



Verdon College

18 August 2017



Kia ora koutou katoa

Our very successful term continues in so many ways. Winter sports competitions are winding up and our teams have again been extremely successful on a number of levels and in a variety of sports. Once again we have provided more teams than ever before in a range of sports and competitions. This success and high level of participation is a tribute to the efforts of students getting involved but also all those coaches and managers that give so freely of their time. Thank you for your efforts this year. A big thank you must go to Lee Greig our sports coordinator who does so much hard work to support all of this sporting involvement.

The arts endeavours within the College continue to be on a roll with the success of our students at the "Southern Jam Youth Festival". A big thank you to staff and parents who supported this great opportunity for our students. Our success at Bishop's Shield was fantastic. I am most proud of how our students represented the College with their positive and friendly approach to interacting with everyone at the event, something commented on by a number of people attending the weekend. Similarly our House Drama evening was an enthusiastic and entertaining night as always. A big congratulation's to all involved.

Our Open Day was extremely successful and we have received a lot of positive feedback about the welcoming nature of the College. I would like to thank all those students that made themselves available to welcome potential student and families to the College. We are receiving more interest in enrolment than ever before which is positive however, I would encourage all those with families and friends seeking enrolment at the College in 2018 to get their applications in as soon as possible. It is likely that enrolment to the College will be limited and we would like to avoid any disappointment regarding lack of positions after enrolment closes.

God Bless

Jarlath Kelly



Upcoming events

Year 7-8

12 September—Sports & Cultural Photos

Year 9-10

12 September—Sports & Cultural Photos

Year 11 –13

28-31 August—Senior Exams

7 September—Year 13 Retreat

12 September—Sports & Cultural Photos

14-15 September—Year 12 Retreat Overnight

28 September—Senior reports

General Reminders

23 August—Polyfest performance day

24 August—Polyfest performance evening

1 September—Teachers Only Day

4-10 September—Tournament week

27 September—Blues Assembly

28 September—House haka and Waiata competitions

Speech Competition Success

The Venture Southland Speech Competition Cluster Finals were held on Thursday the 17 August. Students from Verdon College, James Hargest Junior School, Southland Boys High School and Southland Girls High competed. Congratulations to Christian Sotto and Pearl Harris-Blain who came second and third respectively. Christian will now go forward to the Invercargill City Cluster final.



Me a matou ki te Toroa ki te rerenga me te whakapono ki te Atua tuturi

We can all be uplifted as the albatross if we have faith and Rely on God

Southland Secondary Schools Bowls Championships

Congratulations to our indoor bowls team who recently attended the Southland Secondary Schools Bowls Championships. The results are as follows:

- Secondary Winning Team
- 2nd Intermediate pairs
- 3rd Intermediate pairs
- Intermediate Winning Team
- Winning Pairs

Another big congratulations goes to George Hope-Johnstone who recently won the Southland Novice Singles Indoor Bowls competition held recently in Invercargill.



BMX World Championships

A big congratulations to Ruby Laidlaw who represented New Zealand recently at the BMX World Championships in Rock hill, South Carolina. Ruby raced in the U14 girls section and got through to the 1/8 (semi) final. Well done Ruby this is a huge achievement.

Year 7/8 Speech Competition

Year 7/8 students have been working on writing and presenting speeches to their class. These students were selected to represent their class in the school final held last week.

Lachlan Leonard placed first in Year 7. Christian Sotto was first in Year 8 and Pearl Harris-Blain second.



Rugby Representatives

Congratulations to the following students who have been selected for rep teams this year:

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| U14 Southland | Sharn Shandley-Barlow |
| U16 Southland | Jackson Whaanga |
| U65 Kgs | Samer Coupe |
| U48Kgs | Josh Newell |
| | Alex Meulenbroek |
| | Elijah Cribb |
| U38 Town Team | Ben Andrews |
| | Isaiah-Runi Tagomoa |
| | Teihi Blair |

Music

A massive congratulation to Sam Cullen Music for making it into the finalists list for the Lion Foundation 'Play it Strange' Song writing Competition.

Hundreds of entries were received from secondary school students from all over the country - Sam Cullen's original song 'Small Town' (which he just released on Spotify) made it into the list of 63 songs selected. This meant it met the strict criteria to be a top song for 2017. Of the 63 chosen, only 11 were from the South Island - well done Sam!



Jazz Prophets

A huge congratulations to the Southland Jazz Prophets - they took out the Royal New Zealand Air Force Band for Adjudicator's Choice Award and a Bronze Award at the 2017 Southern Jam Youth Jazz Festival. This was a huge achievement to take out the adjudicator's award - over 200 students and 19 bands were involved in the festival this year. This was the first time a band from Southland had ever entered and the judges and public audiences were very supportive of the band for coming from so far away to attend.



Patronal Day



On Tuesday 15 August we celebrated Patronal Day - the whole school went to St Theresa's to celebrate the Feast of the Assumption Mass. Father Hook celebrated Mass, supported by our student leaders. They lead the readings and prayers. Our students and staff provided musical accompaniment to our singing. We had the great pleasure of having members of the Kiribati community with us to celebrate the day and were very privileged to witness their celebration of the gospel and singing.

Upon the return to school the festivities continued with senior student's running a BBQ for students followed by ice blocks. A great day of celebration for our Patron - Mary.

PTA



Our PTA do an amazing job supporting the College, if you are interested and want to be involved in all the fun they have please contact the college office.

The next fundraiser is cheese rolls and we will need as many people as possible selling them. We also need as many hands as possible supporting the making of the them. Keep the weekend of 22-23 September free to help make the cheese rolls

Keep an eye out for information about how you can assist this will be coming out in the next few weeks



Bishop's Shield

Arts and Culture continues to flourish at Verdon College. This was evident this past weekend when 20 of our talented students made the journey to Kavanagh College in Dunedin to compete in the annual Bishop's Shield competition, returning triumphant for the 3rd time in 4 years. The key to this year's success was consistency, with Verdon placing 1st, 2nd or 3rd in all events. Grace Prendergast started our streak with her excellent Prepared Speech, gaining 2nd. The junior and senior debaters followed suit, winning their respective debates and both placing 2nd overall. The evening drama performances showcased our extraordinary talent and senior drama gained 2nd place. Sunday morning saw our first victory – Connor Macdonald's entertaining and thought-provoking impromptu speech on 'Rivalry' was a crowd and judge favourite, securing 1st place. Emma Kelly quickly added to our points, placing 1st in Junior Scripture and Kaitlyn Calvert-Shandley placed second in Senior Scripture readings. Overall, the team effort and spirit is what shone through the entire weekend. All students represented the school with pride and that is what ultimately led us to victory. Well done to all involved – a true team effort.



House Drama

What a wonderful night at the Verdon College House Drama Competition. Well done to everyone involved! And to top off a great night, an amazing performance by Sam Cullen performing his newly released song "Small Town" Thanks Mel Bradley and Nathan Hughes for guest judging. Congratulations

- 1st place: Marcellin
- 2nd Place: Dominic
- 3rd Place: Catherine
- 4th Place: Marian

