

Ipsa Duce

Celebrating Excellence!

Issue No: 67
April 2017



Pompallier romped home to take first place at Athletics Day.

Kavanagh celebrates Academic Blues

The College recognised a large number of students who were awarded with Excellence endorsements in NCEA for 2016. A large gathering which included family, Board members and staff, met at Toitu in March. The principal, Mr Tracy O'Brien, welcomed the guest speaker, Professor Liam McIlvanney.

Other than being the father of two Kavanagh students, Andrew and Caleb, Prof. McIlvanney currently holds the Stuart Chair of Scottish Studies at the University of Otago. He has an MA (Hons) degree from the University of Glasgow and a PhD from Oxford. His field of expertise is diverse, ranging from contemporary Scottish literature to Scottish crime fiction and Scottish poetry in colonial New Zealand. He is an accomplished author with his second novel "Where the Dead men go" winning the Dame Ngaio Marsh Award for Best NZ Crime Novel in 2014. Mr O'Brien commented that it is probably no accident that such a distinguished scholar in Scottish Studies has found his way to Dunedin and Otago with such a rich Scottish heritage.



Prof. McIlvanney presents Level 1 student Joy Auckram with her Academic Blue.

Prof. McIlvanney said that his own secondary school was "a pretty undistinguished local comprehensive. It had no sense of tradition or heritage, no 'Wall of Fame'. What we did have were committed and inspiring teachers. How did three writers emerge from this small Ayrshire school? I've been lucky enough to have a couple of novels published. Graeme Macrae Burnet was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize, the most prestigious literary award in the English-speaking world, and the novelist Zoe Strachan was awarded a writer's fellowship by the University of Otago. 'What the three of us had in common was very simple. We were all taught by an English teacher called Noel Patterson. He not only inspired us with his love of literature but he made writing novels seem like something we

could aspire to. I'm sure you have encountered similar figures in your career at Kavanagh. If so, you will be in their debt for the rest of your lives.

"I went on to do a PhD at Oxford. Just being in a university that had been around since 1167 was pretty mind-blowing. I studied at Christ Church College. Thirteen British Prime Ministers have studied there. The Great Hall, where I ate dinner every night for three years, was where they filmed the dining hall scenes in the Harry Potter movies. When I try to explain this to my younger sons, they say, 'You mean you went to Hogwarts, Dad?' And I have to say, 'No: there were no wizards or magical beasts'. But in some ways the people that I encountered – public schoolboys from Eton and Harrow and all the elite schools of England – were just as alien to someone from my background. It would have been very easy to feel intimidated, and to think that this place wasn't really for me. But that's the great thing about education. A good education is a passport to anywhere. You belong wherever your education takes you.

"In my own case, my education took me twelve thousand miles away to Dunedin. And in some ways that felt like coming full circle. I wrote my PhD thesis on the poetry of Robert Burns, Scotland's National Poet. In some ways, he's not the most obvious role-model. He failed in his career as a farmer; he was born poor and died poor, and along the way he fathered seven illegitimate children and drank enough whisky to float a battleship. But he also had the audacity to pursue his dream of becoming a poet. It was a slightly implausible dream for a man in his position. As a general rule, poets in late eighteenth-century Britain didn't come from the labouring class; they didn't write in a disparaged regional dialect. But Robert Burns did. He defied the odds, he took his chance.

"What was his reward? For one thing, he was doing what he loved, doing what he was born to do. You can't fake that. If you put your heart and soul into doing what you love, the world will respond. The statue in Dunedin's Octagon is one of 160 monuments to Robert Burns across the globe. His poems have been translated into forty-seven languages. Every 25th of January, Burns's 'Immortal Memory' is toasted in Burns Suppers from Bangkok to Boston, from Delhi to Dunedin, where enthusiasts recite his poems and pretend to like haggis. His songs have been arranged by Haydn and Beethoven, sung by Frank Sinatra and Elvis Presley. Burns's lyric, 'Auld Lang Syne', is the world's song of parting. Burns tourism is worth 160 million pounds to the Scottish economy each year. He is the only individual to receive the accolade – if such it is – of featuring on a commemorative Coca-Cola bottle.

"That's not a bad record for a ploughboy from Ayrshire. And that's the kind of impact you can only achieve if you do what you love and do it with everything you've got. And I hope you'll go on to do just that."

To receive an Academic Blue, a student gained an Excellence Endorsement in NCEA at Level 1, 2 or 3. This means that across their subject pool they have achieved at least 50 Excellence credits through a combination of internal and external (exam based) assessments. Blues were awarded to: Level 1: Heidi Aicken, Rhian Aitken, Joy Auckram, Aspen Bailey, Arryn Blanch, Elliot Blyth, Timothy Caldwell, Will Campbell, Rose Casey, Sophie Christie, Joseph Flaherty, Jack Flett, Flinn Horn, Lettie James, Cioran Knowles, Aoao (Aubrey) Li, Blake MacDade, Dominic Madden, Therese Makasini, Trinity Matika, Dylan McEntyre, Lillian McKewen, Oliver Meikle, Emily Millar-Coote, Timothy O'Farrell, Charlotte Owen, Nicholas Parata, Niall Quinn, Georgia Reynolds, Anna Roberts, Chandler Rodriguez, Olivia Sule, Philomena Talalima, Uatesoni Taungapeau, Olivia Ware, Keyra Webb, Laura Whelan, Joshua Winders, Ella Woods. Level 2: Taylor Baxter, Abbey Constable, Caitlin Constable, Tayler Constable, Holly Ellis, Sarah Faulkner-Barclay, Rosa Flaherty, Laura Flett, William Gale, Tabitha German, Ivan Graham, Ross Hall, Zachariah Hardy, Sophelia Hook, Maxwell Johnston, Grace Jones, Georgia King, Jacob Koopman, Jacob Larson, Rebekah Lynch, Clare MacDonell, Andrew McIlvanney, Georgia McLellan, Blaire Middleton, Anthony Mirfin, Daniel Murin-Yim, Tuseka Njoko, Oliver Pali, Jackson Paulin, Nathaniel Peacock, Jacob Reeve, Callie Sword, Sophie Whibley, Mikala Wright, Isabella Young. Level 3: Caitlyn Bailey, William Caldwell, Emily Craft, Charlotte de Groot, Madison Gorrie, Thomas Henderson, Joshua Meikle, Quintin Petre, Rory Quinn, Chandra Rodriguez, Brianna Stewart, Ka Lun (James) Wong. Scholarship: Joshua Meikle (History). Top Scholars for 2016: Level 1: Laura Whelan; Level 2: Jacob Larson; Level 3: Joshua Meikle.



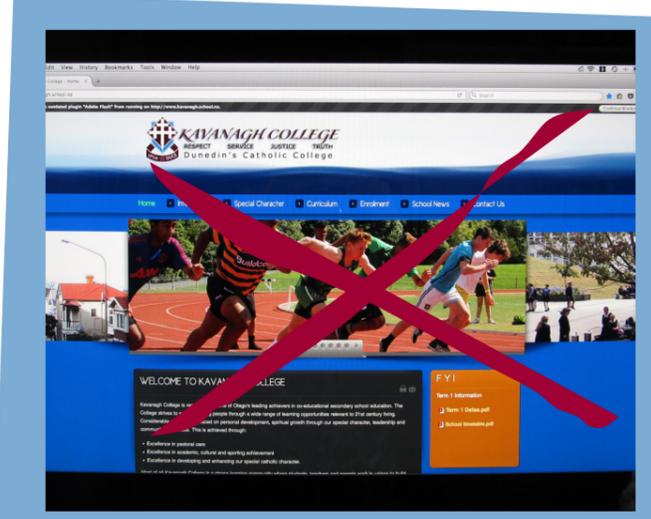
Musical set to dazzle in Term 2!

This year's Musical is 'Bugsy Malone', a 1976 British gangster musical set in New York City in the early 1920's. A mobster named Roxy Robinson is "splurged" by members of a gang, using rapid-fire cream-shooting "splurge guns". The story unfolds of the conflict between the two rival gangs of Danny Dan and Fat Sam.

Kavanagh's version stars Sophie Whibley as the struggling performer Blousey Brown, Kieran Kelly as Bugsy Malone, Josh Chisholm as Fat Sam, Connor Butler as Danny Dan and Tuseka Njoko as Fizzy, along with a large cast of performers from all year levels.

Rehearsals are well ahead of schedule and the show is a lot of fun. Everyone is looking forward to the highlight of those splurge guns. We are very grateful to have the support of Bert and Liz Nisbet, James Gunn, Rebecca Meikle, Rachael Frame, Christine Wilson and the production team.

Tickets will go on sale in Week 7 of Term 2. And the show opens in the last week of Term 2.



New website about to be launched

Kavanagh is about to reveal its new, more contemporary site that is user friendly, regardless of the device you use. You'll be able to use a framework that will make it much easier to access stories as they happen so it will be much more up to date. It will also bring sport back into the main site as well.

KAV KWIZ, by Tobias Devereux, Yr 9

1. What is the name of this year's school Musical?
2. On what date was the Treaty of Waitangi first signed?
3. What is at the beginning of eternity, the end of time and space, the beginning of every end and the end of every place?
4. What is the name of Lorde's studio album to be released in June?
5. What is the month of our 2017 General Election?

ANSWERS ON THE BACK PAGE!

HAVE YOUR SAY

The Future is in our Hands, by Anna Roberts, Yr 12 .

Why is it that so many young people are completely uninterested in the one thing that has arguably the biggest effect on their lives? Yr 11 needs to start caring about our country and our government more or we will forever continue to have less than half of youth voting.

Young people saying they don't care about politics is inexcusable. Do we honestly believe that parliament is just old guys in wigs? Why is it that we find anything to do with government so boring and useless? In two years we will hit voting age and if we don't get interested now how are we going to be able to make a good decision? No wonder 47% of young people don't vote. They grow up not caring and feeling like it doesn't affect them. We have to change our mindset if we ever want to increase youth voting. The fact is if we're not voting how can we expect the government to ever know what we want? This is harmful to both the people who vote and the people who don't. Voters are often ignored because not enough people sharing their opinions and the non voters are ignored because they didn't share their thoughts and opinions. This is not 'okay'. We are oppressing ourselves whether we realise it or not. We constantly think that our single vote won't make a difference, but the fact is that there are so many people not voting because they have the same mindset and if they did all vote we would be making a difference.

We should be caring about our government as it does directly affect us! It's not a difficult concept to grasp. It's our future, not anyone else's and I don't know about you but I don't want some old man on his deathbed dictating how us young people should live our lives. It's our future and we should be the ones making these decisions. Even at our age there are many things we can do like protesting and petitioning. By doing these things we shaping the future, how can anyone say that is not important. Before we know what happened, two or three years will fly by and we will suddenly be at voting age. All of us will be able to vote in the 2020 election so why are we pretending this is not an issue that affects us. We need to start caring. Yr 11s can make a change. If the number one reason the youth are not voting is because they don't know enough, then why would we want to follow in their ignorant footsteps. Let's get interested young so once the election comes we will know exactly what's going on and can have our say. Do we really want to be just another low youth voting statistic when we could be changing the country and standing up for what we believe in.

The solution to all this is so simple I can't understand why it doesn't already happen. Seventy-eight percent of non-voting youths say they should have voted because they believe it's important. The government wants youth to vote because they want people's opinions. If it's so important to everyone involved why aren't we taking action to fix it? If we get interested and start caring about politics young then we won't feel so confused and we come to vote. Yr 11 is the perfect time to start getting interested especially with the election next year. There are plenty of ways to get involved in politics now so there really are no excuses. We can really make a difference that benefits not only us but our entire country. The best time to start is right now we are never too young to care about our country.

Politics are so important and we have a responsibility to New Zealand to get involved and vote. We can't sit back any longer and just assume that once we turn eighteen we will magically know everything about politics. We have to start now. The future is in our hands.



The futsal boys fundraise for their trip to the nationals by holding a barbecue.

The Diocese unites with our Gifted and Talented Programme



Trying out speedy fish.

Sophie Deerness, Kiera Mullens, Madison Cole, Launga Muasika and Christian Mullens (below), designing and cutting out speedy fish.



from Kavanagh since Week 6. They have decorated the room with posters, bean bags and 'big kids' desks as well as practicing games to challenge the OC students. These Yr 5 and 6 students have enjoyed stretching their own brains with a range of philosophical and scientific activities. The two groups will start Term Two by going to the Taiko Dojo (Japanese Drumming Music rooms) where they will watch, play and practice the Japanese drums. From there, we will build an inquiry on Japan and look into areas of study with this topic for the term. Every term we will have a field trip where the groups will combine and learn together. Every week OC will have two hours at Saint Mary's to work on skills of critical thinking, working together and SDL project based learning. The SAT class (St Mary's) will have their own programme running where they will work on a range of similar skills and sometimes the groups will have fun tasks that put them together. It should be a fun year ahead developing and integrating levels, schools, skills, ideas and talents!

Living it out in the Toitu galleries

Drama New Zealand held its National Conference in Dunedin in March at Toitu. Conference members travelled from throughout New Zealand, Australia and even as far away as India. Under the banner of Create, Communicate and Educate, delegates listened to keynote speakers such as Miranda Harcourt and many professional theatre practitioners, directors, actors and drama teachers who prepared and presented workshop experiences. For Mrs Chris Manley it was, without doubt, an opportunity to show off her Drama students working in the splendid and informative galleries at Toitu. Devising Drama in site-specific spaces has been a feature of the Kavanagh Drama programme for over a decade. Resplendent in their costumes, Kavanagh Drama students were a feature of the Museum galleries for several hours on the Saturday morning. Bringing to life the stories and history of our early settlers added a rich and varied workshop for many conference participants and also members of the public. Congratulations to Clare MacDonell, Claire Lamb, Rosa Flaherty, Kaiser Coles, Anton Stuck, Savannah Laws, Tara Hook, Valentina Yanez Flores, Judea Smith, Ella MacGillivray and to past student, Evan Fenemor.



Abby Duxbury, Yr 7



Jack Saville, Yr 8



Amy Hook, Yr 9



Gabe Gallagher, Yr 10



Elizabeth Audas, Yr 11



Harry Dolan, Yr 12



Marck Laurio, Yr 13

BUNCH of SEVEN

What could be a live mascot for Kavanagh College?

Abby: A donkey.
Jack: A lion.
Amy: Annabelle Ring and Paige Carey, the fantastic duo.
Gabe: Danny DeVito.
Elizabeth: Jesus Christ.
Harry: Mr Campbell.
Marck: An eagle.

What are you reading at the moment?

Abby: 'Another from a Box' by Evan Kuhlman.
Jack: 'Tom Gate' by L. Pichon.
Amy: Nothing.
Gabe: Nothing.
Elizabeth: Non-fiction about the life of Jesus Christ.
Harry: 'David and Goliath' by Joe Karam.
Marck: 'The Painted Man' by Peter V. Brett.

Which fictional character would you choose to dress up as?

Abby: Bob the minion.
Jack: Bob the Builder.
Amy: Belle from 'Beauty and the Beast'.
Gabe: Garfield.
Elizabeth: Lightning McQueen or Shrek.
Harry: Mr Crabs.
Marck: Deadpool.

What's your favourite flavour of chocolate?

Abby: Cadbury's Snackblock.
Jack: Oreo.
Amy: Black Forest.
Gabe: Dairy Milk.
Elizabeth: Why choose?
Harry: White.
Marck: White.

What's a new way of fundraising for a Social Justice project?

Abby: Selling homemade biscuits.
Jack: Building tiny homes for the homeless.
Amy: Collect food.
Gabe: Photoshopping things.
Elizabeth: Breeding moose.
Harry: Bikini carwash.
Marck: Sell advertisements.

Music Squad takes over tutor group time

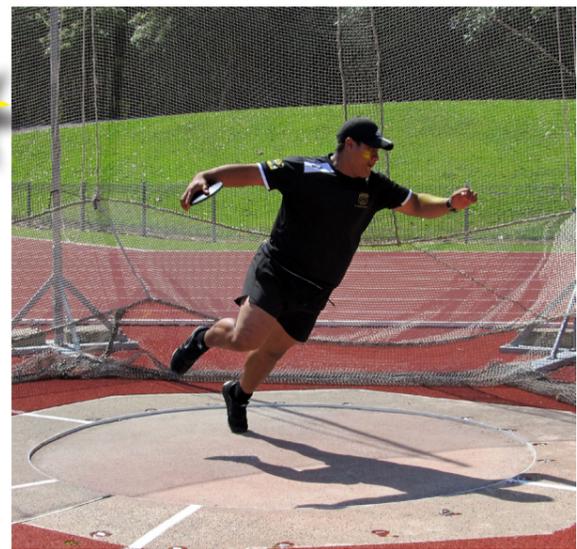
13WA is a tutor group made up of musicians from Yr 11 to Yr 13 who are all devoted to making music and giving service to the school. They are joined by junior musos during extended tutortimes when they are not needed by their tutor. The Music Squad provide music for assemblies, masses and school events as well as liaison with primary school and parish events, such as the Dominican Mass and the Youth Masses held at St Patrick's throughout the year. They have a number of commitments lined up this term, including the 24 hours of music making for the Caritas Challenge. This involved solo performance, plus a concert in the Auditorium to which friends and family were invited to attend, with a koha. Pictured (right) are: Back Row: Ollie Meikle, Sebastian Hook, Elliott Faigan, Campbell MacDade, Elliot Blyth, Blake MacDade, Ivan Graham. Front Row: Matilda Garnett, Lexie Tomlinson, Clare MacDonell, Michaela Jensen, Tobias Brennan, Riley Mortimer, Sam Meikle and Tobias Devereux. Absent: Tuseka Njoko, Chelsea Guthrie, Sophie Whibley and Meihana Kewene-Masina.



Above: Max McDonald and Tim O'Farrell battle it out on the final lap.

Athletic Sport Champions for 2017

U12 Girls Champion: Jamaica Cabantoc; Runner-up: Jemma Mortimer; U12 Boys Champion: Aiden Hurd-Vial; Runner-up: Callum Barr; U13 Girls Champion: Shannya MacRae-Platten; Runner-up: Jalizza Cockburn; U13 Boys Champion: Torin Webb; Runner-up: Lochlan Webb; U14 Girls Champion: Erika Fairweather; Runner-up: Melina Lam Cheung; U14 Boys Champion: Peter Sewell; Runner-up: Aidan MacRae-Platten; U15 Girls Champion: Holly Trainor-Uluakiola; Runner-up: Madi Sutherland; U15 Boys Champion: Nik Dohig; Runner-up: Anthony Harper; U16 Girls Champion: Eva Hofmans; Runner-up: Eila Chirside; U16 Boys Champion: Will Campbell; Runner-up: Andrew Cromb; Over 16 Girls Champion: Matile Ioane and Isabella Young; Runner-up: Brigid Corson; Over 16 Boys Champion: Tim O'Farrell; Runner-up: Felix Bello. Record broken: Raphael Naufahu in Over 16 boys discus with 35.93m, above.



Let's go flatting, said Yr 10 Economics students

Rose and Brenda: "The flatting unit was really fun, but still taught highly practical and helpful things. For instance, we learned and were able to appreciate how expensive it is to rent and fill a flat, how property managers look after flats and other properties, how to sign a tenancy agreement, the rights and responsibilities of both the tenant and the landlord, and many other tips on how to have a successful flatting experience. To finish off the unit, our teacher Mrs Armstrong organised Matt Cutler, an ex-Kavanagh student who is now a successful property manager and featured on the TV show "Renters", to come in to discuss what being a property manager is like with the class. This was a great idea, and we had lots of fun talking with Matt. All in all, it was a very successful and informative unit and we look forward to future economics units."

Bella: "I enjoyed learning how to get flatmates and how to look after my money. I liked the guest speaker who came to speak with us." Ryan: "I've enjoyed every aspect of Economics so far, especially the freedom we have to achieve our goals. The flatting unit is also very useful to all those who plan on going to university." Georgia and Olivia: "We have learned so much in this unit. We enjoyed going down town to price things, being able to choose our own flat and equipment for inside and designing our dream house." Milla: "I have learned a lot of helpful skills that I will use now and in the future; for example, knowing what a bond is and how to stick to a budget. Also, putting needs before wants. Matt Cutler coming to answer questions was really fun." Zoe, Arizona and Jenna: "We learned how to save money and know what to look for when looking for flats. Also, how to manage living with other people and how to cook, clean and all help each other. Finally, how to keep the landlord happy." Grayson: "The things that I enjoyed the most while flatting was being able to go into town and chill on the couches."



Keeping it keen and green

What Enviro activities are we involved in this year? We're finalising our vision for a sustainable Kavanagh College. This is our living, evolving vision that was begun last year by staff, students and BOT to guide our Enviroschools journey. At the moment we are working with a graphic designer to complete a physical visualisation of this vision. This will be printed as a poster and displayed around the school including on the schools' website. We have re-established the Junior Enviro Club. The members of the Senior Enviro Council are going to be in charge and will lead the activities with our juniors. These activities may include gardening around the school, planting trees in our community, composting and looking after recycling at our school and setting up a worm farm. Our Senior Enviro Council, together with the Junior Enviro Club, are going to support a Social Justice project for St Vincent de Paul started by Yr 9 Textile Technology class.

With the completed "Vision for a Sustainable Kavanagh College", our successful Leadership Day workshop and active both the Senior Enviro Council and the Junior Enviro Club we are on our way to achieving an Enviroschools' Bronze Award this year.

Below left: Kaela-Mae Bethune (bending down) and Grace Middlemiss (foreground) tidy the garden in the Mercy Yard; Noah Gordon starts digging.



'Curiouser and curiouser,' said Alice

Some Yr 10-12 students have been shoulder-tapped to join a Tuesday lunchtime 'chatfest' in B21, called the Curiosity Club. This is aimed at broadening the knowledge and appreciation of all things literary as preparation for Scholarship English in the future. Areas of interest include New Zealand English, Classical Studies, New Zealand literature and film, but the choice of each week's discussion topic is over to the students. They have been encouraged to keep a visual diary, perhaps in digital form, to record their 'finds' and reading experiences. Each term a field trip to a place of interest is planned, again driven by student interest. Anyone not yet invited is most welcome to attend.



AGE: $(\sqrt[3]{343})by2^3$

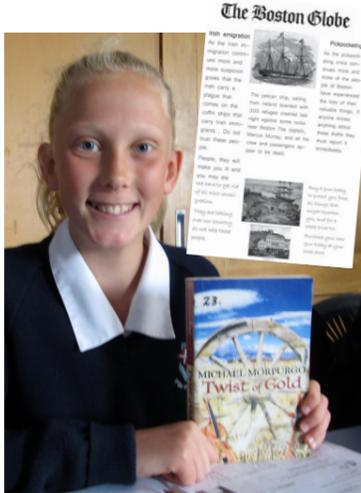
WHAT'S THE BEST THING ABOUT KAVANAGH? There are many qualities, the best being the people, both students and staff, that frequent its halls and corridors. Every day is totally different. These people care about each other to the point where one could almost describe Kavanagh as a large family. A bright smiling face, a kind smile, a person being comforted are but a few of the daily jewels present here. The south, of-course is notable for its hospitality, an enduring feature of our College. **AND THE WORST? (Seriously...)** To see a student for the first time and realise that you haven't seen them before, after spending the last four years in the same place is always a little unsettling for me. In my previous schools I always knew most students by sight at least. Kavanagh's nooks and crannies.... **WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER ABOUT YOUR FIRST DAYS AT KAVANAGH?** I knew no-one in my first days. I remember vividly the daily challenge of finding my way round, especially the 'Mercy' Block!! Getting to know other staff, which wasn't so difficult by personality, but the names took a wee while longer..... **WHAT WILL YOU REMEMBER MOST ABOUT BEING AT KAVANAGH?** Probably the way in which one becomes accepted into the community. Once you're in you become almost family, one of the cogs in the college machinery, part of the furniture, so to speak. Having taught in other North Island colleges it is very obvious to me that I have hit upon my ancestral home here in the later years of my teaching career. Will teach at Kavanagh as long as possible. **WHAT DO YOU LIKE READING? WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE BOOK?** Am partial to anything with a natural science/philosophical bent. I also enjoy theology. I don't think I have a favorite book. I have read most of C.S.Lewis' writings and still re-read him. Am currently reading "The Universe in your hand" (thank you, Josh Meikle) and "Benedict XVI Last Testament" (thank you, Dr Lanner.) I'm not a quick reader; when I enjoy a text I tend to slow my reading down to reflect as I go... I firmly believe in reading as a wonderful pastime..."We read to know we are not alone" (Jack Lewis - Shadowlands) Thomas Hardy is an old favorite. **IF YOU HAD A MASCOT OR SYMBOL WHAT WOULD YOU CHOOSE?** That's easy: XR6. A symbol of quality, power, performance, security, safety, dominance and mystique. **WHAT SPORTS DO YOU PLAY?** I played football for many seasons and still enjoy being involved here at Kavanagh. I follow the EPL rather loosely...Go Stoke City and Peter Crouch!!! **WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING FOR YOU THIS YEAR?** The challenge of teaching Religious Eduycation and having all senior classes plus being involved in the Retreats is important to me. I taught RES back in the 90's before NCEA. **WHERE DO YOU HOPE TO BE IN TEN YEARS' TIME?** I would like to think I could still be teaching at Kavanagh. The class-room, a place of fellowship for me, is still a place where young and not so young can come together to discover and learn about the mysteries of God and the Cosmos. **WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO STUDENTS FOR 2017?** Don't ignore the lessons of history. Kavanagh has in her seat of knowledge all the wisdom that young minds need to prepare for their futures. Be confident to follow the lead of the older ones in your world. Remember also, adults live in the same world you are growing up in. Respectfulness and politeness generate themselves...

Creative Corner...



Making Zines and Newspapers

Left: 8TSU have been making mini-magazines as they prepare for a competition. Pictured is Caleb Simpson with his "Stupendous Man".



Right: 'The Boston Globe' was designed and written by Harriet Thompson, Yr 7, as a Social Studies activity. After Harriet had read Michael Morpurgo's 'Twist of Gold' she explored Irish immigration to the USA during the Depression.

'Dance competition' by Charlotte Owen, Yr 12.

"Hold still," hisses Beth.

"I can't help it, I'm ticklish!" I protest. I feel a cotton bud carefully nudge my eyelid. The feathery brush swoops some shimmery white powder over my eyelids.

"Thanks for coming to help," I say.

"No problem. It's kind of fun," Beth replies.

I giggle as the brush traces my cheekbones and touches my earlobe. I hear Beth give a heaving exasperated sigh. What's the time? I look up at the clock on the wall, fifteen minutes left? Oh no!

"Put some mascara on me," I say anxiously. My eyelashes turn from transparent ginger to a lovely long ebony. I have to hold my breath as the eyeliner traces my lash line so it doesn't slip.

"Okay, you're pretty much done."

I open my eyes which are now large and defined under dramatic eyeshadow and thick black eyeliner. My cheekbones are lightly dusted in a blossom pink.

"Do you like it?" Beth titters, she hovers beside me, helping me pull my hair into a bun so tight it pinches my scalp.

"It's perfect, I knew it would be great," I reply softly. It feels eerie, as though I'm unrecognisable but at the same time clearly myself.

I pull her into a grateful hug before I scurry into the backstage room to pull on my lycra. My fingers are trembling, for the third time a clothes hanger clatters on the polished floor and I'm nattering to myself like a mad woman, reassuring myself everything will be fine. I can't possibly go on stage in such a jittery state: my movements which are supposed to be fluid and nimble will look jerky and hurried. I try not to think about it whilst I perform a series of stretches. Behind the dressing room I hear some throbbing bass and the stomp of male students.

That's going to be me in a minute, all by myself in front of an audience of so many parents and students. The thought hollows out my stomach and makes my hands shake violently. A quick glance in the mirror and I do a double take. The girl before me appears almost swan-like and slender. I'm wearing a pearl white skirt that billows below my waist like a small cloud. My green eyes flutter around, decked in their thick black lining. I'm no longer my petite, prepubescent looking self. The makeup has aged me at least three years. I point my toes several times and stretch my legs.

The crackle of a microphone and a booming voice finally wakes me into action. "And last but not least, Holly Macpherson, Year Eleven."

I turn hastily to the side where an intimidating red curtain opens to let me enter. Several burly guys in matching shirts exit the stage high fiving each other. A weak, hesitant clapping greets me, but abruptly hushes as a soft piano begins its piece. I brace myself before taking flight in a series of leaps and spins. One minute, two minutes go by in seconds. My lungs are going to burst; I must be holding my breath. My face is gleaming in sweat. Finally the music stops and I take a bow.

It's all over now, an unexpected thunderclap of applause comes from the audience as the curtain draws. The foghorn voice of the host is muffled now as I shuffle past a group of nervous Year Ten girls. I feel like flying. I was flying, I can't believe I completed everything without any apparent flaws. But enough to win?

A nostalgic moment flicks into my mind... I am six years old, filmed on Mum's family camera, bobbing around in excitement in my peach colored leotard, my movements are jerky and my young physique is poorly coordinated. Huge trees have come from those tiny seeds and huge accomplishments have come from that first day at ballet class. A rosy cheeked, freckly six year old with flame coloured hair, ambling around in a costume, imagining herself a graceful princess. No, ballet is so much more than sparkly lycra. It's about pushing yourself and growing both mentally and physically, as I did tonight. What was once a small gaggle of clapping, beaming mothers had changed into hundreds of audience members, in the dark, their faces concealed, watching my every move.

Take it from the top

Meihana Kewene-Masina and Elliot Blyth (on the left) were excellent Music Squad Ambassadors at a meeting for the Otago Secondary Schools' Music Festival. This is the first time that students have been invited to attend. They all had a say in the choice of music for choir, orchestra, string orchestra and concert band. The festival will be held in September.



A high old time?

Right: Should we really be watching this space? This Yr 10 Science class is preparing a decomposition experiment as part of a forensic study. In the foreground is the trout.



CHECK OUT: Magazine 2016 now online via the College website.

9DOU, the Beach Day Champs

Having a day at the beach is not just about sunbathing and swimming. Yr 9 found themselves challenged by three competitive events: transferring water from one side of the beach to the other, an egg and spoon race and a tug of war. 9DOU easily won the water race with 10mm of water left in the bucket. Then 9JAK took out the egg and spoon race. It all came down to the tug of war. The rope broke several times, becoming shorter which meant that only ten students could compete. Eventually, 9DOU pulled off a win, to take out the annual Yr 9 Beach Day Cup. Pictured with the are: Mr David Dougherty, Hannah Bryant, Jago Armstrong and Yr 9 Dean, Mr Chris Pickles.



Answers to Kay Kwiz: 1. 'Bugsy Malone'; 2. 6th February 1840; 3. The letter "e"; 4. 'Melodrama'; 5. September.

Editor: Pauline Ireland-Kenny.
Print Media Prefects: Taylor Baxter, Rosa Flaherty and Tabitha German.
Thanks to: Jill Armstrong, Maggie McGarry, Michael Mackenzie, Chris Manley, Georgie Watts.
Printed by: Certa Solutions, 60 Fox Street, Dunedin.
Kavanagh College, 340 Rattray Street, Dunedin.
Ph (03) 477 3408; Fax (03) 479 0468; email: pkenny@kavanagh.school.nz.