A young man with blonde hair, wearing a blue baseball cap with 'NEW YORK RANGERS' on the front and a red backpack with 'asics' on the strap, is looking upwards with a thoughtful expression. He is in a classroom setting with wooden paneling and other students in the background. A large white oval thought bubble is positioned above his head, containing the text 'I WONDER WHAT CLASS 12 HAS BEEN UP TO...'. A smaller white oval thought bubble is positioned to the right, containing the text 'The graduating class's Term 1 highlights: a retrospective'.

I WONDER
WHAT **CLASS 12**
HAS BEEN UP
TO...

The
graduating class's
Term 1 highlights: a
retrospective

Dear Michael Park community, THANK YOU!

By Rosa Jonas

Class 12 would like to acknowledge the outstanding generosity shown by all those who came to support our sausage sizzle fundraisers for Hawke's Bay and Turkey/ Syria. The devastation caused by Cyclone Gabrielle and the earthquake in Syria and Turkey has created a drastic amount of damage which has affected many families and their properties. In light of the ongoing crisis in areas affected by both natural disasters it was beautiful to see our school working as a collective to raise money to support those in need. Class 12 has chosen to send the profit of \$405.72 for Turkey/ Syria through New Zealand Red Cross, and \$405.72 dollars to the Hawke's Bay Appeal as we feel they will be the most effective charities to distribute the profit from our sausage sizzles into the struggling communities. The sausage sizzles were brought to life by the leadership and initiative shown by Class 12. For those who were unable to attend the lunch bars, they were both lively events showcasing musical talent from Mr Mitchell and Jonathan Patecki, on the keyboard, who drew in a star-struck and mildly skeptical lower and middle school crowd with their performances. The class is continuing our charitable efforts by currently working hard on a *Sustainaball* event of selling second-hand ball dresses and suits. We are calling for donations to be brought into the school as soon as possible, as the event aims to give attending students an opportunity to have something great to wear to the upcoming school ball. The profit money of this event will be donated to Women's Refuge.

Sending best wishes to the school and wider community. Kia kaha!



Women in Engineering: WieCan

By Julia Chemin

Over the summer, I attended the University of Canterbury's Women in Engineering program. The program was made up of sixty female Year Twelve students from all over New Zealand. We stayed at Tupuanuku student residence hall and got a small taste of the field of engineering and where it can take you. The program wasn't only academic though, it was also fun and led to me connecting with so many brilliant women, many of whom I can now call my closest friends. We got to learn about the different disciplines within engineering and got hands-on experience by visiting the labs and conducting experiments.

One of my favourite labs was the aerospace challenge where a team from Dawn Aerospace came in to talk to us. Our assignment was to code a model rocket to stay in the air as long as possible before releasing the parachute. In groups of three, we then had to calculate the altitude at which to release the parachute and code our findings into an Arduino drive. Our code was then plugged into the model rocket and launched into the air. The task proved to be way harder than we anticipated and we stumbled upon more hurdles than we thought possible, but with some guidance, it all worked out. Watching our hard work fly 30 feet in the air was one of the coolest experiences of my life.

During our stay, we were accompanied by girls who are currently engineering students at the university, who showed us around the university and shared their experiences with us. It was really valuable to hear from these women and see that it is possible to thrive in the highly male-dominated field that is engineering. During the summer program, we had the opportunity to meet with faculty members and industry professionals and hear how they ended up where they are today. They shared advice on how to succeed in our studies and provided insights into their industry.

I would like to thank Mrs Bray, our Horizons Coordinator, for encouraging me to apply, as well as writing my recommendation letter enabling me to get into this program. I would also like to thank my science and math teachers, Mrs Valyashko, Mr Mander, Mrs Storm, Mrs Barretto and Mr Kim for encouraging me to pursue a career in STEM and providing me with the necessary knowledge and skills to get there.

This program changed my life and broadened my horizons so much that I would highly recommend it to any high school girls interested in physics and mathematics and looking into further study!



FORUM!!!!

By Charlotte LiWei Stuart

For two weeks in the last summer holidays, from the 7th-21st of January I, along with 167 other students from across the country had the opportunity to attend New Zealand's 2023 National Rotary Science and Technology Forum. The experience it provided me was enriching and unforgettable. The Forum exceeded all of my expectations and I will forever be grateful for the opportunity I was given to participate. I gained invaluable insight into what pursuing a career in science and technology will have in store for me.

We stayed at Waiparūrū Hall and, throughout the two weeks attended different lectures at the University of Auckland, the University of Massey and AUT. The Forum managed to strike an impressive balance of academic and recreational activities. Following the stimulating lectures and captivating technical visits, the variety of recreational options offered throughout the Forum, as well as the intense volleyball matches, provided an enjoyable outlet for us all to have fun and bond.

Not only were all the technical visits, lectures and speakers fascinating but also inspiring. All of the speakers and lecturers were passionate about what they did and it really translated into their presentations. A few that stood out were the chemistry module with Dr Debbie at Massey where we got to explore the department and translate our NCEA rote learned knowledge into experiments, and the biomedical engineering at UoA where students shared their own experiences, as well as showed us some different ongoing projects. Another was the electrical, computer and software engineering (or robotics lecture) at UoA where we learned about Boolean Algebra and got to put together a controller for a SMARTCar, which was my personal favourite.



Undoubtedly, one of the highlights of the forum was the Dragons' Den challenge, where we had to pitch an innovation that could be implemented to help combat climate change in New Zealand. While it was a little stressful at first, our team pulled together and developed an excellent idea that ultimately won us the competition. I found the experience to be very valuable in practising working collaboratively under pressure and improving my confidence in public speaking. It was inspiring to see the creativity and problem-solving skills of all the teams, and I felt a sense of pride in our accomplishments.

On the last day we were lucky enough to have a Final Forum Dinner at the Crowne Plaza, where we met Rotarians and had the Final Dinner together. It was a chance for students to share musical talents and for us to share interesting conversations with the Rotarians and lecturers over plates of delicious food. At the 33rd Forum Final Dinner, the group champion awards were also presented to six different students by their advisors. I was very honoured to be the recipient of the group champion award for our colour group. I was also honoured, proud and absolutely ecstatic to get to stand on the stage with my group as we received the award for our Dragon's Den presentation.

I can confidently say that I have gained so much,

both academically and personally from the experience. I met many like-minded students who I am now proud to call my friends and whom I am excited to see again soon. I highly recommend the Rotary National Forum to any young person who is interested in science and technology. It was an experience of a lifetime and I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to be a part of it. I would like to thank the forum director, Ellerslie Rotary Club, Forum parents all the advisors, and everyone else involved for creating such a fantastic and memorable experience. I would also like to thank Michael Park's science department for promoting the experience and encouraging me to apply. I whole-heartedly recommend the Forum and look forward to seeing it continue to inspire and shape the future of science and technology in New Zealand. I strongly encourage others to apply for the next forum and have the experience for themselves.

At the beginning of the year I believed that I wanted to pursue a career in engineering, Forum, through inspiration has helped strengthen my confidence in that choice.

Science Students' Visit to Plant Health and Environment Laboratory (PHEL)

By Lorelai Hunt-Aloi

Class 12 had the honour of touring the Biosecurity lab and learning about the organic life of New Zealand and observing how they are preserved and protected. Big thanks to Dr. Merje Toome and all the welcoming scientists of PHEL, as well as our science teachers, Mrs. Storm and Mrs. Valyashko, for organising this trip. We were excited to see all the bugs and insects categorised into their respective shelves and how informative the entomologists were. Learning about the greenhouses and their purposes were very surprising, and wearing the lab coats as if we were scientists ourselves, and putting our DNA on the agar plates were a joyful experience. We strongly recommend all students to visit this laboratory and get excited about science! Class 12 is very grateful for the opportunity and the inspiring work we had been shown.

*See photos on next page
Photo credits: Jiawei Shen, MPI PHEL.*



Our Class 1 Buddies

By Torma Groves

For the last term, Class 12 has had the wonderful chance to bond with the newcomers of Michael Park and revisiting some old memories. Playing with the young Class 1 was a nice and refreshing break from the constant studies of Year 13. Class 12 students have each been partnered up with the energetic and playful Class 1 kids, making new bonds together, making art, having birthday parties, and playing out on the field. Going back to the new Class 1 was a nostalgic experience with fresh new layouts. Back to when we were Class 1 ourselves, most of the classroom was filled with big desks and chairs so we had our morning verse in the circle while the new Class 1 have small desks and sit on comfy cushions so they can do the morning verse, even at their desks now. Thanks to the kind support from some Class 12 students, we were able to make our own unique set of colourful cards which Class 1 students can use to play many different games. Overall, the start of our journey with Class 1 has just begun and we eagerly anticipate our next visit with the littlies every week just as they have, running up to us, whenever we walk by, with bright grins on their faces.



Music Concert at MPS - not to miss next time!

By Rosa Jonas

Exceptional musical talent was exhibited at Michael Park School on Friday, 31 March. Students, ranging across all year levels, were humbly led by our music teachers, Mary Chun and Amanda Lawrence. The quality of musical performances achieved should be renowned amidst concerts performed by Michael Park students as so many were simply breath-taking. The night saw the lower and middle school orchestra perform followed by original compositions alongside a variety of well-known classical to contemporary music. Five senior students then did solo performances and Merlin Riches closed the show with Queen. Ms. Chun and Mrs. Lawrence deserve to be greatly thanked and acknowledged for all the support, behind the scenes organization and on-stage accompaniments; to them a huge part of the credit to the success of the evening should be given. We are so happy to have both music teachers. Thank you to all those who attended the evening, we are looking forward to seeing a growing number of performers and audience at the next show, next term!

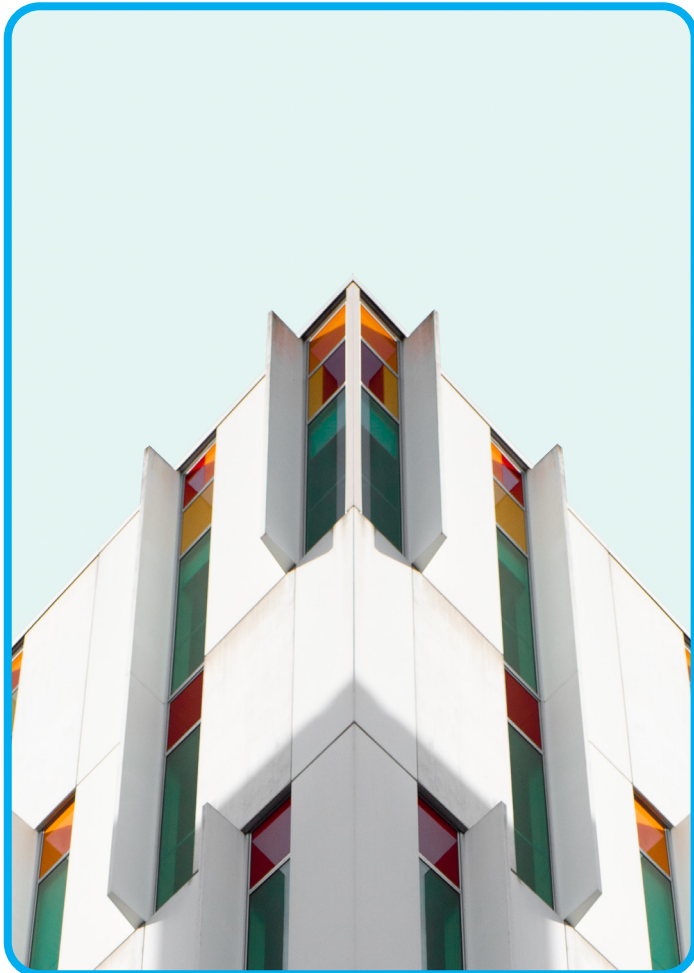


Class 12

Main Lessons

By Charlotte LiWei Stuart

In the Film and Society main lesson with Ms Meek we studied Sir Alfred Hitchcock's 1960 "Psycho" and Charles Vidor's "Gilda" 1946, looking at the techniques used and history. We each completed a response to the film noir genre. Below are a selection of examples:



Mrs Zatta's main lesson took us on a journey through contemporary art movements from the 1960's to the present day. Class 12 students went on a trip to the Auckland Art Gallery and looked at exhibitions of both contemporary and traditional artworks. Thank you, Mrs Zatta, for the opportunity and encouragement to think critically about contemporary art. Here are some student responses inspired by the movements that interested them:



