



Newsletter

February 2011

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From the Principal's Office:

Dear Parents

Welcome and also welcome back. I hope you all had a great holiday and come back ready to face the new year. After some weeks of preparation it is really good to see the students back with bright and eager faces. The beginning of the year is a special time - there are great intentions to achieve well and to improve on previous performance. This means the start of the new school year is a good time to think about taking steps towards success.

Success comes in small steps - and so does failure. Failure is not a single event. We don't fail overnight or on a single test day. For most of us, failure is nothing more than a few errors in judgment, a few poor choices, repeated every day.

Now why would anyone be so foolish as to repeat a poor choice every day? The answer is because we don't think it matters.

On their own, our daily acts don't seem very important. One more TV programme, an extra hour or two at the computer, sleeping in for another hour, hanging out with friends, skipping on homework- these don't usually result in an instant and measurable impact. More often than not, we escape from any immediate consequences of our deeds.

Since nothing drastic happens to us, we repeat our poor choices day after day, week after week, month after month and, before we know it, we are standing at the door of the examination hall regretting the wasted year behind us.

Unfortunately, failure doesn't shout out its warnings. This is why we have to develop our own early warning system so we make better choices and take the small daily steps towards success.

The great news is the formula for success is easy to follow. It's a few simple disciplines practised every day. Try these. Turn off the TV and read over your day's work. Stop playing games and use the computer to write your assignment. Get up an hour early and use the time to study and revise.

We need to take time to ponder the future so we don't get so caught up in the current moment we make the wrong choices. The problems and the rewards of today are so absorbing to some people they never pause long enough to think about tomorrow.

Take just a few minutes every day to look further down the road. Consider the future consequences of your present choices.

Then make new choices for success. By looking towards the future, we can change our thinking, improve our choices and develop new habits.

We are pleased with our NCEA results and some of our students performed particularly well. But we have a culture of constantly trying to do even better and constantly set the bar higher. This year like our students we will be constantly striving to perform as a school at a higher level.

Kindest regards, Lynley Rawston

NCEA RESULTS

Our results were very pleasing particularly at Level 2 where interim results indicate we have had a 100% achievement. Well done to these girls:

Level 1: Excellence :
Charlotte Smith

This is an outstanding result.

Level 1: Merit :

Brittany Smith,
Jessica Howatson,
Renee Sybrandy,
Emma Burton-McMurray,
Lauren Terrill, Tegan Sharp,
Rachel Sutton,
Rachel Haire.

This is an outstanding result of 26 % of students with endorsements at Level 1.

Level 2: Merit Endorsement:

Jordyn Landers,
Alice Mansell,
Sabrina Grogan,
Stephanie Murray,
Cecily Shaw,
Rianne Gibson,

This is another outstanding result with 23 % endorsement at Level 2.

Congratulations girls, these NCEA results are a real reason to celebrate.

EXEAT Weekends – Reminder

The Hostel will be closed on:

- Saturday 19 and Sunday 20 February
- Saturday 12, Sunday 13 and Monday 14 March (Taranaki Anniversary Weekend)
- Saturday 26 and Sunday 27 March

Welcome to New Teachers

Ms Alice Mason Art
Mrs Sheree Asi Food and Nutrition and Health

Welcome also to Term 1 Relievers:

Mrs Caroline Gonouya History and Religious Education
Mr Stephen Barrett Maths

...AND farewell to our Office Manager Marg Goble. We are sad to see Marg leave us but wish her well in her new challenge. Marg has been here over 10 years and will be sorely missed by her fellow office staff, management, teachers and pupils, both Boards and our extended St Mary's family. Thanks for your loyal commitment to us over the years.

Announcing the Appointment of our new Chaplain

We are delighted to announce that as from Term 2 our new Chaplain will be Geoff Rodley. Many of you will know Geoff from when he and his family lived in Stratford. St Mary's is lucky to have him coming home to Stratford.

2011 Form Teachers

Fleming A Caroline Gonouya
Fleming B Christine Hucker
Roberton A Vicky Adams
Roberton B Sheree Asi
Stanford A Michael Stevens
Stanford B Margaret Thompson
Wilson A Rick Wood
Wilson B Barry Skinner

2011 Deans

Year 9 Mrs Elizabeth Higgs
Year 10 Ms Angie Cooper
Year 11 and Year 12 Mr Matt Coleman
Year 13 Ms Maria Taylor

If you have any queries regarding your daughter's education or wellbeing please do not hesitate to contact her Dean or Principal Lynley Rawston, Deputy Principal Deborah Keenan or Assistant Principal Barry Skinner.

Boarders Vans – New Plymouth and Hawera

We need nine students on each bus to make each of these services viable. If there are not enough bookings the van(s) will not run. Those requiring a ride on a van must book with the Hostel Manager by Wednesday night and then will be advised if the service is going ahead. Thank you for your co-operation!

Year 9 Camp – Te Wera Wed 23 March – Fri 25 March

Full details including permission slips and gear lists due out soon. Approximate cost: \$95-\$115. All students are expected to take part.

Year 10 Camp – TOPEC Mon 4 April – Friday 8 April

Full details including permission slips and gear lists due out soon. Approximate cost: \$190-\$210. All students are expected to take part.

Accounts... have been posted! A friendly reminder – these need to be paid by the 20th of each month. We accept cheques, cash, direct credit or eftpos. For direct credit details please contact the office.

Welcome

It is great to welcome new families to the St Mary's family and also welcome back families of some or our new students who have older sisters, mothers and grandmothers who are Old Girls. It was great to see our girls arriving well dressed and tidy – thank you to parents for helping with this too!

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Tues 15 Feb Athletics
Thurs 17 Feb Swimming
Tues 22 Feb Airforce
Concert
Tues 22 Feb PPTA Meeting
School closed
pm
Sun 27 Feb Old Girls
Meeting
Wed 2 March PTA Meeting

Forms

If you have not returned forms for Cybersafety (use of computers) and Confirmation of Contact Details – please do so urgently.

Our Leaders for
2011 are:

Head Girl - Jordyn Landers
Deputy Head Girl - Alice Mansell
Sports Prefect - Sabrina Grogan
and Natalie Boyde
Hostel Prefect – Michale
Muggeridge
Arts Prefects – Layla Brogden and
Helen Dravitski
**Head Scaristan and Head
Chorister** – Cecily Shaw
School Councillor – Stephanie
Murray

Exeat Weekends – Arrangements

Reminder – all boarders need to have vacated the Hostel by 5.30 pm Friday on Exeat Weekends. On the Sunday (or Monday if it is an extra long Exeat) the hostel opens from 4pm and all boarders must be in by 8pm. If you are going to be later – please let us know well in advance. PLUS – don't forget the dining room is not operational on those Exeat Sunday (or Monday) nights – so bring some dinner with you or money for takeaways! Thanks!

Sporting over the Summer!

Congratulations to:

Melissa Were – Motor X

1st in the Te Awamutu Grand Prix for Over 13 females

1st in the Hut Valley Champs in the 14-15 girls

5th in the Wellington Champs in the 14-15 years girls!

Rebekah Trethewey

100% PBs (personal bests) at the Wellington Champs

Brooke Wells

Got a range of places (3rds to 10ths) in 15 year olds including two PBs!

Fastest Time in the annual Taranaki Flannagan Cup (Open Sea Swim)

Top work gals!

NCEA Study Cards - \$13.50 (rrp \$18.50)

A year's work on a key ring – written and edited by experienced teachers.

Revision Guides - \$14.50 (rrp \$19.50)

Includes worked answers and full 2009 and 2010 exam papers.

To order email admin@rur.co.nz or txt 021 825 273

Printing

One of the key skills for success for students is the ability to research information. At St Mary's students have access to a huge amount of information and teachers guide students on techniques to sift and filter through their research. Unfortunately we frequently find students who still print off vast amounts of information but then either don't collect it or have a quick glance and throw it in the rubbish bin. One of the key aspects of the New Zealand Curriculum is sustainability and it is one of the school goals as well. Teaching our students to think before printing is an opportunity to foster sustainability.

This year each student will have a PIN NUMBER and be able to print to a new photocopier/printer in the library. Each student will start with a credit of \$5.00 but after that will have to pay to have their pin number loaded with more money. As with all PIN numbers, please keep these confidential.



Successful Learners; Resolute Women; Courageous Leaders



Melissa with her trophies!

Assessment Guide for Students 2011 – is attached.

PPTA Union Meeting

The PPTA have advised members will be having a Union Meeting on the afternoon of **Tuesday 22 February** with regard to negotiations of the renewal of their collective agreement.

No classes in the afternoon – lunch at 12.45 pm. Boarders to Hostel, Day Girls go home. Air Force Concert attendees will get back for late lunch about 1.30 pm and can then go (to hostel/home).

We are delighted to welcome our 2011 international students.

Back Row (L-R):

Yuki Watase (Japan), Jeongmin (aka Joy) Park, Sakai Nakai (Japan), You Lim Lee (Korea)

Front Row:

Kaho Shima (Japan), Makoto Yamada (Japan), Janice Lau (Hong Kong), Thawalkorn (aka Fa) Nimcharoen (Thailand)

From The Music Department:

Music Lessons:

Itinerant music lessons start up again in Week 2. Students need to bring their instruments and music and get back into a good practice routine. Provisional timetables will be posted outside the music room, and seniors should also bring their timetables to their lessons, to try to sort out a lesson time which does not interfere with classes. Juniors have rotating times.

We have had a demonstration from all the itinerant music teachers for all new students, so they have had the opportunity to hear the instruments being played, and to talk to the teachers.

Please support your student in developing the discipline of practicing every day – yes, including weekends!

Are there any other students interested in learning drums? At present there aren't enough to keep our drum teacher. However, welcome back to all our other tutors: Mrs Cudby, singing; Mrs Bluett, piano; Mrs Dixon, strings; Mr Townsend, classical guitar; Mr Orr, brass. We are very fortunate to be able to attract these specialists to Stratford.

Music Practice Rooms:

These are for students practicing music for their lessons. It is NOT a place to hang out and socialize – please find somewhere else. Students having instrumental or vocal lessons should be doing about 30 mins practice EVERY DAY.

Air Force Band Concert: 22 February TSB New Plymouth

This big band is really great entertainment (as well as educational) value, so we want to take all Years 9, 10, and senior musicians. The permission slips have been posted out to Years 9 and 10, and others should collect a form asap. Please note: nothing goes on account, so the money (\$9) MUST be in by 14th Feb. We really don't want to leave anyone behind!

Choir Auditions:

It has been a delight to have a group of great young singers audition for the choir – and more are always welcome. Singing in a group is fun and confidence-building, much more supportive than being a soloist. We do a big variety of styles of music. We have plenty of events planned, the first being Choir Camp by mid-term – a great way to get to know everyone, with lots of singing, not to mention the famous waterslide and flying fox. Later will be the Choir Induction ceremony in the Chapel. The Choir practices after school 3.30-4.30, probably on Thursday this year.

'Cynthia Fortitude's Farewell'

A comic character created by Helen Moulder in concert with the New Plymouth Orchestra. This promises to be a fun night!

Featuring: The Return of a Legend, A Real Orchestra, A Newly Commissioned Opera for the 2011 International Rugby Contest, A Courageous Attempt at a Speed Record, A Mystery Guest and the Distinct Possibility of Chaos.

There will be three Taranaki performances:

1. New Plymouth Fri 25 Feb Theatre Royal: book at Ticketmaster
2. Eltham Sat 26 Feb Eltham Town Hall: book at Eltham library or Hawera i-SITE
3. Opunake Sun 27 Feb Opunake High School Hall: book at Morris & Ockhuysen

Cost: \$23 (plus booking fee)

Ms Thompson will be attending the Eltham performance and transport is available.

Please register your interest at school.

PTA Meeting

All families are invited to a meeting to look at re-establishing our PTA.

**Wednesday 2 March –
7pm
in the School Library**

Late to School

Reminder - if your daughter is going to be absent or late – let us know! A quick phone call from you saves us a lot of worrying and running around.



*Introducing our 2011 Head Girls:
Deputy Alice Mansell (left) and
Head Girl Jordyn Landers*

Class Workbooks/ Homework Books

These will be charged to students' accounts. Any payments made will be receipted to your accounts. Prompt payment would be appreciated.

"You can only become **truly accomplished** at something you love. Don't make money your goal. Instead pursue the things you **love** doing, and then do them so well that people can't take their eyes off you."
- Maya Angelou

School Ensemble:

This is a group of instrumentalists: strings, woodwind and brass. They are under the leadership of Mrs Henderson, the woodwind teacher. The Ensemble practices on Thursday morning, starting at 8.15 and going through SSR time until 9am. They play easy arrangements of popular tunes. They attend the TSS Orchestra Day in New Plymouth, date to be confirmed.

Speech and Drama at St Mary's

There are still a few limited vacancies for students who wish to learn Speech & Drama privately with Tracey Blake here at school.

Speech & Drama lessons are suitable for all – if you're interested in Drama, Acting, Public Speaking, have a love of the English Language or just want to boost your self confidence – Speech & Drama may be just what you want.

There are opportunities for students to apply for funding to assist with lesson costs, and Ms Blake has details of how to apply. Students may sit Examinations twice a year and these are a wonderful qualification to have for any student. Please see Ms Blake for details and more information.

2011 will be an exciting year for NCEA Drama Students. The Sheilah Winn Shakespeare Festival will be staged in the last week of Term 1, and Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 will take part.

What have the Gappies been up to now?

Happy New Year to you all and welcome to the new school year! We hope you had good holidays. We definitely had a very good time. We did a lot of travelling around New Zealand and celebrated Christmas and New Year with our parents and families who came to visit us.

Julienne's highlights were the Penguins at Oamaru, the Cadbury Chocolate Factory in Dunedin and the Canyon Swing in Queenstown. Other memorable events were the sand dune surfing up by Cape Reinga, the Maori cultural show and the stinky mud pools in Rotorua. "It was a bit strange to have Christmas in the summer but it was really nice and we enjoyed it."

Laura particularly enjoyed Abel Tasman Park and a 17 km walk – "which took all day because at every beach we came across we just had to swim in the water." Also Christchurch City and the gondola in Queenstown were favourites. "It wasn't like a usual Christmas – we feel like we actually missed it and that it didn't happen this year."
Laura and Julienne

PS The girls' trip to Fiji before Christmas was great too – both girls came back sporting braided hair!

Holiday Visitors to the Hostel

St Mary's once again hosted the Flyers Swim Squad (35 of them) at their annual Swim Camp. One of the swimmers was our very own Brooke Wells. Every morning and every afternoon they swam for two hours with Brooke clocking up over 55 km! "It was really, really hard but we had a blast. It was great having St Mary's accommodate us and feed us."

We also had the Camp Quality group stay – a total of 147 people.

Big thanks to all our Hostel Manager Sue and the Kitchen and Domestic staff who kept everything running smoothly for our visitors!

'You miss 100% of all the shots you never take'

- Wayne Gretsky
Ice Hockey Coach

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS!

Happy 90th Birthday to Old Girl Mary Idoine (nee Fletcher) who now lives in Auckland. Mary and her family were from Whangamomona when they were boarding students here.

Her grandfather was one of the well known surveyors of early Central Taranaki – Mr Finnerty.

We were delighted to have Mary's brother Charles Fletcher visit us last year with his friend Joyce Young. Joyce is an accomplished artist and did a beautiful painting of the Marchant Building (Mary's old room was at the front) with the mountain in the background for her birthday.

We look forward to meeting Mary at our centennial celebrations in a few years' time!

Going Home Sick

If students do not feel well during the school day they must report to the School Office. Students should not contact parents themselves to make arrangements. Any arrangement to send students home will be made by the Office/Hostel.

Our School Production:

Auditions are being held at school this week. A full list of cast members and an outline of roles is on the notice board in office block. Make sure you check it out and listen to the daily notices of audition times!

A traditional Pantomime – “Humpty Dumpty” is based on a group of Nursery Rhyme characters living in ‘Nursery Town’. Humpty, Millie Muffet (The Dame & School Teacher), Mary Quite Contrary, Georgie Porgie, Wee Willie Winkie, Booby Shaftoe, Jack & Jill, Old King Cole, the Queen of Hearts, Old Mother Hubbard and others are tormented by the evil Spider Queen, her Crooked Dwarf sidekick and pet Spider. Will good overcome evil?

The show will be staged in June this year and rehearsals will commence at the end of the month.

Erica Russ – 30 years service to St Mary’s

Erica is our duster, vacuum-er, bathroom shiner extraordinaire. She is the CEO of keeping the Hostel and around the school spic and span.

When Erica first started at St Mary’s the Hostel Manager was Margaret Harvey and the Principal was the Reverend David Tonkin. A rough count back reveals Erica has worked here under seven different Principals!

When Erica started, the hostels as we know them today weren’t here. The tennis courts were where Robertson is, the Admin Office where the Stevens Wing is today. The Music Rooms were where the laundry was and the Dining Room back then was where the staff room is now.

Erica cleaned the boarders’ bedrooms upstairs and downstairs in the Marchant building. Other duties then included doing the dishes in the kitchen and setting the tables for dinner.

Back then we did not have chairs in the dining room – the girls sat on those long wooden “forms”. One of Erica’s “not so favourite jobs” was to scrub them each week!

Another “challenge” was polishing the office floor. But everytime she polished it the Principal Ms Robertshawe would slip over. This was happening a couple of times a week – so in the end – that job no longer got done!

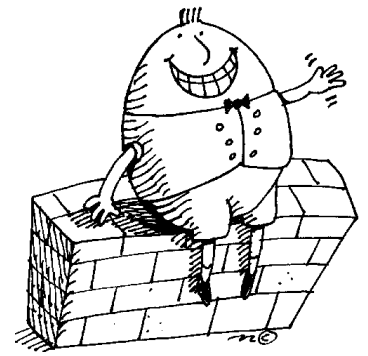
Erica quietly gets on with her job. She is not one to make a fuss. And actually – Erica would have prefer not to have all the fuss last week when we celebrated, congratulated and thanked her for all the work she has done at St Mary’s.

Times have changed a lot and the school has changed too. Looking after nice new buildings has been a highlight and made the job easier and nicer! Girls have come and gone and so have staff, teachers, principals and Boards of Proprietors - and yet Erica is still here.

30 years in the same job is a tremendous achievement and one most of us find difficult to comprehend. We have been lucky to have such a dedicated loyal employee and congratulate Erica on this wonderful achievement.

Wanted – Families to Host International Students

Are you interested in having one of our International Students to stay over Exeat Weekends or the School Holidays? Enquiries to Sue Roodbeen our Hostel Manager. (Costs are covered)



Humpty Dumpty
“The Pantomime”



Thank you Erica!

The 6 Most Important Decisions You’ll Ever Make:

- Sean Covey
(author of “The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens”)

1. **School:** What are you going to do about your education?
2. **Friends:** What type of friends will you choose and what kind of friend will you be?
3. **Parents:** Are you going to get along with your parents?
4. **Dating and Sex:** Who will you date and what will you do about sex?
5. **Addictions:** What will you do about smoking, drinking, drugs and other addictive stuff?
6. **Self Worth:** Will you choose to like yourself?

From the Sports Department:

Welcome back to 2011.

I am very optimistic we are going to have a great year with sport. Our Year 13's are keen to get lots of girls involved in inter house competitions, push play programmes, and of course into winter sport teams both competitive and social.

First off this week we are holding our annual Athletics and Swimming sports. This is a great time of year; the girls enjoy the competition between the Houses, not only on the track and in the pool, but with their costumes, house banners and chants.

Being a small school we are always looking for extra hands on the day. So if you are available to assist:

Athletics: Tuesday 15 February:

TET Track Inglewood: Approx 9am – 2.30pm

People needed to help before lunch at: Triple Jump, Javelin and Discus

People needed to help after lunch at: High Jump, Long Jump and Shot Put

Swimming: Thursday 17 February:

School Pool: Approx 9.30am – 2.30pm

Or you can come, support your daughter and have a wonderful day out.

Included with this newsletter is an events programme for both the Athletics and Swimming Sports.

E.S.T.A Programme

Applications for our Elite Sports Training Academy are now overdue. These are to be handed into the school office. Your application must include:

- Sport c.v. detailing your sporting achievements – Taranaki level and above
- A covering letter explaining why you should be considered for E.S.T.A and what you want to achieve this year.

Winter Sport:

We are hoping to start looking at teams and trials around week 4 of this term. At this stage we still need coaches for netball, especially our Senior A team and a parent to assist with our Year 9 team. We have information on Starting Out In Coaching courses run through Netball Taranaki which we will offer to all new coaches as well as advanced coaching courses for seasoned coaches. We hope to run the umpiring in schools programme again this year and in conjunction with the Stratford Satellite mentoring those junior umpires through to their Taranaki Umpires Badges. You don't have to play netball to be an umpire, so if you are interested come see me. All social netball and basketball teams need to organise themselves and get team lists to me over the next few weeks.

Mr Aaron Langton will be taking the Year 9 and 10 basketball team and will be starting practises with them in the next week or so. We have had an offer from Wendy Clough to coach a Senior Basketball team in the women's league. This is a great opportunity for St Marys to receive more quality coaching from our wider community.

Sabrina Grogan will be our Year 13 Student Soccer contact for the students and Natalie Boyde will be Year 13 Student Hockey contact. The girls can see these two or me if they have any queries.

Sport Council Representatives 2011

Years 10,11 and 12 voted for their representatives this week. Congratulations to:

Year 10:	Bree-Anna Langton	Angie Edgecombe
Year 11:	Savarna Wilton	Gemma Gudopp
Year 12:	Charlotte Smith	Lauren Terrill

If you worry that you just don't have what it takes to do well in school, keep your chin up – some of the greatest minds felt that way too – but despite their problems at school, made something of their lives and so can you.

Albert Einstein: considered the most influential person of the 20th century, was four years old before he could speak and seven before he could read. He spoke haltingly until he was nine. He was advised by a teacher to drop out of school "you'll never amount to anything Einstein".

Isaac Newton: The scientist, who invented modern day physics, did poorly in math.

Henry Ford: who developed the famous Model T car and started the Ford Motor Company, barely made it through High School.

Pablo Picasso: one of the great artists of all time was pulled out of school at age 10 because he was doing so poorly. A tutor hired by Pablo's father gave up on Pluto.

Ludwig van Beethoven: was one of the world's great composers. His music teacher once said of him, "As a composer, he is hopeless".

Winston Churchill: famous English Prime Minister, failed the sixth grade.

Year 12 (cont.) Brittany Smith Tegan Sharp
Year 13: Will be the Sports Captains
Year 9: Will be selected by me, Ms Adams HOD PE, and Ms Higgs
Year 9 Dean, after the Year 9 camp.

TSSSA Events:

All TSSSA event lists can be found on the Sport Taranaki website - www.sporttaranaki.org.nz Scroll over tamariki, move to secondary schools then click on TSSSA events. On this site you will find photos of the students from all over the region competing in the various events the Taranaki Secondary School Sports Association have on offer through the year. It is also good to check dates for events as we sometimes have changes due to weather etc during the year.

If you have any queries about sport for your daughter while at St Marys please don't hesitate to make contact with me, or a message can be left with the school office.

Good luck for Term 1 and enjoy the benefits from being active.

Janine Wilton-Daley
Sport Coordinator

"YOU ARE A
once-in-a-lifetime,
NEVER BEFORE ON EARTH,
NEVER-TO-BE-AGAIN,
personality.
Understand the importance
of that."

And room for some last page photos:



Above: Our fabulous Year 13s following the Leaders Induction last Friday

Top Right: We ended the first week with some fun and games amongst the Houses

Right: Our bright and chirpy Year 9s on their first day!

