



St Patrick's College

Silverstream

No 3

Thursday 1 June 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

Talofa lava; – greetings everyone

Sometimes when I sit down to write the introduction to the Newsletter, I think “What am I going to write about?” The easiest solution is to get out of the winter warmth of my office, wander around the school and observe all the cool things going on.

So here is a selection of “cool things” that I have seen this week:

- Mass – a thriving Community Mass on Sunday night at 7.00pm – starting the week as a faith community – boarders, day boys, staff, parents, extended family, friends, old boys;
- A Year 12 Religious Studies class guiding a Year 10 Religious Studies class through a board game the Year 12 class had devised based on the issue of Human Trafficking – high energy, fun, engagement and thought provoking;
- The Scholarship English Breakfast gathering at 7.30am Tuesday morning – 17 Year 12 and 13 students and three teachers discussing literature – I loved one of the students mentioning “One day in the life of Ivan Denisovich” by Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn (a text I read and enjoyed at about his age);
- Nga Tuakana o Hato Patariki – a Maori cultural group running after school on Mondays; small in numbers but again, great energy and learning;
- The celebrations all through this week of the Samoan Language – particularly the Ava Ceremony and the speeches by the students on Monday evening (and it has been fun and encouraging to hear so many students this week using our Samoan word of the day, e.g. “Malo Sir”, “Are you fiafia (happy) Sir?” etc);
- Year 9 students leading the prayer at Ranks in the morning (any student is able to volunteer to lead the whole school at Ranks – it is generally seniors that take up the invitation, but I think it says a lot about our culture of belonging when 13 year olds are brave enough to stand up in front of 720 other students and pray).

Just wandering the corridors and the grounds and observing the school at our daily work/learning is also a “cool thing”. I experience a calm, focussed environment, a happy and caring environment, a supportive environment. I see regular examples of excellence, insightfulness and creativity. Yes I do see the rubbish that I wish was in the bin, some students not doing what they should, and need to remind some about tucking their shirts in.

As parents, you rarely get to see a normal day in the life of St Patrick's Silverstream – these sights that can so inspire, at times frustrate, but ultimately, remind those of us who work here what an honour and a privilege it is to work daily with our young men.

I conclude with a couple of challenging and inspiring quotes (as hopefully education should be challenging and inspiring), that seem appropriate:

Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn: *Own only what you can carry with you: know languages, know countries, know people. Let your memory be your travel bag.*

Pope Francis: *Leave no stone unturned to be kind, compassionate and merciful, for mercy is the heart, the mind and the touch of Jesus.*

Tofa Soifua
Gerard Tully, Rector

■ CONGRATULATIONS TO MS JEANETTE DUFFY

After many years of leadership and service at Stream Jeanette has been appointed to the role of Principal at St Oran's College in Lower Hutt. Jeanette will move to St Oran's at the end of the second term.

■ WELCOME

To the following new staff members:

Mrs Kate Lyde	English
Ms Jo Thapa	Art
Mrs Bronwyn Beaver	Food and Nutrition (Term 2 while Mrs Potts is on Study Leave)
Mrs Jo Cowie	Teacher Aide
Mrs Tracy Bull	Teacher Aide
Mr Rahul George	Teacher Aide

■ CONGRATULATIONS

- To the students who took part in Relay for Life. This year we raised over \$6000 for the cause, which was far better than our previous efforts.
- To our student body for their excellent response to the one day Vinnies Can Drive – this was our best response for years.
- Rory Woollett - Hutt City Youth Awards, Volunteer of the Year.



■ LETTERS OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Some comments received recently:

Hon. Hekia Parata, Minister of Education (*at the time*)

I was delighted to learn of the improvement in students' NCEA achievement results at St Patrick's College Silverstream. I want to personally congratulate you and your fellow school leaders on continuing to build on last year's achievement results.

Success such as this reflects a combination of great teaching, strong leadership and hard work from everybody associated with the school, including the Board of Trustees, school staff and leaders, students, families and whanau. It also reflects the dedication and focus of the school on all students, and particularly those that might otherwise be at risk of not achieving to such a high level.

Jenny Gordon, Vicar for Education, Archdiocese of Wellington

Catholic Character Review and Development Report

The report is very affirming of the College as a gospel community, where opportunities for active evangelisation and the encounter with Jesus abound.

The single fact of 24 students being baptised in 2016 is testimony to the College's commitment to deliver an authentic Catholic faith experience for each member of the community. Instrumental to this vibrant faith community are the many sincere and deeply committed staff, Board members and wider College community.

St Patrick's College is a wonderful spirit filled Marist College, delivering a strong Catholic education with personal excellence for each student.

As Archbishop, Cardinal John sends his congratulations and gratitude to the whole college and faith community for their enduring commitment to ensure each student receives an excellent Catholic education.

■ 2017 WELLINGTON ARCHITECTURE AWARDS

The 2017 Wellington Architecture Awards were announced at Amokura Gallery, Te Papa Tongarewa, on the evening of Wednesday 17 May, with 24 awards handed out to a wide range of successful projects. We were very excited to learn that the College's Chapel won an Enduring Architecture award. The citation is given below.

Saint Patrick's College Chapel, Silverstream (1975) by William Pearson, Architect

This rigorous and formal work is both dramatic and welcoming. The solidity of the chapel volume, imprinted with symbols, grounds the building while the extending arms of the external cloister and aisle embrace it. The considered control of movement and sightlines concludes in the chapel space, which is perfectly fit for the end of the journey. The figure of Christ floats on the windows behind the lectern and superimposes itself on the cross in the courtyard beyond. This a symphony of tightly thought out and dignified architecture that reflects the designer's deep understanding of movement, liturgy and international works of similar calibre.



Enduring Architecture winner: Saint Patrick's College Chapel, Silverstream (1975) by William Pearson, Architect. Image: Rob Pearson

■ HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY TRIP TO CHINA

On Thursday 13 April 35 Year 12 and 13 History and Geography students gathered bright and early at Wellington airport. Our destination? China. We arrived to Shanghai later that day. The Friday was spent exploring this mind blowing and ever growing super city. A visit to the urban planning museum certainly gave us a clear sense of the vastness of Shanghai, as did the superb views from the Oriental Pearl Tower and the river cruise we took along the Bund that evening.

Saturday 15 April was the first of three excursions from Shanghai, with Suzhou, a 'small' city of 9 million, our destination. We visited the tranquil 600 year Master of Nets Garden, toured a silk factory, and enjoyed a relaxing canal cruise and rickshaw ride around the old town.

On Sunday we drove an hour or so from Shanghai to the old town of Tongli, described as the 'Venice of the East'. This was an opportunity to simply wander and soak up the atmosphere of old China.

Our final day trip from Shanghai was south from the city to Hangzhou. Following a cruise on the West Lake, we visited the Lingyin Temple. This is a large Buddhist temple set amidst rambling woodland and ancient Buddha statues carved into the side of the mountain. This was a highlight for many boys.

On Tuesday 18 April we left Shanghai and took a flight 2.5 hours to the northeast and the city of Xi'an, home to the famed Terracotta Army. Over the next three days we visited the Shanxi History Museum, old and chaotic Muslim Street, the Neolithic village at Banpo, the rural village of Huxian and the studio of a famous Chinese painter, embarked on an amazing cycle tour of the 13km long 600 year old city walls, and of course visited the Terracotta Army - a mind blowing experience.

The highlight though for many boys though was our guide organising tickets to see the local professional football team play. The Xi'an supporters were impressed by our enthusiasm and zeal and invited the boys into the raucous member's area. The following night a football match was organized between Stream and our guide's social team at a local stadium. After a relatively close game, Xi'an finished with a late flourish of goals and the win.

On Saturday 22 April we said sadly fare welled Xi'an and boarded a bullet train for the 5.5-hour journey north to Beijing. The following day provided an opportunity to visit Tiananmen Square, Forbidden City and the National Museum of China.

On Monday 24 April we travelled an hour or so from Beijing into the mountains and walked a stretch of the Great Wall of China. This was another highlight for all involved. On our return to Beijing that afternoon we took in the site of the 2008 Olympics. Our final experience of Beijing was not cultural or historical, but rather of the commercial variety, and involved an afternoon at the Pearl Market – home to an array of fake good market sellers.

We departed Beijing on Wednesday 26 April and once again boarded a bullet train, this time for a 5-hour journey to Shanghai. Many boys attended an impressive acrobatics show that evening.

Our time in China was almost at end, but we did manage to squeeze in an afternoon at the fake goods market in Shanghai ahead of our transfer to the airport on Thursday 27 April and return to Wellington.

Our two weeks in China was an enjoyable and eye-opening experience. Whatever preconceptions we collectively had of the country prior to visiting were certainly waylaid by the reality of a country in the midst of immense change. We were humbled by the openness of the people and the experience of a country very different to our own. Plans are afoot for a return in 2019.

Thank you to the boys for their openness to new experiences and the enthusiastic manner in which they approached the trip. Thank you also to the wider staff team of Mr Tinney, Mr Sales, and Mr Johnsen.





■ SAMOAN LANGUAGE WEEK AT SILVERSTREAM

Monday 29 May – Friday 2 June

To celebrate the third most spoken language in New Zealand, we feel that it is important at Silverstream to celebrate this annual event, Samoan Language Week 2017. The theme for SLW this year is, “Keep your identity alive, to thrive”.

Our Junior and Senior Samoan Language classes strengthened this theme further in displaying a Cultural Evening for their families, friends and Staff who were all present at this wonderful occasion on the evening of Monday 29th June. A traditional Samoan ‘Ava Ceremony and Formal Samoan Introductions all led by our Gagana Samoa students were presented and of course, finished off with some “light” refreshments.

As a College, students have started Ranks off each morning this week with a prayer in Samoan and a Samoan “Word of the Day”. A great way to immerse all our students into using the Samoan Language in and around our school grounds. Thank you to all our parents, Staff and especially, our students for your support and contribution to making this week truly memorable.

Manuia le Vaiaso o le Gagana Samoa – Happy Samoan Language Week!







■ SPEECH RESULTS MAY 2017

Congratulations to the following students for their outstanding results in the recent Speech Examinations:

Public Speaking

Harry Poland ASB Performance module 1: Pass with Distinction

Grade 8/2 Honours plus, Marco Mojicevic
Honours: Sean Hewett, Harrison Yates
Merit plus: Brendan English

Grade 6/3 Honours: Joseph Gray
Merit plus: Jonathan Roche, Christian Schneider, William Hadfield

Grade 5/2 Honours: Jacob Craigie
Merit plus: Ethan -Jack Crawford

Speech and Drama

ASB Performance Module one: Charlie Penman: Pass with Distinction

Grade 7/2 Honours: Max Griffith, Jack Penman, Sam Penman

■ O'SHEA SHIELD

The O'Shea Shield was hosted by St. Bernard's College over the weekend of 13 & 14 May. Whilst the weather was a bit damp and cold, as always the warm and fellowship of O'Shea permeated the weekend. One of the team shared these sentiments. "Overall O'Shea was a terrific and unique experience. It was something that I've always been curious about during my time at Stream, so to experience first-hand for the first time in my last year at school was something really special. I really enjoyed performing in the drama section, as well as enjoying watching the other events and supporting my fellow Streamers. I'm glad I'm able to say I've participated in O'shea Shield as it's a fun and connecting event that brings out the best in you."

The team were pleased to come away with three trophies. The Mercy Cup for Religious Questions - George Zhang, Julius Zarate, Samuel Coleman, and Mitchell Saxby (reserve), the St Peter Chanel Cup for Scripture Reading - Charlie Penman and the Te Kaipānui i te Kupu Cup for Scripture Reading in Te Reo Māori - Nikki Russell.

Many thanks to the coaches; Mike Cole, Mike Savali, Jonny Greaney, Jane Nolan, Jess Bryan, Shelley Watson, Matt White, Victor Herbert, Sue Carpenter, Rachel Crawford, Libby Kirton, and Claire Oakley, for the many hours put into preparing the team for the event. As a teacher it's a pleasure and a privilege to work alongside the boys as they set their sights on the demands of each event in the competition.

Jeanette Duffy



Julius Zarate, George Zhang & Samuel Coleman: Winners of The Mercy Cup for Religious Questions



*The winner of the St Peter Chanel Cup
for Scripture Reading - Charlie Penman*



*The winner of the Te Kaipānui i te Kupu
cup for scripture reading in Te Reo*

■ THE FATHER PETER BLAKE 5K

The Father Peter Blake 5k is a great opportunity to get out on a Monday afternoon and run along the river trail. There are about thirty boys, plus staff and parents who turn up religiously on a Monday, which shows that this is an event for anyone. It's a great competitive atmosphere for those who want to compete, but social as well with people of all levels of fitness turning up.

It's a good laugh, with people from thirteen years of age, to late thirties turning up (Mr Steel). I would personally encourage people of any age, or any sporting level to come along, as it is a great way to keep the fitness up and enjoy a scenic route beside the river. It is being run throughout Term Two and Term Three, meeting on Monday's at 4:15pm at the Fr Peter Blake gym.

Harry Poland, Year 13 student.



■ VEHICLES ON SCHOOL GROUNDS

The main driveway of the College becomes very congested with vehicles before and after school due to the number of students being dropped off or picked up. This is causing some concern regarding safety of pedestrians and the risk of accidents occurring.

We would like to request that where possible students are dropped off outside school grounds. There is an entrance to the school at the bus stop on Fergusson Drive where students can safely walk on the footpath across the main lawn to get to school.

If you must drive onto the school grounds please remember that the speed limit is 8kph.

■ 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>