



Newsletter

December 2010

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From the Principal's Office:

Dear Parents and Friends

Yet again the term has finished all too quickly and it will not be long until the newsletter for the beginning of next term will be arriving. Very often I am sent a number of different things to read and this is one of the stories that I have read recently and I thought you as parents may be interested too.

There is a story that during the great Thomas Jefferson's presidency, he and a group of travellers were crossing a river that had overflowed its banks. Each man crossed on horseback, fighting for his life against the raging waters.

A lone traveller watched the group traverse the treacherous river and then asked President Jefferson to take him across. The president agreed without hesitation, the man climbed on, and the two made it safely to the other side of the river.

One of the travellers asked the man, "Why did you choose the President to help you?"

The man was shocked, admitting he had no idea it was the President of the United States who had carried him safely across.

"All I know," he said, "is that on some of your faces was written the answer 'No' and on some of them was the answer 'Yes.' His was a 'Yes' face."

What kind of face do you present to the world – a 'yes' face or a 'no' face?

A boy who wrestled as a sport wasn't very good for a long time. His father would tell him that it was because he didn't want to win, explaining that wrestling was a mental sport and if you didn't have the 'want' to win, you never would. Later in life the boy realised that his father was talking about the difference between having a desire to win and being willing to do what it takes to win. There is a big difference. We all have many desires, but the truth is that we are not always willing to do what it takes to get them. They stay wishes, not goals. We have to be willing to do what it takes to get there.

A person with a 'yes' face is willing and open to the opportunities of change. We can all begin to make the choices, however small, that will start us down the new road towards what we truly want. When we begin that change, the change is always for the better. We begin the process of becoming who we truly can be – facing the world and all its challenges with a 'yes' face. Yes to all the possibilities for our individual and unique life. "The most significant decision I make each day is my choice of an attitude. When my attitudes are right there's no barrier too high, no valley too deep, no dream too extreme and no challenge too great."

We all know this is all too true - success is about attitude.

I would like to thank you all for your support over the year. Most of all I would like to wish you all a blessed Christmas and a New Year that brings you all you hope for.

Kindest regards
Lynley Rawston

Congratulations to our 2010
Dux Jacqui Mellow and
Proxime Accessit
Kate Anderson!



Jacqui Mellow

Uniforms

The names and contact details of the students who will be new to St Mary's in 2011 have been given to our Uniform Manager Mrs Debbie Volzke. Please give her a call in January to make an appointment to come in and get your uniform sorted. She will be in touch if she does not hear from you! Our second hand uniform supplies are quite high at present – so – check them out too – you never know your luck. Existing pupils needing extra uniform items are also encouraged to ring Mrs Volzke in January. Home 06 765 7480. Please leave a message and she will get back to you!

Stationery Lists 2011

All stationery requirements are enclosed with the newsletter – and should you lose it – check out the website – it will be there too! Friendly Reminder - All students are to come fully prepared with all their stationery on the first day of school. The Stationery Office at the school only holds minimal supplies for emergency purposes and cannot be used to buy your start-up supplies. (This is also a cash only/efpos facility – no charges to accounts thanks!)

Camps 2011

Year 13 Leadership Camp:

Vertical Horizons, Week 2, Tuesday 8 February to Wednesday 9 February
Cost \$35. Information has already been sent out. Gear lists etc will be posted to the Year 13s towards the end of January.

Year 12 PE Students:

TOPEC, Week 2, Monday 7 February to Friday 11 February
Approximate Cost \$215-\$235. Details will be provided to Year 12s taking Physical Education and posted towards the end of January.

This outdoor experience is primarily for those students taking NCEA Level 2 Physical Education as the course offers credits at Level 2 towards their NCEA. It is a compulsory part of the Level 2 PE Course, with practical and theory being carried out at a week long residential course at the Taranaki Outdoor Pursuits Centre. Depending on numbers there may be room for one or two non-PE students who are keen to gain extra credits and who show a keen interest in outdoor education. (Cost covers food, transport, accommodation, specialist equipment hire, instruction by qualified instructors). Please budget to be prepared to pay for this if your daughter is intending taking Y12 (Level 2) PE, or if she is likely to want to take up the opportunity for extra credits.

Year 10:

TOPEC, Week 10, Monday 4 April to Friday 8 April
Approximate Cost \$190-\$210. Full details will be provided in due course.

This is a week long residential outdoor education camp for all Year 10 students, staying at TOPEC Camp. It is a part of the PE Programme at school covering such outdoor pursuits as kayaking, rafting, rock climbing, bush craft, confidence course, ropes course, orienteering and camping skills. (Cost covers transport, accommodation, specialist equipment hire, instruction by qualified instructors). Please budget to be prepared to pay for this if you have a daughter in Year 10.

Year 9:

Te Wera, Wednesday 23 March to Friday 25 March
Approximate Cost \$95-\$115. Full details will be provided in due course.

This is a compulsory 3 day (2 nights) camp to assist Year 9 students with settling into their secondary schooling, and to cover some aspects of the special character of St Mary's. It will be held at a residential camp situated at Te Wera – inland from Stratford. At the camp, students are challenged with team building activities, initiative games, camp craft, confidence course, kayaking and archery. (Cost includes food, transport, accommodation and use of equipment). Please budget to be prepared to pay for this if you have a daughter in Year 9.

Library Books/Locker Keys

If you did not return these before school ended you will be invoiced for them. So – if you have them at home – we would appreciate them back – and then you will not be charged!



Getting the cabling right for the school is a tricky business!

2011 Enrolments

We are still accepting applications for enrolment for 2011 at all levels – Day Girls and Boarders. Give the office a call!

Activity Week antics and opportunities were wide and varied. Boot camp graduates just below – and some extreme drama make up at the bottom.



Summer Sports

The annual Athletics and Swimming Sports will be held early in Term 1. (Parents and families are warmly invited to attend).

Athletics:

Tuesday 15 February at Inglewood (Rain Off Day will be Thursday 17 February)

Swimming Sports:

Thursday 17 February at our school pool (or through to the following week)

Term One Planner 2011 – As it stands to date!

Enclosed with this newsletter. Of course – “things” don’t stand still – so all will be confirmed early next year. And had you noticed? – It is another 11 week term!

Also Easter will be during the first school holidays!

News from the gap students Juliane and Laura

The first four months are nearly over. And we love the work and our life at St Mary’s. In the last few weeks we have seen a lot. We went Black Water Rafting in the Waitomo Caves, have seen the fireworks on 5th of November, a Jack Johnson concert in the Bowl of Brooklands in New Plymouth, visited Palmerston North and the Christmas Parade in New Plymouth. That was our first Christmas Parade and very strange for us.

A few weeks ago we bought a new car. And now we are ready for the summer holidays. On the 11th of December we will fly to Fiji for a week. After that Juliane will meet her parents and her two younger sisters and Laura will meet her parents and brother for Christmas.

We both are looking forward to meeting up with our families and then will travel with them until 7th January. After that we will meet each other in Christchurch and travel around the South Island for the rest of the holidays.

We are glad to be here at St Mary’s!

We also want to say THANK YOU to Lindsay Evans, who was very helpful getting us a car and selling the old one! We were so lucky to have his help. Thank you Lindsay!!!
Laura and Juliane

Wanted to beg/borrow/ loan/steal – one classical guitar!

Laura, one of the Gappies, would like to take up guitar lessons for the rest of her time in New Zealand and would love the use of a guitar for the first half of 2011. Can you help? Any offers very welcome – please contact the School Office! “Vielen Dank!”

A & P Shows

Huge thanks to Fiona Dravitski, Leila Martin, Diana Sharp, Vanessa Steadman, Rhonda Cook, Stefan Mexted, Dianne Sutton, Yvonne Brown, Sandra Wells and families and students who volunteered and answered the call to man our stands at the Egmont and Stratford A & P Shows. We very much appreciate you giving up your time to help promote our school. (The lollies were won by old girl Baylee Wellington)

**Junior Reports
Posted Last Week!**



Happy birthday to both gappies who recently turned 20

Fees 2011

The Board of Proprietors have reviewed costs and set the fee structure for 2011. These are attached.



Santa's little helper Gail Baker will be leaving St Mary's at the end of this year. Gail's expertise all round the school and in particular as Year 10 Dean, Head of Food Tech, Literacy Leader and teacher representative on the BOT will leave a huge gap at St Mary's and we all wish her well for her future.

From the Music Department

Hawera Performing Arts Competitions

It was good to see students doing such positive activities over the last school holidays! We encourage any student to enter: there are categories for music, dance and speech. The Hawera competitions are a great way to gain performing experience in a friendly atmosphere. And some of the results:

Music:

Bree-Anna Langton	Piano: 1 x 2 nd , 1 x VHC
Tarryn Harrison	Piano: 2 scholarships, 1 highest aggregate mark, 4 x 1 st , 3 x 2 nd
Rianne Gibson	Voice: 2 x 1 st , 1 x 2 nd , 1 x 3 rd , 3 x VHC
Cecily Shaw	Clarinet: 1 x 1 st
Cecily Shaw	Voice: Senior Vocal Scholarship, plus a scholarship for highest aggregate marks. 7 x 1 st , 1 x 2 nd , 1 x 2 nd =, 1 x 3 rd

Amanda Longshaw and Cecily Shaw also performed a comic duet in the concert: see the picture!

Dance:

Tarryn Harrison	2 x highest aggregate marks, 2 x 3 rd
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Speech:

Bree-Anna Langton	1 x 1 st , 1 x C
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Congratulations Cecily!

Applying for grants and scholarships can be time-consuming and a lot of effort, but well worth while. Many community groups wish to encourage young people. Congratulations to Cecily Shaw on receiving the Taranaki Career and Training Expo Trust Board Grant. Cecily will receive \$500 towards the cost of her first year Tertiary training. She wishes to study Music Therapy, which will involve first a music degree, then postgraduate work.

Further congratulations:

To two students who passed their music theory exams with Distinction:

Lillian Schumacher	Grade 1
Emma Burton-McMurray	Grade 4

Well done girls!

Air Force Concert Tour – Tuesday 22 February:

We have the great opportunity to take students to this concert. It will be for all juniors, plus students taking music. The 65-member Central Band of the RNZAF will be performing in New Plymouth. They are the only full-size, professional Symphonic Band in NZ, and feature all woodwind, reed, brass, double bass, percussion instruments and a corps of drummers. They play a huge range of music from classical through to jazz and pop. The only cost will be the bus plus a very small entry fee - details to come early next year.

Choir Camp - Fri 18 March 4pm – Saturday 19 March 5pm:

Our annual camp is booked for Te Wera - a fun time for all singers. We prepare for our annual events such as singing at the Cathedral and at The Big Sing, plus get to know each other with games and activities.

“If there were no schools to take the children away from home part of the time, the insane asylums would be filled with mothers.”

Edgar W Howe



Amanda and Cecily



Orchestra

Accounts

Our financial year ends 31 December – so it would be very much appreciated if all accounts could be paid in full by then please!

Wearable Arts

Congratulations to all our entrants in the recent Wearable Arts Awards.

Two fine example of work by our students are shown:

Top two photos on the Right: "Kiwi Breakfast Bra" by Layla Brogden and "Strutting my Stuff" by Helen Dravitski

Hey Mum and Dad...

Have you got a new cellphone? Let us know your mobile numbers please! We especially need these for our Absence Notification System whereby we can contact all families with absentee daughters with "one push of the button". Quite handy to have your up to date work phone numbers too please, and back up contact person details – in case of emergencies etc!

Hostel

The hostel will be used over the holidays by a Swimming Group in early January and then by Camp Quality later in the month.

Farewell to Our International Students who have returned home!

Haruka, Haruna, Ari and Fumika have all completed their time in New Zealand. They were wonderful girls to have at St Mary's and they will be missed. We hope they come back and visit us one day!



Girls had fun at a surprise luncheon to farewell the international students.

St Mary's is going to be 100!

In February 2015 we celebrate our Centennial! Old Girls are invited to the school on 27 February 2011 for a reunion lunch. The 100th reunion is coming up soon and this will be a topic of conversation, but don't let this put you off. It would be great to begin a regular get together. Tell your Old Girl Friends! We are trying to circulate our newsletters via email to as many Old Girls as possible. Our data base is set up in "leaving years" and has some gaps for those who left in 1998, 1999, 2001 and 2002. If this is you – please be in touch with us – so we can sort you out!

PTA Meeting

One of our objectives is to get our PTA up and going again. All families are invited to join in and be part of our wonderful support system in the school. Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 2 March 7pm.



Wearable Arts clothing and accessories – for the stylish woman about town!



The stork was spotted outside Lisa and Caleb Dent's house next to the Hostel entrance of St Mary's. Milla Grace has arrived safely on 11 December, weighing in at a healthy 8lb. Congratulations to the new mum and dad!

From the Sports Department:

It's the end of 2010, sport has finished, uniforms have been returned and all in all it has been a year of celebration.

Our final event for term 4 was TSSSA Show Jumping which was held at the Stratford Show Grounds on Tuesday 30 November. We entered a team of 3 riders with 4 horses, which were relatively new to competition, and were placed 9th (8th = on points) over all. The girls put in a lot of extra effort and were awarded the Best Dressed and Turned out Award for the day as well.

I would like to thank Bev Prankerd and Sheree Espin for all their hard work organising this event on behalf of St Marys, and to Kelsey Espin who took charge on the day in place of Sheree.

2011:

To kick off the year we will be taking applications for our new **ESTA** Programme. To apply for one of the vacancies you will need to prepare a sport CV and a cover letter explaining why you want to be part of this program and what you want to achieve from it. Your CV should include evidence of your participation in your chosen sport at Taranaki level or above. The full program will be offered to Year 11 and above and will be worked into either the Gateway program or the Futures program. Junior students may be considered for a revised program.

Winter sport trials will take place from about week 4 or 5 of term one, pre season fitness will also start within the first 2 weeks. As always I am looking for knowledgeable people to coach our sports teams, so if you think you are up to the task please let me know.

In week 3 of term one, we will be holding both our **Athletic** and **Swimming sports** (weather permitting). The athletics will be held at the TET track in Inglewood and the swimming will be held here in our school pool. All parents and care givers are welcome to come and share the day.

TSSSA events for term one:

Tennis	play offs to be held before finals on	Wednesday 23 Feb
Golf Croquet		Sunday 20 Feb
Senior Touch Rugby		Sunday 27 Feb
Beach Volleyball		Sunday 6 March
Athletics		Wednesday 16 March
Triathlon		Sunday 20 March
Orienteering		Wednesday 23 March
Mountain Biking		Sunday 27 March
Swimming		Tuesday 29 March
Rogaine		Wednesday 30 March
Lawn Bowls		Wednesday 6 April
Rugby 7's		Sunday 10 April
Dressage		Wednesday 13 April
Duathlon		Saturday 16 April

Dame Malvina Major Foundation

The School and several of our students were successful in the recent grants made from the Dame Malvina Major Foundation. St Mary's has been granted funds towards next years Humpty Dumpty Pantomime. Students' grants: Cecily Shaw (music tuition), Ashleigh Corkill (dance) and the Speech and Drama Student recipients were: Bree-Anna Langton, Ebony Werahiko, Karina McCallum, Roka-reni Osborne, Samantha Woollett and Selina Padrutt. Well done everyone and huge thanks to the Foundation.



Kelsey Espin (above) and below with our Equestrian Team



Making Frosty the Snowman in knitting classes was another option for Activity Week this year.



We asked our Gap Students What Christmas means to them... and this is what they said:

Snow!

Snow balls, snow men and snow woman, snow angels, snow fights, sledge rides.

The Biscuits!

Everyone bakes biscuits at Christmas time! You only bake biscuits at this time of the year – the rest of the year you bake cakes or eat bought biscuits. All sorts – cinnamon, chocolate, festive, coconut etc and you just have them with a coffee whenever!

The 4 candles – most families have a nice arrangement at home with greenery in the dining room or living room and light a candle each week.

Christmas Trees – everyone has real trees – both Juliane and Laura only know of maybe one family that has an artificial tree. “We have real candles on the tree – and we light them.” Under the Christmas tree is the scene including Maria, Joseph and the Christkind and the shepherds. Usually The Holy Kings aren’t included in the scene until 6th January (because they are still travelling to get there!)

Christmas markets – Big cities have outside areas selling Christmas goodies, gifts, food and warm drinks for 2-3 weeks. The smaller towns have one special day at night time. They mostly start at 4-5pm and it is a big thing to go to – everyone dresses up in warm clothes – it is very cold but everyone is drinking warm drinks - mostly hot sweet wine and children have warm punch – different flavours. There are Christmas songs and entertainment.

6 December – Nikolaus: On the evening of the 5th December you clean your boots and put them outside the door and during the night he comes and fills the boots with nuts, sweets or a little present. He only comes to children who have clean boots!

24th – the Eve of Christmas

This is the big day. Laura’s family get dressed up for church at 5pm. It is a family service –EVERYONE IS THERE – the church is full. Afterwards they go home and have big meal with special foods including meats and sauces and “spaetzle” which is a type of noodle that is special for south area of Germany where she lives. Pudding is vanilla ice cream and hot raspberries. The children go to their rooms while the Christkind comes and delivers the presents under the Christmas tree in the lounge. They sing Christmas songs and open their presents.

Juliane’s family have dinner at 6pm then sing songs at home and play musical instruments. Her grandmother reads the Christmas story and then they open presents. “Then we go to church. Grandma sings in the church choir in the 9.30 pm service so we always go to that one. Last year I sung in it too. EVERYONE goes to church.”

The 25th and 26th of December are spent visiting other members of their families.

“This year will be so different for us. It is not feeling like Christmas at all for us. We feel like it is the middle of the year – summer for us and Christmas is still far away.”

“We have decided to celebrate it on the 25th like you.”

“We want to celebrate at the beach with a barbecue!”

“I would like a plastic Christmas tree.”

The girls find it unbelievable you can get sunburnt on Christmas – it is totally incomprehensible and beyond their imaginations. They are having trouble getting their heads around the type of Christmas presents we get here in NZ – the beach gear, outdoor equipment and toys etc. No one would ever get a bike for Christmas in Germany! Their gifts are indoor games, puzzles, and ski gear!



Cinnamon Stars – our delicious German cookies



Laura and Juliane

Our dear Rev Jill at the wonderful Christmas Carol Service we celebrated recently.



Jill is returning to the Waikato Diocese in 2011 and we wish her well. We have appreciated her Chapel Services, sense of humour and Pastoral Care of us all this year.



A celebration for more of our high achievers recently. The girls all received Endorsements of Merit at NCEA Level! We are proud of them all and congratulate them again on their exceptional results. From left to right:

Sirihapha Duangamanee (aka Pete), Kate Anderson, Trae Te Wiki-Wall, Kelsey Espin and Cecily Shaw

Did You Know?

Research has found that students' reading patterns during the summer holidays vary widely between different groups, with marked effects on academic performance. Within each school year children from low socio-economic backgrounds made similar gains in reading achievement. However, during their summer vacations, low socio-economic children either made only modest gains or fell back in reading skills, those from higher socio-economic groups bounded ahead each time. The study concluded that by Year 9, summer holiday reading patterns accounted for approximately 80% of the reading achievement gap between different socio-economic groups.

The moral of the story is to make sure that your daughter has access to books over the summer break and the opportunity to read them.

MOE - School Transport Assistance

The Ministry of Education have a financial assistance conveyance allowance some students might be eligible for. If they live more than 4.8 km from the nearest school, and they do not have access to public passenger service transport, there are forms available. Give the office a call for a form to be sent to you.

A column for our Old Girls:

We'd like to start a special page of news and events celebrating the achievements and milestones of our St Mary's Old Girls. If you have any news or photos, events or articles of interest about or for our Old Girls, please email or send them to the school office and we will include them in our newsletter.

To begin with, we are really proud to congratulate **Cologne McKinstry** who was a student at St Mary's in 2009 and is a recent graduate of the Taratahi Agricultural Training Centre. At the Masterton graduation, Cologne received the award for Best Overall Sheep student, and then also won the coveted TOP AWARD for Best Overall Taratahi Student for which she received a brand new chainsaw. She was also the recipient of several scholarships. Well done Cologne!

Several St Mary's students finished studies at Victoria University this year. **Jenny Vickers**, formerly from Eltham, and a student from 2006, has graduated with her Bachelor of Arts with a Psychology major. **Kate Shearer** and **Zoe Dwyer**, (also 2006) both completed their Bachelors of Commerce and Administration. Well done girls!