

John Paul II High Update

Wednesday 1st August

Kia ora from the Relieving Principal

June/July Issue

Having been here for less than two weeks, I am beginning to feel as if I have never been away. At the same time I realise that there have been a number of staff changes and JP II has moved on since I left at the end of 2016.

I would like to thank Mr Renau and Mr Haigh for the work that they did last term while Mr Stone was on Sabbatical leave. They have now adopted their usual positions in the school for the rest of the school year.

I would also like to acknowledge the contribution which Tina Singer made to the school community. She had a really good relationship with her students and I know that they will miss her. We wish her well for her life in the North Island and hope that she may be able to visit occasionally.

While I am here, my aim is to ensure that, for 2019, the school is fully and appropriately staffed, is in a safe financial position and that morale of staff and students is high. The new Principal will then be able to settle in and subsequently plan for the future with confidence. Accordingly, I am holding individual interviews with all staff members so as to gauge where things are at and provide me with a baseline from which to move forward.

I look forward to meeting with parents of our year 9 & 10 students on Monday evening and to renewing acquaintance with other members of the school community. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at school.

Paul Towers

Callum Donaldson attends Warriors Camp



Last week following the recent U15 League Tournament in Greymouth, Callum Donaldson was asked to attend a Warriors Youth Development Academy in Auckland. Callum was surprised and very excited to take up this opportunity. The Academy highlighted potential pathways to top level rugby league in New Zealand. The players were also tested on strength and conditioning and had educational talks about resilience and what it takes to become a high level player within the NRL. Highlight of the day was getting to meet legends of the game Simon Mannering, Manu Vatuvai, Ben Henry, Issac Luke & Stacey Jones.



KEY DATES TO REMEMBER

Aug 1	Flora Beynon Netball
Aug 3	JP II Swimming Sports
Aug 6	Late Start 9.30am Junior Parents Conference Day Year 11 Sex Ed
Aug 7	Senior Volleyball
Aug 15	Assumption Mass
Aug 16	Junior Basketball
Aug 20	Teacher Only Day
Aug 21-27	Non Interruption Week
Aug 24	Wananga 3pm
Aug 28-31	Senior Exam Week
Aug 31	Year 10 Sex Ed Year 9 Work Shadowing
Sep 3-7	Tournament Week
Sep 12-14	Art Trip—Ch Ch
Sep 17	Late Start 9.15am
Sep 17	Senior Reports
Sep 18	Year 11 MCAT
Sep 24	Mercy Day
Sep 26	Junior Volleyball
Sep 27	Senior Parents Conference Day
Sep 28	Last Day Term 3
Sep 28-30	Japanese Class Trip
Oct 15	Day 1, Term 4

Special Character Report with Mrs Webster

Year 9 were presented with New Testament Bibles from the Gideon organisation. They talked about the importance of providing Bibles to the world and their vocation of spreading the Gospel. This is something that has taken place every year in our school since it began in 1980, and before that at St Mary's and Marist High School. For those who were at school just post-Vatican II, (1960's), having your own copy of the Bible was a novelty as Catholics were not encouraged to read the Bible on their own.



For Champagnat Day, St Patrick's Primary once again joined us in Columba Hall, to celebrate the major Marist Feast Day with Mass. Students are responding to the parts of the Mass more than ever, which makes for a very reverent occasion. The Pounamu Taonga, school banners and candles were also brought up in the opening procession. Champagnat Day is celebrated in over 75 countries where Marist Brothers have schools and outreaches. As part of the Marist Outreach in New Zealand, Brother Osmond visited the school for two days. He took the Senior Student Leaders out to dinner to follow up on the Marist Leadership Forum. Br Os spent a period each, with Year 9, 10, 12 and 13 classes. He spoke about how he became a Brother and the changes that occurred with Vatican II. He also spoke about his work in the prison system. Cushla O'Connor, Secondary RE Advisor, joined staff for the Champagnat Mass, then spent two hours with four of the teachers, Mr Franklin, Ms Gagnon, Ms Lindsay and Ms Morgan, who are new to teaching in Catholic Schools. They covered a range of ideas and gained a better understanding of the Catholic school system.

Columba Hall is continuing to undergo changes. Rob Newcombe has painted the south wall in House colours, which brighten up the area. He has also hung some memorabilia. Senior Management and the Student Council are continuing to develop plans for the Hall, so that it reflects the achievements of our students both past and present.

Nathan Bergin and Holly Lindsay are very keen to attend the Champagnat in the Pacific course, in early August. This will give them an opportunity to meet other Marist school teachers and staff. Each year we try to send two teachers to this course, so that they support one another, and also plan their project for once they return to school. The Marist Brothers subsidise travel which is most appreciated.

Father Peter continued class masses with Year 9, 10, 11 and 12 students. Most RE classes have attended mass either at St Patrick's or at school during the term. Planning for next term Masses will ensure that each class organises and has mass, as well as having Adoration at the

beginning. A small number of students have taken up the invitation of the Sacramental Programme and two for Confirmation at this time. Both programmes will commence in Term Three.

Our deepest sympathies go out to Mr Renau on the passing of his father. Mr Renau spent numerous weekends travelling to Wellington, over the last few months, to support and be with his family.

Four senior students represented the school at Hughie Culling's Funeral Mass. Hughie was grandfather of Alex Thomas, one of our past students for whom a rose was planted in our memorial garden.

It was great to see so many of our students head off to the Wananga at Bruce Bay. It was a wonderful opportunity for the senior students to learn about their heritage, and begin the process towards leadership in the school.

Farewell and congratulations cards have gone out to a number of students. We continue to celebrate our students successes, as well as those who have graduated or achieved in the sporting field. Charlotte Lucas and Ruby Tui continue their winning streaks, which is awesome. Our Facebook page has been busy featuring our students in many activities, not just school based but in the wider community.

Conference Day in early June was a great opportunity for parents and senior students to spend time discussing their progress and plans for the rest of the year.

The Board Special Character Committee met to complete the Attestation Document which is required by the Diocese each year. This document ensures that correct procedures are carried out by the Board for specific areas of the school, including non-preference students, Health Education and job applications.

Year 9 Sexuality Education was run by Mrs McMillan with the help of Mrs Webster. Students spent the day together in a series of activities which helped them learn about, and discuss concepts surrounding puberty. Year 11 Relationships unit will take place on 6 August and the Year 10 unit will be at the end of August.

During Term 2 Mrs Anna Lyford has been a wonderful help in the RE Department. She has worked with nearly every class level, as well as teaching some of Mr Haigh's Maths and English classes. We thank her for her enthusiasm and willingness to teach a range of topics, and wish her well as she takes up a position at St Patrick's Primary School.

It is with great sadness that the school farewells Mrs Singer at the end of Term 2. Over her time at JP11, she has been involved in a wide range of activities and classes. She has supported our students through some very tough times, and has celebrated with their achievements. She has encouraged students to work outside their comfort zone and discover hidden depths. We wish her well as she heads to the North Island.

Bruce Bay—Wananga *(with Kirsty Morgan)*

On the 14th of June a group of 13 Senior students travelled down to Bruce Bay to stay at the local marae and participate in a Wananga with other students along the West Coast. The wananga was based around who the students are and gave them the opportunity to get to know themselves a little better. Down in Bruce Bay there was no cell signal, so it really allowed the students to unplug and discover their own roots and connections to the whenua and their whakapapa.

The Wananga started off at Westland High School where the students got to know each other with a few ice breaker games and singing a waiata. We all travelled in convoy down to Bruce Bay where the students were welcomed onto the Marae and enjoyed some lovely kai. After the kai, the students all worked together to prepare the marae for wananga.

The next morning, they were woken very early with Karakia and some morning exercise which blew the sleep from their eyes. The students then spent the morning looking for Aotea on a local beach. Aotea is a very rare gem stone that can only be found in the Makaawhio River. It is believed to have healing properties and the local hapu call it their healing stone. Mahuena found an enormous piece of Aotea, and Emma then found a smaller, but no less beautiful piece of Aotea. The students were then taken to the workshop of a local carver who regularly works with Aotea. He was told by the many carvers that Aotea couldn't be carved - so he set to carving it and has made some truly beautiful pieces.



Students spent the afternoon really getting to know themselves, with some activities around identifying their personalities and communicating effectively with each other according to their personality types. They then split into tane and wahine to share their rivers of life, and watched the sun set on the beach.

After dinner, the students were again split into groups and came up with some skits for each of Maui's stories in the style of mime, musicals, news broadcasts and movie trailers. This was a great end to a very busy day which was full of laughs and enjoyment which truly showed the students' creativity and imagination.

The wananga was a great opportunity for students to develop their leadership and our Pumanawa. Nathan demonstrated this throughout the two days, encouraging the students and confidently leading by example. Mikey, Leo Whitcombe and Mahuena also showed fantastic leadership skills leading us in Karakia on the Saturday morning. The students also learnt some fantastic communication skills, learning how to actively listen and got to know themselves, and the other students much better. Each of the students commented on how enjoyable it had been and are very much looking forward to going on the next one. They represented themselves and the school with pride, and were a credit to the school.



Mercy Cup Netball—Senior & Junior



On the 19th June the Junior and Senior netball teams travelled to Timaru to compete in the Mercy Cup (Catholic Schools netball tournament). Both teams had an amazing tournament with all the girls giving their absolute best, and fought extremely hard for their well earned wins.

The senior girls team consisting of Daniella Sollitt, Baeleigh Connell, Annie Molloy, Jessie Bichan, Kaytee Griffiths-Wright, Emma Wilson, Klaudia South and Leah Newcombe came out on top of their grade. They took the honors by just one goal in two of their games 10-9 against Marion and 9-8 against Villa Maria, as well as taking the other two games against Catholic Cathedral 13-5 and Roncalli 27-6. Finishing victors of their C Grade Competition.

The junior team consisting of Mya Mahuika, Renae Smith, Claire McCann, Rebecca Mann, Bronah Gibbens, Georgia Smith, Phoenix Smith and Neve Davidson, had a great first tournament, getting a taste of how it is at secondary school level and gaining valuable experience from their games. They had easy wins against Catholic Cathedral 18-1 and St Kevins 27-7, nailbiters against Roncalli 11-14 and Villa Maria 8-13, but were outclassed by the sharper Marion College 8-18, who were the eventual winners of this grade. Most of the juniors are eligible next year and eager to return for the challenge!

Science Trip to Rutherfords Den

On 7th June an excited and talented group of Year 12 and 13 Scientists headed over to Christchurch for 2 days of Chemistry and Physics. Both groups undertook a range of experiments and demonstrations offered by the University of Canterbury and the Rutherford Laboratories, using equipment and resources that could only be used at the University.



The Year 13 students collected data for their Level 3 Chemistry investigation, on how exposure to different temperatures affects the concentration of Vitamin C in orange juice. They were lucky enough to do this in the brand new Chemistry laboratories, of the newly commissioned Ernest Rutherford building at the University. Year 12 students got to experiment with radioactive sources, measuring attenuation with old sources and half-life with new ones which had been made especially for them. Students had a tour around the new science building at the University, and visited the High Voltage Labs, where research is currently being carried out using extremely dangerous voltages of electricity. The researchers put on a musical electrical display so students could watch music generating extremely dangerous sparks on a Tesla coil.

We were shown cutting edge medical machinery which will change the face of medical scanning quite dramatically over the next 5 years, and PhD students and lecturers explained how the space department at the University had grown extensively recently and is quickly becoming world renowned. The University also has access to liquid Nitrogen (almost -200°C) so they showed us quantum magnetic levitation, supercooling of everyday objects and the boiling of liquid nitrogen. Students were able to experience eating supercooled food and have liquid nitrogen poured on their bare hands. Our visit to the Rutherford Labs was a real step back in time, sitting at the same desks Rutherford sat at, visiting his old labs, trying on lead jackets, and learning about his Nobel Prize winning work.



As we had joined with Greymouth High Science Department to organise the trip, this meant there were many opportunities for students to socialise and work with new peers. We were also lucky enough to have a student turning 16 on the trip and so we were privileged to share the special day with him. The trip was a fabulous opportunity to learn about advanced science, at facilities we were blessed to have available to us. Joining with Greymouth High and having the trip over 2 days meant there was an atmosphere of real excitement and fun.

We would like to thank all who made the trip possible, the staff from Greymouth High School, the University of Canterbury and the Rutherford Labs. A big thank you to all the parents and guardians supporting their children in getting prepared for the trip, and of course the students themselves for being such a delight to have on the trip!

By Miss Lindsay



SISS Junior Netball Action

In the school holidays at the end of Term 2, the Junior Netball Tournament team consisting of: Mya Mahuika, Renae Smith, Claire McCann, Rebecca Mann, Bronah Gibbens, Georgia Smith, Phoenix Smith, Neve Davidson and Emma O'Callaghan; travelled to Christchurch to compete in the South Island Secondary Schools tournament, playing 8 full length games over 3 days. Needless to say this was a big ask and a massive amount of netball. The first day saw the team 'on fire' winning all three games against: Papanui 40-14, Riccarton 36-11 and Mt Hutt 21-14. After some sore bodies and hype from the great day we finished 1st in our Pool, this meant we were rewarded with much harder games for day 2. By the morning we had, one vomiting and one injury but managed to get through the days play, losing to the eventual finalists, Gore 9-30, and then Burnside 12-28, however we finished with a win beating Cromwell 28-26 in a very hard fought extra time match. The final day saw our team heavily depleted, with some of the girls plagued with injury and illness, but they fought hard through the next game against Kaikoura losing marginally in extra time 27-29 and the final game saw those players that were still ok run out of legs, and the team narrowly lost to Westland 27-31. The girls showed great skill, determination and heart during the tournament and finished a very respectable 12th out of 32 teams in their grade. A big thank you to Daniella Sollitt who travelled with the team as their umpire.



HOMework CLUB

WEDNESDAYS

3.15-4.15PM

In the Library

Afternoon Tea Provided

Teachers and computers are available to assist students with study, projects and general homework.

All students are welcome.

Need Financial Assistance with NZQA Fees?

If you have a Community Services Card, you may be entitled to some financial assistance from NZQA.

Check you eligibility by phoning our school Bursar: Jamily Anderson on (03) 7684166.

Confirmation 2018

Bishop Paul Martin is doing confirmation during the 6pm Vigil Mass at St. Patrick's Greymouth, on Saturday 3rd November 2018. If you have been Baptised, but not Confirmed, please make an effort to be registered for the confirmation course which will be starting in August. Details of the course are to follow. Please contact Margaret at the Parish Office to register. The last date for registration is 12th August.