

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Students

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

There are a number of issues and developments that I wish to draw to your attention through this newsletter.

Academic Excellence

As you are aware this is a major focus at Sancta Maria College. I am pleased to report that most students appear to be working towards their academic goals. There are a disturbing number however, who continue to give the impression that mediocrity or less is a satisfactory goal. Some students are producing work of a minimal standard, not handing in assignments on time or not at all, and not taking advantage of supplementary lessons that are being offered in many subject areas. Staff and students have been told by me that this will not be tolerated. Students do not have the right to choose whether or not they will complete work on time or to the best of their ability. Teachers, Deans or Senior Management staff will be contacting parents of students who continue to reflect minimal effort in class or with homework / assignments. Parents / Caregivers can assist with this focus by not requesting leave from school for non medical reasons. There has been a proliferation in request in recent times and adults need to be aware of the impact that such absences have on student achievement.

Students who wish to attend tertiary institutions next year are aware that entry standards at most universities have been raised. Having University Entrance (42 credits [14 from 3 subject areas]) is no longer a guarantee for most courses. Students must strive for 'Merit' and 'Excellence' levels of achievement in all that they do. The selection process has been explained to all students and this in itself should be an incentive for them all to 'strive for excellence'.

Fields

For those of you who support our winter codes of Football and Rugby you will be aware that our fields are again a 'mud bath'. We are embarrassed by the state of our fields and the Board of Trustees is committed to rectifying the situation. A submission has been made to the Diocese for financial assistance with a programme for draining the fields. Stage 1 will be to drain the entire lower field. This includes the area between the Rugby field and Te Irirangi Drive which will become a designated Football field. This drainage will not only assist these codes but also Cricket in the summer and our Physical Education programme. We hope to commence the drainage in the spring of this year.

Library

I have been in discussion with the Diocese and architects regarding the construction of the school library. It is intended that this will be a two storied structure where the current tennis courts are. The top storey will be the library and the ground floor will consist of classrooms and flexible spaces, the specific details of which are not yet finalised.

Tennis Courts

The plan is to move the tennis courts to an area adjacent to the new Gymnasium and to extend them from the current two courts to five courts with the intention that they could be used for not only tennis but for netball and hockey as well.

Ideally we would like to have the development include outside lighting. Such a venture will not be 'supplied' to the school and in order to achieve this goal it will be necessary for us to attract advertising / sponsorship. I would be interested to hear from anyone who may have contacts or who would be interested in being involved with me in this development to ensure that we have a first class facility.



Values

We continue to develop these at Sancta Maria College. As we do this we are entering a review stage and parents / caregivers will be given the opportunity to have input into the review. Currently we are focusing on "Curiosity". (Refer to Mrs Devoy's Special Character Report in this newsletter)

God Bless You All

Paul Daley
Principal



SPECIAL CHARACTER - Mrs G Devoy

Term 3 is well underway and there have been a number of activities involving the College's Special Character, Mass and Liturgies.

Annual Family Mass

On Sunday the 1 August, the St Luke's Faith Community and Sancta Maria College came together to celebrate their annual Family Mass. This was an opportunity for students, their families and staff to participate in the Eucharist with the parishioners of St Luke's. We would like to thank Fr Ezio and Fr Conrad for celebrating this Mass with us. It is important that there always be a close relationship between the College, the parishes of our students and the home. Participating in events such as the Family Mass is an essential part of our student's faith development and we would encourage all parents to support their children's attendance at weekly Mass.

The Assumption Mass

On Friday the 13 August, at 10.30, we will be celebrating the Feast of the Assumption. This is an important Feast day in the life of the College, as Mary is our patroness, the Mother of the Church and our Mother. This Feast is also known as the Feast of the Dormition of Mary. The word Dormition refers to Mary as falling asleep, rather than dying.

Mary was a simple woman, humble in every way, a woman who through her openness and trust in God enabled God's will to be fulfilled in the most extraordinary way. Mary is more than a model of what is possible in a relationship with God, she is our hope and promise of what God can do in our lives if we but trust and believe.

On the Feast of the Assumption, we acknowledge that Mary was taken, body and soul (assumed) into Heaven.



The Assumption is a special feast day for the Catholic Church as it is a sign to us that through God's goodness and our own efforts, we too will one day be with Mary in Heaven.

This year, as Fr Ezio is away, we are fortunate to have Monsignor Bernard Kiely from the St Patrick's Cathedral celebrating Mass with our school community. You are all most welcome to attend this special occasion.

Retreat

The Year 11 Retreat was held on the 22 July. The theme was Relationships and it was facilitated by Fr Bernie Thomas, a Franciscan priest. The students participated in a wide range of activities that enabled them to understand the importance of building safe and appropriate relationships with each other. A team from Attitude also spoke to the students about strong relationships and the importance of keeping safe in everyday interactions.

Retreat days are of enormous significance to our students. They provide opportunities to forge relationships and also offer a variety of learning experiences. They are an integral part of the Religious Education programme and it is important that all students attend these days.

Charities

This term there will be two fundraisers. The first will take place on Friday 27 August. The St Vinnies students will be selling daffodils to raise funds for the Cancer Society. The sale of these daffodils is by donation and we would ask that you support this worthwhile cause.

On Thursday the 23 September, the school will hold an Orange Day. This is to support the NZ Arthritis Foundation. Over 500 000 New Zealanders are affected by arthritis, which can have a debilitating effect on their lives. Students will wear orange coloured mufti in order to raise funds

Values

The first value of this term has been Equity. The next value which will be introduced next week is Curiosity - A Sense of Awe and Wonder.

Curiosity is a natural progression of awe and wonder, as it is a desire to learn about everything, a sense of inquisitiveness. As humans we tend to have a curiosity about the world around us, to make sense of what is happening and to understand our place in it and how we fit in. In today's world where students, through the Internet, are bombarded with a plethora of information, they need to inquire, to search and to question as to what is truth and what is fiction. The first step in actioning this is their ability to be curious about the information in front of them. If students are not curious, then they are merely passive and accepting information without discerning:

"Curiosity is one of the permanent and certain characteristics of a vigorous mind" Samuel Johnson

When the word curiosity is united with awe and wonder, we can see how well these three words fit in with our Catholic ethos at Sancta Maria College. We recognise the beauty and the uniqueness that is the wonderful world created for us by God, the ultimate in awe and wonder. As a Catholic school we regularly experience feelings of reverence and appreciation for all that God has done for us.

As a learning community we value academic excellence and it is only by seeking answers to questions that we can achieve excellence. As Einstein said:

"The important thing is not to stop questioning - never lose a holy curiosity"

An Assumption Prayer

God of all goodness

We rejoice and are glad because Mary shares in the glory of Heaven with you

Mary, we are nourished by sharing in your life and love.

May we live with the same faith that you shared throughout your life. We make this prayer in Christ's name.

Amen

STUDENT REPORT

VISIT TO PARLIAMENT - Joseph Xulue (13CLE)

On 6 and 7 July 2010 during the first week of the Term 2 holidays, I was given the privilege of representing the Botany Electorate at the sitting of the 2010 Youth Parliament. Nearly 130 student youth parliamentarians converged on Parliament for its forth seating since 1994. Wellington lives up to its reputation producing near gale force winds as those of us coming in from Auckland got off the plane. We were briskly whisked on to a bus and taken to the Beehive where we would spend our first day. Both the Beehive and Parliament House contrasted each other with a mixture of modern spatial architecture with Victorian awnings and marble staircases. Both buildings serve as National icons, weaving together New Zealand's rich heritage. It was interesting to note the fact that the halls of Government House and Parliament were in essence, the 'home' of New Zealand's decision makers, past and present, as eloquently put by Honorable Minister Darren Hughes. For the next 48 hours I would partake in an array of activities including a Powhiri with 30 - 40 other Members of Parliament, select committee, a National party caucus meeting, a discussion on leadership featuring Honourable Paula Bennet and Taika Waititi, a screening of the movie "Boy", question time, General Debate and Legislative Debate. The programme was jam-packed but proved to be thoroughly enjoyable. The biggest highlight for me was standing up in Parliament and giving my speech on "Why smoking is good for New Zealand" during the general debate. As much as it sounds like a cliché, this is by far the proudest moment in my life so far. Even though onlookers were disconcerted, the ability to stand in Parliament and freely speak was a testament to the fact as New Zealanders we are fortunate to live in a country which allows us the freedom of speech. Youth Parliament was important because it gave young New Zealanders the opportunity to see how the decision making process works and how we can influence change in our own communities and countries.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

The English department has enjoyed a number of successes with students recently.

College Herald

Daphne Tse of Year 9, Daniel Badenhorst of Year 10 and Serena Owen of Year 11 have all been published in the College Herald. They win a \$100 JB Hi-Fi voucher for their efforts.

Debating

One of our Senior teams and our Advanced Open Team made it through to the Octo-finals in their grades. This in itself is a great achievement as each grade has a large number of teams from schools all over Auckland. The Senior Team of Rebecca Kurtovich, Connor Gallen, Emily Stonehouse, Courtney Deed and Mallory Bish won their Octo-final against Avondale College. This group of students are to be particularly congratulated as they have not debated before this year. Rebecca was awarded Best Speaker. Our Advanced Open Team of Lauren Kubala, Dominik Osika, Abby Pearce and Sam Vincent were ranked first of 16 teams entering their finals round. They debated against Kings College in the Octo-final on Tuesday 3 August and won convincingly. Sam Vincent was Best Speaker.

We wish these teams all the best for success in their quarter final debates on Saturday 14th August.

Eastern Zone Speech Competition

Jessie Fromont of Year 9 and Brodie Brookland of Year 10 represented the school at the Eastern Zone Speech Competition, held at Howick College on Tuesday 27th July. Both girls did the school proud and Jessie won the Year 9 category.



JAPANESE

Utsunomiya- Manukau Sister City Short Term Exchange

This term we are welcoming three Japanese students from Utsunomiya City for a short term exchange at Sancta Maria College. The three students are Shiori Komba, Hanana Okada, Asuka Ono who are being hosted by our senior Japanese students. They will be with us for five weeks. We are pleased to note that the students are settling in very well to the daily school routine at Sancta Maria College.

Japanese Student Group Visit/Exchange

On Thursday and Friday of Week 2 Term 3, we welcomed a group of Japanese junior high school students to our school. The small group of 19 Japanese students and three teachers are from various junior high schools in Utsunomiya City. The group spent two days at Sancta Maria College doing language and cultural exchange.

The visit offered our students the opportunity to put into practice their Japanese language skills and to learn more about their Japanese students and their way of life. In addition to this experience, our students were able to share with them their own unique New Zealand way of life. The students – both ours and the visiting Japanese students – found the interaction to be most enjoyable. The Kapa Haka and 'Grab-a-flag' game were awesome fun for the students. We look forward to their future visits.

International Languages Week (15 August ~ 21 August 2008)

2010 International Languages Week will celebrate the theme 'Languages Can Take You Places... in every sense of the word'

Visit: <http://www.international-languages-week.org.nz/>

GEOGRAPHY

Year 13 Geography and Tourism Field Trip to Rotorua: 29 and 30 July

On Thursday last week 40 Year 13 students journeyed down to Rotorua for an overnight fieldtrip. On arrival the students attended a lecture at the museum where they were enlightened on the main stages of tourism development in Rotorua. Further to this, they analysed the factors that have brought about economic, social, political and environmental changes to tourism in Rotorua. The students then proceeded on to a lecture given by Destination Rotorua personnel on how analysis of tourism data can enhance the marketing of Rotorua to domestic and international tourists.

This experience was then followed by a visit to the Agrodome where the history of the Agrodome was explained and how the it has modified and diversified to meet consumer needs over time. After the intellectual content of the visit was over, the students went onto experiencing an hour of the multi-award winning Agrodome Sheep Show, with full on entertainment and education on the farming world. They also observed the Sheep Shearing Museum and Woollen Mill.

The next day the field trip took students to Waitapu Thermal Wonderland. Wai-O-Tapu (Sacred Waters) is NZ's most colourful and diverse volcanic area. All forms of geothermal activity can be observed there with the sights and sounds of gushing geysers, plopping mud, thundering craters and sizzling earth – The Lady Knox Geyser erupts daily at 10.15am, reaching heights of up to 20 metres! The

students were fascinated with this spectacular display of steam and water.

Rainbow Springs was the final attraction before leaving for home. The students were introduced to the natural fauna and flora of New Zealand through observation of native bush, ferns, trees and plants along with specimens of Rainbow, Brown and Tiger trout. The highlight of this attraction was the tuatara house and kiwi nocturnal house.

The field trip came to a close with weary staff and students arriving back at Sancta Maria College by 7.00pm on Friday evening.

FRENCH



French Choir

After a successful two terms of the Year 8 French Club, Madame Laux has started a French choir. This is a great opportunity for all students.

Zoo Trip

Year 10 French is off to the zoo this week to study the animals in French! They will have various activities and enjoy French food as well.

Competitions

Year 9 French will be involved in the annual French Quiz to be held at St. Kentigern College on 25 August. Twelve students from Year 9 will represent Sancta Maria College.

Alliance Française Concours Oral Competition - 30 August. The following students have been chosen to enter this prestigious competition. We wish them well!

Year 11

Erin Cammell, Maegen Johnson and Jessica Wilkins

Year 12

Justine Pillay and Paige Widelko

Year 13

Olivia Ambrose, Abby Pearce, Sam Vincent and Elliott Lam-Po-Tang

Language Olympics - 9- 22 August

This year Years 9-13 will be involved in this exciting competition. Our students (French and Japanese) will be competing against students from all over New Zealand and the world. The competition runs day and night and the students will be working hard to make sure Sancta Maria College is very high up on the score board!!



MUSIC

Chime with Chunn - as reported in the Howick and Pakuranga Times on 8 July 2010.

Shooting the breeze with a Kiwi music great was a treat beyond compare for a class of high school pupils.

Former Split Enz bassist Mike Chunn shared a cuppa and some of his memories with teenagers during a visit to Sancta Maria College.

Students Dillon O'Brien and Alex Lyall set up the meeting on behalf of their Year 10 Music class.

They asked Mr Chunn about his career and influences during the visit. He told pupils The Beatles were his biggest influence, and he had played their songs on the piano from childhood and into his teenage years.

Music students Jessica Valk and Kayleigh Aspeling said the music legend's talk was entertaining and inspiring.

"He's an experienced musician, and his visit was greatly appreciated and enjoyed," they said.

"Mike encouraged students to write songs because he believes nobody writes them anymore.". He runs a song writing competition for teenagers and encouraged people to enter.

NOTICES

GST INCREASE ON ATTENDANCE DUES

As you are aware, there is an increase in GST as from 1 October 2010. All Term 4 Attendance Dues that have not been paid in full by 1 October 2010 will incur this GST increase. Please check your last school contribution statement to check any outstanding amount on your Attendance Dues.

MANUKAU CITY COUNCIL BIN BATTLES COMPETITION

Manukau City Council set this competition in place to help promote the anti-litter message and make the rubbish bins more visible to the community. The winning designs are to be used to decorate the rubbish bins in the Manukau area.

Year 8 and Y 9 students from Sancta Maria College were invited to enter and we are pleased to announce that Amelia David was successful in being placed as one of the 3 winners.

Her beautiful bright yellow design (with green koru shaped leaves and Pacific Island symbols) will be on display in our community soon. Well done Amelia!! Wendall Baluyut, King-To Yeung, Carmela Lopez and Ria George were Highly Commended.

HOWICK AND PAKURANGA DANCE FESTIVAL 2010

On the 2 and 3 August at Elm Christian Centre, 30 Year 7 and 8 students performed in the HPPA Dance Festival.

The first dance was choreographed and performed by Julianne Ronga-Kea and Kelsi Edwards. The girls worked extremely hard during their lunch times.

Well done to:

Ashleigh Cole; Tracey Danbrook; Megan Davis; Madison Milne; Jordan Monaghan; Jessica Moody; Danielle Palmer; Tianna Croxford; Gillian Symons; Thalia Wairepo – Macfarlane; Julianne Ronga-Kea and Kelsi Edwards.

The second performance was choreographed by Keelin Weekly (Year 9), with help with the organising, costume and make up by Sinead Paterson, Zoe Hansford and Renata Grandao (Year 9).

Brandon Carter-Chan (Year 7) choreographed 'The Jabawakees'.

Well done to:

Tessa Cammell; Brandon Carter-Chan; Georgia Dance; Theresa Dempsey; Jaimee Ann Dick; Patricia Espinas; Teresa Fifita; Richard Fu; Victoria Greengrass; Cameron Hansford; Jane Kubala; Sean Llido; Tara Martin; Angela Pathoumphanh; Stephanie Santana-Drago; Samantha Teinakore and Morgan Williams.

We would also like to thank all the parents and teachers who helped with transport and costumes.

CYCLING SUCCESS

At the recent North Island Secondary School Cycling Championship races in Ngaruawahia, Sancta Maria College cyclists achieved very pleasing results. The Road Race start was delayed due to thick fog, and when racing did begin the course was changed to a safer and shorter route. The poor conditions affected the Under 14 girls and boys, with both groups racing together rather than separately. First time competitors Lucy Darby and Jessica Simpson raced very well. They missed the first break – of mainly boys- due to their position on the start line but finished in the front of their bunch. Jessica was placed 7th and Lucy 8th in their age group.

The change of route meant it was more suited to sprint cyclists (like Julian Dean) than stamina riders like Greg Henderson and Hayden Roulston or our own Scott Ambrose

and Matt Kurtovich. In Matt's race a break of 5 riders set the pace from the start - splitting the field into a number of bunches, most of whom were pulled off early for safety reasons. Scott worked hard on the front of his bunch, trying to split the field, but was unable to get any support to form a break; he was swamped by sprinters in the sprint finish and placed 11th in his age group.

RUGBY REPRESENTATIVES

An annual Auckland Rugby competition for intermediate schoolboy players saw Sancta Maria College Year 8 student, Dalton Papali'i, selected for the Pakuranga Representative side. Dalton's team went into the Walter Dickson Trophy tournament undefeated, collecting a haul of trophies. Playing one game a day, the team put aside Mangere, Kelston, Eden, Henderson and in the final, beating Mangere 20 - 0. Dalton scored eight tries and was awarded the Deon Wagner Memorial Trophy as player of the annual Walter Dickson Trophy tournament. A great effort from a Year 8 student!

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Joshua Pereira

Runner Up – U12 Singles Auckland Tennis Tournament Competition

Runner Up – Doubles

The New Zealand Association of Language Teachers recently presented certificates to students who achieved 4 or 5 Excellences in NCEA French.

Congratulations to:

Justine Pillay – Level 1 – 5 Excellences;

Abby Pearce - Level 2 – 4 Excellences

Olivia Ambrose – Level 2 – 5 Excellences

Sam Vincent – Level 2 – 5 Excellences

Elliott Lam- Po- Tang – Level 2 – 5 Excellences

Ryan Phillips – Winner of Junior Dragster bracket of the Northern Nationals Competition.

Lucy McCall recently competed in the "Down Under Event" in Australia in the Pole Vault Competition. Lucy equalled her personal best, set a new meet record and won Gold.

KEY DATES

Wednesday	11 Aug	Careers Evening 7pm Yr9-10 Drama Stds
Friday	13 Aug	Whole School Mass. 10.30am All invited - School Auditorium
Sunday	15 Aug	Feast of Assumption

Monday	16 Aug	School Closed
Tuesday	17 Aug	NSW Maths
Wednesday	18 Aug	Music Performance 7pm
Wednesday	25 Aug	Newsletter Out
Monday	30 Aug	BOT Meeting - 7pm
Friday	03 Sept	HPV Vaccination Dose 3
Monday	06 Sept	Y10 Retreat and Camp Week
Tuesday	07 Sept	HPV Vaccination
Thursday	09 Sept	Senior Exams start
Wednesday	15 Sept	Newsletter Out
Thursday	16 Sept	Boostrix Vaccination
Tuesday	21 Sept	Year 8 Camp Starts
Wednesday	22 Sept	Y11 Drama NCEA Assessment
Friday	24 Sept	End of Term 3
Monday	27 Sept	BOT Meeting

Dates and times are correct at the time of printing, but may be subject to change.