

St Dominic's College Whānau Pānui End of Term 1 2024



Kia ora e te whānau,

It certainly seems as though this last term has just sped by, and as we enter the term break I know there will be many students taking the opportunity to rest, rejuvenate and take some time to have some fun with family and friends.

Easter Season

As a community we came together to celebrate the gift of Easter following the Easter weekend holiday we all enjoyed. Easter is a time to celebrate our church as one of hope and of joy. Our students are encouraged to find joy in each day and to show our gratitude to God for the world of hope that was created for us. Our journey as disciples of Jesus allows us the privilege of living Christ's message of faith, hope and love in all that we do.

Vinnies Leadership Camp

Four of our Year 13 Vinnies Leaders enjoyed a weekend retreat with other student leaders from Catholic schools in Auckland last weekend. The weekend allowed for our students to be immersed in an environment aimed at developing their leadership, relational and communication skills. The girls have all commented on how much they learned from their experience, as well as the fun they shared getting to know other Vinnies leaders from other schools.

Thank you to Vinnies and the St Vincent de Paul Society, for all that you do for our students, and of course the incredible work you do in caring for some of our most vulnerable members in our community.

We look forward to the Vinnies Commissioning Mass at the Cathedral on Saturday 20th April.

2023 NCEA results

Once again, we are pleased to say that our NCEA results from 2023 have met our high expectations confirming, that St Dominic's Catholic College is the top academic school for girls in West Auckland.

Thanks, as always to our hard-working staff and of course to the students who put in the hard mahi.

Highlights

Level 1 NCEA pass rate of 82% compared to 60% nationally.

Level 2 NCEA pass rate of 90% compared to 72% nationally.

Level 3 NCEA pass rate of 80% compared to 66% nationally.

61% of Level 1 students endorsed with Merit or Excellence

47% of Level 2 students endorsed with Merit or Excellence

44% of Level 3 students endorsed with Merit or Excellence

Over 95% of our school leavers gained at least Level 2 NCEA

Regional Debating Championship

Two teams represented St Dominic's at the Auckland Schools Regionals Debating Championships run by the New Zealand Schools Debating Council on the weekend of the 23rd March. This is a debating tournament in which debaters go through a marathon of debates each day.

Team 1 (Year 12): *Delara Elavia, Leah D'Lima, MJ Segers and Andy Suson*

Team 2 (Year 11): *Danielle Monteiro, Olivia Matson and Journee Tahere*



Both St Doms teams conducted themselves very well and excelled even when pitched against well experienced Year 12 & 13 debaters from across Auckland, despite the pressure and lack of experience. Team 1 was awarded the 'Best Team from a new school' award and Delara Elavia was selected to join the 'Development Squad', which is an opportunity given to a select group of 12 students from more than 150 debaters! We are indeed very proud of all our debaters. Well done!

Mathematics opportunity

MINDNZ (Mathematical Inclusion and Diversity in New Zealand) aims to encourage a passion for mathematics and foster a collective of diverse and inclusive young minds across New Zealand.

They have an incredible opportunity that they believe will enhance students' mathematical skills and broaden their horizons. MINDNZ will be offering interactive Maths Problem Solving Tutorials. Classes will be held every week for the next 6 months. The sessions are recommended for Years 9 to 11 (although anyone can join). Experienced student instructors will cover the topics of Algebra, Number Theory, Geometry and Combinatorics. No prior knowledge is needed, the instructors will be stepping you through step by step.

The courses and content are all completely free.

For the course schedule please refer to the MINDNZ website:

<https://mindnzorg.wixsite.com/mindnz/mathsproblemsolvingtutorials>

To sign up and secure your spot on this course, fill out the form below.

<https://forms.gle/bvnnUxKyWQhsBw546>



Publication in 'Re-Draft' Writing Competition

Our students were presented with the opportunity of entering in the 'Re-Draft' Writing Competition' which is a nationally acclaimed collection of teenagers' writing, published yearly.

Publication is the prize undoubtedly cherished by all writers and this was made even more special with Award-winning writers such as, Alan Bunn, James Norcliffe, Tessa Duder, Michelle Elvy and Glyn Strange being the judges.

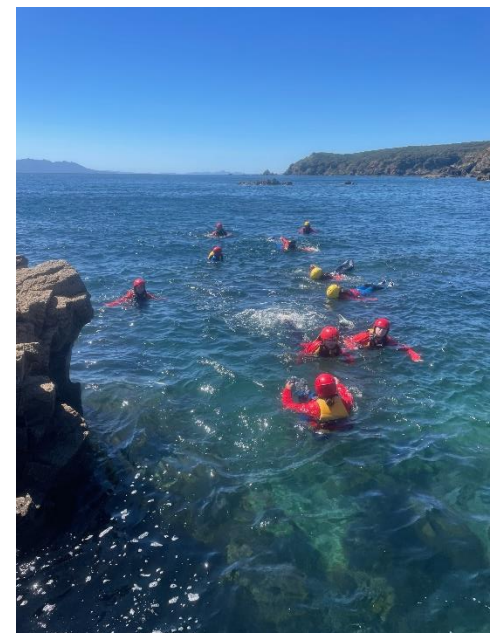
We are thrilled to announce that Carissime Alfante won publication of two of her poems, while Isabelle Nash got her single entry published late last year.

The judges complimented both students for producing poems of such high quality, and the girls were placed in the top 85 teenage writers of New Zealand, from among more than 500 entries. Well done, Isabelle and Carissime! We are very proud of you.

Coasteering

Our Year 12 Outdoor Ed class enjoyed an exciting day out as part of their Outdoor Education course.

The weather was perfect, and a lot of fun was had by all.



Swimming Sports

It was great to be back at West Wave for our College Swimming Sports after a 3 year break due to Covid restrictions and maintenance work at the complex.

Participation was the absolute winner on the day, with the highest numbers of signups in history. A huge thank you to our wonderful Sports and House Leaders who encouraged and supported all students to have a go and to get into the water.

The competition was fierce and those who entered events represented their Houses by wearing the coloured cap of their House with pride and to gain extra house points.

Year 7 Swimming Champion



Oshean Augustin

Year 8 Swimming Champion



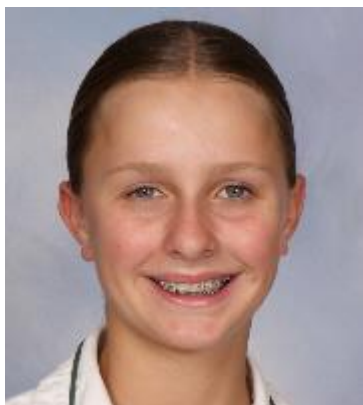
Maddison Chang

Junior Swimming Champion



Laila Wright

Intermediate Swimming Champion



Fleur Stone

Senior Swimming Champion



Carolann Faamani

A special mention must go to Carolann, who also broke the school record for breaststroke, which had been held for 7 years.

The House placings were as follows:

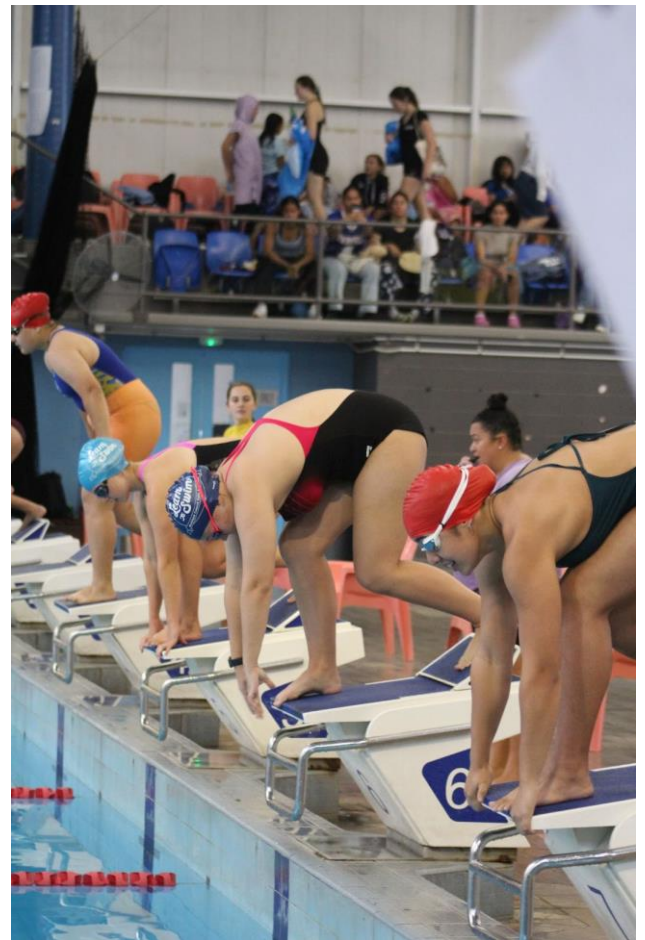
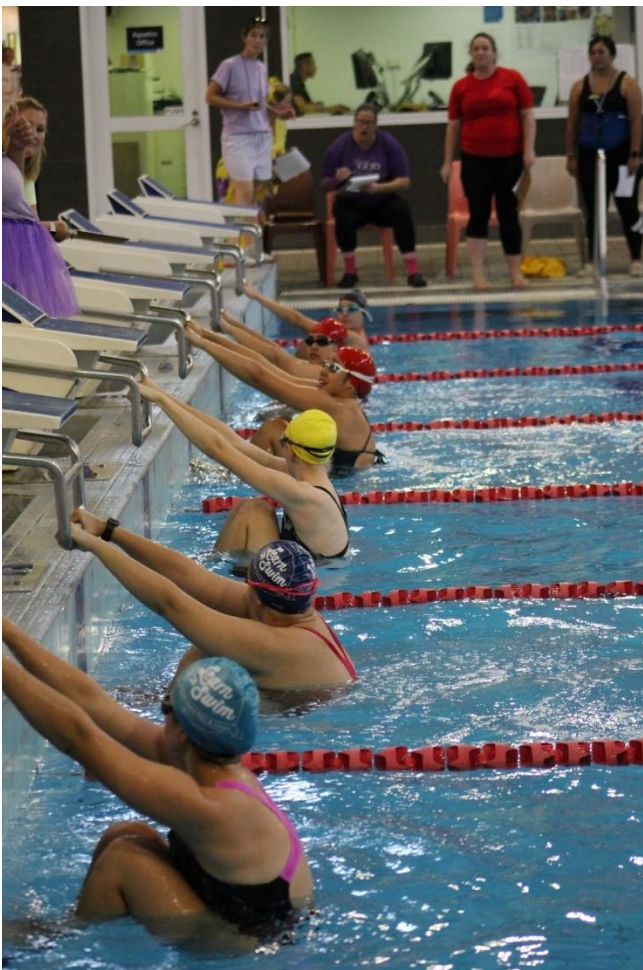
1st - St Rose's

2nd - St Mary's

3rd - St Catherine's

4th - St Maragret's

Another highlight of the day must be the final race of the day with Year 13's challenging the staff at a 4x25m relay. I am very pleased to announce that both staff teams came in 1st and 2nd. Well done to those staff that swam – this was a matter of pride for sure!



Great news from...

Surf Life Saving

Congratulations to Mackenzie Leighton, Ella Haynes, Cassidy Foster, Stella Arkle.

These four fabulous Year 11 students have all completed the course and training required to become qualified IRB Drivers.

Following their qualification, they competed at the Waipu Cove competition recently where they placed and received medals! Well done girls – a great achievement!



Waka Ama



Two of our St Doms students Isabella and Kanoa Palemene-Itunu, represented St Dominic's College in the composite team comprised of St Doms, St Mary's, and Marist College students. They were given the opportunity to train for a few sessions before competing in the Auckland Schools senior Waka Ama regatta.

It was a worthy cause; in that they achieved their goals and had a great time. A huge thank you to all those involved in supporting our rangatahi. Long may it continue!

Surfing

Ella Withers competed in the Intermediate School Scholastics Competition as well as the U14s Billabong National Series, which is across three competitions.

Ella won both titles and is now the Regional Intermediates Champion and the National Billabong Series Champion! Awesome Ella!! We are very proud of you!

Ella, Poppy Arkle, and their composite team of surfers from Green Bay High also competed at the NZSS Surf Festival in Muriwai and we can't wait to hear their results!



Equestrian

Congratulations to Charlotte Cashin who received a winning ribbon as the overall Senior Secondary School Rider for the 2024 NZPCA Dressage Championship that she won with her horse, Cashin's World Star.

Well done Charlotte on all your achievements. We look forward to following you on your Equestrian journey.

Uniform, jewellery and school rules

At St Dominic's we are very proud of our school uniform. The rules and regulations in place are not invented to lessen an individual's expression of their unique identity, nor are they in place as punitive measures to keep students 'in line'.

School uniform plays a key role in promoting pride, self-confidence, and a feeling of belonging. These factors contribute to students' wellbeing, removing the additional pressures of deciding what to wear and added stress of meeting the expectations of their peers.

At St Dominic's we also find our uniform to be a great 'leveller' for our diverse learning community. Our second-hand uniform items, managed by our PTFA, are also available to purchase at greatly discounted cost to ensure all our students have equitable access to uniform.

Lately there has been an increase in the number of students choosing to bend or break the rules we have in place, particularly regarding jewellery, piercings, make-up, eyelashes and eyelash extensions and the wearing of additional non-permitted clothing pieces.

Can you please remind your daughters of the uniform rules, regulations, and guidelines they agreed to on their enrolment at St Dominic's.

For any clarity around school uniform, please check out the College website link here:

<https://www.stdoms.ac.nz/Our+College/Uniform.html>

Government ban on student phones in schools

Next term the Government's ban on all use of mobile phones by students in schools, will come into action. Please discuss this with your daughter in preparation for the new rules that will need to be followed. You will have received an email from me in the last couple of weeks, outlining the processes and protocols in place.

Unless issued a pass from the principal for special circumstances, all students will be expected to have their phones switched off and kept somewhere safe (bag, locker etc) between 8.40am and 3.20pm.

Students will be reminded of the changes to mobile phone use during the school day. In situations where students are not following the new law, phones will be collected by a staff member and taken to the office for collection after school. In situations of repeated behaviour, parents/caregivers may be called to collect their daughter's phone.

Please note that the College accepts no responsibility for any damage or loss of phones or other personal property at school.

Communication with students

Plans for afterschool pick-ups, practices and travel plans should be discussed and organised before school starts each day. In the rare event that you need to collect your daughter from school early, please contact the office to arrange for her to meet you at reception.

If you need to get in contact with your daughter during the school day (8.40am - 3.20pm) you can do so by email to her school email address or by contacting the school office on 09 839 0380.

If you choose to leave a text or voice message on your daughter's phone, please be aware that she will not receive that message until the end of the school day, when she is allowed to turn her phone back on.

Sickness or injury at school

If your daughter becomes unwell or is injured at school during the school day, you will be contacted by the office to collect her.

Energy Drinks - Healthy or Harmful

That has been the debate across all Year 11 Science classes recently. Our students have been researching not only the ingredients contained in energy drinks, but also the effect these ingredients have on the human body. At school we encourage *water only* to be drunk throughout the day.

There are many water fountains around the school grounds for students to refill their water bottles.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O6epKlw7W5M&authuser=>

Changes to Public Transport

Fares for travel on AT buses, trains and ferries are changing for under 25-year-olds from Wednesday 01 May 2024. As this is a change which will affect many of our students,

Free travel for 5 - 12 year olds and half-price travel for 13 to 24 year olds on AT bus, train and ferry services **will end on 30 April 2024**, in line with the government's decision to withdraw funding for these concessions.

This means that from Wednesday 1 May:

- **5 - 12-year-olds will no longer travel for free on weekdays** and will instead pay a child concession (at least 40% off adult fares). They will continue to travel for free on weekends. The child concession will apply to anyone aged 5 to 15, who has a registered AT HOP card with their correct date of birth.
- **13 - 15-year-olds will stop receiving the half-price child fares discount** and instead switch to paying full child fares (at least 40% off an adult fare during weekdays, and free travel on weekends) from 1 May. The child concession will apply to anyone aged 5 to 15, who has a registered AT HOP card with their correct date of birth.
- **16 - 19-year-olds with a secondary student concession will stop receiving the half-price secondary fares discount** and instead switch to paying full secondary fares (at least 40% off an adult fare). Students aged 16-19 should apply for the secondary student concession to ensure they are paying the cheapest fare possible.

More information about the discounts and what you may need to do next can be found at www.AT.govt.nz/farechanges

PPTA Paid Union Meeting for teachers

On Wednesday 15th May, there is a PPTA Paid Union Meeting. Teachers will be attending an offsite meeting from 1pm.

Year 9 – 13 students will be able to go home at 12.10pm.

Year 7 & 8 classes will run as normal for the full day until 3.20pm.

School buses will run as normal on this day.



Anzac Day

On Thursday 25th April each year, we stand still for a moment to remember all those who serve in times of conflict and war. The freedoms we enjoy today are due in no small part to the courage and sacrifice made by thousands of men and women who have, and those who continue to dedicate their lives here in Aotearoa, and overseas, so that we may be safe.



*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.*

Take care and keep safe this term break.

Ngā manaakitanga,
Anna Swann

Term 2 Dates April and May

Week 1 Week B

Monday 29th April

- Start of Term 2
- Life Changer Event Year 8

Tuesday 30th April

- Life Changer Event Year 8

Wednesday 1st May

- Year 12 RYDA
- Life Changer Event Year 8

Thursday 2nd May

- Life Changer Event Year 8

Friday 3rd May

- Pompallier Shield @ Rosmini College
- Year 13 Tula'i Leadership Summit

Week 2 Week A

Monday 6th May Prayers for Palestine Week

- Life Changer Event Year 8

Wednesday 8th May

- University of Auckland visit P4

Thursday 9th May

- Year 7 Retreat (Classes TBC)

Friday 10th May

- Year 7 Retreat (Classes TBC)
- Vinnies Overnight Event (TBC. Details to follow)

Week 3 Week B (for Timetable)

Monday 13th May

- Year 7&8 Immunisations

Wednesday 15th May

- PPTA Paid Union Meeting School finishes early

Friday 17th May

- Swimming Champs

Saturday 18th May

- Rockquest

Week 4 Week A

Tuesday 21st May

- Year 7&8 WZ Football Camp

Wednesday 22nd May

- Level 3 Art Trip
- University of Otago visit P4

Thursday 23rd May

- Young Free and Pasifika Year 11 & 13
- Year 12 Overnight Retreat

Friday 24th May

- Year 12 Overnight Retreat returns

Saturday 25th May – Sunday 26th May

- Bronze D of Ed Weekend

Week 5 Week B – Cultural Week

Monday 27th May

- Possible Health and Safety Course for Gateway

Tuesday 28th May

- Possible Health and Safety Course for Gateway
- APO Music trip

Wednesday 29th May

- Possible Health and Safety Course for Gateway
- Careers Out West 2024 Expo

Thursday 30th May

- Possible Health and Safety Course for Gateway
- Cultural Night

Friday 31st May

- L2 Outdoor Ed Rock Climbing
- L3 Bio Trip to Tiritiri Matangi