



# SANCTA MARIA COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

Newsletter No: 16

December 2011

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Students

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

As the academic year comes to a close I wish to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have supported us throughout the year. As you are aware one of the "A's" in our Sancta Maria Acronym stand for All of Us. Through All of Us working together our young people will reach and in many cases exceed their potential. Last week we farewelled our Year 13 students. These talented, mature and value based students are ready to face the challenges of their new world. While they were sad at leaving what has been their second home for many years they are excited about the opportunities that are now in front of them. Their parents joined them and the staff at a Leavers Mass that was followed by a formal dinner. It was the 'coming together' of All of Us who had worked to ensure the development of these young men and women. We now continue with the task of working with the young ones still in our school in order that they too can achieve their dreams.



We conduct a written survey of our leavers prior to their departure. This anonymous feedback gives us the opportunity to reflect in what we can improve on in order to continue our drive for excellence. What is truly encouraging is that the Special Character of the College is reflected positively in the students' responses. They recognise the significant role that it plays in the culture of our school and hopefully in their lives.

As we prepare for the holiday season I wish to extend to you all on behalf of the Staff and Board of Trustees a very happy, holy, safe and relaxing Christmas. Take time out with your children to focus on the 'reason for the season' and make the celebration of the birth of Christ and his mother Sancta Maria a part of your Christmas celebrations.

May God Bless You All

Paul Daley  
Principal

## SPECIAL CHARACTER REPORT

### ADVENT

2011 is drawing to a close and we are now in the season of Advent, which is a time of waiting and preparation, extending over four Sundays before Christmas. The word 'Advent' comes from the Latin *advenio* 'to come to'. It refers to the coming of Christ, not just at his birth at Christmas time but also for when Christ comes again.

The Middle School Homerooms all have an Advent wreath on their prayer table. The circular wreath is symbolic as it has no beginning or end, representing God, who is eternal and also without beginning or end. The wreath is made of evergreen branches, evergreen meaning ever alive and symbolic of Christ who died but is now alive, never to die again.

The wreath has four candles, three violet and one rose. These four candles represent the four weeks of the Advent season. The colour violet represents a time of waiting and preparation, a time in which we should be preparing our souls for the coming of Christ. The single rose coloured candle is lit on the third Sunday (traditionally known as Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete means rejoice and it is fitting that we should do so)

For Catholics, the lighting of the Advent candles represents

the promise of the coming of Jesus, the light of the world. As the light of the Advent wreath grows, we share in the expectation of Isaiah, of John the Baptist and of Mary for the fulfilment of God's promise to send a saviour.

### LEAVERS' MASS

Last Thursday, the Year 13 students participated in their final Mass. This was celebrated by Fr Ezio and was a beautiful occasion. The music was played by the Year 13 students, with some assistance from Robbie De La Vega, a Year 9 pupil. The opening hymn was The Galilee Song, and the lyrics of this song were the topic of Mr Daley's farewell reflection. The song describes the feelings of a person who is leaving behind the life they have known to follow Christ to places strange and unknown. Mr Daley likened these words and emotions, not only to himself in times of uncertainty, but also to our graduating Year 13 students. He urged them to reflect on the words and to pray regularly and in times of doubt and fear.

I would like to wish the Year 13 students all the very best for their futures and to thank them for the significant input they have had in the Special Character of the College.

### CHRISTMAS LITURGY

On the last day of school, there will be a brief Christmas Liturgy. So often in today's world, Christmas is taken over by commercialism and the true meaning of Christmas is lost. We will, as a school, be reflecting on the birth of Christ and how we can make small changes in our lives to prepare for the birth of Christ.

It is appropriate at this time, that I thank Fr Ezio Blasoni, our College Chaplain, for all he has done for us throughout the year. He celebrates Mass every Wednesday, he facilitates our Ministry of the Eucharist programme, he conducts all our special Masses and he is always available to help and to listen.

Finally, I wish you all a very safe, holy and happy Christmas and a relaxing break.

**I pray that this Advent, we can all strive to make a lasting place in our hearts for Jesus the Christ child, that we go often to the Bethlehem of our hearts to spend time with the One who offers us peace.  
O come Emmanuel, Christ with us.**

Geraldine Devoy  
DRS

## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

### SPELLING BEE COMPETITION

On Thursday 17 November, seven of our Year 8 students competed in the semi-finals of the Scripps National Spelling Bee. This was a huge achievement for Sancta Maria College with only 200 spellers being selected from the entire country. Although the students did not make it into the top 21, they should certainly be proud of how well they represented Sancta Maria College. The list of students who attended this event were: Anna George, Izaak Tele, Niel Kulkarni, Adora Rodrigues, Meggue Cruz, Joshua Pereira, Stephanie Santana-Drago

## **CAREERS DEPARTMENT**

### **DREAMCATCHER WORKSHOPS**

#### **for Year 8 and Year 9 students in Term 4**

This year we are introducing a new web based Career Development Programme called DreamCatcher. This programme is designed to help our students in their Career Development Process following them from Year 7 to Year 13. A major feature is that parents can have direct input from home.

This term all Year 8 and 9 students are being introduced to the programme by Mrs Keegan the Careers Advisor during their Health and Social Studies periods. Workshops were also run in Terms 2 and 3 for all students in Year 10. Students can access this web site 24/7 using their school user name (4-5 digit code) and a password issued by Kamar. If they have misplaced these they can contact Mrs Keegan. Benefits of using DreamCatcher for students are

- Student Driven resulting in ownership and responsibility is with the student
- Live Document with a focus on 'Self Assessment'
- Captures Career Dreams with a reality check
- Easy Structure to follow for Career Pathway Planning

Benefits for Parents:

- Accessible at home enabling collaborative research and decision making
- Opportunity to see and discuss how their child views themselves, using self-analysis
- Communication of key dates, opportunities and relevant concepts that require consideration by your child within their year level
- Helps show the relationship between subjects, level of study and career aspiration entry requirements

We plan to roll DreamCatcher out to all year levels in 2012. Students will be completing the Goal Setting and Self-awareness sections by the end of Term 1. There is a portal for parents and the passwords to access this will be issued early next year. In the meantime we are encouraging students to log on at home and "show their parents around." There are video tutorials within DreamCatcher that assist students and their caregivers in navigating successfully around DreamCatcher.

If you have any questions or feedback about this programme or any other career related issues please feel free to contact Pam Keegan at [p.keegan@sanctamaria.school.nz](mailto:p.keegan@sanctamaria.school.nz) or by phoning extension 227.

### **GATEWAY PROGRAMME 2011**

Thank you to our Gateway students for their dedication and the extra work they put in to successfully complete the programme.

Thank you also to the parents and caregivers for their unwavering support and commitment in assisting their children to achieve their set goals.

And last but not least a big thank you to this year's Gateway host employers without whom the Gateway Programme would simply not be possible.

This year's employers were:

**Davie Motors Holden, Botany**  
**Trelise Cooper Ltd**  
**The National Bank, Botany**  
**McDonalds Restaurants**  
**Advanced Electrical**  
**Quality Automotive & Tyres Ltd**  
**Mahurangi Technical Institute**  
**SPCA**  
**Haven Waiheke Ltd**  
**MJ Hair Design**  
**Mercy Parkland**  
**Brookby Heights International**

**Dalton Electrical Co**  
**Fencible Manor**  
**Etco**  
**Mercure Hotel**  
**Auckland Aero Club**

### **GATEWAY PROGRAMME 2012**

Senior Students who are interested and would like to know more about the programme or who would like to participate can enrol now in the Careers Centre.

We are always interested in hearing from employers who would be able to assist us by hosting a student for 8 to 10 days of work experience.

Contact our Gateway Co-ordinator Mrs Anderson on (09) 274 4081 ext: 244 or Mobile: (021) 104 5373 or email [r.anderson@sanctamaria.school.nz](mailto:r.anderson@sanctamaria.school.nz)

### **FRENCH DEPARTMENT NEWS**

Bien Fait! to the following students....

Year 9

French Speaking Competition for East Auckland  
Congratulations!

First place: Tania Thamrin

Second place: Dana-Lisa Griffin

Ashlynn Jury, Emily Lyall and Dennise Palpal-Latoc also gave wonderful performances.

Language Perfect World Languages Competition 2011

Gold Award Dennise Palpal-Latoc and Ashlynn Jury

Silver Award Iris Chan and Justine Pillay

Assessment of Language Competence

(ALC examination) Certificate 1 Year 10

### **High Distinction**

Renata Grandao

Brooke Wallen

Kerry Lam-Po-Tang

(Certificate 2)

### **Distinction**

Olivia Brown

Breann Dias

Stephen Fletcher

Chantelle McIntosh

Sinead Paterson

Keelin Weekly

Elliot Wilton

## **SPORTS REPORT**

### **Junior Girls Touch Rugby**

We are blessed this year to have a high calibre of girls playing in the Junior Girls Touch Rugby team. The team consists of New Zealand representative, Tysha Ikenasio and Counties Manukau representatives: Quilaine Papua, Sian Papalii, Leilani Jamieson, Lexi Kiriwi and Tamika Flavell. Tanysha Courteney and Jamiee Ann Dick make up our team, with Kate Harris coming in as our junior development player.

The team have made their way through round games with ease and are looking forward to the Quarter Finals this week. Sancta Maria will be playing Macleans College A.



With the support of Sports Director, Michael Marnewick, the team are proudly wearing new Touch uniforms.

Results from SEZ Athletics – a day that started very wet and windy but after sunshine in the afternoon gave Sancta Maria College some very good results.

|           |                    |   |
|-----------|--------------------|---|
| Discus    | Junior Boys        | Paul Ngan Woo (4 <sup>th</sup> )        |
| Shotput   | Senior Boys        | Paul Mendoza (3 <sup>rd</sup> )         |
| High Jump | Intermediate Boys  | Lostengaja Taulagi (3 <sup>rd</sup> )   |
| 100m      | Junior Boys        | Jacob Garbarek (3 <sup>rd</sup> )       |
| 400m      | Junior Boys        | Luis Juan (3 <sup>rd</sup> )            |
| 400m      | Junior Girls       | Sophia Pervolianakis (5 <sup>th</sup> ) |
| 400m      | Intermediate Girls | Stephanie Griffin (3 <sup>rd</sup> )    |
| 400m      | Senior Boys        | Sioeli Vaiangina (3 <sup>rd</sup> )     |
| 800m      | Intermediate Boys  | Christopher Field (5 <sup>th</sup> )    |

The following athletics placed 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> and have qualified to represent SE zone at the Auckland Interzone event on the 8 December. We wish them well in their competitions

|           |                   |                                     |
|-----------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Shotput   | Junior Boys       | Paul Ngan Woo (2 <sup>nd</sup> )    |
| High Jump | Senior Boys       | Sioeli Vaiangina (1 <sup>st</sup> ) |
| High Jump | Senior Girls      | Georgia Dance (1 <sup>st</sup> )    |
| 100m      | Intermediate Boys | Julian Raad (1 <sup>st</sup> )      |
| 200m      | Senior Boys       | Paul Mendoza (2 <sup>nd</sup> )     |

### CYCLING

#### Scott Ambrose

Scott has had an outstanding year in 2011. He was crowned the U17 National cycling champion and after being nominated for the ASB College Sport Young Person of the Year in October, walked away with this prize. Scott was also nominated for the Counties Manukau Sporting Excellence Awards in the Junior Sportsman category. Scott moves into the U20 category next year and we look forward to monitoring his progress. Well done on a fantastic year Scott!

### JUNIOR GIRLS TOUCH

The Year 9 and 10 Girls Touch team have had a great year in 2011. Having won the Eastern Zone Championships the team set their sights on the Auckland Champs in December. The team of Quilaine, Tysha, Leilani, Lexi, Jaimee-Ann, Sian, Tanysha, Tamika and Kate have proven their worth all season and at the Auckland Champs we won 4 out of 5 games, winning the Plate Final against Alfriston College. This achievement is outstanding for a team that will only lose one player next year because of age. Quilaine has led the team outstandingly all season and credit must go to Mrs Stevens for all her effort.

### NOTICES

#### Homestay Accommodation Required for 2012

Sancta Maria College has International Students who require a New Zealand homestay for the academic year. Homestay Host will provide full board, including laundry, and all meals. Students must have their own bedroom. It is preferable if the homestay is within the Sancta Maria College school zone. All adults 18 years and above, living in the homestay, are required to be Police Vetted. Please email Miss Cooney: [c.cooney@sanctamaria.school.nz](mailto:c.cooney@sanctamaria.school.nz) if you are interested.

### UNIFORM SHOP – OPENING TIMES

#### JANUARY 2012

|         |    |      |   |                         |
|---------|----|------|---|-------------------------|
| January | 17 | 9.30 | – | 11.30am                 |
| January | 20 | 4.00 | – | 5.30pm                  |
| January | 21 | 9.30 | – | 11.30am                 |
| January | 24 | 9.30 | – | 11.30am & 4.00 – 5.30pm |
| January | 27 | 4.00 | – | 5.30pm                  |
| January | 28 | 9.30 | – | 11.30am                 |

#### SCHOOL REOPENS – Friday 27 January

|          |    |      |   |                        |
|----------|----|------|---|------------------------|
| January  | 31 | 8.15 | – | 8.45am                 |
| February | 2  | 8.15 | – | 8.45am & 3.00 – 3.30pm |
| February | 4  | 9.30 | – | 11.30am                |

### TERM DATES – 2012

|    |        |            |        |              |
|----|--------|------------|--------|--------------|
| T1 | Friday | 27 January | Thurs  | 5 April      |
| T2 | Monday | 23 April   | Friday | 29 June      |
| T3 | Monday | 16 July    | Friday | 28 September |
| T4 | Monday | 15 October | Friday | 7 December   |

### Official Holidays

|           |            |   |                      |
|-----------|------------|---|----------------------|
| Monday    | 30 January | – | Auckland Anniversary |
| Monday    | 6 February | – | Waitangi Day         |
| Friday    | 6 April    | – | Good Friday          |
| Wednesday | 25 April   | – | Anzac Day            |
| Monday    | 4 June     | – | Queen's Birthday     |
| Monday    | 22 October | – | Labour Day           |

### KEY DATES

|          |        |   |
|----------|--------|---|
| Thursday | 08 Dec | End Term 4<br>Students dismissed at 12.15pm   |
| Saturday | 10 Dec | Uniform Sale Day – 10am – 1pm<br>SMC Uniform Shop items<br>and<br>Elizabeth Michael Corporate Wear<br>in the Auditorium |

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

## **SCHOOL COMMENCEMENT DATES for 2012**

Starting times on Friday 27 January 2012

**SENIOR SCHOOL only Year 11 - 13 Students**

School Commences - 10.00am - 2.00pm

**Students to wear School Uniform**

Buses will not be operating

Tuesday 31 January 2012

**MIDDLE SCHOOL only Year 7 - 10 Students**  
8.40am - 3.15pm

Buses will operate at normal times



Wednesday 1 February 2012

**FULL SCHOOL - 8.40am - 3.15pm**

***WISHING YOU ALL  
A SAFE  
AND HAPPY HOLIDAY***