

AVONDALE COLLEGE

# AVCOL

## *newsletter*



Issue 1 > 2012

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**OUTSTANDING**  
Academic Results

New Health  
Clinic opens

**SPORTING**  
highlights

**polyfest 2012**





Dear Parents and Caregivers,  
The first term of the 2012 school year began positively with a settled and purposeful beginning for all students. The strong NCEA and Cambridge results resulted in some changes in students' subject choices at enrolment and we were pleased to adjust to these changes and welcome all our students back to school.

Our Cambridge classes excelled academically, once again, with top results at IGCSE, AS and A levels, including the vast majority of Year 12 students gaining University Entrance a full year earlier than required. The

excellent pass rate in IGCSE (86%) continues to give us great pride in our students' achievements, as has the presentation of a high achiever award for Mathew Kendall at the NZ awards ceremony for Cambridge qualifications (a Year 12 student at the time of entry) who topped all other New Zealand students in his A level New Zealand History paper.

Our NCEA students also performed strongly with an especially marked improvement at Year 11 (notably in literacy and numeracy), with lifts in performance being also evident at other levels.

New Zealand Scholarship results were also up, with achievements being well above the national achievements rates. Scholarships (including Outstanding Scholarships) were achieved in a wide range of subjects including English, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Mathematics (Calculus), Mathematics (Statistics) Chinese, Samoan, Dance, Drama, Geography, German, Design, Media Studies and Photography.

Interestingly, when the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) publish their achievement tables for numeracy, literacy, University Entrance and Level 1, 2 and 3 data, they do not recognise Cambridge students who sit one NCEA paper. In fact, these students are regarded as 'fails' in the published statistics as their success in the alternative Cambridge pathway is not recognised at all. As both Cambridge and short stay international students enter these partial NCEA courses they counted as fails in our end of year data summaries which misrepresents our performance to a marked degree.

In the case of Cambridge it is a double damage as their Cambridge UE is not reported but their NCEA non-achievement in UE (although never attempted) is reported as a fail.

Despite repeated requests to correct this gross misrepresentation of our data, NZQA still persist in their current (and inaccurate) practices. The lack of accuracy involved is disappointing and unjust given that NZQA knows the problem exists but have yet to modify their approach or publically and explicitly acknowledge this problem in their release of the data.

While it is pleasing that this has no impact on the individual students themselves it does markedly distort the reporting of Avondale College's academic performance as published in the national media and in ministry reports. We are currently engaged in further negotiations with NZQA to correct the release of such misinformation and I hope to be able to report progress on this matter in the future.

The Avondale College rebuild programme is now entering the final stage this year. The stage two rebuild classrooms opened at the commencement of the year. Students and staff are now enjoying the new Science faculty as well as the new Social Sciences, Health and Physical Education faculties and Dance studio. The old A and B blocks have now been demolished and the language building is now being converted into a new student canteen. Some weeks ago the building company completing the ground works for Stage Three went out of business which has caused some delays in completion work but we will be going to tender for the final stage of the rebuild in the very near future.

Our 2012 prefects are displaying excellent teamwork, pride, spirit and a sense of responsibility that has gained the respect of the whole school community. We are pleased to confirm that our new Head Girl is Hannah Hoeksema and that the Head Boy is Adeel Surendran. They are supported by a talented group of Deputy Heads: Lauren Burgess, Tom Li, Janelle Moody, Reuben Ofe, Faith Peteru, and Joel Walsham.

We want to extend the warmest of welcomes to all families whose association with Avondale College has just begun. We look forward to getting to know you and, even better, involving you in the life of the college during your son's and daughter's time here. We have a wonderful range of activities at the college and the involvement of parents in supporting these is always welcome.

Each student should now be carrying out regular homework in all subjects. If any student suggests to their parents that they are not receiving a great deal of homework, please take this as an early warning sign and contact the college. We are pleased to respond to any queries or concerns on such matters. Regular meaningful homework has a significant impact on the educational outcomes of all students and we place a high value on this for all our students.

We are looking forward to the next term and the opportunity to work with you and your children to assist them to reach the highest possible levels of educational excellence.

*Brent Lewis*  
Principal

## PREFECTS 2012

Having an entire school community knowing your name and saying hi when they see you may have been a little overwhelming at first, but for newly appointed Head Prefects Adeel Surendran and Hannah Hoeksema, this has been one of best parts of the job so far. "I'm looking forward to meeting more new students," says Hannah. "It's great when people say hi."

The pair have a busy schedule, with demanding academic programmes and co-curricular activities as well as their official duties, but they are loving every minute so far, and are ably supported by their deputies and Deans, Mr Bannister and Ms Elmes.

Congratulations to all who were named as school leaders for 2012.

### HEAD PREFECTS

Hannah Hoeksema  
Adeel Surendran

### DEPUTIES

Lauren Burgess Janelle Moody  
Tom Li Faith Peteru  
Reuben Ofe Joel Walsham

### PREFECTS

Divya Anthraper, Lotima Apolosi, Jonathan Baker, Hamish Birkbeck, Jessica Brown, Freya Bullock, Alycia Chapman, Zoe Chen, Christopher Chung, Amy Dawson, Belinda Dickson, Ivan Fuimaono, Nicholas Gampell, Priscilla Gatoloai, Ayesha Gir, Holly Grey, Xiaoru (Linda) Gu, Kenji Iwamitsu-Holdaway, Emere Joseph, Avenit Kumar, Akash Lal, Kelly Langson, Karly Langson, Joy (Yue) Li, Tuan Anh (Tony) Luu, Nathan Maskell, Briege McAteer, Hannah McDowell, Simon McMillan, Josefo McNamara-Taele, Dean Mitchell, Satriani Mo'ungatonga, Robbie Nathan, Sean Newcombe, Jacob Nuualitiia, Pretesh Patel, Holly Rayner, Taylor Reynolds, Deepali Sharma, Tyler Stoehr, Ashwathy Subramanyan, Shivana Thompson, Christian Tuaifaiva, Dean Ulbrick, Michaela Wakelin, Adara Wood, Riah Yoo



## OUTSTANDING ACADEMIC RESULTS

Avondale College's staff and students can be very proud of their efforts last year, with 35 Scholarship awards, two Outstanding Scholar awards, a Cambridge Top Scholar award, and hundreds of excellent grades being awarded in the 2011 NCEA, Scholarship and Cambridge examinations.

In the NCEA examinations at Level One, 98% of eligible students gained Literacy and 93% of eligible gained Numeracy credits. Over 100 Level One National Certificates were endorsed with Merit and Excellence. Superb results were also achieved at Levels 2 and 3, with 82% of students gaining University Entrance of those who were enrolled in a course that made them eligible for this qualification.

Avondale College received almost twice the national average of Scholarships, with 35 awarded, and two students gaining the top 'Outstanding Scholarship' grade (Elysia Arnold in Design, and Reuben Wilson, Physics), which places them in the top 40-60 students in the country. Five students gained Scholarship in two subjects, and two (Lisa Hillas and Reuben Wilson) gained Scholarship in three subjects. Lisa and Reuben's superb achievement has been recognised by the NZQA with the presentation of a Scholarship Award.

Of particular note is the wide range of subjects that are represented by the Scholarships awarded to Avondale College students. Students achieved highly in maths, sciences, Physical Education, art, languages, literature, music, media, dance and drama. Also of note is that six of the Scholarships were awarded to students who were still in Year 12.

Cambridge examinations results were also outstanding, with Matthew Kendall receiving a Top Scholar award after topping New Zealand in the Year 12 History examination.

86% of Avondale College's IGCSE candidates passed their examinations with A\*-C grades, with a 100% pass rate in Information

and Communication, 90% in Mathematics without Coursework, 89% in English and 89% in Biology.

At AS level (Year 12), 66 candidates gained University Entrance. Nine students were awarded three A's or higher, and four students gained four A's across their subjects ((Matthew Kendall, George Chaozhi, Ly Jane Phea, Kanna Yamasaki).

Excellent results were also seen in the Year 13 Cambridge (AS) examinations, with 79% of students passing with A\*-C grades. The pass rate for Avondale students sitting Geography was excellent, with 91% of students receiving A\*-C grades. Pass rates were also high in Mathematics (85%), Literature in English (81%) and Biology (81%.) Nine students gained three A's or more in their exams, with one student, Rachel Ou, gaining four straight A's across all her subjects.



### NEW ZEALAND'S TOP HISTORY SCHOLAR

Writing four long essays in a three hour AS History exam might have earned Matthew Kendall a sore hand at the time, but it also gained him the top mark in the nationwide Cambridge exam – a result that was honoured at a national awards ceremony in March.

## HEALTH CLINIC

Students who experience illness or injury while at school not only receive expert medical care, but they now also have the benefits of a brand new, purpose built clinic.

The new Health Clinic opened this year in what was the former administration area, and incorporates three rooms with beds, a sluice room, a waiting area and reception, as well as offices for the medical staff.

Registered nurses Hannah Normington and Heather Playle are delighted with the new space. "It's a fabulous environment to work in," says Hannah. "It's contemporary as well as being an easy clinical environment to manage for students or staff with acute illness or injuries."

The extra space has also meant the college has been able to increase the services of the visiting physiotherapist from one morning to three mornings a week.



## BUILDING PROJECT // STAGE 2 OPENS





## COMMERCE

### YOUNG ENTERPRISE UNDERWAY

On Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March students participating in the Lion Foundation Young Enterprise Scheme attended E-Day held at the Trusts Stadium in Henderson.

E-Day was all about introducing students to the Young Enterprise programme, where students manage, develop and run their very own business and yes, earn real money! On the day they were given advice and tips about the makings of a great business and there were lots of prizes to be won. YES students also got the opportunity to meet with top New Zealand business people and get pointers on business ideas and a plan of action for their business. Everyone who participated had a great time, with Avondale College students dominating the questions and competitions, and winning enough candy to last us a month!

In the past Young Enterprise companies have ended up with profits as little as \$50 by the end of the year - which they then have to split amongst their employees. Other groups have been able to cash out as much as \$27,000! Let's hope AVCOL's two businesses have just as much success as them.

E-Day was a great start to the year of business ahead.

By Shalom Pinto  
9GSE



Students rehearse in the brand new Dance Studio which opened this term

## DANCE

Dance students attended the Royal New Zealand's Ballet workshop held at Avondale College in February in which they learnt choreography from the ballet company's latest season called NYC.

They also attended the evening performance of the Royal New Zealand Ballet's NYC at the Civic theatre on the 1st of March. The highlight of the evening had to be the electrifying choreography by Benjamin Millipied - choreographer for the movie 'Black Swan.'

During the last four weeks the Year 13 dance students worked with Simon Watts, professional dancer with Prestige dance crew, in rehearsing a hip hop dance. They performed this piece to the whole school at Rosebank Primary in week nine.

Dance students Taria Tavai, Rayzhaan Van Der Ross and Corbyn Taulealea-Huch competed in the Auckland Regional Champs for Street Dance NZ with their dance crews and qualified for the National Championship Competition held in Term 2.

## DRAMA

In the last week of term Year 13 Drama presented two evenings of "Keep it Kiwi", which were extracts from New Zealand plays. The audience met Ioane and Peter from "Niu Sila", the Rosenberg Sisters, Johnny and Aroha from "The Pohutukawa Tree", Katherine Mansfield and Gurdjieff from "The Rivers of China", Juliet and Pauline from 'Daughters of Heaven', Linnie, Lou and Blossom from "Love Knots" and the parents from "Middle Age Spread".

Senior Drama students will be attending a play at Unitec called "The Dining Room" in the first week of Term 2.

Auditions for the school show "Godspell" will be held in the second week of Term 2 on Friday, May 4.



James Griffin gives a final word to Year 13 Students

## ENGLISH

### POPULAR COLUMNIST VISITS AVONDALE COLLEGE

Year 13 English students were recently treated to a visit by popular columnist James Griffin. Working towards writing their own columns for an NCEA Level 3 assessment, students were entertained by Griffin, whose Final Word column appears in the Saturday Herald's 'Canvas' magazine. Griffin, who also wrote 'Outrageous Fortune' and 'The Almighty Johnsons', spoke about the process of finding ideas for columns and then actually getting those ideas down on paper. Students were able to ask questions and be inspired by a "real live columnist" - a treat indeed.

### TV STARS FOR READING AWARENESS MONTH

To mark New Zealand Book Month, TVNZ produced a fun series of animated short episodes celebrating the teachers, librarians and family members who had inspired students to read.

Seven Avondale College students had the opportunity to participate, and three, Di Kun Ong, and Rochester Zhang from Year 9 and Morgan Rose, Year 10, were then selected to have their stories turned into 15 second animated ads which aired on TVNZ 7 throughout March.

The ads can be viewed on the TVNZ website - search for "My Reading Superhero."



## GEOGRAPHY



Geography students at Muriwai Beach



Geography students have started the year as they mean to go on. Many students have already completed assessment activities and the standard of work is better than ever.

Year 13 Geographers have all had a day at Muriwai Beach - the first group had a fantastic sunny day, the second group were not quite so lucky, but it was great to see the environment just after a storm.

Year 12 Geographers visited the Sky Tower and did geographic research in the CBD. The research groups worked together really well and collected high quality data that will be useful for their assessments.

*Mrs L Watkinson, HOD Geography*

## INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT

At the beginning of Term 1 and Term 3, the International Department take all our new students out for the day, and showcase Auckland. Our trip for the February intake started with a tour around the Auckland War Memorial Museum, and finished with a cultural performance. The show was fantastic and gave our students an insight to our heritage. The afternoon was spent at Mission Bay and Bastion Point.

Our International soccer and basketball teams trained hard during the term in readiness for the competition against the Rangitoto International Students in week 9. Last year in Term 3, both our teams came home with victory and the trophies, so we were pleased to repeat the efforts returning victorious again in Term 1. The captains Kerry (Kai Yue) Bian (basketball) and Victor Pereria (soccer) both worked hard to coach and manage the teams. The teams are a fantastic mix of all our nationalities, and all students have demonstrated commitment to the game and each other.



International Students prepare to take on Rangitoto rivals

## MUSIC

The Music Department has had a busy start to the year, with all music groups well underway.

The Big Band and Jazz Combo are preparing for the Jazz Festival at Tauranga at Easter. Other music groups are also hard at work, with the school Orchestra rehearsing Thursday mornings and afternoons and the Concert Band rehearsing on Wednesday afternoons.

The Choir is rehearsing on Tuesday and Wednesday lunchtimes in preparation for the Big Sing.

The Avondale College Soul band have been invited to perform again at the Titirangi Music Festival on 31 March, and are hard at work rehearsing a number of pieces.

Most itinerant lessons are full but we still have spaces for clarinet, flute, violin, saxophone, trumpet and trombone.

Just a reminder for itinerant students: If you wish to stop lessons you must come to the music office and get a discontinuation of lessons form from Mr Stenbo.





# arts performing ACADEMY

The Performing Arts Academy has begun the year with a bang with both the Year 9 and 10 academies working hard in the areas of Drama, Dance, Jazz and Classical music.

Having had such a successful first year, students in each of the four strands are working towards National exam qualifications as well as performances both in and out of school.

A particular strong point of the Performing Arts Academy is the opportunity for students to experience all of the performance strands as well as learning about the technical aspects of performance including sound, staging and lighting.

We are looking forward to showcasing the talent of the Performing Arts Academy later on in the year.



## TAUREWA

**STUDENTS TAKE A WELL-EARNED BREAK ABOVE THE BLUE LAKE ON THE TONGARIRO CROSSING. KNOWN AS ONE OF NEW ZEALAND'S MOST BEAUTIFUL DAY WALKS, SEVEN BUSLOADS OF YEAR 12 AND 13 STUDENTS HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPERIENCE IT FOR THEMSELVES WHILE ON CAMP THIS TERM.**



Year 10 camps commence next term, with tramping, caving, mountain biking and skiing just some of the options on offer. If your child hasn't signed up for a camp yet, make sure they don't miss out on the amazing experience of Taurewa.

## WEBB ELLIS CUP VISITS AVONDALE COLLEGE

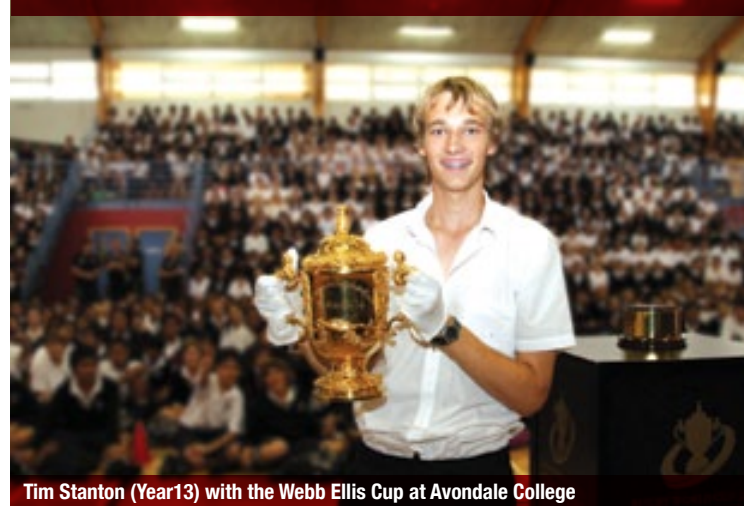
2011's euphoric Rugby World Cup victory was re-lived by hundreds of Avondale College students recently during the 30 minute 'Thank you, New Zealand' presentation in the Halberg Gym.

Sonny Bill Williams even put in an appearance - via a promotional video – but the star of the show was the Webb Ellis Cup itself.

Students and staff packed the Halberg Gym to see the lunchtime presentation, with Auckland Blues player George Moala carrying the cup into the gym wearing the mandatory white gloves. According to protocol only the winning team members are allowed to actually touch the cup.

A number of students answered RWC trivia questions correctly, winning All Blacks posters, but the top prize went to Tim Stanton (Year 13), Delzea Tu'ua (Year 9), and teacher Mr Watson Pita who won the chance to put on the gloves and re-create Richie McCaw's victorious moment.

The cup is on a nationwide tour, and will visit 41 towns and cities and 100 schools.



Tim Stanton (Year13) with the Webb Ellis Cup at Avondale College

## LIBRARY



To welcome our students to 2012 the library chose a murderous theme and created a crime scene.

Year 9 students could enter a competition to complete the list of forensic clues left at the scene of the crime.

There was a display of books on Forensic Science; Crime Scene Investigation; and Murder Mysteries.

## Join in at AVCOL

The Library hosted this lunchtime event. Clubs, Groups and Teams were on display so that students could see the variety of diverse groups available, talk to students and staff involved in the group, and sign up to take part themselves.

This event was a huge success, the library was packed full of students eager to sign up and become involved.

## 40 HOUR FAMINE

Term 1 saw three students, Adara Wood, Nicholas Gambell and Chris Chung go to the Global Convention in Mount Smart Stadium. This year the 40 Hour Famine will go back to the four colour scheme where the students can pick their favourite celebrity and raise money. Students from all over the North Island came together to collate ideas and to get motivated to raise the awareness this year. So look out for when it starts next term and start thinking about YOUR ideas!

TIC: Mrs C Leyland

## ROBOTICS



The Avondale College Binary Blitz Robotics team again competed in the 4th annual VEX Robotics New Zealand National competition at the Telstra Clear Pacific Event centre on March 1-3. Following the form of previous years, Avondale again competed at a high level, finishing as finalists in a hotly contested competition for the fourth year in a row.

During the qualification matches the Avondale 'B' team had a 11-2 win-loss record, putting them in 3rd place before alliance selection for the elimination matches. The 'A' team placed 17th out of 50 teams, but were the favorite pick for the 'third pick' in alliances of three teams each that contest in the elimination rounds. This worked to Avondale's advantage in

that it had robots in the top seeded alliance and also in the second seeded alliance in the elimination series.

In the semifinals the 'B' team were cruelly disqualified due to an unfortunate error by one of the alliance partners. The 'A' team, however, made it through to the finals but were beaten by a Lynfield College alliance.

During the competition several other challenges were taking place including the programming and driver's skills challenges. These were international challenges with scores being posted and ranked online.

Kerey Watters was the architect of the Binary Blitz challenges. He came 1st in New Zealand for the Programming challenge and he ranked 5th in the world rankings. For the Driver's challenge he placed 5th in New Zealand and 25th in the world ranking. Both of these placings qualified the team for the World Championships in Los Angeles.

The team also won the 'Invent' award at the Nationals, recognising novel and creative design elements within the robot of the 'B' team.

TIC: Mr B Tetley, HOD Junior Science





## POLYFEST

Congratulations to the more than 470 students who represented their cultures and Avondale College with pride at this year's Polyfest.

Four groups performed on the Diversity stage, with a record number of participants in the Chinese, Sri Lankan, Indian and Indo-Fijian groups.

On the competitive cultural stages the many hours that had been put in during rehearsals were evident as our students performed with enthusiasm, dignity and expertise.

Our kapahaka group, Te Roopu o Patiki, were placed third overall in their grade, as well as coming first in poi, 2nd in haka, and third in three other categories. Avondale's Samoan group again gave a faultless performance with original songs and choreography, and were awarded third place overall on the coed stage. The Niuean group also placed third, winning second placings in both modern and traditional songs, and uniform. The Tongan coed group were placed third in their competition, and Year 10 student Via Tutata was awarded second place in the Cook Island speech competition.

Well done to all who were involved.

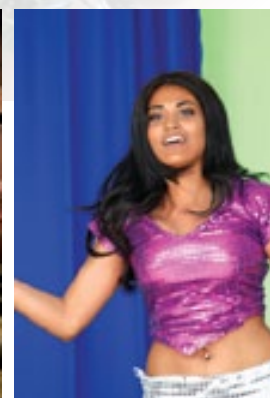
**“ THE GROUP'S FOCUS AND COMMITMENT WAS MUCH APPRECIATED AND THIS CONTRIBUTED TO AN OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE**

- MR S FOTU, TIC: TONGAN GROUP

**WHAT AN AMAZING RESULT FOR SUCH A DEDICATED GROUP OF TEENAGERS AND THEIR COMMITTED TEAM OF TUTORS**

- MR W PITA, TIC: TE ROOPU O PATIKI

**”**





## VIEW FROM THE DIRECTOR OF SPORTS

For many sporting students Term 1 started mid-way through January with the senior groups laying the foundations for their teams' efforts early in the year. The volleyball girls, coached by Ron Rebers, really hit the ground running in their Zone tournament, dominating the local opposition and living up to their top 12 grading in the Greater Auckland Championships in March. With new coach Mr Cooper, the boys are very much at the re-building stage but when at full strength it is apparent that we have real talent in this area and we look forward to future growth in popularity and performance.

Our softball teams had a lot to live up to with last year's strong performance by both boys and girls. New member of staff Ms Bowden has galvanised the girls' section, with last year's YSPOTY nominee Freya Bullock playing alongside some very promising youngsters.

Athletics has been in the spotlight all term. The outstanding performance of one of our biggest ever squads at the Athletics Nationals in December with two gold and five other medals was a result worthy of any other comparable college. The haul of medals was a real testimony to the spirit and work built up in the squad by the efforts of Mr Geoff Haigh who sadly will leave us during this year. His efforts and commitment to athletics at Avondale College are much appreciated and will be sorely missed... although we are hoping to co-opt him into service a little later in the year! I am also sure he would also like to applaud the efforts of his staff of helpers, Mr Brown, Ms Walter, Ms McLure, Mrs Susan Brown and parent helper Nora Curtis who have built up a positive spirit to really drive athletics forward.

Swimming is also a major player at the college in this first term. Our competitive swimmers had a busy term with college, zone and Greater Auckland Championships. Our swimming captain Sean Newcombe performed well to win medals at all levels, as did Caitlin Mann whose incredible performances throughout the term earned her a place at the national meet in March.

Our water polo teams have been the stand-out teams of the season thus far. Fine performances in a strong zone competition led them to place in the Division 2 North Island Championships and after losing only one game in pool play they progressed to the final where they got their revenge for that loss against St Peters and won the Div 2 Championship game 10-7. Sean Newcombe was named Player of the Tournament, with a record of 45 of our tally of 73 goals throughout the tournament.

Cricket has also flourished this term, with our 1<sup>st</sup> XI working hard to hold onto the Premier status achieved in the last two years. Youth again is a major factor with Year 10 and 11 boys featuring throughout

the season. Mark Van Tilburg has carried on his improvement with the bat and captain Harshal Vyas and Pretesh Patel have taken most of the bowling honours.

As we go to press our 2<sup>nd</sup> X1, coached by Mr Le Roux, is one game away from a perfect season, having won every game they have played thus far. Our Year 10 teams continue to show promise under the auspices of Mr Morgan, along with a very enthusiastic Year 9 squad.

Tennis, despite being without a home for the second year, has continued to flourish. Our competitive teams, led by Mr Eccles and Mrs Hanna, are more than holding their own, with the senior boys proving far too strong for their present grade. It was really great to see the big enthusiastic group of girls willing go down to Kelston Girls School every week just to find some practice facility. I am sure that enthusiasm and spirit will be well rewarded once our own courts re-appear in the not too distant future.

I am delighted to see the growth of some multi discipline athletic events, team triathlon, duathlon and aquathons, with Mr Smallman developing a very promising squad of runners, swimmers and latterly, cyclists. We are hoping to grow the sport of cycling and have very talented youngsters Kalen Weir and Jacqui Paltridge currently featuring very strongly in the mountain biking sections.

In touch, our senior boys looked to have real promise but in the end probably just failed to really achieve the heights of which they were capable. But under the auspices of Mr Williams they are a group that will only get better. The girls peaked at the right time to top their zone competition, beating hot favourites Massey in the final and thus qualifying for the North Island Regional Championships. Here they achieved a very creditable third place and again will continue to improve with Ms Riley driving the team forward, helped this season by the coaching of former student Whitley McGowan.

And so we come to the end of a breathless Term 1 with many seniors committing themselves to great efforts in sporting activity alongside the demanding schedule of Polyfest practices and performance. We are still looking to increase the numbers of students actively involved in sport so please don't miss out on the many opportunities on offer. As the winter sports season begins to crank into gear the year will only get busier and busier - make sure you are along for the ride!

A massive thank you to all staff, parents and students who have helped made this a fantastic and positive start to 2012. I'll see you all at the far post!

**Mr C Jones**  
 Director of Sport

## SPORTS ACADEMY

It has been a very busy start to the new year for all our Sports Academy students.

The Year 9 students now have their new gear and have made a very positive start to the year. Their coaches are all very positive about their ability, dedication and attitude to the morning sessions and we can already see some real talent.

The Year 10SPC Groups are busy, not only with training, but also learning about fitness and sports performance through theory and practical sessions.

With 2012 being an Olympic year, the Academy will focus on developing positive behaviours in line with the seven Olympic/Paralympic values, not only through their involvement in the Academy but also in their Physical Education classes and school sports teams.

FRIENDSHIP

RESPECT EXCELLENCE

INSPIRATION

COURAGE

EQUALITY

DETERMINATION

We have had some notable performances since the start of the year, no more so than Jasmine Pereira playing in Argentina for the U17 Football Ferns, as well as Luke Fielding, a member of the Hockey Academy doing so well in both track and field athletics, cross country and triathlon.

Unfortunately we also had to say a fond farewell to long time Netball Academy coach Karen Wilson, who has moved to Australia to pursue a wonderful coaching and lifestyle opportunity. We are currently interviewing several high performance coaches who have applied for the role.

TIC: Mr P Smith



## ATHLETICS

### WESTERN ZONE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Our busy athletics season continued with a team of 60+ athletes selected for the Western Zone Championships held at Waitakere Trusts Stadium on 13 March.

Four of our athletes came away with two titles each: Milan Pickering, first in the Senior Boys Shot Put and Discus; Anastasia Sekene, first in Junior Girls Long Jump and Triple Jump; Luke Fielding first in Intermediate Boys 1500m and 3000m; and Ethan Sorrell, first in the Intermediate Boys High Jump and Long Jump. Other winners were Luke Hawks in the Senior Boys Javelin, Hope Curtis in the Senior Girls High Jump, Rebecca Wyatt in the Intermediate Girls Triple Jump and George Aleomotu'a in the Junior Boys Javelin.

Runners-up in their events were Teklay Zinaw (1500m), Lotima Apolosi (Shot put and Discus), Milan Pickering (Javelin), Crystal McDougall (800m), Alana Jacobson-Pepere (Triple Jump), Zubayr Smith (100m), Oliver Westerman (800m), Timotheo Isaya (Triple Jump), Natasha van Tilburg (Triple Jump) and George Aleomotu'a (Discus).

Third place-getters were Hope Curtis, Hamish Birkbeck, Luke Ioane, Micah Stininato, Alisa Samounry, Jasmine Pereira, Cynthia Payne, Ethan Sorrell, Nebyou Gelaw, Jade Conlon, Maddison Conlon, Anastasia Sekene, Lotolua Tautua, Laequan Pihema and Juddiah Petolo.

This was a fine effort from our athletes, many of whom went on to compete at the Greater Auckland Championships the following week.



### WHAT'S NEXT?

A few of our athletes have applied and been selected for the Auckland team to compete in the North Island Championships held in Tauranga 31 March – 1 April.

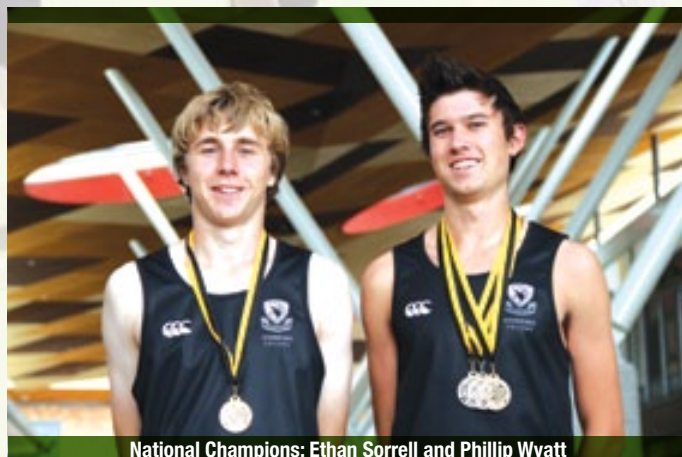
### LOOKING TO THE FUTURE!

National Championships will be held in Dunedin on December 8 and 9 2012. Our team of 26 athletes had a successful and happy time in Wellington last year, bringing home six medals and two National Champions, Phillip Wyatt and Ethan Sorrell. So listen out for news about this. There are no definitive qualification standards, mainly just a willingness to do the best as you can.

### GREATER AUCKLAND CHAMPIONSHIPS

The top two performers in each event from the zone championships, plus others with superior performances, went on to represent Avondale College at the Greater Auckland Championships held at Mt Smart on Tuesday 20 March. Although we won only one title (Milan Pickering in the Shot Put) there was a good depth in our results.

Anastasia Sekene showed great promise in the Triple Jump, finishing second as well as fourth in the Long Jump. Timotheo Isaya was also second in his Triple Jump event and both of these athletes have the talent to improve on these results. Luke Fielding had a strong run in the 3000m to finish second and he was also fifth out of a very good field in the 1500m in a time faster than most of the seniors. Ethan Sorrell had to settle for second against one of his most consistent opponents in the High Jump. Luke Hawks competed in these championships for the first time and finished a very creditable third in the Javelin. A welcome and encouraging result came from Lotolua Tautua, who came into her event as only the first reserve, and she gained fifth place in the Junior Girls Shot Put.



National Champions: Ethan Sorrell and Phillip Wyatt

## EQUESTRIAN

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALISON POTTS AND HER PONY MEG, WHO WON SEVERAL CLASSES AT THE SECONDARY SCHOOLS EQUESTRIAN SHOW IN EARLY MARCH AT WOODHILL SANDS NEAR HELENSVILLE. THEY ALSO WON THE CHAMPION PONY CLASS WHICH WAS HOTLY CONTESTED BY MANY SCHOOLS.



## NETBALL

Trials have begun for girls interested in playing netball for the Avondale College, with games commencing in Term 2 and running through to Term 3.

If any parents would like to be involved with coaching, managing, or helping out in any other way they should talk with Cliff Jones or Iain Stewart in the Sports office.





## SWIM SPORTS

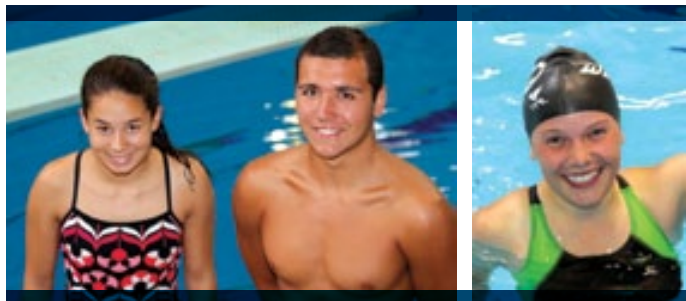
Two outstanding swimmers dominated their events for the second year in a row at the Avondale College Swim Sports held at Henderson's West Wave pool recently.

Sean Newcombe (Year 13) won every Senior Boys Event and all of the Boys Open Events. He swam eight events, winning eight titles, and set two new school records. Sean also won three Auckland Surf Life Saving Titles at the recent Auckland Championships.

Of the girls, Caitlin Mann (Year 10 MPE) won all of the Girls Open Events she entered and all but one of the Junior Girls Events - beaten only by her sister Briahna in the 50m Freestyle.

Congratulations also go to Ezekeil Fa'amausili, Reuben Goh, Sarah-Jane Moncur, Reese Gleeson, Kelvin Lim, Troy Armstrong and Ben Wu who all performed extremely well.

For full results of the day, visit [www.avcol.school.nz](http://www.avcol.school.nz)



## WATERPOLO

Congratulations to our Senior Boys Waterpolo Team who have just won the North Island Secondary Schools Division 2 Tournament.

In the tournament pool play, we won four and lost two, but placed well enough to make the semi-finals. In the semi-final we beat Glendowie 8-4 and in the final on Sunday afternoon, managed to beat St Peters College 10-7.

Sean Newcombe was our leading goal scorer with 45 of our 73 goals. Sean was also named Player of the Tournament by the Referee's Panel.

Most of the boys played extremely well, but special mention should be made of our goal keeper Kelvin Lim who played well in the cage; Year 9 student Troy Armstrong, our youngest player; and our captain and leading goal scorer Sean Newcombe.

*The team: Kelvin Lin, Daniel Raskar, Tom Reutlinger, Lex Doesburg, Ben Mischefski, Sean Newcombe, Reed Hallett, Jango van Rijk, Ben Wu, Cisco van Rijk, Troy Armstrong. TIC: Mr P Jamieson*



Senior Boys Waterpolo: North Island Champions

## TENNIS

### LACK OF COURTS NOT A BARRIER!

The lack of any home courts for now, (new ones on the plan), has not deterred a keen group of tennis players from turning up each Thursday for tennis coaching at Kelston Girls.

Between 20-25 girls meet each week to travel to Kelston where we combine with the Kelston girls for our coaching. Ms Hanna and her two sons, Michael and Andrew, together with Mr Vetelino, have provided the coaching. It has been really pleasing to see the improvement in so many players. Thank you to the staff who have helped with transporting the girls to Kelston each week. Tennis coaching ends in Term 1 but will resume midway through Term 3.

While on the topic of tennis, eight girls received badges for services to tennis. Caitlin Prince earned a Silver award for representing the school for four years, and the following girls earned Bronze badges for three years' representation: Sarah Suyat, Jane Wang, Heli Shah, Pushti Shah, Joy Li, Lisa Wu, Tavaka Atiau and Panashe Gamba.

## WRESTLING

15 year old Ruth Minturn is going to need a bigger trophy cabinet. Just eight months after picking up the sport of wrestling at Avondale College, she has more trophies and medals – both national and international – than she knows what to do with.

Ruth's most recent success came in February at the Oceania Wrestling Champs in Sydney. Competing as part of the New Zealand National team she picked up a Silver medal in Olympic Style for her age and weight group, and a Bronze in Beach Wrestling where she was competing against bigger, heavier girls. It's a feat even more impressive when you consider that Ruth has only been involved in the sport since June last year when she saw an ad in Avondale College's school notices calling for students interested in being a part of a wrestling club.

Ruth turned up and was hooked. She joined the Te Atatu Club Physical Wrestlers, where she met coach Clinton Davies. Not only is Davis a top wrestler in his own right, he is also completely blind. Says Ruth, "He's very, very, very good. Because he can't see he goes by feel – he shows you so that you know exactly what you're doing."

Being the only girl at the Te Atatu club doesn't phase Ruth in the slightest, in fact she says her coach attributes some of her success to the fact that she trains with the boys. "Boys don't have the same boundaries that girls do," she says. "That's why I win."

And win she does. The two international medals she won at the Oceania Champs are just the latest in her collection - Ruth has won 23 National titles and one International title (Lightweight Beach Wrestler) in her age and weight group for both wrestling and grappling. She was selected for the New Zealand team after only four months after picking up the sport.

Ruth has her sights firmly set on competing in the Commonwealth Games and the Olympics once she is old enough, and has already been invited to train with the Under 21 World team in Sweden in her final year of school. In the meantime it's Melbourne in April and the Cadet World Champs later in the year. We wish her well.



Champion Wrestler: Ruth Minturn



## CAREERS DEPARTMENT

Parents, please remember we welcome enquires from you regarding your child's future direction. Careers Counsellors can be contacted on the following numbers:

**Jacqui Birkhead /Jo Thomson 820 1729**

**Judith Johnson 828 7024 ext 556**

Please visit our pages on the school intranet site where we will outline exciting upcoming career events on our noticeboard.

### YEAR 13 INTERVIEWS

We see all Year 13 students at least once during the year with the aim of clarifying their future direction and goals. The interviews have already started. Other appointments can be made at the Careers room or by contacting us on the above numbers.

### CAREERQUEST

Careerquest is a programme available at lunchtime in the careers room or at home on [www.careers.govt.nz](http://www.careers.govt.nz), designed to provide students with a range of career options to explore, based on their interests and skills. This is an excellent way to broaden their horizons and start them thinking about their future direction.

**IMPORTANT DIARY NOTE!**  
**PATHWAYS PLANNING EVENING**  
**Thursday 9 August 2012**  
**3.30PM – 6.30PM**  
**AVONDALE COLLEGE THEATRE**

This is our school's annual career expo. It is an opportunity for parents and Year 9 -12 students to get assistance with subject choices for 2013. Liaison staff from tertiary institutions and ITO's will be present to ensure students select the right subjects for preferred tertiary courses. Year 12 and 13 students moving on to tertiary study next year will be able to get course information to assist them in their decision making.

*Mrs J Birkhead*  
*Director of Careers*

## GATEWAY

Gateway students have had an exciting start to the year at Avondale College with over half our students already in work placements, one day per week.

The students' feedback is extremely positive as they gain new skills and confidence in their chosen field of work.

So far placements and courses have been found for students in the following areas:

<b>Nursing</b>	<b>Retail</b>	<b>Tourism</b>
<b>Hairdressing</b>	<b>Auto</b>	<b>Animation</b>
<b>Journalism</b>	<b>Mechanical</b>	<b>Police</b>
<b>Teaching</b>	<b>Building</b>	<b>Flight Attending</b>
<b>Radio</b>	<b>Chefs</b>	<b>Event Planning</b>
<b>Engineering</b>	<b>Vet</b>	<b>IT</b>

The remainder of the students will all be placed in Term 2.

Applications for Gateway in 2013 can be made in Term 3 by contacting Mrs Karen Osborne: [zosk@avcol.school.nz](mailto:zosk@avcol.school.nz)



## SCHOOL CALENDAR 2012

### Term 2

#### APRIL

25 ANZAC Day  
 30-3 May Talent Quest Heats

#### MAY

3 Year 12 Drama, 7pm  
 4 Show auditions  
 9 NZQA Scholarship Information evening 7-8pm  
 11-18 SENIOR EXAMS  
 23 Pacific Islands Tertiary Careers Evening  
 31 Talent Quest Final

#### JUNE

4 Queen's Birthday  
 8 School Ball  
 11-13 Big Sing  
 19 Classical Concert 7pm  
 20-23 Show Camp  
 26-27 Year 13 Drama, 7pm, Drama Suite  
 27-29 Stage Challenge  
 28 REPORT EVENING (Whole School)  
 29 End of Term 2

### TERM DATES 2012

Term 1 1 February - 5 April  
 Term 2 23 April - 29 June  
 Term 3 16 July - 28 September  
 Term 4 15 October - 13 December

## DEANS CONTACT DETAILS

### YEAR 9

Ms H De Vries (Dean)  
 Mr N Bartlett (Associate Dean)

**820 1738**

[dvs@avcol.school.nz](mailto:dvs@avcol.school.nz)  
[btt@avcol.school.nz](mailto:btt@avcol.school.nz)

### YEAR 10

Ms J Lee (Dean)  
 Mr J Le Roux (Associate Dean)

**820 1706**

[lee@avcol.school.nz](mailto:lee@avcol.school.nz)  
[lr@avcol.school.nz](mailto:lr@avcol.school.nz)

### YEAR 11

Ms M Learmonth (Dean)  
 Ms C Leyland (Associate Dean)

**820 1710**

[lth@avcol.school.nz](mailto:lth@avcol.school.nz)  
[lyd@avcol.school.nz](mailto:lyd@avcol.school.nz)

### YEAR 12

Ms J Smyth (Dean)  
 Ms J Riley (Associate Dean)

**820 1709**

[smh@avcol.school.nz](mailto:smh@avcol.school.nz)  
[rly@avcol.school.nz](mailto:rly@avcol.school.nz)

### YEAR 13

Mr A Bannister (Dean)  
 Ms V Elmes (Associate Dean)

**820 1708**

[bnr@avcol.school.nz](mailto:bnr@avcol.school.nz)  
[elm@avcol.school.nz](mailto:elm@avcol.school.nz)



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