Newsletter

St Mark's School exists to provide a balanced education, where a child's academic, cultural, physical, social and spiritual needs are identified and nurtured in a dynamic Christian environment, grounded in the Anglican way and supported by a family orientated community.

Issue 37
23 November 2016

Kia ora koutou,

What occasions we have shared in the last two weeks! **The Advent Service, Music Performers' Evening, Leadership Courses, Singing Cup Competition, Speech Competition, and The Independent Athletics Championships!!** Thank you all for your support of your children and our school as these events are opportunities for the various gifts and talents of many to shine! I have been very encouraged by the number of extended family who are joining us for these significant events. They have outstripped our ability to set out the correct anticipated number of chairs!

For example, approximately 100 adults attended the **Music Performers' Evening** last night. A huge thank you to our itinerant teachers - **Peter Hind, Ruth Hitchins, Marnie Barrell, Matt Stockwell, Alison Waghorn, Erica Collingwood, Nikki Wells, Bruce Roberts, Ian Bolton and Chris Dabinet.** What a wealth of experience and talent amongst these tutors and their students. There are multiple opportunities for more students to learn an instrument or singing in 2017 - and the links to academic gains particularly in maths are well documented in research.

Tonight we have our **Whanau Hui** - an opportunity to gather and further explore and develop the conversation around our cultural narrative in this place. You are warmly invited to **Waka Hourua** from **5.30 - 6.30.** There will be pizza to share and a time for korero.

Please check the events on our calendar as we continue to honour long standing traditions in the school along with creating memories with some new ones!

1. **Year 8 Sailing - Friday 25th November, at Lyttelton Harbour**
2. **New Parents Evening - Wednesday 30th November, 7.00pm, Waka Hourua (off Locarno St).**
3. **Primary Schools Triathlon - Thursday 1st December.**
4. **Mufti Day - Friday 2nd December**
5. **Year 8 Leavers' Dinner - Tuesday 6th December, 7.00pm, School Hall.**

Please see a note later in the newsletter from Ms Yonetani for opportunities to support the **Genius Hour Projects** of our senior students. These opportunities are optional.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Our warmest congratulations are due to **Lola Mill and Reuben Clarkson. Lola** has been awarded the Marian Foundation Scholarship for 2017 to Marian College, and **Reuben** has been awarded an Academic Scholarship to Cashmere High School. We are extremely proud to have been part of the journey of these two wonderful students, and will follow their paths into the future with keen interest.

Staffing and Base Groups

Staff and I are hoping to finalise these by the end of next week. Thank you to those families who took the opportunity to meet or communicate with myself and staff over this process.

Student Leadership 2017

Following a very successful Year 7 Leadership Camp and further training opportunities, our Year 7 students are currently writing application letters for the specific roles. Whilst there will be some minor changes in 2017, the roles closely reflect the long traditions at St Mark's School, there is also an impetus to work in 3 teams: Leadership: Student, Leadership: Service and Leadership: Pastoral Care/Hauora. Strengthening our House structure, service within the school and pastoral care are key areas identified by staff and students.

It is my intention to announce the Leadership list to the school community at Prizegiving, so that the roles may begin from the beginning of Term 1, 2017. Year 7 students and families will know prior to this.

Ngā mihi - Averil

School Notices

Upcoming Events

23 November	Whanau Hui
24 November	Elocution Cup Competition
28 November	Board of Trustees Meeting - 7.30pm
30 November	New Parents Evening - 7-8pm
1 December	Primary Schools' Triathlon
5 December	Mokihi Visit to Cathedral
8 December	North Canterbury Quake Appeal (details to follow)
9 December	Waka Puhara Spencer Park trip
12 December	Mokihi Riccarton Bush Visit
14 December	Cultural & Sporting Excellence Awards - 1.30pm
15 December	Prize Giving in School Hall - 7pm
16 December	School finishes at 12.30pm

Year 8 Events

24 November	Independent Schools' Dance - 7-9pm
25 November	Sailing Trip - 9am-12pm
6 December	Leavers' Dinner - 7pm
13 December	Fish & Chips
14 December	Jellie Park

Church Certificates

Raupo	Tiffany Cattermole
Kereru	Matthew Chinula
Ti Kouka	Rosa Tabak
Kotuku	Inaki Belton-Ilarri
Paua	Jackson Powell
Toetoe	Mannix Creevey/Sophie Field-Dodgson
Rimurimu	Wade Little
Toroa	Elise Edwards
Wheke	Ella Trusttum

Student Achievement

Congratulations to the following students who have had recent successes.

Leela Spanton who passed ABRSM Grade 2 Flute exam with merit.
Mackenzie Johnston who passed ABRSM Grade 2 Singing exam with Distinction.
Peter Smith who passed ABRSM Grade 1 Singing exam with Distinction.
Harriet Panckhurst who gained Distinction in ABRSM Grade 3 Cello exam. Due to their outstanding marks, ABRSM have invited both Charlotte and Harriet to play at this year's High Scorers' Concert.

Results from the Independent Schools' Zone Athletics

Field Events
10 Yr Girls High Jump - Minnie Edwards - 3rd
11 Yr Girls Discus - Myro McKee - 3rd
11 Yr Boys Discus - Ben Milligan - 2nd
12 Yr Boys Discus - Marcus Hamilton - 1st
12 Yr Girls Discus - Emily Garden - 2nd
12 Yr Boys Shot put - Marcus Hamilton - 1st
13 Yr Boys Shot put - Connor Selwood - 3rd
13 Yr Girls Shot put - Lola Mill - 1st

Track Events
9 Yr Boys 50m - Vivek Lallu - 3rd
10 Yr Boys 50m - Jordi Wright-Stow - 3rd
12Yr Boys 60m - Marcus Hamilton - 2nd
9 Yr Boys 60m - Vivek Lallu - 2nd
10 Yrs Boys 80m - Jordi Wright-Stow - 3rd

Some of the above competitors will represent our school at the Canterbury Athletic Championships which are held at Ashburton on 7 December.

Wanted!

Calico and bright coloured cotton fabrics needed please! If you have some leftover fabrics to donate, Charlotte Cooper is collecting these now. They will be passed on to a group of keen quilters and crafters to make earthquake pillows for young children in North Canterbury. These have a proven success rate for getting children back to sleep during aftershocks! Please leave at the school office over the next week and I will pass them on to be made up into cushions ready for Christmas delivery.

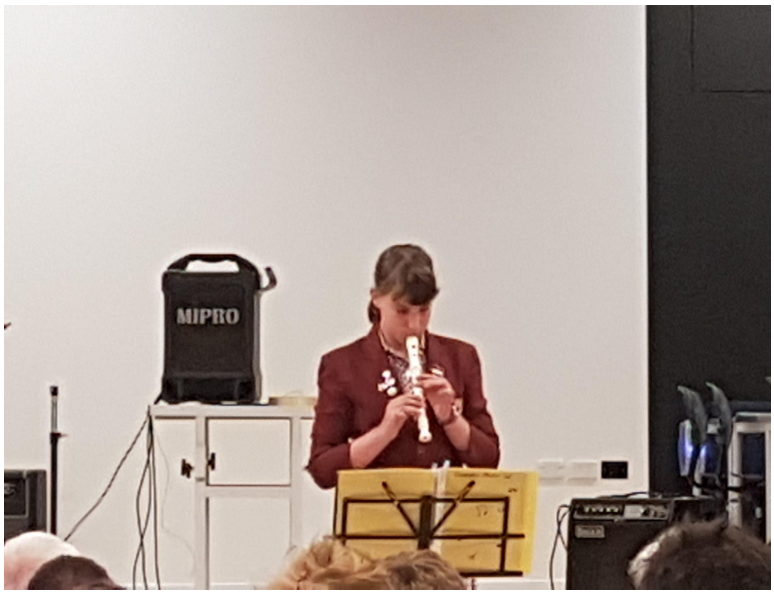
PA News

The PA would like to thank the school community for their fantastic support of the Fair Raffle. Before fair day we had raised over $6,000 which is an amazing effort!

The following students sold a huge number of extra books and were handed their prizes at Church Service on Friday.

Miriama Northcott - 1st
Abigail Woolhouse - 2nd
Ruby Tikao and Case Watson - 3rd

Music Performers Evening



Mufti Day and Fundraising Lunch

On Friday the 2nd of December Amber, Anna, Brie, Lily and Reuben will be having a fundraising day. You will be able to wear mufti for free. The theme for this mufti day is pink or blue clothes.

At lunchtime there will be a sausage sizzle, baking, drinks, jelly, lolly cake, and popcorn. These items will cost approximately $1 - $2 each. We will ask students what they might like to eat to gauge approximate numbers on the day before.

Money we raise will be given to the New Zealand Breast Cancer Foundation, SPCA, and the City Mission.

THE NEW ZEALAND BREAST CANCER FOUNDATION

CHRISTCHURCH City Mission
TE WHARE MĪHANA KI ŌTAUTAHI
"Our City at Heart"