



13<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Kia ora whanau,

## COVID-19 Coronavirus Update

Like the rest of the world you will be closely following the news in regard to the Coronavirus updates. As a school community we are kept well informed by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health and are following their advice, recommendations and guidelines closely.

Our school still has no reported cases of this virus. We continue to stress the importance of good hygiene practices with our students and thank you for doing the same at home. There are many online videos available which explain the virus and how we can best protect ourselves from infection. I have included a link to one that really simplifies it for us, which you may wish to view as a family. I have also included the links to the Ministry of Health site with up to date information. <https://youtu.be/OPsY-jLqaXM>  
<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus>

## Health and Wellbeing

We are heading in to cooler weather now and with this comes the usual seasonal coughs and colds. In order to limit the spreading of any colds, flus and other viruses, we ask that you keep your daughter home if possible when they are unwell.

## Communication with the College

You will have received a communication letter from the college this week. This provides a lot of information about the ways in which information is shared with you in regard to your daughter's learning, EOTC adventures and school wide activities. Please take the time to read through this as it also provides links and instructions on how to download the College App and who to contact for communication support. Included in this letter is the request to please check your personal details on Spider. Some of the details we hold are not accurate or out of date. Please also advise if you do not have a mobile or landline phone. Our data team are always available to assist you in this area so please contact them for help [datateam@stdoms.ac.nz](mailto:datateam@stdoms.ac.nz).

## Attendance Dues

You will have received a letter from our Board Chairperson on behalf of our Board of Trustees in regard to Attendance Dues. As stated, these dues are a compulsory payment collected by the college and passed on to the Diocese. The school buildings and maintenance, resources and surplus staffing provided at the college are only possible due to the payment of these Attendance Dues and the other financial contributions that are made by our families. We sincerely appreciate your ongoing support with this. If you have any concerns you wish to discuss please contact me at the College or by email.

Nga mihi nui,

Anna Swann  
Principal

A fantastic new app made in New Zealand! Available only on Android at present, but hopefully available on Apple by the middle of the year. **NZpray2day** is designed to support people, young and old, particularly in Catholic schools and parishes to enter simply into the richness of the ancient Christian cycle of seasons, saints and readings. It takes 'snapshots' and encourages people to seek a moment to reflect, pray and respond. It also brings in pieces of history to link this liturgical journey with aspects of the story of New Zealand and the wider world.

Highly recommended!



## PTFA

It's been a busy couple of weeks for the PTFA. We ran our first Year 7 & 8 swim party. On 28<sup>th</sup> February, 48 excited girls came together after school to swim, play games, dance, make new friends, eat sausages and slurp on ice blocks. They all had a lot of fun and the PTFA thanks all the staff and senior students who helped out on the evening. We hope to hold another swim party again next year.

The PTFA has purchased a new mobile speaker which will get a great deal of use around the college for various events. It helped make the swim party and the recent New Entrants BBQ so enjoyable.

We hope you have all had a chance to see the new playground/fitness equipment that was installed in January. This was the PTFA's major project for 2019 and it is proving very popular with the students and PE teachers.

If you would like to support the PTFA in any way and contribute to the success and community of the College please get in touch. We meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 6.30pm. Please check the school calendar. Norma Hayward, PTFA Chair, [norma.haywardnz@gmail.com](mailto:norma.haywardnz@gmail.com)



## OUR WAR ON PLASTIC

On Friday, four brave Year 7 students have planned to address the whole school at assembly. They will be explaining their project "OUR WAR ON PLASTIC". 7SB want to convince supermarkets to supply more Bar shampoo and conditioner so people have the option to avoid buying plastic bottles. They are collecting empty Shampoo bottles and writing notes on them such as "We don't want plastic bottles – please supply more bar shampoo and conditioners" #ourwaronplastic. Once they have collected enough, these will be delivered in a big box to the managers of the supermarkets. 7SB ask our College community to help them in this quest by sending empty shampoo and conditioner bottles to them in the Art room and they thank you for being kind to our planet!

### 2020 Theme

"She is clothed in strength and dignity  
and rejoices without fear of the future"

*He korowai, kia kaha, kia hōnore ai ōna kākahu, a kaua e wehi, titiro whakamua kia hari kia koe .  
Proverbs 31:25*

## ATTITUDE PRESENTATION

Last Monday students from Years 7 – 10 listened to Jannah Hibberd from the Attitude Group. These were the topics discussed for each year level:

- Year 7 – Friendship Factor
- Year 8 – Who Am I
- Year 9 – Hauora
- Year 10 – Hardwired

Students enjoyed the talk and realized that the topics were relevant to them. They asked questions and clarifications which were answered by the speaker.



### SCIENCE TEXTBOOK RETURN

Check your living rooms, bedrooms and study areas for any senior science textbooks. Please return ASAP to the science department or the college office.

### GUITAR LESSONS

Would you like to play the guitar? We have a few spaces available in the instrument lesson programme at St Dominic's open to anyone from Year 8 – Year 13. First come first served. James Bristow is the guitar teacher here at St Dominic's College. James has a Bachelor of Music majoring in Performance Jazz, but can teach any style of music or help you with writing your own music. He also has extensive experience as a professional musician and song writer as well as in teaching guitar. If you want to sign up for lessons or would like more information, please either contact James on 021 281 5266 or Molly Nelson (HoD Music) at [mnelson@stdoms.ac.nz](mailto:mnelson@stdoms.ac.nz).

### MESSAGE FROM ACCOUNTS OFFICE:

Thank you if you have paid your school fees for the year already, or if you have set up a regular payment schedule. If you have not received a copy of the school fees invoice for 2020, please contact the accounts office on [accounts@stdoms.ac.nz](mailto:accounts@stdoms.ac.nz). A discount of \$100 per student is available if paying all of the fees in full before 31/3/20. Alternatively, we encourage weekly/fortnightly/monthly automatic payments which you can set up through your bank or internet banking. Please make sure you add the family code for our reference. This can be found on the school fees statement. Next month, you will be sent a Tax Receipt for any school donations paid for the financial year 1/4/19 to 31/3/20. 33.33% of the donations paid can be claimed back from the Inland Revenue Department. The Statements and Tax receipts are sent by email, so please ensure that we have the correct email address for you.

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