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MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

DEAR PARENTS

Lately, I have had cause to reflect on the sheer breadth of opportunities and the wide range of arenas in which our young men can participate and succeed. Last week was the Haka competition. It was followed by the Catholic schools' Pasifika and Haka performances at SHGC. The itinerant music festival was held at the University of Waikato that same day, and I had the pleasure of attending both. Our young men did us all proud. As I write this, we are in winter tournament week, and numerous football, hockey and basketball teams are playing in regional and national competitions around the country. Next week is our senior boys' practice exam week, where they will put their academic skills to the test. Meanwhile, St John's took out the Chanel Shield competition, which is held annually between the Catholic secondary schools in the Hamilton Diocese.

There is an old saying that 'kids in sport stay out of court.' I think we can say that the same applies to boys involved in all areas of curricular and extracurricular activities.

Four years ago, through the lobbying of the Hamilton Catholic Diocese, the Ministry of Education granted us a roll increase from 750 to 925, for which we are thankful. Next year will be the fifth year of an increased intake at year nine. There has been no shortage of enrolment enquiries, and we will begin the year at our maximum roll number. A roll size of 925 is an ideal number of students. We can still have that family/whānau environment but offer a full range of academic subjects and also be competitive against larger schools in the sporting and cultural areas.

At St John's, we don't enrol students, we enrol families. Over the past few weeks, we have been interviewing all of our new students and families for 2024. It is difficult to describe the privilege of welcoming these boys into the fold; you can see in their eyes the endless possibilities that lie ahead of them.

It is worth checking out our enrolment policy on our website, which sets out which groups of students are the first to be offered places at St John's College.

Recently, we held our annual school ball, a highlight of the year for many boys. The ball is still as it always has been: a 'coming of age' for those attending their first formal event with people their own age. Throughout the evening, it is interesting to watch as our young men start the night nervous and uncertain of what is expected of them and, by the end, are dancing and revelling in the company of their peers. The students are always respectful to staff and each other.

By the time you read this, we will have completed and opened the newly refurbished Chanel Block. What housed a dark and gloomy corridor is now a light and airy space for our young men and staff to enjoy. In the internal courtyard are six pou that stand seven meters high, made of corten steel. On each is carved the story of St John the Apostle, after whom we are named, as depicted by local Māori artist Sean Hamana (Ngāti Maniapoto, Ngāti Korokii-Kahukura), driving past the school at night, you will see that the lighting alone is quite spectacular.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those volunteers and supporters of our young men who have been involved in winter sports. It can sometimes be a thankless and demanding task. However, the benefit to our boys is enormous. Our school teams are always well supported, and the many outstanding achievements of both individuals and teams are too numerous to mention here.

God bless

- Mr Shane Tong, Principal

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF CATHOLIC CHARACTER

Shane and I recently attended the Principals and DRS' Diocesan Conference at Trinity Wharf in Tauranga. The theme was - 'At the Water's Edge'.

The following day I had a reflection with my 10MA RE class on this theme. It went something like this. "Boys, imagine that you are at a lake, at the water's edge. You see, walking along the shore, a man, maybe middle aged, heading in your direction. Once he gets to you, he stops and asks how you are doing. You get into a conversation and in time he comes out with the invitation - 'why don't you come along and follow me?'

Now boys, you've got to remember that we are body and soul. We look after our body fine enough, we've got that down pat. But, looking after our soul - well, that's another matter. We do that with prayer, the sacraments, doing good works, works of charity and being loving, reading scripture and other good books. You see boys, the world is obsessed with power, wealth, sex, 'good times', possessions, thinking that all those things will fill the hollow we often feel inside. People do all these things, have everything necessary under the sun and yet they still feel empty. That is because they are looking after the body but they have forgotten the soul. St Augustine, who was a great sinner but came right, he said "my soul is restless until it rests in thee". People forget the spiritual, the soul, their relationship not only with God but with other people. And so we go back to the water's edge at the lake. We are there and Jesus is looking each one of us in the eye, inviting us to come and follow him. What will be our response? Will we follow Him today? Will we put Jesus first in our actions, words and thoughts? Will we be mindful of how we treat others? Because to treat others with dignity and respect is to choose to follow Jesus. Will we give our best in each class because to do the best we can at each moment is to choose to follow Jesus?

Oh, we will mess it up but it is a simple action to seek God's forgiveness and continue on because we have chosen to follow Jesus. So, let us ask God today to help us be bold and brave in choosing to follow Him. And tonight, before we fall asleep and we reflect on our day that has been, we can be proud that we have been followers of Jesus, there at the water's edge."

"Let us ask God today to help us be bold and brave in choosing to follow Him."

God bless

- Mr Marcel Bormans, Director of Catholic Character



“
Let us ask God today to help us be bold and brave in choosing to follow Him.
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At St John's, we don't enrol students, we enrol families.
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KEY DATES 2023

TERM 4

9 October	Start of Term 4
15 October	SJC & Old Boys Golf Tournament
19 October	Mufti Day
23 October	Holiday (Labour Day)
26 October	Closing Mass and Senior Prizegiving
27 October	Y13 Leavers' Dinner
4 - 7 November	Y9 Activities Week, Y10 Camps
6 November	NZQA Exams start
5 December	NZQA Exams finish
8 December	Junior Prizegiving & End of the School Year

WTA - GIVING OUR STUDENTS A HEAD START

The Waikato Trades Academy (WTA) is a programme available for secondary school students. It is an opportunity for them to study at both school and at Wintec in specific courses. This year, our students are enrolled in a range of programmes from Outdoor Education, Café Skills, Electrical Engineering, Manufacturing & Technology, Construction & Infrastructure, Sport & Exercise Science, Mechanical Engineering and Building.

WTA gives our students a head start - they gain specific and practical experience and skills in an industry-based setting for one day

each week during the school term.

Taking part in the Trades Academy programme gives our students the opportunity to move directly into full time employment, an apprenticeship, or further study once they've completed secondary school.

This year has been really successful and we are incredibly proud of the 36 students who have taken part in the WTA programmes. Have a look at some of the photos from the recent taster days.

Mrs Angela Daysh
Gateway Coordinator



LOOKING AHEAD - SJC CAREERS EVENING

In early August, we held our SJC Careers Evening in our school Library to coincide with our Options Evening. By having both on the same night, we were hoping that students and their whānau would be able to use the expertise from both our staff and the wonderful representatives from our different businesses and providers to be able to make good choices about their futures moving forward.

This was a fantastic opportunity for our school community to explore the different career and training options out there in the big, wide world. Covering a wide variety of job and industry areas, there was something for everyone.



Thank you very much to those ākonga and their whānau who attended, making the event so successful. Our thanks must also go to the wonderful providers who gave their time, advice and expertise: ETCO, Fairview Educational Services, KPMG, the New Zealand Defence Force, Pacific International Hotel Management School, The University of Waikato, Vision College, Waikato Aviation, KiwiRail, Wintec Te Pūkenga, Forestry NZ, Queenstown Resort College, NZ College of Chiropractic, Dairy NZ, Schick Civil Construction, Lincoln University.

Miss Sarah Quinnell,
SJC Careers Advisor and Head of Careers, Gateway & STAR



READY, STEADY, COOK!

Five of our hospitality students represented St John's College at the [2023 Waikato Culinary Fare](#) at Wintec - and did very well!

Michael Douch and Ryder Nicholson (Y11) were in the Mystery Box hot kitchen team challenge where they had to prepare and present two portions of a main meal within an hour. The boys gained a Certificate of Merit.

Couper Meades (Y11) and Aaron Philpott (Y10) entered the Creative Hamburger individual, hot kitchen category and both attained bronze medals.

Mikaere Cull (Y9) entered the Creative Pizza category and attained a bronze medal. He made his own yeast base as an optional extension to his category.

So how was it like to join this pressure cooker of a competition?

Here's a first-hand account from one of our young chefs, Mikaere Cull.

"Hello! My name is Mikaere Cull. I am in Year 9 and I participated in the Waikato Culinary Fare 2023 - it was definitely different to cooking at home, to say the least!

I've got experience in making pizza so thought I might give the Culinary Fare a shot when given the opportunity. Little did I know the challenges that awaited me.

Thursday 29 June - a normal day for most - was to be one of the hardest days of my life. I was easily the youngest competitor there. Even though I was at Wintec an hour early, that hour flew by. Wrapped in a chef's jacket, I checked I had all the ingredients ready and in the right order. It was time to start! Now I had to do what I had been practising for weeks. Breathe in, breathe out.. I knew that everything would have to be perfect the first time, there'd be no chance to redo or start over. Within 30 minutes I started to feel major pressure. Twenty minutes to go and others were already getting pizzas in the oven and I was still trying to sort out my toppings.

Ten minutes to go. The pizza was not cooking fast enough. Seconds felt like hours. Five minutes. The pizza was nearly ready, but was it going to be done in time? A minute. The pizza was finally ready. I had

less than 60 seconds to plate it up. I could feel the panic rising inside me and in the room. Every. Second. Mattered. Thirty seconds. Twenty. Ten. I placed my plate on the table as the judge shouted out "Time's up!". I had finished with a second to spare.

The tension was extraordinary. But finally, the competition was done, and we were waiting for results.

As a Year 9 student, it was intimidating cooking in front of judges and beside students much older than me; the person next to me was Year 13. That day, I got Bronze for the Creative Savoury Pizza.

The Culinary Fare is much different to cooking at home, but is definitely a good way to push yourself to make a good dish within an hour and measure your skills against others. If you decide to join next year I wish you the best of luck."

Mikaere Cull



TUTORIALS

MATHS

Lunchtimes from 1.30 pm

- Tuesdays, Mr Shi (R04)
- Wednesdays, Mr Shi (R04)
- Fridays, Mr Barr (R07)

The lunchtime tutorials with Mr Shi are focused on Y11 MCAT (Algebra)

- Tuesdays: Mr Plant and Mrs Watton (R08) This is the best day for juniors
- Wednesdays: Mr Sadumiano (Student Services) Mr Plant (R08)

After School from 3.20 pm

- Thursdays: Mr Plant (R08)

SCIENCE

- 11 E Science: Wednesdays lunch and after school (C03)
- L2 and L3 Biology: Wednesdays lunch and after school (C03)
- L2 and L3 Chemistry: Wednesdays and Thursdays after school (C04)
- L2 and L3 Physics: Tuesdays Break 1 (C01)

ENGLISH

Wednesdays from 3.20 pm to 4.30 pm (International Room)

Please encourage your boys to use these tutorials if they wish to improve their grades. There is plenty of extra academic help if they need it. It is helpful if students have organised which areas they wish to cover or work they want help with.



SPORT SHORTS AND SEASON WRAPS



2023: 250 PLAYERS - ONE RUGBY SEASON

Talofa, Malo e lelei, Bula Vinaka, Mauri & Hello to our St John's College Community.

This year, St John's College fielded two U55Kg Weight Grade teams, two U14 squads, two U15 teams, our social Mighty 3rd XV, Development XV, 2nd XV and our 1st XV.

Having up to 250 students playing rugby for the College is a massive accomplishment for a school our size.

Our rugby is successful because of the time that our volunteer coaches, managers, officials and administrators put in. The school would like to thank all those parents and friends of the school who filled those roles this season. It has been very much appreciated and your contribution to our students has been invaluable.

Our mission is to make sure that our players enjoy and develop their rugby skills and knowledge, no matter what grade, to a high level. This will ensure that they have the right tools when they enter the next phase of their rugby life upon leaving St John's College.

Our 1st XV made the CNI finals for the second year in a row after tough round robin and playoff games. Unfortunately, they were unable to win the championship. But nonetheless, the school is very proud of your efforts for the 2023 season. We wish all our senior players who are leaving at the end of the school year nothing but the best for their future, both on and off the field.

Congratulations to our U14 Gold & U15 Gold teams who won their grades for 2023. A tremendous effort by players and coaching and management staff to achieve this feat. It has also been very encouraging to see the amount of parental support that you all give to your respective teams.

Well done to all our other teams who made playoffs during their season this year. The positive effort that all our teams made in their respective divisions did not go unnoticed. Thank you for everything that you put into your teams this year.

The future for St John's College rugby continues to look strong with the amount of talent that is coming through.

As Teacher in Charge of Rugby, I'd like to thank our major sponsors Fluid Power Distribution for their support with our rugby programme. Your support is greatly appreciated.

I would also like to thank our Rugby Committee, who put in the time and effort to help our St John's Rugby Programme continue its positive growth and be a success.

We look forward to the upcoming 2024 season, particularly the SJC Development Touring Team that is heading over to South Africa in April.

Mr Tony Su'a
TiC of Rugby

Not all tournament results were in as this edition of the Eagle had to go to print. That doesn't mean you have to miss out on the latest and greatest though. We always endeavour to share sport updates and results on our various social media platforms and groups.

PREMIER FOOTBALL TEAMS CONTINUE TO COMPETE WELL AGAINST THE BEST

Both the Colts A and 1st XI Football teams continue to hold their own against other dominant football schools in the Waikato. Mr Park & Derek Tiekue have developed their players to become winners and play attractive football. This has resulted in the current teams placing in the local competition and both teams qualifying for National Tournaments. It is also the 3rd year in a row that the 1st XI team has qualified to attend the Lotto Premier Tournament and travelled to Christchurch to compete against the country's top schools. Our team won the Bowl at the New Zealand Secondary School Premier Tournament - a huge achievement and thoroughly deserved.

During Winter Tournament Week the Colts A Football team travelled to Tauranga to compete in the Junior National Secondary School tournament for the Hillsdene Trophy.

The team worked extremely hard and never backed down against tough opponents. After 5 pool games the Colts A had 2 wins, a draw and 2 losses placing them third in the group. They missed out on the quarter finals by 1 point. The boys rallied together to finish the tournament and ended up in a very respectable 10th place.

This has been a huge learning experience for all the boys. The team showed many qualities as football players but also as fine young men. Every single player should be proud of their efforts and get some well deserved rest! Well done Boys! Big thank you to Phil and Kerron Sexton, Lisa Burt and Mr Robinson for looking after the boys.

This success can also be attributed to the fact that many students are playing for both the school and a club and can make the most of extra training and game time. It gives them the opportunity to experience a different perspective and approach to the game of football and assists in developing them as well-rounded players.

Mr Hayden Miller
Tic Football & Futsal



	P	W	D	L	PF	PA	GD	Pts
HBHS SB 1st XI	10	8	2	0	35	9	26	26
St Paul's Collegiate SB 1st XI	10	7	2	1	24	11	13	23
SJC SB 1st XI	10	6	1	3	21	22	-1	19
St Peter's School SB 1st XI	10	3	2	5	13	17	-4	11

	P	W	D	L	PF	PA	GD	Pts
HBHS JB Colts White	9	8	1	0	30	9	21	25
HBHS JB Colts Black	9	5	1	3	19	11	8	16
SJC JB Colts A	9	5	0	4	21	12	9	15
HBHS JB Colts Red	9	5	0	4	14	21	-7	15
St Paul's Collegiate JB Colts A	9	2	0	7	12	29	-17	6
St Paul's Collegiate JB Colts B	9	2	0	7	10	24	-14	6

BASKETBALL: A TEAM EFFORT

In case you missed our social media posts: The Falcons and the Hawks are the Junior Premiership and Junior A-Grade (Zone 2) Double Champs for 2023. And our SJC Eagles are the 2023 winners of the Waikato Basketball Mel Young Invitation Competition. Up to date basketball results are published on the school's social media platforms.

Eagles (Senior Prem A)

The Eagles have had a great year so far as they won the Waikato Basketball Competition for 2023 beating Hamilton Boys High School in the finals. The Eagles (Snr A's) wrapped up their senior premiership tournament in Rotorua with a loss to Rotorua Boys High School (semi finals) and then a win against Mt Maunganui Boys High School for 3rd and 4th and placing 3rd overall in Zone Regionals. The great news is that the Eagles qualified for NZSS Basketball Nationals 2023 in Palmerston North to battle it out with the top 20 teams in Aotearoa." A huge thank you to Coach Puke Lenden and manager Jalna Simmons.

Phoenix (Senior Prem B)

The SJC Phoenix (Snr B's) fought hard and gave their all in a finals match with Tauranga Boys High School but unfortunately came up short finishing the tourney second and bringing home the silver. The team had an amazing campaign and have shown great growth within the team roster. The Year 13's were great role models and have laid out the template for a successful team for years to come, the Year 12's have shown leadership potential and grit whilst the Year 11's have shown great talent and skill. It bodes well for the future of the Phoenix team and its continued success.

Coach Jaxson has shown how passionate he is for the game and his aroha for the boys. A big mihi to the McKay clan (Whaea Stacey & Matua JP) and Whaea Katy who were the engine of the ship.

Kererū (Junior Prem Dev B)

"The Kereru's basketball team had an exceptional season, finishing second on the table with a remarkable performance. The team's dedication and hard work paid off as they consistently showcased their skills and teamwork throughout the season. Led by their talented coach, Francis, and supported by their efficient manager, Damian, the Kererus proved to be a force to be reckoned with. Under the guidance of Coach Francis and the guidance of Manager Damian, they displayed a strategic and disciplined style of play, remarkable teamwork and dedication. The team's impressive second-place finish on the table not only reflected their skills as athletes but also spoke volumes about the strong bond and spirit that united the Kereru team as a basketball family."

Mr Timothy Sadumiano
TiC SJC Basketball

Falcons

Falcons [Jnr Prem A] beat Hamilton Boys [Jnr Prem A] in a all Hamilton school finals and repeat of the Waikato Comp finals led by Coach and SJC Old Boy Brandyn, and Managers Whaea Kristan, Whaea Chantelle and Whaea Tiana and many other supporting cast members to bring home the gold.

The Condors

It is timely to pause and reflect on the wonderful season the Condors had.

The coach and manager did a fabulous job of forming a coherent team. Evident from the outset was that this group of wonderful young Marist men knew how to have fun and maintain a positive environment on the court. The players put in the mahi to get to know one-another, learn how to play to each other's strength and play as a strong team.

The Term 2 Junior Boys competition was a short nine-week season. The team took some good wins and narrowly lost a few games too, finishing a credible 4th place overall. The development and their display of manaakitanga and kotahitanga both on and off the court has given the coaching and management team, along with die-hard fans (aka parents) a real sense of pride.

So many people have made this a great season for the Condors and the team would like to acknowledge those efforts here: "This team has absolutely amazing parents who are willing to step up and help out: coaching (Ant), managing (Karyn), training (Leon), sponsorship (McGuire Plumbing) scoring, refereeing, cooking, transporting, and getting in amongst the fundraising. Everywhere you look someone is willing to offer to help and support, it doesn't go unnoticed and it's appreciated, without people willing things don't happen"

Karyn (Manager)

Hawks

The Junior Hawks basketball team displayed remarkable courage and unwavering commitment throughout the season, narrowly missing a spot in the top 4 of this highly competitive league. Their persistent efforts and dedication have not gone unnoticed, setting a promising foundation for future successes. The team's resilience on the court serves as an inspiration to all, reflecting their true sportsmanship.

A special thanks to Coach Jaxson for the endless hours he dedicated to the boys and developing the Hawks team this season. Thank you to Coach Colin (Uncle) for supporting us too.

Keryn Vette (Manager)

And this hot off the press as this edition goes to print: Hawks [Jnr Prem B] beat Trident High [Jnr Prem A] and led by Coach and Old Boy Jaxson Fisher, and Manager Keryn Vette and supporting cast members to bring home a second gold placing for St John's College.

CONGRATS TO JONTY SHIRREFFS AND ALEX COPOCEAN

Both competed at the NZ Swimming Short Course competition in the Hawkes Bay and did really well! Jonty swam a couple of PBs in his races and came away with silver medals in the 200 and 1500 freestyle for 16 year olds. He also made the 400m freestyle C final and came 3rd. This is a great achievement as this race was not age group based.

Alex got a bronze medal in 800m and 1500 freestyle (14 yo), missed out on bronze in the 200 fly by 0.8 seconds and placed in the 10 ten in other races.



OUTSTANDING CHESS TEAM

The Waikato Regional Interschool Chess Competition took place in early August at Hamilton Boys High School. Representing St John's College was Conall O'Toole Team Captain and Board 1, Matthew Harvey Board 2, Jose Riosa Board 3, and Jack McLaughlin Board 4. Given the St John's team was a team pulled together at the last minute, the boys' result was formidable. They came 3rd place - just pipped by Hillcrest High School A by one point. The outstanding performance of the day was by Matthew Harvey who was the second best player by points for all teams - a great achievement which got honourable mention during prizegiving.

Mr Steve Wood
HoF Science Faculty



HOCKEY - A POSITIVE SEASON ALL AROUND

JT Carter Plumbing - St John's 1st XI Team - Coached by Greg Middleton & Stu McIntyre

The local season has concluded positively with the 1st XI playing well in their final match of the Midlands Intercity Competition. They will finish their season playing in the Olympic Stick Tournament in Tauranga and we wish the players good luck and hope for a speedy recovery from injuries. The tough games of the Midlands Intercity competition have prepared the team well!

This season has been difficult at times with the team facing the challenge of replacing a core of seniors who left school and a number of untimely injuries and illnesses. However, most new players had experience playing for the first XI and the returning seniors really stepped up. In the opening round of competition, coached by Greg Middleton, we achieved our first win over St Paul's Collegiate and the first ever draw with HBHS 1st XI! The team has won and defended the Bartholomew cup (a national knockout cup for secondary school hockey) for the first time in its history.

Congratulations to 1st XI players who have been selected for the U18 tournaments: Waikato: George Hall, Thames Valley: Ashton Carter, David Fernandes, Caleb McIntyre, Jamie Mills. Aidan Butler was selected for Waikato U16.

St John's - Under 15 - Blue - Coached by David Fernandes

Two U15 teams were selected this year.

SJC Blue, coached by 1st XI player David Fernandes, have improved throughout the year and while having less success than the Gold team are enjoying their hockey. Credit to all the boys in the team who have fronted up to every game and played their hearts out in the spirit of St John. It

has been a pleasure watching them grow and improve their game as the season progressed. A big thank you to our team manager, Melissa Martin, for her support throughout the season.

St John's - Under 15 - Gold Team - Coached by Leon Teao

2023 saw a spike in hockey players with a large number of students from the junior school showing interest in playing. This allowed for an extra Under15 age group team, focused specifically on competing competitively in the new Waikato Under15 top grade.

The introduction of this grade was a huge bonus to all U15 secondary school teams - they now could compete at a level that best fit their abilities and skills. Under15 Gold and Blue faced off in the season's first grading game and showcased the talent, fitness and leadership of our young men at St John's College.

After entering the top U15 competition, St John's U15 Gold lost its very first game. It gave the team a lot to think about and the boys worked tirelessly to perfect structures and develop their skills. As a result, and with many top class saves from Blake Watkins, St John's U15 Gold drew their next game against the top of the table and eventual competition winners.

The team continued to learn and grow throughout the season, with many members finding themselves in new positions and new roles. Game after game the team confirmed their spirit. This spirit and determination was consistently present in the team's top goal scorers Quinn Medd and Corban Best, who helped lead their team to the 3rd and 4th play offs.

Trailing the game 1-0 with only seconds left, DJ Vrensen sent a strong attacking ball towards the opposition's goal which led to a penalty corner. An overtime penalty corner saw Carter Steans get his name on the scoreboard after equalising from a well placed ball from his 2023 St John's Gold Captain, Henry Hall.

A huge thank you to all of the parents and caregivers for all of your hard work and support and to manager Megan Lane.

Mervyn Fernandes

SJC SCUBA TRIP TO VANUATU 2023

While many were winding down towards the end of Term 2, a group of 11 embarked on an adventure of a lifetime - a scuba diving trip to Vanuatu. Due to COVID19 and closed borders in 2021, this trip had been 36 months in the making. Its timing couldn't have been better though. The temperatures in the Waikato had plummeted to single figures so heading abroad to warmer climates was perfect.

This is the 4th time Mr Miller has provided students & parents the opportunity to travel to Vanuatu, dive in the warm waters of the Second Channel off Santos Island, and experience the country's culture.

The group completed eight dives in 27°C water and amazing visibility. The dives included the SS President Coolidge, one of the world's most popular and accessible wrecks. Our divers checked out some of its cargo holds, made the customary visit to "the Lady" and got an orientation of its Promenade Deck & Barber's Chair. Other dive sites included Million Dollar Point, the USS Tucker, an unidentified WWII spy-plane, the Doubtless Bomber, and The Fans (eastern Aore Wall), which ended up being a drift dive.

The group visited our sister school, the College de St Michel, where we donated essential sporting equipment, stationery and second-hand uniforms. After an official welcome performance, the group was given a tour of the school and its facilities. The College de St Michel had been badly damaged by Cyclone Harold in April 2020. The staff talked us through the rebuild and expressed their gratitude for the financial contribution it received from St John's College. Funds raised from two mufti days at St John's College helped them re-roof their classrooms. Mr Miller also met with the new



Principal, Theo Kileteir, the school's Chairman and various staff members discussing the curriculum, the sports programme and future building projects. And the entire group was invited to participate in the after-school sports modules of Basketball, Football, and Volleyball.

Our donations and gifts were greatly received and left the staff and students overwhelmed by our generosity. We were able to gift our sister school 27 rugby balls, 12 footballs, 8 basketballs, 4 volleyballs, an outdoor volleyball net, 2 sets of playing uniforms, coaching accessories - bibs, tactics board, stop watches, cones, reversible bibs, drink-bottles & carriers, hurdles and 10 Vortex's (Mega Howler). Thank you to Darby & Brooke Macdonald from Soccer United for donating over \$1000 of sporting equipment, balls and football shirts.

Throughout the week, the tour group took part in some tourist activities as well, such as canoeing down the Riri River, having a cultural experience at Leweton Village (where we performed the school haka), visiting the Matevulu Blue Hole and spending a morning at the famous Champagne Beach. In Port Olry, the group shared a buffet lunch including crayfish, fresh local fish, chicken and beef curries.

Even with the small moment of panic before flying out - one of the tour members had misplaced his passport in a Duty Free shop (!) - this was a truly amazing trip with rich learning experiences for all and making memories for life.

**Mr Hayden Miller,
Asst HOF PE & Health**

CAVING AND CANYONING - CHALLENGES AND REWARDS

13OED

The 13OED excursion to Atua Moi/ Sleeping Gods Canyon in Thames was no ordinary canyoning trip. Led by the team from [CanyonZ](#), the boys braved a steep climb through old logging trails and 4.5 hours of wading, swimming, jumping and abseiling down waterfalls in 8 degree water. This trip is an amazing experience where students' determination and resilience are tested in the beautiful but brutal conditions deep within the Kauaeranga Valley. They learn about abseiling, the dramatic effects weather can have and the processes we need to have in place to account for these. We also learned about the early European logging of Kauri trees in this valley. Amazingly, the trees we see today are those that self seeded during that period such a long time ago.

The second 13OED excursion was a caving trip to the Karamu Caves with the team from [Raglan Rock](#). The group learnt how single rope techniques allow cavers to access and explore steep cave networks by descending and ascending ropes and how to apply self protection techniques while abseiling.

On both trips, the boys also gained a deeper understanding of the concept of kaitiakitanga, the 'leave no trace principles' and why conservation and sustainable practices are important in outdoor recreation activities to ensure such beautiful places remain for future generations to enjoy.

12OED

The 12OED group went on a trip to the Karioi Canyon with the team at Raglan Rock. This group braved the cold conditions to challenge themselves, put their abseiling skills to the test and learn how weather conditions affect outdoor activities.

We'd like to thank the teams at [Raglan Rock](#) and [CanyonZ](#) for being such huge supporters of our programmes. If you are looking for a great activity to do with your family/whānau or a group of friends, you should check them out.

Mr Kyle Jackways



MEDAL HAUL AT THE WAIKATO ITINERANT MUSIC FESTIVAL

An impressive total of 50 St John's students participated in the annual Waikato Itinerant Music Festival, held at the University of Waikato at the end of August. Four of our school's music groups performed with over 20 other high schools from the Waikato and Bay of Plenty.

We came away with 3 gold and 1 silver award, a merit and an individual guitar excellence award. The Jazz Combo played a range of tunes; their improvised solos were highly skilled and they received a silver award. The SJC Irish Ceilidh performed eight sets of tunes with toe tapping melodies and full of energy. They received a gold award for their performance. The combined Sacred Heart Girls and St John's College Orchestra performed four pieces and showed a variety of musical and performance skills, winning them a gold award as well.

Gat Attack, the school's guitar group performed three songs. Their skillful, high energy performance was a crowd favourite and they came away with a gold and a merit award, and a voucher from Shearers Music. Alxyz Adove, the lead singer and guitarist for the group, also won an individual excellence guitar award from Allmusic Guitar.

A massive congratulations to all the students involved on the day. Each of you have worked so hard. You have spent hours practising individually and in your groups and have been dedicated to weekly rehearsals throughout the year. You all performed extremely well and represented your school and the music department with great success.

A special mention to our Arts leaders David Castillo and Paolo Dela Torre for their participation on the day; to William Hernandez and Nathaniel Chong-Linwood who performed in all four of the musical groups, and to the talented Shalom Tauai (Year 9) who joined Gat

Attack as their drummer in Term 2 this year. Finally a big thank you goes to the Itinerant teachers who make this success possible; Nathan Aish for Gat Attack, Chris Nation for the Irish Ceilidh Group, Paul Norman for the Jazz Combo and Glenn Richards for the Combined Orchestra.

A huge thank you to Mrs Hale and Mr Ardern for making this fun and educational trip happen.

Mrs Donna McHugh
TIC Music



A JAM-PACKED PERFORMING ARTS TRIP TO WELLINGTON

It's been a few years in the making but we finally made it! A 4-day trip to Wellington, the city where art & culture come alive - and so did 24 senior students in the capital's bustling CBD.

Our accommodation was within walking distance to the theatres, where our evenings were spent enjoying a variety of thought-provoking performances. Daylight hours took us around the city, playing the typical tourist, discovering Te Papa, following Parliament debates, and riding the cable car.

A huge mihi to both Pip, at Victoria University, and Alison, of Te Whaea for showing us around their respective campuses and giving us food for thought about the endless possibilities when taking flight from SJC.

The powerful performances provided plenty of material for end of year exams, but also showcased the creativity of this industry, leaving us pondering some big questions.

Jacob Rajan, co-creator of Indian Ink theatre company, took time out of his dinner break to kōrero before the show. "Dirty Work" was a humorous portrayal of classism, culture, and office politics. It featured contemporary hits from Aotearoa, and India, and was elevated by the beauty and power of people harmonising in song. Astoundingly, these singers were from a community choir who had never seen the show before! What a twist!

The final night in the city was spent at Circa Theatre watching "The Sun & The Wind", followed by an impromptu Q&A forum with the actors and directors. The generosity of these performers was appreciated but equally they valued our questions and complimented on our interpretations and well thought out questions.

Thanks to our bus driver Ray from Greenlines - our stop on the side of the road to play in the snow was an added bonus on the long drive home.

A huge thank you to Mrs Hale and Mr Ardern for making this fun and educational trip happen.



CHANEL SHIELD: 2023 BELONGS TO ST JOHN'S COLLEGE!

Chanel Shield is a friendly but fiercely competitive annual competition between the five Catholic Colleges of the Hamilton Diocese and 2023 was going to be our year!

Having won the Spirit Award multiple times, the team was determined to break the 13 year dry spell of not taking out overall first place. Fifteen well prepared and very determined boys headed off to sunny Tauranga in August. Mr Marcel

Bormans and Mrs Mandy Hale travelled with them to Aquinas College for the two day event, and both teachers returned full of pride for how the boys represented themselves and St John's College.

It was a hard fought competition and the sophistication of thinking in what our boys presented was impressive. A successful trip in all aspects, and the icing on the cake? The winner of the competition and the shield was St John's College! A huge thank you and congratulations to all involved.

Our results were as follows:
 Impromptu Speech - Jack Fraser-Jones - 2nd
 Maori Perspective Speech - Arden Morunga - 1st
 Junior Speech - Dylan Roche - 3rd
 Senior Speech - Matthew Jeremiah - 1st=
 Junior Poetry - Euan Casimiro - 1st
 Senior Poetry - Sean Antazo - 2nd=
 Drama - Rory O'Carroll, Raphael Ferdinands, Euan Casimiro, Monty Carter, Alex Johnston, and Josef Bavastro - 3rd
 Debating - Harry Ashton, Mohnish Singh and Christian Pearson - 3rd
 Junior Bible Reading - Nate Rastrick - 4th=
 Senior Bible Reading - Raphael Ferdinands - 1st
 Bible Quiz - all 15 students - 3rd

SHOWCASING CULTURE

Kia ora ee te iwi. What a great term for our men to showcase their culture in front of so many various groups. First up, the performance at Turangawaewae Marae as part of the Kiingitanga's Koroneihana (coronation anniversary celebration). This was followed by a number of hosting responsibilities with our Japanese exchange students. And lastly, a stand at Sacred Heart Girls College where St John's College delivered the last performance of the day in front of six hundred spectators at Te Hui Ahurea Cultural Festival.

If you haven't already, check out our St John's College social media. We've added some images and videos captured at these events.

A special mention must go to the year 10 Te Reo Class who were given the responsibility of organising and hosting forty-five Japanese students out at Hukanui Marae. Activities included haka, raakau, tiititoorea, waiata and wharewhare. They did a fantastic job sharing



their knowledge and their culture with our visitors.

Haka is a regular on Fridays and we would like to thank all our tutors for the time and effort they are committing to our group. Mauri ora.

A special congrats to our St John's Pasifika Group who delivered an outstanding performance at the Te Hui Ahurea festival. This cultural festival is an important event in our school calendar. It brings together 11 Catholic primary and secondary schools from across the Waikato, with performances from Pasifika, Filipino, Indian and Kapa Haka

groups. This year, our students performed Samoan Siva, Tongan and Kiribati. They combined with the girls from Sacred Heart for a Kiribati performance. The finale was both our Pasifika students and whānau students coming together for our school haka. These are talented students who showed pride in who they are. Very impressive!

Ms Diane Lyons
Dean for Pasifika students
Mr Jordan Rangihika
TIC of Te Reo Māori





Scan Me

Please take a moment and let us know what you think about our Eagle newsletter.



Are you ready to tee-off?

Register a team for the annual
SJC Old Boys Golf Tournament
at Ngaruawahia Golf Club

Sunday 15.10.2023

To register email:
foundation@stjohns-hamilton.school.nz



PROUD TO BE A JOHNNIES BOY

Did you know that eight of our current staff members - the highest number ever - first came to St John's College as a student?

Between them, they are covering SJC student history from 1982 to 2014. Whilst many of their memories are a reflection of different teaching and learning styles and different dynamics, the sense of being a 'Johnnies Boy', of belonging, has remained a constant and shines through.

"Today's students are more tolerant, kinder and respectful...Students are allowed to express themselves, and teaching and learning has improved over the decades. It is more student-led." These are just some of the comments made when asked about the differences between then and now. On the other hand, some of the student's mannerisms are nothing new to them - they've all been Johnnies Boys themselves, been there, done that.

School life seemed to be quite the character-building experience for some, especially during the 80s and 90s. St John's was a rite of passage for Catholic boys; families were bigger, everyone knew everyone and met up at church on Sundays. Back then, the College was small. You likely had the same teacher for several subjects, right throughout high school. There was no gym at all. Sport was either

outside on the field, or in the hall (where the library and the staff room are now), and there was definitely no PE uniform or health and safety regulations.

On the other hand, by Y13 you were considered an independent person and that year group had its own common room to spend time in - unsupervised. We hear Mel Young did a couple of trips to Sacred Heart Girls College to collect students MIA.

Perhaps the most striking differences are the diversity of today's school community and the Marist charism that gets instilled in our young men and is very much at the centre of all teaching and learning. There was no school haka, and although in the earlier decades, the students were taught by Marist brothers, our five pillars (simplicity, presence, family spirit, in the way of Mary, and love of work) did not exist just yet.

Not everyone enjoyed their time as a student, but all of them keep in touch with their high school friends, many meeting up regularly. They know the fabric of this community well and the many families that have come through the school gates for generations.

They all agree that coming back as a teacher is a bit like coming home.

Ms Gaby Douglas
SJC Foundation



From left to right: Malcolm Barr 1993-97, Leon Teao 2011-14, Jeremy Gee 1987-91, Shane Tong 1982-86, Conor Maxwell 2007-11, Timothy Sadumiano 2001-05, Shaun Healy 1985-89, John De Vega 2006-10

A LONG WAY FROM HOME

Our school has been quite the hive of - international - activity and hospitality this term.

We hosted two visiting school groups from Japan - a great opportunity for our students to showcase school life, make our guests feel welcome and at the same time, learn a bit more about different cultures and customs. The St John's boys did a fantastic job. Language was no barrier - our boys were buddies, and spent their break times with the Japanese students. Our Yr 10 and 11 students from the whānau class became kaiako - patiently explained the school haka to our guests, accompanied them on a visit to Hukanui Marae and, at the end of the day, could all be found playing cards in the library.

The school also hosted several overseas students this term. Students from China and Taiwan attended St John's College for two to four week tasters. Some Japanese students are here for the whole term, one of whom has already been here for Term 2. We also welcome students from India, who are with us all year, and who will be back next year.

So what is it like being a long way from home, attending St John's College and staying with a host family? Here's what Year 9 students Allen Hu, Feihao Li and Aman Singh had to say:

School itself is quite different here. Back home, the students stay in the same room and it's the teachers who change class. There is a lot more space to run around at St John's compared to their own school. Aman for example comes from a co-ed school, a three storey building with only one courtyard to roam at break times.

All three commented on the many green spaces available and making the most of New Zealand's great outdoors. They all googled the sports on offer at St John's before arriving, with soccer a hot favourite. Feihao is into mountain biking and has been exploring forest trails.

Host families have been wonderful. They organised outings and clearly have been

ensuring our visitors try some of our kiwi classics. Favourite food? Two minute noodles, hot dogs from the tuck shop, kiwi fruit and mince and cheese pies - job done!



Y13 BIOLOGY TRIP

The annual biology trip to Auckland Zoo is always a bit of an adventure and an enriching educational experience. And this year's excursion was no different. The group had a fabulous day viewing the primates, taking part in an education session on the anatomical differences between primates in terms of evolution, and checking out the zoo's new facilities. Highlights were the orangutan family (Mum, Dad and 18 month old baby), watching the tiger roam (and hearing it 'meow') and exploring the new Dome and its Swamp Trail, touted as the hottest new habitat in town!

Ms Nicola Gelston
Assistant HOF Science and TIC Biology



BECOME A HOMESTAY FAMILY

Hosting an international student can be such a rewarding experience!

- You and your family will get to know a different culture, traditions and perspectives first hand.
- You'll get to rediscover our region, taking a student to your favourite spots and activities.
- As a host family, you will earn extra income.
- You can feel proud of the role you play in making a visitor to our country feel at home, safe and happy.

Call our Homestay Coordinator to learn more: 07 856 7091

or email:
international@stjohns-hamilton.school.nz



BUILDING A STRONGER TOGETHER HAMILTON

'Stronger Together for Hamilton' is a motto, an ethos, that VCE (Vision Complete Earthworks) and the Piso family focuses on in everything they do. This ethos started out within the Piso family, looking out for each other, contributing, and treating each other with respect. By now, it has grown into a movement that aims to make our community a better place and support and grow people around us through listening, mentoring, assisting, and spending time with.

The rewards of 'Stronger Together' are the outcomes - some immediate, some over time - being part of someone else's success, being a Go Giver. Pienaar Piso reckons it's like receiving dividends far greater than the original investment. In short, the aim is to build a community of resilient people, businesses, families and whānau, that can rely on each other and work for a great purpose.

As part of its 'Stronger together for Hamilton' ethos, VCE has come on board as a major sponsor for SJC sport and has contributed comprehensively towards sporting infrastructure at St John's College over the last couple of seasons. VCE is a Hamilton based company, family owned and operated by the Piso family since 2007. For more information about 'Stronger Together Hamilton', please contact: PienaarPizo@gmail.com.

Mr Joe Smal
Sports Director



CHAMPAGNAT IN THE PACIFIC

The annual Champagnat in the Pacific Marist course took place at the end of August. This year St John's College was represented by Mr Barr and Mrs He. Here are excerpts from the organisers' programme summary.

"The present climate in today's world has taught us the importance of 'connectedness', and amid various uncertainties and challenges we were extremely fortunate to be able to deliver this significant face-to-face staff formation program. Participants from 10 of our 12 schools came together for a three-day retreat programme, exploring the spirituality and pedagogy of Marist Education in the Tradition of St Marcellin Champagnat. It was a real pleasure to be accompanied by Br Barry Burns to co-present this program and to experience his wonderful facilitation and pastoral skills when leading and supporting various workshops.

The leisurely pace ensured that this was not a conference and time was allowed for participants to embrace

the 'head to heart' journey and to capture our Champagnat Marist Way to Jesus. Programmes like this cannot take place without support and this year we were very fortunate to have outstanding workshop presenters in Dean Wearmouth (Marist Education), Br Peter Horide (Realities, Challenges and Calls for Us Today) and Cherie Jaeger (Ministry Implications). A highlight, noted by our participants, was the 'Fireside Chat', which Br Barry and Terry Horne contributed to superbly, with an abundance of humility and authenticity in their responses around mission and life. Both Barry and Terry expressed that to build authentic faith communities we must 'walk the talk' by being 'witnesses before teachers.'

It was a magnificent blessing to have Fr Frank Bird SM lead our community Mass on the Feast of the Assumption prior to his pending return to Ranong, Thailand, along with a wonderful celebration of life around the table that followed.

The journey now continues beyond Long Bay as we collectively look at new ways to keep our founder's dream alive, not only in our ministries but also in our personal lives."

WE ARE JIBBITZ TRAILBLAZERS

The school is currently holding a fundraiser and selling SJC Jibbitz. Now your Crocs can be SJC Crocs with these limited edition, one of a kind Jibbitz (we are pretty certain we are the only school in the country to have them!).

Funds raised are going to several areas including our annual fundraiser for the New Zealand Cancer Society. Jibbitz are \$5 each. They can be purchased at the office. Alternatively, you can email Mr Ardern at pardern@stjohns-hamilton.school.nz for further information.

Mr Paul Ardern
HoF English & Languages



CHANEL BLOCK OPENING

Our refurbished Chanel Block was officially opened and blessed on 7th September 2023 in an early morning ceremony. We were honoured to welcome representatives of the Diocese of Hamilton, delegates and representatives of the Kiingitanga, Tumuaki and Mana Whenua and invited guests. What a fantastic, modern teaching and learning space our C-Block has become.



Thank you to VegeKing for their support of our Opening Function and hangi.



SJC SENIOR BALL

Mamma Mia! Over 300 students and many staff members attended this year's Y12 and Y13 ball at Wintec's Atrium. Judging by some of the snapshots, everyone had a great night.



