

On Strowan

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St Andrew's College

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Mr Roland Burrows
Acting Principal of the Secondary School
Acting Deputy Rector

Dear parents and caregivers

It is difficult to believe that we are in week 5, already half way through Term 1!

Over the past five weeks many of you have joined us for beginning-of-year parent information and orientation functions. Quite apart from parents meeting teachers, these evenings have seen parents meeting parents and there is huge value in this. "Parent connectedness" — parents keeping in contact with other parents, especially around our young people's social lives — is about parents being aware and well informed. Parent connectedness is in the best interests of the safety and wellbeing of our teenagers.

One way the College has been able to help with this in the past is to provide a parent contact list for the Secondary School. Once again we are looking at ways this information can be provided. The possibility of making it available on line is being explored. The introduction of the new database has added a complication as we are not confident that parental consent for names and contact phone numbers to be shared with the College community has transferred accurately. This consent relates to student, not parent, information so the Christian names of parents will not be included.

We will advise you of how this information may be accessed once we are satisfied that it is complete and accurate.

The new database is capable of sending group emails and we are keen to use this functionality to provide

KEY DATES

Friday 26 February	Ladies' Circle meeting, Ager Cricket Pavilion, 2.00pm
Saturday 27 February	Canterbury Schools Rowing Championships, Lake Hood
Tuesday 2 March	Boarders' Chapel, 6.15pm
Saturday 6 March	SI Schools Rowing Championships, Lake Ruataniwha
Sunday 7 March	Provincial Pipe Band Championships, English Park
Tuesday 9 March	PTA meeting and AGM
Thursday 11 March	Secondary School Open Day, 5.00pm - 7.00pm
Friday 12 March	Interim reports posted National Pipe Band Championships, Masterton

Please check the homepage of the College intranet (<http://intranet.stac.school.nz>) regularly for more upcoming fixtures. The intranet is updated daily.

quick reminders of upcoming College events. To ensure the effectiveness of this method of communication we ask that you advise the College if your email address changes.

However, communication between parents, both within and beyond the College community, remains a powerful means of spreading the word about upcoming St Andrew's occasions and the next five weeks see several of significance.

Our annual **Secondary School Open Day**, which takes place on Thursday 11 March from 5.00pm, will see each of our learning areas open their doors to our guests.

From hands-on experiments in the refurbished Science laboratories and brand new Maths rooms, to live food preparation in the Food Technology area, displays of student art and photography in the Fine Arts suite and musical items, the evening will provide a true St Andrew's experience.

Our student tour guides steal the show each year and families are given personal attention by the people who best understand what it is like to be at St Andrew's. These young people are the best advertisement we have!

If you have family or friends who have an interest in the College, please encourage them to join us on 11 March.

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From the Secondary School Principal Roland Burrows

And if you would like to see areas of the College that you haven't yet visited you are most welcome to join us too. Tours begin from the Senior College at 5.00pm.

You may also have friends and family who would like to join our **boarding road shows**, which will visit Queenstown, central and north Canterbury in the next few days. Dianne MacDonald (Director of Boarding), Julie Watson (Registrar), Christine Leighton (Rector) and I will be sharing the St Andrew's experience with families who are making the important decision about where their children should attend school. The road shows are evenings of information, conversation and refreshment, and are very relevant for students looking at boarding at St Andrew's in 2010 or beyond.

Queenstown

Thursday 25 February, The Millennium Hotel,
5.00pm – 7.00pm

North Canterbury

Wednesday 3 March, Mudhouse Cafe and Vineyard
5.00pm – 7.00pm

Central Canterbury

Thursday 4 March, Ashburton Hotel, Ashburton
5.00pm – 7.00pm

OPENING OF SPIRO SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS CENTRE: AN INVITATION TO ALL PARENTS...

All parents are invited to join us at 12.00pm on Friday 19 March for the official opening of our fabulous new Spiro Science and Mathematics Centre and Secondary School quad. The formalities will be performed in the quad by Old Collegian and eminent mathematician Professor Roy Kerr. Later that afternoon the College's annual Highland Games will take place on the playing fields. We would love to see you there!



The College is also contributing to an Independent Schools Expo in Merivale Mall. This will run from Wednesday 3 to Saturday 6 March, and is an opportunity to provide information and showcase what a number of the leading independent schools in Christchurch have to offer.

I had the opportunity to attend a meeting of the College's PTA in early February. The PTA continues to be a significant link between the College and its parent community and provides valuable support to the school through a range of fundraising ventures. I am told the Preparatory School's wine and cheese evening was, once again, a successful example of how fine wine, fine food, fine company and fine music can mix - all in the name of fundraising.

The positive energy in the group was evident as we shared reports and discussed the role of the PTA in organising future fundraising ventures.

The upcoming evening with Mike Sabin from MethCon Group, on Thursday March 25 beginning at 7.00pm, is another opportunity for parents to meet, discuss, share, learn and support each other. I hope you are able to attend, as it is increasingly important that we are able to engage knowledgeably with our young people on lifestyle choices and drug use.

I am amazed at how frequently I see so many parents visiting the College. By glancing at the term calendar and seeing the range of special College fixtures and assemblies taking place I can understand why. For many parents, attendance involves lengthy travel and interruption of a busy working day, but your involvement and support of the school is in large part why the term "St Andrew's family" is not just a hollow sentiment but a real phenomenon.

I hope to see you at one of the events coming up in the next five weeks. Equally, if you would like to discuss any aspect of your student's experience in the Secondary School I would be happy to talk with you.

Interim reports will be written during week 7 and posted on Friday 12 March. This report is designed to give you a brief overview of how your son or daughter has started the year. It is an early indicator of the qualities and skills that are being brought to their learning and it is not intended to provide an in-depth comment on progress or achievement. Please contact the year group Dean if you have any queries or concerns about the content of the report.

From the Secondary School Principal Roland Burrows

I have had the privilege of speaking to and meeting with a wide variety of parent groups and students since the beginning of the school year. I understand that the reasons you have chosen St Andrew's College to educate your sons and daughters are many and varied. We undertake to do our very best to meet your expectations and make one promise to you: our prime focus will be classroom learning!

There will be a number of opportunities for the Head of Education, Mr David Bevin, and me to share with you progress on the implementation of the New Zealand Curriculum and details of initiatives in teacher learning and development, as we continue to review and seek ways to improve student achievement.

Kind regards



Roland Burrows
Acting Principal Secondary School

THE ST ANDREW'S BOX OFFICE PRESENTS THE MAJOR PRODUCTION FOR 2010... ROMEO AND JULIET

This year's Senior College production takes us far from the shores of New Zealand to the contested West Bank of Israel. Here, far from Verona, we plan to stage our interpretation of Shakespeare's well-loved play **Romeo and Juliet**.

Our Capulet household is Jewish, and Juliet's love is not only a Montague but also Palestinian. Our play unfolds in Jerusalem, Hebron, and the Mount of Olives. Political and religious differences exist in a volatile landscape; our hope is to gain an understanding of Israel's complex past as we stage our play in the unresolved present. Our students will be researching and making all manner of creative decisions as we take on this challenging project. While including elements of a high-tech docu-drama, the play is ultimately a love story between two young people who throw off inherited antagonism and see each other with fresh eyes. The season opens on 10 May for six performances, and promises to be a unique theatrical experience.

TERM DATES 2011

Last year, the St Andrew's College Executive discussed the proposed changes to term dates for 2011, due to New Zealand hosting the Rugby World Cup. The decision made at that time is as follows:

State Schools

Term 1 31 January – 15 April
Term 2 2 May – 15 July
Term 3 1 August – 7 October
Term 4 25 October – 13 December

St Andrew's College

26 January – 8 April
3 May – 8 July
2 August – 30 September
17 October – 30 November

Some important points to note:

- StAC retains two 3-week holiday breaks, but one of these is in July, rather than the usual September/October.
- October break is two weeks only.
- StAC returns from Term 3 break on 17 October, which is one week earlier than State schools (this gives one extra week preparation for external exams in Term 4).
- Christ's College is following the State model and commencing Term 4 on 25 October (this gives only two school weeks before the start of NCEA).
- Rangi Ruru is commencing Term 4 on 17 October - the same as StAC.
- StAC's rationale for starting a week before State schools in Term 4 is to give more time in class before NCEA begins.
- StAC school exams will definitely need to be in Term 3 – as they were last year.
- When planning holiday trips parents will need to be very aware of these dates, especially the fact there is only a 2-week break at the end of Term 3

If you have any questions, comments or concerns about these dates, please email them to cbarkus@stac.school.nz.

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Parent teacher interviews, as referred to in the Middle School and Senior College sections of this issue, begin in week 8 of this term. Students are able to attend interviews with their parents to receive direct feedback from their teachers. If they do attend, they are expected to wear full school uniform. A system of students making appointments will be in place and you will be reminded of this nearer the time.

Middle School

John Anderson, Head of Middle School



John Anderson
Head of Middle School

Thank you to the Year 9 parents and caregivers who attended the Dean's seminar on 16 February. It was wonderful to catch up with you again and I hope you found the evening informative and a good opportunity to meet new parents from your student's tutor and year group. While I was disappointed by the small turnout of parents at this event, it was wonderful to see so many at the parent and student games evening last night.

Thanks also to those parents and families who were able to join us at QEII Pool on 13 February for the College swimming sports. It was a wonderful day with a huge participation rate from our Middle School students. Well done to all those swimmers who gained selection to the school swimming team participating in the inter-secondary school championships at QEII today.

I hope to see many parents at the College athletic sports tomorrow. Please note that ALL students are expected to be at school ALL day. The athletics day, like the swimming day, is a working school day and full attendance is expected.

REPORTS AND PARENT INTERVIEWS

Later this term staff will complete interim reports for all students. These give an indication of how students are progressing during the early part of the year, and will be posted on 12 March. Interim reports are not detailed assessments, but they do signal any concerns that may have arisen and highlight areas that may need attention.

Year 9 parents have the opportunity to meet staff on Wednesday 17 March to discuss these reports. Year 11 parents meet staff on Tuesday 30 March and Year 10 parents on Tuesday 4 May.

These evenings are held in the gymnasium, starting at 7.00pm. Staff will be seated in the gymnasium

in alphabetical order. To request an interview with a teacher please refer to page 26 of the student diary. Interviews should be kept to fewer than five minutes. If there is a problem that requires additional discussion, appointments may be made at a suitable time.

Please bring with you a copy of your student's interim report and note that the interviews are to discuss progress in the core and semester subjects only. There will be an opportunity to discuss progress in other classes following the mid-year report.

Parents of boarders have the opportunity to meet with staff on Thursday April 1 from 1.30pm – 2.00pm. Appointments do not need to be pre-booked.

EXCHANGE NEWS

Applications packs for two different exchanges are now ready for Year 10 students.

Presbyterian Ladies' College, Sydney, is an exchange open to four Year 10 girls, who will exchange with four girls from PLC. The length of the exchange is four weeks, in the second half of Term 2. The PLC girls will be here for the first four weeks of Term 3. They will be hosted by the exchange families.

The **Scots College, Sydney**, exchange is open to two Year 10 boys, who will exchange with two boys from Scots (who may be in Year 11). The length of the exchange is half a term (the second half of Term 2). The Scots boys will be here for the first half of Term 2 and they, too, will be hosted by the exchange families.

Application forms for both are able to be picked up from the exchange office in the library. Applications must be in by 8 March 2010.

Students visiting us this term are:

Louisa Robertson (Year 11, Gordonstoun, Scotland, partner Sarah Bisset)

Dougal MacEwan (Year 11, Gordonstoun, Scotland, partner James Bragg)

Cody McMahon (Year 12, Lakefield, Canada, partner, Simon Roberts)

Kayla Janke (Year 11, Standford Lake, South Africa, partner Jessica Johnstone)

Angela Kirkmann (Year 11, Bridge House, South Africa, partner Olivia Price).

On exchange are:

Sarah Bisset and **James Bragg**, in Year 11, currently at Gordonstoun School in Scotland.

Middle School

John Anderson, Head of Middle School

Ollie Brown, Year 11, Windermere St Anne's School, England.

Myran Moore, Year 11, Appleby College, Ontario, Canada.

William Montgomery, Year 12, Merchiston Castle School, Scotland.

MATHS HELP FOR FREE

Students who require extra tuition in maths are able to come to the library on Mondays and Tuesdays after school and work with Ms Lane, our maths specialist.

YEAR 11 CHAPEL SUNDAY 28 MARCH AT 7.00PM

Please note that Year 11 chapel takes place on **Sunday 28 March** - a date that differs from that advertised in the last issue of On Strowan. We apologise for any inconvenience caused.



UNIFORM AND GROOMING

Please can you support staff in this area. Guidelines on uniform and grooming are quite clear and can be found on page 22 of the Middle School Handbook.

A number of students are wearing unapproved bangles, bracelets and wrist bands at school. The only band a student is permitted to wear is a christening bracelet. Approval is given by Reverend Galloway on receipt of a



Senior College

Andrew Tweedie, Head of Senior College



Andrew Tweedie, Head of Senior College.

The College year is well under way and while being busy is usually a positive sign, it has sometimes seemed like a struggle to surface for air! There have been many events, meetings and special occasions since the last issue of On Strowan and I am happy to report that all have been successful. My thanks go to everyone who has contributed or participated in any way.

A successful swimming sports were held earlier in the month at QEII Pool, and tomorrow the athletic sports take place. This year, due to the building programme on Wilsons Field, the sports will be held on the fields adjacent to Papanui Road. The athletic sports are a whole College event and all students are expected to be present to participate, support their house and enjoy an activity that helps them to connect with their College.

SENIOR COLLEGE INFORMATION EVENING

Over the last three years we have experimented with different start times and refreshments provided at this important evening. Judging by the number of parents who attended this year, we seem to have found a format that works well.

A lot of information was made available, and I hope those who attended found the answers provided to concerns raised and the opportunity to meet other parents and tutors were of value.

INTERIM REPORTS

Interim reports are due to be posted on Friday 12 March. These serve as important indicators of how students have started the year. They provide personal learning skill grades and an indication of attitude, behaviour, completion of homework and subject progress. In some cases there will be objective data to support the grade a

teacher awards, while at other times they rely on their professional judgement. These are not reports in which teachers make a call as to how they think students will perform at the end of the year. Rather, it is how they have started the year and should be a candid assessment so that there are no surprises later in the year.

If, on receipt of these reports, parents have any cause for concern they should ensure they attend one of the parent-teacher evenings in Term 1. These are scheduled for Tuesday 23 March (Year 13 day students), Thursday 1 April (boarders) and Wednesday 28 April (Year 12 day students). Should parents feel there is a need for a more immediate discussion they should contact the year group Dean. If teachers indicate on the interim report a parent-teacher interview is recommended, it is important this occurs to enable discussion on possible courses of action to address potential problems.

Students, with their tutor's guidance, will also use the interim report as an indicator of whether their grades are meeting the Senior College Diploma requirement. The requirement is an average score of 2.90. I also recommend comparing PLS grades in this report with those in the end-of-year report from last year.

APPLICATIONS FOR SPECIAL LEAVE

Applications for special leave are to be made using the form on the College intranet. Of concern is the number of requests for leave that have been made this year that take students away from College during term time, for reasons that are not justifiable. Parents need to be aware the College cannot approve leave for family holidays, attending concerts, early departures at the end of a term or late arrival at the start of a term. Absences from College in NCEA years put considerable pressure on both students and staff.

THE DAVID GARB WORKSHOPS FOR YEAR 13 STUDENTS: A REFLECTION FROM MIKO FRANZMAYR AND KELLY HYDEN

Once a year, the Year 13 student body is split into two groups to attend David Garb's unique bonding experience. We didn't know what to expect having heard only rumors that had filtered through the previous lot of Year 13s. What we had heard was that we were expected to cry for reasons unknown. We went in with open minds ready for the unexpected!

When David first walked in we were surprised at his easy going humorous attitude. He was not the typical well-dressed human interaction expert we assumed

Senior College

Andrew Tweedie, Head of Senior College

would come. He began with a bonding/trust exercise which started the bonding by making us rely fully on our partner. We had many such activities over the two sessions which helped to draw us closer together as a year group.

All in all, David Garb changed our lives and our views of our peers and life in general in more ways than one. As we continue our senior journey, space cadetting is a tactic of the past.

DIPLOMA

Later this term a letter will be sent to Year 13 students to inform them as to the completion or non-completion of Diploma requirements. This is to avoid any surprises at Leavers' Dinner when the Diploma is presented to graduating students.

The Diploma requirements are set out on page 29 the Senior College Handbook. To maintain the integrity of the award, all conditions must be met in full. If there are any concerns regarding the Diploma, parents should contact either nwilkinson@stac.school.nz or me.

Students are using their Diploma in many different ways, for example to support applications for university scholarships, GAP year activities, entry to CPIT, part-time or permanent jobs and as a testimonial to their character. There is clear evidence of a growing

recognition by students that the Diploma is a useful addition to their CV, and over the last three years the proportion gaining it has increased from 60% to 70%.

SENIOR COLLEGE CHAPEL SERVICE: SUNDAY 14 MARCH AT 7.00PM

Parents and guardians are warmly invited to this service in the College chapel. For Senior College students attendance is compulsory and a Diploma requirement, unless they are representing the College at a sporting or cultural event. In most cases in these circumstances they are excused from the service and will not be required to complete a catch up.

Full summer uniform is to be worn and students will be required for a roll check at 6.45pm in the Senior College Common Room.

Parents are reminded that once in the Chapel we do expect quiet to give all who are present the opportunity for quiet reflection.

ACADEMIC RANK LIST

The academic rank list and accompanying grade credit average is now available for all Senior College students. It can be obtained on request from either their Dean or the Head of Senior College. Parents can request similarly.



Sports & Activities

Denley Jones, Head of Co-curriculum



Denley Jones, Head of Co-curriculum.

SWIMMING SPORTS

We had an enjoyable and action-packed day at QEII on Monday. House spirit was to the fore and as ever the volume of noise and atmosphere made for a great event. Thanks to the enthusiastic efforts of staff, students and in particular the house leaders, competition is well under way for the prized house trophy. Congratulations Rutherford for a fine start to the campaign.



The event was also memorable for the breadth of swimming talent on show. The College records are challenging and have been established over a long period of time. However, 14 were broken on the day:

Under 15

Boys' 100m Backstroke	Christopher Bowman 1:08.30
Boys' 100m Breaststroke	Harrison Minehan 1:19.18
Boys' 50m Breaststroke	Harrison Minehan 34.20
Girls' 100m Breaststroke	Natasha Lloyd 1:18.07
Girls' 50m Breaststroke	Natasha Lloyd 35.66 (beat previous record by 3 seconds)

Under 16

Boys' 100m Freestyle	Isaac Leota 59.22
Boys' 50m Breaststroke	Isaac Leota 32.58 (beat previous record by 3 seconds)

Girls' 100m Breaststroke	Maria Rychkova 1:28.01
Girls' 100m Freestyle	Maria Rychkova 1:02.75 (beat previous record by 3 seconds)
Girls' 50m Freestyle	Maria Rychkova

Senior

Boys' 50m Freestyle	Michael Carter 26.03
Girls' 100m Backstroke	Aimee Browne 1:10.82
Girls' 100m Breaststroke	Heidi Schout 1:30.12
Girls' 50m Backstroke	Aimee Browne 33.15

We now look forward to athletics day tomorrow, which will be held on the front field. Information regarding this event can be found on the intranet under sport and cultural activities.

GOLF

Daniel Shin has been selected to represent Canterbury in the SBS Bank Golf Tournament in Invercargill on 7 and 8 March. **Taylor Strang** has been selected into the Canterbury men's golf development squad and will participate in advanced coaching sessions in the weeks ahead.

TENNIS

Tuscany Hamel and **Rachel Swindell** competed in the recent ITF circuit competition in Auckland. This event attracts the best young players worldwide and represents top level competition. Tuscany made it into the top 16, losing to the eventual finalist.

Our sports captain from last year, **Hayden Joblin**, beat the 9th seed in the singles competition and lost to the eventual singles champion in the second round.

TRIATHLON

A large St. Andrew's team competed in the Canterbury Schools Triathlon Championships held last week at Corsair Bay. **Laura Steffens** placed second in the intermediate girls' individual race. **Blake Hight** placed fifth in the Intermediate boys' individual race. **Sam Callon** placed fifth in the senior boys' individual race. Our intermediate boys' team, consisting of **Reuben Cummack**, **Ben Norris** and **Andrew Ward** placed third overall in the teams event.

I am always interested to hear about student co-curricular achievements in competitions not entered by the school. Achievements can be e-mailed to me by parents and students at djo@stac.school.nz.