

St Dominic's Catholic College

Founded by the Dominican Sisters

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VERITAS

Kia ora whanau,

23rd May 2019

Year 12 Retreat

I was privileged to attend the annual Year 12 Retreat at Eastern Beach two weeks ago. It was a truly inspiring experience which allowed our senior students to share their life journeys with their peers, reflecting on and planning for their future. I would like to thank Ms Whittam-Blackwell, Mrs Carla, all the teachers involved and the LOGOS crew for their energy and dedication throughout.

Vietnam

Last week I travelled to Vietnam with Ms Gay Foley, our International Director, to meet with prospective agents, students and their families. Currently, we have one Vietnamese international student in the College and are expecting to welcome many more over the years to come. The agents and families were very impressed by our school and what we offer. Having international students from around the world study with us not only helps provide much needed financial support for our school, it also adds a rich level to the cultural and ethnic diversity experience for all our students.

Road safety around the College

As you may have noticed, traffic speed humps have been installed along Rathgar Rd over the past few weeks. These will undoubtedly keep our students and those at our surrounding schools much safer during the week. We continue to monitor our students crossing Swanson Rd for the train station before and after school. Please remind your daughters about the importance of using the traffic lights for their own safety. Finally, a reminder about not coming into the front or back gates for pick up in the afternoons. With the number of buses and cars on site at this time, the congestion causes severe health and safety concerns. Thank you for your support with this.

PTFA Memories Walk

The Memories Walk held on Saturday was a successful beginning to what we hope will become an annual event on our school calendar. Special thanks go to Nomhle Dube and Yashoda Lodhia for their initiative and organisation, and to Mrs Bridget Fox-Rogers for her on-going support.

BOT Elections

Tomorrow is the deadline for Parent Representative nominations for the Board of Trustees. This is an exciting opportunity for you to support our college in a governance role. Being a school trustee is a thoroughly rewarding experience and gives you an opportunity to become involved in the life of the college at a deeper level.

Nga mihi nui,

Anna Swann
Principal

YOUNG VINNIES COMMISSIONING MASS

On Saturday evening, our six young Vinnies leaders, plus a number of supporters, attended the Vinnies Commissioning Mass 2019 celebrated by Pa Tipene in St. Patrick's Cathedral along with all the Catholic Schools in Auckland. During the Mass student leaders were presented with their badges for the 2019 school year. Congratulations to Samara d'Souza, Krychelle Espinosa, Merciana Fernandez, Sandy-Mary Fonoti, Savete Tealikisele and Alofa Vaifale. Thanks to Mia Swann, who accepted the Young Vinnies school candle on behalf of all students.



VERITAS



POMPALLIER SHIELD

Last Thursday, nine students participated in the Pompallier Shield Speech Competition which was held at McAuley High School in Otahuhu, Auckland. We had Ruby Bray for Junior Oratory, Zeenat Ali for Senior Oratory, Amrita Maggu for Junior Scripture Reading, Vivienne Bunquin for Senior Scripture Reading, Savete Tealikisele for Maori Scripture Reading and Samara D'Souza, Charlene Bacani, Nakita Chandra and Nomhle Dube for Religious Drama. Warm congratulations to Savete Tealikisele who won 1st place in Maori Scripture Reading. Congratulations also to the whole St Dominic's College team for placing 3rd place in the overall results. Well done!



YEAR 12 RETREAT

Year 12 recently attended their two day Retreat at Willow Park in Eastern Beach. The girls spent time in small groups where they completed activities that helped them see more clearly what has shaped them so far in life, and how they want to shape the future. There were lots of laughs, hugs and tears. These Retreat days are so important in the lives of our young women. They create space in their busy and often stressful lives to slow down, connect and re-connect with themselves, each other and God.



OUR NEW ST DOMINIC'S COLLEGE APP is now available for Android devices. (The release of the Apple version has been delayed.) Search **St Dominic's Catholic College** from Google Play Store and choose the one published by **Com-Assist Solutions Pty Ltd**. Click onto the Login button and enter your Spider Portal username and password to see information specifically about your daughter. Any problems email datateam@stdoms.ac.nz

2019 Theme

Be who God meant you to be, and you will set the world on fire - St Catherine of Siena
Kia meingia i te Atua ki a koe, a ka whakatūria koe te Ao i runga i te ahi

2019 School Board of Trustees Elections Update

A reminder that completed Parent representative nomination forms along with the optional candidate statement and photograph are to be received by the College Returning Officer no later than noon on Friday 24 May 2019. For further information about becoming a Trustee, please click on the link. <https://www.trustee-election.co.nz/becoming-a-trustee>.

MESSAGE FROM THE ACCOUNTS OFFICE

Tax receipts for any school donations paid up to 31/3/2019 were emailed at the end of last term. If you were expecting one and did not receive it, please contact the accounts office accounts@stdoms.ac.nz. These donations can be claimed on line at the Inland Revenue Department - myird.govt.nz. You will be asked for the "donee IRD number" – this is 011-839-398. If you are yet to make any payments towards the school fees we would appreciate it if you could start regular payments as soon as possible. Please contact the accounts office in confidence if you believe financial circumstances have arisen that will prevent or delay the payment of the account. When making an on line payment from your bank, please ensure that you add the cost centre eg for sports or a trip and the family account code (found at the bottom of the school fees statement) for our reference.

2019 INAUGURAL 'MEMORIES' FAMILY WALKATHON

On Saturday, 18th May, with the best weather we could have hoped for, students, family and staff came together for a group walk around the local area. The thought behind this event was for the school community to acknowledge the bereavements that have happened in people's lives and to honour the memories of those loved ones who have passed. Despite the walk being based on sadness, the whole event was so much fun and there was frequent laughter. People came together with the common understanding that we were there to support each other and there was a real generosity of spirit. Some people supported the walk with donations to the PTFA funds – all of which go towards benefitting our students' everyday lives. Other people sent in cupcakes as they could not make the date and some girls came with some very nice refreshments as well as turning up on the day. A big thank you to all contributors but especially Yashoda Lodhia and Nom Dube, our Year 13 student PTFA reps, who came up with the idea and did so much of the organising.

In the conversations as we all sat round having a rest together afterwards, a couple of suggestions were made. One was to maybe have a dog friendly route so you get to exercise your pooch as we walk together. Another suggestion was to hold it again this year; maybe in Term Four. If you think either of these is a good idea, please get back to us. Everyone who came was very glad they did and we all, at some stage, either thought about or shared the story of why we were there. In a world where so often the big tragedies grab our attention, St Dominic's wanted to make a space for everyone to come together more personally no matter what age or level of fitness they are. We are all sad at times and it helps to know we are not alone. Love to see you at the next one! Bridget Fox Rogers



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