



End of Term 3 Assembly – Rector's Address

Christine Leighton

Friday 22 September 2023



Nau mai Haere mai

E ngā manuhiri, nau mai, haere mai

Haere mai ki te kura o Hāto Anaru.

Ngā mihi nui ki o koutou – tena koutou katoa.

Welcome to this final assembly in what has been an incredibly busy term. Thank you and welcome to whānau who have joined us this morning and to Mr Rob Woodgate, member of the Board of Governors and Chair of the Board Finance Committee.

Last week we celebrated Māori Language Week which has been recognised in Aotearoa since 1975. In today's assembly where we celebrate our diversity as a school, and our important Whole School Value of Inclusivity, we also recognise the important place of te reo Māori (language) and te ao Māori (values) in our lives as the people of Aotearoa.

I am proud of the efforts we are making as a school to provide opportunity for you to learn and appreciate the significance of Te Tiriti and the obligations we have as New Zealanders to uphold its principles.

Here at St Andrew's College, this means each of us engaging with learning more te reo Māori, becoming familiar with our own history of Aotearoa and the impact this has had on today's society, have understanding of and becoming confident with tikanga customs and practices, and celebrating the unique perspective and influence of our Māori people on future society.

Thank you also to our Māori and Pasifika rangatahi and whānau for the leadership you show in making your culture and values visible to us all.

Our focus on te ao Māori makes us our kura stronger and connects us to our whenua and tangata of Aotearoa.

At last week's Year 9 and 10 Assembly we also recognised our international students who contribute much to this diverse community of St Andrew's.

Here at St Andrew's College, our staff and students identify with 30 different ethnicities and cultures. Some of our differences are visible and some are not, our belief systems are different, our experiences varied and our customs unique. Let's celebrate those differences but also celebrate we are all one people, the people of St Andrew's College and Aotearoa.

Drawing wisdom from the Māori world I share this whakatauki:

Kei tēnā, kei tēnā, kei tēnā ano.



Tōriā ake ahua. Tēnā ake mauri. Tōnā ake mana.
Each and everyone has their own uniqueness, life essence and presence.

At today's End of Term 3 Assembly we are recognising many of you who have achieved notable success in recent weeks. It has certainly been a busy term. First up we will acknowledge students who have now completed their Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Hillary Award.

To do this before the end of Year 13 takes commitment, stickability and a good deal of organisation. Congratulations to the following students who will officially receive their award – hopefully from the Governor-General, Dame Cindy Kiro sometime in the near future.

The following five students have completed a total of over 260 hours of community service over a 12-month period, while at the same time completing 12 months of weekly commitment to a physical activity or sport and 12 months of a hobby or skill. They have completed a five-day residential project either involving more voluntary service or attending a course, and each recipient has completed two multi-day tramps for their Adventurous Journey:

- Joseph Connolly – community service St Andrew's College Cafeteria, hiked Cass Lagoon track and 10-day *Spirit of Adventure*.
- Naomi Dana – community service Sumner Primary School, Robotics Club and website design. Hiked the Cass Lagoon track and Banks Peninsula tracks.
- Annika MacDonald – 5-day residential Science programme at University of Canterbury, hiked Paparo and Queen Charlotte tracks.
- Poppy Rumble – residential, cooked for 60 athletes at the National Rowing Regatta and completed Paparo and Queen Charlotte tracks.
- Cambell Searle – service as leader of Kea Scout camp and volunteered as leader of Living Springs Children's camp. Hiked Cass Lagoon track and Boyle River.

Later in the assembly we will be presenting a number of awards to teams and individuals, a few of which I will highlight now.

The Pipe Band, now back from their trip to the World Championships in Scotland, earned a third place playing in the Top Juvenile Grade. A total of 45 bands competed in the Juvenile section. I was privileged to join the band, staff and a number of parents in Glasgow.

While the band was clearly focused on the competition, they were also a pleasure to be with enjoying the history and sights of Scotland and the events such as Highland Games and the amazing Tattoo in Edinburgh. Their place as third in the world was fully deserved and an outstanding recognition of their commitment and hard work.

I also commend and thank Pipe Band Director Richard Hawke, Head of Piping Graham Bryce, Head of Drumming Scott Birrell, Drumming Tutor Jamie McEwan, and other tutors and staff who accompanied the trip.

In our recent Secondary School Winter Tournament week, 18 teams represented St Andrew's College across Aotearoa in either National, South Island or Regional tournaments. Junior teams were recognised last week and three achieved outstanding results with both the Girls' and Boys' Junior basketball teams placing first in the South Island.



The U15A Rugby team were second in their South Island Tournament in Blenheim.

Seven senior teams will be recognised soon however I must mention four stand-out teams:

- the Girls' 1st XI Football came seventh in a National tournament in Taupo, being the only South Island school to place in the top 10 schools;
- the Girls' Senior A Netball played a great tournament to place fourth in the South Island against some very strong teams thereby winning a place in the Nationals in Auckland during the term break;
- the Girls' Senior A basketball team finished unbeaten in their South Island tournament, becoming the South Island Champions for the second year in a row. They also play in the National Championships in Palmerston North during the term break;
- finally, the Girls' 1st XI hockey team played an incredible tournament, making it all the way to the grand final of the Federation Cup. This was groundbreaking territory for St Andrew's College Girls' hockey, and a very proud moment for all. The final here in Ōtautahi drew a large crowd of supporters with the St Andrew's team winning the silver medal and the end of an incredibly tight game finishing in a 1–1 draw.

In a penalty shoot-out St Cuthbert's College from Auckland won 3–0, leaving our St Andrew's girls to savour the pride of coming second in New Zealand, an fantastic effort.

Congratulations to all teams for the way you represented your school and thank you to all staff, coaches and managers and parent supporters for making Tournament Week such a pleasurable and memorable experience.

Many other students have been busy with other activities and I want to single out the Senior debating team who last week came second in the Canterbury Schools' competition to St Margaret's College in a very tightly contested final. Congratulations to Luke Wylie, Emily Keith (both Year 13) and James Hart (Year 12), who have represented St Andrew's strongly over several years.

A number of individuals will be recognised soon for their success in selection of significant representative teams. In a strongly contested rugby selection, Captain of the 1st XV Lucas Te Rangi (Year 13), has been selected into the New Zealand Māori Secondary Schools team. This was a personal goal for Lucas who has worked hard to achieve this success.

Radford Powell, also Year 13, was also selected in the New Zealand Secondary Schools Barbarian team. To gain this recognition at the national level is an outstanding effort.

Also in rugby, Penelope Taulafo (Year 12) has been selected into the New Zealand Māori Girls' U18 team which is an addition to her selection into the Māori Girls' Secondary School hockey team.

This takes the number of students in the New Zealand Winter representative teams to six:

- Lucas Te Rangi – Māori Boys' Rugby;
- Radford Powell – Barbarians Rugby;
- Penelope Taulafo – Māori U18 Girls' Rugby and Hockey;
- Sienna Stowers-Smith – New Zealand Secondary Schools Netball;



- Amber de Wit – New Zealand U17 Girls' Football;
- Kavanah Lene – New Zealand U16 Girls' Basketball.

While celebrating individual and team success is important, we all know that fronting up and playing well for a season, developing your personal fitness and skill, contributing positively to your team culture and representing your school with gratitude, respect and fair play is what constitutes a successful season. I commend all those who have achieved this over the last term.

The same of course can be said for your academic achievements. I hope you have used the recent prelim examinations to your best advantage, that you take learnings and recommendations from your tutor conferences and make sure you are in the best place possible when you sit your NCEA and Scholarship exams in six weeks' time.

A number of other events have kept many of you busy in recent weeks. Well done to all who were involved with Film Fest last Friday which was an exceptional display of creative talent, and a great evening's entertainment.

Creativity was also on display at the Dance Revue with two performances last weekend. Congratulations to the 50 dancers involved, and especially to Heads of Dance Sophie March (Year 13) and Sienna Spark (Year 12), and Head of Ballet Siara Clarke (Year 12). The variety of dance styles and the talent display was quite breathtaking. Thank you for a vibrant, colourful and most impressive production.

Tuesday evening was an energetic and great performance of St Andrew's rock bands. On Wednesday evening our singers were on display in a most enjoyable vocal concert featuring four choirs, barbershop groups and a number of soloists.

For something completely different, the Ag Show was held on Wednesday with fantastic displays of creativity from Pre-school and Preparatory School students and a few staff. The petting zoo was a highlight for many. Thank you to the Agriculture classes and teachers for organising this event. After such a busy term I think everyone is ready for a change of pace and a few sleep-ins.

Best wishes to all for a refreshing term break with time for some productive study in preparation for the final push in Term 4.