



VERDON COLLEGE

Newsletter

22 February 2013



Tena koutou katoa

The last few weeks has been another very busy period for students of the College with a number of students and student groups achieving some very positive success in a number of sporting and cultural areas. Particularly pleasing has been the increased number of Verdon College students involved in and achieving success at Southland athletics and our 1st place in the

Southland Shelia Wynn Shakespeare competition. I have received significant positive feedback on the way in which students have participated in these events and represented the College to a high standard. I congratulate all of those not only for their participation and success but also for the way in which they are demonstrating our College values at these events.

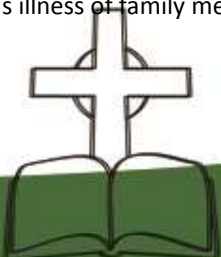
Our students have been also been representing Verdon College at the All Saints Primary Zone Sports. Our Year 12 students assisting in running the event marshalling time keeping and ushering groups of students between events. It was wonderful to see the positive big brother and sister relationships between our students and the young students of the contributing primary schools. I would like to congratulate these students on their contribution to the wider community and encourage all students to continue to seek out other opportunities to contribute to our Catholic primary schools and wider community.

Thank you to the parents that attended our recent year 7 and 8 teacher parents meetings. Our staff have really enjoyed this contact with parents and have found it a most useful exercise in helping us further develop those home school relationships that are so important. Our relationship with parents as part of the learning process is extremely important to us and we are always happy to make time to talk to parents about your son or daughter's learning progress.

Our students have been looking particularly fabulous at sporting events this year in their new tracksuits that were purchased using a donation from the College PTA. The latest PTA fundraiser is underway and I would ask for your support in getting your sons and daughters out and about selling raffles to support the PTA's endeavours.

We ask for your continued prayers and support for those families within our community that continue to struggle with serious illness of family members at this time.

God Bless
Jarlath Kelly



School Trustee Elections

This year we have our triennial Board of Trustee elections. Enclosed with this newsletter is a double page insert outlining what being a trustee involves. We will be calling for nominations by 15 April and nominations will close on 16 May. There is five parent representative places on our Board and we have three current members standing again. If we receive more than five nominations an election will be held; voting papers will be out by 21 May and voting will close at noon on 30 May. On 5 June results will be declared. If you would like to talk to one of our current trustees please contact Mrs Karyn Dykes at the school office.

PTA Oyster Raffle

Sell, Sell, Sell your Oyster Raffles. Every card must be returned to the school office whether it is sold or not by Friday 5 April. Extra Cards are available from the office. Profits will go towards IT resources and some funds will be allocated towards a student wish list.

Sheilah Wynn Success

Congratulations to the team for winning the Southland Sheila Wynn Shakespeare Competition on Thursday 21 March.

Front Row: Valu Maka, Ella Prendergast, Shaun Swain, Katherine Robertson

Back Row: Henry More, Tomas Adams, Samuel Rillstone, Kameron Corbin



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From Father Martin

I have had the privilege of watching coverage of the Inauguration Mass for our newly appointed Pope Francis. His election may have been a surprise but already his humility and gentleness has been obvious in his new role in our church.

By choosing 'Francis' as his Papal name we certainly gained an insight into his style of leadership. This will be modelled around Fr Francis of Assisi (1181-1226) who once said "Preach the Gospel at all times.....and if necessary use words."

There is no doubt he will be his 'own person'. His ministry will be one of Service....especially towards those who are most needy. But he will proclaim that it is the person of Jesus Christ who is ultimately the centre of our faith and of our church.

Pope Francis has already told us that we must be responsible steward's of Creation...remembering that human beings and their welfare and well-being is paramount.

We are privileged to be in the church at such a critical time in our history. We will see gradual change but more importantly we pray that all of us especially our students here at Verdon College will be at the forefront of that change.

Mary, Mother of the Church, pray for us
God Bless
Father Martin.

Southland Athletics Results

U15 Girls

Olivia Thornbury- 800m 3rd
Lucy Brown- 400m 2nd
Maggie Harrington- 400m 3rd

U14 Boys

Sam Hogan- 800m 2nd, High Jump 1st, Triple Jump 1st

U15 Boys

Stuart Baker- 100m 3rd, 200m 2nd
Daniel Hogan- Javelin 3rd

U16 Boys

Harlam Heydon- Javelin 3rd

Senior Boys

Ben Boyle- Shot Put 3rd
4 x 100m Relay (Ben & Daniel Boyle, Kayne Duggan & Stephen O'Brien) 3rd

22 students have qualified for the Otago/Southland Athletics this weekend in Dunedin. Top four from that will qualify for the South Island's on the 6th April in Invercargill!

Entertainment Awards

Congratulations to **Alasdair O'Reilly** for receiving the Southland Piping and Drumming Development Trust Awards held last Wednesday night.

We would also like to congratulate **Di Lenihan** who also received an award of Outstanding Contribution to Musical Theatre



Law Career Function

On Monday 8 April, 1-3pm the Otago University Law Faculty is hosting a function for Year 12 & 13 students interested in the opportunities a law degree offers. These are not limited to legal practice but range from business, through government departments to working for legal practice but range from business, through government departments to working for International organisations. Parents are welcome to attend. Please register your interest with Mrs More in the careers office bmores@verdoncollege.school.nz

RSA Speech Competition

Congratulations to Sarah Hughes who placed 3rd in the Cyril Basset RSA speech in Oamaru recently. She was two points behind the runner up.



Weetbix Tryathlon

The following students participated in the Weetbix Tryathlon in Mosgiel on Sunday 3 March.

Kenyah Baker
James Price
Shannon Brooking
Emily Milne
Rebecca Shirley
Hayley Lockett
Mikayla Drabble
Mikaela Cook
Imogen Wyatt
Breanna Fahey
Anna Hika (Chief supporter)

Congratulations to the above students for competing in this event and for being wonderful representatives of our school. As a group they won a \$500 voucher to buy sports gear for Year 7 and 8 students to use at lunch times. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of the parents that drove up to Mosgiel and supported the Verdon group.



Cricket

We had a lovely day in Queenstown where we played on the international pitch. Unfortunately the cricket didn't match the surroundings. Verdon lost the toss and batted first.. After a brisk start we lost wickets at regular intervals and eventually wobbled to be all out in the 20th over for 67. Arrowtown managed to score the winning runs in the 13th over for the loss of 2 wickets.

Run scorers: Sam Downing 27, Peter Grotemarsink, 15, Mitchell Orłowski 8, Jacinta Henderson 8 (not out)
Wicket takers. Fabian Scott Russell.

Good catches taken by Sam Downing and Reuben Earl.

The students competed in the very best traditions of Verdon and were a credit to the school .

A special thanks to Mrs Henderson, Mr Downing and Mr Orłowski for providing transport and assisting at the game.

Paddles Up! Southland Secondary Schools' Kayak Competition 2013.

Over the week of 8-10 March the Verdon Paddles UP team enjoyed the brilliant sunshine in the valley of the Mavora Lakes District to celebrate 25 years of Kayak competition for our Southland Schools. The students enjoyed the convivial nature of the camp site at Hikuraki Lodge making new friends with students from other schools. At night, the camp songs, with Gabriel's guitar and Kayla's marshmallows were well received by all the musos in this magic outdoor setting. The early cool morning mist gave way to the hot sizzle of bacon and eggs finely prepared by Justin – our official team chef- to add sustenance to the team for the days' events. After sorting out the kayak gear – Brenna 'the navigator' was able to make sure the team was kitted out and looking good!

This year was Verdon's largest group entries entered- 11 students: Brenna O'Neill, Kayla Duggan, Ashlyn Gallagher, Shanay Fannin, Daniel Boyle Gabriel Winders, Josef Winders, Daniel Hogan, Terry Thurlow, Justin Crosswell. The rookie was Cody Duggan (year 9) who got a taster for the slalom event. The slalom event requires the kayakers (in teams of three) to race time trials through down river and up river gates including a compulsory Eskimo roll. The teams must work together to minimize time penalties.

This group has gelled well together over time enjoying kayaking on rivers as well as participating in Canoe Polo. It was fitting, therefore that the senior Boys team (Josef, Daniel B, Gabriel) was placed 3rd in the slalom teams event; this was their fourth year together and the first time a senior Boys team from Verdon has gained a placing in this comp - a sign of bigger things to come!

Thanks for great weekend.
Kia manuia
Ben Winders



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
14/15 April	CSQT Tournament at St Kevin's
17 April	Colours Assembly
18 April	Year 13 Geography trip to Stewart Island
18 April	Interhouse Cross Country
19 April	End of Term One

Rugby

If clubs and schools wish their teams to take the field for the 2013 rugby season it is imperative that all coaches and referees attend and complete the Rugby Smart Course.

The course is mandatory and consequences of a coach not attending will mean the team will not be able to take the field. There will be no discretion.

Athletics

Sam Hogan has been invited into the Emerging Talent Squad for Southland Athletics.



Year Nine Camp 2013

Once again we held the Year 9 Camps at the Mavora Lakes. The weather was fine the whole time allowing us to return home with dry equipment. The students were great, working in groups of 8 they took part in activities like Mountain biking, Kayaking, Hiking, River crossing, Compass work, camp craft as well as taking turns on kitchen duties.

The Year 12 PE class that came with us showed excellent leadership skills accompanying the year 9 students on all activities and running the evening activities.

Once again we had fantastic parents with us. Mr & Mrs Duggan were with us for the duration of both camps and worked hard in the kitchen, Mr Crosswell, Mr Rozeboom, Mrs Hoffman and Mr Balloch helped with activities on the first camp. My thanks go to all these people for their help.

“Verdon College the right choice”

Pictures from Year 9 Camps (Article overleaf)



“Superior
educational
outcomes”