



Takapuna
Grammar School

May 2018

IN THIS ISSUE

Principal's Report	2
Community News	3
Events	4
Performing Arts	5
Sports	6
Feature Article	8
Field Trips / Camps	10
Art	12
BOT / PTA News	14



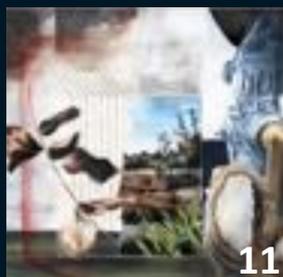
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TAKAPUNA GRAMMAR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Rowers Shine in Prestigious Regatta



Following several outstanding results at the North Island Championships on Lake Karapiro, our rowers continued to achieve at the prestigious Maadi Cup Regatta held at Twizel on Lake Ruataniwha.

Evan Williams, Jacob Davey and Jack Featherstone had already made their marks on Lake Karapiro, with medals in U16 Double Sculls, U17 Double Sculls and U16 Single Sculls, but these results were only the stepping stones for more success as the squad competed against the country's best at Twizel. Jack Davey and Evan Williams came fourth in New Zealand in the Boys' U16 Double Sculls. Evan Williams and Jack Featherstone achieved a podium finish by coming third in the Boys' U17 Double Sculls and Evan Williams achieved first place to become the New Zealand Boys' U16 National Single Sculls champion.

After some years of missing out on places and 12 years since winning a national title, 2018 is certainly a year

to celebrate. The Takapuna School Rowing Club is now ranked 18th out of 54 schools nationally. We now sit ahead of rivals, Westlake Girls' and Diocesan School, which is no mean feat.

Other awards at the regatta included; Evan Williams being nominated 'Rower of the Day' by the New Zealand Rowing Association for his outstanding win in the U16 Boys' Sculls and Sienna Norman who was nominated for demonstrating outstanding leadership and maturity in the Girls' U16 Coxed Quad qualification round.

These significant achievements were gained by successfully competing against the country's best secondary school rowers and highlight the enormous dedication put in by so many in the TGS rowing scene.



Principal's Message

I hope you all had a relaxing holiday. As I reflect on our busy and productive Term One, I am proud of the energy and commitment of our staff and students in getting the year off to a brilliant start. Each year in Term One, staff analyse the learning outcomes from the previous year and get the programmes for the current year underway. 2018 commenced with excellent results from the 2017 academic year which we are proud of and which compare very positively alongside other similar schools across the country and beyond. In both of the two world-class qualification systems offered by Takapuna Grammar School, students excelled with 90% or more passing all levels of NCEA and IB. 5% more students passed University Entrance than in the previous year.

The important thing about students gaining UE is not that everyone should go to university upon leaving school, but that they are entitled to do this at any stage in their lives. This is a huge advantage. Most people need to further their qualifications at some point in their careers and with UE they can be confident that they have the skills to do so, starting at degree level. Students choosing to go to work or into apprenticeships from school who have Level Three NCEA, offer their employers better skills from the start as well as maturity and grit.

The excellent academic results of 2017 have opened the doors for our students to study at some of the most prestigious tertiary institutions across New Zealand and around the world. Some of last year's leavers had offers from universities ranked in the top few worldwide including Cambridge, Oxford, Harvard, Stanford, Hong Kong, Seoul, Melbourne and Manchester.

Other students have taken on apprenticeships and training for trades or are doing tertiary study alongside work. The next ten years will provide ample opportunity for work in areas that are building our national economy and the industries providing for the country's growth. Takapuna Grammar School has considerable numbers of alumni studying and working locally and around the globe at all levels in diverse fields; all contributing to making the world better.

One of the most pleasing aspects of our school is the diversity of opportunities available for academic and extra-curricular learning. We want all our students to be involved in one or more of the over 100 sports, music, cultural and service activities available. Our staff and many parents actively support these groups and students help run many of them. In Term One the array of activities was promoted and showcased in assemblies and in whanau form classes. Students and parents are also welcome to contact their whanau teacher or dean to find out more.

Summer activities came to a close with the national tournament week held late last term. The winter sports season has commenced and there have been some great sporting results already this year. Many of our students are achieving success at regional and national level. We are proud of the competitive and fair play approach our students display at all levels of sport. The performing arts continue to grow and are another area where our students excel. Music, drama and music theatre performances delighted audiences in Term One and after the recent outstanding success of Little Women, we look forward to the busy schedule in the coming weeks.

Some of our teachers and students have been out and about developing their awareness of wider New Zealand and the world. In the April holidays groups of students visited the USA

on an art tour, while others visited China looking at business and economics and the First XV rugby team enjoyed a successful tour of the South Island.

The use of technology is embedded in classrooms and teachers are working hard to ensure learning programmes are more visible and available 24/7. Staff members are continually developing their skills. We are taking a purposeful approach to help our students develop the essential skills needed in today's world. They know about using social media but many are not as adept at using computers for learning and assessment and at work. The world we live in is exciting and constantly changing. A key skill is being able to adapt and there are specific ways to build this skill. The school is participating in a 21st Century Project which is based on research about the attributes that foster success nowadays. In Term One the focus was organisation and using technology for learning. Term Two focusses on embedding these and on developing curiosity and tenacity. These themes are also running through assemblies and whanau form classes.

Thank you to everyone in our Takapuna Grammar family for your support and encouragement. We want to keep building our connections with everyone at the school and beyond. Our students have much to gain from the expertise and connections available across our diverse community. I look forward to the opportunity of meeting with as many of you as possible at our school events.

Mary Nixon



Community of Learning

Kāhui Ako Tuakana-Teina Writing Programme

The Devonport-Takapuna Kāhui Ako (Community of Learning) has started a mentoring programme with a group of Year 10 students from TGS and Year 5 and 6 students from Bayswater Primary School. The main focus of the programme has been to develop learning focused relationships, which in the long term will support transition, increase the students' confidence and self esteem and improve their interpersonal skills. The programme has also given the mentors the opportunity to develop their leadership skills.

TGS students have each been buddied up with a student from Bayswater. The students have visited each other's schools and have taken part in a series of workshops. The Bayswater students have been sharing their writing with their TGS buddies via google docs. The mentors have then been developing their peer assessment skills giving the Year 5 and 6 students feedback on their writing. This has then given the students focus areas on which to improve. With the Tuakana-Teina Writing Programme, these students have also been developing a greater interest in writing as well as displaying increased engagement and motivation.

Both parties are benefiting from the relationships formed, which is leading to a greater sense of accomplishment and in turn, we anticipate better results.

Check out the article about our upcoming Kāhui Ako Conference on p9



MIND THE GAP Technology Education Conference

SUPPORTING 21ST CENTURY LEARNING

More than 100 technology teachers from all around Auckland and further afield were treated to a wonderful day of professional learning and inspiring guest speakers at the third annual Technology Conference held at the school at the end of Term 1.

Once again the super team led by HOF Jane Rouse put together an impressive speaking list; Entrepreneur, Andy Hamilton from Icehouse, architects Yusef Patel and Alice Couchman, from Unitec, designer Jun Tsujimoto, of Jasmx, and Peter Cullinane, from Lewis Road Creamery, were all well received by the large audience.

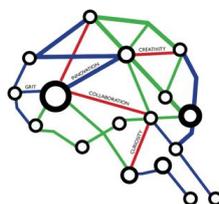
Another presenter was former TGS teacher, Chantelle Gerrard, now Head Costume Designer for the Pop Up Globe, who has a 20 year career in costume including 'Game of Thrones,' 'The Martian', and Costume Design for the feature film 'Insatiable Moon.'

Ann McGlashan, from Auckland University and Suzanne Bliss from AUT, both provided valuable insights into current trends in secondary and tertiary curricula.

Sandy Geyer discussed her work with leaders and future leaders in what she terms their Entrepreneurial Intelligence and their Emotional Intelligence, while Doctor Tracy Berno, Associate Professor of Culinary Arts at Auckland University, discussed her work on the relationship between agriculture, tourism and cuisine and sustainable food systems with an emphasis on food and health in the South Pacific.

Vijesh Nangia, discussed Scratchpad which is a group of innovative technology learning centres, where students can learn about Coding, Robotics, 3D Printing and Electronics.

Now in its third year, this conference is getting quite a name for itself and is obviously filling a need for stimulating professional learning for technology teachers.



Google Educators Advisory Board

In 2017, Steve Smith of the Takapuna Grammar Social Sciences Department was invited to join a Google Educators group or 'Advisory Board' as it has been renamed. This is a global network of teachers and educational technologists who help their organisations, each other and educators everywhere push the boundaries of what's possible in the classroom. Each member excels at sharing the potential of learning technologies, through powerful pedagogy and practice. Members of the Advisory Board are given advanced access to new Google features, a unique digital badge and support from the Google team as they conduct trainings, workshops, and share ideas and resources with the broader community.

Steve has gained Google Certified Educator at Level 1 and 2 and he has

then gone on on to complete the Google Trainer Certification programme.

The Asia Pacific group met last year at the Google offices in Sydney and now the wider Global group is meeting at Google's Main Silicon Valley campus in Mountain View California to work on developing resources to support learners across the globe as well as gain an insight into the latest digital tools available to our learners from Google. Steve will travel to San Francisco at the end of July for the global workshop.



Careers Evening

Our newly refurbished hall proved the perfect venue for this year's careers evening at which parents and senior students were able to explore tertiary options with liaison advisors from NZ Universities and ITOs. The keynote speaker Alysha Bentley, focused on the topic, 'Leaving School Ready or Not', providing management strategies for the transition from secondary school to further education or employment.

In attendance were New Zealand Universities plus vocational institutes including: BCITO, Techtorium, ITC Travel, Crown Travel, NZ Food and Wine, Hungry Creek, Ardmore, U.S. Universities, Media Design School, Yoobee Design School, Projects Abroad, South Seas Film and TV School, Vet Nurse Plus, Supershoppes Automotive, Unitec and NZ Defence Force.

Our thanks to all who attended to make it such a successful event.



International Food Festival



Wonderful food smells filled the Languages department "alleyway" recently, for the annual International Food Market, organised by the prefect committee. It was a huge success as students from all levels enjoyed organising their stalls and preparing the food. Amelia, one of the key helpers at the event said, "Being a part of the Spanish stall was such an awesome experience, preparing churros and quesadillas helped me immerse myself in the culture that I am learning about in class and all the food was super delicious!"

Students bought delicious foods inspired by different cultures from all over the world. Lining the deck of the languages department was tables filled with foods from South Africa, China, as well as Spanish, Vietnamese, Sri Lankan, French, Japanese and Maori. Students and teachers were able to buy fried rice, dumplings, croissants, spring rolls, quesadillas and heaps of other foods. Prefect Christine Zhou, reflected, "The market was much more diverse with student input this year, and I hope to see this develop into even more cultural participation in the future."

Sheilah Winn Shakespeare Festival

The Sheilah Winn Shakespeare Festival is supported by the University of Otago and is run each year all over New Zealand. Secondary (and non-competition Intermediate) schools perform scenes from Shakespeare plays at the Regionals (ours is Auckland North) and the winners attend the National Festival at the Michael Fowler Centre over Queen's Birthday Weekend.

We entered each of our three casts of this year's Shakespeare, *As You Like It*, performing different 15 minute sections of the play. The scene with Sinalei Faulalo, Jasmine Gray, Aidan Allen, Kazim Khan, Stephe Craig, Tessa Erskine, Rosie McGregor, Jaimee Thomas, Logan McAlister won their section along with Orewa College.

TGS entered seven scenes in all; three of them were at five minutes and directed by the students. A five minute scene is also chosen to go to the nationals which feature schools from all over New Zealand with several hundred student participants.

The experience provides students with an opportunity of working to bring Shakespeare's challenging language to life. To perform and make sense requires a high level of skill. The language has to be absolutely clear in its delivery and the characters need to be motivated by the action in the language.

Each year 48 students are chosen at the festival to work with professionals on three different plays. From this National Shakespeare Production, a group of 24 students is chosen to attend workshops at the Globe in London the following year.

The director of *As You Like It*, Performing Arts Head Mr Bruce De Grut, will be part of a group attending the Globe in London for teacher workshops in July.



"Sons of Song" are Ethan (Y12 Mentor), Lachlan (Y9), Sean (Y7), Finn (Y9), Seamus (Y7), Daniel (Y7), Mr Dil (Teacher) Absent: Bear (Y9)

2019 School Term Dates

Term 1: Tuesday 29 January - Friday 12 April
Wednesday 6 February | Waitangi Day, School closed

Term 2: Monday 29 April - Friday 5 July
Friday 31 May | School Closed

Monday 3 June | Queen's Birthday, School closed

Term 3: Monday 22 July - Friday 27 September

Term 4: Monday 14 October - Thursday 5th December

Monday 28 October | Labour Day, School closed

Thursday 5 December | Junior Prizegiving/end of term

Friday 6 December | Teacher only day

Special Musical Theatre Workshop



All our Musical Theatre students were treated to a workshop with Luke Di Somma (NYU Tisch School of the Arts). Luke is co-writer of the hit musical, 'That Bloody Woman', which is the story of the famous New Zealand suffragette, Kate Shepherd.

There was amazing work from our student performers (Franke

Ramdhania, Ben Sawyer, Maria Morris, Georgia Barron and Hazel Escott) who performed for Luke. They then workshopped Acting Through Song and Playing Intention, and we are so grateful to our talented Little Women pianist Kelly-Marie Watts.

It was also very special that the lyricist for the Broadway Musical Little

Women, who taught Luke at NYU, sent our cast her best wishes from New York as well as sending through some invaluable insider information about the show to help in our performances.

A highly successful track and field season

Seven medals at the Greater Auckland Athletics championships this year have completed a highly successful season for the school's athletes. Heading the impressive list was pole vaulter Imogen Ayris who won Gold. These junior athletes also shone with Silver in the 4 x 100 Girls Relay, (pictured) after having won this event at the earlier North Harbour Zone Day.

Anna Tucker gained Silver and Bronze on the track in the 300m and 100m respectively. Just behind her in the 300m Junior Girls, and collecting Bronze, was Samantha Korck. On the field Gerri Gibson was awarded Bronze in both the Triple Jump and the 70m Hurdles, having won both of these at the North Harbour Zone event.

Most recently, at the New Zealand Interprovincial championships, Samantha Korck, Roxanne Korck and Gerri Gibson represented Auckland, where they won a team relay Silver medal.

Samantha went on to place 5th in the Junior Girls 300m, at The North Island Secondary School Championships, where both Roxanne and Gerri along with Samantha won a Gold medal in the 4 x100 m Junior Girls relay. TGS athletics has a very bright future ahead.



Great start to the 1st XV rugby season

Our 1st XV Rugby squad headed to the South Island in the holidays in preparation for the 2018 season. This is where they would finish the last of their pre-season matches on a high. Before leaving for the tour, the squad had already notched up two great wins against Canadian side North Vancouver High School, and Botany Downs College.

With great support from their coaching and management team, (special credit to Iain McAlpine and Jason Ross,) they travelled between the Lake Districts, Dunedin, and Christchurch. Approaching the tour, the boys were, "incredibly excited" says captain Lockie McNair. "There is always a bit of pressure on the team, but the boys play their game and do their thing. We all know if we play well as individuals we will do the job together and get the result and outcome we want." The boys definitely got the outcome they wanted as they played two games unbeaten; South Otago High School Balclutha, 45-12, and St. Thomas' of Canterbury College Christchurch, 50-24.

During the week, the boys were able to celebrate their successes in their down-time. They had the honour of meeting Neville Carter father of Dan Carter at the home Dan grew up in, kicking goals over his posts in the backyard. He showed them Dan's old jerseys, and some interesting memorabilia that he had collected over the years. The squad had plenty of questions that Neville Carter was more than willing to answer in depth. The boys asked everything - from what food Dan ate as a child, to what had been his most memorable match.

There were many highlights of the trip for the boys. Some personal highlights were playing some excellent rugby, and having that extra time to bond together as a team. At the time of

writing, the team are unbeaten after five rounds into their North Harbour competition including wins over powerhouses Rosmini and Massey, which bodes very well for the rest of the season. The TGS Rugby Department is hosting a fundraising evening; a live screening on the big screen of the All Blacks vs France in the School Hall on Saturday 16 June. For more details please visit the TGS website.



Eliza sets New Zealand games record

We are so proud here at TGS to celebrate the Commonwealth Games success of ex pupil, Eliza McCartney.

After a dazzling display at Rio winning a Bronze Olympic medal in the Women's pole vault, Eliza shone again with Silver on the Gold Coast. Clearing a height of 4.70 metres not only secured a Games record, but made McCartney the first New Zealand woman to gain a medal in Commonwealth Games pole vault. While disappointed at missing out on Games Gold, Eliza, in her usual gracious manner congratulated the winner Canada's Alysha Newman (and frequent practice partner), with a hug.

Despite recovering from an Achilles tendon injury and still getting used to a longer, stiffer pole than usual, McCartney was upbeat and positive. 'I gave the best I had....I've hopefully got another ten years in me,' she explained, flashing that infectious smile that we all have come to expect from the 21 year old as she continues her journey through the world of top athletics. A more dedicated, yet charming and positive athlete would be hard to find and it is these qualities that make Eliza a great role model for our own aspiring athletes at TGS as well as other young sports people across New Zealand.

In latest news, Eliza has just this month gained a new Personal Best of 4.85m in Oregon, USA.



Imogen follows in Eliza's footsteps



Seventeen year old Imogen Ayris seems destined to become yet another TGS success in the New Zealand pole vaulting scene after an impressive list of recent successes.

March was a particularly busy and successful month for Imogen when she competed in three prestigious events. The New Zealand Track and Field Nationals took place in Hamilton March 10 - 11, where Imogen gained first place in not only the Under 20 Women's Pole Vault, but she also won the Senior Women's Pole Vault with a new personal best of 4.15 metres.

She followed this success with an impressive display at the International Pole Vault event in Federal Street, Auckland city that attracts competitors from countries preparing for the Commonwealth Games. She gained third place against these world class athletes (including Eliza McCartney), again achieving (an unofficial) personal best of 4.20 metres.

Imogene's March successes culminated in the Auckland Track Challenge, which showcased the best of New Zealand Athletes, including Tom Walsh and

Valerie Adams as well as several international athletes. Again, Imogen showed that she is right up there with the best, gaining third place in the Women's competition with her new (now official) personal best of 4.20 metres.

Imogen is now following her secondary school achievements with stunning national success and at just seventeen, she is clearly set to fly even higher in the international pole vaulting scene.



TGS Celebrates Musical Theatre Across the USA

January 2018 saw 21 students from TGS travel to Atlanta, Georgia, USA to participate as the first-ever high school from New Zealand in the Junior Theatre Festival 2018.

The festival is the largest in the world celebrating musical theatre for young people, and is sponsored by some of the biggest theatre names in the industry: Music Theatre International, Playbill and Disney. It is the brainchild of musical theatre education company iTheatrics, the team who adapt full-length musicals into 60 and 30 performance editions for teenagers and children, known as Broadway Junior™. The collection recently celebrated its 20th anniversary and is gaining more traction in New Zealand as a leading resource for teachers to stage successful school productions.



Team TGS, supported by their three performing arts teachers, ten chaperones and four tour guides from Australia's Travel Gang, presented a 15-minute excerpt from "Disney's Beauty and the Beast JR". The goal was to tell a cohesive story with no costumes or props. All performing groups were on an even playing field. The focus was on the performers showcasing their triple threat skills of musical theatre; singing, acting and dancing.

The Festival welcomes over 6000 people from across the USA and globally. The excerpt was co-directed by performing arts teacher Mr Robert Dil, Head of Faculty Performing Arts Mr Bruce De Grut and Head of Dance Mrs Juliet Cryns. Dil also served as Music Director and the choreography was provided by 17 year old student Emma Self. This was a big opportunity to have student work seen and critiqued by a panel of Broadway and other theatre industry professionals.



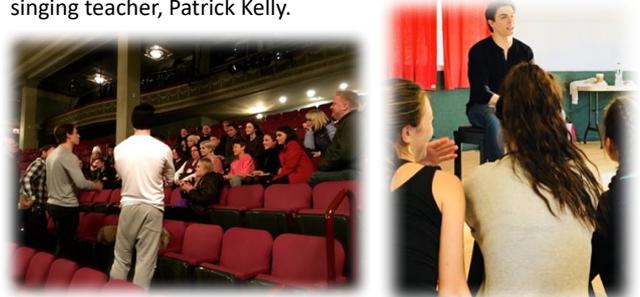
Takapuna Grammar School won two major awards: Excellence in Acting and Best Male Performer at the Festival both went to 17 year old Miles Ford. Other recognition for TGS included students Franke Ramdhanie and Michael Self being selected as All-Star performers for their performances in Beauty and the Beast JR. Six out of six submitted TGS dancers- Abigail McDonald, Miles Ford, Emma Self, Michael Self, Jess Arrowsmith, and Alice Cawley - all made it through to final callbacks for Broadway JR choreography filming in New York this July (we are now waiting on the results) and additionally

Miles, Emma, Michael and Abigail were hired by a professional choreographer to serve as his dance assistants and even paid in USD for standing out in their dance workshop.

The Junior Theatre Festival hosted a full weekend of workshops, performances, showcases, celebrities, and sneak peek performances of soon-to-be released Broadway Junior™ titles. Stephen Schwartz, the composer of mega musical hit, Wicked, was present at JTF Atlanta 2018, as was star of NBC's Broadway-themed TV series Smash and stage veteran of Wicked, Megan Hilty who performed a solo concert.



TGS headed to Atlanta via a week in New York City where they saw several Broadway shows, including Dear Evan Hansen, Once On This Island, Anastasia, School of Rock, Spongebob the Musical and Miss Saigon. The students took workshops with Broadway professionals in areas such as singing, audition technique and stage combat. They talked with cast members from Broadway's Anastasia and School of Rock. Highlights included meeting with Anastasia's Derek Klena who plays Dimitri in the show, in a private Q&A organised by Travel Gang Australia and meeting him again right after the show for another private Q&A with other members of the show. The post-show meet and greet was made possible, with thanks, through the Broadway Dreams Foundation Managing Director Annette Tanner and NZ Manager and TGS musical theatre singing teacher, Patrick Kelly.



These dynamic workshops were held in Broadway rehearsal studios and theatres. The ambience was visceral. Working with Broadway Singing Teacher, Jane Seaman, students were able to experience the realities of auditioning for a Broadway show and the students received individual feedback.

continued...



TGS Performing Arts Teacher, Mr Robert Dil, was able to meet with the Accessibility team from Theatre Development Fund. They are the team who work with shows on Broadway and theatres all over the United States to create accessible programs to bring the arts to more people. For example, working with shows like Disney's Aladdin and The Lion King, Wicked and Come From Away, they have created Autism Friendly Performances and Sign Language Interpreted Shows, as well as Closed Caption and Audio Described performances. Dil is passionate about this field and has now realised his personal goal to develop the MUT production of Little Women into a Sensory Friendly performance. TDF has kindly supported him throughout the process online and Dil also linked in with local organisations. With thanks to TDF, TGS have the tools to begin this journey. Dil's Masters degree was all about how musical theatre can affect positive change in its participants and this is the next step, breaking down more barriers and making the arts more accessible to all. The TDF Accessibility people were kind and generous with their time.

Takapuna Grammar School rounded off the tour with some play time at Disneyland in California which also saw the students undertaking a Disney Broadway Magic workshop with a Disney teaching artist. They professionally recorded the students' vocals and then filmed them dancing to Aladdin's 'Friend Like Me.' This was all held backstage at the park.



The lights of Broadway called and Takapuna Grammar School not only answered that call but were ready to represent both school and country through musical theatre education!



Year 11 Physical Education hits the Beach

During Term 1, Year 11 Physical Education students participated in an event held by Takapuna Beach series. The school Aquathon event consisted of a 500 metre swim and a 2.5 kilometre run along Takapuna Beach.

As part of Achievement Standards 1.1 and 1.3, students were graded on their level of participation during training sessions. Their final performance in this event was also assessed.

Training sessions made the most of our local environment, with students often running to Narrow Neck or Takapuna beach before practising their swimming. The students performed very well in this event due to hard work, persistence and an ability to challenge themselves to do their best.

All students felt a real sense of achievement by completing the Aquathon event. One student stated at the end of the event, "Completing an event like this was something I wouldn't normally do. It meant I got a real kick out of finishing the race. I developed my fitness from all of our training, so the race didn't seem as hard as I thought it would be. The event was really well run; it was awesome and actually heaps of fun."



Hokianga Haerenga

Tena koe koutou! Sixteen students who study Te Reo Maori and Maori Culture, had the opportunity to travel to the Hokianga Harbour. We were lucky enough to have locals talk to us about the history of the area. We stayed at Kokohuia Marae for five nights and were able to learn about our culture and language in the real world with Mother Nature. We connected strongly with her when we visited the Waipoua forest and were able to experience seeing the beautiful kauri, Tane Mahuta (the god of the forest).

We traveled to Te Rerenga Wairua (Cape Reinga) where our tupuna depart in the afterlife. This was a very spiritual experience and a really heart warming place to be in. Later we drove over to the Bay of Islands and were greeted with a powhiri on the Treaty grounds. Speaking on behalf of the group, I am positive we can all agree that it was, "a trip of a lifetime." Being able to learn about who we are as Maori in Aotearoa and being able to share our culture with two international students, was mind-blowing. We have all become closer as a whanau and hold many funny memories

together for the future. Kia Ora to Whaea Kataraina and Rod Enoke, for organizing and looking after us on this journey. We couldn't have asked for better people to accompany us.



Kāhui Ako Conference

On Tuesday 5 June our school will be hosting the first inaugural Devonport-Takapuna Kāhui Ako Conference. This Community of Learning initiative involves teachers and support staff from Takapuna Grammar, Belmont Intermediate and Bayswater, Belmont, Devonport, Stanley Bay and Vauxhall primary schools. The focus of the day is building learning focused relationships within our schools and will start with keynote speakers Laurayne Tafa and Dr Michelle Dickinson. Participants will attend a range of workshops on areas such as Leadership, Well being, Building Relationships and being Future Ready.

The main Aims of the conference are to:

- Feel connected to the Kāhui Ako, the people within it, and the Kāhui Ako, framework
- Share effective educational practice that supports teachers in building learning focused relationships
- Apply new learnings to your educational practice in order to improve student outcomes



Year 12 Physical Education Camp

The weather gods must have been shining down on us this year as our Year 12 PE camp took off without a hitch! We departed on Sunday 4 March for the Matakana Military Arts Centre with 74 eager students looking forward to our annual two-night camp. This camp is an integral part of the Year 12 course and often proves to be one of the highlights of the year for the students involved.

The main focus of the camp is to develop an understanding of group processes, complete a practical assessment and to demonstrate social responsibility through participating in a range of outdoor activities. Students completed a snorkelling assessment at Goat Island which they had practised prior to camp. They also participated in a three-hour tramp up the beautiful Mt Tamahunga, competed in a challenging yet very rewarding confidence course and took part in several other team building activities.

While at camp the students also fended for themselves by cooking their own meals that they had pre-planned. It was great to see there were not too many instant noodle meals with most of the students opting for more hearty alternatives. During our camps, we don't allow students to have their electronic devices

and it was great to see them talking and having fun with each other without any distractions. Once again, the Year 12 camp proved to be a beneficial experience for the students involved. With new friendships made and self-confidence gained, the students returned to camp tired, but happy. We commend the students for their positive attitude and behaviour while away. Also, a huge thank you must go to all of the staff involved in the running of the camp.



International Students' field trip: Motuihe Island



It was a beautiful day when 20 students went to Motuihe Island for a tree planting activity, led by DP Mr Brian Wynn, Korean Counsellor Mr Andrew Park, Principal's PA Ms Sharon-Smith Tohu and International Student Leader Seung Hyun Lim.

The students enjoyed this energetic outdoor activity, with a beautiful island atmosphere and a sausage BBQ. A volunteers' certificate was presented by the Motuihe Island Trust. It is hoped as many, if not more students will make themselves available for the next tree planting experience in September on Motutapu Island.



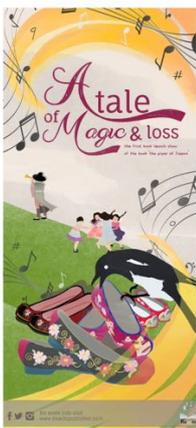
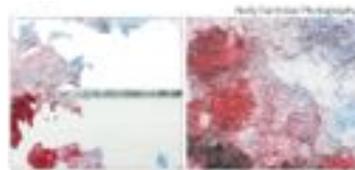
Visual Arts Scholarship Recipients

“It is the unknown that excited the ardour in Scholars” —Wallace Stevens

Earlier this year eleven Takapuna Grammar students from 2017 were awarded twelve Visual Arts NZQA Scholarships. This award provides recognition and a monetary reward of \$500 to high achieving students, usually in their last year of schooling.

These pages feature the work of those eleven Grammar students; all highly committed, creative individuals working in the fields of Design, Painting or Photography. Through their art making, each of them explored an area of personal interest. Over the duration of a year they were required to produce insightful artwork that also demonstrated lateral thinking and rich investigative research. This had to be evident on their three-panel NCEA folio in an accompanying eight-page workbook.

Special mention must be made of Louise Wigram and Nellie Farnillioe who achieved this ward in Year 12, and Annabel Kim who completed two successful scholarship submissions, in Paint and Design.



Special Education Students unveil Art Piece



On the 26th of February Mrs Nixon came to the Special Education Department to unveil the mosaic that we had been working on for the past few months. We created tiles from pottery clay and included them into a big artwork to display on our wall in the courtyard. It was a great experience to see all the pieces come together into one and we were amazed by the end result. We joined forces, got our hands dirty and persevered while we worked together towards what we can now proudly display to greet visitors to our department. After the unveiling, we treated Mrs Nixon and a few guests to morning tea and snacks that we had prepared ourselves. You are most welcome to drop in to see our handiwork at any time.



Board of Trustees

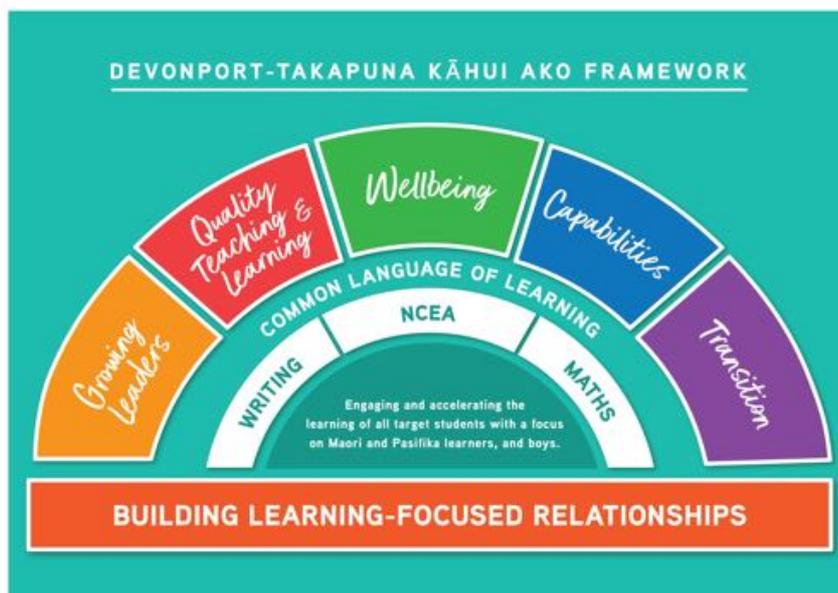
2018 is turning out to be another busy year for the TGS Board of Trustees. As usual, our primary focus is on governance that supports the well-being and achievements of students and staff. A particular area of activity this year is engagement with the Devonport-Takapuna Kahui Ako, also known as the Community of Learning (COL). The COL is a Ministry of Education-led collaborative consisting of seven local schools: Bayswater, Belmont, Devonport, Stanley Bay and Vauxhall Primary Schools, Belmont Intermediate School and Takapuna Grammar School. The COL provides a framework for local schools and educators to work alongside the community to raise achievement of all young people by sharing, teaching, learning and supporting one another. In addition to a great deal of work within and across the schools on student well-being and achievement, in 2018 the COL is developing its strategic plan, has made a submission to the Auckland Council on its Long Term Plan and in June will be holding a conference at TGS to allow teachers in COL schools to gather in one place and share ideas. The TGS Board is very excited by the opportunities presented by the COL (for example, sharing information about student progress, and streamlining students' transitions between schools). More information about COL activities can be found at

<https://devonportcol.blogspot.co.nz>

Another area of significant interest for the Board is the ongoing work to

improve and enhance the physical environment and facilities. Work on the Main Building is ongoing, and we look forward to getting full use of the building in 2019. In the meantime, students and staff have been enjoying the fine facilities in the handful of classrooms that are completed, as well as enjoying being able to use Te Poho (the Hall) for a variety of events. The focus of the Board is now shifting to other development opportunities, including possible upgrades to other teaching and learning areas, and collaboration with Belmont Intermediate School to develop a unified vision for sports and cultural facilities in our schools. There will be opportunities later in the year for the wider school community to contribute to discussions about the future of our facilities. I encourage you all to take advantage of these opportunities; watch the school newsletters for further information.

Finally, thanks to those who took part in the recent consultation meetings with the Principal and Board members, which were focused around updates on progress against the Strategic Plan and on improving communication with the school community. The Board is always pleased to hear from students, staff, parents and caregivers about their experience in and of the school, and to get suggestions for improvements. There will be other opportunities to join consultation meetings later in the year; again, keep your eye on the school newsletters for more information.



PTA News

Our annual dance was another resounding success this month and attracted close to 200 "PARDI GRAS" patrons and many new parents. It was excellent to see the teachers having a blast! Many thanks once again to all those who supported this fun event and congratulations to the various school departments who will benefit from the proceeds. Huge thanks once again to Andrea Charlett-Green and her band *Ran for Cover* for entertaining us until after midnight. We sold out of refreshments and at various stages of the night nearly everybody in the hall was up on the dance floor. Our next event is our Comedy Night taking place in September. Look out for ticket sale information – this is bound to be yet another sold out function. Get a group of friends together and book a table. Please note that this is an R18 event. Thanks again for helping the PTA support TGS students.





Just Hanging Around

AN EXHIBITION BY TAKAPUNA GRAMMAR SENIOR ART STUDENTS showcasing paintings, drawings, mixed media and digital artworks

23rd July - 4th August at Lake House

community celebration Sunday 29th July 12.30 - 3pm

Tuesday - Friday 9.30am - 3.30pm, Saturday & Sunday 10am - 2pm
37 Fred Thomas Drive, Takapuna, Auckland 0622
09 486 4877 www.Lakehousearts.org.nz

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