aimee Kells
Simone Zender

Physical Education

Survival Swimming

Payton Agent
Emily Armitstead

Science

Chemistry test

Diana Greensill
Kaylen Hojdelewicz
Emma Hughes

Social Studies

Human Trafficking Assignment

Payton Agent
Emily Armistead
Sian Gordon
Kaylen Hojdelewicz
Emma Hughes
Nixee Jackson
Cassandra Muldrock

Visual Art

Printmaking

Emma Hughes
Diana Greensill

Year 11

Drama

Courtney Hatcher
Shana Wilson
Natalie Semmens
Tylah Hill

Fabric

Demonstrate understanding of basic concepts used to make products from textile materials.

Shicaela Kane
Monique Radford
Isabel Lee
Rhiannon Higgs

Food Technology and Nutrition

Demonstrate knowledge of safe food handling practices

Carrie Hodge-Ngatai
Francesca Padrutt
Zoe Peters
Claudia Taylor

Geography

Carrie Hodge Ngatai

Mathematics

Elizabeth Hughes
Claudia Taylor
Monique Radford
Alexandra Paish
Tylah Hill

Physical Education

Aquathlon

Claudia Taylor

Science

Astronomical Cycles

Isabel Lee

Carry out a Chemistry Investigation

Rhiannon Higgs
Tylah Hill
Shicaela Kane
Nikita MacDonald
Francesca Padrutt
Alexandra Paish
Tienika Platt
Monique Radford
Claudia Taylor

Visual Art

Researching Artworks

Rhiannon Higgs

Year 12

Chemistry

Emily Robinson
Gabby Burns
Samantha Greenhill
Lily Rose Richardson

Mathematics

Trigonometry

Mirei Kondo

Systems of Equations

Sam Greenhill
Dream Boonyongratanakul
Enya Perry
Nicolette Bailey

Photography

Researching Photographs

Gracie Thomas
Jacinta Fitzgerald

Physical Education

Risk Management

Jasmine Gibbon

Visual Art

Researching Artworks

Gaby Burns

Art Design

Researching Designers

Rhiannon Higgs

Year 13

Chemistry

Megan Poehler

Drama

Eva Greensill
Alex Howard
Bianca Stewart
Molly Hutchins

Photography

Researching Still Life

Alex Howard
Sarah Taylor

Bar to Tie Awards

Monique Radford
Annalise Linders
Krystal Couchman
Katelyn Bishop
Molly Hutchins
Caera Joyce

TERM TWO KEY DATES: 1 May – 7 July 2017

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT / SUN
WEEK 1	1	2	3	4	5	6/7
MAY						
WEEK 2	8	9	10	11	12	13/14
			School Hangi			
WEEK 3	15	16	17	18	19	20/21
				Mentor Meetings (5-7pm)		
WEEK 4	22	23	24	25	26	27/28
Attendance Check Week		Book Night (Library) TSSSA X-Country			Stage Challenge P.North	
WEEK 5	29	30	31	1	2	3/4
JUNE				School Photos	EYEAT	EYEAT
WEEK 6	5	6	7	8	9	10/11
	Queen's Birthday					
WEEK 7	12	13	14	15	16	17/18
	ICAS Eng Writing Exam	Exams	Exams	Exams	Exams	18 Holy Trinity
WEEK 8	19	20	21	22	23	24/25
Attendance Check Week		Big Sing		Whanganui Exchange		EYEAT
WEEK 9	26	27	28	29	30	1/2
JULY					Sir P Blake Leadership Week Reports Issued Parents Night	
WEEK 10	3	4	5	6	7	8/9
			House Music	Last Day of Term	T Only Day	

(95 half days)

Key

- Parents in attendance
- Holidays & Boarding Exeat Weekends
- Camps
- Examinations
- No interruptions to learning week
- TSSSA Events