



# St Patrick's College

## Silverstream

No 1

Friday 3 February 2017

### Vision Statement

*St Patrick's College, Silverstream is a boys' school of excellence, founded on Catholic and Marist values and traditions where students develop knowledge, skills, attitudes and values which enable them to become compassionate, just and successful citizens. Our students are challenged and motivated to achieve personal excellence in an innovative learning environment enhanced by tradition, superb facilities, quality teaching and a supportive College community*

Kia ora koutou – greetings everyone

### Best NCEA results ever!

It is fantastic to be able to report in our first newsletter of the year that we have just recorded our best ever NCEA results, at all three levels. The results are still provisional, so will likely be a bit better than what I list here:

Qualification	% of our students attaining the qualifications	Previous Stream best
Level 1	95%	88% (2008/2011)
Level 2	93%	92% (2013)
Level 3	84%	81% (2014)

As many of you will realise, the College has been on a big journey over the last 3 – 4 years to try and improve student engagement/interest in learning, and therefore also student achievement. We have tried many approaches including:

- Learning Hubs at Year 9 in 2015, 2016
- Classroom improvements – new carpets, whiteboards and pin boards, re-painted, more light (as money allows)
- New furniture (as money allows)
- Longer lesson times
- More individual learning programmes
- Absolute staff commitment to exploring teaching methods more centred on 21<sup>st</sup> Century learners
- BYOD, now at Years 9 – 11, with encouragement for Year 12 and 13 students to bring a device where possible
- A commitment to improving our network and wi-fi stability/reliability (again – as money allows)
- Smaller Tutor groups, with a specific focus on mentoring our students as learners

And we continue to daily push a message of personal excellence – every one of us in this community being our best at whatever we take on. Clearly, not one single strategy is the magic one. I hope, as our parent / whanau community, you are really proud of these results and the progress in teaching and learning that they demonstrate amongst our staff and students.

Now is not the time to put our feet up and say “job done”. There is still plenty of room for improvement and we continue to look for strategic ways – across the whole school and in individual classrooms – to raise student engagement and achievement.

I have offered one piece of advice this week to all students as a way that each of them individually can improve their own achievement – “if you miss a lesson – for whatever reason – make sure you catch up on it (get the notes – do the exercises etc.)”. This is really vital with our longer lesson structure – as lots can be covered (and therefore missed) in a single 90 minute lesson.

Sectare Fidem  
Gerard Tully, Rector

## ■ POWHIRI FOR NEW MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY

On Tuesday 31 January we welcomed all our new students (156 in Year 9, 15 at other year levels), staff and families to the College.

This is the first time that we have used a full powhiri to do this. We are developing our own unique tikanga (way of doing things) and so it was great to be able to provide a welcome in a uniquely New Zealand, Catholic, Marist and Silverstream way. It was uplifting that every person that had a major role in the ceremony was already closely linked to St Patrick's College Silverstream. The whole process provided a real sense of te whanau whanui o Hato Patiriki ki Mawai Hakona – the big family of St Patrick's Silverstream.

We hope that everyone new to our College will quickly feel that they belong here, and come to love this place as so many of us do. We hope that they will quickly sense that this is a good place to be, a caring place that honours each person's wairua and mana.

Our new staff members are:

- Miss Craigie                      Mathematics
- Mr Grove                          Mathematics
- Mr Landmark                    Accounting
- Mr Ramsteijn                  Multi-disciplinary
- Mr Van Heekeran              Gap Student

We also welcome back to the College:

- Fr John Walls SM              College Priest
- Mr Lloyd                         Science (9CL)
- Mrs Pedersen                  English (9PL)

Two teachers left us over the summer once school finished. We thank them for their commitment to our Stream community and extend best wishes to:

- Mrs Hayworth                  to St Mark's Church School, Wellington
- Mr Beckman                    to Manawatu College, Foxton







## ■ COMMUNITY MASS



### *Community Mass*

We invite all students, whanau, and friends of St. Patrick's College, Silverstream to join our community each week for Sunday Mass.

When: Sunday night during term time

Time: 7:00pm

This is a great opportunity to spend time in prayer and reflection for the week to come.



## ■ FIRST TRADITIONAL WIN OF THE YEAR

The good news keeps coming! After a disastrous start (30 – 5 after one hour) the First XI cricketers showed great courage to fight back and win the three day match with St Patrick's College Town by 67 runs. As well as the collective team effort, individual highlights were:

Max Griffith 43 and 73 and Fraser McHale 3 – 39 and 5 – 65.

Best wishes to the team for their remaining traditional fixtures with PNBHS and St Bede's College.



## ■ FIRST DAY FOR YEAR 9's

There was a lovely ceremony to end the first day at Silverstream for our Year 9 students. A native tree was planted in the garden at the front of the Chapel. The idea is that as our Year 9's grow over their time at Silverstream, so will the tree. And being in front of the Chapel, we call on the Lord to bless all – students and physical environment – as they grow at this special place.

The tree was jointly planted by our youngest student, Tyzham Thompson, and our Head Student, Zachary Murrow.



## ■ STUDENT STATEMENTS AND PAYMENTS

We are currently in the process of populating all student accounts. Statements will be sent out by 17 February. These will be emailed to parents who we have email addresses for, otherwise they will be posted in the mail. Please check your statements carefully to ensure all charges and payments have been recorded correctly. If you have any concerns please contact either Mrs. Rebecca Wagstaff (527-1357, [wagstaffr@stream.school.nz](mailto:wagstaffr@stream.school.nz)) or Mrs. Leigh Cooke (527-1353, [cookel@stream.school.nz](mailto:cookel@stream.school.nz)).

Payments may be made by automatic payment, internet banking, eftpos, credit card or cash. The school bank account for payments is 12-3142-0173808-00. Please give your son's student ID and reason for payment in the reference fields. If paying by cash or cheque please place the money in an envelope with the student's name, reason for payment and amount enclosed and place in the secure drop box at reception. Receipts will be issued by Finance staff on request, otherwise you will be able to confirm your payment has been received by viewing your son's account through the parent portal.

Tax receipts for donations paid during the tax year are sent out each year in April. Donations paid will qualify for a tax rebate which can be claimed from the IRD.

### Attendance Dues

Attendance dues are set by the Archdiocese of Wellington. St Patricks College Silverstream has no involvement with their setting and collection but does have a role to assist where there is financial hardship incurred by parents/guardians.

Attendance Dues for 2017 have been set at \$955.00 for secondary school students

Dues must be paid to the Archdiocese of Wellington by all parents/guardians who send their child/ren to Catholic Schools. They are invoiced by the Archdiocese separately from the College. The first lot of invoices are usually mailed out in March. Parents/guardians are given a number of options by the Archdiocese as to how and when to pay them.

Please contact the Archdiocese of Wellington directly if you have any queries regarding Attendance Dues on 0800 462 725 or [dues@wn.catholic.org.nz](mailto:dues@wn.catholic.org.nz)

*If you have financial hardship:*

The policy of the Archdiocese is that all Catholic children should have ready access to Catholic Education. No one should be denied this right because of financial reasons. Families who cannot afford the dues should contact their Parish Priest or College Principal for help.



## ■ MOBILE APP

**Don't miss out on important College messages!**



St Patrick's College Silverstream community, (Parents, Students and Staff) are finding the Mobile App a useful tool receiving notices of events and other important school messages, like *"today is Formal Uniform day"*, sporting reminders and if an event has been cancelled due to weather etc.

New Feature: Subscribe to Year Level notices.

You can download the app for free on your iPhone or Android by clicking on this link: <http://is.gd/8aqYWQ>

### Daily Notices

Notices are no longer read to the students at Ranks. They are available on the website, the College App and a hard-copy is placed in the office window each morning.

All students should check the notices each day before Ranks.

## ■ IMPORTANT MEETINGS COMING UP

### Friday 10 February

Year 9 Parents and students – meet the teachers, 4.00 – 5.30pm, Auditorium

### Wednesday 22 February

Becoming a Streamer Evening for Parents of Year 9 students, 7.00pm - 9.00pm, Dining Room