



SANCTA MARIA COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

Newsletter No: 08

08 June 2011

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

You will see in the Special Character Report the success of our visit to the Cathedral to celebrate our Feast Day on 31 May. This was without doubt one of the outstanding highlights of the 7 ½ years of Sancta Maria College. There was a genuine spiritual presence throughout the morning and we were extremely proud of how the students responded. Comments from those who attended were exceptionally complimentary.

I thank all the staff and senior students who assisted with the co-ordination of the event. Special thanks to Mrs Devoy, Mr Gorman, Miss Cooney and Mr Vickers.

FIELD DRAINAGE

I am very pleased with the state of our sports fields. With the heavy rain over recent weeks it is pleasing to see the effectiveness of the drainage that the Diocese and BOT had installed in January. Those of us who have been embarrassed in previous years by the state of our fields are relieved to see the improvement. We will need to manage the fields well as the experts tell us that it will take up to three years for us to get the full effect of the drainage.

SENIOR EXAMS

The Year 11 - 13 students begin their first set of internal examinations on Thursday. It is vital that they approach these examinations seriously. Some will be sitting exams in which they will gain credits for their NCEA and all students need to remember that should they be ill for their externals at the end of the year, these exams will be used to generate a predicted grade. These exams also serve as a good practice for their externals. Students are encouraged to use their 'study leave' wisely. It is not a time to socialise but a time to do revision and to prepare for the second half of their academic year.

STUDENT ABSENCE

I ask all parents to work with the school so that we can minimise truancy. If your child, at any level is away from school please phone as soon as possible. For Year 7 & 8 students, if we have not heard from a parent we will contact you on the first day of absence. This is also the case for students in Year 10 - 13 who may have a history of suspicious absences. For other students in Year 10 - 13 the Home Room Teacher or Dean will phone you after three days of absence if we have not heard from a parent. Our truancy rate is **very** low however we do have up to 50 students away each day for illness or appointments. Please assist us by working with us to monitor absences.

Academic success can only be assured through minimising absence from school.

Thank you for your support.

May God Bless you all

Paul Daley
Principal

FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

This year the Board of Trustees is reviewing the school's Charter. In order to facilitate this review parents will be surveyed regarding many aspects of school life. This survey will be carried out electronically via email. An Australian company will co-ordinate the survey and will analyse the results. They will produce a report for the Board. This report will form the basis of our Charter Review. I encourage you all to respond to the survey.

Board of Trustees Meeting Dates for this Term

Meetings are held in the College Staffroom at 7.00pm
Monday 27 June

Michael Stride
Board of Trustees Chairman

SPECIAL CHARACTER REPORT

FEAST DAY MASS

On Tuesday 31 May, the entire College travelled to the Auckland Cathedral to celebrate our Feast Day, the Feast of the Visitation. The Mass was concelebrated by Bishop Pat Dunn and Monsignor Bernard Kiely and marked a special milestone for our school community as it was the first time the school had attended Mass in the cathedral.

The Mass was a wonderful event for us as a school. So many students gave selflessly of their time to help with artwork, music, dance and various Ministry roles. During his homily, Bishop Pat spoke about the history and significance of the Cathedral and he stressed how welcome all people are to attend one of the many vibrant services that are held there over the weekend. He went on to state how the Cathedral is our Mother Church which was a fitting comment as we had gathered there to pay honour to Mary, our mother and the mother of all the Church.

The Feast of the Visitation is very important to us as it clearly portrays Mary's care and concern for others. Our honouring of Mary strengthens our belief that she is a model of what it means to be a faithful disciple of Jesus. Her actions give us specific examples of ways in which we should act in our everyday life if we are to be true followers of Christ. We look upon Mary as a role model and want her to be central to our lives at the College and it is our hope that Mary's influence can be seen in our daily actions.

RETREATS

Over the last two Thursdays, we have been fortunate to have had Fr Bernie Thomas, a Franciscan priest join us in Retreat for Years 12 and 11. The students have gained a great deal of meaning from these days and have been able to participate in a wide range of activities designed to enhance their faith and relationships with each other.

BAPTISMAL AND SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME

If you are interested in your child being part of a baptismal or sacramental programme, please contact Mrs Devoy on 2744081 extension 226.

CATHOLIC CALENDAR

June is a month of celebrations among the Church. This Sunday is the Ascension of the Lord and the following Sunday is the Feast of Pentecost. It is on this Feast Day that we remember how the Holy Spirit descended upon the apostles as a mighty rushing wind, fulfilling Jesus' promise to them. This is a day for us to remember two important realities: the Holy Spirit and the Church. Pentecost marks the official beginning of the Church and the fact that the Holy Spirit bestowed upon the apostle's gifts of grace.

Although Pentecost ends the Easter season, we celebrate the Resurrection regularly through the Eucharist. Each Wednesday, Fr Ezio celebrates Mass in the school Chapel

and as a school community we have, through receiving the Eucharist, an opportunity to celebrate the Resurrection. Mass takes place at 1.30 and is open to all students, staff and family members. You are most welcome to take part and I would ask that you encourage your children to attend this Mass.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful. Kindle in them the fire of Your love. Lord, send out Your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.

Geraldine Devoy
Director of Religious Education

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

Some ideas to assist parents when helping with homework.

Numeracy Strategy – USING COMPENSATION WHEN SUBTRACTING

This strategy involves rounding one of the numbers to a 'tidy number' and then adjusting the other value accordingly. This gives the students easier numbers to work with.

When we subtract we are finding the **difference between** two numbers. We can make the calculation easier by **keeping the difference between the numbers the same** but making the numbers easier to work with.

Compensation with subtraction (whole numbers) Strategy 1

If one number is increased by an amount, then the second number must be increased by the same amount to **keep the difference between the numbers the same**. We want to make the second number the tidy number to make the subtraction easier to process.

$$\begin{array}{r}
 187 - 68 = \square \\
 \begin{array}{ccc}
 \boxed{+2} & \downarrow & \downarrow & \boxed{+2} \\
 (187 + 2) - (68 + 2) = \square \\
 189 - 70 = 119
 \end{array}
 \end{array}$$

Tidy number

Compensation with subtraction (decimal fractions) Strategy 2

If one number is decreased by an amount, then we want to decrease the second number by the same amount to **keep the difference between the numbers the same**. We want to make the second number the tidy number to make the subtraction easier to process.

$$\begin{array}{r}
 14.6 - 5.3 = \square \\
 \begin{array}{ccc}
 \boxed{-0.3} & \downarrow & \downarrow & \boxed{-0.3} \\
 \text{Becomes} & (14.6 - 0.3) - (5.3 - 0.3) = \square \\
 & 14.3 - 5 = 9.3
 \end{array}
 \end{array}$$

Tidy number

SANCTA MARIA SCHOOL CROSS-COUNTRY

On Friday 20 May we held our annual Cross-Country event. This was a fantastic event with the sun coming out for the afternoon. We had a competitive race across all age groups

with the overall boys winner between Nick Osten and Scott Ambrose being very tight all the way to the finish line. Nick pulled off an emphatic finish claiming 1st place for the Senior boys and Scott Ambrose claiming 1st place for the Intermediate boys. Patria Harris was our 1st Senior girl home running her final cross country race here at Sancta Maria College where she finished well ahead of the rest of the competitors. Again our Cross-Country course proved to be very wet and muddy, ideal conditions for any cross-country course.

Final Placing's

SENIOR BOYS

1st Nick Osten
2nd Seth Cranson-Hardie
3rd Scott Martin

SENIOR GIRLS

1st Patria Harris
2nd Anna De-Jong
3rd Sasha Kulik

INTERMEDIATE BOYS

1st Scott Ambrose
2nd Corey Ford
3rd Nicky Albutros

INTERMEDIATE GIRLS

1st Kayleigh Aspeling
2nd Sari Ter Huurne
3rd Taylor Shrimpton

JUNIOR BOYS

1st Patrick Iyog
2nd Ryan Mahy
3rd Lucas Gordon

JUNIOR GIRLS

1st Jaimee-Ann Dick
2nd Tysha Ikenasio
3rd Keelin Weekly



SPORTS CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

The First XV rugby team beat Auckland Grammar on Saturday 28 May for the first time in the open division in our school's history. This result sets the First XV up for a good season in a higher grade this year.

Patria Harris finished in 14th place at the Auckland Secondary Schools cross-country at St Kents on Tuesday 31 May. She will also be competing at the national champs later this year.

LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT



On Saturday 9 April around 9am the Auckland International Airport was buzzing with twelve excited students about to head for France. There were tears from the mums, except mine of course, she was almost jumping for joy. We all said our goodbyes and began our journey. The flight was good,

with a stopover in Singapore and before we knew it we were in France!! We saw the Eiffel Tower from the plane off in the distance!! Once we were landed and through customs we set off by train to meet our families in Lille which is about 50 minutes out of Paris. We met the families then set off to our new homes in Arras! This is where we went to school, the schooling system is so different over there. Instead of the teacher teaching us then doing exercises the teacher talks and the students write. We went to other places such as Boulogne-Sur-Mer which is by the sea and Berk-Sur-Mer also by the sea. At Berk-Sur-Mer there was a kite festival, the kites were huge!! We only went to school for a week and then it was holidays so we spent the next week with the families. The New-Zealand students had a really good time with the families doing activities such as Parc Asterix, Disney Land, Paris, Tree Climbing and going to Belgium just to name a few. When the time came to say goodbye we didn't want to! My family and I had planned to just not turn up to the train station, but sadly my parents wouldn't be too happy with that. With tears we all left to go to our next destination. PARIS!! Straight away we walked to our first activity, a three hour bike ride around Paris. Our guide was from New Zealand so we could understand him perfectly! We spent five days in Paris seeing all the famous monuments and meeting new people. It is truly an experience we will never forget! Again when time came to go home we didn't want to, although we were keen to sit down for 24 hours after five days of speed walking around Paris. Arriving in New Zealand we were all smiling, glad to be home and be able to see our families again. As we walked out of customs I looked straight at my mum, who again, was almost jumping for joy.

Lauren Southon

FRENCH CHOIR



On 25 May, the French choir (Martina Buzak, Iris Chan, Sunny Feng, Romavyll Octura, Taylor O'Malley, Adora Rodrigues, Stuart Simmons, Nicole Wallen and Emilie Wright) and Madame Laux performed at the lunchtime school Mass. The French choir meets every Day 2 to practise the French language through songs of all types (Mass hymns, contemporary songs ...). Thank you Madame Laux and the French choir for your commitment. We look forward to more wonderful singing!

SENIOR BALL

Year 12 and 13 students attended their masquerade themed ball on Saturday 28 May at the Ellerslie Convention Centre. This was a very successful, well attended event. The students were unrecognisable in their wonderful outfits and masks. The evening opened with the presentation of sashes to Connor Gallen and Chelsea Couchman who were voted King and Queen and Nicholas Liyu and Candice Hastings who were voted Prince and Princess of the ball. Eighteen

couples from Year 13 then stunned their teachers and fellow students with an elegant opening waltz.

A huge thank you to all our students and parents for supporting our firm guidelines regarding the ball and making the evening a success. Photographs are available online at www.fotonz.co.nz

AUCKLAND SCHOOLS DEBATING

The Junior Open debating teams competed in the fifth round of the ASD competition on Monday 23 May. They debated the moot that 'This House believes that single sex schools are better than co-ed schools'. Congratulations to The Talk Machines (Ria George, Breann Dias, Taylor Frost and Kerry Lam-Po-Tang) who beat St. Kents and The Sharp Tongues (Samantha Teinakore, James Green-Thompson, Tyla Stewart, Dana-Lisa Griffin and Connor Sutton) who beat Edgewater. Team Mighty (Tania Thamrin, Hans Lim, Isaac Bae, Matthew Laguda and Gabrielle Murti) narrowly lost to Sacred Heart and The Peacocks (Emma Morgan, Abigail Lillo, Antoinetta Whiteford, Katie Cammell and Cameron Leishman) were beaten by Botany.

In the fifth round of the Advanced Open competition on 31 May The SMC Saints (Kendall Ogden, Mallory Bish and Courtney Deed) affirmed the moot that 'This House believes teachers' pay be based on their performance'. Congratulations to the team who beat St Kents to win this exciting and enjoyable debate.

We are now anxiously awaiting the list of teams who have made it into the Octo-finals rounds of both competitions.

LIBRARY

During **Literacy Week [23 - 27 May]** we experienced many creative forms of literacy in the Library. On Monday **Fifi Colston** talked to the Year 7 and 8 students about her life in Wellington as a book illustrator, writer, craft presenter for Television New Zealand, and Wearable Arts creator. The students enjoyed Fifi's school day stories illustrated by whiteboard drawings. During Monday lunchtime the **Inter-House Lit Quiz** was fiercely contested by four House group teams, a teacher team and the Kids Lit Quiz A Team. The Akaroa Team [Daniel Badenhorst 11BRN, Victoria Brown 7GNS, Hannah Horne 11CLE, and Matthew Laguda 9BRN] were the resounding winners. Audience questions were won by Sidney Piggin 9BRN, and David Tiongco 13DNN.



Due to Manukau fog and airport closure our Tuesday award winning author **Fleur Beale** was flown back to Wellington. We hope to reschedule this visit at a later date. During Tuesday lunchtime **music students** gave beautiful solo and small ensemble performances. Jaedon Gascoigne 12DNN and Ryan Wood 12GNS were asked to play encores and dedicated their wonderful rendition of **Ten Guitars** to Mr Daley and Mr Gyde.

On Wednesday Year 12 and 13 students enjoyed listening to poetry and creative writing ideas from **Robert Sullivan** [Nga Puhī], Head of Creative Writing at MIT, Manukau. During lunchtime we were exceptionally entertained by the Year 10 **Theatre Sports** groups led by Dominic Gorski 12DNN and Melanie Thachankary 12LIS.

Rowan Quinn, a radio journalist from Radio New Zealand inspired Year 12 students with her investigative experiences and even recorded student interviews with her Radio NZ microphone 'vox pop' and played these back to them. During Thursday lunchtime **poetry** was performed to a large audience. The crowd favourites were the expressive **Romeo and Juliet** Shakespeare sonnet, and Miss Leafberg's animated poem about Stonehenge.

Dylan Horrocks, a graphic artist and novelist, amused Year 9 and Year 11 students on Friday with his demonstration of visual literacy, and especially how to draw story characters with expression. During lunchtime **music groups** played to a 'packed house' including the Gospel choir, the Ukulele Orchestra, the Jazz Combo and the Year 11 Rock Band. This was a delightful showcase of student talent, even more so as for a large number of these students it was their first public performance.

Thank you to all of the families who have donated to the **Picture Books for the Pacific**. A total of 700 books have been donated. The photo competition [to match teachers with their favourite books] winner was Hannah Horne – 15 correct answers.

Runner-up was Ann-Margaret Leung-Wai – 7 correct answers.

Winning House

Hokianga with 300 points with Akaroa coming a close second.

Mrs Karon Horne

Teacher Librarian

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Janeiya Gascoigne – played in the NZ Mixed and Mens Nationals for Waitakere recently. She was selected for the NZ U23 Mixed Netball Team to play a one off tri-series in Brisbane in October.

Janeiya was also named Most Valuable Player for the U19 Grade at the NZ Indoor Netball Nationals held in Wellington in March. Well done!

Elizabeth Ene has been selected into the Pacific Rim Team to play in the Trans Tasman Secondary Schools Netball Tournament to be held in Wellington – 31 May – 2 June.

SMC Netball Representative Selections – 2011

We have had some great achievements over the past weeks in Netball and we would like to congratulate the following Sancta Maria players:

Elizabeth Ene: Pacific Rim National Secondary School Girls

team and Counties Manukau Under 17 Team

Patria Harris: Counties Manukau Under 19

Kelly Paulin : HPNC Under 19

Makayla Samaeli, Kirsty Lakay, Larissa Curry: Under 17

HPNC

Natasha Owen-Pike: Under 15 A team

Sian Papalii, Tysha Ikenasio: Year 9

Georgia Dance, Stephanie Santana, Tamika Flavell: Year 8 A

Kelsey Evans: Year 8B

Natasha Griffin: Year 7A

Stephanie Santiago-Drago 8DNN

Member of New Zealand All Stars Cheerleading Team

Placed first place in their age group at the American National Championship for Cheerleading. This Championship had the best teams from America, Canada and New Zealand in attendance. It is a fantastic achievement. Well done Stephanie!

KEY DATES

Friday	17 June	Year 7 – 10 Reports Posted Home
Tuesday	21 June	ICAS Writing Exam
Thursday	23 June	Year 10 Retreat
Monday	27 June	Board of Trustees Meeting – 7pm
Friday	01 July	Newsletter
Monday	04 July	Concert Band Performance Day
Wednesday	06 July	Music Performance Evening 7.00pm in the Auditorium
Friday	15 July	End of Term 2 Newsletter

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