

## **Citations for Achievers' Breakfast – 25 March 2010**

### **Jasmin (Jo-Yu) Cheng**

Jasmin is an academically outstanding student. She was awarded 5 out of 6 grade 1's on her report for 2009. At the end of year prize giving she gained three academic excellences awards and has continued in the same vein this year. Her outstanding external results placed her in the top 20 students at Rangitoto College for Level 2. This follows her being in the top 20 for 2008 as a Year 11 student. Significantly she had all top grade V's for effort.

Jasmin's teachers have commented in the past about her self motivation and exemplary attitude. She is a friendly cooperative student who writes beautifully and can think outside of the square.

A competitive student, Jasmin has competed to distinction in Maths, Science and Computer competitions since Year 9. She has been a member of a Future Problem Solving Team since Year 10 and in Year 11 her team gained 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the booklet competition at the National finals.

This year Jasmin has got very involved in activities showing her interest in the wider community. She has collected for the Red Cross, and is a member of SADD, Amnesty International and Planet People. She is a peer support leader and is Maths mentoring.

We look forward to seeing Jasmin's progress this year.

### **Michael Chieng**

Michael is proving to be everything the school hoped for when he was appointed Head Boy at the beginning of this year.

He is well organized, positive and thoughtful. He has a low key sense of humour that makes him an asset in any group. He listens well, comes up with creative ideas and has excellent time management skills.

Academically he is also an excellent student. He always approaches his work conscientiously, works considerably in a group situation and strives to gain an understanding of every aspect of his work. He received Academic Excellence Awards last year in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. He also received a high Distinction Award in Economics.

Michael is a skilled debater and a member of the Future Problem Solving group in the school. He was a mentor in the Building Exceptional Young Men programme last year. He also revealed his performance talent as a Stage Challenge performer and participated in a World Vision Student Leadership Course.

We are sure Michael will enjoy the challenges the year will bring and look forward to sharing it with him.

### **Ray Cho**

This year Ray is a Deputy Head Boy and this morning we are recognising and celebrating his leadership achievements. Ray has a real social conscience and he has made significant contributions to groups in the college where people matter. In addition to heading Amnesty International, Ray has also been a leading force in our multicultural group that promotes

diversity and acceptance across the school. He also fronts the People Planet Group and is a member of SADD. His community mindedness is further shown through his Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award and his mentoring in both the Building Exceptional Young Men and Year 12 programmes. Ray also finds time to play Alto-Sax in our award winning concert and stage bands as well as being a member of the Senior Jazz Combo.

### **Matt Hamling**

As well as being committed to his studies, Matt Hamling has represented Rangitoto College in cycling and water polo. He has also been involved with stage challenge and this year he was elected to the position of student representative. Matt has also been a mentor of younger boys as part of our Building Exceptional Young Men programme.

In 2008 Matt became one of the foundation members of our robotics team. He is one of the driving forces behind the success of the team and through his involvement in robotics he has developed skills in the design, programming and building of robots. He can also talk confidently now, at robotics competitions, to audiences of up to 500 people.

Matt's involvement in robotics has fuelled his love for computers and technology and made him realise that he wants to major in mechatronics at university next year.

In 2008 our robotics team won the Support Award in recognition of the team helping other teams during the New Zealand Nationals.

In February of this year the team battled 25 other teams to win the overall Excellence Award in the Upper North Island Competition and qualified for the World Championship Competition.

Earlier this month the team scooped the prizes at the Lower North Island Competition and qualified the right to enter a second robot in the World Championships.

This weekend the National Championships are being held in Manukau and then in April our team will head to Dallas, Texas, to represent Rangitoto College in the 2010 World Championships. 270 teams from 13 different countries will take part in these competitions.

Matt, thank you for everything that you have done to develop robotics in Rangitoto College and for everything that you have done to ensure the success of the team.

We wish you every success for the National Competition and the World Championships.

### **Sam Kenny**

During his time in Rangitoto College Sam has been a host and buddy to visitors from Zushi Kaisei, gained his Duke of Edinburgh Award, participated in the New Zealand Brain Bee Challenge and physics competitions and been a mentor to younger students as part of our Building Exceptional Young Men programme. As well as this Sam has been fully involved and committed to his studies.

Then, in 2008, Sam discovered Robotics. He was one of the foundation members who attended the Boot Camp during the school holidays and learned about how VEX robotics works on an international level, gained knowledge about robot construction and he has worked since then to ensure the success of the team.

The team operates like a small company. Sam became the Head of the Marketing Division and met with a wide range of companies at management level to ask for team sponsorship. Sam also helped organise a Boot Camp which was held at Rangitoto College and raised the team's presence at competitions through a variety of strategies.

At the start of the current season Sam became the Head of the Administration Division and was successful in acquiring server space at Orcon as their sponsor contribution.

He is currently helping to prepare his team for the national competition this weekend and the World Championships in Dallas, Texas, next month.

Sam believes that through his involvement in robotics he has developed valuable organisation skills, greater confidence in himself and the ability to work with company managers.

### **Sean (Ki Beom) Park**

Sean is another outstanding academic student. Many of our top students focus on the Sciences and Maths, not so Sean, who is unusually combining Art History, Design and Painting with Physics and Maths with Calculus. He had an outstanding 2009, placing in the top 20 academically for the College. He was also in the top 20 for 2008 as a Year 11 student. His 2009 end of year report was all grade 1, V's. Continuing a long list of V's for effort on his reports.

Sean is an exceptionally able student with excellent work habits. He has his own individual style in his artwork, excellent communication skills and approaches tasks with a sense of fun.

Sean has competed to distinction in Maths, Science and Art competitions. An accomplished musician, he has been a member of the Orchestra and is currently in the Concert Band, the Big Band, and a senior Jazz combo for which he has received a range of awards. He designed the wonderful cover for the 2009 Panorama and the covers for the 2009 and 2010 school diaries.

A popular student with his peers, Sean has been elected as a student representative this year. He is also a Peer Support Leader, a Korean Day/Night leader and a member of Amnesty International, SADD and the random acts of kindness group.

We wait with interest to see which way Sean will go with his future study, into the arts or the sciences.

### **Brooke Peterson**

This year not only is Brooke a Deputy Head Girl, but she is also a House Leader. She was a key part of the organisation and running of the recent Junior House Athletics Day. Brooke was also a Student Represent as a Year 12 student and is a member of the multicultural group. She has a passion and talent for Food Technology and has received an Academic Excellence award for her achievements in that area. She is currently participating in the challenging CREST programme where she is developing an innovative food product. Brooke was a performer in last years winning Stage Challenge group. She also plays netball and basketball, as well finding time to be a popular peer support leader.

## **Natasha Pratt**

Natasha was a superb Student representative last year, and a popular choice as Head Girl this year.

Natasha is one of those students who throws herself into everything. She is a talented dancer and performed in both Stage Challenge and the Dance Showcase last year. She was on the Environment committee and a member of the Planet People group. Apart from playing netball socially she is a skilled netball umpire and she also coached a younger team last year. She also belonged to the Random Acts of Kindness Group.

Academically Natasha thrives. Her work displays great maturity of thought and an impressive ability to explore different concepts. She passed Level Two with Excellence last year, as well as winning the Rankin cup for Sociology and a prize in media studies.

She is proving to be a well-organised and motivated Head Girl. She calmly meets all her extra responsibilities and with her clear vision, warm manner and friendly smile is able to inspire others. We look forward to a great year with Natasha as one of our Head Students.

## **Georgia Williams**

At the young age of 12. Georgia was tested at the Peter Snell Institute. The results showed that she would be very suited to cycling. Taking this advice, along with a one year scholarship from the institute has seen Georgia have phenomenal success in this sport in just the four years that she has been competing at it.

She trains daily for 2 - 2½ hours, clocking up kilometres around the roads on the North Shore.

It is this dedication and natural ability that saw Georgia win the New Zealand Secondary School U17 Cycling Championships in 2009. In the same year she was a member of the New Zealand U17 Road Cycling team that travelled to Canberra. In this competition she was 3rd overall.

Her greatest results have been a bit closer to home. Just recently Georgia competed at the U19 Track Nationals in Invercargill. At this event she came away with 4 medals. A gold in the team pursuit, two silvers (one in the individual pursuit) and a bronze.

With achievements like this it is easy to make comparisons with the great Sarah Ulmer. Indeed one of Georgia's future goals is to compete at the Olympics like her heroine, Sarah.