



The Principal's Desk

Welcome to the Alumni newsletter of 2017.

It was a pleasure to meet alumni from the 1980's at our Alumni gathering on Thursday 11th May. I enjoyed talking with past pupils, including one who flew up from Dunedin for the occasion, and hearing stories about Glendowie College in the 1980s. This function was timed to coincide with the opening night of our school production – "Seussical the Musical". This is the latest in a long line of successful school productions which you may have been involved in.

As we grow, our challenge is to preserve the strong relationships between staff, students and our community. To do this we have decided to make more use of the college's house system to support students. From the start of 2018, our Deans will oversee one of the four houses rather than a year level, and will be supported by an Assistant Dean. As this changes, important systems such as school prefects and whole school assemblies will continue. The thinking behind the decision to change the house structure will be explained below by Deputy Principal, Gordon Robertson.

Finally, you will remember that we announced a function to honour the contribution of our Foundation Principal, Lindsay Adams, in term four. Planning for this is under way and we expect to provide invitations to this through next term.

Richard Dykes
Principal

1960's Alumni – Invitation to Spring Gala Reunion

On behalf of the Glendowie College Development Trust and Alumni Association, I invite all students who attended Glendowie College through the 1960's to a special reunion prior to the annual Gala Concert.

The reunion will take place in the Visitors' Centre at the Holy Trinity Cathedral in Parnell at 6.15pm on Wednesday 9th August. It will be followed by the annual Spring Gala Concert at 7.30pm by the Glendowie College orchestra and musical groups. Entry to the concert will be free for 1960s Alumni.

I hope you will join other 1960's Alumni at this function, and catch up with past school friends.

I look forward to seeing you there.

Michael Stiassny

To register your interest, please click the link: <https://goo.gl/forms/S2D27n6RpOahwewF2>



House Changes

When reviewing the whole structure and purpose of the Houses, we also had to consider whether the House names were still relevant. Thanks to the research Mrs Playle did for the 25th Jubilee in 1986, the following was the reasoning behind the original House names and colours. The four names were chosen to represent the four corners of the earth. Pacific's house colour was brown to represent the peoples of the Pacific. Asia was gold to represent the riches of the East. America was green for the 'New World' and Europe's house colour was purple to represent the royal houses of the Old World.

Those choices are a reflection of New Zealand in 1961 when the school was opened. Our attitudes to the Pacific, Asia, the Americas and Europe as shown by the original colour choices have definitely changed, so it was decided that the Houses should be more relevant to current New Zealand.

The process we followed was to ask all students to submit any ideas they have for suitable house names. A cross-section of ten students from year 9 to 12 who are on the Student Council shortlisted possible house themes and two staff members were also on the group. The option of the current names was also discussed, but there was little enthusiasm to continue with them. A second survey was then sent out to all students and staff and the survey response was that 56% of students and 62.5% of staff preferred Māori Gods as house themes. Mr Rikirangi-Thomas, the college's Te Reo Māori teacher gave background on the legends and the different gods. From the ensuing discussion, the task group unanimously agreed on the following gods.

- Tane Mahuta – God of the Forest
- Tangaroa – God of the Sea
- Tawhirimatea – God of the Weather and Storms
- Ruauumoko – God of Earthquakes and Volcanoes

Beyond setting the house names, it was decided the students within each of the new houses will identify and create other aspects such as the house colour, any symbol to represent the house and the values and attributes each wants to promote from the characteristics each god has from the myths and legends.

This creates exciting possibilities for student leadership and for each house to create its own unique identity within the college.

Gordon Robertson
Deputy Principal





GDC ALUMNI

The School Ball

This year the Glendowie College ball was held at Eden Park. Students and staff enjoyed a fabulous evening of dining and dancing in the north stand. The venue was beautifully decorated to our theme 'A Wander in the Woods' with popping colours of green, gold and red. For more photos, please visit <https://www.flickr.com/photos/138591673@N03/albums/72157682388066210>



China Trip



During the term one holidays 20 fortunate students travelled to China to visit our sister school, Xiaoshi High School, and experience the language, culture, education and sights. The students visited Tiananmen Square, walked through the Forbidden City, across Olympic Park and along the Great Wall of China. They zoomed across the continent at 300 km per hour heading towards Ningbo on a bullet train. Ningbo was the location of our sister school, Xiaoshi High School, and here students enjoyed a homestay experience. Students and teachers all created lifelong memories from their experiences.

Chamber Music Success



Congratulations to ZADADA – a trio from Glendowie College, who won the Best Newcomers Award at the Auckland region Chamber Music competition which was a 4-day event.

We are very proud of Daniel Tran (piano), Zachary Vowles (clarinet) and Damon Herlihy-O'Brien (cello).





GDC ALUMNI

Student News by Sarah Tham (Year 13)



In companies, many new ideas are formed and put to action. Business teacher, Mrs Harduar is working with five business teams in year 13, each group producing their own product. One of the business teams out of the five is called 'forEarth' who are making plant-based bags made from cassava starch.

ForEarth's CEO, Boston Azuma said, "We had several ideas, but we started out with a common goal in mind to improve the environment. The idea came to us as we were doing the weekly groceries....I saw we had accumulated upwards of 10 plastic bags! This interested us and after researching the market in NZ for a compelling solution, such as biodegradable bags, we came up empty handed....'forEarth' was born to fill that gap in the market."

When asking the company about the physical features of the product and how it works, CEO Boston Azuma responded, "Our bags are completely created from plant based materials making them completely safe for animal consumption and even human consumption." ForEarth's CEO continued, "Our bags can completely degrade in water above 80 degrees celsius and in normal temperature standing water, they will degrade in approximately 150 days.....Our bags are recyclable with paper."

Along with supporting environmental campaigns and engaging the community, there is a product aim, "Our vision at forEarth is to have a plastic free future. Therefore, although competition may not help our business' finances, we will always remain ethical and welcome competition as our end goal. We hope to be in 20 different retailers in the North Island by the end of the year."

Sarah Tham, Year 13 Student

Former Student Success

Calum Handley (former GDC Student)



A student success – the start-up innovation founded by entrepreneur and ex-Glendowie College student Calum Handley (left on the photo). The product called Magpie aims to ensure you never lose your keys, phone or anything important. Magpie is a start-up tech business which is developing a GPS mobile tracking subscription service and device. The product, is a device that has unlimited range, is waterproof, rechargeable, and functions in conjunction with its app. Development for the device began in June last year and it can be used to

keep tabs on children and pets, Calum said.

For more details, please visit:

http://m.nzherald.co.nz/business/news/article.cfm?c_id=3&objectid=11865898





GDC ALUMNI

Jacob Smith (former GDC Student)

Another former student success, Jacob Smith talked about his addiction to 'adrenaline rush' and his dreams on motorsport career.

Addicted to 'adrenaline rush'

SAM HEWAT

Jacob Smith isn't letting danger get in the way of a promising motorsport career.

The 18-year-old St Heliers resident was recently awarded the Ian Snellgrove Trophy by Motorsport New Zealand - given to the driver who tops the points table of the New Zealand Elite Motorsport Academy each year.

Smith was in the academy last year, where he juggled racing, year 13 exams at Glendowie College, and learning to live the life of a race car driver.

The academy takes eight drivers and co-drivers each year, across a multitude of driving disciplines, and teaches them skills in nutrition, coping with pressure, how to deal with the media, and what it takes to be a professional.

But despite travelling at speeds upwards of 220kmh, Smith isn't fazed by the hazards of motorsport. He watched Kiwi IndyCar driver Scott Dixon walk away from a monumental crash last weekend, which was seen around the world.

"Obviously there is a risk involved in motorsport," Smith said.

"And I guess everyone thinks



Jacob Smith, 18, won the Motorsport New Zealand Ian Snellgrove Trophy.

SUPPLIED

"That's why I race, it's the adrenaline rush and it's quite addictive"

Jacob Smith

moving into a Formula First car when he was 12. He's now racing in the Toyota 86 Championship and working for Toyota Racing.

"On the weekends I'm driving them, and during the week I'm working on them and fixing them," Smith said.

He has dreams of heading overseas and competing in the toughest endurance competitions around the globe. To get there, he'll have to remain in peak physical condition, a concept that may confuse some when thinking about sitting behind the wheel of a car.

"With how fast you're going, there's a lot of g-force so it's not just like driving a road car around the streets," he said.

"It's very fast and very aggressive. Even the noise, mentally, it's very hard to get your head around the noise and stay focused."

And despite dropping his jaw at the sight of Dixon flying through the air, he still looks to the Kiwi for inspiration.

about it now and then. But when you're driving, that's the last thing you think about because you're so focused on what you're

doing. "With the adrenaline rush you sort of block it out. That's why I race, it's the adrenaline rush and

it's quite addictive." Smith picked up racing when he was just eight years old, starting off with go-karts before

Spread the Word

If you are in contact with other ex-students, please forward them this newsletter or the link to join our growing Alumni.

<https://app.etapestry.com/onlineforms/GlendowieCollege/alumnisignup.html>

Thank you for being part of the Glendowie College Alumni, we look forward to staying connected!



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New Alumni Banner

