



Work in progress in the former Plunket Rooms



Columba College

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Issue 6, 2006

Dear Parents and Students,

The Opening of the Marsh Sports Centre on Tuesday, 18th July at 10.00 a.m. by the Governor-General will be a highlight of the term.

All present parents have been invited to attend the Opening and students will also all be involved.

During the holidays the interior of the former Plunket Rooms has been re-painted, toilets and handbasin upgraded, carpet laid in the teacher's office, whiteboard and pinboards installed, and electrical wiring and heating upgraded. It will certainly make a very attractive Visual Arts facility.

When the temperatures improve, the exterior will also be painted.

“Meet the Teacher” Functions this term

Junior School	Thursday, 27th July 3.30 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.
Years 7 and 8	Tuesday, 1st August 4.30 p.m. to 8.00 p.m.
Years 9 and 10	Tuesday, 15th August 4.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.
Years 11 to 13	Thursday, 10th August 4.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.

Note: The Years 9 to 13 mid-year reports will be posted on Friday, 21st July and the “Meet the Teacher” functions have been arranged to fit in with the return of Mrs Paterson and Mrs Klobukowska from their respective leaves.

Open Day – Thursday, 20th July, 9.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.

Our Open Day this year is in the first week of term with the School (Years 1 to 13) open slightly longer for visitors and tours of the boarding-house also possible throughout the morning.

All tours will begin at the School Office.

If you know of people interested in the School for their children, please mention the Open Day to them and the opportunity to tour the School.

2007 Scholarships – Academic, Music and Sport

Applications for the above Scholarships close on Monday, 17th July with application forms available from the School Office.

Girls not currently enrolled are eligible to sit the Scholarship examinations for Years 7 and 9 2007 on Friday, 21st July. There are four Academic Scholarships offered for Year 9 2007 (two to day girls and two to boarders) and two Academic Scholarships for Year 7 2007.

The Music Scholarship is open to a student in Years 9 to 13 2007, and the Sports Scholarship to a Year 9 student in 2007.

Survey on Bullying (Parents and Students)

Thank you very much to everyone who responded to the postal survey. There were approximately 185 envelopes returned.

The replies are being analysed at present, and we hope to have a summary available for parents and students at the end of July.

Before the end of term, there were three “buzz group” opportunities (45 minutes each) arranged for students in Years 7 to 13 to discuss bullying (Years 7 and 8 in their form classes and Years 9 to 13 in small House groups).

Each group had a recorder who handed in a sheet with ideas and suggestions from the group which are also being collated and will be actioned as appropriate. The collated ideas and suggestions will be made available to all the girls in Years 7 to 13.

Bullying is damaging to the victim and the bully, and we need to do all we can to ensure that the girls are very aware of just how hurtful and damaging it can be. Texts, e-mails, MSN have all added another dimension to bullying and new strategies need to be developed to help students to cope with the ease with which it is possible to target another person.

Most bullying has witnesses, and the strategies we develop also need to include ways to strengthen the ability and confidence of students to do something about anything of concern they may witness or become aware of.

A physically, emotionally and culturally safe school environment for all is the prime objective of this exercise.

Reminder ...

“Earth Sea Sky” 100% merino navy blue zip polo top

Optional sports uniform item for Years 7 to 13 students

Samples available for sizing in the School Office

Orders to be completed by interval on
Wednesday, 19th July

Russell McVeagh School Law Scholarships

The Russell McVeagh School Law Scholarship and mentoring scheme was introduced in 1999, targeting outstanding school leavers who intended studying law at the universities of Auckland, Waikato, Victoria, Canterbury and Otago. 14 young people throughout New Zealand were awarded scholarships in 1999, a further 13 in 2000, 15 in 2001, 18 in 2002, 17 in 2003, 17 in 2004 and 24 in 2005.

The Russell McVeagh School Law Scholarship package comprises:

- a \$1,000 grant for the first year of tertiary education and, once accepted for Law School, \$2,000 for every year law is studied (subject to high academic standards being maintained)
- ongoing mentoring and support from a Russell McVeagh partner or solicitor
- work exploration opportunities for each scholarship recipient in either the Wellington or Auckland office
- summer clerk positions in either the Wellington or Auckland office in their penultimate year of law study.

Selection Criteria

We are seeking applicants with the following attributes:

- a superior academic record, with first-class potential at tertiary level
- excellent inter-personal, oral and written communication skills
- proven leadership ability
- dedicated current involvement in extra-curricular and community activities
- ambition, commitment, enthusiasm and integrity.

Candidates need to send a completed application form with support material to Russell McVeagh by Friday, 18th August 2006.

Application forms are available from the Principal.

RECOMMENDED READS

Years 11 to 13

Forest of Dreams – Sophie Masson
Diary of an Ordinary Woman – Margaret Forster
The Next Big Thing – Anita Brookner
A Room with a View – E.M. Forster

Years 9 and 10

Brief Candle – Kate Pennington
A Journey to Distant Mountains – Jill Dobson
The Ring – Tania Kelly Roxborough
Small Steps – Louis Sachar



From the Library



A selection of the wonderful new titles given on Library Day:

for our younger readers...

Down the Back of the Chair – Margaret Mahy

The 'Listener' reviewer writes that this is 'one of the best picture books of the year, no question'.

Pearlie and the Big Doll – Wendy Harmer

Pearlie is a kind-hearted fairy who lives in Jubilee Park.

Hairy Hezekia – Dick King-Smith

Another humorous animal adventure story from this award-winning author.

Three of Diamonds – Anthony Horowitz

Three Diamond Brothers mystery stories from this hugely popular children's writer.

The Whizbanger that Emmental Built – Reuben Schwarz

This New Zealand author has an inventive and quirky sense of humour which makes this book a funny and moving read. A sequel is planned.

and for older readers.....

Lost Property – James Moloney

This award-winning author has written a brilliant and compelling story of what it means for an ordinary family to love, and lose, and find again.

A Respectable Girl – Fleur Beale

An historical novel set in New Zealand and England. Hannah searches for the truth about the mother she has never known. Published in 2006.

Darkhenge – Catherine Fisher

A reviewer writes: " *Darkhenge* is the finest young adult novel I have read for a while. A brilliant writer".

The Garbage King – Elizabeth Laird

Shortlisted for the Carnegie Medal, this novel was inspired by the author's own experiences among the street children of Addis Ababa.

The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas – John Boyne

Published this year, it is an extraordinary and poignant story.

Small Steps – Louis Sachar

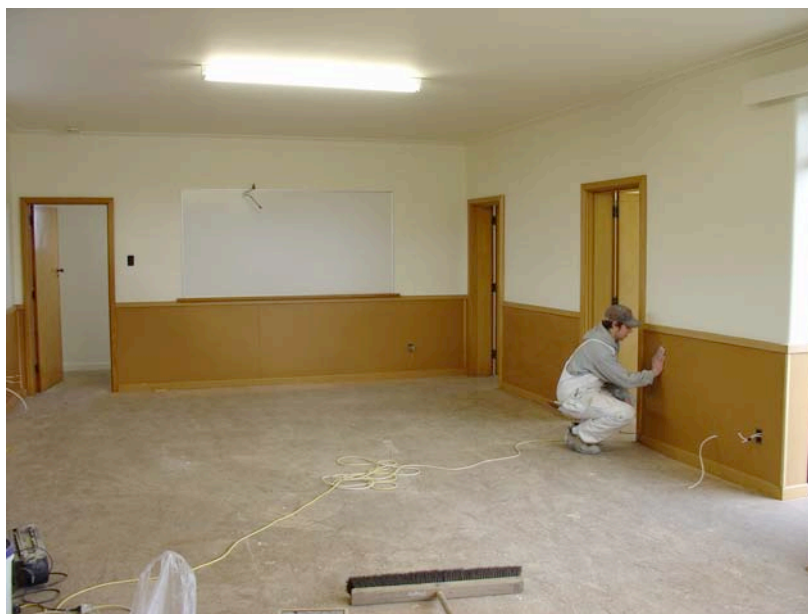
By the author of the best-selling *Holes*, this is a wonderful and funny fast-paced adventure story.

Brother Fish – Bryce Courtenay

Inspired by real events, the author tells the story of three people from very different backgrounds. All they have in common is a tough beginning in life.

Hilary Andrewes
School Librarian

PLANTINGS AROUND THE SPORTS CENTRE



Another view of the work in progress in the former Plunket Rooms

TERM THREE

... Dates for noting

WEEK 1

Monday, 17th July	8.30 a.m. School resumes for all Year levels.
Tuesday, 18th July	10.00 a.m. Opening of the Marsh Sports Centre by Her Excellency the Governor-General of New Zealand, The Honourable Dame Silvia Cartwright, PCNZM, DBE.
Thursday, 20th July	9.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m. Open Day (Years 1 to 13 and the boarding-residences). A light lunch will be available in the dining-room at 1.00 p.m. for country parents and daughters.
Friday, 21st July	9.30 a.m. Years 7 and 9 2007 Scholarship Examinations. Year 9 – Recreation Room. Year 7 – Frances Ross Common Room.
Saturday, 22nd July	Year 13 Formal at the Glenroy.

WEEK 2

Thursday, 27th July	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Australian Mathematics Competition.• Australian National Chemistry Quiz.• Junior School “Meet the Teacher” function.
Friday, 28th July	Columba College Science Fair.
Sunday, 30th July	10.00 a.m. Highgate Church Service in Constance Hall. All welcome.
Sunday, 30th July – Tuesday, 1st August	Winter Quadrangular Tournament hosted by St. Hilda’s.

WEEK 3

Monday, 31st July	Otago Athletics Competition in the Dunedin Town Hall.
Monday, 31st July – Friday, 4th August	Art Week at Columba.
Friday, 4th August	Closing date for 2007 enrolments.

WEEK 4

Monday, 7th August	International Week at Columba.
Monday, 7th – Sunday, 13th August	Aurora Otago Science and Technology Fair (Prize-Giving on Sunday, 13th August at 3.00 p.m.)
Wednesday, 9th and Thursday, 10th August	NZ Speech Board Examinations at school.

WEEK 5

Monday, 14th – Friday, 18th August	South Island Tournament Week.
Wednesday, 16th August	Research Roadshow Crash Course (full day) at school.

Thursday, 17th August	Blood Donations (shuttle service will operate to Dunedin Donor Centre): 9.00 a.m. to 12 noon.
Friday, 18th – Sunday, 20th August	Proposed ski weekend for International students.
<u>WEEK 6</u>	
Monday, 21st – Friday, 25th August	Week of Inter-House Music Competition.
Monday, 21st August	Hills Cluster Cross Country (held during this week).
Tuesday, 22nd August	City & Guilds (Pitmans) Word Processing Techniques – Level 2
<u>WEEK 7</u>	
Monday, 28th August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 9 Ski Camp (28th August to 1st September). • City & Guilds (Pitmans) Word Processing Techniques – Level 1
Thursday, 31st August	Entries close for Years 7 to 13 Creative Writing Competition.
Friday, 1st September	NCEA fees to be in to School Office.
<u>WEEK 8</u>	
Sunday, 10th September	10.00 a.m. “College Sunday” at Knox Church, attended by all students in Years 7 to 13. All welcome.
<u>WEEK 9</u>	
Friday, 15th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.00 p.m. Junior School Spring Service at Maori Hill Presbyterian Church. • All NCEA fees to be paid to NZQA, Wellington by this date (no refunds after this date). Final entry files due with NZQA by 15th September as well.
Saturday, 16th September	House Christmas Dinner.
Sunday, 17th September	Special tea for boarders at Maori Hill Presbyterian Church.
<u>Week 10</u>	
Wednesday, 20th September	7.30 p.m. School Musical in Constance Hall – “No, no, Nanette”.
Thursday, 21st September	7.30 p.m. School Musical in Constance Hall – “No, no, Nanette”.
Friday, 22nd September	3.35 p.m. Term Three ends.

We hope everyone has enjoyed a good break these holidays and that the term ahead will be a positive and educationally purposeful one for all students.

Yours sincerely,



Elizabeth L. Wilson
Principal
12th July, 2006

The 16 SAFETY RULES for using a mobile

Be responsible...

01. Only send things you'd be happy to get yourself - don't send words or pictures that might upset or offend others.
02. Before you send something, always stop and think about how the other person will feel when they get it.
03. Before you take a PXT® of someone, ask them if it's okay to. IF they say no, don't do it. You also need to ask permission if you want to send the PXT® to someone else. Once you push send, you lose control of what happens to that PXT.
04. Respect others' privacy - don't give out their personal details without their permission.
05. If you get a TXT that offers you something for nothing, or threatens the safety of your mobile, it's probably a hoax or scam - check it out on our website www.vodafone.co.nz

Be careful...

06. Never give your personal details (like your name, address, phone number, school or photo) to anyone you don't know and trust.
07. Don't send, or put on the internet, photos or personal information about yourself, or others, without talking with your parent or caregiver first.
08. Don't answer random TXT or PXT - only reply to people you know and trust.

09. If you get a message that makes you feel uncomfortable, do not reply to it. If the content is worrying, talk with an adult you can trust.
10. If you keep getting them talk to an adult you trust and call NetSafe (0508 638 723).
11. If you get a message threatening your life or safety - call the Police straight away.

Be safe...

12. Remember chat buddies may not be who they say they are.
13. Always use a chat nickname so other chatters don't know your personal details. Don't feel pressured to give your details out - friends don't pressure friends!
14. If you're not comfortable with a chat room conversation or message use the ignore function - all chat rooms have one and you can use it to stop certain people contacting you.
15. Don't meet chat friends in person - if you really want to, tell a parent or caregiver and always go with a group of friends, take your mobile with you and don't get left there alone.

Got your licence?

16. Don't talk or TXT with your mobile when you are driving. Always pull over - or let your mobile take a message for you!

staying safe

It's important children know how to use a mobile responsibly and how to keep themselves safe. Vodafone reckons it's a team effort - us, you and the person using the mobile.
