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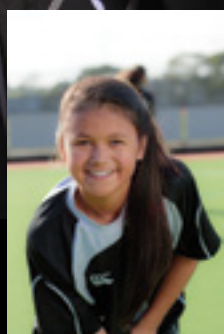
newsletter



Issue 2 > 2014

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Students succeeding on the WORLD STAGE FAME - The Musical Stage Challenge Winter Tournament Week





Dear Parents and Caregivers

Avondale College students – both current and former – have been attracting media attention for their achievements in recent weeks.

We have, for example, had our ICT students excel at the New Zealand Microsoft Championships, coming 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th 5th and 7th. Three of these students, Jayden Cooke, Darius Au and Di Kun Ong, then went on to represent New Zealand in the Microsoft Office Specialist World Championships in California, with all three achieving top 10 rankings (a first for Australasia).

Representing New Zealand at the International Biology Olympiad in Bali was Ethan Sorrell who won a silver medal and, continuing with the Olympiad theme, Alysha Johnson will represent New Zealand in the International Geography Olympiad in Russia next year.

Also winning international honours was Shannon Metcalfe who represented New Zealand in the FedEx International Trade Challenge in Hong Kong, where she was part of the two-person winning team to take the cup, the cheque and the international title.

Swimmer Gabrielle Fa'amausili has continued her stellar year, representing New Zealand at the World Youth Olympics in China as a competitor, flag bearer and bronze medal winner.

Making the news most recently were two of our current students who have both been selected for New Zealand women's teams in their respective codes. Year 12 student Natasha van Tilberg has just been announced a member of the New Zealand women's cricket team squad – at just 16 years of age, and footballer Jasmine Pereira (recently returned from the New Zealand U20 Women's FIFA World Cup campaign in Canada) has just been announced the newest member of the Football Ferns squad.

We have also been delighted to hear news of the continuing sporting success of two ex-students: Grace Rasmussen, who has been recalled to the Silver Ferns, and former 1st XV Captain, Mason Lino, who played as half back in the Under 20 Warriors team that beat the Brisbane Broncos in the NRL finals competitions.

The term also concluded with several wonderful performances from our students in the music department as well as the superb school show "Fame - The Musical". This show was last performed at Avondale College in 2003, and as the programme highlighted, a number of the students featured at that time are now working as professional musicians or actors, including recording artists Lisa Crawley, Hollie Fulbrook (performing as Tiny Ruins); and of course Rose McIver who has been appearing in many different Hollywood films and television series. As a result we will be watching the future achievements of the cast of this year's show with great interest.

Given the wide-ranging talents and achievements of Avondale College students, a review of our awards and badges has been occurring, in consultation with the students and staff, with the goal of more fairly recognising and acknowledging student success. These new badges and awards will celebrate student successes in the performing arts and student service in the same way that sport is currently acknowledged. Some of these new awards will be presented for the first time in the honours assembly at the beginning of Term 4.

Even more importantly we will now be awarding formal school-based awards in recognition of student academic achievement in both the NCEA and Cambridge pathways. These new badges will be released shortly to reflect our academic priority which is highlighted in our mission statement:

"In a caring and positive environment, Avondale College will provide an education which enables all students to achieve personal standards of excellence in academic work as well as in the supporting areas of physical, cultural and social development."

Seniors will shortly be commencing their end-of-year external examinations, initially beginning with CIE, followed shortly after by NCEA and Scholarship. Many students are taking advantage of the many tutorial sessions being run by teachers to prepare student for these examinations as well as in the IPAC support catchup sessions for completing credits in the NCEA. While time is pressing there is still enough time for students to make significant differences to their outcomes through engaging with their teachers and taking advantage of the opportunities and support available.

Term 4 is always a busy but very enjoyable time with many end-of-year events and activities. We look forward to supporting all of our students in their academic and wider endeavours to optimise their achievements for 2014 and prepare them fully for the challenges of 2015.

Kind regards,
Brent Lewis
Principal

ON THE WORLD STAGE

TOP TEN RESULTS FOR OUR STUDENTS AT MICROSOFT WORLD CHAMPS

When the results from the 2014 Microsoft Office Specialist World Championships in the USA were announced, three Avondale College students were named in the top 10 for each of the three categories they had entered.

This is no mean feat considering the world-wide competition attracted 740,000 entries from 140 different countries. Only 123 of these competitors achieved results high enough to make it through to the World Champs held in California during July 27-30, and three of these – representing New Zealand – were from Avondale College.

Year 13 student Jayden Cooke won a bronze medal and a cheque for \$1000 for his achievement in the Word 2010 category. This was the second trip to the States in six weeks for the eighteen year old, who at the start of the year had written "Go to the USA" in a light-hearted list of things to do in 2014. This statement has now been crossed off twice, with Jayden also having won a place on the college's Silicon Valley trip in July.

Darius Au and Di Kun Ong also achieved high results, with Di Kun (still only in Year 11) coming 6th in PowerPoint 2010 and Darius (who gained the highest mark in the world in last year's Cambridge exam for Applied ICT) coming 10th in Excel 2010.

Once the exam pressure was over, the three enjoyed hanging out

with with the other competitors, sightseeing, and making most of the all-expenses-paid trip to Disneyland.

Jayden, Darius and Di Kun are all part of Mr McClean's Innovation Programme and ICT classes.



ICT Champions: Darius Au, Jayden Cooke & Di Kun Ong

SHANNON WINS INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMPETITION

Winning an international business challenge meant a lot of work and not much sleep for Year 13 student Shannon Metcalfe.

Together with her business partner Isabelle Stangl, Shannon won first place in the FedEx Express Junior Achievement International Trade Challenge Asia Pacific Finals, held in Hong Kong in August.

The pair beat 52 other students from the Asia Pacific region, impressing the judges with their original and well-thought out business proposal.

The finalists were tasked with creating a cohesive market entry strategy plan for a beauty product/service, which also addressed a social issue of Kenya. Shannon and Izzy's proposal of a waterless face wash solution, Eye Care, addressed the trachoma problem among Kenyans. While cleaning the face as well as conserving water for drinking, the product encouraged beauty naturally at the same time.

Despite not having worked together before, the girls proved to be an invincible team, with Izzy preparing the visual graphics for their presentation and Shanon using her media skills

to create videos in support of their proposal. The tight deadline was made even tighter when the girls decided to ditch their initial idea after the first day. While this increased the pressure tremendously, they knew it was the right decision, and despite the lack of sleep, (just four hours in total amidst 60 hours of frantic planning, researching and presenting) Shannon and Izzy wowed the judges with their world-class business proposal.

"We were overwhelmed when we won the right to represent New Zealand," says Shannon. "To have come out to Hong Kong and won is a dream come true. The ITC programme was highly stimulating and rewarding – we put in our best efforts and I feel that we got a real-world experience of the world of business which will be extremely valuable in our future careers. We also formed some lasting friendships with one another."

The competition has been running for seven years with the students picked from among those who have been given a taste of the business world through the Young Enterprise Trust.



Shannon Metcalfe - winner of International Trade Challenge

ETHAN WINS SILVER AT INTERNATIONAL BIOLOGY OLYMPIAD



International Biologist, Ethan Sorrell

Bright green is not your typical colour for a lab coat, but then Ethan Sorrell is not your typical Year 13 Biology student. Reflecting the tropical colours of Indonesia, the coat marks him out as a competitor in the International Biology Olympiad held in Bali in June.

Even more significantly, though, is the silver medal that completes Ethan's outfit. Competing against 237 other students from 61 different countries, Ethan more than held his own during a series of intensive practical and theory exams. His silver medal signifies his outstanding results: placement in the top 30% of the world's best biology students, and an overall competition ranking of 56th.

Mr Shawn Cooper, who was also there in his official role as a member of the New Zealand IBO executive, wasn't surprised by Ethan's outstanding achievement. He notes that Ethan worked incredibly hard in the lead up to the

competition, attending intensive workshops at the University of Auckland and learning scientific lab techniques not usually taught at secondary level. This hard work certainly paid off, with Ethan even achieving a perfect score on one of his practical assessments. "We had high expectations of Ethan," says Mr Cooper. "He did us proud."

Science aside, one of the highlights of the experience for Ethan was meeting up with other young similarly-minded students from different parts of the world. "This was the most amazing experience of my life so far," he says. "I've made friends from all over the world. I'm looking forward to meeting these people again in the international biological community in the future."

And as bright as his Bali lab coat might be, the future for Ethan is looking even brighter.

NEW ZEALAND REPRESENTATIVES

Congratulations to all our students who have received international honours in recent months!

Darius Au – 10th Place in Microsoft World Championships for Excel 2010.

Neil Aliioaiga – U21 Men's Fiji Tag Squad

Popua Aleamotu'a - New Zealand Secondary School Representative Netball Squad

Jayden Cooke – 3rd Place in Microsoft World Championships for Word 2010

Gabrielle Fa'amausili – Selected as Flag bearer for Opening Ceremony of Youth Olympics in China; Won Bronze in final 50m backstroke at Youth Olympics

Lorenzo Filip – U21 Men's Fiji tag Squad

Mikayla Graham – Selected for New Zealand Under Water Rugby Squad

Jacinth Heath Pascua – World Championships Kick Boxing – Cadet Class Malaysia

Jacob Kesha – Selected for the Under 16 NZ Ice Hockey Team

Shannon Metcalf – Represented NZ and won the FedEx International trade Challenge in Hong Kong

Di Kun Ong – 6th place in Microsoft World Championships for PowerPoint 2010

Jasmine Pereira – Selected for NZ U20 Women's Football Squad, competed at U20 World Cup in Canada; Selected for NZ Football Ferns

Isaac Pese – U21 Men's Fiji Tag Squad

Ellise Samuels – Represented New Zealand at the

World Hip Hop Dance Competition

Anastasia Sekene – Selected for for NZ U19 Women's Tag Squad and NZ Maori

Jasiah Shepherd – Selected for U15 NZ Baseball team, travelling to the USA

Junior Soqeta – U21 Men's Fiji Tag Squad

Ethan Sorrell – Silver medal at International Biology Olympiad

Veuki Taumoeolau – U21 Men's Fiji Tag Squad

Natasha van Tilberg – Selected for NZ U20 Women's Indoor Cricket Squad; Named in the White Ferns High Performance Squad

Eva Zhu – Ultimate Frisbee – Selected for the NZ U19 Women's Ultimate Squad, Placed 16th at the Ultimate Frisbee World Championships in Italy

SINGING THE WINNING SONG

Helping to rally the fans and inspire the Warriors to victory is Avondale College's very own Year 13 musician Danya Pavlovich.

Danya was one of the group of 16 young people from the Crescendo Trust of Aotearoa who co-wrote the new Warriors' anthem, "One Team, One Dream" which they performed during halftime at Mt Smart Stadium in August.

Danya's vocals open the song, but the 17 year old was unfazed by performing to 12,000 fans. "It was amazing," she says. "I start the song – it was a lot of pressure, but the amazing kind of pressure."

And the crowd loved it. "People kept coming up afterwards and saying how much they liked the song," she says.

Singer / Songwriter
Danya Pavlovich

Clearly the inspiring lyrics worked. The Warriors beat the Titans 42- nil.

"One Team, One Dream" is available on iTunes, <https://itunes.apple.com/nz/album/one-team-one-dream-2015-vodafone/id909193306>

See Danya and the band preparing for their performance on Seven Sharp:

<http://tvnz.co.nz/seven-sharp/singing-winning-song-video-6067507>

YOUNG WRITER ONE TO WATCH

Talented Year 13 creative writer Jaclyn Chetty has been honing her skills through special workshops and masterclasses held by the Michael King Young Writers Centre.

Being part of this writing programme over the last two years has been an amazing experience for the 16 year old, who says she has enjoyed connecting with other young writers, as well as the process of discovering what she wants to write about.

"You don't really realise what you like until you start writing," she says. "I've started to really love poetry."

Jaclyn's writing has already appeared in print – one of her pieces was published last year in 'Signals', the Michael King Writers' Centre literary journal for young writers. She has submitted another piece which she is hoping will be included in the publication this year. 'Signals' is available from the Avondale College library.



Young writer Jaclyn Chetty

ALYSHA TO COMPETE IN INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHY OLYMPIAD

The International Geography Olympiad (IGEO) is a competition for the best 16 to 19 year old geography students from all over the world. Next year it will be held in Russia. And representing New Zealand as part of the kiwi team of four will be Year 12 Avondale College student Alysha Johnson.

Alysha was selected for the team after gaining top results in the national competition. Each country sends a team of four, made up of the very best students from thousands of entries.

Once in Russia, the geographic skills of Alysha and her teammates will be tested in three parts: a written test, a multimedia test and substantial fieldwork requiring observation, leading to cartographic representation and geographical analysis. The programme also includes poster presentations by teams, cultural exchanges, and time for students to get to know their fellow students and explore the host city.

It is a big challenge, but one that Alysha is looking forward to tackling. We wish her well!

Geographer Alysha Johnson



FAME - THE MUSICAL

Big musical numbers, leg warmers and lycra hit the stage in force in this year's school show: **Fame – The Musical**.

The high-octane show follows a group of hopeful young students at New York's School of Performing Arts who are brought together by the quest for one thing – fame.

Though set in New York, the action was seemingly brought to life in the atrium of Avondale College, thanks to a stunning stage set designed by Mr Walter Jenks.

Strongly choreographed routines and energetic chorus numbers set the scene for the unfolding stories of Tyrone, the dancer from the wrong side of the tracks (played by Jireh Lalotoa-Peniata); Serena (Alisa Samountry) the star-struck student who falls for already famous Nick

(Carlin Diprose); musician Schlomo (Ryan Burgess); and teachers Miss Sherman (Emily Walker) and Ms Bell (Naya Williams) who are passionate advocates of the students in their care. Comic relief was brought through the cocky but loveable Jose (Harry Casey) and troubled dancer Mabel (Evotia Fuimaono).

At the centre of the story is Carmen – the student who wants to fly the highest and crashes the hardest – played by Danielle Lesatele, whose superb vocals brought the house down with her show-stopping 'LA' and 'Fame' at the end of Act 1.

The result: an impressive, feel-good performance that showcased the skills and abilities of a very talented cast.

BABY, REMEMBER MY NAME!

A quick glance at the cast list from Avondale College's 2003 production of **Fame – The Musical** reveals a number of past students who have gone on to follow their dreams in the performing arts.

Hollie Fullbrook – aka **Tiny Ruins** is currently touring Europe and the US following the release of her latest critically acclaimed album **Brightly Painted One**.

Lisa Crawley, singer/songwriter, has released two albums and been nominated multiple times for the prestigious Silver Scroll award. She has toured extensively, opening for acts like John Mayer, Paul Weller and Jools Holland.

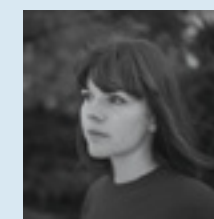
Stephen Thomas, who played the drums for the show band in 2003 is now a professional drummer who recently played in the onstage band for The Auckland Theatre Company's production of **The Good Soul of Szechuan**.

Alistair Deverick, who played Mr Sheinkopf in the 2003 production, is also a professional drummer, a member of the group **The Ruby Suns**, and is currently on tour with Neil Finn. When he's not touring, Alistair is also a

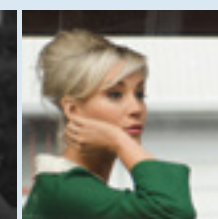
part-time music teacher, teaching drums back here at Avondale College.

Lance Ainofo, who is currently completing a Bachelor of Communication at AUT has maintained his interest in musical theatre and has just finished performing in **Hairspray** at Sky City Theatre.

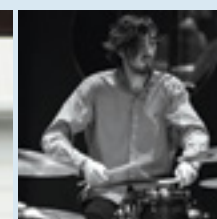
Tau Manukia was the lead singer in the well known kiwi funk/reggae band Spacifix. He is now based in Brisbane and performs both as a solo artist, and with backing bands, as the musician Noah Slee.



Hollie Fullbrook



Lisa Crawley



Stephen Thomas

SCHOOL BALL



MAD HATTERS' BALL

Avondale College ball-goers stepped into a wonderland complete with flamingoes, mad hatters, and teacups piled amidst books and playing cards at this year's ball, held in the ASB Lounge at Eden Park in July.

Congratulations to Ms Learmonth, Mrs Watkinson and the Prefect Ball Committee who did a wonderful job in organising such a superb event.

STAGE CHALLENGE

Avondale College once again put together a spectacular performance for Stage Challenge in July. Led by student directors Stacey Purdon and Ben Brebner, the theme of this year's Stage Challenge explored the cycle of revolution that has driven history and which still determines international politics today. Who benefits? How does it start? Does it change anything?

This performance was as strong and as impressive - in choreography, set, costume, makeup and lighting - as any Avondale has presented before.

As usual we try to insert something unexpected and innovative, and this year it was the giant hands that encircled the dissenters. Though we did not place in the top schools on the night, Avondale gained Awards of Excellence for Concept, School Initiative, Choreography, Set Design and Function and Visual Enhancement. Each of the 100 participants should be incredibly proud of their effort.



MAORI COMMUNITY

MAORI LEADERS' DINNER

The success of our Maori students was at the forefront of a special gathering in the library on Tuesday 17 June. Maori leaders from our community were welcomed into the new atrium before enjoying a meal together and participating in a time of discussion focused on building the success of our Maori learners and raising achievement further for future generations.

If you would like to be part of this community group for future events, please email Deputy Principal Mrs Lyndy Watkinson: wtn@avcol.school.nz.



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Avondale College's Amnesty International kick-started a year of human rights activism with a successful campaign on the empowerment of women and gender equality.

Though the group has focused on raising awareness of gender discrimination in the past, the bold and sizable satirical magazine made by the group truly captured the attention of many.

Following an assembly presentation, the magazine was made available for students to sign messages of support and solidarity against gender prejudice. Students gathered around the Greek Theatre not only in full advocacy, but also in eagerness to learn more about the extent of gender discrimination in the present society.

It is through these events that the essence of Amnesty International is made clear: to share our passion for equality, justice and fairness to our fellow peers in creative and innovative ways.

Kyra Maquiso



AVONDALE'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY EXCHANGE VISIT TO DAITO BUNKA

2014 marked a significant 25 year anniversary for Avondale College and our sister school, Daito Bunka Dai-ichi High School in Japan.

In April the 25th exchange visit took place with 21 excited, if not a little anxious, students arriving in Tokyo, accompanied by Mr Lewis, Mr Goold, Board Chairperson Mrs Collis, Mrs Donaldson and Ms Hanna. We were greeted warmly by the homestay families, thus beginning some very close and enduring relationships in which our students and staff were immersed in Japanese hospitality.

Week one involved a mixture of day trips in and around Tokyo as well as combined classes in school such as PE and English language. Week two saw us venturing further afield, via bullet train, to the cities of Kyoto and Hiroshima. Temples, museums, forest walks, food and cultural experiences formed many wonderful memories for us during this time. We then spent the last two nights back in Tokyo with our host families before saying our farewells.

It was therefore even more special to welcome these new friends to our part of the world when Daito Bunka returned the exchange in Term 3. The visitors spent time at Avondale College experiencing school life here as well as visiting other parts of New Zealand.

This exchange is a highly valued cultural experience for our school and one which occurs every two years. It is open to all students so those currently in Years 9, 10 and 11 may well like to start thinking about this opportunity in 2016.



DANCE

DANCE STUDENTS ENGAGING ON AND OFF THE STAGE

Students of Dance have had an interesting time in recent months, with their learning supplemented by opportunities to both perform and watch performance outside of the classroom.

A trip to see the Royal New Zealand Ballet's performance of 'Coppelia' at the Aotea Centre in May allowed our students to view professional ballet in action. Students really enjoyed both the pure classical style of the movement mixed with a slapstick sense of humour that both Dr Coppélius (Sir Jon Trimmer) and 'Limbless' (Paul Matthews) brought to their roles.

Senior Dance students also performed in the secondary schools' festival of 'YouDance'. Held over two evenings, the event showcased students from around twenty schools across Auckland performing a range of dances from NCEA assessments throughout the year. Avondale College Dance students performed 'Young and Beautiful' and received feedback from professional dancers Sarah Knox and Taiaroa Royal who will select pieces from across both shows to be performed at the Tempo Dance festival later in the year.

Sarah and Taiaroa praised the performances of our students, with their feedback including the following comments:

"Wonderful diverse movement vocabulary"

"What powerful young women you are. You are pushing the use of your dancing physicalities and this is enjoyable to watch."

"Good unison work. Some beautiful dancers and great choreographic choices."

The Dance Team has continued to flourish, coming second in the finals of the Avondale College Talent Quest, and going on to develop routines which were performed at home basketball games in Term 3.

Dance Academy students have been working hard on their NZAMD contemporary exam material in Levels 2 and 3 in preparation for their examination in Term 4.

All Dance students are currently working hard on their performances for the Dance Showcase, which will be held on 29 and 30 October in the Performing Arts Centre. Showcasing the very best of our students from across all year levels and dance styles, this will be an event not to be missed.



CAREERS

The Pathways Planning Evening held on 6 August was an excellent opportunity for students and their parents to get assistance with option choices and tertiary planning from departments in the school and tertiary and education providers.

Key speakers this term for Year 12/13 students have included key tertiary providers for course planning.

Gateway applications for 2015 have closed and places will be provisionally offered in Term 4.

Parents are reminded that career events, opportunities and information are all updated daily on the Careers pages of the school intranet.

Careers Counsellors can be contacted on the following numbers:
Jacqui Birkhead/Jo Thomson 820 1729
Judith Johnson 828 7024 ext 556



The Year 9 and 10 Drama Academy students have had a busy few months, with all students successfully sitting their Speech New Zealand Examinations. At the end of Term 2 the Year 9 Academy sat the Oral Communication Examination at the Intermediate level. In Term 3 the Year 10 Academy completed the Theatre in Action Examination at Grade Five. After a large amount of effort over the preceding months, all the students performed with enthusiasm and proficiency.

The Academy students are now busy working towards their end-of-year presentations. The Year 9 students will present "The Adventures of Mr Toad" on Wednesday 19 November in the Drama Suite. The Year 10 students are devising a play based on the legend of the Avondale College "blue nurse". This will be

presented in the Drama suite on Thursday 20 November. Both performances are preceded by presentations in the theatre from the Music and Dance Academies. The starting time is 6pm.

In the first week of Term 3 the Year 13 Drama students presented "The Caucasian Chalk Circle" in the Drama Suite. This is a very challenging play which is language rich and all the students performed to a very high standard.

The Year 12 Drama students presented "A Little Nonsense, Now and Then" in week three of Term 3. They acted in excerpts from plays from Absurd Theatre and gave strong and compelling performances.

A large number of Drama students were also involved in the school show "Fame – The Musical" which was presented in the theatre in the second to last week of Term 3.

ENGLISH

LITERACY AWARDS RECOGNISE STUDENT SUCCESS

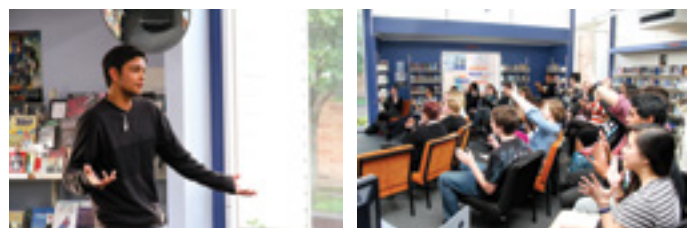
The English department marked International Literacy Day on the 8th of September by holding Avondale College's inaugural English and Media Literacy Awards. Families and students gathered in the library where they were treated to an evening of performance poetry, readings, live music and an outstanding gallery of static images put together by students in junior English and Media Studies.

Receiving awards on the night were:

Year 9: Jesslyn Chen, Tina Gorter, Nupur Mohini, Melissa Connolly, Julia Ling, Sasha Matsumoto, Kelly Cokorudy, Julia Tildesley, Angus Campbell, Atashna Verma, Lela Hausser-See, Nesa Aute-Neli, Justice Michael, Jessica Faamoana.

Year 10: Keeley Stoehr, Radhika Malhotra, Akash Ashock, Jordan Kapo Unuwai, Tara Ramesh, Cassandra McCabe-Tatupu, Ashley Prakash, Zakaria Mohammed, Roselle Samaratunga, Gal Gross, Aaron Matutuki, Lela Hausser See, Anataia van Leeuwen, Bianca Craill, Ruohao Mao, Zoe May

Senior: Anita Roshkova, Jack Wu, Oscar McFarlane, Camille Balduchi, Arjuna Oakes, Eleanor Loader, Phoebe Rolfe. Spoken Word: Priscilla Palmer, Ileana Lameta, Ahmed Sied, Nico Calderon-Hunt, Vyoma Mistry, David Rennison, Favor Nweke.



POETS SPEAKING FROM THE HEART

Spoken Word Poetry is alive and thriving at Avondale College.

Three members of the group successfully auditioned for and competed in the first secondary schools' poetry slam: 'WORD – The Front Line', held at the Vodafone Events Centre on 26 July. Poets Vyoma Mistry, Nico Calderon-Hunt and Ahmed Sied battled it out through two rounds before being eliminated, in what was an exciting and entertaining event.

Some of Avondale College's most talented poets then went on to share their work at the college's inaugural Spoken Word Open Mic Night on Friday 19 September. They were joined by guests from Onehunga High School and Mt Albert Grammar, with all artists offering insightful and moving perspectives on life, love and other matters of the heart.

Students interested in finding out more about the Spoken Word group at Avondale College should see Mrs Cope in the English Department.

INTERNATIONAL



The International Department has been a busy hub this term, with trips, outings and special activities organised for our students.

Watching the All Blacks play South Africa was one highlight for students who went on the weekend Wellington trip. They also fitted in a visit to Te Papa and a guided tour of Weta studios amongst other activities.



Mexican Independence Day (Tuesday 16 September) was celebrated in style by our Mexican students, with traditional candy and treats at lunchtime in the International Department. The day marks the beginning of the War of Independence in Mexico in 1810, and is traditionally celebrated as a patriotic holiday with parades, parties and festive food.

INDUSTRY QUALIFICATIONS GIVE A HEAD START TO OUR ICT STUDENTS

With the integration of Microsoft certifications into Cambridge ICT, Innovation Programme and, recently, junior courses, Avondale College students have been able to not only validate their college-based project learning experience, but also gain industry-recognised credentials that will set them apart from other applicants in a competitive employment market.

Richard Gordon, Director of IC Central, along with Mr Lewis, presented the awards to students in a special classroom ceremony recently. Of particular note were the four students (Ellen Greenly, Ashley Mark, Jayden Cooke and Darius Au) who achieved the Microsoft Office Master Qualification – which represents the highest award for thinking quality and proficiency.

Thirty-eight other students – both seniors and juniors – also received awards, with some gaining up to four specialist qualifications, and others being recognised for their achievement in Expert level qualifications.

The awards are the icing on a very successful cake for our Innovation Programme students, who are now wrapping up their concept to completion projects, using the industry-standard tools of Microsoft Visual Studio.net, Visio 2013 and Project 2013. Underpinned by their Microsoft Office qualifications, the significant quality of their projects and documentation, according to Richard Gordon, IC Central, "would put many industry professionals to shame."

Our Innovation 2014 students are now finalising their projects and completing Scholarship reports, and will be presenting their 2014 experience to large audiences over the next month.

For a complete list of the students who received Microsoft certifications please visit www.avcol.school.nz/events



LIBRARY

CREATIVE DISPLAYS PROMPT INTEREST IN READING

Library staff have had fun creating interesting and thought-provoking displays throughout the year based around various themes and linking to books found in the library. The 100 year anniversary of WWI was marked by a display which recreated a bunker complete with sandbags and gas masked soldier surrounded by war-themed literature.

The library's impressive collection of art books was highlighted by another display which was based on the work of author and illustrator Shaun Tan. This featured drawings and sculptures by Avondale College students that reflected Shaun's design philosophy. "Drawing a good picture is like telling a really good lie," says Shaun, "the key is in the incidental detail."



AUTHOR SHARES HER PEARLS OF WISDOM

In July the Library Bookclub was incredibly lucky to have China-based author Melissa Pearl speak to our students in a special bookclub event.

Having written over 30 different novels for young adults, including the very popular Time Spirit trilogy, Songbird, Betwixt and The Elements series, Melissa's session was a fascinating one for all bookclub members.

Melissa shared how she became a writer and talked about her writing style and how she puts her novels together. "I love every stage of a book's journey," she says, "from conception to final edits. My goal is to write stories that will make a reader laugh, cry and fall in love."

Melissa now has quite a fan club here at Avondale College, and we look forward to her next book being published and available here in the college library!



University success: Tanmay Mohini, David Shi, Luke Cen, Tianheng Zang and Hasnaen Hossein

UNIVERSITY SUCCESS FOR STUDENTS IN ACCELERATED MATHEMATICS PATHWAY

Five Year 13 students who completed A2 Mathematics last year as Year 12 students were selected for the University of Auckland Young Scholars Programme at the start of the year. These students completed this programme as part of the new 13MSS course (Year 13 Mathematics and Statistics Scholarship).

This is a prestigious and academically competitive programme which is only available to students who have obtained A2 Mathematics or NCEA Level 3 Mathematics or Statistics at the highest possible level. Students also have a strong academic record across all of their subjects.

The programme involved students attending weekly lectures at the University of Auckland as they completed a first stage mathematics paper over the first half of the year. This gave the students a great insight into how to be successful at University, especially how to manage the workload and exam requirements. Students in the programme are now focusing on preparing for the NZQA Scholarship Calculus and Statistics examinations.

The students selected for the programme this year were Luke Cen, Hasnaen Hossein, Tanmay Mohini, David Shi and Tianheng Zhang. All students passed the demanding first stage paper, with A+ grades received by Luke Cen, David Shi and Tianheng Zhang. A special congratulations to Luke Cen who came 5th equal in this course, which is very impressive given the calibre of students in the Young Scholars Programme.

MATHEX

The pressure was on for our Avondale College Mathex teams at the Auckland-wide competition on 20 August: 30 minutes to answer as many questions as possible out of the 20 provided. Five marks per correct answer – run relay style with a designated runner.

Avondale had four teams of four competing at Year 9 and Year 10 levels. All teams did very well on the night, with an outstanding result from one Year 9 team who achieved 85/100. Only 26 out of the 150 competing teams got a mark of 85 or higher, so this means our students were right up there with the top 17% of Year 9 students in Auckland. Particular congratulations to this team: Dominic Bailey, Jesslyn Chen, Lucy Wu and Tasi Vaili, and to the other Avondale College teams who were superb representatives of the college.

NEW PEER TUTORING PROGRAMME LAUNCHED FOR MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS

Term 3 saw the launch of the new peer tutoring programme, as part of an ongoing goal to recognise and increase the achievement of our Maori and Pasifika students in Mathematics and Statistics.

The programme is led by Year 12 Mathematics and Statistics students who have not only achieved success in the subject, but who have also been identified by their teachers as having the right skills and attitude to be effective mentors and tutors.

The programme offers one-on-one tutoring for Year 10 students at the Whare after school on Thursdays. The focus this year has been on helping students develop greater confidence with algebraic thinking so they can transition successfully into Year 11 Mathematics and Statistics courses.

The Year 12 peer tutors for this year are: Edmund Changwai, Ekepati Roma, Byron Schwalger, Alea Carson-Haunga, Dayna Hita, Miracle Lesatele, Briahna Mann, Caitlin Mann, Terra Rapatini, Te Manava Syme-Buchanan, Campbell Capewell-Marsters, Rochele Lauata, Tyler Guttenbeil, Denzel Ali, Lili Taito, Sefo Pauli, Frances Lino, and Shuba Kosna.

There are still spaces for Year 10 students to be involved in the programme in Term 4, with the peer tutoring programme continuing to run during weeks 1 to 3. Any Year 10 students who would like to join the programme can speak to the peer tutors or their Mathematics and Statistics teacher for more information.



COMPETITIONS AND CONCERTS HIT A SWEET NOTE

The Music Department has been a hive of musical activity in recent months with competitions, concerts and performances highlighting the quality of our students across a range of musical styles.

The annual KBB music competition involved a huge number of music students who had worked extremely hard throughout the year in preparation for this Auckland-wide event. Particular congratulations go to our Big Band who received a Bronze award, and to our Orchestra and Concert Band who won Commended Awards.

Our inaugural songwriting competition was held at the end of Term 2, attracting a number of very talented up-and-coming songwriters. The winners were Arjuna De Simas-Oakes in the solo category and Danya Pavlovich and Ryan Ivory in the group section.

Talented pianists made themselves known at our Piano Competition in week seven, with the winner, Rusin Zhao, winning a \$100 Piano Traders voucher in the Ronisch Piano Competition. Also receiving an

award was runner-up Christine Sun, with a \$50 Piano Traders voucher, and Annika Nietzel who received the Judges' Prize for playing the entire programme from memory.

The Jazz and Soul Concert was held in the final week of Term 4, with a superb array of items performed by very talented musicians. And it wasn't just the students who shone on stage. Mr May gave a stellar vocal performance, superbly backed by band members Mr Hanes, Mr Irwin (and Josh Parker), and enhanced by the backing vocalists skills of the masked "Techettes". Finishing the night on a high were two items by Mr Stenbo and itinerant music teachers Mr Tony Jansen on guitar, Mr Tim Atkinson on saxophone, Mr David Hodgkinson on bass, and former student (and drummer for Neil Finn), Mr Alistair Deverick. Congratulations to all who were involved in what was simply a stunning evening of jazz and soul music.



AVONDALE STUDENTS STAND OUT AT MUSIC COMPETITION

Avondale College was once again a huge presence at the finals of Auckland City Council's Stand Up Stand Out competition held at the Vodafone Events Centre on Friday 29 August.

Having battled their way through preliminary heats held earlier in the month, five Avondale College bands and vocal groups showcased their creativity and talent to their peers, whanau and the music industry in the competition finals.

Having so many of our students make it through to the finals was a huge achievement in itself, in fact no other single school had as many finalists as Avondale College.

On the night, two of our groups took away runners-up awards: Avondale's eight-member

Soul Band (directed by Mr Muir) in the band category, and Jireh Lolotoa-Peniata, Junior Soqueta and Aaron Pulemagafa in the Vocal Group Category.

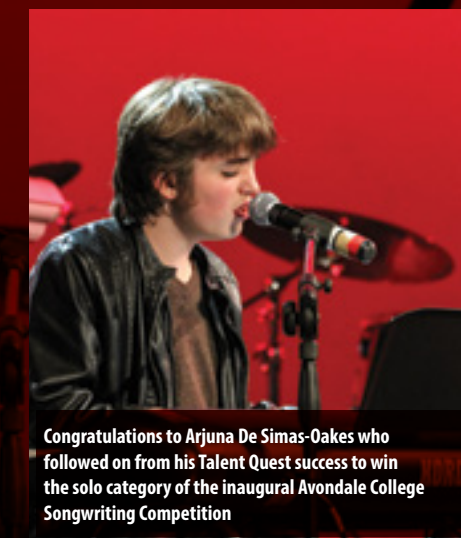
Following the event, a number of our groups and soloists were invited to spend time in the recording studio, working on a CD which showcases the very best original items from the competition. This CD will feature five contributions from Avondale College, including solos from: Junior Soqueta, Aaron Pulemagafa and Arjuna De Simas-Oakes, and items from bands Revived Rhythm and Junior, Josh Parker and Arjuna.



SILVER AND BRONZE AWARDS AT JAZZ FESTIVAL

This year's Tauranga Jazz Festival began with thunderstorms and hail and concluded with three fantastic jazz performances from our students. The Big Band and Jazz Combo performed at the Baycourt Theatre and participated in workshops with Roger Fox and other professionals. The combo students were inspired by the Saturday night jazz concert featuring some of New Zealand's most outstanding jazz musicians.

The Jazz Combo also played a marathon four hour gig at the Tauranga Farmers' Market which was well received and an excellent fund raiser. The weekend proved a valuable experience for our students and they received a silver and bronze award for their hard work.



Congratulations to Arjuna De Simas-Oakes who followed on from his Talent Quest success to win the solo category of the inaugural Avondale College Songwriting Competition



PE & HEALTH

MUD RUN FUN FOR 13PE

There's no doubt about it, they make them tough at Avondale College! Proving it at the Tough Guy/Gal Mud Run at the Woodhill Events Centre in June were Year 13 PE students dressed in their superhero best. The students were joined by Mr Le Roux and Ms O'Hara, who proved they too were worthy of the Tough Teacher title as they took the 6km run over rugged terrain, farmland and mud.

Students – and staff – had a brilliant time, with the pouring rain adding to the fun. Would they do it again? Absolutely!



AWARD RECOGNISES CONTRIBUTION OF AVONDALE COLLEGE TO TREES FOR SURVIVAL PROGRAMME

Trees for Survival has awarded Avondale College a Kowhai Award in recognition of our ongoing involvement and successful integration of Level 2 and 3 NCEA credits into the nationwide programme.

Avondale College became involved in the programme in 2009, and over the past seven years our Horticulture sheds have been home to thousands of tiny eco-sourced native trees seedlings. These have been grown and cared for by our students until they are of the size to be planted out on a West Auckland farmland site which will, one day, become a regional park.

This annual planting trip is one of the highlights of the Horticulture year. Not only do students enjoy a day out in the fresh air, but they have the opportunity to gain 20 credits at Levels 2 and 3 as part of this unit of work.

Avondale College is one of only two schools in New Zealand to receive a Kowhai Award.



TECHNOLOGY



The Technology Department has been a busy place this term as students have hammered, stitched, cooked and welded their way through a huge variety of projects. Pictured at left are two final products from Year 10 Carpentry students: a model of an ancient Greek Trireme (a ramming warship) designed and made by Joshua Wind; and a mouse made by Gemma Walsh to tease her cat.



SCIENCE

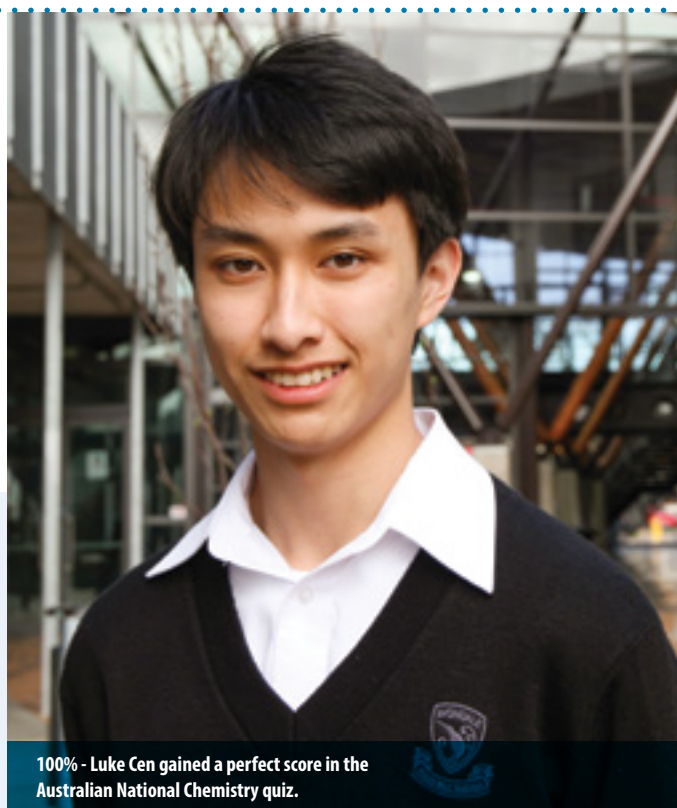
YEAR 13 CHEMISTS ACHIEVE TOP MARKS IN AUSTRALIAN COMPETITION

Eight of our high achieving Year 13 Chemistry students received outstanding results in the Australian National Chemistry quiz this term. With results that place them right at the top of New Zealand students, our eight chemists received High Distinction awards in the competition.

Of particular note was Luke Cen who achieved a grade in the top 100th percentile in New Zealand and Ethan Sorrell who was just one percentage behind with 99.

Congratulations to these students:

Student:	NZ Percentile
Luke Cen	100
Ethan Sorrell	99
Crystal McDougall	98
David Shi	98
Tianheng Zhang	97
Lanqiaozi Shuang	97
Elizabeth Chen	95
Guan Chu Shen	90



100% - Luke Cen gained a perfect score in the Australian National Chemistry quiz.

VIEW FROM THE DIRECTOR OF SPORT

Term 3 - the wettest and most demanding of terms - has come and gone in what seems like a flash. Groups that started training in early February suddenly find their seasons finished and are looking now either to their summer sports or a well-earned rest. It is incredible to see how many people are involved with our winter programme: students, staff, parents, coaches, managers, groundsman, families... the list is endless. We are extremely fortunate to have so many people who are prepared to give of their time, expertise and goodwill on a regular basis to ensure that our students can experience the complete range of emotions that make up a sporting season.

In terms of achievement, our junior basketball girls are currently competing at a very high level. They played the year-long Under 17 Zone competition, which they won, as well as the Greater Auckland competition, which they also won. They also played in the New Zealand Basketball Combined Zone Championships tournament in Rotorua at under 15 level which, not surprisingly, they won as well. With captain Courtenay Le'au'anae as captain and some solid senior players, this young group also made up the bulk of the Premier team. With a strong finish to their year-long Premier season, the girls showed how far they have come throughout the season by finishing third in the Premier regional competition. This means that they have qualified for the national competition in Palmerston North - an amazing achievement by the girls.

The Premier Netball team also had a good season but really performed well at the UNISS regional competition, finishing 4th overall which also qualified them for the national competition for the very best of the nation's netball colleges. At time of writing both teams are in training still to see how far they can go on the national stage and we wish them the very best of luck in their efforts.

Our girls lacrosse had a really strong year with, for the first time, three senior teams competing. Our Premier team finished a close 4th in Auckland and 6th in their national tournament, where the girls just fell short, losing to the eventual winners in the quarter final stage.

As well as the season-long campaigns, tournament week is a big focus for our Premier teams in Term 3. In total ten teams experienced a tournament week campaign, and from Whangarei to Whanganui teams from Avondale represented us around the country in five different disciplines. All carried the Avondale kiwi badge with great pride and were great ambassadors both on and off the field.

Our football girls surpassed expectations by comfortably progressing through the Premier Lotto tournament, finishing 13th in New Zealand. This was a great achievement for such a young group. The boys also won all of their group games, defeating teams from higher Auckland leagues and losing only to the eventual winners 1-0 in a quarter final game that really could have gone either way. Their final placing of 7th, having lost a play-off game in penalties to Premier League Auckland opposition, indicates the calibre next year's group, particularly with the return of a very committed group of seniors who have just completed a three year stint in the 1st XI.

Our hockey teams were the stars of last year's campaign, winning the girls tournament and placing as runners up in the boys. The girls, who subsequently jumped up a grade, had a great time at tournament and finished 11th in the higher grade. The boys again managed to get to the final of their competition and just came up short, losing in the final 2-1 but, like the girls, will reap the rewards of such a campaign for next year.

We have mentioned the girls' basketball already but I must mention the boys' Premier Boys basketball. This group lost two coaches in the first months of the season, as well as most of their senior players from last year, leaving some enthusiastic but mainly inexperienced boys to shoulder the considerable burden of playing in the most competitive competition in the country. Despite this, they worked hard with new coach Bogdan Bocianala and ended up winning two of their play-off games in the Premier Regional competition. We congratulate them on their fortitude, enthusiasm and not inconsiderable skill that allowed them to make the progress they have and look forward to next year with real optimism.

Our final group at tournament was our Open Underwater hockey team in the Junior national competition. At the nationals under the auspices of Mr Jameson and with the parental help of Mr Black and former pupils Tyler Rebers, Daniel Ware and Gabrielle Perry, our new group of underwater hockey players finished a very healthy 9th in New Zealand, suggesting that our continued strong showing in this sport looks set to continue in the immediate future.

So with our very best wishes going to our Premier Girls Basketball and Netball squads in their national tournaments, we move forward again and look to give our juniors the chance to take centre stage in their summer seasons... bring it on!

Mr C Jones
Director of Sport



GABRIELLE FA'AMAUSILI

GABRIELLE KEEPS ON MAKING WAVES

Gabrielle Fa'amausili continues to add to her collection of medals, with a swag of national and international achievements adding to her tally this year.

The 14 year old swimmer not only represented New Zealand at the Youth Olympic Games in China in August, but was chosen to be the flag bearer for the team. She followed this up with a bronze medal winning performance in the 50m backstroke of 28.69s, only 3/1000ths of a second behind the silver medalist.

One of the youngest swimmers in the competition, Gabrielle earned international respect for her achievements and potential against swimmers up to 18 years of age. "They weren't just going to give it to me because of what I had achieved last year," said Fa'amausili after the race. "But I thought this is good, I need this and hopefully next year I'll come back stronger."

Gabrielle's hair hardly had a chance to dry before she was back in the pool, competing in the New Zealand Short Course Nationals in Wellington. Here she managed to win no less than eight medals - six of them gold, and set three New Zealand records at the same time.

Gabrielle's success was recognised locally in September, with the Don Oliver Youth Sports Foundation awarding her a Gold Award. This includes a scholarship of \$5000, which will help towards her expenses as she sets her sights on qualifying for the world and junior world championships next year.

JASMINE PEREIRA

JASMINE MAKING FOOTBALL HISTORY

Year 13 student Jasmine Pereira was part of a history-making New Zealand squad in the FIFA Under 20 Women's World Cup who became the first New Zealand side to progress to the quarter finals of a major world tournament. The girls finished second to hot favourites France in their group before losing to Nigeria in the quarter finals on Sunday 17 August.

The Canadian World Cup campaign was the second one for Jasmine, who also represented New Zealand in Azerbaijan in 2013 with the U17 New Zealand squad.

Her rise through the football ranks has been a rapid one. She began playing at intermediate when their squad was short a goalie, but once she arrived at secondary school she was fast tracked into the 1st XI.

"When I came to Avondale College the coach at the academy here saw me run and said I was too fast to be a goalie so he put me up front for the first XI," she says. Jasmine worked hard, coming up to speed with not only the rules of the game but the sporting slang.

"It's been uphill ever since I started and really quick," she says. "After the Under 17s World Cup I got home and I had to pinch myself and realise how far I'd come. It's incredible."



CONGRATULATIONS TO JASMINE WHO HAS JUST BEEN NAMED IN THE NEW ZEALAND FOOTBALL FERNS SQUAD. OUTSTANDING!



Sunday, 10 August 2014 MONTREAL, QC - AUGUST 09: Jasmine Pereira (R) of New Zealand and Aurelie Gagnet (L) of France battle for the ball during the FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup 2014 group D match between New Zealand and France at Olympic Stadium on August 9, 2014 in Montreal, Canada. (Photo by Martin Rose - FIFA/FIFA via Getty Images)

SWIM TEAM

NZ SHORT COURSE NATIONALS CHAMPS 2-6 SEPTEMBER 2014

Gabrielle Fa'amausili (14yrs)

200 Back : Silver Age grp medal- AKLD Record
100 Back : Gold Age grp - Silver Open medal- NZ record
50 Free: Gold Age grp medal, Gold Open-NZ record
50 Fly : Gold Age grp medal- AKLD record
100 Free: Gold Age grp medal- AKLD record
50 Back: Gold Age -Gold open-NZ record
Medley Relay Bronze Open medal

Caitlin Mann (16yrs)

100 Breaststroke: Bronze Age grp medal
200 IM: Bronze Age grp medal
100 IM: Gold Age grp medal - AKLD record
400 IM: Silver Age grp medal
50 Breaststroke: Silver Age grp medal
200 Breaststroke: Bronze Age grp medal, Bronze Open medal
Medley Relay Bronze Open medal

Lucy Makaea (13yrs)

200 Back: Silver Age grp medal
50 Fly: Bronze Age grp medal



NATASHA NAMED IN THE WHITE FERNS SQUAD

Natasha van Tilberg has been named in the New Zealand women's cricket team's high performance squad. The 16 year old wicket-keeper batsman is the youngest in the squad of 20, which features current players from the White Ferns' recent tour to the West Indies, as well as six others.

It's an astonishing achievement for the Year 12 student, who says she is "stoked and amazed" by the announcement.

As part of the squad Natasha will receive specialist coaching support, individual strength and conditioning programmes, mental skills training and athlete life services.

The White Ferns next series is against England at home in February.



SCHOLARS' ACADEMY

Avondale College's Scholars' Academy students received their Scholars' badges in August in recognition of their outstanding achievement and commitment to academic success.

The Scholars are all students who have achieved 14 credits or more at 'Excellence' level and have a grade point average of at least 0.9 in at least 20 credits in NCEA Level 2 or 3, in one or more endorsed subjects,

or who have achieved A*- A Grades in AS or A Level in one or more CIE subjects. They have also demonstrated intellectual curiosity, gifted and talented qualities, and a willingness to challenge themselves academically.

Our Scholars are now preparing for their CIE, NCEA and Scholarship examinations, and we wish them well.



DEANS CONTACT DETAILS

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UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER

17 CIE students commence study leave
21 Sports Award Dinner
22 Pasifika Leaders' Dinner
22 Year 11 Drama 6pm
23 Media Studies Film Night
27 Labour Day holiday
28 Friends and Family Concert
29-30 Dance Showcase in the theatre 7pm

NOVEMBER

4 Senior Prizegiving
5 Seniors commence study leave
5-10 Junior Exams
19 Year 9 Performing Arts Academy 6pm
20 Year 10 Performing Arts Academy 6pm

DECEMBER

1 Teacher Only Day
4 Graduation Dinner for Year 13 students
10 Junior Prizegiving and final day for students