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IRSTLY, A VERY WARM WELCOME to MGS for 2017. A special welcome to those families new to the school. We hope and pray that your association with us will be of great joy and blessing for the years ahead.

At the start of the year I spoke with staff about how Psalm 127 gives a purpose for Christian Education. We see first that 'Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labour in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain.' As a school we recognise that the Lord is to be involved in all we do, in the design of the curriculum through to our interactions with each other. Our desire is that what we do here is long-lasting and of eternal significance – for this we need the Lord's blessing.

What is also exciting in Psalm 127 is verse 4, "Like arrows in the hands of warriors are the children of one's youth." The analogy for us at Middleton Grange is that pupils are the arrows in the hands of teachers (warriors). Just as a warrior would shape a sapling to make it straight and give it a 'purpose', so too our staff through their teaching shape the hearts and minds of your children. For this to be done by committed Christian staff (despite our flaws) is a blessing.

Our prayer is that our pupils strive to be the best for NZ society, making a transformational impact wherever the Lord leads them.

Join with us in prayer for this worthy purpose.

God bless

Richard Vanderpyl
Principal



Coming Up

These dates are subject to change. Regularly check the calendar on the school website for amendments.

Abbreviations:

PS-Primary School	MS-Middle School
SC-Senior College	IC-Intl College
ppd-postponement	LC-Learning Centre

FEBRUARY

Mon, 27-Wed, 1 March	Y9 Camp 9Gm
Mon, 27	IC BBQ Year 11 Geography field trip Y12 Biology Field Trip
Tue, 28	Y6 Trek about Tuesday E Day Y12 13 Business Classes

MARCH

Wed, 1 - Fri	9SM Camp
Thu, 2	UC Liaison Visit Careers Room at lunchtime Strength finders 8SE & CR
Fri, 3	First Aid Course
Mon, 6 - Wed, 8	9LI Camp
Mon, 6	Otago Uni Liaison visit Library at lunchtime
Tue, 7	Canterbury SS Athletics Prelims Rawhiti Domain Pasifika Supreme Awards 7-9pm Haeata Community Campus
Wed, 8 - Fri, 10	9 LH Camp
Fri, 10	Pasifika Careers Expo - ARA
Sat, 11	Canterbury SS Athletics Finals Rawhiti Domain
Mon, 13	Year 13 Focus Day, Riccarton Park
Tue, 14	9LH Pump Station Trip 12 History Museum Trip West Zone Swimming Sports Y4-8
Wed, 15 & Thu, 16	German Language Focus
Wed, 15	Massey Uni Liaison visit Library 2:30pm
Wed, 15	9SM Pump Station Trip
Thu, 16	UC Careers Fair- Commerce at UC 4-6.30pm
Fri, 17	Y6 Trek about postponement day
Sat, 18	Polyfest. Location: TBC
Sun, 19 - Wed, 22	Y13 History Waitangi Trip
Mon, 20	9LI Pump Station Trip
Tue, 21	9GA Pump Station Trip
Thu, 23	MGS Y9-13 Swimming 9-12.30 Wharenui Pool 9GM Pump Station Trip
Fri, 24	Museum Trip 8SE & 8CR (am)
Mon, 27 - Fri, 31	Summer Tournament Week
Mon, 27	Museum Trip 8JE & 8BC (am)

End of 2016

Y13 Girls at Graduation Dinner



Y10 Service Day to Godley Head

The 2016 Y10 cohort shovelled 65 tonnes of shingle and laid it along a good portion of the Godley Head track for the Department of Conservation. The kids were wonderful examples of our motto in action, 'Character, Excellence, Service for the Glory of God' as they worked willingly and with cheerful hearts. It was a really enjoyable day.



9GA Beach cleanup

9Ga's annual Service Day project also had a conservation focus.



NZSS Athletics Championships

Waitakere – Auckland 2nd to 4th December

With the Nationals being in Auckland, only our top four athletes made the trip up North.

Winning a medal at Nationals is a great achievement, and **Summer Rutherford** finished her years at MGS winning a Bronze medal in the Senior Girls' 100m Hurdles in a time of 15.01 sec. She narrowly missed out on repeating that achievement in the 300m Hurdles, where she came 4th. Summer came 5th out of a field of twenty two of the country's best Senior Girls' Athletes, in the Long Jump.

William Stedman decided to enter Nationals this year, even though it did not really fit into his competition schedule. William's best result was breaking his own Senior Boys' PA CP National record in the Long Jump with a distance of 4.71 m. Being as competitive as ever, he won another three Gold medals in the 100m, 200m and 400m events. However, by William's own high standards, he would have liked to have reached his 'PB' and in so doing break his own National records which he holds in the above three track events.

Gloria Agnew is another excellent athlete, who sets very high standards for herself and therefore she would have been frustrated with narrowly missing out on a podium finish in her two events.



Gloria

To put it in perspective: there were 60 of New Zealand's best 100m Junior athletes competing. Gloria qualified through a heat, a quarter-final, a semi-final and then came 5th in the final. In her Long Jump event, Gloria came 5th out of a field of 42 athletes with a jump of 5.25 m. This was her best jump ever.

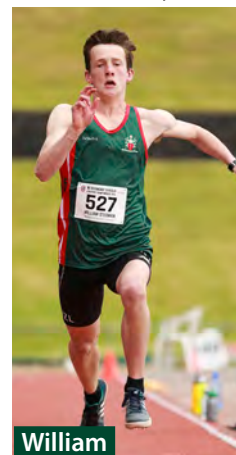
Zinan Bennett's hard work and determined attitude paid off when he qualified for the final of the Junior Boys' 400m race against thirty three competitors. After going through the heats and semi-finals, Zinan ran his personal best time of 52.99 sec. in the final. In his 800m run, he progressed through the heats and ran in the semi-final, but narrowly missed out on making the final.

We congratulate these athletes, and thank Summer Rutherford for her years of service to MGS Athletics and all the great results for our school. We also thank Kerry Rutherford for his assistance to our team over the years.

Geoff Steyn
TIC Athletics



Summer



William



Zinan

Y10 Careers Day

For our work experience day we went to the Christchurch city council building to learn about different types of engineering. We were met by James Ting, who was going to show us around. We started our visit by driving out to Hornby to see an asphalt manufacturing plant. We put on protective gear and met Philip Crossland, who worked at the plant. He told us the processes that small bits of stones went through and what they were combined with to make asphalt. Ironically, the ground around the plant lacked the stuff it manufactured, and was merely gravel. We were then taken to the control tower at the plant, and Philip showed us how the processes were managed and the different components of the plant itself.

We then returned to the council building and were given safety briefings before we went to James' office and had some morning tea before a grand tour of the entire council building. We started at the top, the



mayor's office, and made our way down the building, looking at all the different cogs in the council machine along the way. Some notable sights were the RTO Room, which had live screens displaying traffic information and footage. Another was the traffic engineers' room, where we saw new plans for Hereford Street and learned different things about being an engineer. We were also lucky enough see where the mayor discusses council policy. Unfortunately, she wasn't there. We also looked at a street and learned about the ground and what it meant from an engineering point of view. That was our day at the council.

By Bianca Wu and Jack. Bosma

Left: Cory Myatt spent Careers Day at van Asch Early Intervention Centre.



Pupil Support – Counselling

Why does Middleton Grange School have a counselling service?

Our young people face enormous pressures in today's world. Social networking means constant connection at any time day or night. It means our young people are often drawn into each other's emotions while at the same time trying to solve their own and their friends' problems. Socialising is an important part of being human and we need to promote this, but the extent of emotional and social connection is creating overload for our young people. It is emotionally tough to juggle school work, friendships, family, commitments to other activities while still growing and learning how

to be your own person.

Social anxiety is also on the increase. Young people match themselves against each other and can feel as if they are constantly being observed. Real life presents challenges to all of us but when young people experience grief, depression, family problems and anxiety it is overwhelming and often more than they or their friends can handle. As Proverbs 12.25 says, "Anxiety in the heart of people causes depression, but a good word makes it glad."

As counsellors at Middleton Grange School we listen, support and use specific strategies to empower our young people

to face what is happening for them so they find a way forward. Even Jesus took time out to be quiet with his Father and renew himself emotionally, physically and spiritually. We desire to see our pupils grow healthy and use their God given gifts to live the life God has given them.

Helping our young people grow and mature often starts with the adults around them finding their own healthy and mature way to live. This leads to big decisions for the adults in a young person's life. What are we modelling? How is God calling us to live?

The Middleton Grange

Guidance Unit recognises the family as the primary support system for our pupils. We like to work closely with parents and caregivers to achieve the best outcome. If your child or young person is struggling and you think they would benefit from our input please phone or email us. Sometimes having a chat is all that is needed or maybe we will see a pupil for a period of time. In some circumstances an external agency maybe better suited to the situation and we can be part of making this referral. Being proactive is important as supportive and professional intervention has real benefits.

Please know we are here as part of Middleton Grange's overall goal of growing healthy and Godly young men and women.

Mike Coleman

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B.Th, B.Com
Cert. Psych Care (Child & Adolescent)
Dip. Teaching, Registered Teacher
Member NZAC

Anne Aiken

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MEd Counselling
Dip. Teaching, Registered Teacher
Provisional Member NZAC

Welcome to New Staff

Karina Barney

My name is Karina Barney and I am teaching Food Technology as a first year teacher. I was previously employed at Middleton as the Careers Assistant, Home Economics Technician and Art Technician, but have spent the last year training to be a teacher. I attend the Salvation Army at Sydenham and am passionate about helping young men and women develop a deeply thought-through faith which is evidenced by how they interact with the world. I am looking forward to integrating my skills as a nutritionist with my passions for social justice and equality within the Home Economics Curriculum. I am excited about working with Middleton staff again, and using all my skills and strengths to challenge my pupils to become lifelong learners who are able to contribute positively to New Zealand society.



then, I have taught English in a number of Christchurch schools. Last year, I was privileged to teach English full time at Rangiora New Life School. This year, I am really looking forward to teaching English and Christian Studies at Middleton Grange, in another faith-filled Christian educational environment.

Janee Crawford



Kia ora, my name is Janee Crawford and I am thrilled to be teaching at Middleton Grange School for 2017. You will find me in the Primary School teaching Year Fours. I am a first year teacher; however, Middleton Grange is not new for me at all. Both my mother and I attended MGS as pupils. Middleton Grange holds lots of fond memories for me, and I feel very grateful to have had the opportunity of a Christian education. I now look forward to paying it forward with my pupils.

I am a member of South West Baptist Church. It is a busy place, so I have found there has always been a role or a ministry for me to be involved in. You will see me mostly at the 7pm service.

2017 is going to be a year of new things for me, one important thing being a new last name: I have recently become engaged. I anticipate the challenge of teaching my Year Fours my new last name: it will be a great way to teach silent letters!

Outside of school I like adventures in the outdoors, catching up with people, getting lost in a book, having a project and drinking a quality flat white.

I look forward to meeting more of the Middleton Grange School community.

Jess Berry

Hi everyone, I am Jess Berry. I am an experienced Special Needs Teacher Aide, and will be putting this to use working from the Learning Centre. I also work at Riccarton High School, in the Special Needs department there. I've been married for just over a year; my husband Michael is a builder, and we are saving for our first home together. I was brought up in a non-Christian home, and developed a relationship with God as an adult. I am a qualified Youth Worker and I work as a Maths and English tutor outside of school hours. I am passionate about bringing the best out in our young people, and in those with disabilities, who are so often left behind. I look forward to the opportunity to do this over the year to come with the pupils of Middleton Grange School.



Victoria Goodman



My name is Victoria Goodman, and this year will be my first year of teaching. I am teaching Science and Chemistry and am looking forward to working alongside the teachers in the Science department. I am really excited to begin my teaching career here at Middleton Grange and feel very fortunate to be joining a school which is not only built on Christian beliefs but lives them out too! I have been living in Christchurch over the last 6 years and have

been involved with Cornerstone Church (Campus) since 2012. Before Christchurch I spent most of my time in South Canterbury, Southland and North Otago. I am a keen gardener, and 'greenie', I also enjoy cooking, baking and attempting to play the guitar. I am looking forward to what God has in store for us all this year at Middleton Grange School!

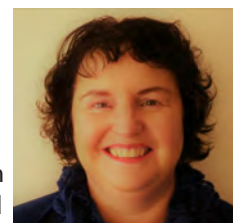
Joanna Bisseker

My name is Joanna Bisseker and I am happy to be a part of the Middleton Grange teaching team this year. I am teaching the new Early Childhood Education course for Year 12 and 13 as well as Christian Studies and one day in Year 4. My background is in early childhood, primary and tertiary teaching. My husband and I live in Kaiapoi and attend the Rangiora Baptist church. We have 6 grown children and are kept very busy with them and an increasing number of grandchildren.



Claire Carpenter

Hello. My name is Claire Carpenter. I grew up in Christchurch and developed the gift of music as a young person. I was encouraged to begin playing the piano in my family church when I was 15. At present, I am a member of St Silas' Anglican Church in Redwood, where I am involved in the worship ministry. God directed me into secondary teaching in 2002; since



Allison Joubert

My name is Allison Joubert, and along with my two daughters who are in Year 12 and Year 9, I am extremely excited to become part of the Middleton Grange School whanau. I will be teaching Year 8. My area of passion is the development of character and life skills through learning. I am continually inspired by people

who have dedicated their lives to honouring God through the exercise of their talents. In my previous role I was the Principal of a school in South Africa, following the Accelerated Christian Education (ACE) curriculum. I originally trained as a Bible and Sports teacher, but have taught a variety of age ranges and within many different curricula and countries. As a newcomer both to New Zealand and Middleton Grange, I look forward to listening and learning so that I can discover where I can be of most service. I look forward to building relationships with parents, as I believe the more we work together the stronger the future we build with and for our children.



Lesley Parker

Hello! My name is Lesley Parker and I'm really looking forward to working at Middleton Grange School this year in the Science department. Originally I'm from Northern Ireland but I lived for a number of years in England, where I met my husband Matt. The Lord led us to Christchurch in 2005, and we have put down our roots here. We have two lovely children and are part of the leadership team of King's Church Christchurch. I enjoy reading, walking and cooking but I am absolutely passionate about making music. I particularly enjoy singing and I regularly lead worship at church and run a local community choir. I am looking forward to being involved in many aspects of school life at Middleton and I count it a real privilege to be in a position to encourage young people to grow, not only in academic knowledge, but in their character and knowledge of God too.

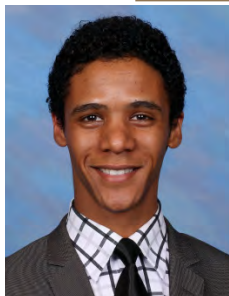


Stephanie Orchard

My name is Stephanie Orchard and I joined Middleton Grange School this year, teaching in a Year One class in the Primary School. My husband and I have recently moved back from Auckland, where we have been living for the last three years. We are very happy to be back in this beautiful city, and look forward to discovering what God has in store for us here. Both of our families live in North Canterbury so it's lovely to be close to them again. For the past two years, I have worked as a year one teacher at Sylvia Park School. We attended Mount Roskill Baptist Church during our time in Auckland, and we are now looking for a new church to call home. I love spending time outdoors and enjoy a variety of sports, including running, swimming and netball. I also enjoy music and reading. Middleton Grange offers a special and unique environment to teach in, and I am excited about this new chapter. I look forward to connecting with the school community, and working alongside the staff and families of Middleton Grange School.



Enzro Smith



I consider it a privilege to be joining Middleton Grange School as teacher of Chemistry and Science. I have relocated from Cashmere High School and I am looking forward to working alongside the very dedicated teachers and support staff at Middleton Grange. I attend South West Baptist Church where I am also a youth leader. I love spending time outdoors marvelling at God's wondrous creation. I am very excited about working at Middleton Grange as the school not only provides quality teaching and learning but it does so according to the will of God availed to us through Christ Jesus, His son.

Ruard Smith



Hi. I have the privilege of teaching Mathematics at Middleton. It is such a blessing to be brought here by the hand of God. I attend South West Baptist Church, where I am also a youth leader. It is important for our pupils to know that God has a plan for every individual and our lives are a testimony to his mercy. I am grateful for this experience and it is an honour to be a part of the Middleton team. I enjoy Mathematics and Statistics which allow me to recognise the need for the discipline and a Godly inspired education curriculum. I pray that God may continue to bless Middleton so that we may be the light that others can see.

Jerusha Toonen



Hello, my name is Jerusha Toonen and I have been teaching at Middleton Grange since Term 2 2016. This year I am the homeroom teacher of the fabulous class of Year 7 pupils named 7TO. I am a qualified Primary teacher, and have had experience teaching in many different schools throughout my training, and through relief work. I have been brought up in a Christian family, and am a very active member of Life Church. My interests include sports and movies, and going on adventures. I have had family and friends both attend Middleton Grange, and so it is a privilege for me to be a part of the blessing that I know this school is.



A big thank you to Konica Minolta for printing our newsletter free of charge.

New Roles

Christine Buckley

Kia ora koutou. I have been teaching at Middleton Grange since 2015, beginning in Year 5 in our wonderful Primary School. This year I am part of the Middle School, Teaching in Year 8. I have experience teaching and leading in Years 5-8 at previous schools both, in New Zealand and in the UK.

I'm married to Andrew and we have three children aged 11 – 7: all attend Middleton. Together we enjoy beach holidays, spending time with cousins, camping and being out on the water. We attend Grace Vineyard Church. This Christmas brought a new fluffy member to our family, a labradoodle puppy called Aston.

I look forward to this new role in Year 8 and getting to know the pupils and families. It is great meeting new pupils and seeing many of the children I taught in the Primary School.



Joella Eves

My name is Joella Eves and the subject area I teach is Mathematics. I feel privileged to be able to journey alongside the Year 13 girls as their dean. I thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the girls more at camp and having a good laugh with them. It is my aim to develop strong relationships and to be someone who provides them with support, encouragement and accountability: spiritually, personally, academically and socially.



Matt Vannoort

My name is Mr Matthew Vannoort, and I look forward to my role as the Year 11 Boys' Dean. It is my hope and prayer that the boys placed in my care will continue to grow in their love of Jesus Christ this year, and will strive to do their best in all areas of life. The subject area I teach in is Chemistry & Science – subjects which teach us about the design God has for this world.



Angie Sun

Angie is with us from the Confucius Institute at the University of Canterbury.

Hi, I am Angie Sun. I have just arrived in New Zealand from China. I will be working in the Chinese Department as a Mandarin Language Assistant this year. I come from Xi'an, home to Emperor Qin's Terra-cotta Warriors. I have been studying in Beijing Language and Culture University to get my Master's degree. My major is Teaching Chinese to Speakers of Other Languages. I taught Chinese to students from an American University last summer. I love teaching Chinese language and Chinese culture. I also like learning about different cultures, and I hope to learn more New Zealand culture this year.



Head Prefects 2017



Holly Broom – Head Girl



Makameone Malua – Head Boy

Maka and Holly have proven to be very popular choices for Head Prefect roles for 2017. Both enter the role with a reputation as young people of the highest integrity and dependability. Both have a strong Christian faith and have already shown an authentic heart of care for their peers and younger pupils.

Maka's passions are first for food, followed closely by his love of Rugby and his profound loyalty and commitment to his family. Holly's comfort zone lies in filling whatever need she sees or anticipates and is known for her humble, servant heart. She is an OPC enthusiast and plays Netball as well. Both are excellent role models in every way.

Holly and Maka are determined to increase among pupils from Year 1 to Year 13 a sense of belonging and significance within the school community. To see all pupils interacting as one; to see all pupils relishing the opportunity to participate in school life and to be appreciated for their uniqueness, their talents and that special 'flavour' each one adds to the school climate motivates them to lead with passion. Additionally, they also hope to encourage growth of faith in God amongst pupils in the school through their example and through getting alongside others.

These things they are strategizing to hold in healthy tension with their aim for academic excellence.



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Welcome to New International Pupils

30th January 2017! One of the most memorable days for the International College in a very long time.

8:30 am - our first group of new pupils arrived: anxious, serious, not sure what to expect! All they heard was a jumble of words spoken in a language they weren't too sure about.

9:00 am - the second group arrived, and the day had started! Pupils were given instructions, and a bag full of information in English. They were asked to fill in a lot of forms.

Then ... a group of Kiwi pupils arrived to gather all the new international pupils up. These Kiwi pupils asked their names, spoke to them slowly about things only fellow

young people can talk about and showed them around their new school. So the new international pupils started to relax a bit. They were given morning tea and they made new friends.

Just when all seemed to be going so well, they were asked to do a Maths test. The nerves returned, and faced with all these foreign sounding mathematical terms written in English, the new pupils were really frightened.

By the end of the first day, heads were spinning and all these young people wanted to do was speak to parents, lie down and sleep, or just relax.

Day Two started with an English test. When were these tests going to end? Then the very friendly Kiwi pupils arrived. The new pupils saw faces they recognized and they could remember how kind and helpful these pupils were. They could relax a bit again.

This is how the first week of school starts for international pupils first arriving at

Middleton. It is daunting, even terrifying. We expect a lot from these young people in their first few days of school. Thank goodness for the really wonderful International Ambassador team, who step out in courage and welcome these new people into their school and their lives.

On the 10th and 11th February, the International College took all the new pupils away to Living Springs for an overnight orientation camp. We included 10 International Ambassadors. This year's camp was absolutely awesome! It was a time for new pupils to ask questions, to get to know other pupils and staff a bit better and to experience a few outdoor activities that are designed to help them grow in confidence but also rely on each other.

We are truly blessed to have these wonderful young people at our school. Thank you to everyone for making them feel so welcome!



Short Term Programmes

Middleton Grange School has become a popular destination for overseas schools wanting to send pupils to experience life in New Zealand. Each year we welcome quite a few short term groups to the school.

St. Paul Girls' High School from Korea and Beijing No. 18 High School from China started our short-term-programmes for 2017. Both groups have had a full, fun-packed programme, which has included visits to Akaroa, Canterbury Museum and the Antarctic Centre and much more.

We enjoyed getting to know the staff and pupils from Beijing No. 18 High School, a new school to visit Middleton, but one that we are sure we will have a lot of contact with.

We have reconnected with an old friend, MJ Kim from St. Paul Girls' High School, who brought a group out previously. St Paul pupils are our annual visitors, with a new group of girls coming out each February. We have enjoyed this wonderful group of young ladies.

We'd like to thank our homestay families who do such a wonderful job in hosting these friends from afar



Y7 Activity Day

The day dawned cloudy, and with threat of rain, our four Year 7 classes arrived at Spencer Park and were mixed into inter-class teams. The Activity Day is very important for helping pupils transition into the Middle School, as they make new friendships and strengthen class and team bonds.

The morning was spent rotating around a number of team challenges, including getting teams safely over an 'electric' fence, building human pyramids, completing trust exercises and balancing the whole group on a small base. The excitement was evident as teams completed tasks or set new time records. The four Year 7 teachers were assisted by four of the Y12 Peer Support team: Caitlin Harrington, Kayla Williams, William Stedman, and Max Wolvekamp, plus a number of parents.

Unfortunately, our planned afternoon beach activities, including a Sand Sculpture competition, were cancelled due to rain. As the rain was needed so much to help counter the Port Hills fires, there were no complaints and we returned to school a little early. From a school point of view, the success of the day will be evident as pupils return to the classroom knowing a wider circle of people.



The BLUE seat

The year 3 – 6 playground has a special blue seat that you can sit on if you're feeling a bit sad, grumpy or lonely. The idea is that other children will invite you to play with them, or talk to you about what's bothering you. Thanks to Nick Braithwaite for a very neat paint job!

JOIN OUR PRAYER GROUP

When: Every Tuesday 9am

Where: At the back of the staffroom, through the door on the left,

Please feel free to join us at any time.
We welcome new prayers.

Any queries?
Contact Justine Hart on 0274860423

WELCOME TO OUR PARENT COFFEE MORNINGS

We welcome all school parents to come and enjoy a chat over a quality cup of tea or coffee every Friday during the term in the Performing Arts Centre from 9.00 am onwards.

A gold coin donation to cover costs would be appreciated.



We look forward to seeing you there.

No Summer slide Slouches at Middleton Grange School!

In The Press on 13 January 2017 was an article entitled 'Kids Losing Too Much Learning Over Summer'. It reported that research showed school children could lose between three and six months of learning over the summer break. The slide in learning was predominant in Reading, but also evident in Maths and Writing. Some researchers found the loss was cumulative 'so over a child's time at school, they might lose years of growth'.

The good news is that at Middleton Grange School over the past few years, both Primary and Secondary Libraries have been running the 'Summer Reading' programme.

The programme has exploded in popularity with Primary pupils. Amazingly, at the end of 2016, 160 pupils (half of the Primary School!) took home a Summer Reading bag containing ten books of their own choosing. There was huge buzz as pupils brought in their permission slips, grabbed their bag, and filled it to the brim with their choices! The children all kept a reading log and filled in what they had read, along with a star rating of how much they



enjoyed them. As a result there are some great book recommendations for other pupils.

Mrs McPheat ran a competition where pupils were asked to take a photo of themselves reading in the most peculiar spot! These are displayed in the Primary School Library. Cape Reinga, Sky Tower and the couch in the lounge were locations of choice.

Uptake was a bit more measured in the Middle School, with only 55 pupils taking advantage of this offer. 8 of these were Year 6

pupils checking out the Secondary library's collection.

We noted it was the more able readers who wanted the extra books over the holidays. ☺

Richard Vanderpyl
Principal



Peer Support

Thursday February 2nd saw Middleton pupils young and old return to school routines after their summer break (which wasn't long enough for some!). But for a set of Year 12s and the Year 7 pupils, the new year signalled the beginning of Peer Support, a mentoring programme designed to help the rather disorientated Year 7s navigate the choppy waters of Middle School. Year 12s run games with them, answer any questions they may have about Middleton, and provide a friendly face on campus.

The programme started with the leaders acquainting themselves with their mentees, an experience just as daunting for us leaders as it was for our 'victims'. The school tour then began, an obligatory activity with the unfortunately appropriate title, 'The Amazing Race'. I assure you, the leaders were the ones panting and stumbling behind their very enthusiastic groups! It was a brilliant start to what I am sure will be an equally fantastic term, and judging by the feedback received from other Year 12 leaders, I look forward to seeing many strong and lasting relationships formed as a result of the programme.

By Ellie Bakker



Upgraded Playground

Primary pupils were both excited and pleased to arrive back at school and discover that the new playground for Years 3 to 6 was ready and waiting for them. Mr Vanderpyl certainly looks as if he is enjoying it.



Slippery-slide

The Slippery Slide adorns the Primary School playground. at the moment - a great lunchtime activity on hot days.



Above: Ebony and Lydia enjoy the water slide on their body boards.

Below: James shows off a very impressive technique that carries him almost to the end.



MGS & the Coast to Coast

A number of Middleton pupils, alumni and staff spent Saturday the 11th of February at the Coast-to-Coast finish line at Brighton Beach, many there until close to midnight. This is not only a fundraiser for the MGS Hillary Challenge OPC team, but a great way to bless competitors as they negotiate dismounting their bikes and run (or stagger) the final few metres to the finish line.

Two Middleton alumni competed in the Longest Day:

- **Isla Smith** arrived only about 30 seconds off 4th place in the Woman's section of the Longest Day - just under 14 hours to run, bike, kayak across the Island.
- **Levi Hibbert** also had a huge day. After a very strong first half of the day, he lost a shoe in the river during the Mountain Run section and ran 10km with one shoe (and a polypro tied around the other foot!). Incredible determination!

Freedom Seat & a Bike Called Kindness



What an amazing and inspiring visit we had from a wonderful young man, Naresh Kumar. Naresh spoke to many classes and pupils about his work and each time pupils were challenged by his message to be a difference in the world they live in.

Naresh is biking the length of New Zealand on a tandem bike - from Cape Reinga to Bluff. As he rides, he invites strangers to hop on the tandem bike with him and ride a few kilometres. During this time he chats about why he is biking - to raise awareness and funds for Tearfund's work against child trafficking..

What was great to see was the reaction in our pupils, your children. Immediately many wanted to raise funds for Tearfund, but

our greatest prayer is that Naresh has inspired some pupils to make a long-lasting difference in an area of injustice.

Check out his website www.freedomseat.org.nz and maybe as a family make a donation!



Congratulations to:

Scholarship Winners 2016

Amanda Smithies	English
	Biology
	Statistics
Vevesi Togiaso	Physical Education
Sophie McPheat	English
Celine Goulding	Drama
Meike van der Meer	Physical Education
Joseph Wilson	Physics
	Calculus
Rachel Bedggood	History
Josie Hepburn	Spanish
Josiah Rees	Design
Bethany Manning	Painting
Joel Tempero	Drama
Theema Numanit	Statistics
Dylan Yeo	Biology
	Physics
	History



Amanda



Vevesi



Sophie



Celine



Meike



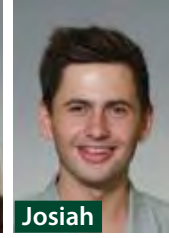
Joseph



Rachel



Josie



Josiah



Bethany



Joel



Theema



Dylan



Shunya



Demi

International pupils **Shunya Suzuki** and **Demi Wang** have been awarded a Dean's Scholarship from UC to the value of \$10,000 each.

Lauryn Hippolite (Y13), **Amiee Book** (Y13) and **Sofia Kennedy** (Y12) made it through to the final trials for the NZ U18 women's basketball team. Whether they will represent NZ will be known in a few weeks.



Lauren, Amiee, Sofia



Alexandria Dodd (Y6), **Melody Li** (Y5) and **Melanie Black** (Y7) were chosen from Sharon Howells School of Ballet to perform with professional dancers from the Imperial Russian Ballet Company last November. They were in *The Nutcracker* at the Isaac Theatre Royal. Alumni **Anna Bedggood** assisted, doing an amazing job backstage.



Alexandria, Melody, Melanie, Anna



Former Pupil wins Prime Minister's Award

Josiah Tualamali'i, former Middleton Grange pupil, current University of Canterbury Political Science and History student, and Pasifika youth leader, won the 2016 Prime Minister's Pacific Youth Award for Leadership & Inspiration, sponsored by Air New Zealand.

Josiah has overcome personal obstacles to embrace his Pacific identity, and hopes to forge a career as an academic in political science and history. The Prime Minister's Pacific Youth Award prize – which includes a trip to Geneva to witness leadership on the global stage – will provide Josiah with an invaluable experience in diplomacy and he hopes to share his story to inspire others on his return.

More about Josiah's achievements can be found on the [UC news webpage](http://www.comsdev.canterbury.ac.nz/rss/news/?feed=news&articleId=2021) <http://www.comsdev.canterbury.ac.nz/rss/news/?feed=news&articleId=2021>

Called to Courage - Karangahia te Aumangea

This year our school theme is 'Called to Courage'. In the Primary School it is re-phrased as 'Courage - don't let fear stop you'. The heart of this theme is for our pupils to be courageous, steadfast and persevering, and also to display these attributes in their daily lives.

We know that our pupils face challenges

every day: the challenge to persevere when school work gets hard; the challenge to speak well of people; the challenge to remain pure in their internet and TV viewing and the challenge to stand up when there is an injustice.

The scriptures speak a lot about courage and its importance as a virtue for all

people. Joshua received from God the call to be 'strong and courageous' as he led the Israelites into the promised land. Daniel, Esther, David are all examples of courage being deployed for the Lord.

During the year we hope you will hear from your children how this school theme is impacting their character.



Founders' Day

While the school began on 4th February (1964) we celebrated the day on the 7th February, appropriately after we commemorated the founding of New Zealand on the 6th February.

The Founders' Day Assembly has two purposes: to welcome all new staff and pupils through a Mihi whakatau, and to reflect on the faithfulness of people and God over the years of our existence. The school theme, 'Called to Courage' was reflected in remembering the work of the early founders and staff of the school. Don Laugesen (formerly Board Chair), Peter Chignell (founding principal) and Margaret Aspden (nee Bell, founding teacher), all displayed courage and perseverance in setting up the school we enjoy today.



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