The Aon Maadi Cup National Secondary Schools Rowing Championships was held at Lake Ruataniwha last week. As a school we are very proud of the performances of our 27 rowers. Seven crews made A finals and four made B finals. Massive thanks go to long-serving Head Coach Dean Milne and his coaching team (Hayley Derwin, Kelsey Brookes, Adam Milne, Emily Goodhew and Vicky Taggart), supported by the Rowing Management and our rowing parents. Congratulations to Phoebe Trolove and Nikita Clemens! Phoebe achieved a Silver medal in the premier U18 Singles race, rowing close on the tail of world class rower Veronica Wall, of Ashburton College. Phoebe then teamed up with Nikita Clemens in the GU17 Double, where they achieved Gold in a time of 7.46.22. We also had the pleasure of hosting sister school Waikato University, with Nikita Clemens in the GU17 Double, where they achieved Gold in a time of 7.46.22. We also had the pleasure of hosting sister school Waikato Diocesan School, all week – the highlight being the banquet held in the marquee on the Wednesday evening. Huge thanks to Janine Munro and her team of helpers for their expertise in preparing an amazing three course meal using very limited facilities in the back tent. Craighead had such a large number of vocal supporters all week – parents and grandparents, staff, students and former Craighead rowers! Thank you all for your loud, enthusiastic and cheerful support!

Best wishes for a restful Easter break over the long weekend. If you are interested in being a part of our team that seeks to ignite a passion for learning and developing future-ready skills, then we would love to hear from you.

Tena koutou katoa

The Dramatic production “1001 Stories” held this week involved all of our Senior Drama students, along with nine Juniors. Directed by HOD Drama, Mrs Gillian Towle and her talented team of staff helpers, we learned of the power and necessity of story-telling during times of oral culture - stories from India, Persia, Mesopotamia and Egypt from around 2250BC. Congratulations to all those staff and students involved, including those working both Front of House, or behind the scenes on advertising, lighting, sound, costuming, choreography and staging. It was an absolute treat to watch and very much enjoyed by students and staff, friends, family members and students from local contributing schools.

The new Curriculum is well underway and the girls have adapted to the changes quickly. Our Year 9’s are relishing the opportunity to try all the subjects on offer, before making their subject choices in Languages, Technology and the Arts at the end of this semester. Our next big change comes at the start of Term Two when our Future Focus Programme begins. Every Day 10, all girls in the Junior and Middle School will have the opportunity to opt into a short course covering skills and competencies that are not necessarily covered in the formal classroom curriculum. The courses being devised by our staff are creative, accessible and exciting – we are fortunate to have such a talented group of staff who are keen to share their passions outside of classroom teaching. These short courses are an opportunity for your daughter to develop future-ready skills such as collaboration, critical thinking and creativity. Our Senior students will be involved in an Independent Learning Programme—this has been developed around building the concepts of self-management, prioritisation and resilience. Each Senior student will have two 90 minute blocks where they will determine their learning programme in conjunction with their form teacher.

There is also the opportunity for you to become involved in this programme (see overleaf)—if you are interested in being a part of our team that seeks to ignite a passion for learning and developing future-ready skills, then we would love to hear from you.

CURRICULUM NOTES...

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Meet Leah McDonald—Deputy Sports Captain 2018

I feel privileged and grateful to have been given the role of Deputy Sports Captain for 2018. I came to Craighead in 2014 as a Year 9 daygirl—and having been involved in sport from a very young age, I know how much time and dedication goes into whichever sport you take part in.

I started Inline Speed Skating when I was eight years old and have been competing ever since. I have represented New Zealand at the Oceania Inline Speed Skating Championships in 2012, 2016, 2017, 2018 and competed at the World Championships in China last year. I believe being involved in sport, whether at local, national, or international level, is good for you in many different ways. Sport teaches us values such as teamwork, respect, discipline and setting and striving for goals. I believe incorporating these values into all sports at Craighead will make us better all-round people and improve the level of sport at Craighead.

Having mainly been involved in sport outside of school, I am enjoying seeing what goes into running the various sports on offer at Craighead, and I am excited to work alongside Kate Trimble (Sports Captain) to ensure that sport is an exciting and competitive area of the school lives of all Craighead students. This year, with the assistance of Alicia Cunningham, Kate and I are hoping to increase the level of sport related activity by introducing lunchtime activities run by the Sports Committee and early morning fitness sessions to get girls up and active.
Debating
As part of a development programme initiated by Craighead to foster Debating in Timaru schools, three of our Year 11 debaters have been debating at lunchtimes on Wednesdays against Roncalli senior students. The most recent debate was won by Craighead on the topic “That Renewable Forms of Energy should be subsidised by the Government”. Our Debaters were Tara Macdonald, Kate Ahearn and Annabelle Murphy. Two of our senior debaters Olivia Frogley and Alia Cooper provided coaching for both teams.

Aoraki Secondary Schools’ Athletics Champs
Apologies to Sarah Boles de Boer whose name was left off the list of place-getters in last week’s newsletter—Sarah was second in the U14 High Jump.

2018 NZ Division II Swimming Competition Rotorua 18 to 21 March
Congratulations to Zoe Bayley, Year 10, who competed at the NZ Division II Swimming Competition in Rotorua earlier in March and received a Bronze placing in the 800m Freestyle. This is a National competition.

Police Challenge
Last Wednesday, four Year 8 students took part in a Police Fitness Test Challenge against other South Canterbury Schools. Sophie Hogg, Isla McManus, Eve Turnbull and Paige Butler-Baird completed the course in 2.55 minutes which put them in the top ten schools.

EQUESTRIAN—Dressage
Congratulations to the Craighead team of Amalia Rowley, Georgie Dickson, Amanda Shallard and Rosa Westgarth who came third overall out of 28 teams at the Canterbury Inter-Schools’ Dressage at McLean’s Island on Tuesday.

School Holidays — Homestays Needed
We have several International students who need a place to stay during the school holidays when the Boarding House is closed. There is a homestay fee of $33 per night paid to host families to offset expenses. If you could host one or two students for any of this time then please contact:
Mrs Julie McLean, Director of International Students - 688 6074 or mcleanju@craighead.school.nz

ICAS COMPETITIONS
If your daughter is interested in entering one of the following competitions, she must see her English Teacher for an entry form.
Payment and entry forms are due by Friday 13 April 2018.
ICAS Writing Competition — Thursday 14 June, Years 7-13, entry optional Cost: $24.00
ICAS Spelling Competition — Wednesday 13 June, Years 7-8, entry optional Cost: $14.00
ICAS English Competition — Tuesday 31 July—Years 7-13, entry optional Cost: $11.00

AGM
Monday 9 April, 7pm—School Library
Guest speaker... Director of Sport—Alicia Cunningham
All welcome to attend
Tracy McLeod—Secretary dtamcleod@outlook.com

CRAIGHEAD UNIFORM SHOP—for new uniform only
Open every Friday, 3.30-4.30pm—
SECOND HAND SHOP  Open days coming up...
Friday 6 April 3.30pm-4.30pm
Cash or cheque only at Second Hand Shop

Please forward brief details of student news and achievements to Katie.mackenzie@craighead.school.nz