

St Dominic's College Whānau Pānui May 2024



Kia ora e te whānau,

It has been another busy month with a lot going on in and around the College. We have enjoyed some special celebrations, and come together in unity for those in our community, and around the world, suffering in grief and conflict.

Vinnies Commissioning Mass

We have a very active Young Vinnies group who oversee, organise and run events and activities which promote service, and social justice. These servant leaders were recognised and commissioned at the Vinnies Mass at the Cathedral on 20th April.

Congratulations to Our Year 13 Vinnies Leaders; Punipuo Afamasaga, Morningstar Finau, Jivanni King, and Mia Swann, in their second year of Vinnies leadership and also to our Year 12 Vinnies leaders; Margaret Lian Zaw, Caitlin Morris, Alaha Paea Jr, and Ashley Vaifale. Your service to our college and the community is commendable.



Pompallier Shield

At the beginning of May a team of our students represented St Doms at the annual Pompallier Shield event, this year held at Rosmini College. The Pompallier Shield is a prestigious event that brings together Catholic schools from across the Auckland Diocese to compete in Scripture Reading, Oratory, Te Reo Scripture and Waiata.

Our students impressed the judges with their well-prepared presentations and captivated the audience with their oratory skills and beautiful Waiata performances.

Everyone on the team deserves recognition for their dedication and hard work, including the staff who prepared and supported the girls.

Everyone enjoyed the experience of the Pompallier Shield which also gave the team the opportunity to connect with their friends and peers from other Catholic schools. A huge thanks to Mrs Stepanicic, Mrs Ah Ken and Whaea Hera for their support and guidance of our team in the preparation for, and support at the event.

Pompallier Shield Team:

Junior Scripture: Dolores Sagatu

Junior Oratory: Robyn-Leigh Cascalheira

Senior Scripture: Caitlin Cascalheira

Senior Oratory: Olivia Taylor & Annika Paras

Waiata/Himene: Sovita Ah Him, Cassey Del Rosario, Elizabeth Finau, Pualani Fononga, Sihyenne Fuiava, Alaha Jr Paea, Jivanni King, Jenaya Lata, Lavender Toa, Tasi Vaeono, Ashley Vaifale.

Holy Lands Initiatives Week

The ongoing crisis in Gaza continues, and the news reports daily of the devastation being experienced by so many innocent people.

Our prayers and thoughts are always with our brothers and sisters suffering around the world in war, and for this week we set aside time to focus our energy to the Holy Lands, praying for peace, for hope and for an end to this relentless destruction.

Thank you to Rahaf Gouda and Charlotte Tolcher (Year 13) and Mrs Ah Ken and other staff, for leading us through this week of focussed prayer and action. Money raised through the events of the week have been donated to charity.



Pink Shirt Day

With a school swimming in pink shirts, pants, pyjamas and tutus, the importance to *BE KIND* could not be missed. The ground was covered with messages encouraging love, care, and kindness. All money raised on the day have been donated to the Mental Health Foundation to support their work in supporting those in our community who have suffered due to acts of bullying or harm.

We all need to remember that in a world where you can be anything – be kind 😊



Year 12 Retreat

Our Year 12 students enjoyed a great two days at Willow Park on Eastern Beach last week on their overnight retreat. The theme was 'Encounter' and the students spent the days reflecting, sharing and looking forward to what is yet to come.



It is always a special time when our students come together as a year level to appreciate what is, has been, and is yet to come. Huge thanks to Mrs Ah Ken and the LOGOS crew for your prep, planning and guidance as well as to the staff who shared the experience with the girls.

Principal Awards

It is always a special morning when we celebrate the efforts and achievements of many of our students at a Principal Awards assembly.

The number of students nominated for these awards was at a high, and we celebrated with pride.



Also celebrated at the assembly, were those reaching different levels of achievement in the Duke of Edinburgh Hillary Awards. Students celebrated bronze, silver and gold awards, recognising their ongoing commitment to this prestigious internationally recognised programme. Congratulations to all award recipients.

Otago Junior Mathematics Competition

Thirteen Year 9, 10 and 11 students participated in the first round of the Otago Junior Mathematics Competition, along with about five thousand other students from 146 schools across New Zealand. From those competitors, around 1200 students have been invited to participate in the second part of the competition. Congratulations to Nadhanya Tobin, Yanying Liu and Alvira Chand who have all qualified for this final round.

A special mention goes to Nadhanya Tobin, who was placed in the top 15% of Year 9 students nationwide who competed in Round 1.

Auckland Schools Seasonals Debating Championship

Our Senior Debating team participated in the Auckland Seasonals Debating Championship on Sunday, the 10 of March. This involved a marathon of debates from 8 am to 7 pm with the moot topics ranging from student leadership to age quotas in parliament, to preferring a world with no extreme emotions!

The team won all four of their debates and won the Championship in the Novice Division against very strong teams including the likes of ACG and Ormiston Senior College! The team members were Leah D'Lima, Delara Elavia, Andy Sason and MJ Segers. Leah D'Lima was declared the fifth best speaker and Delara Elavia the third best speaker from among 15 teams! Hearty Congratulations to our winners. We are indeed proud of you.



Practical Assessment Week

This week is our Practical Assessment Week for senior students.

All students have been provided a timetable for the week and should know when they should be at school and when they should be at home preparing for their practical assessments.

All students need to be in full and correct school uniform when at school and have with them everything they need for their subject assessments. This is a great opportunity for students to have an extended period when they can complete assessments with the support from their teachers. Please discuss your daughter's schedule with her so that she can share the expectations of Practical Assessment Week with you.

Cultural Week

We celebrated the diversity of our multi-cultural college last week with our Cultural Week activities. Through the week, students were invited to purchase cultural food, participate in activities and dress in cultural clothing. The week culminated in a fabulous evening showcasing dancing and singing from around the world. A huge thank you goes out to our Cultural Leaders, Cynthia Gituranya and Janzen Nicolas as well as Mrs Karanga and Mrs Friend for all your tireless prep planning and organisation for the week. A massive shout out to all the staff, past students and family members who supported the different groups and activities.

Samoa Language Week

In amongst the business of our Cultural Week celebrations, it was also Samoan Language Week.

We celebrated this through a beautiful prayer and liturgical dance at assembly, shared by Miss Ng Lam and a group of our talented young Samoan women, and this afternoon, our Samoan group journeyed over the fence to perform for our Henderson North whānau.



As a kaitiaki of a Pacific nation, it is important that we continue to acknowledge the special part of the world we live in, and that our national Pacific Language Weeks are a beautiful way of celebrating our Pasifika cultures. At St Dominic's one of the greatest joys is being encouraged to acknowledge and celebrate our international cultural identity all year round.



Government ban on student phones in schools

Thank you for all your support with the implementation of the new mobile phone rules. I acknowledge the challenges that have arisen with navigating the busyness of family life and appreciate that it may take a little time for us to get used to other ways of doing things.

Please note:

Sickness at school after the 8.40am bell

If your daughter starts to feel unwell at school, she needs to:

- Tell her class teacher if she is in class at the time.
- Go to the main office area and see the sick bay attendant or one of the office staff, who will assist her.
- The office staff will phone the parent/caregiver on file.
- Unwell students will remain in the sick bay or office area until they are collected and signed out by a parent/caregiver/designated person.

In the case of sickness, it is important that students do not contact home without notifying the college office. Your daughter is in the care of the school from her arrival.

Forgotten gear or equipment

If your daughter has left something at home that she needs for the day, she needs to:

- Go to the office before school/at interval/at lunch time where she will be able to phone her parent/caregiver on the school phone or get permission from office staff to use her own phone.
- Use school email to contact parent/caregiver

Change of plans after school or any other reason to contact parents/caregivers

If there has been a change to afterschool plans (e.g. training or event cancellation) she needs to:

- Go to the office before school/at interval/at lunch time where she will be able to phone her parent/caregiver on the school phone or get permission from office staff to use her own phone.
- Use school email to contact parent/caregivers.

F45 Massey



Our premiere netball team enjoyed a few of days training with our friends at F45 in Massey over the holidays.

Coach Jess put them through their paces in cardio and weights sessions as part of their pre-season preparation for the season ahead.

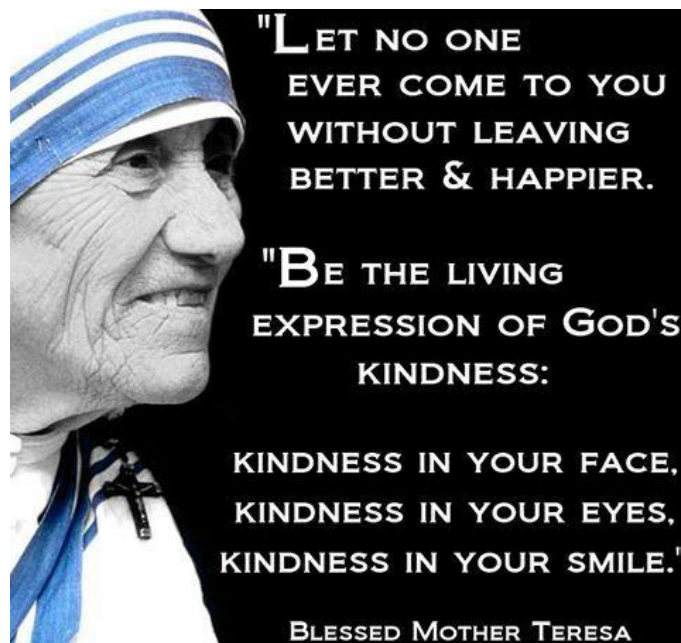
Huge thanks go to Emma and her team at the Westgate studio for supporting us and organising the sessions.



Employment Opportunities

Come work for us – Advocacy Lead at Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand

Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand is the Catholic bishops' agency for justice, peace and development, part of a global federation. We're on the hunt for an Advocacy Lead to join our team and bring about positive social justice through education, advocacy, and Māori engagement. The ideal candidate will have strong writing and research skills, experience in an advocacy and/or policy position, and a relevant tertiary qualification. Reporting to the Chief Executive of Caritas NZ and the Regional Coordinator of Caritas Oceania, they will be responsible for contributing towards the establishment of the advocacy function and framework for Caritas Oceania and Caritas NZ and coordinating programmes aligned to the Caritas mission. This role offers an exciting opportunity within a close-knit Wellington-based team. Visit <https://mclaren.co.nz/vacancies/?ja-job=4240637>



Have a lovely week whānau.

Ngā manaakitanga,
Anna