



Term 4, 2021

Ipsa Duce

A termly publication from Kavanagh College

Message from the Principal

We are in the time of Advent, and it certainly seems to me that the foci of the four advent wreath candles – Hope, Love, Joy and Peace – have significantly more meaning for us this year. It has been another disrupted year, but our students have navigated the changes imposed on them with grace and understanding. What is of concern, is what the new normal will look like for all of us particularly when Covid inevitably makes its way south.

Hope is something that Christians can find solace in because we know that our future is being held by God. We have reinforced this at school this year with our students. I once heard someone speak of 'standing up on the balcony' before we try to work out what is happening around us. Taking a step back and up allows us to see things for what they are – looking at the bigger picture – rather than feeling like we are drowning in a situation that we can't see our way out of.

Our faith helps us to get up onto that balcony, and along with doing our best to live our lives with hope, love, joy and peace, could be a good way to work through what is yet to come for us in the next twelve months.

I would like to congratulate the Kavanagh College community on another excellent year. The student body has been ably led by a stunning Year 13 group who led by example and lifted the bar high for those who come after them. A successful beginning to our new Te Timatanga programme for our Year 7-9 students has been very positive. We are reviewing achievement progress and data at the moment to look at any refinements we need to make for next year. Two musical productions, some great sports achievements and a happy school culture has made for a very satisfying year.

An increase in our expected roll to begin in 2022 means that it is not just us feeling satisfied! People are recognising that Kavanagh College offers a special place in the Dunedin environment as we continue to work constantly to bring about our vision - "Excellence in learning and teaching in a climate of faith and pastoral care."

Thank you to all our parents, whānau and the wider Catholic community members who continue to believe in our college. Thank you to the staff and students who have worked tirelessly and generously this year to make Kavanagh a special place for all who spend time with us. I wish everyone a happy and holy Christmas spent in the midst of faith, family and friends.

*Aroha nui,
Mrs Kate Nicholson
Principal*

Congratulations to our Head Students and Special Character Prefects for 2022



From left: Mariya Jose (Head Girl), Maliza Alahakoon (Special Character Prefect), Alex Bello (Deputy Head Boy), Manaia Barns (Head Boy), Sarah Al-Balushi (Deputy Head Girl), Pippa Sherriff (Special Character Prefect).

Prizegivings 2021

Prizegivings this year have been quite different because Covid-19 restrictions meant that only staff and students could attend in person. However, all these award ceremonies were live streamed so whānau at home could join in virtually. This has also meant that friends and family in other parts of the country - and even in different parts of the world - have been able to view these prizegivings too which has been a silver lining to a challenging situation.

This year Kavanagh students have been encouraged to be the very best versions of themselves and we certainly saw plenty of examples of this recently as we celebrated the achievements of our students in the sporting, cultural, service and academic life of the school.

Sports Awards

Although a number of sporting events were cancelled this year because of Covid-19, our students continued to play in a variety of different sporting codes whenever they could, displaying commitment, fair play and perseverance.

Outstanding Contribution and Excellence Awards were presented at the Sports Awards held at the end of October. The following students received the top sporting honours:

Team of the Year - Girls Curling Team (Ellie McKenzie, Olivia Oram, Sarah Oram, Bella Stewart)

Student Coach of the Year - Madi Buckley

McLaughlan Trophy - Emily Kelsall

Year 9/10 Sportsperson of the Year - Ryleigh Makiiti and Abby Simpson

Senior Sportsperson of the Year - Erika Fairweather

Students who were awarded a Sports Blue this year were: Emma Christophers, Meg Christophers, Erika Fairweather, Josh Forrester, Taylor Hamilton, Jack Harris, Charlotte Hayde, Georgia Kennedy, Shreenidh Mahamuni, Ellie McKenzie, Kohen Muir-Thomson, Olivia Oram, Sarah Oram, Katie Pullar, Colin Ramsey, Annabelle Ring, Pippa Sherriff, Bella Stewart, Keisha Su'a.



Emily Kelsall receives the McLaughlan Trophy which is awarded to the senior student who has shown the highest level of contribution to sport during their time at Kavanagh College.



Prize winners Ryleigh Makiiti, Abby Simpson, Madi Buckley and Erika Fairweather at the Sports Awards.

Throughout the year, many Kavanagh students displayed and shared with us their passion for the performing arts, debating and public speaking. There is a very vibrant cultural community at Kavanagh and we all benefit from this. We experienced a sample of this talent during the Cultural Awards evening with a number of performances including musical items, dance and kapa haka.

The winners of the cups and trophies at the 2021 Cultural Awards were:

Drama Trophy: Ellen Redfearn

Harger Trophy: Kate Kelly

Tried and True Award: Jennifer Cherkun

Dancer's Cup: Phoebe Harris

Rising Star Award: Anamika Jones

Cultural Committee Cup: Samuel Kelly

Director's Cup: Kate Kelly

Theatre Sports Cup: Enrique Garcia & Samuel Kelly

Peeking Duck and KTVN Award: Daniel Cairns & Jacob Hurd-Vial

The Paris Cup: Quinn Wilson

The Farry Cup: Sarah Al-Balushi & Manaia Barns

John McKewen Trophy: Tobias Devereux

Stephen Chambers Cup: Lexie Tomlinson

Top Composer Cup: Tobias Devereux

A Tempo Trophy: Jakira Brophy

Pasifika Vibes Leadership Award: Melina Lam Cheung

Kaea Wahine: Keisha Su'a

Kaea Tāne: Isaac Tili

Year 7 & 8 Cultural Cup: Joseph Kelly

Junior Cultural Cup: Oliver Lodge & Isaac Tili

Senior Cultural Cup: Jakira Brophy



Adi Garnett receives her Cultural Blue from Mrs Nicholson.



Tobias Devereux performs a musical item during the Cultural Awards.

Students who were awarded a Cultural Blue this year were: Ethan Bremner, Jakira Brophy, Jennifer Cherkun, Tobias Devereux, Enrique Garcia, Adi Garnett, Liam Gould, Anamika Jones, Kate Kelly, Samuel Kelly, Troy Kubala, Melina Lam Cheung, Amalie Latton, Riley Mortimer, Ellen Redfearn, Oscar Robertson, Siobhan Stevenson, Keisha Su'a, Lexie Tomlinson, Quinn Wilson.

Pantomime

This year Kavanagh's pantomime was all about the Olympic Games which were being held in the North Pole and it featured all our favourite Christmas characters such as elves, penguins, reindeer and, of course, Santa himself. Everything goes south when the Olympic rings go missing thanks to Herbert the naughty elf - but luckily Rudolph, Trixie and Sparkles save the day.

The Kavanagh Pantomime is a wonderful way for our performing arts staff and students to finish the year as it's always filled with lots of laughs and enjoyable songs and dances. Congratulations to all those involved on another successful show.



Kavanagh's Got Talent

In week one of this term, we were lucky enough to be able to hold our annual Kavanagh's Got Talent competition while still being in Alert Level 2. There was a wide variety of acts that blew everyone away and reminded us of how talented our students really are.

The winner of the competition was Anamika Jones from Year 9 who performed her original song "Chasing Sheep". The rock band Bridger Street came in second followed by Stephen Fernando in third who played "Bohemian Rhapsody".



Anamika Jones - the 2021 winner of Kavanagh's Got Talent.



Bridger Street plays at Kavanagh's Got Talent.

Polyfest

Nei te hau o mihi e pupuhi nei

Our Kapa Haka group "Te Whetū Tīrama" took part in Polyfest on 18 October, the first day of Term 4. We're grateful that Polyfest could go ahead this year as it is such a great experience for our students. Polyfest under Level 2 restrictions looked different to previous years. This year all the performances were live streamed and there was no live audience, except for the Polyfest crew and a handful of our whānau helpers.

Our regular practice time this year was after school on Tuesdays. Our tutors Matua Pesamino Tili and Patrick Sefo-Cloughley brought discipline and energy to our group, while our lead students Keisha, Siobhan and Piata brought their new waiata, beautiful voices and guitar playing skills. We lost some momentum during the lockdown, but our team worked hard in Term 3 and during the school holidays to bring the group up to speed.

One of the waiata-ā-ringā (action songs) we performed was "He aha kei taku uma" which is a well known tune from Waikato Tainui. The first part is the commemoration of a passed loved one, while the second verse is a plea to the youth to take on more responsibilities with the tribal structures. Piata Rapata-Hanning (our guitarist) wrote to the office of Te Arikinui Kiingi Tūheitia to ask permission for us to perform this waiata and they replied "āe"!

Our new kapa haka members did so well this year. We are keen to grow our numbers next year - all you need is commitment and enthusiasm.

Nei te mihi ki ngā kaihautū o te waka haka i tēnei tau ki a Matua Tili rātou ko Tim Lucas, ko Patrick, ko Piata, ko Siobhan, ko Keisha e mihi ana! (Acknowledgements to those who have navigated the waka of kapa haka this year.)

Nāku noa, nā Maya Tate-Manning



NZ Physics & Mathematics Competition

Earlier in the year Tobias Devereux (Year 13) participated in the NZ Physics and Mathematics Competition (NZPMC) and achieved 3rd place in the senior division out of more than 500 competitors throughout New Zealand.

Australian Mathematics Competition

A number of Kavanagh students entered the annual Australian Mathematics Competition in Term 3 with some great results. This competition focuses on problem solving skills and is challenging not only in terms of the content of the questions but also the number of questions that need to be answered in the time available

Congratulations to the following students who performed very creditably.

High Distinction:

Tobias Devereux (Year 13) - 100th percentile

Distinction:

Paddy Hickey (Year 7) - 86th percentile

Joseph Kelly (Year 8) - 85th percentile

Credit:

Year 7 - Laura Tagg, Sam Marslin, Matai Young, Levi Simpson, Joseph Tupai

Year 8 - Akein Wickramagedara, Loken Lemm

Year 9 - Gabriel Curtis, Jessica Tupai, Grzegorz Twardowski

Year 10 - Drew White



The medal Tobias was awarded for his achievement in the NZPMC.

Board Update

The Board of Kavanagh College would like to thank all the staff of the school for supporting our students and each other in what has been a year of constant change due to Covid-19. Despite the restrictions of the covid alert levels preventing the school community from being able to come together for events such as prizegivings, award ceremonies and masses, we appreciate all the school did to make these events available to families at home via live streaming. The streaming option also made the events accessible to others such as family living outside Dunedin who have never been able to attend.

Thank you also to all parents, caregivers and whānau who have supported the school with outside the classroom activities, sports and caring for our community this year. Your support makes all the difference not only to the school community, but also to our wider church and Dunedin community. A recent example of this was the support shown for the St Vincent de Paul food bank.

The Ministry of Education has now extended the school board election cycle to September 2022 and the Kavanagh Board has now concluded its meetings for 2021. The Board would like to wish you all the best for the coming festive and holiday season.

Barb Long, Board Chair



Kavanagh students Enrique Garcia and Hailey Xavier were two of the four finalists in the Volunteer South Youth Leader Award with Enrique being named one of the joint winners.

In November all the Year 8 students headed off to Camp Columba in Southland for four days of adventure, fun, challenge and new experiences. Here are a couple of reflections about the camp from students who attended.

Year 8 Camp Recap *by Jack Waterworth*

I went to Year 8 camp thinking nothing would beat my Year 6 camp - but boy was I wrong!

My first favorite activity was kayaking - and it was awesome. I enjoyed playing tag in the kayaks and running on top of the kayaks, but most of all I loved the kayak slide. This was a tarp going down a hill on the side of the pond going into the water. We sat in our kayak at the top of the hill and got pushed down into the water. It was extremely fun.

The high ropes was the next activity on my camp highlights list because it gave me a massive adrenaline rush. One of the activities here was the leap of faith. You climb up the pole to the top and try to stand up. There is nothing to hold onto when you get up and the pole is very wobbly. When you get up you jump to a bar and grab onto it. I had some difficulties standing up on the wobbly pole, but when I did get up I felt the adrenaline pumping and I just went for it.

The next thing that stood out to me was the free time. I loved just hanging out with all my friends and playing football and basketball. I also really enjoyed the water slide and there were so many different ways to go down it - stomach, knees, back, sitting.

So Year 8 camp was a very fun time filled with lots of highlights and I would give anything to do it again.



Adventures at Camp *by Maddy Muschamp*

Recently Year 8 went to camp and we all got to face our fears and have an amazing time. There was a massive range of activities we all got to do such as paddle through the water at kayaking, balancing on the high ropes, zooming through the air ziplining, and touching the sky at rock climbing.

My favourite activity at camp was kayaking. After playing some games with the kayaks we went down the kayak slide; it was really fun because we were flying down a tarp in our kayaks and into the water.

One of the first activities I did on camp was the high ropes. I was the first to go and it was really scary. I was shaking as I took my first step. Afterwards we had to stack milk crates up and see how high we could get them. It was really hard but I managed to get 12!

The mission on the zipline was to get the sheep in the bucket while zooming through the sky. It was really tricky to get the sheep in the bucket so you had to time it just right. Another activity was rock climbing. I'd been to Clip 'n Climb before so I wasn't nervous at all. I was also first so I raced up the wall grabbing all the grips. Then I moved to the other side which was way more challenging as you were practically lying upside down and there were missing grips but I managed to get the highest which I'm quite proud of myself for.

Overall I really enjoyed camp and the exciting things I got to do, friends I made and the skills I learnt. I'm also very proud of myself for the things I achieved in three days.



Ezra Eady - Celebrate Art Winner

This year Ezra Eady, from Year 13 Photography, won the Supreme Scholarship award in the Dunedin Schools Celebrate Art Show.

Celebrate Art is an exhibition that is held annually at The Polytechnic School of Art to celebrate artistic talent from Dunedin's Secondary Schools. It is open to any Year 12 or 13 student studying in the fields of Photography, Painting, Printmaking and Sculpture.

This year, Ezra won the Kavanagh school award and was the overall supreme award recipient. The scholarship allows the recipient to study fees free for a semester at the Otago Polytechnic School of Art. Ezra intends to take up this prestigious offer in 2022.



Elijah Booth - The Dunedin Art Show Exhibitor

Elijah Booth, Year 10, was invited to showcase his work at the The Dunedin Art Show at the Edgar Centre in November.

Elijah draws his inspiration from artists of the past, things going on around him and issues of importance. He is also influenced heavily by artist Jean-Michel Basquiat, with his use of the crown often featuring in his own work.

Elijah's works were so popular that he sold three pieces at the show and another two afterwards. Sales aside, Elijah really enjoyed talking to people about his art at the show and interacting with the other artists.



Mana Pounamu Awards

The Mana Pounamu awards recognise Māori students who have achieved academic, leadership, cultural and/or sporting excellence in Otago.

Congratulations to Kavanagh's Mana Pounamu recipients for 2021:

- Erika Fairweather, Ngāi Tahu/Kāi Tahu (Tuakana [Senior] Award)
- Ruby de Graaf, Ngāi Tahu/Kāi Tahu (Teina [Junior] Award)



Congratulations

Dux and Proxime Accessit

At the Senior Prizegiving on 10 November, the top academic awards went to Tobias Devereux (Dux) and Meg Christophers (Proxime Accessit).

Meg achieved 1st with Outstanding Achievement in Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics with Statistics and Physics, Outstanding Achievement in Religious Education, Commendation in Mathematics with Calculus and General Diligence.



Tobias achieved A+ Massey University 300-Level Modern Algebra, 1st with Outstanding Achievement in French, 1st= with Outstanding Achievement in Digital Technology and Dance, Outstanding Achievement in Religious Education and General Diligence. In previous years Tobias also achieved 1st in Level 3 Mathematics with Calculus, Mathematics with Statistics, Physics and Music, as well as completing several other university level mathematics courses (all with A+ grades).

Both Meg and Tobias are heading to Otago University next year - Meg to study health sciences and Tobias to study computer science and maths.

Class Act

Congratulations to Erika Fairweather and Tobias Devereux who were Kavanagh College's Class Act recipients for 2021. Unfortunately the award presentation was unable to go ahead because of Covid-19 restrictions, but Dunedin MP David Clark organised a small celebration for the schools in his electorate instead.

Erika has achieved academic excellence at school, was Kavanagh's Head Girl this year and was part of the NZ swimming team at the Tokyo Olympics in July, making it to the final in the 400m freestyle. She has achieved 26 NZ age-group swimming records and has a bright future ahead of her in the pool.

Tobias has a prestigious academic record and has achieved top results and awards in numerous national and international competitions in mathematics and informatics, has been studying university level mathematics since he was in Year 10, was Kavanagh's Deputy Head Boy this year and is also involved in both dance and music.



Kavanagh's 2021 Class Act recipients Tobias Devereux and Erika Fairweather with Dunedin MP David Clark.



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