



ST CATHERINE'S COLLEGE KILBIRNIE, WELLINGTON

NEWSLETTER 8/2011

Issue date: 9 December 2011

From the Acting Principal.....

As Catherine McAuley said, "We must have a warm, cordial affection for all and manifest it by word, actions and manner. In fine, our charity must be in our hearts, and a charity such as Jesus Christ practised on earth." The Mercy charism which supported all that Catherine McAuley did is alive and well here at St Catherine's College. Our girls, in this remarkable little school of ours, get to hear the talk and walk the talk. They are encouraged to be the best they can be by taking the opportunities available: they learn and are tested; they develop a wide range of skills and attributes in all areas of school life, through the classroom, sport, community and culture, and their mission. Their mission to each other and to those less fortunate outside the school.

This was demonstrated so clearly in the collection of Christmas Boxes which our Houses put together and which are to be distributed to children in need. This practical expression of mission was the culmination of a House mission focus this year which will be developed even further in years to come. I think Catherine McAuley would thoroughly approve!

Term 4 2011 has been extraordinarily short and yet packed full of all we regularly accomplish. Our Year 9 students have attended Te Kakano o Te Aroha Marae in Moera and the Year 10's have tramped at Makara Beach. We have showed their concern for the environment by cleaning up Evan's Bay Beach as part of the work of the Sustainable Coastline Trust and the girls have challenged their public speaking and performance skills in Williams Shield and the PTA Cup. Our Junior Leaders have organised a series of lunchtime games and sports activities which have been well supported by students and staff.

And so we, at this time of Advent, approach the end of the year, and the celebration of the birth of the Christ child.

I would like to thank Mrs Maria Hubbard and Ms Vivien Reid who took English, Literacy and Music classes for us as we juggle with the transition time before a new principal is appointed. They have both slipped back into teaching in the school without a ripple and we are appreciative of their professionalism, their teaching skills and their kindness.

I also thank staff, students, parents and all involved at St Catherine's College, for their energy, commitment and enthusiasm. We are a thriving community because of the gifts, support and talents of those within and around us.

We wish you a safe, happy and holy Christmas and look forward to seeing you all for another successful year in 2012.

Third Week of Advent

Loving God of Advent, in these last weeks before Christmas we find you in our hope and expectation. We find in you the joy of anticipation. Help us to prepare ourselves for the celebration of your birth by caring for those who are less fortunate. We pray in the name of Jesus, the Lord. Amen.



Fourth Week of Advent

Lord Jesus, during this final week of Advent we find Christmas decorations, bright lights and the music of the season all around us. We enjoy parties and gift-giving, but remind us that what we celebrate above all is the festival of your birth into our world. As we approach the joy of Christmas, help us to think more of giving than receiving. We pray in the name of Jesus, the Lord. Amen.

Nativity

By: Joy Cowley

From: *Psalms Down-Under*

Look now!
It is happening again!
Love like a high spring tide
is swelling to fullness and overflowing
the banks of our small concerns.

And here again is the star,
That white flame of truth
Blazing the way for us
Through a desert of tired words.

Once more comes the music,
angel song that lifts our hearts
and tunes our ears
to the harmony of the universe,
making us wonder how
we ever could have forgotten.

And now the magi within us
gathers up gifts of gold and myrrh
while that other part of ourselves,
the impulsive, reckless shepherd,
runs helter skelter with arms outstretched
to embrace the wonder of it all.

We have no words
to contain our praise.
We ache with awe,
we tremble with miracle,
as once again,
in the small rough stable of our lives,
Christ is born.

*Chris Jarratt
Acting Principal*



From the Deputy Principal (Curriculum).....

NCEA RESULTS PUBLICATION IN JANUARY 2012

Students who sat NCEA exams in November this year need to order their own results documents from their Learner login. Documents (including the Result Notice formerly sent in January) are no longer sent automatically.

Students who will not have computer access at the time results are released in January and require one, can order a printed Result Notice (for NCEA exams) from their Learner login by the end of 2011.

- *Scholarship Result Notice* will be sent to all students.
- *NCEA Result Notice will only be sent to those who order one.*

International students need to apply and pay the fee (*by 1 March 2012*) if they wish to have exam answer booklets and/or L3 Visual Arts portfolio(s) returned to an overseas address (see SecQual S2011/052).

DATES 2012

Friday, 27 January

9.30am-12.00pm Year 13 Course confirmation
12.30pm- 3.00pm All Year 13 Peer Support training (in the Hall)
12.30pm- 3.00pm Year 12 Course confirmation
[or you may confirm your subjects via email to:
mandy.page@stcatherinescollege.school.nz]

Monday, 30 January

9.30am- 3.30pm All Year 13 students attend leadership day

Tuesday, 31 January

9.30am- 3.30pm Year 13 students/Year 9 students
for Orientation Day

Wednesday, 1 February

8.40am SCHOOL STARTS – ALL LEVELS

These dates are also on the College website at:
www.stcatherinescollege.school.nz

Mandy Page

Deputy Principal (Curriculum)

From the Director of Religious Education.....

Religious Education and Special Character

The year is finally at an end but there are still a few weeks left until the celebration of Christmas and the birth of our Saviour. The Religious Studies Department is already preparing for 2012 with revamped topics in Year 12 that focus on scripture, justice and Christian ministry. There will be more scripture study at all levels so please ensure your daughter has access to a Bible at home, either in book form or electronically.

Retreats will be held at all levels again next year as the students have responded well to these. They are valuable times for students to share and pray with one another. This year, the Year 9s walked down to the Park Bowling Club, the Year 10s and 12s met at St Joseph's Church, and the Year 11s shared a special time at the Home of Compassion in Island Bay. We are always looking for interesting and peaceful venues so please have a chat with me if you know of any good sites.

Please encourage your daughter to join the Mercy Crew if she is interested in doing good deeds, justice issues and charity work. We are always keen to have new members. Next year the Mercy Crew will meet once a week at lunchtime.

We wish you a peaceful and holy Christmas, blessed with family, friends and thoughtfulness.

Jenny O'Brien

Director of Religious Education

From the Art Dept.....

SCC Ninga Knitters recognised

On the sunny afternoon of 29 November, St Catherine's Year 10 Art students (or ninja knitters) set out to the Wellington waterfront to showcase their Guerilla knitting skills. Decorating trees, bridges, poles and other well-known objects such as the statue *Solace in the Wind* with their creative work. The statue was kindly given a fancy new pair of woollen underpants and a cape. These will perhaps help him keep warm on those mornings when the sea breeze is just a little too chilly.

The radical movement of SCC Art students made a feature article in the Capital section of the *Dominion Post* newspaper on Wednesday 30 November. Be sure to take a look or head down the Wellington waterfront to join the movement.



Joe McMenamin, HoD Art
Haley Gould, Art Teacher

ESOL News.....

On Monday 28 November, ESOL students including our Japanese International students and new Year 9 Ethiopian student, Birtukan, enjoyed a windy morning on the Wellington waterfront. They visited the Museum of City and Sea and the Portrait Gallery, where they saw paintings of famous New Zealanders including Sister Mary Leo and Sir Edmund Hillary. A big thank you to Arts Coordinator, Jacqui Bisley who drove the school van in appalling weather conditions.

This week we farewell Aya and Kana as they fly back to Osaka after a year at SCC. Our three Year 10 students from Kunei High school (also from Osaka), Hazuki, Tomoka and Reiko leave on Saturday 10th December. Their ESOL classmates will miss them very much.

Lisa Lorenzen
HoD ESOL

Literacy Programme News.....

Over the past seven weeks Mrs Hubbard has been working intensively with a group of Year 9 and 10 students on a Literacy Catch-up Programme. The girls have had a session with Mrs Hubbard in small groups every day from Monday to Thursday, and we have just retested them, using AsTTle. The great news is that most of the girls have made stunning progress in that time. The Year 10 group, in particular, have improved greatly, sometimes scoring a whole curriculum level higher in their test. The secret, then, is to pay constant attention to reading, every day, thinking about the reading material and practising specific literacy skills such as summarising, finding key points, sequencing ideas, and comparing and contrasting.

Congratulations to all the students who have taken part in the programme, and a big thank you to Mrs Hubbard for her hard work! Well done, girls - keep reading over the summer break to keep the progress going!!

Kathy Ryan
HoD English

Library News.....

It has been a short and busy term to end the year. We will do a stocktake in the last 2 weeks of term so please help your daughter(s) to return all school library books and textbooks either issued through the library or given by teachers. We are a small school and we need to keep all our resources available for next year's students. *Last year there were over 80 good new fiction books stolen from the library so I hope we all do better this year!*

The prize for Sustained Contribution to the School Library

for 2011 goes to Eilis Byrne for her amazing and continuous interest and care for the St Catherine's College Library during all of her 5 years at the College. She is one of the best book coverers in the business and has mentored years of new student librarians. The Library and I will miss her and wish her all the best for her university studies.

We will be recruiting Student Librarians in 2012 please consider giving it a go. You get to help the school, choose new books and read them first and enjoy end of term morning teas!

I hope you all get a chance to catch up on some holiday reading.

Have a lovely Christmas break and enjoy the summer weather when it comes!!

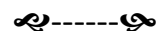
Sophie Jolliffe
Librarian

Sports News.....

A very sincere 'thank you' to all coaches, managers, officials and to all parents who transported the teams this year. It is only with your help that we are successful with our sports teams.

I look forward to working with you again next year.

Kylie Summers
Sports Coordinator



Stationery and Course Costs for 2012

Stationery Lists relevant to your daughter(s) for 2012 are enclosed with this newsletter.

The lists are also on our website:
www.stcatherinescollege.school.nz

Warehouse Stationery will be donating points to St Catherine's College for each stationery item sold through their stores – right throughout the year. Simply present one of the vouchers enclosed at the time of purchase.

The Stationery Warehouse is happy for parents/caregivers to email their list of stationery requirements to the Kilbirnie Store and they can put the items together in a pack for you to collect. Email to: elise.pereira@stationery.co.nz



PAYMENTS BOX now available at the College

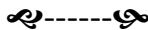
Parents/Caregivers who are sending cheques or exact cash to school to pay for items of stationery, school trips etc. are now able to use the "drop box" available by our Reception Counter. This will avoid any unnecessary delays waiting in queues.

This box can only be used if:

- You supply your daughter's name
- List the items you are paying for (or enclose the College's statement if you are paying overdue items – with the items you wish to pay for ticked)
- Enclose the correct money or cheque made out to St Catherine's College

Place all this information in a sealed envelope and give to your daughter to put in the "drop box".

Receipts will be available for your daughter to collect after 3.25pm on the same day (where possible).



St Cath's office is closed for the Christmas break:

Our office closes on Friday 16 December 2011
and
re-opens on Tuesday 24 January 2012
(after Anniversary Day).

"The Music Learning Centre is now accepting enrolments for 2012. Please email info@musiclearning.co.nz or call 232-1231 to organise lesson times or to arrange an audition for the choir or string orchestra". The Music Learning Centre, 9 Fitzwilliam Tce, Tawa, Wellington 5028

★★★★★

Junior Circus classes for 5-7yrs are starting in 2012. Class times are 3.30-4.30pm at the Wellington Circus Hub, 11 Hutchison Road, Newtown. Kids are welcome to do a free trial class. Wellington Circus Trust also has programmes for Preschool Circus for 3 & 4yrs, Kids Circus for 8-12yrs, Teens and Adults. See programme details and make bookings online at <http://www.circus.org.nz>. Gift vouchers are available. Email info@circus.org.nz or ph 04 4784568.

★★★★★

Have a happy and a holy Christmas everyone. Enjoy your summer holiday. We look forward to seeing you all refreshed and eager to continue your learning in 2012.

