



High School

Newsletter

Issue 8

December 2015

Uniform Shop Hours

26 - 29 January

2 - 5 February

9 am - 4pm Daily

Dates to Remember

25 - 29 January

Senior Course confirmation

1 February

Teacher Only Day

2 February

Years 10, 11 and 12

8.30 am — 12 noon

3 February

Years 9 and 13

8.30 am — 12 noon

4 February

All school in

Normal timetable begins

8 February

Public holiday for

Waitangi Day

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Congratulations to our Senior Prize Winners



Yahaira Williams and Coco Kerckhoffs

Family and friends gathered for Senior Prize-giving on the evening of 3 December to celebrate the many academic, cultural and sporting achievements of the Year 11, 12 and 13 students.

The Dux for 2015 is Coco Kerckhoffs. Head Girl, Yahaira Williams, was awarded both the Sir Paul Holmes Memorial Trophy for General Excellence at Year 13 and the Clark Cup for Proxime Accessit to Dux.

The other prestigious awards made were the Roff Cup for Senior Sportsman of the Year, which went to Reuben Hinton while the Lucas Cup for Senior Sportswoman of the Year went to Talon Robinson. The Karamu Cup for Sporting Excellence went to Wilson Pearse and the Barker Cup for Sportsmanship went to Yahaira Williams.

The Cultural Excellence Trophy was awarded to Jasmin Rorrison. Te Taonga Trophy for Contribution to Maoritanga was awarded to Liam Kare Kare.

At Year 11, the General Excellence Cup was awarded to Holly Davison while the Academic Excellence Cup was shared between Bethany Cox and Oliver Chamberlain.

At Year 12, the General Excellence Cup went to Georgia Boyes and the Academic Excellence Cup to Ezra Cash.

Congratulations to all the many other academic, cultural, sporting and honour badge recipients for 2015.



"Gifts of time and love are surely the basic ingredients of a truly merry Christmas."

*Peg Bracken
US Author*



"Maybe Christmas," he thought, "doesn't come from a store. Maybe Christmas... perhaps... means a little bit more."

*From "How the Grinch Stole Christmas"
by Dr Seuss*



"Every gift which is given, even though it be small, is in reality great, if it is given with affection."

*Pindar
Greek Poet
522-433 BC*

From the Principal

It is with mixed emotions that I write my last newsletter comment as your Principal. The last few weeks have flown by and the students have achieved so much during this time. Our prize givings are a wonderful time to celebrate achievement and I also know that many families will have been pleased with the end of year reports that they received for their son's and daughter's. As families it is such an important act to celebrate success no matter how big or small. Students forget many things but they will never forget those moments.

The success of Karamu High School is a direct result of the attitude of the schools community. Most importantly our community values learning and achievement for all our students and I have always found this attitude motivating and heartening. The unqualified support of our school by our parents is such a strong feature and one that will ensure that Karamu continues to thrive long into the future.

My wife Sara and I would like to thank you all for welcoming us into the Karamu community back in 2008 and your messages of support and farewell have been equally kind. We wish you all the best and will always follow the successes of Karamu High School with pride. Ka kite ano.

Martin O'Grady
Principal

Deputy Principal - Junior School

Another busy academic year has come to an end. I would like to congratulate all of the prize winners at the Junior Prize-giving awards. This is fantastic recognition of our junior school successes throughout the year, whether it be in an academic, sporting or cultural endeavour. These students have set the bar for their peers to aspire to in 2016.

On Monday 7 December we completed the day with our annual class tabloid competition. It was fantastic to see the colour and energy that our junior school brought to this event. A big thank you must go to Mr Ross for organising the events as well as the staff and Year 12's who all helped to ensure everyone had an enjoyable afternoon.

We now look forward to the 2016 academic year with great excitement. A large amount of work has been going on behind the scenes to make sure it will be business as usual. In 2016 we will welcome 200 new Year 9 students, and we look forward to ensuring they make a smooth transition to their secondary schooling.

I hope you all have a safe and enjoyable Christmas break, and I look forward to seeing you all back here in the New Year.

Michael Leitch
Deputy Principal

Chairperson of the Board of Trustees

Last week, I had the pleasure of attending the Senior Prize-giving and in presenting a number of awards and trophies. I am always impressed with the wide range of achievements from so many Karamu students and to see the great delight families take in the achievements of their sons or daughters.

The Board of Trustees recognises Mr O'Grady's hard work and vision, not only during this year, but for the whole of the time he has been with us. We wish him, and his wife Sara, all the best in their move to Feilding. The Board also thanks the administrative and management teams for their efforts during the year. We especially recognise the teaching staff, who have always been ready to go the extra distance to bring out success in their students. A great staff and a great team make for a great school. The Board is committed to making sure that Karamu remains an excellent school. The Board has begun the process of appointing a new principal to replace Mr O'Grady and will be advertising the position early in the new year. This is an exciting time for the school and we will be working very hard to identify the best applicant possible and to support our very experienced and competent staff during this time.

On behalf of the Board, I extend to all students, staff, families and whanau the very best of wishes for the holidays. I hope you all have a safe and relaxing summer break and come back refreshed for a new year.

David de Lange
Board Chairperson

A Busy Term for the Science Department



Year 9 students at the Estuary.

During Week 7 of Term 4, all Karamu High School Year 9 students had the privilege of spending time at the Ahuriri Estuary. Students learned about the special role estuaries have within the ecosystem, including its biological importance and the current and historical Maori perspective of estuaries as taonga. Students also were able to identify the many adaptations plants and animals have made in order to thrive in such an extreme environment. Finally, and perhaps most importantly students discovered via experience that the mud at the estuary is full of life with many fascinating inter-relationships. Highlights including observing many baby flounder in a “nursery” pool and observing the Royal Spoonbill and Godwits up close. The trip was rewarding for both students and teachers. Students were respectful of the environment and each other and a good time was had by all.

It has been a busy time for the science department with 10PCH spending a day at Massey University involved in various workshops in science and mathematics. 9KMA and 9JOR hosted workshops for two classes from Parkvale School recently, and a number of Karamu students were involved in a biodiversity project with Te Mata Primary School. Then, news in that Karamu has been selected to participate in a scientific study to identify previously unknown fungal species, a project which will see students working along side specialists in the field, using best scientific practices.

Regional Senior Debating Champions



Jasmin Rorrison, Abigail Hussey, Yahaira Williams

The senior debating team of Jasmin Rorrison, Abigail Hussey and Yahaira Williams defeated a strong Hastings Girls' High School debating team in the finals of the Year 12/13 competition recently. The team successfully negated the moot that New Zealand should become a state of Australia in front of adjudicators from St John's College and Lindisfarne. Abigail was named Best Speaker. Mikaelah-Grace Radtke, the fourth team member, sat out the final.

Jasmin and Yahaira were members of the Regional Hawkes Bay Team which competed in the Debating Nationals earlier in the year, along with Year 12 student, Mikel O'Connell.

Year 9 and 10 Speeches and Debates

During Karamu Junior High, the finals of both the Year 10 Speech competition and the Year 9 House Debating Competitions were held. Amy Griffiths was first in the Year 10 competition, followed by Ethan Hope with Cameron Young in third place.

The final of the Year 9 House Debating Competition was between Heretaunga, (Abigail Kilkolly, Trent Beale, Boston Wynyard and Sami Rashid), and Tuki Tuki, (Xanthia Baker, Dean Polak, Thomas Steinmann and Courtney Thompson). The moot, that Santa should be banned, was won by Tuki Tuki. The teams were chosen after all Year 9 English classes had studied debating and held class debates.



Amy Griffiths and Ethan Hope

Junior Prize-giving



Amy Saunders, Jaime Mossman, Isaac Hinton, Benjamin Colquhoun

Family and friends were invited to attend a final assembly and Junior Prize-giving on 8 December. Congratulations go to all the students who received awards for their efforts this year, whether academic, cultural or sporting. The major prize winners were:

Year 9 General Excellence: Isaac Hinton

Year 9 Academic Excellence: Benjamin Colquhoun

RSA Scholarship for a Year 9 student: Benjamin Colquhoun

Year 10 General Excellence: Amy Saunders

Year 10 Academic Excellence: Jaime Mossman

Junior Sportswoman: Cortez Te Pou

Junior Sportsman: Samuel Walton-Sexton

Turner Family Cup for Sporting and Cultural Excellence: Nicholas Palmer

Year 9 Speech Cup: Abigail Kilkolly

Year 10 Speech Cup: Amy Griffiths

Karamu Junior High House Cup: Tuki Tuki

Tabloid Sports Afternoon



The final full school day of the year ended with the traditional Tabloid Sports afternoon. Students competed in form classes for the honour of being Top Class. Each of the unusual, yet fun, events lasted for three minutes before the teams moved on to the next station. Each class dressed up according to their chosen theme.

After much hilarity, the top form classes were, in Year 9, 9MAC followed by a combined team of 9MJA and 10LHA, then 9JOM and 9JOR. The top Year 10 team was 10JMO, followed by 10PCH, 10ARO and 10DPR.

For more information about Karamu, visit www.karamu.school.nz or visit our FaceBook page.