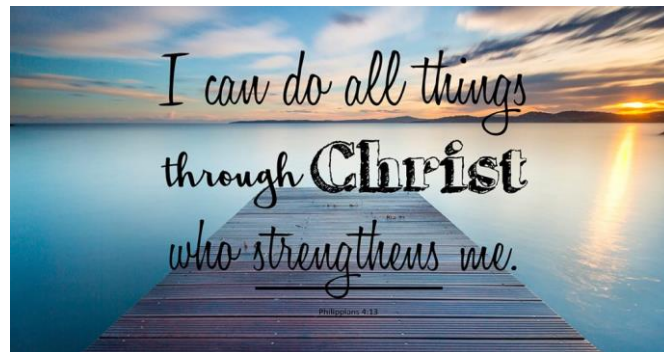


## *St Dominic's College Whānau Pānui* May 2023



Talofa lava whānau,

There continues to be a great busyness around the College, with special character events, extra-curricula activities, awards ceremonies, and other lovely celebrations occurring. This week I attended the Secondary Principals Association of New Zealand (SPANZ) conference in New Plymouth. With over 170 secondary school principals in attendance, we were privileged to hear from international and local speakers about the current movement in education and the state of wellbeing in New Zealand and around the world. Although we all acknowledge the global fatigue that appears to be hanging over us post lockdown, I feel a real sense of reassurance that our education system and in particular that of our own College, is moving forward on a positive and optimistic journey. With the changes to NCEA and the NZ Curriculum upon us, we have the opportunity to lead exciting developments in our teaching and learning programmes which will only enhance the learning experience for our young people.

### **Vinnies Commissioning Mass**

On Saturday 27th May, seven of our senior students were commissioned as Vinnies Leaders for 2023; Laura Tevaga, Epi Toomata, Emily Mudgway, Jivanni King, Elizabeth Finau, Punipua Afamasaga, and Mia Swann. Our candle bearer this year was Kara Smith in Year 7. The mass was held at the Cathedral and was a true celebration of student leadership across the Diocese. Vinnies is a youth branch of the Society of St Vincent de Paul.



The Vinnies leaders attend regular meetings, events and fundraisers throughout the year with other student leaders from other Catholic secondary schools across Auckland. At St Dominic's, our own school Vinnies group

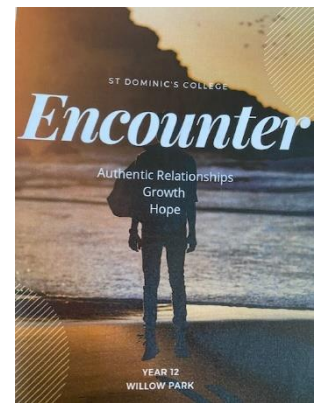


meets regularly at lunchtimes for fun, games and discussions around the work of the Vinnies group. This term's focus has been food insecurity. Recently they held a 'cook up' with our Liston brothers, where they prepared and cooked meals for those in need. Each week at our Tuesday masses and liturgies, students are invited to donate cans and other non-perishable food items, which are donated to St Vincent de Paul for those who are in need of support. Thank you for your ongoing support with this.



## Year 12 Retreat

Our Year 12 students enjoyed a fabulous overnight retreat at Willow Park last week, where the focus was 'Encounter'. Through whole year level, small group, and individual activities, they were challenged and supported to seek and identify the many encounters they had experienced in their lives. The activities provided opportunities for deep reflection and sharing. Many thanks to our LOGOS family for leading the retreat, as well as our own staff who shared this rewarding experience.



## Samoan Language Week

This week we celebrated Samoan Language Week. Our Samoan students proudly shared their cultural gifts and talents with their friends through cultural dance, prayer, song, and dress.



Some of our senior students were invited to perform at the University of Auckland at a special festival for secondary schools across the city.



We are incredibly proud of the multicultural diversity at St Dominic's.

The Pacific Language Weeks set aside by the Ministry for Pacific Peoples, provide a great opportunity for us to learn from each other about our diversity in culture, heritage, and language. It is important that we do not limit this learning to just a few dates or weeks a year. Each of our students bring a unique richness to their learning and we all grow in strength, wisdom and understanding when we intentionally and authentically take time to learn from one another. Thank you to staff and students who helped organise and lead the activities this week.



## Principals Awards

Our Principal's Awards assemblies are always a great celebration of high achievement across the College. Students are nominated for awards by their teachers for consistently achieving at a high level throughout the previous term. Students also receive awards for high achievement in extra-curricula activities such as high-performance sport, Duke of Edinburgh Awards, or other cultural achievements. Congratulations to all recipients from term 1.

### *Duke of Edinburgh Awards*



award sections; Voluntary Service, Physical Recreation, Skills and Adventurous Journey (along with Gold Residential – at Gold level only).

Congratulations to all the participants pictured above who have achieved at bronze, silver or gold levels of the Duke of Edinburgh Hillary Awards. These achievements show huge commitment and dedication over a sustained period. Well done!

### *Gold Award winner*

Congratulations to Bethany Friend, who completed the Gold Level Award earlier this year. Most young people who enter into the Duke of Edinburgh programme do not complete this top award until they have left school. Bethany has managed to complete it at the beginning of her Year 13 year! Well done, Bethany!



## Pink Shirt Day

Our annual Pink Shirt 'KINDNESS DAY' (Anti-bullying Day) was another great success with all students promoting the *kindness to all* message across the College.



### Use of AI (Artificial Intelligence) in student work

As you have probably seen in the news, there is a lot of discussion about the use of AI (Artificial Intelligence) programs in schoolwork. Student schoolwork, especially assessments, **must** be their own work. Use of AI for these purposes is cheating. All NCEA assessments are reviewed through the **Turnitin** program which identifies issues of plagiarism and AI use. Where AI use is identified, we will follow our usual procedures for cheating, with work scrutinised by senior staff with the likelihood that the work will receive a "Not Achieved" grade. All students have been advised of this. It may be worthwhile discussing this with your daughter to check that she understands that presenting AI generated work as her own is not acceptable.

### Continued Negotiations - PPTA and Ministry of Education

The PPTA (Secondary Teachers Union) and the Ministry of Education continue with negotiations, and strike action has resumed. The PPTA are currently reviewing other possible strike actions, and it is important that you are aware that these are likely to continue. We will do our best to keep disruptions to student learning to a minimum and appreciate your support as we navigate this time.

At present, the confirmed rostering home dates for different year levels are:

***Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June: Year 10 Rostered to learn from home.***

***Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June: Year 9 Rostered to learn from home.***

Supervision will be available for students under the age of 14 whose parents/caregivers need to go to work on this day. Please email Mrs Jones in the College office if you require supervision on this day for your daughter

[office@stdoms.ac.nz](mailto:office@stdoms.ac.nz)

### Piha Bus Update

From Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June the Piha bus will pick students up **15 minutes earlier** from their bus stops in the morning. This will help to ensure that students arrive at school on time.

### Health and Wellbeing

#### Headlice & Nits

There have been headlice outbreaks in two different year levels recently. Please check your daughters' hair. Attached to the Pānui email is some further information on how to check and treat your children's hair. Please contact us if you are unable to purchase headlice treatment or would like some further support or information about headlice.

### Key Calendar Dates

#### Week 7 – Week A

##### Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June

- Year 10 Rostered Home
- Level 1 Geography trip to the Museum

##### Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June

- Year 7&8 Football Tournament

##### Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June

- Year 9 Rostered Home
- Level 2 Outdoor Ed Rock Climbing

##### Friday 9<sup>th</sup> June

- Year 9 Retreat (more information to follow)

#### Week 8 – Week B - PRACTICAL ASSESSMENT WEEK

##### Monday 12<sup>th</sup> June

- Year 9 Retreat (more information to follow)

##### Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> June

- You Dance Competition

### **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June**

- Level 2 Outdoor Ed Rock Climbing
- Japanese Quiz Night

### **Week 9 – Week A**

#### **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> June**

- Big Sing

### **Week 10– Week B**

#### **Monday 26<sup>th</sup> June**

- Board Meeting

#### **Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June**

- Caritas Gold Coin Mufti Day

#### **Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> June**

- Academic Coaching – Subject teachers evening

#### **Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June**

- TEACHER ONLY DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED FOR INSTRUCTION – End of Term
- Level 2 Outdoor Ed Rock Climbing



Ngā manaakitanga,  
Anna Swann