



From the Spiritual and Educational Leader

Kia ora Tātou, Parents, Caregivers and Whānau

Term 4 was an incredibly busy term with the senior students taking their leave for NZQA external exams in early November and the junior students taking their exams shortly after. At both the Senior and Junior Prizegiving ceremonies we acknowledged top academic scholars in subjects as well as overall top scholars and students who received a number of special awards including Special Character. Overall, we are very proud of how well our students have achieved. Congratulations to all our recipients who were recognised at the Sports Awards, Merit Assembly and prizegiving ceremonies.

Thank you to the students who gave a reflection on behalf of their year level at prizegiving. I acknowledge Gemma Holt and Felix Cheng (Year 11), Harini Pushpakumar and Adrian Vargas (Year 10) and Cyprus Causer and Alain Talagtag (Year 8). Our Head Prefects, Tahlisa Stevens and Maurice de Jesus addressed those attending the Senior Prizegiving.

We had a wonderful Leavers' Dinner at our last official engagement for Year 13 at Alexandra Park to give thanks to the graduates for their contribution to the college during their educational journey. We were joined by their families for this memorable occasion and where we were able to wish each leaver well for the future.

Looking back, it has been another successful year at Sancta Maria College. Our students have achieved incredibly well, thanks to the contributions of our student leaders, staff, parents, whanau, and other friends of the college. We provide our young people with an amazing range of opportunities in a well-supported school environment with shared Catholic values at the heart of all that we do.

In the final weeks of school there were teaching and property staff departures that were acknowledged their contribution to the life of college. We said farewell to Mr James Roberson (English/Drama), Mr Daniel Charman (Years 7 & 8), Mrs Stevens (Social Sciences) and Raymond Shirtliff (Property & Maintenance). Mr Jordan Roberts (PE & Health) and Mrs Vanitha Singh (Mathematics) both finished their one-year contract with us.

Christmas is when we especially take delight in giving happiness to others. We offer them gifts. We send cards and good wishes. We let sentiment and generosity direct our hearts. The feast that celebrates the birth of Christ speaks of benevolence beyond anything we would imagine. This is why we rejoice.

In a world where most news is bad – floods, wars and all kinds of disasters – the announcement of something beneficial lifts us up and puts a song in our heart. Marriage, the birth of a baby, a new job or any event that gives up hope is good news.

The birth of Jesus in Bethlehem was not a local story like one for a community newspaper nor was it for an in-group but was destined to touch the lives of everyone everywhere. It was for worldwide distribution without restrictions.

The first Christmas forever changed the way people would think about God. It cut across assumed notions. It cancelled the need to cower in fear of malign forces or appease and angry God. No longer could God be imagined as a far-off being, untouched by the messiness of human life.

The announcement that the Saviour was born draws all of us to ponder what kind of God is ours who wanted to be so close as to become an infant in a crib. Such divine solidarity takes us by surprise. The first witnesses were astounded. The Wise Men from the East were overjoyed to find the newborn King and returned to their homelands with the news. The shepherds related their experience and “all who heard were astonished” (Lk 2:18).

Through the Child of Bethlehem we discover the tenderness, kindness and compassion of the God who loves us. We cannot keep that secret.

May God give you the joy of Christmas always. I wish you and your family an enjoyable and relaxing festive season and holiday break and I look forward to seeing you in the new school year.

Ngā mihi o te Kirihimete me te Tau Hou
Season's Greetings for Christmas and the New Year



Louise Moore
Principal



From the Chairperson

As the year comes to a close, we look back on what has been a very successful year for the College. The recent annual prizegivings, sports awards, service and diligence ceremonies proved to be a celebration of success for so many students. It has been uplifting to be able to acknowledge their achievements.

The Board is very pleased with the outcomes of both the MNA and Special Character reviews undertaken through the year placing the College in a strong position meeting the requirements set out by NZQA and the Diocese.

This year's Board of Trustees elections saw three longer serving board members take retirement. We thank and acknowledge Mark Sim Smith, Sue Kubala and Llewellyn McGivern for their valued contribution to the governance support and guidance of our college.

The Board extends its thanks to all staff for their commitment and dedication this year with special thanks to Ms Moore, our Principal, Senior Leaders, Mr Green, Mrs Kilpatrick and Mrs Heffernan, Mrs Stickland (Operations), and Mr J Rogers (Pastoral), Mrs Littlejohn (Business Manager) and Mr Piggin (DRS), Fr Kevin (School Chaplain) and Fr Craig (Parish Priest, St Lukes Parish).

To the students leaving the college, thank you for your contribution and congratulations on your achievements, we wish you all the best for your future careers and endeavours.

On behalf of the Board, we wish everyone a safe and enjoyable Christmas.

Warren Brabant
Chairperson

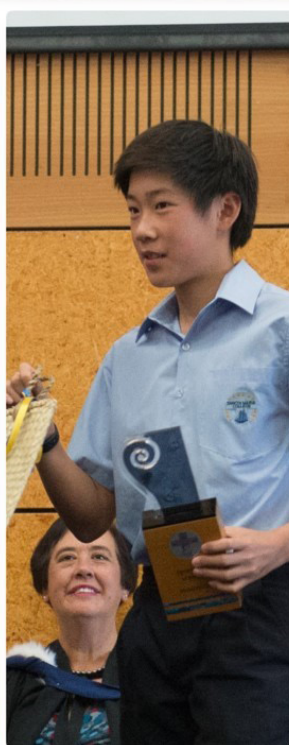
Prizegiving

YEARS 7 & 8	
Outstanding Scholar in Literacy - Year 8	Santiago Duque
Outstanding Scholar in Numeracy – Year 8	Benjamin Botting
Ali Afakasi Trophy	Antonie Smal
Lions Club Trophy for Community Service	Cyprus Causer
Sportsman of the Year	Jack Jane
Sportswoman of the Year	Mya Tubu
Stella Maris Shield	8 DNN
Stell Maris Trophy (Runner Up)	7 CLE



Prizegiving

YEARS 9 & 10	
Navigator Trophy	Allana Santoso
St Catherine Trophy for Academic Excellence	Ethan Rogacion
Cultural Trophy for Boys	Adrian Vargas
Cultural Trophy for Girls	Hannah Dangatan
Sportsman of the Year	Quintin Wong
Sportswoman on the Year	Olivia Selemaia



Chaplain's Corner

To start preparing for Christmas
Start here.
Start with yourself.
Take time.
Take time to be quiet.
Take time to be quiet with God.
Take time to be quiet with yourself.
Take time to look back,
To look around,
To look forward.

Take time for the good news...
To hear it,
To share it,
To should it aloud
That God is love.

That Jesus has come.

That Christmas is a sign
and a celebration
Of God's gift to the world
now and always.



Kaitiakitanga / Stewardship

Caring for Our Common Home

On Tuesday, the 3rd of December, some of our Enviro-Team leaders participated in the second session of our newly developed pest trapping program to support the Otara Creek ecological restoration project adjacent to Sancta Maria College. This is in keeping with the special character of Sancta Maria College, as Pope Francis has urged all Catholics to take greater care of our common home.

This is a joint project in collaboration between the Sancta Maria College Enviro-Team and Pest-Free Howick as part of the Auckland Council. This project involves the trapping of introduced pests such as rats and possums that threaten the long-term survival of native flora and fauna. This will also help to ensure that the native trees that we planted earlier will be able to flourish.

On the day the Enviro-School leaders went around Otara creek to check on previous pest identification traps and set our new traps that are provided with the support of Pest Free Howick Ward- a Howick Local Board funded Project.

The conditions at the time were atrocious for December! Heavy driving rain did not dampen the spirits of our keen and eager Enviro-Team leaders as they were well protected by warm water-proof gear that had been paid for by the Auckland Council- Natural Environment Targeted Rate (NETR). The gear was well and truly put to the test in its first use. We are confident that the gear will help our Enviro-Team leaders throughout the year as they continue to support the trapping project.

The day was led by our teachers; Mr Bidwell, Mr Gray, Mrs Edward Mr Schollum, Mrs McCreath and Niklas Erikson from the Auckland Council Biosecurity. We wish to thank Cate Jessup from Sustainable Schools for making the connection between Auckland Council and Sancta Maria College.

We hope that our students can be part of creating a more sustainable safe environment for our native flora and fauna. Thank you to all those that are helping to make this educational opportunity happen for our students.

Jennifer Zeng and Iain Tang





2020 Start Dates

23 January, Thursday	School Office open (9.00am-1.00pm)
24 January, Friday	School closed
27 January, Monday	School closed (Auckland Anniversary)
28 January, Tuesday	School closed (Staff only day)
29 January, Wednesday	Offices closed (Staff Only day) Auditorium open only to Years 11-13 for course confirmation and Prefects Training. Year 11 (10.00am) Year 12 (10.30am) Year 13 (11.00am) Prefects Training (11.00am-2.00pm)
30 January, Thursday	Year 7 students (8.40am-2.00pm) Year 11-13 students (10.00am-2.00pm) Prefects Training (9.00am-5.00pm) Students to attend in full school uniform. Buses will NOT be operating.
31 January, Friday	Year 7-8 students (8.40am-2.00pm) Year 9-10 students (10.00am-2.00pm) Students to attend in full school uniform. Buses will NOT be operating.
3-5 February Monday-Wednesday	All year levels return (8.40am -3.15pm) Full school uniform required. Buses WILL operate.
6 February, Thursday	School closed (Waitangi Day)
7 February, Friday	School closed (Kahui Ako Day)
10 February, Monday	All year levels return (8.40am-3.15pm) Full school uniform required. Buses WILL operate

Check the school website for [The School Uniform Shop](#) operating hours.

New school uniforms can be purchased from [Elizabeth Michael Uniforms](#).

All workbooks and stationery packs are available online at www.myschool.co.nz

All Art kits will be available for purchase from Gordon Harris at <https://www.gordonharris.co.nz/category/4178-sancta-maria-college>

2020 Term Dates

SCHOOL TERM DATES 2020		STAFF ONLY DAYS
Term 1	See above staggered start for year group. Term 1 ends on Thurs 9 April	Tuesday, 28 January Wednesday, 29 January Friday, 7 February
Term 2	Tuesday, 28 April - Friday, 3 July	Tuesday, 2 June
Term 3	Monday, 20 July – Friday, 25 September	Thursday, 6 August Monday, 14 September - Years 11-13
Term 4	Monday, 12 October – TBC	Thursday, 19 November
<i>The tuckshop will be closed on Thursday 30 January and Friday, 31 January</i>		

2020 SCHOOL HOLIDAYS	
TERM 1	
New Year's Day	Wednesday, 1 January 2020
Day after New Year's Day	Thursday, 2 January 2020
Waitangi Day	Thursday, 6 February 2020
Good Friday	Friday, 10 April 2020
Easter Monday	Monday, 13 April 2020
Easter Tuesday	Tuesday, 14 April 2020
Anzac Day	Saturday, 25 April 2020
TERM 2	
Queen's Birthday	Monday, 1 June 2020
TERM 4	
Labour Day	Saturday, 26 October 2019
Christmas Day	Friday, 25 December 2020
Boxing Day	Saturday, 28 December 2019