The school year has come to an end and we are all looking forward to a break and hopefully a warm and sunny festive season.

Thank you to all those people who have supported JPII throughout the year. Schools can achieve very little without appropriate parental support - it is important for us to work together in the best interests of our students.

Thank you to Ms Lindsay who organised a variety of activities for the students for the last two days. The students appear to have enjoyed them and the year has ended very peacefully and happily.

A number of staff are leaving and I wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

Ms Gagnon to Christchurch.
Mr Bergin to Darfield.
Ms Lauder to Westland H.S.
Ms Morgan to Hamilton.
Mrs Williams to Wellington.
Mrs Webster to retirement.

New staff for the start of next year are:

Mr Steggles from UK: HOD Science.
Mr Baker from Christchurch: HOD English
Mrs Motu from Fiji via Auckland: Assistant Maths/Chemistry
Mrs Towers from Picton: Assistant Maths/RE

Good luck to all those students who are leaving us this year. Please call in when you are home and let us know how you are getting on.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our students, staff, friends and families. Enjoy the summer.

Paul Towers

Janae Fitzgerald (left), was one of the winners of the 2018 Hospitality New Zealand Rising Star Awards. Janae won the Unsung Hero category after her boss, Jacqui Rigarlsford (right), from the Theatre Royal Hotel in Kumara, nominated her.

Janae travelled to Queenstown on Sept. 26 to receive a trophy and a certificate. “Hospitality is actually a career, it's not just a job on the weekends. It was more than I thought,” said Janae. “People make cool businesses around hospitality.”
Special Character Report with Mrs Webster

The new term began with Karakia in the Hall. This has become a good opportunity for students to join together in prayer as well as setting the scene for the term. Mr Towers challenged the senior students to gain all the knowledge possible from their teachers in the short time remaining. He also spoke to the juniors about how they will need to step into the role of leadership after the seniors leave.

Mr Bergin and his team organised the Columba Mass in the first week. It was the Feast Day of St Luke the Evangelist who was martyred at the age of 84. The students decorated the altar and lectern in red to signify the Martyrdom. Their Whanau candle was used for the first time. Each Whanau has its own Mass candle, which lead the procession into Mass, and these will be used to lead the procession at the End of Year Mass.

October was the month of Missions, so we focused on our Mission school and country, St Louis High School on Tarawa, in Kiribati. The notices have been seeded with information about Kiribati and the Global Warming threat to this tiny nation. Students were asked to give generously because compulsory education only goes to the end of primary school, so Secondary Schools are funded by parents. This means that resources are very limited and therefore our donation will make a difference. The final donation was just over $400. Year 13 got into the whole tropical theme, despite the inclement weather, sporting summer outfits, hula skirts and loud shirts.

Students have been recognised for their successes outside of school. We have students representing the West Coast in several sporting disciplines as well as gaining recognition for their contribution to the community. Mr Renau has been kept busy keeping Facebook up to date with the students’ successes. It was great to see Janae Fitzgerald gaining national recognition for her work in Tourism, as well as Emma Wilson doing outstandingly in the mountain biking competition. Three of our Year 13 students were finalists in the Trustpower Youth Community Spirit Award. 14 congratulations cards were presented at Karakia to the various students.

Year 10’s preparation for camp included preparing prayers for the four days. Each class planned and organised specific reflections for the activities, including a prayer for their travel and for the overnight camp. This was a good opportunity for them to find and use prayers appropriate to situations. Thanks to Mr McNish for the well organised camp. Students left enthusiastic to try new challenges.

The Special Character committee have spent much time preparing for the All Souls Liturgy for 2 November ensuring that the junior students were involved so that can carry on the tradition of praying for the people associated with John Paul II.

All Souls Day this year was the first time since 2012, that we did not put in a rose or bless a picture of one of our newly departed school members. Year 10 Religious Education and the Special Character Committee did a wonderful job of setting up for the liturgy. It is traditional for family members, where possible, to carry up their picture, where there is no longer any family present in the school, we find someone who has a connection.

Miss Pringle, as part of Year 10 Computing class, has set a project to record the stories of the different Holy Souls who have died since John Paul II began. Archival records have been searched for in-}

Mr Haigh and his group of enthusiastic Rugby League players organised a great event between Town and Country players. A large number of supporters turned out to watch in spite of the threat of rain. It was good to see students from all levels participating in the match.

Our deepest sympathies go out to staff and students of Grey High School, as well as to many of our students, with the sudden death of Jonathon Keene, a very personable young man. Jonathon made a great impression on all who knew him. His funeral was well attended by our students, with our ATC members forming a guard of honour outside the Hall.

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Miss Pringle, as part of Year 10 Computing class, has set a project to record the stories of the different Holy Souls who have died since John Paul II began. Archival records have been searched for information including year books, our Memorial Book, which contains newspaper cuttings, funeral sheets and letters from classmates and parents. This project will ensure that their memories will continue long after staff who knew them have moved on.

The Year 13 and Leavers Assembly took place on the final day of the year, before the seniors began study leave. Year 13 presented their PowerPoint of their classmates. This year, staff turned the tables and presented the Year 13 with certificates that identified something humorous about the recipient. Ms Costelloe gave these out and enjoyed their reactions. Mrs Webster had the pleasure of presenting the certificates for the Year 12 Leavers. Mr Towers also recognised those students in Year 12 who were leaving, celebrating their successes and presenting them with a Leavers’ Farewell card. That evening, 60 Year 13 students, parents and staff gathered at Kingsgate for the Leavers’ Dinner.

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Our guest speaker was Sharlotte Lucas. Mrs Webster introduced Sharlotte and spoke about her time at John Paul II and how proud she was of her achievement. Mrs Webster recalled that Sharlotte had been Mr Leask’s poster girl for success. He held her in great esteem because of the hard work and extreme effort she put into everything she did. As Dux of John Paul II, Sharlotte almost needed a wheelbarrow to carry out all her awards. In her speech, Sharlotte spoke of her initial struggle to succeed at High School. She recalled the effort she put into working her way to achieving the school’s highest award and how she found a way of succeeding academically. She also spoke of her sporting achievements to give her confidence to achieve academically. She recalled the story of Pike River and we prayed especially for Joseph Dunbar. We also prayed for those who will be going back into the mine on the Recovery project.

A remembrance prayer at the Tuesday Whanau time, was for the four students whose anniversaries occur in the third week of November. Jack Benner on the 18th, Joseph Dunbar on the 19th, Alex Thomas and Scott Brownlee, both on 23 November. Eternal Rest grant to them. O Lord.

Farewell to Ms Morgan and Mr Bergin

Year 9 and 10 students, some seniors and the Kapa haka group, gathered together in MM1 for a Mass of Farewell for Ms Morgan and Mr Bergin. Unfortunately, Mr Bergin was unable to attend but he was prayed for, and his Leaver’s Candle was blessed along with Ms Morgan’s candle. Father Peter celebrated the Mass and spoke about the challenges we face in the world.

He offered thanks for the gifts that both teachers brought to John Paul in their various roles, and wished them well. The Kapa haka group sang at Communion time and then led the school outside where they performed the Haka for Ms Morgan. In their farewell to Ms Morgan, Pumanawa, Nathan Wilson-Loach and Jayme Beynon, spoke of the support she had given them when Mrs Singer left, and she took over the role of Kaiawhina. They had been very impressed with how Ms Morgan had taken up the challenge and put her own stamp on it. They presented her with flowers and a pounamu necklace.

The final Board Special Character Meeting of the year was held to receive the Annual Plan report for Special Character. The goals for 2019 will be set once the new document, published by the New Zealand Catholic Bishops, is unpacked at the final Board meeting of the year.

Five more Special Character events will take place at the end of the year. The End of Year Mass and Awards Ceremony on 11 December. Four staff will be farewelled as well as the Year 12 and 13 leavers. The juniors will have a mufti raising money for the Cobden Mercy Outreach. They will also participate in a two-day programme which will see some of them attending a movie, card making, swimming, bbq for beginners, hydro slide at the Rec Centre and screen printing t-shirts.

The year 10 students will go on a short pilgrimage around Greymouth visiting sites of significance to the town, its history and Catholic faith. They will start in the school grounds with the different plaques, the memorial garden and wall of photos then head down to the site of the signing of the deed of purchase for Greymouth. The students have studied pilgrimages as part of their Church History – the Middle Ages.

The final student liturgy, organised by Ms O’Regan, will focus on Christmas and its core meaning. It will also include time for farewelling teachers.
This year we had 3 of our students make it into the South Island Scorpions Rugby League teams. They were Jack Coleman and Jordan Duggan in the U17’s and Callum Donaldson in the U15’s. They travelled to Rotorua on the 30th September for a week long national tournament returning Saturday 6th October. The U17’s placed 4th in the competition while the U15’s made it through to the finals coming away with 2nd place. Our boys trained hard in the weeks leading up to the tournament, going to Christchurch every weekend for 6 weeks of training before the tournament. Their commitment and dedication should be commended, and our school community can be extremely proud of these young lads.

As I was writing this report I heard that Callum had received some very exciting news - he was been selected to go and train with the Manly Sea Eagle’s U16 team for a week from the 2nd December until the 8th December, with a trial game being played against the Bulldogs U16’s team on the Friday. So a very exciting time for him. Well done Callum!

West Coast Secondary Schools - Junior Volleyball

Our school hosted the West Coast Secondary Schools Junior Volleyball tournament at the Westland Recreation Centre on the 20th November. The tournament ran smoothly and was enjoyed by all who attended.

It was a successful tournament for both teams - the girls won their division, and the boys came second in their division.

Boys team - Ben Radics, Riley Fairhall, Isaac McCallum, Daniel Gibbens, Mac Gibson, Derek Chizuni & MacKissah Kispa.

Girls team - Samantha Bergin, Mikayla Stevenson, Andrea Rennie, Catarina McDonnell, Ellagrea Rollo, Emily Berry, Katie Stringer & Shayle Obrero.
On the 28th of September, my Japanese class and I travelled to Palmerston North to visit International Pacific University (IPU) for the weekend. We went there so that we could have a better understanding of Japanese culture. They had one of their "Taster Weekends", so there were about 30 other students from different schools in the North Island. We happened to be the only school group from the South Island, so we had to travel for quite a bit of time to get there. It was my first time flying, so that was a new experience for me.

When we arrived at IPU, the campus was pretty, and there were cherry blossoms everywhere. They had a pond with a fountain in the middle and lily pads floating on the water. It was beautiful. They had Japanese food in the cafeteria, which was delicious. Everyone there was really kind. On the Saturday was their International Spring Festival, which is held every year to celebrate cultural diversity. The idea of spring arriving means hope that the rest of the year is going to be a good one. The spring festival was so cool, and there were so many things to see. They had a variety of stalls with lots of different Japanese food, and they also had arts and crafts that you could learn how to make. They had a large stage with shows on throughout the day, with lots of different cultural dances, from many different countries. I really enjoyed watching those. One of the Japanese groups had these huge drums called Taiko drums. The Taiko drums were big and super loud. They were one of my favourite things there. At one point, we even got the chance to have a go on the Taiko drums. The group that plays them showed us how to use them. It was so fun, I loved playing on one.

On the Sunday, we had a chance to see what it would be like to go to university there. They have Japanese courses, as well as Tourism, TESOL (Teaching English for Speakers of Other Languages) and International Business. They have many international students who come to improve their English, too. We got shown around the campus, and we stayed in the guest dorms. There were times when we went into some of the classes and were taught a bit, as an introduction. It was good for us to practice, and we were introduced to a few different teachers. Some of them would mainly just talk to us in Japanese. I felt better knowing that I could understand most of it.

The whole experience of being there was cool. All of us that were on the taster weekend got the chance to get to know each other. They were kind people, and I ended up making a lot of new friends, so I was happy about that. We got to play a lot of games in our groups and it was just fun. Also, at one point we all got together to video chat with some other students from IPU New Zealand that are in Japan now. One of those students was former John Paul II student, Alisha Elliott. She is at the Okayama IPU Campus. It was great to see her doing so well.

If you get a chance to go, I would highly recommend it.  By Nikita Hales.
**WOSS Junior Futsal Tournament - Hari Hari (with Terena Molloy)**

On the 30th October I had the pleasure of taking the junior boys to Hari Hari for the Junior Futsal Tournament. They had a great day, winning 3 out of their 4 games. This put them into the semi final against Buller which they unfortunately lost 3 – 1. The boys then had to play off for 3rd – 4th position against Grey High. It was a great game which ended in a draw 2 all, so they ended up going into a penalty shoot out, which after 3 penalty shots each, it was still tied. So they then decided that it would just be a penalty shoot out until 1 team scored. After going 1 for 1 for 8 more shots our JP II boys took it away winning the well deserved 3rd position.


**South Island Secondary Schools Mountain Biking Champs**

On the 12th, 13th and 14th of October, John Paul II students Kirk Magner, Emma Wilson and Hayden Wilson headed to Dunedin to compete in the South Island Secondary Schools Mountain Biking Championships. This event was held on Signal Hill, and included Enduro, Downhill and Cross country events. Points were taken from each event for individual placings as well as overall placings. The competition was very tough, although all the riders did really well in all three events. It was a great experience and very well organised. The students results were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>X-country:</th>
<th>Enduro</th>
<th>Downhill</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kirk</td>
<td>32nd/45 riders</td>
<td>44th/47 riders</td>
<td>36th/45 riders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hayden</td>
<td>11th/31 riders</td>
<td>DNF (broken de-railer)</td>
<td>21st/32 riders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emma</td>
<td>1st/8 riders</td>
<td>4th/7 riders</td>
<td>5th/5 riders</td>
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**JPII SPORTS**

**Sports Uniforms Amnesty**

Could you please have a look in your drawers, wardrobes etc for any sporting gear that belongs to the school. We are missing the following items:

- 1 x Grey/Black Volleyball top #7 on the back
- 1 x Maroon Singlet #3 on the back
- 1 x JP II Tracksuit Jacket #35
- 1 x JP II Tracksuit Pants #11

If anyone has these or comes across anything else that belongs to the school please drop them into the office.

**SPORTS COACHES/MANAGERS/SUPPORT NEEDED FOR 2019 PLEASE CONTACT THE SCHOOL IF YOU CAN ASSIST IN ANY WAY.**
Check out some of the action from our Year 10 Boyle River Camp for 2018