



VERDON COLLEGE

Newsletter

8 March 2013



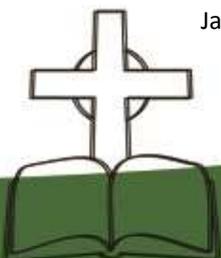
Tena Koutou katoa

We have had a very productive and successful couple of weeks at the College with students continuing to have a very positive focus in their work. This positive focus has been recognised in our fortnightly reports this week with almost 50% more students achieving recognition for their work in class than this time last year. This is a very positive indicator for the excellent academic culture within the College and I congratulate all students on an extremely good start to the year with respect to their academic focus. The success of our students from an academic perspective has also reflected in the latest release of statistics from NZQA on schools' performance throughout New Zealand. These statistics show that at Level 1 our students performed 18% better than the national average, 9.7% better than the national average at Level 2 and 11.8% better than the national average at Level 3. These are extremely positive results and indicate just how good our students' achievement is from a national perspective. As a College community we can also be very proud that this achievement represents the achievement of all of our students at Verdon College and not just those students allowed to attempt NCEA at these levels, as is the case in some schools.

It is very encouraging to see the variety of activities that our students are engaging in outside of the classroom. Our students have been to Auckland for a Marist leadership course another group of students have attended a Caritas Leadership Day in Dunedin. Our students have had some notable success in Cricket year 7/8, adventure racing and in pipe band competitions. I congratulate all of those students, not only on their success but in the way they have challenged themselves to develop holistically, and in the way they have contributed to others and the College through their efforts.

I would ask that you continue to keep in your prayers those of our community that are dealing with the significant illness of family members. We continue to ask for God's grace upon them at this time.

God Bless
Jarlath Kelly



South Island Adventure Race

The South Island Adventure Race was held on the Mataura River and Dolamore Park Environs. The students completed the 4 km kayak leg then dragged their kayaks to the tri pond. Leaving this area they then endured a 15 km tramp arriving at Transition 2 at Dolamore Park. This was where they started the Mountain Bike leg of some 35 km. (The familiar Moonshine ride) upon returning the students under took an abseil.



Team Lost came second in the mixed section: Hannah McLean, Laura Withers, Ryan Le Breton, Lachlan O'Driscoll.

3 + 1 came third in the Senior Boys section: Peter Thurlow, Kayne Duggan, Aidan O'Neill, Jacob Kirby.

Verdon Boys came fourth in the Senior boys section: Justin Crosswell, Terry Thurlow, Harlem Heydon, Cameron Crosswell.

Verdon Girls came fourth in their section: Kayla Duggan, Brydon Harrington, Macaela Fraser, Melissa Webb.

A special thanks must go to the parents who supported the students and looked after their every need.



We now look forward to the New Zealand Championships in Cromwell in 6 weeks.

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From Father Martin

Our Gospel Reading for this Sunday the 4th Sunday of Lent is the Parable of the 'Prodigal Son'. Along with the 'Good Samaritan perhaps this is one of Jesus's most important teachings. The younger son takes his inheritance but squanders his money and finds himself drifting on a road to nowhere. Thankfully he 'came to his senses...' he decided to return home empty-handed feeling very sorry for himself.

At times in our lives we can all feel like the younger son— knowing we have made a wrong turn in life....but all is not lost. That is the key to life and thanks to our faith when all seems lost God is still there for us.

The central figure in this story is the loving Father, who suffers when his children suffer and rejoices when they come back. Our retired Pope said "This Gospel text has the power of speaking to us to know his Face and better still his heart. After Jesus has told us of the merciful Father, things are no longer as they were before".

The Father saw his younger Son coming and ran out to meet him and embraced him. We too experience that same loving embrace when we come to the Sacrament of Reconciliation prior to Easter in our Parish churches at 7pm—St Patricks and Sacred Heart on 19 March; Basilica 20 March and St Therasas 21 March.

God Bless
Father Martin

Year 13 History trip to Northland

On the 5th of Feb till the 9th of Feb, 12 year 13 students and 2 teachers embarked on a trip to Northland to experience the Waitangi day celebrations and learn about the early contact period between Maori and Europeans in New Zealand history. For most of us it was our first time in Northland and for many of us our first time on a plane.

Day one:

We met at the airport at 10am and set out on a day of mostly travel, arriving in Auckland at 2pm to pick up our van and car and then drove straight to Paihia to have a late fish and chip dinner at the Bay of Islands Holiday Park.

Day two:

We caught a bus to the Waitangi grounds and began the day with an outside non-denominational Church service. We were then free to wander the grounds, spending our money at the many food and cultural stalls. There were bands and cultural activities, a parade by the Navy, a 12 gun salute from the Navy ship in the harbour and an aerial display from the airforce. It was a hot day so in the afternoon it was back to the holiday park for a swim in the pool.

Day three:

We got up early to take the short drive to Kerikeri to participate in a tour around New Zealand's oldest stone building, the stone store and Kemp house. The tour guide was really engaging and dressed in 1800's clothes and really brought that time in history alive for us. Later in the afternoon we took the ferry over to Russell to walk up Maiki hill to the flagstaff Hone Heke famously cut down and visit the museum. Pompallier house was next and this was where we were shown New Zealand's first printing press and given the history of the first French Catholic missionaries. We ended the day with passage on an old sailing ship where the students were able to climb the masts and set the sails.

Day four:

Today it was back to Waitangi for a private tour of the grounds, the Busby house and the Marae. The tour guide here was absolutely fantastic and extremely passionate about our history. We were also lucky enough to witness a live cultural show. We did not want to leave but then it was off to Motuti to visit St Mary's Church. This is where the remains of Bishop Pompallier, New Zealand's first Catholic Bishop are kept under the altar and we were all privileged to be formally welcomed onto the Church grounds by Pa Henare and local Maori to the Hokianga. We were even treated to a homemade afternoon tea that we all enjoyed. We just wish we had more time but we had to get back on the car ferry to Rawene to drive to Opononi for a night tour of Waipoua forest where New Zealand's largest and oldest Kauri trees continue to grow.

Day five:

We woke up at 5am so we could drive back to Auckland to visit the Sky tower and do some shopping before we needed to catch a plane home.

It was an amazing trip and very hard to sum up in a few words but here goes:

An opportunity to experience what is usually in a textbook first hand"

"Led by great teachers"

"Very interesting and my opinion of New Zealand history has changed"

"Provides a great understanding of New Zealand history"

"It was a good experience"

"It was awesome"

"A great experience and fun"

"Really fun and interesting"



National Pipeband Championships

At the National Pipeband Championships that were held in Timaru over the weekend of the 2nd and 3rd of March, four students from Verdon College played for the ILT City of Invercargill Highland Pipeband. Hamish and Callum Knight, Benjamin Simpson and Alasdair O'Reilly all played in the Juvenile grade. Six bands participated in this grade, with Invercargill being placed 3rd with 16 points. Alasdair also played in the grade 4a band, which gained 3rd place and Benjamin played in the grade 2 band, which were placed first. Well done boys!



Oklahoma

This year Verdon will be presenting Oklahoma as our school production. The date for this will be 19th-26th May. Congratulations to the students who have been selected for this. They are:



Aunt Eller	Tayla Kilsby
Curly	Robert Lindsay
Laurey	Teresa Hardegger
Gertie Cummings	Kameron Corbin
Ellen	Imelda Wilkes
Ike Skidmore	Nic Armour
Fred	Henry More
Slim	Nico Barlow
Will Parker	Gabriel Winders
Jud Fry	Joshua Prinsloo
Ado Annie Carnes	Kathryn Edwards
Ali Hakim	Shaun Swain
Andrew Carnes	Josef Winders
Cord Elam	Jack King
The Chorus:	
Sam Cullen	Hannah Lieshout
Izaak Sanders	Christine Lieshout
Harrison Roderique	Jasmine Barnfather
Harry Townley	Taylor LeBreton
Cameron Longman	Eilish Duggan
Toby Jenkins	Kathy Rolfe
Thomas Lewis	Maria Sutherland
Connor Macdonald	Madison Brown
Zak Heffernan	Maggie Townley
Travis Oudhoff	Molly-Rose Donnelly
Tomas Adams	Stacey Wilde
Liam van Eeden	Briar Kilsby
Kelsi Miller	Taylor Lock
Caitlin Murphy	Te Rauhinga Pikia
Erica Forde	Rachel Pocklington
Gypsy Buchingham	Melissa Wilde
Kathleen Adams	Valu Maka

Sports Records

Congratulations to the following students who broke records at our recently held Athletics Sports Day:



Nellie Boyle	11 Year old Girls	1500m- 6:17
	Previous- 6:26 (Hannah McLean 2010)	
Abby Humm	12 year old girls	200m- 31.93
	Previous- 32.63s (Brianna Parkes 2006)	
	12 year old girls	800m- 2:53
	Previous- 3:01m (Ellie Soper 2006)	
	12 year old girls	Long Jump- 3.71
	Previous- 3.57m (Jo Telfer 2006)	
Tara Batt	12 year old girls	400m- 1:19.78
	Previous- 1:23.35 (Katie Telfer 2006)	
Helen Talaese	11 year old girls	Long Jump- 3.72
	Previous- 3.43 (Cindy Forde 2006)	
	11 year old girls	Shot Put- 6.83
	Previous- 6.60 (Meg Prendergast 2006)	
Marco Crook	12 year old boys	100m- 13.00
	Previous- 13.17 (Levi Anderson 2006)	
	12 year old boys	Discus- 23.46
	Previous- 20.53 (Levi Anderson 2006)	
Sam Thornbury	12 year old boys	800m- 2:39
	Previous- 2:49.75 (Daniel O'Connor 2006)	
Jackson Whaanga	11 year old boys	100m- 13.08
	Previous- 13.50 (Jade McKenzie)	

CALENDAR DATES FOR TERM 1

8 March	Southland Athletics Competition
9/10 March	Paddles Up Weekend Competition
11/15 March	Year 9 Mavora Camp
14 March	Year 11 Geography trip to Gore.
15 March	Southland Triathlon Championships
19 March	Year 7/8 Parent Teacher Evening—Day One
21 March	Year 7/8 Parent Teacher Evening—Day Two
22 March	Interim reports posted home
29 March	Good Friday
1 April	Easter Monday
2 April	Easter Tuesday
4 April	Year 9-13 Parent Teacher Interviews
8/10 April	Year 12 Practical Phys Ed Rail Trail
11 April	Year 11 Geography trip to Gore
17 April	Colours Assembly
18 April	Year 13 Geography trip to Stewart Island
18 April	Interhouse Cross Country
19 April	End of Term One

Touch Southland

Touch Southland are holding trials on the 10th of March for players to represent our province in touch.

Date: 10th March 2013

Venue: Turnbull Thompson, 200 Islington Street Invercargill

Time: U11 Boys & Girls are at 9.30am (Born the year 2003)
U12 & U13 Boys and Girls at 11am (Born the year 2002 – 2001)
U14, U15 & U17 Boys and Girls at 12.30pm (Born the years 2000, 1999 & 1998)

All players will need to fill out a form on the day so if they need all be there 10 minutes before hand.

Contact details for anyone who has questions. Phone: 03 211 2255 or email info@touchsouthland.co.nz

St Patrick Parish/School Picnic

The St Patrick Parish/School Picnic will be held on the Verdon College grounds on Sunday 17 March beginning with Mass at 11.00am, Picnic and games to follow. All Welcome.



“Verdon College the right choice”

The Otago/Southland Triathlon Results

Junior Boys- Cameron Crosswell: 3rd
 Junior Boys Team: Sam Thornbury & Alex McLean: 5th
 Junior Girls- Olivia Thornbury: 3rd
 Junior Mixed Team: Maggie Harrington & Patrick Turnhout: 1st
 Senior Girls Team: Hannah McLean, Hannah Lieshout & Laura Withers: 15th



L to R—Justin Crosswell, Patrick Turnhout, Olivia Thornbury, Maggie Harrington

Duathlon

Congratulations to Laura Withers for winning the Tri Girls' duathlon section of the World Health and Fitness Women's Triathlon / Duathlon in Invercargill on Sunday 24 February.



South Island Secondary Schools Rowing Regatta

Congratulations to the Verdon College students who participated in the SSIS rowing competition on 2-3 March in Twizel. We had 9 students entered from various year levels from the school.

Samantha Keene, Briar Kilsby, Anna-Marie Baker, Kelsi Millar, Monique Kerr, Ariana Mirfin, Nicole Chalmers, Tina Wright and Rose Kennelly showed their determination and perseverance throughout their races but unfortunately were unable to pick up any medals. They supported one another as their events took place and also supported other Southland school teams



New Zealand Secondary School Choir

Congratulations to Robert Lindsay who recently travelled to Dunedin to audition for the prestigious New Zealand Secondary School Choir. Robert has been selected to be part of the 2013/2014 Choir.



Southland Maori Netball Team

The following girls have been selected in the Southland Maori Netball Teams playing at Nationals at Easter:

Premier- Brooke Mead

U15- Aliyah Dunn

U13- Manaia Young, Lyrik Ah-Kuoi, Tyra Dunn, Abby Humm & Shakylah Ah-Kuoi, Anjelina Nikora-Wilson



L to R, Aliyah Dunn, Manaia Young, Abby Humm, Tyra Dunn

“Superior
educational
outcomes”