

St Dominic's Catholic College

Founded by the Dominican Sisters

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Dear parents and caregivers,

8th March 2018

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

We have had a very, very busy four and a half weeks of school as we settle in to Term 1. Our girls continue to be involved in the ASB Polyfest practices. It is wonderful to see them giving so much energy, enthusiasm, motivation and commitment to their cultural groups (further Polyfest information below). Our teachers and parent community also need to be recognised and thanks for the extensive time and commitment that they too are giving, it is most appreciated by all of us!

ACADEMIC COACHING begins on **Monday 12th March** all day from 9.00am – 7.20pm. Educational research strongly promotes parents-teacher-student conferences and most colleges do this in a full day format to enable high quality academic conferencing. For the first time, we are having whole school conferencing during the school day, so there will be no lessons on this day. Students only come in, in mufti, for their 15-20 minute conference appointment. The same arrangements will apply for the second Academic Coaching Conference on **Thursday 28 June 2018**. To assist parents and caregivers of under 14 year old students the college is offering supervision by relief teachers on this date. If you need such supervision for your daughter, please ring or email the college office with your daughter's name by 2PM FRIDAY 9 MARCH (extended due date and time). Students being supervised on site on 12 March need to come in full school uniform and bring independent work for the day. They must also bring lunch and a snack as the canteen will be closed. Buses will run as normal. Please refer to the information letter sent home with your daughter or email sent to your given email address on Saturday 3 March.

SECOND HAND UNIFORM We are in need of second hand skirts, sizes 12-18. If you (or anyone you know) have any to donate, or wish to sell, please send to the office with your name and contact number.

God's blessing to you and your families.

CAROL CCODDINGTON
PRINCIPAL

ASB POLYFEST

Rehearsals and planning are well underway for this years' ASB Polyfest from the 14th - 17th March at the Manukau Sports Bowl, Manukau City, Auckland. We have 238 students from Years 9 – 13 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. 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 Diversity Stage Groups are scheduled to perform on Wednesday 14th March from 2pm to 4.30pm. So save these dates and thank you so much to parents and whanau for your on-going support. *Donna Lambert – Cultural Coordinator*

HOW MUCH SCREEN TIME IS TOO MUCH?

There have been a number of articles published recently as to how much screen time is too much. A week or so ago "Nanogirl" Michelle Dickinson wrote an article in the New Zealand Herald "How much is too much screen time?" which is worth a read (http://www.nzherald.co.nz/lifestyle/news/article.cfm?c_id=6&objectid=11981746). The article relates to a recent study that found that, while use of devices in schools for academic use is not harmful, excessive use for social media, texting, gaming and so on can be. In fact, the research suggested only one hour a day screen time is about right. At this point, as a parent you may be wondering how on earth that is achievable given the prevalence of devices in most girls lives. The first thing you might consider doing is sharing and discussing this article with your daughter. Again there are many articles about other approaches you could take to limit screen time including setting the example yourself (e.g. no device use after 7 or 8 pm) setting limited viewing times, insisting that all devices are left in the kitchen or lounge overnight or turning the wifi off when you go to bed. Above all it is important to remember that you are the parent so, while this area can be tricky, you need to set the ground rules clearly.

MESSAGE FROM ACCOUNTS OFFICE: Please contact the accounts office on accounts@stdoms.ac.nz if you need a copy of the school fees statement for the year. There is a discount of \$100 per student if the school fees are paid in full by 31/3/2018. Tax receipts for any donations made will be sent to you during the April school holidays.

SPECIAL CHARACTER CORNER SAMOA TONGA APPEAL

Due to Cyclone Gita, many families in Samoa and Tonga needed funds for basic needs such as linen, toiletries and food. This disaster most definitely stands on a personal level as the families of some girls in our own school have been affected. Along with the Pacific leaders, Malia and Priscilla, the Vinnies leaders, the Eucharistic Ministers and the Tongan and Samoan Polyfest groups, we were all able to raise over \$1420 for the Tonga and Samoa Appeal, established by the Society of De Vincent de Paul. The first day of fundraising was on swimming sports day, selling baked goods and drinks during lunchtime. This event was filled with chaos and energy as volunteers carried trays of food around the lunch area, all drinks selling out within the first 5 minutes! Fortunately, we had raised over \$800 on that day. The following day, students were able to wear a Pacific Island accessory such as a Sei, Ula or Lei in exchange for a gold coin, however students and staff were generous enough to also just donate.

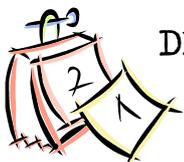
Students then were able to buy Otai, a Tongan refreshment, during lunchtime that was charitably made by the Ahio family. This day was also a success, raising over \$600. Thank you all who have participated in this appeal, especially to the parents and staff who took time out to help. May God and the will to serve others always be in our hearts.



VOCATION TALK

Pope Francis' message to young people during the SYNOD OF BISHOPS, XV ORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY, Young People, The Faith and Vocational Discernment, Introduction, is to consider God's plan for men and women of every age. Each one of us is called – whether to the lay life in marriage, to the priestly life in the ordained ministry, or to a life of special consecration – in order to become a witness of the Lord, here and now. On February 21st, 23rd and 28th, the Year 13 students listened to a panel of speakers who talked about the different states in life.

Father Sherwin Lapaan gave an introduction about Vocation. Miss Carmela Nepomuceno shared how she finds meaning and purpose in life in her ministry as a single woman. Tim Wilson also gave a talk about married life and reminded everyone that Love is a Decision and the joys of doing and sharing chores together. Sr Mary Neven RSM talked to the students about the life of a religious nun – the steps in becoming a nun, daily life, ministry, etc. All of the speakers talked about listening and discerning and how prayer can help in the discerning process



DIARY DATES: **Thur 8 Mar PTFA Meeting 7.00pm**, **Mon 12th Mar Academic Coaching**, **Thurs 14th March Polyfest begins**