



VERDON COLLEGE

Newsletter

15 April 2016



Kia ora koutou katoa

We have come to an end of another exciting and very busy term.

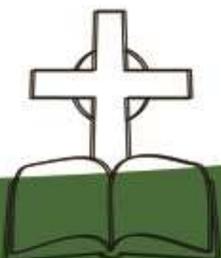
I was very proud of the way our students represented themselves and the College at the recent senior Catholic schools tournament. It was very special to witness the comradery and friendships between students from all schools at the tournament.

This event has gone from strength to strength and while it is very much a competitive environment it is clear that all students enjoy and appreciate being at a tournament with like-minded people. It was very special to be able to celebrate our Catholic character at the Mass on the Sunday night of the tournament. The Mass and the tournament overall was a great reminder to students that we are part of something much bigger than just our own community.

I was also very proud to be able to congratulate so many of our students on their achievements at our recent Colours Assembly. Again, the number of students achieving Colours Awards has increased in both number and variety. As outlined at the Assembly this continued success is very much about our students being aspirational for themselves. I also spoke about the support positive thinking provides in enabling students to take risk towards achieving success.

We have taken some time to work with a number of students over their safety on the internet and have had a speaker from "Attitude" come into school to talk with our students about how to interact safely in this environment. I cannot stress enough, particularly if you have students in year 7-10, that you as parents/caregivers take the time to talk with your sons and daughter about staying safe online. This applies both to receiving information but also to what they are posting on line. As parents please take some time to sit down with your children and review their online profiles and openly discuss their interaction on online platforms as part of the modern parenting discussion.

It has been a very busy and successful term at the College and I wish all staff, students and families a restful and relaxing holiday breaks.



God Bless
Jarlath Kelly

Southland Sheilah Winn Competition

Congratulations to Travis Oudhoff, Chelsea Cosgrove, Mikaela Goodall, Henry McIntyre and Liam van Eeden who won the Five Minute Student Directed section at the Southland Sheilah Winn Competition held at James Hargest College on 22 March 2016 with their performance "Macbeth" directed by Chelsea Cosgrove and Tilly van Eeden. The team will be travelling to the Sheilah Winn Nationals Competition in Wellington at Queens Birthday weekend.



Maadi Cup

A big congratulations to Xavier Wright who is U16 Single Scull National Champion. Not only did Xavier win this race but he also qualified for the U17 Single Scull Final and came 5th.



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From Father Hook

Alleluia! He is risen!
Happy Easter everyone—the most wonderful time of the Church year when Jesus destroyed the greatest fear: death. The bible tells us 365 times, “Be not Afraid!”
May we continue to be a school filled with joy and with no fear when faced with challenges. JESUS—the word of God, Love destroys all fear and heals all wounds.

Verdon College is a place of LOVE, may we continue to celebrate it.

We are Easter people and ALLELUIA is our song!
Happy Easter!!!!
Hookie

Year 12 PPE Class

The Year 12 PPE class recently completed their mountain bike trip. This year’s trip took the group over the Nevis Road from Garston to Bannockburn. This 75km rollercoaster really tested the group’s fitness level. All students did exceptionally well, and a highlight of the trip was everyone making it to the top of Duffers Saddle at 1300m. Following this was a steep exhilarating 8km of downhill riding. The group spent the last day of the trip riding in Alexandra on a beautiful Central Otago day. A massive thankyou to Gary Duggan, Mary and Graeme Stewart and Mark



Rowing

Congratulations to Maria Sutherland and Xavier Wright who recently represented Verdon College at the South Island secondary schools rowing championships. Xavier came second in the A final of the U16 single sculls and Maria was 1st in the B final of the U17 single sculls.

Triathlon

The New Zealand Schools' Triathlon Championships held at Jack's Point,
The results were:

- U14 Boys' - Lachie Baird 11th
- U14 Girls' - Kathy White 11th
- U16 Boys' - Sam Thornbury 5th
- U19 Girls' - Olivia Thornbury 5th

At the Open Water Swim section, held at Lake Hayes:
U12 Girls' - Martina White 3rd
U14 Girls' - Kathy White 6th

In the Aquathlon (swim and run), held at Lake Hayes:
U14 Boys' - Lachie Baird 6th

Invercargill City Council—Youth Council

Congratulations to the following students who have been selected for the Invercargill City Council Youth Council:



Calvin Jenkins, Caitlin Smith, Keiren Perkins, Tiffany Wilson, Toby Jenkins. Absent—Madison Brown

Athletics

Congratulations to the following students who were placed at the Southland Primary School Athletics Championships at the weekend.

- 1st High Jump - 11yrs Tessa Baird
- 3rd Shot Put 11yrs Kristie Payne
- 3rd Shot Put, and Discus 12yrs Ruby Laidlaw
- 3rd 100m 12yrs Shakaya Lynch-Hird
- 2nd Shot Put 12 yrs Jacob Crooks

Year 13 Tourism Field Trip

On Monday 21 March 19 adventurous Year 13 set off to Queenstown to a experience a day as tourists in the New Zealand’s “Adventure Tourism Capital.”

With adrenaline pumping we started off our activities at A J Hackett’s Bungy Jump over the Kawarau River. Following a presentation about the beginnings of this successful business, two of our group, Laura and Samantha, showed their stunning bravery by jumping unhesitatingly off the 43metre high bridge. Other students also enjoyed the Zipride (and the coffee) that was available.

Venturing into Queenstown, with incredible courage, most of the group went to the Fear Factory where we wandered around in the darkness of a haunted house and were scared out of our wits. Being tough Southlanders we survived this chilling and very creepy experience with only one unfortunate (slightly embarrassing) incident!

The Skyline Gondola is a traditional attraction in Queenstown and we enjoyed the scenic gondola ride to the Skyline complex. Luge rides were the order of the day and many people took advantage of this thrilling downhill ride.

Paddles Up

The Verdon College Paddles Up team came second overall in the Southland Schools Kayak competition. There were 3 sections. Down River, Teams Slalom and Individual Slalom. This was a fun weekend held at Mavora Lakes. Students camp out for two nights and have a great time mixing with students from other secondary schools in Southland.

Nellie Boyle placed first in the girls Down River. The Junior girls team of Kate Harrington, Rebecca Shirley and Willow Gush won the junior girls team section. The junior Boys of Scott Thurlow and Dominic Sutherland were placed 2nd in the junior boys team. The senior boys team Callum Nielsen, Alex McLean and Eli Winders were 5th team home.



CALENDAR DATES FOR TERM 2

2 May	Start of Term 2
9 May	HPV for Year 8 Girls
11 May	Stage Challenge
28 May	School Ball
31 May	ICAS Science
3 June	Teacher Only Day
6 June	Queens Birthday
7.10 June	School Production "Showcase"
13 June	ICAS Writing
15 June	ICAS Spelling
16 June	Big Sing
30 June/1 July	Year 11 Retreat
8 July	End of Term—Mid Year Reports Posted

Pasifika Open Night

Thursday 5 May, 6 - 7:30pm
Hansen Hall, SIT Campus, 133 Tay Street, Invercargill

Come along, meet our tutors and learn more about our Pasifika support services at SIT

Buffet dinner provided

Register now to: jane.marrah@sit.ac.nz



“Verdon College the right choice”

Softball

Alex Thurlow was drafted into the Mainland Southern Pride Franchise Womens Softball Team (A South Island Team) which plays at the National Fast Pitch Championships (NFC) this season and also in the Southern Cross Challenge. The team this year placed 5th in the NFC and 3rd in the Southern Cross the highest placings in several years. Alex was chosen for her out fielding ability and confidence and batting ability in the box. Alex was one of the youngest members of the team. Our Sport Coordinator Lee is pictured with Alex and returned this season for her second year of Managing this team.



Swimming

Kathy White competed in the NZ Division 2 swimming competition held in Invercargill 9-12 March. She had qualified for 8 events. Kathy won a bronze medal in the 100m Fly and placed in the top 8 in the 50m Fly, 100m Free and 50m Free. A fantastic achievement!

Martina White competed in the NZ Country and Town competition held in Ashburton 27-28 February. She had qualified for 11 events. Martina won a bronze medals in the 100m Free, 200m Medley relay and 200m Free relay and placed 4th in the 100m Back.



Martina White, Kathy White

- Checklist
- Catholic education
 - High expectations
 - Gifted & talented
 - Smaller classes
 - Family feel

Rock 'n' Roll

Congratulations to Izaak Sanders who came 1st in the novice section at the New Zealand Rock n' Roll Junior champs. These were held in Wellington from the 25th to the 27th of March 2016.



“Superior
educational
outcomes”