



SANCTA MARIA COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

Newsletter No. 8
Tuesday 25 August 2015

FROM THE BOARD CHAIR AND PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Whanau

The Education Review Office (ERO) Team has now completed its review of our college and a verbal reporting back on the emerging findings has been given to The Board of Trustees and Senior Leadership Team. It was noted that the many positive strengths that were identified in the previous review (2012) continue to remain evident throughout this review.



The overall evaluation question being asked was **“How effectively is this school’s curriculum promoting student learning, engagement, progress and achievement?”**

Discussions, documentation and observations took into account our specific context and unique characteristics. Reference was made to staff changes in the leadership team since the last review and the sad passing of one of these staff.

The college can be proud of its academic record and is already exceeding the 2017 government targets of 85% NCEA (Level 2) and is on track to achieving the Ministry of Education National Standards Goals for reading, writing and math. There were many other positives and included the supportive culture and positive relationships that exist, the high expectations for behaviour and academic endeavour underpinned by the school’s charisma that is at the core of all work. The Pastoral Care systems continue to enhance the holistic support provided for our students.

Quality feedback was also given for the journey moving forward as the college further develops and plans for growth in the next decade. This is an exciting time for the college in its endeavour to ensure our students are well-prepared for life beyond school and are life-long learners.

The external review has affirmed the discussions that The Board and Senior Leadership Team have been having this year. We are confident that the constructive advice and feedback can be considered in the formulating of the new strategic plan for implementation next year. The Board and Senior Leadership Team met last term with an educational facilitator to carry out strategic thinking and create a framework. This review is timely for accommodating their feedback.

Overall, we are pleased with the initial response from the ERO Team. The full written report and recommendations give us an excellent framework for moving forward. This is expected at the end of term. We can be proud of our college and what it is achieving. The review is about striving for continuous improvement and there is very good guidance provided of how to achieve this.

We wish to acknowledge the efforts of the Senior Leadership Team and staff for the work achieved as part of the preparation towards the review and their active participation in it. Many students were also interviewed and the ERO Team commented positively about our students and their well- considered and constructive responses that were given. Our thanks to you all.

Upcoming Events

August

- 26 PTFA Meeting (7.00pm)
- 27 Late Start (Y9-13)
- 31 –4 Tournament Week

September

- 9-15 Senior Exam Week
- 10 Careers Day – Y10
- 10 Late Start (Y9&10)
- 16 Y11 Retreat
- 17 Family Mass at Sancta Maria
- 21 Board of Trustees Meeting (6pm)
- 22-25 Year 8 Camp
- 24 Late Start (Y9-13)
- 24 Parent meeting (3pm-7pm)
- 25 Year 13 Biology Zoo Trip
- 25 End of Term 3



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Special Character Review

Sister Sian has completed the Special Character Review and has made a verbal statement to The Board. She has commented positively about Special Character which permeates every area of the college. Similar to the ERO visit, Sister Sian sited documentation, made observations in the classroom, interviewed students, staff, parents, The Special Character Committee comprising of parent proprietor's representatives, The Senior Leadership Team and The Board of Trustees.

We look forward to receiving the written report near the end of the term.

The Feast of the Assumption

Approximately, 160 years ago Aotearoa, NZ, was placed under the special patronage of Mary. Bishop Pompallier, in January 1838, celebrated the first Mass at Totara Point in the Hokianga and during the Mass, he dedicated the whole country to Our Lady of the Assumption.

We were pleased that Sancta Maria Primary School joined with us to celebrate Mary, Patroness of New Zealand. Fr Kevin (School Chaplain) and Fr Ezio (St Luke's Parish) led our Mass that included student contributions from both schools. Following the Mass, activities were planned for the primary school students led by college students. The staff from both schools came together to celebrate lunch on this special occasion.

With Faith as our Compass

Louise Moore and Brendan Ryan
Principal and BOT Chairperson

2016 SENIOR SUBJECT CHOICES

The 2016 subject choice process is now open. Two weeks ago, every student in Years 10 – 12 received a copy of the 2016 Senior Course Handbook. This information booklet is to prompt discussion at home about possible subject choices for next year. Through assemblies, I have encouraged students to talk with you at home and to talk with Teachers, Head of Departments, Deans, Careers Advisors and SLT here at College. If you would like to discuss subject choices for 2016 with a key person at College, please contact the Year level Dean, in the first instance.

This week, students will bring home a personalized letter outlining the process of submitting their 2016 subject choices through the online College portal. The portal opened on Monday 24th August and will remain open for two weeks, closing at 9 am on Monday 7th September.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact Ian Vickers, Assistant Principal
i.vickers@sanctamaria.school.nz

The Learning Collaborative

Intensive Courses

Now open for enrollments!

Keen to nail your NCEA exams? We're here to help!

We offer 1-2 day NCEA and Scholarship courses during the Term 3 holidays, taught by outstanding university students. Meet some of them below!

**Naomi
Stuart**

- NZQA Outstanding Scholar
- Dux of Westlake Girls

"I am really excited to contribute my skills and knowledge, and to share my passion for learning."

**Jonathan
Hart**

- NZQA Premier Scholar
- Dux of Auckland Grammar

"I am very excited to meet with Year 13 thinkers who are eager to reach their potential."

From \$50 per course!

For more info and to sign up, head to thelearningcollaborative.org

ON SITE PHYSIOTHERAPY SERVICES

Over the last few months a number of parents have asked the school if we would consider making available an on-site physiotherapist for services for their children who have suffered a sporting injury and requiring the services of a physio. This would minimise the amount of time that students would be away from school attending these physio sessions. We are pleased to advise, that after negotiations with a local physiotherapist (BodyZone Physiotherapy), we are launching this service at the College. These sessions will be on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 11.00am – 2.30pm in the Wellbeing Clinic which is situated in the Auditorium.

Please note:

- Please check with your child when they need to be in class doing assessments BEFORE making an appointment.
- All bookings and correspondence is to be made direct with BodyZone Physiotherapy: Phone: 535 0006.
- Sancta Maria College is providing facilities only for the services and does not accept any liability: this rests with BodyZone Physiotherapy based at Les Mills, Howick.

The services will commence on Monday, 31st August.

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GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT - PARENTS AND COUNSELLING

While students have the right to access confidential counselling in the College, this can sometimes be difficult for parents to accept. They might worry that private information about their family is discussed or that a counsellor is captured by a story which could be one-sided.

Sancta Maria College prides itself on supporting families. Reflecting this, the counsellors are keen to do all they can to support healthy family relationships. They are too well qualified and experienced to be captured by a biased account of events and will work towards helping students to resolve any difficulties in their relationships with their families, if family issues are being discussed. This often means a parent is invited in to work with their child, if the child will agree to such an arrangement. This is the best way to dispel any lingering doubts or misunderstandings about the counsellor and his/her role. Outcomes for parent and child are almost always good.

Most students self-refer and most come about school concerns and friendship issues. These are usually resolved. One family issue that is sad and avoidable is the issue of neglect. Students who have been left alone for long periods of time in childhood do seem to have a struggle as they grow up. There is nothing like the reassuring presence of their own parent or parents, even when they seem to be coping well.

Having open access to a confidential counsellor in school is probably one of the most important aspects of safety for students, as they are able to talk to someone about the things that worry them before they become too serious.

Jenny Goddard
School Guidance Counsellor

ENVIRONMENT TEAM TRIP TO MOTUIHE ISLAND – SUNDAY 2 AUGUST

Congratulations to the 9 students and 3 teachers/parents who spent the day on Motuihe Island earlier this month.

Sancta Maria College Environment Team were invited to join the Macleans College Group to plant trees under the supervision of the Motuihe Island Restoration Trust. 2000 trees were planted during the day and the weather and hot BBQ sausages made it all the more enjoyable.





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VOTE FOR SANCTA MARIA COLLEGE – TELSIA POWERWALL/SOLAR PANELS GIVEAWAY

Please vote for our school to have a Tesla Powerwall battery installed for free.

Vector says...

This year we're asking for your help to deliver the future of energy, by telling us where to install 130 Vector solar systems featuring Tesla Powerwall batteries, free for the lucky winners to use for 10 years.

Each system includes a 3kW solar panel setup to turn sunlight into electricity, an inverter to turn that solar electricity into the power your home appliances use and a Tesla Powerwall daily cycle battery to store unused solar electricity. For more information check out this link

<http://vectorfutureofenergy.co.nz/content/future-of-energy>

To vote, please go here

<http://vectorfutureofenergy.co.nz/page/sanctamariacollege>

YEAR 9 AND YEAR 10 SPEECH FINALS

The speech finals took place on Thursday 13 August, with a representative from each Year 9 and Year 10 Homeroom taking part. The standard of speeches was very high, making it difficult for the judges to select the winners.

Congratulations to the winners, Isabella Foliaki (Yr9) and Anna Jury (Yr10) who went on to represent the school, alongside Alchae Cansana (Yr11) in the Eastern Zone speech competition on Wednesday August 19th.

Results

Year 9

1st Isabella Foliaki
2nd Jade MacGreggor
3rd Maris Balili
Finalists: Maurice de Jesus,
Martin Ibrahim and Drue Washer

Year 10

1st Anna Jury
2nd Andrew Salamoun
3rd Megan Seddon
Finalists: Luke O'Connell and
Angelika Bilbao

EASTERN SCHOOLS' REGIONAL SPEECH COMPETITION 2015

Isabella Foliaki (Yr9), Anna Jury (Yr10) and Alchae Cansana (Yr11) represented Sancta Maria College at the Eastern Schools' speech competition, along with speakers from six other local schools, all of whom presented outstanding speeches, both in terms of content and delivery.

Congratulations to Isabella Foliaki who placed third in the Year 9 section and to Alchae Cansana who won the Year 11 section.

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NEW ZEALAND SPELLING BEE 2015

Seven Year 9 and Year 10 students competed in the Auckland semi-final held at Auckland Grammar on Sunday 16th August.

Well done to Patrick De Vera who progressed from the preliminary written round through to the oral rounds, placing him amongst the top 28 spellers in the Auckland region.

ART DEPARTMENT NEWS

Year 11 Art Students Visit

The Wallace Art Trust at the Pah Homestead, Hillsborough.



Sir James Wallace began collecting New Zealand art in the mid-1960s, with a particular focus on the work of emerging artists. In 1992 he transferred his Collection to a newly formed Charitable Trust, which he proceeded to fund so that it could continue to add to the Collection and provide support for the arts in New Zealand in general.

At this present time The James Wallace Arts Trust is proud to present two exhibitions, Woollaston: The Wallace Arts Trust Collection, 1931 – 1996 and Medal Artists of New Zealand – Regroup Reflect Regenerate. The exhibition Woollaston is a remarkable collection of works by Sir Mountford Tosswill Woollaston. Born in rural Taranaki in 1910, long and famous resident in the Nelson district, knighted in 1979 for services to the arts, Toss Woollaston was the veteran of the longest, toughest and best-fought battle for recognition ever won by a New Zealand painter against the resistance of an ambivalent Kiwi public. From the early 1930s he led the struggle to gain acceptance for modern art in New Zealand, and through his life and work inspired generations of new artists to follow his example.

Regroup Reflect Regenerate looks to the past, present and future of this impressive group of artists through a comprehensive display featuring 35 exhibitors and over 200 medals.

“Medallic art is an art for lovers of sculpture on a small scale; art in the palm of your hand. The primary function of the medal has always been to be a bearer of messages, communicated intimately by the artist to the public.”

L.Tilanus, FIDEM, 1998

Sancta Maria College Year 11 Art students visited this exciting venue with an emphasis on the outdoor sculptures and the medal exhibition. They were greeted by an educational officer who guided them through the exhibits by using engaging questions and activities. One activity involved the students having to form a debate as to why their selected art work had more meaning and worth over another art work. Students demonstrated enthusiasm for the challenges that they were set and responded with insight and integrity. They also enjoyed the beautiful building and grounds in which the work is exhibited.



CAREERS DEPARTMENT

We are coming up to a busy time of year with plenty of offsite career events for students to attend.

Below is a list of the main events you may wish to attend in July. Email Pam Keegan the Careers Advisor at p.keegan@sanctamaria.school.nz if you have any questions or phone school then extension 227.

24 August	Otago Information Evening in Auckland. Ellerslie Event Centre 6.30 onwards http://www.otago.ac.nz/news/events/otago08818111.html
26 August	Free Student Exchange information evening, Parnell Community Centre, Jubilee Building, 545 Parnell Road. www.studentexchange.org.au
27 August	UNITEC Information Evening 4pm-7pm, Mt Albert Campus, Carrington Road. http://www.unitec.ac.nz/why-choose-unitec/experience-unitec/info-evening
28 August	Study at Victoria Open Day http://www.victoria.ac.nz/study/events-visits/study-at-victoria-day
28 August	Massey University - Wellington Campus Open Day http://www.engine.ac.nz/open-days/
29 August	Auckland University Courses and Careers Day www.auckland.ac.nz/en/for/future-undergraduates/living-and-studying-in-auckland-1/courses-and-careers-day.html
3 September	AUT South Campus Information Evening 640 Great South Road, Manukau http://www.aut.ac.nz/study-at-aut/aut-course-information-evening
9 September	UTAI – Maori Open Day, AUT City Campus, Sir Paul Reeves Building (WG). To register go to: http://www.aut.ac.nz/community/maori
12 September	CTC Aviation Open Day ctcaviation.com/events
25 September	Cut Above Open day City Campus http://www.cutabove.ac.nz
October Holidays	Taratahi and Telford Taster Week ***
October Holidays	YOOBEE courses various. Visit www.yoobee.ac.nz to check out various courses. ***

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LOST LIBRARY BOOKS

Many families will have received invoices recently requesting payment for lost library books.

When a student has an overdue book for more than a term, we presume it is lost and ask the cashier to send an invoice so that we can replace it. This is our action of last resort. Your student will have received reminder notices via their Home Room teacher and may also have been reminded verbally by the library staff.

If you receive an invoice for lost books, please check with your student whether the books are still in their possession. Often they are under beds or being read by siblings. If books are returned in good condition, we will cancel those charges. If a book is lost, please organize payment with the cashier so that those funds can be used to replace the item.

Please encourage your students to take responsibility for misplaced books so that other students are not disadvantaged. Returning property promptly is a good habit to encourage. Senior students should know that universities can prevent students from graduating when they have unresolved library loans/debts.

Tracy Munro
Library Manager

JAPANESE STUDENT GROUP VISIT/EXCHANGE: ITOSHIMA HIGH SCHOOL- *Language/Cultural/Sports Exchanges*

During Week 3 of Term 3, we welcomed a small group of 17 senior high students and two staff from Itoshima High School to Sancta Maria College for afternoon class exchanges with Year 9, 10 and senior Japanese language students. Itoshima High School is located 45 minutes outside Fukuoka City (Auckland Sister City) on Kyushuu Island, Japan. The exchange has given our students the opportunity to put into practice their Japanese language skills and to learn more about Japanese students and their way of life. Year 10 and senior Japanese students played a game of softball against our visitors who produced some big hits, much to our students' amazement. The game has generated much interaction and fun for all. Year 9 students' cultural and language exchange has proven a great hit; bringing to life traditional and pop dancing. While our students shared a heart-felt rendition of a Samoan song, sung by Leuasa Ensink and Odette Meredith and a duo dance performance to 'Say Something' (*Christina Aguilera*) by Anna Nguyen and Patrick Florendo provided our guests with mesmerised charm of New Zealand multicultural flavour. Our guests in turn shared with us the art of shodo. Both student groups found the interaction to be most enjoyable – one of learning experiences. We look forward to their future visit.



ASSESSMENT LANGUAGE COMPETENCE CERTIFICATES (ALC) IN JAPANESE

The Assessment of Language Competence Certificates is a program designed to celebrate and enhance the learning of Languages in Australia, New Zealand and the Asia-Pacific region with the focus on reading and listening comprehension skills. Once again, Year 10, 11 and 12 entered all three stages of the ALC Certificate levels. The students will know their results during Term 4. We wish them luck.

40 HOUR FAMINE 2015

A Report Back - TAKE A STAND Join the fight against hunger now and change the world!

On Friday 13 March 2015 a group of senior students attended World Vision's Global Leadership Conventions: 40 Hour Famine Symposium. The students were given the opportunity to learn about global issues, empower them to become inspiring leaders and take action. The event embraced innovative ways of learning about inequalities and global hunger. This year, students were asked, "What do we see the world as..." and "What do you stand for?"

2015 Sancta Maria College 40 Hour Famine Student Committee sees a world that can be saved and for that, it stands for 'the rights of those who have no rights and no voice, who are unjustly sentenced to a life of pain and hunger'. It stands for 'a world of equality and the eradication of hunger', and it believes that Sancta Maria College students, parents and school communities 'can make a difference now and in the future.'



The Students who were on the 40 Hour Famine Committee are genuinely passionate about world social issues. Their enthusiasm in appreciating the idea that 'one can make a difference to those in need – taking a stand against world hunger' was most infectious and inspiring to their peers of all ages. The Committee was a highly motivated, organised and fun group. Their activities ranged from 'Pitch Perfect 2' fundraiser movie that was very well supported by students, staff, parents and friends to lunch time activities of 'cream and wet sponge throwing at staff for a gold coin, raffle ticket, and food-stall sale. The library display was informative and accessible with colourful posters advertising 40 Hour Famine events and booklet sign-up well posted across the school and on a social media site. This year students were able to sign-up on-line. The 40 Hour Famine individual booklet sponsorship and the school mufti day has brought out huge generosity from our students' parents and the school community.

Our school has raised \$10,277.00 which is a very humbling amount, one that is gratefully received. This money will be used to fund community eco ovens to help families to cook nutritious food in an affordable and safe way as well as helping with smoke pollution. The country in focus is Bangladesh for 2015 40 Hour Famine.



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We are very proud of all the students for their compassionate effort and contribution to this years' 40 Hour Famine and utterly humbled by the generosity of their families and friends for supporting this student community service activity.

We wish to thank staff for supporting the 40 Hour Famine Student Committee and their various fundraising activities. Everyone worked hard behind the scenes under the leadership of four key Year 13 students, Siobhan Ryan, Emily Caldwell, Nicola Vercoe and Paddy Mackenzie. We look forward to the next senior student group endeavour. Together we stand, we can make a difference in our world.

"And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." *Colossians 3:17*

SANCTA MARIA COLLEGE APP



**Sancta Maria College
now has a School App!**

Go to the App Store on your Apple or Android Device and Search Sancta Maria College to download the App to your phone or tablet.

School Apps™ schoolapps.co.nz

SUPPORTING SUCCESS IN OUR SCHOOL

Supporting success in your school.

For new ASB home loans over \$150,000 drawn down before 31 December 2015, ASB will donate:

\$500 cash to participating schools.

To take up this offer you must be a parent, staff or member of the participating school. ASB's lending criteria, terms and conditions apply. 20% equity is required in the security property. Other terms apply. Fees may apply. For Ts & Cs and to download the voucher visit asb.co.nz/schoolbanking. Offer ends 31 December 2015.

ASB Bank Limited PPU49035

