



St Mary's College, Wellington

Newsletter

September – October 2011

END OF YEAR FUNCTIONS 2011

INVITATIONS

Parents and families are invited to attend the following End of Year Functions.

Tuesday 1 November 2011	Sports Prizegiving	6.00pm - Gabriel Hall St Mary's College
Monday 7 November 2011	Thanksgiving Mass	10.30am - Sacred Heart Cathedral
<i>Parents of Year 13 students are cordially invited to join their daughters for a Farewell Morning Tea on Monday 7 November 2011 in Connolly Hall after Thanksgiving Mass.</i>		
Monday 7 November 2011	Senior Students Prizegiving	7.00pm - Sacred Heart Cathedral
Friday 9 December 2011	Junior Students Prizegiving	10.00am – Gabriel Hall St Mary's College
<i>Years 9 and 10 students will be dismissed at the end of Junior Prizegiving.</i>		

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*“Put your whole confidence in God.
He will never let you want necessities for yourself or your children.”
Catherine McAuley.*

Dear Parents and Friends of St Mary’s

On **September 23**, we celebrated **MERCY DAY**. The Feast Day of Our Lady of Mercy is celebrated throughout the Mercy world. It is a day which unites everyone connected to Mercy organisations and is celebrated in all Mercy institutes as a day of thanksgiving and celebration.

Our annual celebration at St Mary’s College began with Mass celebrated in Sacred Heart Cathedral. This was followed by the strongly competitive House Music Competition and ended with the Annual Student Talent Competition. During the week leading up to Mercy Day, lunch times and intervals were filled with the sounds of singing as each House found opportunities to rehearse their items.

The origin of Mercy Day dates back to 24 September 1827 when Catherine McAuley’s purpose-built House of Mercy in Baggott Street, Dublin, first opened as a school for the education of poor young girls and as a residence for homeless girls and women.

The legacy of Catherine continues in the education of young women in all Mercy schools around the world, including St Mary’s, to ensure that our young women are made aware of the issues of social concern and to serve the needs of our time. Programmes include topics which raise student concern for the environment, people in New Zealand and overseas, and social injustices.

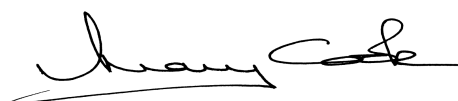
Outreach experiences such as mission fund-raising, street collections for charity and Operation Christmas Child provide our students with the challenge of helping others. In this era of encouraging people to volunteer to help others, every contribution counts.

Term 4 begins two weeks later than usual on Tuesday 25 October 2011. This means that there are only **NINE** teaching days until Senior Prizegiving and until students in Years 11, 12 and 13 begin study leave.

Each year students studying for the external exams make some really unwise decisions that cost them dearly with their final results. It is really important for each girl to have a study timetable in place and to follow it. Each student is responsible for revising for each subject and needs to spend time doing this rather than being side-tracked by other influences. Preparation for external examinations begins in the junior school. Year 9 and 10 students have their school examinations in November. It is equally important for them to be well prepared for their examinations. **A sheet “Preparing to Study” is included at the end of this newsletter.**

I hope that you will be able to take up the invitation to join us during some of the end of year functions planned for Term 4.

Yours sincerely



**Mrs Mary Cook
Principal**

Board of Trustees' Update

There were no nominations for the current vacancy on the Board of Trustees, therefore an election was not held. The Board are now looking to fill the vacancy by co-option or appointment.

We welcome our new student representative, Irene McGlone, to the Board of Trustees and thank her for being the student voice on the Board. We sincerely thank our outgoing student representative, Victoria Hopgood for her good work over the past two years.

We thank Mrs Sue Green for acting as Principal whilst Mrs Cook is away in Japan with the College group, and we hope that the travellers enjoy the sights and culture of Japan.

Lastly, we would like to thank the PTFA for the very successful fundraising quiz that they organised recently; it was a fun College Community event enjoyed by all and with great auction prizes.

Kathy Sharpe

Chairperson Board of Trustees.

EXAMINATIONS - YEARS 9 AND 10

Year 9 Examinations will take place from **Monday 14 November** until **Wednesday 16 November 2011**. Year 9 students will attend school each day during their examinations between 8.40am and 3.20pm.

Year 10 Examinations will take place from **Wednesday 9 November** until **Friday 18 November 2011**. Year 10 students will each have an examination timetable and will attend school for their timetabled examinations only. Owing to a wide range of subject options it is not possible to condense Year 10 examinations into a few days.

Thursday Timetable:

From **Thursday 10 November** classes for junior students each Thursday will finish at 3.20pm until the end of the school year.

Property Update

This year our Proprietor has taken over the management of the funds provided by the Ministry of Education from the Catholic Schools Board Limited. These Ministry funds are referred to as Policy 1 Money and are to be used for the major maintenance of existing property. Property repairs and maintenance under \$5000 are the responsibility of the Board of Trustees. Costs in excess of this have to be referred to the Proprietor. Under the guardianship of the McAuley Trust, acting for the Proprietor, the major maintenance property needs of St Mary's College are now being addressed.

During Term 3 the student toilets on each floor of McAuley have been refurbished. The leaking ceiling in the corner of the Library is going to be replaced during October, enabling

the whole of the Library to be used once again. During the holidays, further work is being done to address leaks found in a number of areas. These are all major property issues which we have been waiting to have resolved for a number of years.

The Ministry of Education has initiated an upgrade of computer cabling referred to as SNUP. For integrated schools the Ministry will pay 65% of the costs and the Proprietor has to pay the remainder. To proceed with the install there are additional costs involved due to having to upgrade our electrical system. Work on this will also commence during the October holidays.

Special Character

Young Vinnies Group:

The Vinnies' group have just completed a very successful Christmas Shoe Box Appeal with over 50 boxes collected. These boxes will be sent to children in different parts of the world. Well done to all the Form Classes who willingly filled the shoeboxes with a delightful array of goodies.



News from Around the College

Mercy Day Competitions:

Congratulations to **Milla** and **Neve Saris** who won the Mercy Day Talent Quest.

Congratulations to **Maria House** who won the Virginia Hallagan Trophy for the best House Music.

Debating:

Senior Premier A Intercollegiate Debating:

Congratulations to Alice Sowry, Abi Crawford and Jemima Lomax-Sawyers for all their hard work throughout the debating season. They competed against Wellington College in the Grand Final of the competition, affirming the moot: "This House would prohibit price gouging after natural disasters". This was a hard-fought debate and both teams articulated their opinions forcefully with St Mary's narrowly losing the debate. Alice, Abi and Jemima deserve credit for a superb performance and becoming runners up in such a prestigious competition is a great achievement.

Junior Debating Club:

Although the intercollegiate debating is now over, the Junior Debating Club is still running. Our senior debaters generously give up their time to coach and adjudicate these debates. The debating club is a great opportunity for students to gain some debating experience in a non-competitive environment.

Mrs G Herder

Debating Convenor

Economics & Accounting:

Congratulations to **Anna Keogh**, **Melissa Moroney**, **Jessica Stone**, **Corrine Izaz** and **Melissa Cannell** who gained Merit in the Regional Finals of the Monetary Policy Competition at the Reserve Bank.

Congratulations to **Melissa Cannell** and **Melissa Moroney** who both gained business sponsorship to attend the NZ Business Week in Palmerston North.

Melissa Cannell was part of the team that was the overall winner of the week and she won a \$2,000 Scholarship to Massey University for this achievement.

Mrs Marion Myers

HOD Economics & Accounting

Music:

The annual Celebration of Music crept up on us more quickly this year. The concert was a celebration of all of the music which happens at school, in and out of the classroom. Held at St Andrews on The Terrace, our girls rose to the occasion and did themselves proud. Reine De Mesa captured some wonderful moments from the evening.

See attached pictures:

1. Schola performing from 'Ceremony of Carols' by Britten
2. Jazz Combo
3. The Ukelele Club



Final assessments for NCEA Solo Music Performance Standards will take place on Thursday 3 November 2011 from 2.45pm in the Music Room.

Ms Mary Horner

HOD Music.

Sports:

Winter Sport Results:

Athletics

Congratulations to **Susannah Lynch** who ran the fastest lap in the U16 girls race in the Wellington Road Relay Champs. Susannah also set a new course record for this grade. The U16 team was placed second in this event.

Badminton

SENIOR

SMC1 1st DIV1
SMC2 2nd DIV3

JUNIOR

SMC1 1st DIV1
SMC3 2nd DIV3

Basketball

SENIOR

SMC1 8th

JUNIOR

SMC1 5th
SMC2 2nd

Football

1ST XI	5 th =
2 ND XI	3 rd =
JUNIOR XI	4th

Social

SMC3	6th
SMC4	4th

Hataitai Netball

SENIOR A FINALS DAY - 3 September 2011. "The team had everything against us, from a very poor start through to playing against a very experienced team like SMOG 3, and especially to be down by 9 goals in the first quarter. Come the last quarter, we finished on a draw then played into overtime 5 minutes each way and we won by 1 goal (at the last 30 seconds!!). What an awesome game for the team and an awesome way to finish off their season! They definitely played the last Saturday like it was a 'FINAL' match!"

Hockey

1 ST XI	6 th P2
2 ND XI	6 th R3

Kapi-Mana Netball

End of season prizegiving results:

Congratulations to the following teams and individuals who received awards at the Kapi-Mana Netball prizegiving.

SMC White: Collegiate 2 Joint winner with Tawa White - Wedlock and Johnson Cup.

SMC Tan: Collegiate 8 winner, Chubb Trophy. Also joint winner of K-M Netball Collegiate Cup for the Least Number of Goals Scored Against Them in the season.

SMC Fawn: Round winners, Round 2 Collegiate 7 grade.

Colleen Faleafaga -U15 reps –Award for Excellence in Defence.

Rugby

SMC1	2 ND in Premier Division
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Table Tennis

SMC1	1 ST
SMC2	4 TH
SMC3	6 TH
SMC4	5 TH

Ten Pin Bowling

SMC2 – 6TH

COLLEGE SPORT:**Regional Table Tennis Champs:**

Girls Individual Runner-up: **Abbey L'Estrange**

Girls Pairs Runners-up: **Abbey L'Estrange** and **Angelica Aberia**

Regional Badminton Teams Finals:

Junior Girls DIV1: **SMC1 WINNERS**

CSW Junior Netball Tournament Results:

SMC JUNIOR A: **7TH**

INDIVIDUAL RESULTS:

Harriers:

Susannah Lynch competed as a member of the Olympics Harriers junior women team, Junior meaning 19 years (and under). The team consisted of 5 runners, total distance to be covered was 41.7km. Susannah ran the third leg of the race which was 10.5km. The team finished 5th (out of 9 JW teams) - a very good achievement.

7's Rugby:

Timena Tuma'ai has been named in the Wellington Women's 7's Team. She is one of only two schoolgirls to make the team for the 2011/12 season. We wish her all the best for her time with the team.

RVC Tournament:

Our Senior A Volleyball team was runner-up in the College section of this tournament on 24th September.

SCHOOL COLOURS

If you or your daughter believe she may be eligible for school colours because she has played in a regional or New Zealand team, or has represented New Zealand internationally, please send a written submission to the following email sports@stmaryswellington.school.nz

We endeavour to recognise all our achieving students and need your help with the details of events and placings.

School colours are presented at the Sports Prizegiving to be held on the 1 November 2011.

Mairi Archer

Sports Co-ordinator

Knowledge Net – www.stmaryswellington.knowledge.net.nz

Students can access the St Mary's College Knowledge Net from school and home (or any computer which has Internet access).

All students are encouraged to take advantage of Knowledge Net in the lead up to **NCEA external examinations**. Use the resources provided by subject teachers either through the "My Classes" menu or the "My Subjects" menu. Also check out the Digital Learning Objects which are part of the new search feature. Enter any topic into the search box and click on the DLOs tab. There is a vast amount of digital tools available to assist with learning.

On the opening page of Knowledge Net are useful 'quick' links to the 2011 NZQA exam timetable: the NZQA Learner Login, StudyIt, Quizlet, Any Questions and more.

If students are experiencing difficulties with logging into Knowledge Net, see Mrs Herder in Room 23 or use the email link on the opening Knowledge Net page:

genevieve.herder@stmaryswellington.school.nz

Mrs G Herder

Knowledge Net Administrator

SUN SMART

During the summer months students are reminded to sit in shady places during interval and lunchtimes. Wearing of sunscreen when outdoors is also promoted. Students have the option of wearing a white cricket-style hat during any outside activity, during school hours, when they are not in a shady area.

UNIFORM

The Uniform Shop is open during term time on:
Monday and Friday – 12.30pm – 1.00pm.

It is expected that the correct uniform will be worn at all times as follows:

Summer Uniform is worn during Terms 1 and 4:

- grey/black tartan skirt
- white short-sleeved St Mary's over-blouse, worn outside the skirt
- blazer
- black laced-up leather school shoes
- white ankle socks
- no tie
- black St Mary's College raincoat/parka in wet weather



Skirts are sold with the hems stitched at the required length.
Shortening of the skirts is not permitted.

When travelling to and from school it is expected that the College blazer will be worn at all times, except in hot weather when the over-blouse may be worn without the blazer. **At no time may the sleeveless pullover, or the long-sleeved jersey, be worn instead of the College blazer when travelling to and from the College.**

FORTHCOMING EVENTS TERM 4 2011

Monday 24 October	Labour Day
Tuesday 25 October	Term 4 begins
Tuesday 25 October	Board of Trustees' Meeting – 5.30pm – College Staff Room
Thursday 27 October	Tutorials Years 11-13 - 2.35pm – 3.20pm
Tuesday 1 November	Sports Prizegiving – 6.00pm – Gabriel Hall
Thursday 3 November	Tutorials Years 11-13 - 2.35pm – 3.20pm
Monday 7 November	Thanksgiving Mass – 10.30am – Sacred Heart Cathedral Year 13 Parents – Students Morning Tea – 11.30am - Connolly Hall Senior Prizegiving – 7.00pm – Sacred Heart Cathedral
Tuesday 8 November	Study Leave begins Years 12 and 13
Wednesday 9 – 18 November	Year 10 Examinations
Thursday 10 November	Study Leave begins Year 11 Scholarship and NCEA Level 2 begin
Monday 14 – 16 November	Year 9 Examinations NCEA Level 1 begins
Monday 21 – 23 November	Year 10 Group A Camp
Wednesday 23 – 25 November	Year 10 Group B Camp
Wednesday 30 November	Year 8 Orientation Day
Thursday 2 December	TEACHER ONLY DAY
Friday 9 December	Junior Prizegiving – 10.00am - Gabriel Hall End of Term 4

START DATES FOR 2012

Friday 27 January	Subject Confirmation Day – Years 11, 12, 13 to meet with Deans.
Monday 30 January	Teacher Only Day.
Tuesday 31 January	Years 10, 11, 12 in the morning.
Wednesday 1 February	Years 9 and 13.
Thursday 2 February	Whole school.

2012 SECONDARY SCHOOL TERM DATES

Term 1:	Monday 30 January – Friday 5 April 2012.
Term 2:	Monday 23 April – Friday 29 June 2012.
Term 3:	Monday 16 August – Friday 28 September 2012.
Term 4:	Monday 15 October – Thursday 12 December 2012.



Preparing to Study: A Good Study Place

You should be able to answer **YES** to all of the following questions:

1. Is my Study Place available to me whenever I need it?

Your Study Place does you little good if you cannot use it when you need it. If you are using a Study Place that you must share with others for any reason, work out a schedule so that you know when you can use it.

2. Is my Study Place free from interruptions?

It is important to have uninterrupted study time. You may have to hang a **DO NOT DISTURB** sign on the door and leave your cell-phone elsewhere.

3. Is my Study Place free from distractions?

Research shows that most students study best in a quiet environment. If you find that playing a stereo or TV improves your mood, keep the volume low.

4. Does my Study Place contain all the study materials I need?

Be sure your Study Place includes reference sources and supplies such as pens and pencils, paper, ruler, calculator, and whatever else you might need. If you use a computer for your schoolwork, it should be in your Study Place – but should only be used for this purpose.

5. Does my Study Space contain a large enough desk or table?

While working on an assignment or studying for a test, use a desk or table that is large enough to hold everything you need. Allow enough room for writing and try to avoid clutter.

6. Does my Study Place have enough storage space?

You need a good study place to be prepared to study. Be sure you have your study materials and you have enough storage space to allow you to keep your desktop or other work surface clear of unnecessary materials that can get in the way.

7. Does my Study Place have a comfortable chair?

A chair that is not comfortable can cause discomfort or pain that will interfere with your studying. A chair that is too comfortable might make you sleepy. Select a chair in which you can sit for long periods while maintaining your attention.

8. Does my Study Place have enough light?

The amount of light you need depends on what you are doing. The important thing is that you can clearly see what you need to see without any strain or discomfort.

9. Does my Study Place have a comfortable temperature?

If your Study Place is too warm, you might become sleepy. If it is too cold, your thinking may slow down and become unclear. Select a temperature at which your mind and body function best.