



## Greetings

2017 has been a very busy year. We welcomed 15 returning girls, 27 new girls, and 6 new and returning staff member to the International Department. We have had several events, such as outings with international students from other schools, stalls in the school fair, and the International Week. All of our new girls have adapted to their life at Columba College, and all of our senior students have been working very hard to achieve the grades they aim for in NCEA.

Miu Iida-International Prefect Year 13

## School

### SCHOOL FAIR

The 2017 Columba College Fair was held on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April. It was a quite big event for the international department to raise money. We raised over \$800!! All the international girls supported, contributed and gave a big assistance through our own effort. We cooked and sold a variety of delicious foods from different countries. We are proud of our work for a worthy cause. We can gain the experience to the community and win the spirit of teamwork and friendships. All the girls enjoyed the event and gained a lot from this social worthy course.

Anqi Wang-Year 12



### THE ICE CREAM GALS

As part of Year13 Young Enterprise project, The Ice Cream Gals proudly present Freeze Dried Ice Cream. By freeze drying, we have created a light, crunchy, sweet treat that can be eaten at anytime, anywhere, as it does not melt until it reaches your mouth! We won the local Young Enterprise competition and optimistically are running up for the Regional competition. Our product has been launch by a very special guest, Bill English, New Zealand's Prime Minister, in August 2017 and has been presented and sold to the market successfully.

Aekkarin Tippayaratprontawee-Year 13



### FOUNDATION DINNER

On August of 2017, the school hosted a Columba College foundation dinner with the Prime Minister. Prefects were asked to serve dinner, and as the International Prefect and the International Boarding Prefect, Yuka and I had the privilege of attending the foundation dinner.

Miu Iida-Year 13

## YEAR 10 ECONOMICS – MARKET DAY

Tanya Prasertwongse-Year 10

This term in Year 10 I have had the experience of doing the young enterprise project in Economics class. My group hasn't begun to sell its product yet because we haven't had Market Day. But I think it's challenging and interesting – my group has made colourful pencils to sell at Market Day.



## GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP

On 12 September 2017, we went to visit a dairy farm. It was rainy and windy that day, not a good day to visit a farm! However, our girls had a lot of fun, and still learnt a lot of stuff.

At the farm, they told us the history of the farm. When our girls heard this is a farm built in 1952, they were so surprised. After all no one can imagine that is already an “old” farm. The owner also showed us how that farm worked. We saw the milking machine and he also explained how those machines worked. Our girls were quite interested about that, because many of them hadn't been to a dairy farm like this before.

When we arrived at the farm, the owner told us there was a calf about to be born and he took us to see the mother cow and the calf being born. The mother cow had already tried to get the little calf out of her body for a long time and she had no idea what she was going to do.

The farmer said if the calf stays in mother cow's body for a long time, it is very harmful to itself also for the mother cow. So the owner decided to move the mother cow to shed and he used a tool to expand cows body then used rope to pull calf out of her body. When the baby cow





came out the mother cow she gave us a howl. Our girls had never seen a new life be born before. Some of them were quite scared to see this spectacle, however some of them were trying to take a picture or a video. That was a lot of fun!

Kristine Wang-Year 11



## ART

Works by Yuka Hanato and Aoi Adacha – Year 13 Painting



Aoi Adacha



Aoi Adacha



Yuka Hanato

Aoi was part of the recent Celebrate show at the Dunedin Art school and Yuka has been artist of the week on the Columba Humanities page and has also been exhibited at Spelt bakery.

### CHINESE-CALIGRAPHY

Earlier this term 76 Columba College Chinese language students took part in the 8<sup>th</sup> New Zealand Chinese Calligraphy Competition (2017) organised by the Confucius Institute at the University of Canterbury and the International Languages Exchanges and Pathways. Students submitted hard pen calligraphy pieces and/or soft brush calligraphy pieces on Chinese rice paper. Students were judged on their calligraphy skills, word structure, page structure and text meaning.

Ten Columba College students successfully took out 11 prizes in total in the primary and intermediate/secondary sections. The results are as follows:

Intermediate/secondary non-native speaker results: Yuka Hanato (Y13) 1st in soft brush and 2nd= pen, Kana Aoshima (Y11) 1st in pen, Hannah Prout (Y12) 3rd= in pen, Sunjung Yang (Y11) 3rd= in pen

Intermediate/secondary native speaker results: Anqi Wang (Y12) 3rd= in pen, Mabel Lee (Y7) 3rd= soft brush



Primary non-native speaker hard pen results: Alice Johnston (Y6) 1st, Evie Auchinvole & Zara Pratley (Y6) 2<sup>nd</sup>=, Clara Ballantyne (Y6) 3rd=

Ms Stirling and Miss Zhang are extremely proud of these students' results and would like to congratulate everyone on their success.

Lauren Stirling (Chinese Teacher)

**Yuka Hanato (Year 13)**

Idiom from the story The Three Kingdoms  
"To see someone in a new light"

## **ORCHESTRA**

We all play instruments and Mr Madden teaches us. We like playing the instruments and enjoy the music. We play on Monday and Thursday mornings. We practice at the Caroline Freeman theatre. The morning practice time is only 50 minutes from 8 o'clock to 8:50 pm, but it is very fun playing various songs.

There are 34 people in the orchestra. The musical instruments we play in the orchestra are Saxophone, Clarinet, Oboe, Flute, Trumpet, Horn, Trombone, Contrabass, Cello, Viola and Violin.

Rena Okuno-Year 10

## **CHOIR**

This year I joined the Columba College Junior Choir because I really enjoy singing. During the year we have had lots of singing events. We went to the Big Sing in the Dunedin Town Hall, the annual Columba service in Knox Church, Lullabies in Knox church, and on Monday September 11 I sung with other Dunedin school students and orchestras. We only have the Christmas Carol service left in December. All the singing festivals have given me good memories. Sometimes it was hard and I felt tired because remembering words was a bit difficult for me. Sometimes the songs were in German, but Mr Madden and Mr Harry taught the Junior Choir very well so I could do it. I am very thankful that I am had a good time in the choir. The Choir is very hard work but I enjoy it and hopefully I will join the choir next year too. I think the choir is very good to help improve our English because choir gives me many chances to talk with other people and I can learn lots of new words from the songs.

Serim Woo-Year 10

## **INTERNATIONAL BASKETBALL**

This year, I am a captain of the International Basketball team. At first, I was very nervous about this role because I did not expect to be a captain. I thought I was not able to handle such a big responsibility. But I was very blessed with great teammates and an amazing teacher, Mr Williams. So I am very glad to be a captain of this wonderful team. We always supported each other and enjoyed all games and practices. Throughout the year, we gained lots of experience through several practices and games. This is a good platform to get many international girls involved and raise team spirits. All the girls enjoyed it so much.

Aoi Adachi-Year 13





## BADMINTON

I've joined the Badminton Social Team for one term with Fern, Rose and Jasmine. Every week we went to St. Hilda's (a girls' school in Dunedin) to have a competition with different school teams. It was fun to play with different people. They were nice and they made my badminton skills improve. I've made many friends during this badminton activity. I liked to play for Columba College and I love to play with my teammates. They were good players. I've learnt teamwork and badminton skills from this activity. It was the best. I won't forget it. It was a very good experience for me.

Samantha Wan -Year 11

## EDOGAWA GIRLS

MY TERM AT COLUMBA BY NANAMI UEKUSA-Year 11

My name is Nanami Uekusa from Edogawa Girl's High School in Tokyo in Japan. I have been studying at Columba during Term 3. I have experienced a lot. I went to ski camp, the swimming pool, and to a farm on a school trip. I also joined the international basketball team. My teammates were so nice and I enjoyed this club. The think I liked the most are friends and morning tea. My friends at Columba are very nice and I love them very much. I also enjoyed the waffles and the bake sale. It was really nice. I had a lot of fun during my stay. I wanted to stay here more, but time flies when you are having fun! I want to say thank you to everyone.

MY TIME AT COLUMBA BY KANO KOMIYAMA-Year 11

I enjoyed school life at Columba College. I was surprised how all the students are positive and active. When I couldn't understand English, someone always helped me. I made friends at ESOL. I like them – they are very kind to me and they taught me their languages – Chinese, Korean and Thai. Sometimes I also became a Japanese teacher. My host family are lovely people. I have been very happy to meet them and I have been glad to stay at their house – they are a second home to me. Studying English is very hard for me, but I have enjoyed it. When I go home to Japan I'm going to tell the Edogawa High School girls that "Columba is fantastic!!"

## Social

### YEAR 12 & 13 SCHOOL FORMAL

My last formal at Columba was wonderful and I had a lot of fun. My friends all dressed up gorgeously and they were really beautiful. The atmosphere was pretty grand and I could see a different side of friends. Generating new people and knowing more about other schools and cultures. We started by having a tasty meal, then, we enjoyed dancing and taking photos. I was bathing in the afterglow of the formal for a while. It was one of the best times I've had at Columba. I really appreciate this opportunity given by Columba College.

Aoi Adachi-Year 13





JOHN MCGLASHAN FORMAL



## FUN DAY WITH JOHN MCGLASHAN



### SKIING

'Ski Camp' by Kana Aoshima-Year 11

We went to ski camp on 4<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> of August. We skied at the Coronet Peak, which is in Queenstown. On the way to Queenstown I really enjoyed beautiful views. When we got there it was really hard work to move all the stuff from bus to the hut because it was really slippery and heavy. I can't remember how much I slipped in front of the hut.

However, inside the hut it was really nice and warm. We got together in the living room every night and played many traditional games. It was a really good opportunity to learn about different cultures and make new friends.

On Saturday we went up to the slopes and we learnt all about skiing or snowboarding. Once we learnt everything we separated into groups of skiing and snowboarding and also into beginners and intermediate and we had instructors for each group. On the first day I tried snowboarding. It was my first time trying snowboarding. We went to the beginner's area. It was a nice and gentle slope with a carpet that brought me to the top of the slope quickly. The instructor was very nice. I learnt many things till morning tea.

After snowboarding lessons some people kept practicing but I changed to skiing. At Coronet Peak we could change from skiing to snowboarding or snowboarding to skiing any time we wanted. Skiing is one of my favourite sports. I tried many different slopes and I really enjoy it. We went to ski camp with the Columba Ski Racing team, so I skied down with them and it was a really good opportunity to learn skiing from Kiwi friends.

We also had lessons on Sunday and Monday morning. For the Thai girls every thing was new but they all got on well and also other girls enjoyed it and improved a lot.



The food we ate after practice was really good. We had a nice, hot breakfast in the morning, sandwich, chips and fruit for lunch, and dinner was the best meal in the day. Mrs Medary and Mrs Reithmaier cooked for us and the menu changed everyday. We had lasagne and pasta.

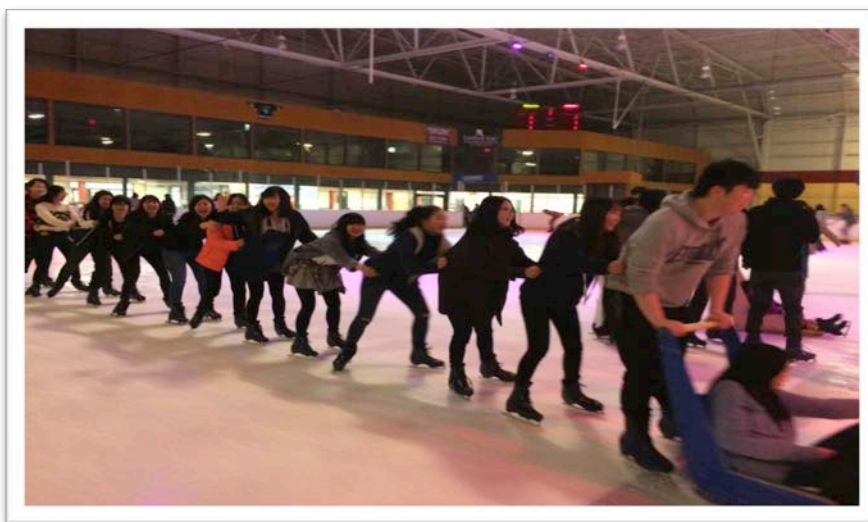
We all had really good time at the Queenstown and learned to live together so we became a big international family.



## SKATING

On 13<sup>th</sup> September, we Columba international girls had a good ice skating time with John McGlashan College international boys and international students from the other schools at the Dunedin Ice Stadium. We did lots of fun games and took a lot of nice photos. We lined up in a long chain to skate around and we also helped the girls who were doing ice-skating for the first time. Nearly all the girls could do it well in the end.

Yan Wang-Year 12







## International Week

### PERFORMANCE

This year, with the increased number of international girls, we had a very full and busy performance day. The aim was to keep it short and entertaining, but still share our culture with the staff and students of Columba College. We had a total of 10 performances, representing 5 countries. Everyone had a stressful time preparing for the performance day, but it was very successful, and enjoyable for both performers and the audience.







## INTERNATIONAL FOOD DAY

Once again International Food Day was a great success with all the International girls planning, preparing and cooking their traditional dishes. We had an amazing selection of dishes including Pad Thai, Green tea ice cream and delicious Korean beef.

Parents of International children throughout the school also contributed generously. It was a very festive occasion enjoyed by the students and staff.

Mrs. Medary



## **CHAPEL**

At the international chapel service, on the 17 August, each country sang and prayed in their own languages. For Japan, they prayed and sang a National song, called Kimigayo. Korean girls prayed all together to God. The girls from China and Hong Kong introduced the teachings of Confucius. In the case of Thailand, they sang a song about their King, a Present from Clod of Earth. At the end, all the international girls sang a song "Amazing Grace" together.

Bella Han-Year 11

## **JUNIOR SCHOOL COSTUME DAY**



## **Clubs**

### **INTERNATIONAL CLUB**

This year international club has been run differently from previous years. Every Tuesday, we would gather up and have lunch together. With more girls participating – both international and Kiwi, we have done numbers of activity as well as discussing future events such as the Columba College Fair, food day, international week and so on.

Aekkarin Tippayaratprontawee-Year 13

### **ENGLISH CLUB**

This year at lunchtimes on a Thursday we have been having English Club, which is an opportunity for the girls to practice their English skills in a fun and relaxed setting. We have covered many topics this year, including movie and book genres, current events, and idioms. We have also been working with conversation cards discussing the ways in which different cultures view things such as gift giving, greetings, manners and politeness. Around exam time we also use these sessions to review exam topics for Social Studies and English, or any other work that the girls want to revise.

Dr Henderson

### **IELTS**

IELTS continues in Term 3. We have several students sitting IELTS in September. IELTS is usually run on a Thursday lunchtime with several one-to-one sessions for Speaking and feedback. The focus is to develop skills for all four assessments: Speaking, Reading, Writing and Listening. So far in 2017 all IELTS candidates have passed their IELTS.



## **OCESOL**

### Speech Examinations with Speech NZ

Every term Columba College enters International students to sit formal examinations with Speech NZ's Mrs Pauline Douglas. We have had great success with many Distinction and Merit awards. Subjects covered by our wonderful speakers have included ancient sites, interesting holidays, people have influenced us (mothers always feature), and food! Term 3 examinations are to be held Wednesday September 27 with Mrs Sarah Matheson. We have 13 students sitting speech examinations with several doing two.

## **EDICM**

### EDICM and Future School Heritage Speech Competition Roncalli College Timaru

Honor Bercinskas-Gauld represented Columba College at the finals of the EDICM Heritage Speech Competition. She competed against Craighead Diocesan, John McGlashan College, Otago Boys' High School, Roncalli College, and St Hilda's Collegiate. Winners were David Cannon from JMC and Anne Newmarch from Roncalli College. Honor spoke of her grandmother's 'cultural' six year journey from Bialystok in far Northern Poland to Siberia to Uzbekistan to Iran to Wellington. Huge thanks to EDICM and Future School for creating this generous (and moving) speech competition. A special thanks to Sue Medary for organising Columba and Jill Walker for judging Columba candidates.





# Service

## SERVICE AT MONTESSORI

For the last year, I have been volunteering at the Maori Hill Montessori pre-school. Every week on a Tuesday for one hour, I go to the Montessori and play with 20 to 30 children. We play tag outside. I read books to the children, we play with toys and sometime I eat snacks with children. I started volunteering because my agent suggested I volunteer. My ESOL teacher introduced me to the Montessori and I started last year in the Term 3 holidays. I enjoy my volunteering because I like playing with children and when I play with the children time goes fast. In the Montessori, they have a big cherry blossom tree and in spring, I can see beautiful cherry blossoms while I play with children and this is my most favourite time. The experience has helped me improve my English and has given me confidence. I have also learnt about preschools in other countries and about the Montessori system.

Kiki Iseya-Year 10

## ROAD PATROL AND YVETTE WILLIAMS

At Columba College, all students have the opportunity to give back to the community. Through volunteering activities, girls experience many things that they cannot experience at school, and learn to appreciate what they have.

Miu lida-Year 13



## Boarding

At the Columba College Boarding House, 18 international girls live in the place with more than 90 local Kiwi girls. International students vary in age from Year 9 to Year 13. We enjoy living in the boarding house, as it is a good opportunity to improve our English and to experience the true culture of New Zealand. Also, boarding house organises several fun events each term. This term we had the swap dinner with other schools, a Masterchef competition, a Neon theme dinner and a PJ party.

Yuka Hanato-Year 13





## Staff



Mrs Moore, Ms Bercinkas, Mrs Medary, Mrs Stirling, Dr Henderson, Mr Murray



Dr Henderson and Ms Bercinkas  
off to class



Mrs Medary and Shana Au  
catching up in Auckland

### International Director

2017 has been another very busy but exciting year in the International Department. We have been lucky to have a highly qualified support staff who have helped the students with their academic as well as pastoral well-being. We are now heading into the serious time of year with examinations and NCEA looming. The girls are focused and preparing well to complete the year successfully.

Year 7 students are off to Camp, which will be a great opportunity for them to mix with their peers in a different setting and gain confidence in the outdoors.

We hope you enjoy this newsletter and we look forward to your comments and/or feedback. Again, I am available during the holiday breaks to assist you with student needs and any other enquires.

All the very best,

Sue Medary  
Director of International Students  
Columba College