

St Dominic's Catholic College

Founded by the Dominican Sisters

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Dear parents and caregivers,

Tena Koutou, tena koutou tena koutou katoa. Nga mihi nui ki a koutou nga mātua nga kaitiaki,

22nd February 2018

Over the last two weeks we have had Athletic Sports and our Inaugural Foundress Day Mass. Both of these events are part of building community and our girls have to work together and contribute to them. Swimming Sports are on Tuesday 27 February at West Wave, parents are welcome to join us at the venue from 9.30 onwards.

We congratulate our Year 13 leaders who were commissioned at our Foundress Day Eucharist, Grace Matthewman our 2018 Head Girl and Zola Prendeville our Deputy Head Girl. Congratulations to all our leaders. This year we are focusing on attendance as a target with our students settling into their new classes, meeting and making new friends, experiencing subjects and signing up for sports and activities they have never taken before. All of these activities add to the excitement of a new academic year however, attendance at school is crucial to success in all things. We know all of this to be true, and the importance of being present at school can never be understated when aiming for and thinking about success. A strong beginning to anything sets the stage for all that follows. Form teachers and Deans will be following up asking for absence notes from the students and contacting parents with regard to student absences. Please contact Mrs Matautia on 839 0380 ext 8820, or by email absentees@stdoms.ac.nz or through the school app. You can download the school app onto your smart phone – St Dominic's Catholic College. Thank you in advance for your support.

CONGRATULATIONS to our successful 2017 Scholarship students:

GABRIELLA BRAYNE - Geography (Outstanding) Statistics, Painting, History.

JESSI KANAPI and **JOANNE TAO** – Geography.

GABRIELA BANTAS –Biology.

We are delighted to have our students achieve seven Scholarships. In gaining an Outstanding Scholars Award Gabriella is in the top 50-60 candidates in that particular subject throughout New Zealand.

We also acknowledged our 2017 NCEA Level 3 students Endorsed with Excellence at a special achievers assembly last week.

God's blessing to you and your families.

CAROL CODDINGTON

PRINCIPAL

ASB POLYFEST 2018

Rehearsals and planning are well underway for this year's ASB Polyfest from the 14th-17th March at the Manukau Sports Bowl. Approximately 250 students from Years 9 – 13 are entered to perform, supported by 25 members of staff. We are very proud that nine groups will be representing us. The Kapa Haka Group will perform on Wednesday the 14th March at 11.25am, the Tongan Group will perform on Friday 16th March at 9.50am and 2.10pm, the Samoan Group are performing on Saturday 17th March at 8.25am and the Diversity stage schedule is yet to be announced. There are also six non-competitive groups entered on the Diversity Stage including a Japanese Group, Korean Group, Indian Group, Filipino Group, Chinese Group and (new to the festival) a Papuan Indonesian Group. All students involved will perform in a Cultural Evening in the school gymnasium on Wednesday March 7th from 6.30pm - 8.30pm. Groups will be selling refreshments for fundraising purposes from 5.30pm. So save these dates and thank you so much to parents and whanau for your on-going support. *Donna Lambert – Cultural Coordinator.*

BRINGING YOUR OWN DEVICE ASSISTANCE

A reminder that this year all Year 7 to 11 students are expected to have their own device (e.g. Chromebook or laptop) to use in class. This is essential as more and more work is set and distributed to the students electronically. Please ensure that your daughter brings her device to school every day, fully charged. We do get students who choose not to bring their device to school because they prefer the school devices however these are meant for those students who genuinely are unable to have their own. Financial assistance is available to assist families who have difficulty affording a device for their daughter. The Salvation Army (Ph: [09 837 4471](tel:09-837-4471)) is now running a programme to give no-interest loans to families to buy devices http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=11972691 and Vaka Tautua, a social service provider that aims to help improve the health and well-being of Pacific people in New Zealand, with an office in Henderson, can also provide no-interest loans (Ph: 09 836 6534). Students who genuinely do not have their own devices can borrow one daily from the Library however there are a limited number of these.

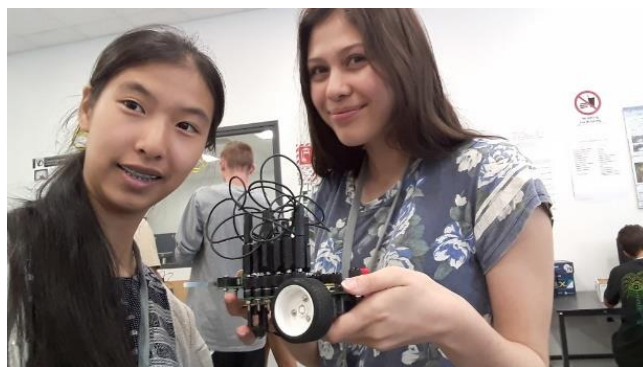
SPECIAL CHARACTER CORNER - Foundress Day Mass

Foundress Day Mass was the first official mass for 2018 and was unquestionably a great start. We welcomed in the new students and staff, whilst also revealing our new theme song, 'God is within Her,' based on our theme of "God is within her; she will not fail" (Psalm 46:5). The Mass was then celebrated by Father Kevin, who highlighted the need to not be afraid of acting on our own willingness to seek or serve God, whether it be through the act of kindness and love or prayer, Jesus is always aware of what is true in our hearts. Father Kevin then commissioned all Eucharistic Ministers and blessed the school badges and Year 13 leaders. Students, staff and parents then dedicated themselves to service in the form of a prayer while participating in lively songs of worship. Through this eventful Tuesday, students described this Mass as, "full of heart" and "inviting." We would like to thank all who participated, we couldn't have enjoyed our first mass without you all. *Mary Membrere and Nina Vaifale. Special Character Leaders 2018*



ROTARY NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FORUM Over the summer break I had the privilege to attend the Rotary National Science and Technology Forum in Auckland. The programme itself is promoted and organised by the Rotary Clubs in New Zealand and aims to expose young students to the many different career opportunities within Science and Technology in New Zealand and allows you to meet likeminded individuals. The people I met and the modules I attended were spectacular, the technical option visits are a great opportunity to explore the wider community and gain an insight into careers and life after University. If you are interested in the Science and Technology field and are currently in Year 12, I would really recommend you talk to Mrs Taylor or me. It is a fantastic opportunity to explore the different fields.

Sarah Chung



DIARY DATES: Fri 23 Feb School photos, Mon 26th Feb Board of Trustees Meeting 6.30pm, Tues 27 Feb Swimming Sports PTFA MEETING 7.00PM THURSDAY 8TH MARCH – ALL WELCOME!