



# MENZIES COLLEGE

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**24 March 2017**

## From the Principal's Desk

### Kia Ora

Last weekend I read with interest the report in the NZ Herald about New Zealand's latest performance in the Programme for International Assessment (PISA) and how poorly our nation's students are now performing. Our 15 year olds' maths scores have dropped by more than any other developed nation since PISA began in 2000. Our reading scores have dropped more than all except three countries and our science scores by more than eight of the 24 developed nations who are involved in this assessment. Admittedly, you can hold this sort of data at arm's length and explain away a variety of reasons why the decline has happened, but when I looked back I discovered we have slipped in the PISA ranking for nearly every year since 2012. We once used to nearly top these rankings and now we should be embarrassed with where we are now positioned.

Ironically, the two biggest changes in New Zealand schooling since PISA started have been the introduction of NCEA in 2002 and National Standards from 2010. Both introduced with good intent, but the question we are left with, is how much impact they have on deep learning when schools are compared in creative "league tables" and the government have the wrong drivers such as 85% of 18 year olds passing NCEA Level 2. Just as an extra ...I also read that the average 15 year old in Singapore studies for an average of 22 hours a week doing homework and private tuition outside of school.

During the week we heard of the success of our two students, Brittany Tiller and Beth Scott who were part of the New Zealand Under18 women's ice hockey team that won gold at the 2017 Women's Challenge Cup of Asia in Bangkok. Beth, with 17 goals, was one of the leading scorers in the tournament. Well done girls, we look forward to hearing more about your tournament at our next full assembly.

Also, Levi Smith competed extremely well in Australia with his kick boxing and he will also be writing an article to explain his great success. His two silver and one bronze medal are most impressive.

All the best to our 14 athletes who compete tomorrow at Surrey Park in the Otago/Southland championships. Generally we have had good success at this meeting and I'm sure they will all do us proud again on Saturday.

**A reminder that Monday 27 March is a Teacher Only Day.**

### PB4L

Congratulations to Gabby Knapp, Courtneah Mitchell, Taana Johnson, Zeon Skilling and Mr Wilkinson for winning the achievement draw this week. Taana received his for working consistently and wearing his uniform correctly. Gabby received hers for achieving an excellence in her work. Well done, your canteen vouchers can be picked up from the office.

*Gerry Ward  
Principal*

**TEXT 'follow themenziesway' to 8987 for information updates**

## Science Department

### Students with a passion for astronomy (SWAPA)

The Royal Astronomical Society of New Zealand (RASNZ) is interested in promoting astronomy to young students in New Zealand schools who have an interest and passion for this science.

The Society is holding its annual conference in 2017 at the Otago Museum in Dunedin from Friday 12 to Sunday 14 May 2017. The normal registration for non-members of the Society is \$195 to attend the conference, but the Society is waiving this cost for up to 10 young astronomers who are keen to go and find out more about their science. They are also offering to these young astronomers, participation in the conference banquet and planetarium show (normally \$80) on the evening of 13 May, making a total prize package of \$275 each.

Astronomers from throughout New Zealand and some from overseas will participate in this year's conference. Many of these will be amateur astronomers and RASNZ is pleased that amateurs in New Zealand contribute so much to the strength of the Society, together with a core of professionals, mainly in our Universities. To find out more about the RASNZ annual conference, the Society's website at [www.rasnz.org.nz](http://www.rasnz.org.nz) should be consulted.

To be considered for free registration at the RASNZ conference, students should email a short statement of no more than 300 words explaining why they would like to attend the conference and why they are interested in astronomy. This statement should be sent to RASNZ President, John Drummond (email: [john\\_drummond@xtra.co.nz](mailto:john_drummond@xtra.co.nz) – that is john underscore drummond @ xtra.co.nz ) by Friday 7 April at 5 pm. Please also include your name, school, city, age, year of study at school in 2017, email address, telephone contact and science teacher's name. The winners of the competition will be selected for a clear enthusiasm for astronomy, their seniority and good English in their submitted statement. Alternatively, a printed version can be posted to John Drummond, PO Box 113, Patutahi 4045. The RASNZ students with a 'Passion for Astronomy' competition is most suited for students who are in years 11, 12 or 13 in 2017.

Those who win the free registration will be notified around mid April 2017. Winners are expected to be able to go to Dunedin and take part in the conference. The free registration includes lunches and other refreshments on the 13 and 14 May and a reception on the evening of 12 May. The cost of travel to Dunedin and accommodation are not covered in this offer.

This is a great opportunity to expose students to the exciting world of astronomy and the various sciences that are linked to it.

*Margaret Dale*

*Acting Head of Department - Science*

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## 2017 Great Kiwi Science, English And Mathematics Competitions



The annual CEM Great Kiwi Science, English and Mathematics competitions are skills-based and closely aligned with the New Zealand Curriculum. They are run for students in Year 7-10. The competitions cater for students of all abilities and measure the performance of students in each curriculum area. Each test is 45 minutes long, is completed on-line and consists of 40 short answer questions. The competitions will run during the last two weeks of Term Two and we envisage that results will be returned to us at the start of Term Three. The cost for each test is \$8.50 and students can enter one, two or three tests (at their discretion). To enter, students can collect a permission letter from the school office. Permission slips (and entry fees) should be returned to school no later than **Wednesday 13 April**.

If you have any further questions regarding this competition, please do not hesitate to contact us via email.

*Lucy McKelvie on behalf of*

*English, Science, Mathematics Department*

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## Guidance Department

We have created a Menzies Guidance Facebook page. This enables people another way of getting in touch with the Guidance Counsellors. You can send a message easily and there will be useful information occasionally posted. Feel free to check it out. <https://www.facebook.com/menziesguidance/>

## Dunedin Tertiary Information Day

On Monday 8 May 2017 (Term 2, week 2) Year 12 and 13 students and invited to the Tertiary Information Day in Dunedin. The purpose of this programme is to enable students to observe first-hand what the tertiary environment is like. Students are invited to visit special displays and presentations and explore the various facilities students use (e.g. the University Union, Polytechnic and University of Otago student centres, the libraries, Unipol recreation centre, Recreation Services and the clubs and societies building). Transport will be by mini vans. There will be a cost of \$10 that will need to be paid to the office before we leave. The programme runs from 9.30am until 3.30pm in Dunedin. Students will need to assemble at school at 6.15am as we will be leaving at 6.30am sharp. I am expecting that we will be returned to school by 6.30pm where students will need to be picked up. This is not covered by your blanket consent form so students need to collect and complete the EOTC Permission form from the office and return by Thursday 13 April (before the holidays).

We encourage parents/caregivers to come along to support their child. There is no cost for you to come in a van. Please indicate on the permission slip if you will be attending. For more information go to the websites below and search Tertiary information day.  
[www.otago.ac.nz](http://www.otago.ac.nz)   [www.facebook.com/otagouniversity](https://www.facebook.com/otagouniversity)

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## Important Dates

<b>March</b>	24-25	Otago/Southland Athletics
	27-31	Green Week
	27	<b>Teacher Only Day</b>
	27	St Edmunds v Menzies U15 rugby game 3.45pm
	29	Otago University visit - 1pm
	30	Board of Trustees meeting
<b>April</b>	1-2	South Island Athletics
	3-6	Adventure Experience Wanaka Camp (Year 12 & 13)
	8	Southland Primary Athletics (Year 7 & 8)
	13	Last day of Term 1 (day before Good Friday)
<b>May</b>	1	First day back Term 2

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## Community Notices

### Rotary International Youth Exchange Programme

#### High School Students Wanted

Rotary Clubs are now seeking applications from motivated secondary school students interested in spending a year overseas as part of this long established, successful educational and cultural exchange. This year, we have added Taiwan as an exchange partner, giving one student the opportunity to become fluent in Mandarin.

- Students must be aged between 16 and 18 ½ at departure in January 2018
- Exchange partners for 2018 are Sweden, Denmark, France, Switzerland, Austria, Chile and Taiwan
- No family Rotary affiliation required
- Applications close 30 April 2017

Contact: Merv Clearwater HM: 03 4894234, 107 Gladstone Road, South Mosgiel M: 0274339689 Email: [mervclearwater@extra.co.nz](mailto:mervclearwater@extra.co.nz)

### Edendale Netball Club

Trials will be held at the Edendale Netball Courts on Thursday 30 March – 3.15pm - primary students; 4.15pm secondary students; Sunday 2 April – 3pm - primary students; 4pm secondary students; 4.45pm senior/social players; Tuesday 4 April – if needed.

### Edendale Netball Club - Social Senior Teams

The club will welcome any teams that wish to play in the Menzies Centre Competition. All teams must have an adult point of contact and teams will be required to wear a uniform top (either supplied by club or purchased personally). Club to supply bibs, and balls, with subscriptions to be determined following Menzies Centre confirmation. Minimum age – Year 9. Any players wishing to be selected for coached teams are to attend club organised trials. Any inquiries to Megan Lindsay, 021 0395 628 or [mrsmegalind@gmail.com](mailto:mrsmegalind@gmail.com)

### Wyndham Netball Club

Wyndham Netball Club will be holding their registration day on Thursday 30 March at 3.30pm at Wyndham Primary School. If you are wanting to play intermediate (Year 7 and 8), secondary, senior or social netball this season it is very important you attend to give an indication of numbers. Should you not be able to attend contact Pam Yorke on [yorke@callsouth.net.nz](mailto:yorke@callsouth.net.nz) or 0272255654.

## Careers Department

### Defence Careers Experience (DCE)

This year Southern Recruiting will be offering a Defence Careers Experience specifically for young women interested in a career in the New Zealand Defence Force. Details for this event are yet to be confirmed, however it is likely to occur mid-year and be conducted at Woodbourne Air Force Base in Blenheim. The DCE will be a great opportunity to gain an insight into life within the services, gain valuable teamwork and leadership skills, learn about career opportunities, and interact with other women currently serving in the Defence Force.

We are also intending to conduct a second DCE later in the year which will be offered to Year 11-13 students. This will most likely occur in September and be conducted at Burnham Military Camp in Christchurch. Further details and information regarding the application process for both DCE's will be released once we have confirmed these events. Those students who may be interested in attending a DCE should 'like' our Christchurch Defence Careers Facebook page in order to receive updates, information and the link to the online application form. If you would like further information about these two opportunities please see Mr Clark in the careers office.

### STAR Courses

In conjunction with the Government, secondary schools, polytechnics and other training providers are helping young people identify their vocational pathway by offering STAR courses which allow students to study programmes not available through their secondary school. This offers an opportunity for students to have a clear pathway into tertiary programmes or to achieve vocational credits alongside their school qualifications.

#### What is STAR?

A Secondary Tertiary Alignment Resource (STAR) course introduces secondary school students to training for a specific career or study at tertiary level. STAR courses are short and are only available through polytechnics and private training organisations. Students participate in short-term programmes or 'taster courses' for a few days at a time, or one day per week for several weeks.

#### The following STAR courses are available at the Southern Institute of Technology (SIT)

Fashion Level 3 starting 5th May and 28th July  
Film Making Level 3 and 2 starting 27th March and 24th July  
Carpentry level 2 starting March and July (dates to be confirmed)  
Electrical and Electronic Principles Level 2 (dates to be confirmed)  
Engineering Welding Level 2 starting March and July (dates to be confirmed)  
Introduction to Nursing Level 2 and 3 starting 24th July  
Nanny (Childcare) Level 2 starting 24th July  
Audio Production Level 2 starting 5th May and 28th July  
Barista Level 2 (dates to be confirmed)  
Hospitality Level 2 starting 20th March and 31st July  
Music Level 2 starting 16th June  
Floristry Level 2 (dates to be confirmed)

#### The following STAR courses are available at the New Zealand Institute of Sport (NZIS)

Sports, Fitness and Recreation Level 2 (20 credits) first week of each term holiday break  
Sports Coaching and Officiating Level 3 (20 credits) second week of each term holiday break  
There will be a selection of STAR courses available through Tatatahi Agriculture in Schools, these will be advertised as they come in. There are other providers and these together with the above will be advertised during the year. If you see a course that you might be interested in please call into the careers office and see either Mrs Williams or Mr Clark.

#### Important Dates

University of Otago liaison visit – 29/03/2017 (1pm)  
University of Auckland liaison visit – 05/05/2017 (8:50am)  
Otago Tertiary Open Day Dunedin – 08/05/2017 (all day)  
Ara Institute of Canterbury Open Day – 15/06/2017  
IPU New Zealand Tertiary Institute liaison visit 23/03/2017 (1:20pm)

*Stuart Clark & Barbara Williams  
Career Advisors/Transition Department*

## Girls Rugby

Warren Kearney the Womens Rugby Development Co-ordinator is going to be at St Peter's College rugby field on Monday 3 April at 4pm. It will be a skills based session with a talk about the options/progression for girls playing rugby. Any girls interested in playing rugby should attend this session and see what their options are. You can be any skill level and don't have to have any knowledge of the game.

*Katie Keil  
Sports co-ordinator*

# Menzies College Rugby

## Rugby Registrations – Notice for parents and players

All previous players/parents have been sent an email to re-register with Menzies Rugby via the Sporty Website for the 2017 season. Please complete this email request if you wish to play rugby this year. If you have NOT received an email or are a NEW PLAYER for the Menzies Rugby Club please go to the below link and register through this process.

<http://www.sporty.co.nz/menzies/Rugby-Registrations/Online-Registration-Form-1>

All players must register with their parents as they require parental consent. A reminder: If you are not registered to play rugby you cannot take the field! If you do not have access to a computer please discuss this with your coaches/managers to assist you. Please try to get your registrations completed by 31 March 2017.

## Rugby Subs

Subs for 2017 have been confirmed. The fee is \$50 per player except for the 1st XV players whose sub is \$150. We would appreciate it if these subs could be paid by 1 April 2017.

To pay subs there are the following options:

- **Cash** in a named envelope, handed into the school office, tagged for 'Rugby' or give to Lois Heads
- **Cheque** made out to Menzies Rugby (**NOT** Menzies College) handed into the school office, tagged for 'Rugby' or give to Lois Heads
- **Internet banking:** Menzies Rugby account 03 0962 0066078 000. Please put players name and 'Sub' as reference/details.

## Visiting School: St Edmunds College: Billets

Next Monday 27 March, St Edmunds College are visiting Menzies and will be playing against a made up U15 rugby team. They will be arriving at approximately 3pm and will be playing rugby at 3.45pm. We are seeking four more families to host four boys for the night of 27 March 2017. You will only need to supply dinner and breakfast... oh and a bed for the night. If you can help please contact Katrina Read via 021464932 or email [cody.katrina@vodafone.co.nz](mailto:cody.katrina@vodafone.co.nz)

## Sports Department

### Otago/Southland Athletics Championships

Good luck to the students competing at the Otago/Southland athletics championships this weekend at Surrey Park in Invercargill. The following students placed in the top six at the Southland championships to qualify:

- \* Gabby Knapp is competing in the Hammer throw on Friday at 4pm and then Discus on Saturday at 2.15pm in the U16 grade. Gabby holds the Southland U16 girls Hammer throw record which she set two weeks ago at the Southland Championships.
- \* Micaiah Johnston-Brown is in the U15 grade and has Shot Put at 9am, Discus at 10am and Javelin which he won at the Southland championships at 3pm.
- \* Ahliyah Paderanga has U15 girls Javelin at 10am.
- \* Bethany Loveridge also has U15 girls Javelin at 10am and then High Jump at 11am.
- \* Kailey Yeoman has the U16 Girls Javelin at 10.45am.
- \* Coebie Symes is in the U14 Boys Discus at 11.30am.
- \* Aliyah Wilson qualified for the U14 Discus and is competing at 1.30pm
- \* Rebekah Kingdon has the senior girl's Shot Put at 2.15pm
- \* Marina Ferguson has the U15 girls Discus at 3pm and competes at 10.15am in the 400m.

Others on the track are:

- \* Tyla Adams at 9.15am in the U16 girls 100m and then 11am the 200m.
- \* Joseph Ferguson has the senior boys 400m at 2.05pm and the 800m at 3pm.
- \* Luke Goatley competes in the 400m at 2.11pm.
- \* Caeden McGregor is competing in the 200m at 2.41pm and U16 boys 100m at 3.41pm.
- \* Hayden Stuart has the U16 boys 800m at 3.08pm.

Our U16 girls and boys have entered relay teams which are at the end of the day - boys at 4.41pm and girls at 4.44pm. Students need to be there in ample time to warm up for their event and will need to 'marshall' in at their events 15 minutes before the event starts. Mrs Keil and Mrs Dynes will be there all day. Students need to find them when they arrive so they know you are present and getting to your event on time.



Above are photos of some of the students competing.

L to R: Marina Ferguson, Rebekah Kingdon & Kailey Yeoman

Gabby Knapp, Caeden McGregor, Tyla Adams

Aliyah Wilson

Katie Keil  
Sports co-ordinator



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