

SACRED HEART COLLEGE INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER

April 2010



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International Director News

Lynne Gardiner - International Director

Term 1 this year was an extremely busy one at Sacred Heart College, not only for the International Department but for the entire school. The ELL (English Language Learner) Department, where many International students have language lessons in RE/Social Studies and Senior Thematic English Studies, moved classrooms to the new Pompallier Block, three weeks into the term. This was a major exercise, but the ELL students and the teachers certainly now appreciate the new, bright, warm rooms with their wonderful view across the Auckland harbour. The upgrade of the K block classrooms and the resulting relocation of classes in the first few weeks throughout caused some confusion, particularly for the new International students some of whom became very disorientated. We all now, however truly appreciate our new learning environments with their upgraded facilities. These improvements are all part of the College development plan to ensure that an optimum learning environment is provided for our Sacred Heart College boys and

International Student becomes 2010 Deputy Head Prefect



*Deputy Head Prefect
TJ Petersen*

their teachers.

This first term was a shorter term than usual at only eight and a half weeks of teaching time, but many school wide extracurricular activities still took place. Highlights of the term were the school swimming sports, the Twilight Athletics, the school fair and the school Haka competition.

We welcomed to the school at the start of the year new students from Fiji, Tonga, Hong Kong, Korea, China and Japan. The start of term 2 saw students from Thailand, Guatemala and Korea begin their studies at the College. All these students face many challenges as they come to grips with a new culture and lifestyle, but also for many of them the challenge of academic learning in a second language. One of the major roles of the International Department is to work closely with other departments in the school to ensure that these students get the support that they need in their transition into life at the College. Parents, agents and guardians of International students should feel free to contact the International office on 529 3660 extn 882, if they have any concerns or questions about the student's progress.

International student, TJ Petersen, was appointed one of the Deputy Head Prefects at the start of 2010. TJ, who is from Fiji, has been at Sacred Heart College since Yr 9. TJ has been a boarder in the College Hostel and was the International liaison student for the hostel this year, and last year, and is also the College International liaison prefect this year. TJ is a great support to new International students in the hostel, as he well understands the difficulties of adjusting to life in New Zealand, the College and the Hostel. One of the most important roles that he feels he has as a prefect is to be a positive role model for younger students at the school. When he leaves school TJ is looking to perhaps training to become a teacher.

Gakushuin Students visit Sacred Heart.

In March in Term 1, twenty four 13–14yr old students from elite Japanese school, Gakushuin, visited Sacred Heart College for one week. The twenty four boys were homestayd with Sacred Heart College families, and were buddied with a Sacred Heart College student for the week. The students had English language tuition in the Old Boys Lounge in the morning and were then intergrated into either a Yr 9 or Yr 10 class in the afternoon with their school buddy. The students also visited the Auckland museum and participated in a sports exchange on two of the afternoons. The visit culminated in a farewell afternoon tea, where the Japanese students performed a traditional Japanese ceremony and the Sacred Heart College students performed a haka. Although the visit was a major organisational undertaking for the International department, the benefits that were gained by the Sacred Heart College boys and their families who participated in the visit and the Japanese students, certainly made the visit well worthwhile.



English lessons in the Old Boys Lounge



Gakushuin students learn to play touch rugby

New English Language Learner Department Staff



Mrs Kelly Martel



Mrs Mary Ward

The English Language Learner Department, that supports new learners of English at the College, welcomes two new departmental members.

Mrs Kelly Martel, who has been working as a teacher aide in the Department since Term 4, 2009, has a degree in languages (Japanese, German and French), from Waikato University. She has taught English in Japan and after gaining an ESOL certificate from the home tutor society has done voluntary tutoring for the past two years through English Language partners. Mrs Martel has an ongoing interest in languages and teaching English as a second language.

Mrs Mary Ward has an MA in Linguistics and a Diploma in Second Language Teaching. Teaching at Sacred Heart

Stationery and School Activity Fees.

Guardians, parents and agents who are nominated as the fee payer for an International student would recently have received an invoice for subject fees and school activity fees, if these were not paid online at the start of the year. These fees are in addition to the International student tuition fees that each student has paid. Please ensure these fees are paid as soon as possible. If any help is required to organise payment of these fees please contact the International Student Office.

Important Dates

<i>Mid Year Exams Start:</i>	May 17th
<i>End of Term 2:</i>	July 2nd
<i>Start of Term 3:</i>	July 19th

College is not new to Mrs Ward as she taught here about 15 years ago and then taught at Baradene College for a number of years. She has also taught in a number of different situations ranging from teaching preliterate refugees to university and polytechnic students, however she does prefer teaching secondary age students. Mrs Ward feels it is a great privilege to work with people from so many different cultures and to share their joy as they realise their success in mastering the difficulties of the English language.