

St Dominic's Catholic College

Founded by the Dominican Sisters

Principal: Carol Coddington
B.Ed., Dip. Tchg.

T (+64 9) 839 0380

F (+64 9) 839 0390

E stdoms@stdoms.ac.nz

29 Rathgar Rd, Henderson, Auckland 0610

PO Box 21-123, Henderson, Auckland 0650



VERITAS

8th February 2018

Dear parents and caregivers,

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

A warm welcome to the 2018 school year. A special welcome to the new families who have joined our St Dominic's College community this year. We trust that you and your daughter will feel part of the College community. Please contact either your daughter's form teacher or Dean by email or phone if you have any questions or concerns and they will be able to assist you. The staff email addresses are on the College web site www.stdoms.ac.nz.

The next few weeks are very busy with a number of events happening that parents are welcome to attend: Athletics Day at the Trust Stadium on Monday 12th February (Years 7 & 8 attending in the afternoon), Foundress Day Eucharist 9.30am Tuesday 20th February, Families New to the College BBQ Thursday 22nd February. Invitations, with details, have been sent out for the BBQ, via your daughter, please return the RSVP slip if you are able to attend. I look forward to meeting you at one of these events.

There have been some staff changes over the holidays Mrs Anne Collins, Head of English, retired at the end of the school year as did Mrs Sue Ingham, Head of Technology and Year 13 Dean, we wish her well in her retirement. We thank them for their contribution to St Dominic's Catholic College. We will be farewelling Mrs Collins formally later in the month. We welcomed a number of new staff at the beginning of the year. Mrs Dorothy Fernandez - Head of English, Mrs Glenys Hahn - Head of Technology, Ms Carolyn Evans - Social Studies and Mrs Rasmi Matthews - Religious Education (both of these are maternity leave positions), Mrs Siobhan Augustin - part time Social Studies and Physical Education, Mrs Zoe Findlay - part time Physical Education, Mr Mike Morunga - assistant caretaker and Mrs Rachel Grevel - part time Resource Room Administrator and Mrs Melanie Turner - Dance (term 1 only). We are fortunate that we are fully staffed with excellent teachers and support staff.

A new year brings with it the chance to grow and develop and we will continue to ensure that our students work towards excellence and achieve the academic goals they set for this year. We will celebrate our students who achieved NCEA Endorsed with Excellence at a school assembly later this month. It is encouraging to see our girl's successes in NCEA - there are three key elements for these successes. When ambitious hardworking students are taught by quality hardworking teachers and are encouraged by supportive parents they will inevitably achieve highly.

God's blessing to you and your families.

CAROL CODDINGTON
PRINCIPAL

SPECIAL CHARACTER

The theme for 2018 is *God is within her; she will not fail. Kei waenganui ona te Atua; e kore ia e paheke. Psalm 46:5*. On Friday, January 26, staff came together in a liturgy that celebrated the gift of community, and unpacked the theme for 2018. Here you can see the prayer focus that evolved during this liturgy, with photos from staff holidays, and words that resonated for staff after discussing the theme.



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, Manukau City Auckland. Approximately 280 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. We will announce in the school bulletin and on the school website the exact times and dates of their performances once these details are released. The Kapa Haka Group, Tongan Group and Samoan Group are all entered on the competitive stages. 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. (Group members are being confirmed this week and if your daughter has been selected for a performance group she will have a permission letter for you to sign by Friday). All students who are competing will perform in a Cultural Evening to be held 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 this date and thank you so much to parents and whanau for your on-going support. *Donna Lambert - Cultural Coordinator.*

POLYFEST PRACTISE TIMES FOR KAPA HAKA:

Mondays 3.30 - 5.00 Dance Room. Tuesdays 7.00 - 7.45 Netball Courts. Wednesdays 7.00 - 7.45 Netball Courts. Thursdays 3.30 - 5.00 Gym. One weekend noho on 9th and 10th March, details coming soon. Thank you in advance to whanau for your commitment and encouragement. *Mrs Stevenson*

SAFETY AT THE SCHOOL GATE Before and after school is a busy time on both Rathgar and Pinedale Roads. We ask that you do not enter the College grounds from either of these roads after 3.00pm and suggest you make an alternative meeting place to collect your daughter. We have a large number of buses coming into the grounds and with the surrounding Colleges there are a lot of students (potentially) at risk. Parking rules help protect our students and keep them safe. Please be aware that the Police patrol these areas on a regular basis. Drivers who park illegally put our students at risk.

St Dominic's Catholic College

Founded by the Dominican Sisters

Principal: Carol Coddington
B.Ed., Dip. Tchg.

T (+64 9) 839 0380

F (+64 9) 839 0390

E stdoms@stdoms.ac.nz

29 Rathgar Rd, Henderson, Auckland 0610

PO Box 21-123, Henderson, Auckland 0650



UNIFORM

The girls are generally looking lovely in their uniforms as they return to school. Thank you for all your preparation of their school wear. The full and official school uniform is listed on the college website. It is two pages long and includes what is excluded. Thank you for ensuring that your daughter follows these requirements. To avoid confusion about footwear, please see the attached photo for regulation Roman sandals and regulation school shoes at St Dominic's Catholic College. If you have anything you need to discuss about uniform, please contact her Dean or myself through the college office.

Ms Heffernan, Associate Principal.

MESSAGE FROM ACCOUNTS OFFICE

School fees statements have been emailed to all families – please contact the accounts office if you have not yet received yours. We encourage you to use the new payment portal which enables you to select the various items on the statement and pay on line by credit card. You will find the portal link at the bottom of the school fees statement email. Just click on the link and it will take you straight to your daughters' school fees account. We would also like to remind you that if the school fees are paid in full by 31/3/2018 there is a discount of \$100 per student.

GENERAL PURPOSE DONATION - We regard annual parental contributions as the fairest and most feasible way to provide educational opportunities for all our students. This view is shared by most parents at the school, regardless of their ability to pay. Payment of school donations is voluntary and we respect that. We also acknowledge that some families are not in a position to pay the donation, either in one lump sum or at all. However, we wish to provide your daughter with the best learning experience we can achieve and we rely on parental donations so that we can continue to meet and exceed your expectations about what we can deliver for all of our students. Your donation is the minimum amount we have estimated is needed to supplement government funding. It will help pay for extra staffing, the music programme, curriculum support, sporting and cultural activities and library books and other purposes for the benefit of all students. All contributions are tax deductible and we will issue you with a receipt for tax purposes in April each year. Many thanks for your support – we really appreciate it.

CO-CURRICULAR MUSIC AT ST DOMINIC'S COLLEGE

We have a wide range of different music groups that rehearse and perform at St Dominic's College. We are always looking for new members, so if you are keen to be involved please let us know! I have included a list of the different groups available and which ages/skill levels are required to take part. If you have any questions please contact Mrs Molly Nelson (HOD Music) at: mnelson@stdoms.ac.nz.

- **String Orchestra.** For anyone Year 9 and older who plays violin, viola, cello, or double bass. There may also be an opening for a pianist if they are keen to apply.
- **Concert Band.** This is for any experienced musician who plays flute, oboe, clarinet, bass clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, lower brass or drums. You will need to have learned your chosen instrument for at least two years. If you play a classical instrument that is not on the list and would still like to be involved, please contact Mrs Nelson.
- **Junior Concert Band.** This is for students who want to join the Concert Band in future but have only been learning their instrument for 6 months to a year.
- **College Choir.** Auditions are held for the College choir to check voice ranges. All students are welcome to audition whatever their age or singing experience.
- **Flute Choir.** This is for flute players who have been learning for a year or more. They are also expected to be part of either the Concert Band or Junior Band, unless there are specific extenuating circumstances which prevent this.
- **Language Choirs.** These will start in Term 2, as many of the student leaders are involved in Polyfest in Term 1. These choirs sing in languages other than English and are largely student lead with teacher supervision. They are open to any group of 6+ students and include any language. The only requirement is that two or more of the students in the group speak the language well enough to be able to teach lyric pronunciation to the other members of the group. If you are interested in being involved later in the year, please email Mrs Nelson with your name and the language/s you would like to be involved in singing.

LAWN BOWLS If you are keen to get involved in a sport but don't (or can't) run, jump or catch then come and try lawn bowls. St Dom's are NZ Secondary School Champions. Come and be part of a winning team! If you just want to try it out before you decide, you can join us at the Henderson bowling club (next to West Wave) on Thursday's from 4.00-5.30pm. Just make sure you have flat soled shoes. Training starts Thursday 15th February. See Miss Townsley for more information.



DIARY DATES: Mon 12 Feb Athletics Day, Wed 14th Feb Ash Wed, Tue 20 Feb

Foundress Day Mass, Thurs 22 Feb New parents BBQ, Fri 23 Feb School photos,

Tues 27 Feb Swimming Sports