

23 June 2011

**McAuley High School offers quality Catholic Education, in the tradition of Mercy, which challenges young women to strive for standards of personal excellence.**

Dear friends and family of McAuley High School

Tena Kotou Katoa, Talofa Lava, Kia Orana, Ni Sa Bula, Fakalofa Lahi Atu, Malo e Lelei

The rising of the Matariki constellation in our eastern skies heralds a special moment in the Māori calendar. It is a time for reflection and preparation for the year ahead. Matariki becomes visible in the pre-dawn sky looking north-east towards the end of May. It becomes more clearly visible in the following weeks, rising further and further towards the south once the shortest day is past. In recent years awareness of the Maori language and the wider cultural traditions of Maori has greatly increased among New Zealanders. One of the most significant celebrations in the Maori calendar is Matariki – the indigenous New Year for Aotearoa and the Pacific. The renaissance of this ancient Maori celebration and its traditions is a chance for all New Zealanders to remind ourselves of the very special place we occupy in the world. As well as marking the start of a new year, Matariki also signals other new beginnings. The New Year is a good time to reflect on your place in the world, to reawaken old skills or try out new ones and to set new goals. It is also a time to renew our faith.

In our school, it is a time to reflect on what we as students have achieved and to set goals to make sure we are meeting our targets. We are planting seeds that one day will grow, and laying foundations for further development. We cannot do everything and our steps may not be complete, but this is an opportunity for the grace of the Lord to enter and do the rest.

The following prayer is anonymous:

*Creator God, in you, past, present and future are brought together in one great hope. Renew our faith in you, so that the past may not hinder us, the present overwhelm us, or the future frighten us.*

*Continue to lead us that we may carry your word of hope to people that we may be messengers of your love and peace.*

*We ask this through Christ Our Saviour.*

*Amen*

## **Congratulations to the following students for achieving 10 Merit Awards:**

Maxine Carter, Savina De Guzman, Elenoa Fe'ao, Soloaina Fiu, Rynne Inoncillo, Tina Jonathan Sefo, Rosalia Lomano, Kiran Singh, Marialefetuolemoana Tuii, Lilly Tuli.

### **Important Dates**

June	21	Big Sing Competition
	30	Stage Challenge
July	12	Senior Report Evening
	15	Last day of Term 2
August	1	Term 3 starts

### **The Year 9 Debating Team**

On a wild and windy Friday morning the Year 9 Debating Team (Hulita Falaniko, Leader, Braxton Pahulu, Second Speaker and Fereni Peti, Third Speaker), all debating for the first time, set off with their coaches Ms Haybittle and Ms McCoy for faraway St Dominic's College to contest Round 2 of the Catholic Schools' Debating Competition. The debate was very enjoyable and the host school most welcoming. Mrs Carol Coddington, former Deputy Principal at McAuley High School and current Principal at St Dominic's, was happy to greet former colleagues and students. We also had in our entourage the parents of Fereni Peti and we formed a strong supporting group for the performers.

The two teams were very evenly matched and the result was a fair draw. Best speaker of the day was Hulita Falaniko, whose style and confidence impressed the Adjudicator, Miss Hill. The debaters were complimented also on their ability to structure and develop their speeches in the accepted debating traditions. Miss Hill was surprised that such young and inexperienced debaters could be so skilful. This was a very positive outcome for the Year 9 Team.

### **Liggins Institute Experience**

*On Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> of June 2011 the Year 13 Biology class had the opportunity to attend the Liggins Institute to experience what it would be like to be a scientist for the day.*

*Currently the Biology class is learning about the different techniques that are used in gene cloning and DNA profiling. It is an interesting topic and in order to understand the techniques we are learning about, we had the opportunity to attend the Liggins Institute and were able to use their equipment to perform our experiments.*

*We were introduced to the scientists and were given an overview of what we were going to do for the rest of the day. It was enjoyable because we were able to play with the pipettes. At first it was quite daunting knowing that we were holding an expensive scientific tool in our hands but eventually we got used to it and after some practice, the girls were professional scientists holding their pipettes and performing their tasks.*

*The girls then had to use their skills and knowledge to be able to perform a gel electrophoresis test. This was extremely enjoyable as we were able to load our samples*

*into the wells of the gel. It took precision, but our Year 13 scientists did extremely well and everyone finished within the strict time frame. At the end of the day we were able to use the computer programmes to analyse the results. We also had the privilege of talking to many different scientists who specialised in a range of different professions within the science field. We were able to ask them questions and the girls were able to get a general feel for what it would be like if they were to pursue Biology in the future.*

*Overall, it was an awesome and memorable trip because we were able to live in the shoes of a scientist for a day and deepen our knowledge about the topics that we are studying. A special thanks to Miss Prescott who organised and supervised us during the trip and to the Year 13 Biology girls who represented the school with pride and made the most of the trip.*

*Carmelita Maletino*



### **Poetry Writing Workshop**

*On Monday, 13 June 2011, Year 11 English was fortunate enough to spend a morning with the published poet, Selina Tusitala Marsh at the Otahuhu Library. Radiating a certain warmth that the students quickly responded to, she first spoke about the reasons she took to writing poetry. She said she was disappointed and angry at the negative portrayal of the Pacific Island community in the media because she knows that there are many high achievers among them too. It's just that they are rarely heard about. It is worth noting here that she was the first person of Pacific descent to graduate with a PhD in English from the University of Auckland and is currently teaching there.*

*Dr Marsh treated the students to a performance reading of her poem 'Fast talkin' PI' that had them all enthralled. The descriptions of Pacific Islanders rang true and were enhanced by the rhythm. The students were then encouraged to share their interpretations of a collection of commonplace items such as a hair clip. This led into a poetry writing exercise on Matariki.*

*The students participated enthusiastically and drafted individual poems that tried to describe abstract ideas using concrete imagery. They took on board her words that '... if you can write, then you are a poet.' Several students volunteered to share their poems with the group at the end of the workshop and performed confidently.*

*It was an enriching morning thanks to the Manager of the Otahuhu Library, Barry O'Callaghan.*



*Rose Fata-Leone*

## **Big Sing Competition**

We were very proud of our choir who participated for the third year in a row in the Big Sing competition. In our session we competed against St Cuthbert's College, Westlake Girls' High School, Kristin School, Aorere College and Carmel College. It is an amazing achievement on the part of our choir to participate with the best choirs in the country. We are grateful to parents, students and the staff for their support. Aiming for excellence encourages students to aim for excellence in all aspects of their work. Well done to our students. The choir sang the following items: "Cantate Domino", "Tomorrow shall be my dancing day" and "E ieo va e." It was inspiring to hear the voices raised in song. The Choir was selected to sing at the Gala Concert on Wednesday night. This is the first time we have progressed this far in the competition.

## **Library Update**

Suffering from mid-winter ills and chills? Remember the library is open at lunchtime providing a warm and welcoming environment. New books are being added to the library shelves daily and we have some great titles to impress even our most prolific readers. New fantasy series recently purchased include: "The Laws of Magic" by Michael Pryor, "Darke Academy" by Gabriella Poole and "The Immortals" by Alyson Noel. "Mercy" by Rebecca Lim is the first book in a major new series. An electric combination of angels, mystery and romance this title will not stay on the shelves long. From Malorie Blackman, author of the bestselling "Noughts and Crosses" sequence, comes a dramatic and controversial novel. "Boys Don't Cry" will take you on a journey from tears to laughter and back again. Another great read from Jenny Downham is "You Against Me". A story about loyalty and the choices that come with it, but above all it's a story about love. Remember Mrs Miers is happy to have your recommendations for new titles and authors. A big thank you to the Library Team who do an outstanding job during busy lunchtimes.

## **Geography Level 1 Waihi Gold Mine Trip**

We had an early morning start as the gold mine is a two hour drive away. Driving to the mine we couldn't see the beautiful countryside because there was a thick fog. The first stop was at Waikino historical railway station. Here we saw the historical photographs and saw the bullion safe with pretend gold bullion. We held the bullion to get the idea of the actual weight of the gold bars. The next stop was the mine. Here we got to see the workings of the gold mine. While driving through the mine we got to see and feel a small ingot of gold worth about \$2000 and a small silver bar worth \$450. After a successful classroom session we then went and explored the Waihi site centre where there were hands-on activities and loads of interesting exhibits. We then went up to look at the historical Cornish pump house and had the class photo at the Maori



Chief statue. The final stop was at the Karangahake windows walkway. This is a one hour walk along the path by the river. We saw the historical workings in this beautiful gorge.

After crossing the river on the swing bridges, we climbed up to the tunnels. With torches lit, we went into the tunnel to do the Windows Walkway. At the different windows we looked at the stunning views of the river and gorge. We then followed the track back down to the river, crossed the bridge and back to the bus. On the way home we all photographed the L&P bottle in Paeroa. Mrs Hart

## Zoo Keeper Work Experience Programme



*In May of this year I got the chance to experience life as a Zoo keeper at Auckland Zoo for a WHOLE WEEK! This programme is arranged every year as an opportunity for Year 12 and Year 13 students interested in pursuing a career in animal care or who may just have a growing interest in animals and their behaviours, like me! During my week there I got to work in two contrasting sections of the Zoo – the Primates Section (orang-utans, chimpanzee, lemurs, spider monkeys, tamarins) and the Pridelands Section (African animals like giraffes, rhinos, hippos, zebra, lions, springboks).*

*With the help of Miss Patel my application was one of the 16 accepted out of a group of well over 50 students who had applied. When signing up for it, I was well aware it*

*was going to be a load of active work, not just observation. As such, it was very physically challenging and involved getting dirty nearly every second, but I loved it and enjoyed every moment of it. It was absolutely worth it! My first day was surely something I'll never forget, I mean who do you know can say an orang-utan was so attracted to me that he urinated all over my shoes! Another key highlight I had there was finding out that the current and last team leader of Pridelands were both old McAuley girls.*

*Thank you to Miss Patel for helping me with my application and also to Miss Prescott who allowed me to share my experience with you.*

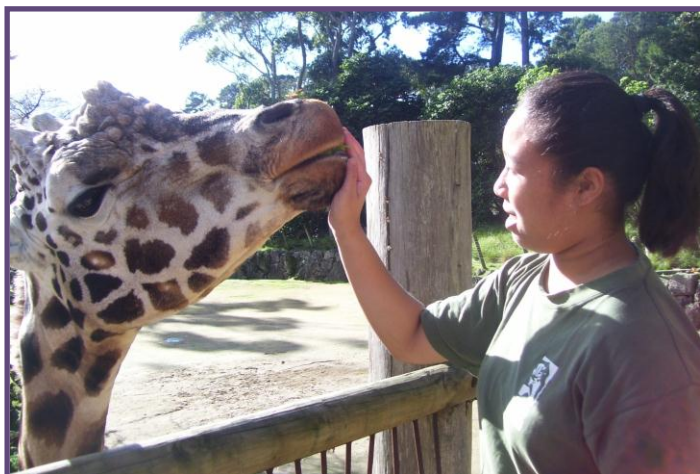
*Thank you to Miss Crawford for allowing me to go as meant taking 3 days off school and a special thank you to my mum who drove me to and back from the Zoo everyday of that cold and wet week.*



*Pursuing a career in animal care is a great way of stewardship and conservation of other existing life on our planet Earth. The animal world is a manifestation of God's power and as such deserves human consideration and respect.*

*So if this sounds like you, go for it especially if you're planning on a Career involving animal care because this will certainly be the first step of making you known to the animal conservation community. Places are limited though, as there are only 16 spots for the whole of the northern region. It is best to apply early, have a huge block of chocolate ready for your Biology teacher and pray that your Dean will allow you to participate.*

*Palepa Ioane*



### **Sports Update**

Winter sports are now mid-way through the season. The following list shows current placings:

Netball	Premier Team	3rd
	Senior A	3rd
	10A	2nd
Rugby League		2nd
Basketball	Open team	2nd
	U17's	5th
	U15's	7th
Hockey	8 Aside	2nd
	Open	9th
Soccer		6th

## **Samoa Culture Day**

*The McAuley High School Year 12 and 13 Samoan Language class hosted Samoa Culture Days at the Malaeola Community Centre on 16 and 17 May. The other schools involved were Aorere College, Auckland Girls' Grammar School, Kelston Boys' High School and Mangere College. The two day experience was about sharing with the other schools and the Samoan Community, the dignity and pride of our Samoan identity. It involved educating the students about the importance and true meaning of the Samoan culture, language and traditions because "e iloa oe i lau gagana", your language identifies you.*

*The Ava Ceremony, held on the first day, is a formal Samoan tradition to welcome guests, and most of the roles are usually performed by males. However, the McAuley High School girls performed the Samoan protocols extremely well, with confidence and pride. As a Samoan woman would say, "e au le inailau a tamaita'i" – women can do anything.*

*We had the honour of having Tofaeono Tanuvasa Tavale explaining to us the uniqueness of Measina Samoa, Pesetā explaining the story behind her father's famous songs well known by Samoans. We also had the privilege of listening to the sweet music sung by the Punialava'a family. Each lyric in every song told a story and reflected on famous Samoan proverbs and teachings.*

*Selected students from McAuley High School and the other visiting schools performed the Folafofa Sua, Sulatoga and Solo (chants and poetry) without the use of cue cards, and delivered it from memory. This is important in the Samoan culture because the speeches (lauga) are not read, but are said from the heart and mind. One Kelston boy said, "e faifai a nice!", meaning the more you practice the better you get at being nice.*

*All eyes were on the tufuga (tattooist) Andre Sione Fakalago as he skilfully tattooed a part of the Tatau on a man's back. Words cannot explain his actions and skills, but the patterns, and especially the lines, on a finished Tatau tell the whole story and its unique meaning.*

*On both days our students sang beautifully and danced gracefully with big smiles, much to the satisfaction of Mr Tapu. They all enjoyed learning more about their Samoan culture and language, protocols and traditions, singing and dancing, performing chants and poetry, not to mention eating the delicious Samoan food! Seki a mea uma!*

*At the end of the day this Samoan proverb summed up everything for us, "E lele le toloa ae ma'au I le vai", a bird can fly to wherever it wants but will always return to the water. We can travel to whatever place we desire, but we will always return to where we come from.*

*The following is a list of the roles performed:*

<i>Faia'oga</i>	<i>Tauanu'u Sealiimalietoa Perenise Tapu</i> <i>Sister Salome Ioane</i> <i>Alicia Tali'ilagi Tapu</i>
<i>Ta'ita'I</i>	<i>Meressapinni Pupuali'i</i> <i>Felicity Hakai</i> <i>Pauline Tele'a</i>
<i>Fa'afeiloa'i</i>	<i>Felicia Afoa</i>

<i>Tiute</i>	<i>Tatalo</i> <i>Tusi Pa'ia (fa'asamoa)</i> <i>(fa'aperetania)</i>	<i>Silirina Keil</i> <i>Ruta Sititi</i> <i>Deniyal Loto</i>
<i>Vi'i o le Fu'a</i>	<i>Telesia Fese'eta'i</i> <i>Tusi Lauina</i> <i>Jasmine Meleisea</i>	<i>Salome Ioane</i> <i>Joanna Antonio</i> <i>Monica Filemoni</i>
<i>Ava</i>	<i>Tautu 'ava</i> <i>Palu 'ava</i> <i>Tufa 'ava</i> <i>Lauga usu</i> <i>Sufi 'ava</i> <i>Ta fau</i>	<i>Lise Tanuto, Latoya Huch</i> <i>Christina Huch</i> <i>Meressapinni Pupuali'i</i> <i>Felicity Hakai</i> <i>Felicia Afoa</i> <i>Joanne Ah Ping</i>
<i>Fa'atau</i>	<i>Felicity Hakai</i> <i>Elizabeth Tolova'a</i> <i>Fa'afetai Motu</i>	<i>Felicia Afoa</i> <i>Kako Tuia</i>
<i>Sulatoga</i>	<i>Sharon Amituana'i</i> <i>Turika Togafiti</i> <i>Sophia Ioane</i>	<i>Jenny Peseta</i> <i>Fa'afetai Motu</i> <i>Mataniu Samu</i>
<i>Folafola sua</i>	<i>Kako Tuia</i> <i>Therese Sa'u</i>	<i>Rhonda Tiotio</i>
<i>Taupou</i> <i>Fuataimi</i>	<i>Si'ifua Mau'u</i> <i>Jasmine Meleisea</i>	
<i>Aiuli</i>	<i>Elizabeth Tolova'a</i> <i>Jenny Peseta</i> <i>Meressapinni Pupuali'i</i>	<i>Ashley Iosefo</i> <i>Felicia Afoa</i>
<i>Upu fa'afetai</i>	<i>Meressapinni Pupuali'i</i>	

*A big thank you to our teachers and families, our band (Neil and Mercy Sua), and all the students of the Year 12 and 13 Samoan Language class.*

*Pauline Tele'a, Felicity Hakai, Meressapinni Pupuali'i*

Thank you for your support of the school.

Anne Miles  
PRINCIPAL