



ST THOMAS of CANTERBURY COLLEGE

NEWSLETTER

Website: www.stc.school.nz
E-mail: staff@stc.school.nz

Phone: 03 348 7010
Fax: 03 348 2621

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PLUNKET and TOTS & TODDLERS



Nathan Flannery and **Logan Buck** are pictured here with **Callum MGirr** during a year 12 Tots and Toddlers playtime class. Callum is 7 months old and teaching our young men about parenting skills – how to look after me! A big thank you to **Jackie McDonald** for her facilitating of these lessons.

24 June 2009

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Nau mai haere mai

Talofa lava

Nau mai haere mai. Talofa lafa. Malo le lei.

As a follow up from last week, here is a further extract from Guy Claxton's book *'What's the point of school'* relating to the role of parents as foremost educators of their sons and daughters.

Another telling example of the power of parental modeling comes from the work of American poet and academic Anne McCrary Sullivan. Sullivan wrote an essay in 2000 intriguingly entitled 'Notes from a marine biologist's daughter: on the art and science of attention'. She describes, in both poetry and prose, how, as a little girl, she served an intense apprenticeship in the habit and pleasure of simply paying detailed attention to things, as she accompanied her scientist mother. In one of her poems called 'Mother collecting marine specimens' she recalls an occasion when they were both in a small skiff on an inlet that ran under a road bridge, her mother gathering samples from the encrusted pilings:

In a cave-like cool, she nudges
Grey clusters, crusty forms
She scrapes, selects,
Lays silty bits and clumps
In a bucket of clear water.
Intent, she peers and plucks.
A streak of blood appears on her thumb.
She doesn't notice. She never does.
I slide a finger over creosote blisters,
Hear them pop, feel them flatten...

Here is the child ardently noticing what her mother notices – and does not notice. She is attending a master class in absorption, and observing how even a cut thumb can become invisible and insensible, eclipsed by a concentration that is completely elsewhere. And the child is also practicing her own attentiveness and experimentation. The child's borrowed fascination enables us, too, to hear those tiny explosions, and feel the changing sensations in our fingertips as those blisters burst and sag. As readers we can feel the poet's attention rubbing off on us, as her mother's did on her.

In her prose reflections on these experiences, Sullivan writes:

My mother, the scientist, taught me to see. She taught me attention to the complexities of surface detail, and also attention to what lies beneath those surfaces...In doing so, she made me a poet. My mother, the teacher, held classes in mud and water and light. She taught with buckets and shovels and nets. Her students' tennis shoes squished loudly as they worked, discovered, learned. I observed that my mother and her students were happy. I became a teacher. My mother, the researcher, sat patiently at the microscope on the kitchen table, observing, noticing, discovering patterns, making sense. In that kitchen, I learned the patience of research. My mother was making order of the raggedness of the living world and I was paying attention. But I didn't know at the time that I was, and I'm quite sure she didn't think that I was. As that little girl hangs around, apparently bored perhaps, swinging her legs, idly popping creosote blisters or playing with the cat, she is also soaking up her mother's habits and pleasure in learning. She is osmosing the deep idea that learning – hard,

patient, detailed, long drawn-out learning – is both exciting and utterly absorbing. She is watching the slow process of sucking meaning out of experience, and learning that making deep sense of things, looking patiently for what is hidden, is both possible and joyous. The domains of poetry and science seem far apart; but they share this common, communicable root: the refinement of attention.

So as our children spend time with us, what do they see? What contagious attitudes and beliefs are we unwittingly transmitting? And can we recognize that our casual demonstrations of learning are as precious as the time spent helping with sums and reading – and thus determine to become more potent and benign models? Like the teachers in the last chapter, can we take pleasure in saying 'I don't know' and 'let's find out'? Do we let them see us getting frustrated – but sticking with it? Do we show them that *our* learning is sometimes hard, that we sometimes get perplexed, but we recover? Do we demonstrate that sometimes you need to walk away and cool down, and that 'leaving it for a bit' is entirely intelligent and productive? And do we see that allowing them these small glimpses of our learning attitudes is a positive contribution to their development? Can we create our own versions of those family meal-times, modeling and coaching the art of conversation?

Warm regards



Christine O'Brien
Principal

Staff news

We extend our thoughts and prayers to two of our teachers, Mr Marty Taylor and Mr Phil McKendry, in the loss of their father and mother respectively. At times like this the importance of family and those with whom we have deep and close relationships, is emphasized, as is the support of colleagues and friends in our journey through life.

We also farewell Mr Phil McKendry for a year to Auckland. Phil is a key member of our physical education faculty and has been a force in initiating and sustaining our entry to and development in The Press Cup Crusaders competition. We wish him all the best for the year away and look forward to his return mid 2010.

During Phil's absence, Mr Tim Berg will return to the College to teach physical education and sports leadership. Tim has previously taught here for two terms and I am sure the students and staff will welcome him back most warmly.

CARS AND SAFETY

We remind parents of two critical safety issues relating to cars:

1. A reminder that it is **illegal** to park on the yellow lines immediately outside the school. This obstructs vision and endangers your sons.
2. Please **do not** bring your cars up the driveway and into the College to drop boys off, particularly in wet weather. There is not enough space on the College grounds and the boys are quite capable of walking a few meters.

AUSTRALIAN ENGLISH COMPETITION 2009

English:

Closing Date – **Tuesday 7 July**

Exam Date – **Tuesday 4 August**

Entry Fee - **\$7.50**

Writing:

Entries now closed

Exam Date – **Tuesday 23 June**

Entry Fee - **\$14.00**

Spelling:

Entries now closed

Exam Date – **Tuesday 23 June**

Entry Fee - **\$9.50**

If you are interested see **Mr Strachan**.

WINE CASKS

Mrs McCarthy still welcomes any used wine casks for storing journals. It would be appreciated if the boxes are complete without having had the sides removed. Please deliver them to the office.

SEWING ALTERATIONS / REPAIR SERVICE

If your son's uniform is in need of repair (hems, pockets, cuffs, zips, braiding etc.) please phone **Mrs Jeannette Harper, ph 348-3362, fax 348-3398.**

CLOTHING NAME TAPES

The majority of clothing (mainly P.E. shorts and tops) worn by students at the College is not named.

If you require name tapes to be made please phone / fax **Roger** or **Judy Newick, (03) 313 6741**. Prices are: **\$12** per three meters (approximately 50 names) or **\$14** with phone numbers. No charge for postage.

EDMUND RICE GROUP

Eddie's Breakfasts



When: Monday, Wednesday, Friday
Where: M3
Time: 7.30 – 8.30am,
last diners at 8.15am
Cost: \$2
Food: Maximum 4 Weetbix and 4 slices of toast.

If you do not have \$2 you will not be allowed to enter the room. It is only for those who have paid for their breakfast.

ST THOMAS PFA FUNDRAISERS



- ***Drink Bottles with School Logo***

800 ml blue plastic drink bottle with black screw top and non drip valve nozzle.
School logo in yellow/red print
Price \$8.00 each – available from the College office

- ***Umbrellas with School Logo.***

Royal blue golf umbrella with coloured school logo
Great for the side lines to keep dry while supporting your son's team.
Price \$25.00 each - available from the College office

- ***Thermal Mugs with School Logo***

Thermal mugs with school logo are available from the College office,
\$15 each, limited numbers, be in quick!!!

- ***Lapel Pins***

Buy a lapel pin today.
These very attractive St Thomas' lapel pins are only \$10. These may be purchased from the College office or contact beth.clayton@xtra.co.nz

The abovementioned items are all useful keepsakes. The money received is then returned by the Parents and Friends Association to the College to purchase items such as Data Projectors, Library equipment etc.. so please support the College.

What's been going on with a week to go in the term?



TRIP TO RONCALLI COLLEGE

The 16th of June saw STC travel to Roncalli College on a very cold day here in Christchurch. Unsure of conditions we were met with a beautiful day in Timaru.

Jordan Koolamatangi is seen here bursting away from the Roncalli forward pack. The final score was a hard fought 26 to 21 win to STC

A SPECIAL BIRTHDAY

James McLaughlin celebrated his 18th birthday with a cake and all the year 13 group singing merrily in their common room.



STUDENT COUNCIL AND CANTEEN

Josh Toohy is seen here presenting a cheque to guests from Canteen. The \$900 cheque is a percentage of the workday earnings from earlier in the year.

The Young New Zealanders' Challenge of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Recipients of their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award, **Jacob Laurent** and **Fraser Cross** are pictured here with local coordinator **Terrence Courtney**.

Well done on a great effort.



Rowing Sponsors 2009

Lincoln University



Asmuss South Island Ltd



Lincoln University, Asmuss South Island Ltd. and Huntzmann Rowing have sponsored the school a Quad/Four convertible boat. This has been made possible with the continued support and sponsorship of Geoff Robinson at **Huntzmann Rowing (division of CSB Huntzmann Boats)** who has supplied both boats.

Thank you also to the continued support from

Lyttelton Engineering

long time supporters of rowing at the college.

If you are interested in sponsoring rowing at St Thomas' or would like some information about sponsoring rowing, please feel free to contact Paddy Dowling pdowling@stc.school.nz or phone (03) 348 7010.

Paddy Dowling
Master in charge of Rowing

RUGBY CLUB DAY – Saturday 27th June 2009

The College is gearing up for a full programme of rugby to be played this Saturday on our home grounds. Unfortunately our Press Cup team won't be playing as the game against Marlborough Boys had to be rescheduled and played Thursday 25th June at 1pm. To replace the 1st XV match, Marist Albion Colts vs. Shirley is being played at 2.45pm. The Marist team has many of our old boys playing for them.

Club Day Draw as follows:

Colts Marist Albion v. Shirley	27/06/2009	2:45	St Thomas1	
Under 18 - Section 3 - Plaque	27/06/2009	1:00	St Thomas1	CBHS/HSOB 7th
Under 16 - Section 2 - Plaque	27/06/2009	14:30	St Thomas2	CBHS B
Under 15 - Section 2 - Plaque	27/06/2009	9:45	St Thomas1	Belfast
Under 14 - Section 3 - Plaque	27/06/2009	11:15	St Thomas2	St Andrews B
Under 13 - Section 3 - Plaque	27/06/2009	9:45	St Thomas2	Parklands

We look forward to seeing families supporting our teams.

CANTERBURY PRIMARY AND INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL SKI RACES CHEESEMAN SKI AREA – SUNDAY 16 AUGUST 2009

Information has been sent to the College regarding the above event. Students are welcome to enter as long as parents are aware that they will be responsible for transporting and managing their son/s during the day.

This fun skiing event consists of dual slalom courses for boys and girls of all ages – Years 1 – 8. No previous ski racing experience is necessary, merely sufficient skill to ride a T-bar lift and ski groomed, easy slopes. Entry fees \$20.00. Entries close Monday 3 August. Helmets are compulsory.



Sports Trip Fund Raiser!



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