



St Dominic's Catholic College

9th February 2012

1/2012

Diary dates



Friday 10 February
Swimming Sports

Tuesday 14 February
Athletic Sports

Tuesday 21st February
Foundress' Day
Eucharist

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Welcome to all our St Dominic's College families and a warm welcome to our new families who have joined our school community this year. The beginning of a new year is an opportunity to set new goals and expectations for the year ahead.

As a community our theme for this year is: ***Dream a better future, Live it here today, Be the change for tomorrow.*** This theme comes from a charter that was signed by all New Zealand and Australian Dominican schools in Melbourne last year at our Dominican Education Conference. The genesis of the charter was that as centres of Dominican tradition we have a responsibility to continue seeking truth. The theme is based on a human rights speech given 500 years ago by a Dominican, Father Antonio de Montesinos, criticising the practices of the Spanish *encomienda* system and abuse of the Taino Indian people of Hispaniola now known as the Dominican Republic and Haiti. He asked the people in attendance to question what authority the Conquistadors had to treat the indigenous people as they did – this in turn eventually led to the Spanish King of the time enacting a code of ordinances that attempted to protect the indigenous peoples in the Spanish colonies. As we move through 2012 we will use this theme and its premise to educate our students to seek the truth in all that they encounter.

RIP Mr Gary Spalding, brother of Mr Spalding and Sister M. Concannon, O.P. *Eternal rest grant unto them o Lord and may perpetual light shine upon them.*

Staff News

Welcome to Mrs Moira Duff who joined our administration team at the beginning of the year.

Congratulations to our students Tarani Paul and Sadie Sieglar who won the National Secondary Schools' National Lawn Bowls Pairs in December last year. Well done, Girls!

St Dominic's College students excel in NCEA again!

We are pleased to report that in 2011 students at St Dominic's College continued to perform well above the national average, and above students at other Decile 6 schools in New Zealand. In fact, pass rates at St Dominic's College compare favourably with Decile 8 schools around the country. It is particularly pleasing to see that not only are our students passing NCEA at a rate above those of similar schools but they are also achieving to higher levels. As you can see below, at all levels of NCEA many of our students are gaining NCEA endorsed with Merit or endorsed with Excellence. Last year's Year 11 students should be especially pleased with their outstanding results with over 60% of the students having endorsed certificates for Level 1 NCEA.

Also of note is the College's high rate of students qualifying for University Entrance with almost 70% of last year's Year 13 students leaving with UE. Well done to both our students and staff.

NCEA Certificate Endorsements

	Endorsed with Merit	Endorsed with Excellence
Level 1 – St Dominic's College	41.7%	20.9%
Level 1 – All schools	33.6%	13.3%
Level 2 – St Dominic's College	25.9%	9.5%
Level 2 – All schools	21.8%	7.9%
Level 3 – St Dominic's College	35.8%	7.4%
Level 3 – All schools	23.7%	7.3%
University Entrance – St Dominic's College	69.9%	
University entrance – All schools	65.2%	

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2011 NCEA External Exam results

	Not Achieved	Achieved	Merit	Excellence
Level 1 – St Dominic’s College	21.6%	41.2%	26.2%	11.0%
Level 1 – All schools	27.0%	42.3%	23.3%	7.4%
Level 2 – St Dominic’s College	25.9%	42.1%	20.9%	11.1%
Level 2 – All schools	31.8%	41.7%	19.8%	6.7%
Level 3 – St Dominic’s College	26.7%	42.4%	20.5%	10.3%
Level 3 – All schools	31.0%	43.5%	18.6%	6.8%

We have achieved our 2011 targets and aim to build on these this year.

God’s blessings to you and your family,

CAROL CODDINGTON
PRINCIPAL

ULTRANET – FOR PARENTS OF YEAR 7 AND NEW YEAR 9’S

St Dominic’s College uses the Ultranet Learning Management System which allows students to access resources and other material via the web. Part of this system – the Parent Portal - allows parents to access their daughter’s details online including attendance, assessment progress, timetable and tasks set by teachers in their Virtual Classes. You should have received a username and password via email. To access Ultranet, go to the school’s webpage, www.stdoms.ac.nz, click on “Ultranet” and follow the link to the site. Once you sign in you will be able to see your daughter’s details. You can change the password through the Account Settings tab. If you have not received a username and password please contact Philip Jellyman at philip@stdoms.ac.nz.

ASB AUCKLAND SECONDARY SCHOOL MAORI & PACIFIC ISLANDS CULTURAL FESTIVAL (POLYFEST)

Will be held on 14th – 17th March 2012. Students Year 9 – 13 are invited to join any of the following groups: Samoan, Kapa Haka, Indian, Filipino, Korean, Japanese or Chinese. Practices will be during school hours with some after school rehearsals. We will host a cultural evening to perform for families on Wednesday 7th March in the Gabriel Gill Sports Centre at 7.00pm. If any parent would like to provide support please contact Larissa Jay, HOD Dance via email larrisa@stdoms.ac.nz. The cost for entry per student including transport to and from the Manukau Super Bowl is \$25. This will be payable to the College accounts office by 14th February.

PIHA SURF DAY

Eight students went to Piha last December. Here is a link to a video of the best waves of the day.
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iF-f3XRHIA>

MESSAGE FROM ACCOUNTS:

This is to advise that school fee statements were sent out by email or post in the second week of January. If you have not received one, please let us know so that we can update your postal or email address and send you a new copy.

If the school fees are paid in full by 31 March 2012 a discount of \$100 per child applies. As per previous years there is also the option to pay the school fees by automatic payments or instalments throughout the year. If you would like an automatic payment form, please contact the accounts office. When making payment by internet banking or through your bank it is very important that we have your family code (found on the bottom right hand side of the statement) and child’s name as our reference so we know who the money was for.

Thank You

DANCE DEPARTMENT

On 1st March, all Year 10 – 13 dance students will be work shopping at the College with members of the Royal New Zealand Ballet and going to the performance “New Young Classics” that evening which is being held at the Civic. The cost for this is \$22 payable by 16th February 2012 to the accounts department.

HOMESTAY FAMILIES REQUIRED

We need caring, supportive and reliable families to host short term students who will be attending our College in March. We have 2 groups arriving – one group from Japan and one group from Thailand. This is an excellent opportunity to interact and learn about another culture and perhaps start learning a new language?

You need to provide 3 meals per day and usually transport to and from school as the girls are here for 2 weeks only. Car pooling is usually a great idea. Two students per room is allowed. It is usual for the host family to take their students out on the weekend for sightseeing.

You will be paid \$220 per student per week for hosting them. English has to be your family’s first language as these groups are here to learn and absorb as much English as they possibly can.

This is a rewarding experience for you and your family. Please discuss this request and if you feel you can help the school, please email either Jenny on collegehomestay@windowslive.com or gfoley@stdoms.ac.nz.

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