

End of Year Assembly – Rector's Welcome

Christine Leighton

Friday 25 October 2024



Nau mai, haere mai, tena koutou katoa.

Welcome to you all this morning for our final regular assembly for 2024. A special welcome to whānau and guests including Deputy Board Chair, Mr Nick Letham, who have all joined us as we celebrate a number of successes from the recent term break. The three weeks were busy for a number of our sports teams who we will recognise this morning.

Three of our senior teams performed exceptionally well over the winter season to have the opportunity to compete at national tournaments.

The outstanding performance at nationals was from our Girls' Senior A Basketball team. After placing first in their South Island tournament, the girls made it all the way to the final against Westlake Girls' High School from Auckland. Congratulations to coaches Adam Morgan and Dave Ermerins, and Manager Kate Taylor, and to the team. Most of the team are currently away competing in the Hoop Nations Tournament.

I ask the four team members, who are here today to come forward to be presented with their medals and for Mr Morgan, Mr Ermerins and Ms Taylor also to come forward to receive our congratulations. The students are Ella Buchanan, Ava Jones, Orla Motley and Maniah Taefu.

The Senior A Boys' Basketball placed fourth in the South Island tournament, which saw them come up against some very strong teams at nationals at Palmerston North. They battled valiantly and after some tough games placed 19th. Thank you to coaches Taylor Britt and Jamie Wright, Manager Liz Righton, and congratulations to the team. Thank you also to Teacher in Charge of Basketball, Mr Ben Eves, for his part in growing this strong and successful programme.

The Senior A Girls' netball team placed 12th in their tournament after playing in a very competitive pool. They narrowly missed being in the top 8 by a countback of goals. Their inclusion in the nationals and top 16 teams in New Zealand was something to be proud of after a strong winter season in Christchurch.

Congratulations to the team and to coaches Kirsty Carline and Lose Faingaanuku, and Manager, Allyson Duncan.



Also competing in the national Secondary Schools tournament were a number of our trap shooters. The team received a number of placings in various categories.

The outstanding performance came from Mitchell Twentyman (Year 12) who made the shoot offs in the single rise, which he won shooting 137 targets without missing, and in challenging windy conditions. Congratulations Mitchell who is also presented with his national champion's badge.

The term break included a group of Year 10 students who were selected to experience a week on the *Spirit of Adventure* during Week 3 of the holidays. Thank you to Mr Phil Temple for accompanying this group and well done for the students involved for the way you embraced this experience.

Mr Mike Johnston was away with the Cricket 1st XI to play a number of Sydney schools. The Hillary Challenge Adventure team, supported by Mr Smallman, braved the elements and challenging terrain at Tongariro National Park; and the rowing squad began their training season with the seniors involved in a four-day camp at Lake Ruataniwha.

It has also been a busy time for the Years 9 and 10 production team preparing for the opening of the Middle School production next week. *Once Upon A Mattress* will be a fantastic and entertaining show, and I encourage you to get along to support our students involved.

Next up this morning I am pleased to present five more Gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards. Once again, a committed group of students have managed the demands of completing this prestigious award alongside their busy class and co-curricular responsibilities.

Hannah Burnett – Hannah completed 52 service hours assisting at the Preparatory School with reading, lunchtime Stitch Club and After-school Care. She has pursued her interests in photography and sewing outside the classroom and was a member of the 1st XI Girls' football team, which placed second in New Zealand.

Hannah completed both the Mount Somers and Abel Tasman tracks for her Adventurous Journeys, and spent 10 days on the *Spirit of Adventure* for her Residential Project.

Jack Flanagan – Jack completed 52 service hours as a Peer Support Leader, assisting with Middle School productions and fulfilling his many leadership responsibilities for the College. He has demonstrated a significant contribution to the Performing Arts at St Andrew's, focusing on his Singing and Dance for his Gold Award.

Jack completed the 10-Day *Spirit of Adventure* for his Adventurous Journey section, and was a 2023 Robbie Burns Scholar and great ambassador of the College during a three-week tour of Scottish schools last year.

Madison Hughes – Madison completed her 52 service hours coaching a junior netball team for St Andrew's over two seasons. She completed cooking and defensive driving for her skills section and participated in both tennis and netball for physical recreation.

Madison successfully completed both the Goats Pass and the Casey-Binser tracks for her Adventurous Journeys. Madison also represented St Andrew's College in Scotland at the start of the year on exchange at Glenalmond College, Perth.

Hunter Lewis – Hunter completed the required service hours as a Peer Support Leader as well as painting and cleaning parts of city centre and helping a neighbour. He pursued an interest in farming for his skills section, raising cattle. Hunter was a key member of the 2nd XV rugby team and he completed both the Casey-Binser and Goats Pass tracks for his Adventurous Journeys. For his Residential Project, he assisted parent helpers in the kitchen at the recent October rowing camp last week, which was greatly appreciated by the rowers and coaching team.

Harrison Justice – Harrison completed 52 service hours coaching a Preparatory School hockey team over two seasons. He has demonstrated a loyal and significant commitment to the Pipe Band as a drummer and the 1st XI Boys' hockey team.

Harrison also successfully completed both the Goats Pass and the Casey-Binser tracks for his Adventurous Journeys, while his Residential Project involved participating in a New Zealand Pipe Band development tour to Canada.

This morning, I also want to welcome back our Robert Burns Scholars for 2024. Olivia Bloom and Jake Elvidge have represented St Andrew's superbly in their three weeks in Scotland and I have received several emails from the principals of the schools they visited. Thank you, Olivia and Jake, for being great ambassadors for St Andrew's College and continuing to create such a positive relationship for our College across the other side of the world. We look forward to your reflections later in this assembly.

And finally from me, I have decided to present a very prestigious award this morning, The Rector's Medal, to a student who has dreamed of an opportunity which with determination, self-belief and courage has seen a dream come true.

During the term break Sea-am Thompson travelled to England to audition for a Music Scholarships to Oxford and Cambridge Universities. Alongside another 70 applicants who were accepted to audition, Sea-am went through an extensive, demanding process, with the result that he has been offered an scholarship for the Pipe Organ to Magdalen College at Oxford University. Sea-am is now completing the formal paperwork but all things going well he will be setting off to England and Oxford in August next year to start his studies in October.



St Andrew's College

We all know the outstanding service Sea-am has given to St Andrew's in our chapel services and have been in awe of his ability to play the church organ. Sea-am also, as leader of the College symphony orchestra, has played violin for five years, stepping up to be an incredible team player, mentoring and supporting younger students.

Congratulations Sea-am, I am delighted to present you this morning with a Rector's Medal!

Congratulations to all students recognised this morning and best wishes to all for the upcoming long weekend including our Jazz Bands performing in the Christchurch Big Band Festival this weekend.