



## *St Dominic's College Whānau Pānui* September 2024



Kia ora e te whānau,

I hope you have enjoyed the last couple of weeks with your daughters. It was a much-needed break for many after a rather full-on term 3. The final term for 2024 starts off with plenty of action and celebration, with less than three weeks before most of our senior students depart for their pre-exam study leave.

Please keep an eye on the school calendar and dates at the end of this Pānui, for the key information for different prize-giving ceremonies and end of year celebrations.

### **Sacramental Mass**

On the first Saturday of the holidays, a group of St Dominic's and Liston students received the Sacraments of Baptism, First Holy Communion and Confirmation at our Sacramental Mass at Holy Cross Parish, Henderson.

It was a beautiful celebration for not only the candidates, but also for their families and our entire school community. We are always incredibly grateful to Pa Peter Tipene for his attendance, particularly his warm and authentic guidance in the faith formation of our young people.

A huge thank you to our friends at LOGOS for your service in ensuring our girls were provided with a fully rich, spiritual and catechistic programme to learn through, and of course to Mrs Ah Ken for your expert organisation and leadership.

## **High Achievers Awards**

At the end of last term, we celebrated outstanding achievements in a range of life areas, at our High Achievers Awards Ceremony.

Recognition was given to students who have represented and achieved at a Regional, National or International level, in Academics, the Arts, Sports, and Culture.

This wonderful celebration highlights the huge range of skills, talents and gifts that are evident in our college community, and the resilience and dedication shown by our students as they set goals, work hard and persevere to seek greatness.

Congratulations to all award recipients for your ongoing efforts and commitment and the perseverance you show when things do not necessarily go the way you had planned. Huge thanks to all parents, caregivers, whānau and staff who put in the hours (and the miles) to support our girls in all they do.

## **Japanese Culture & Language Tour**

A group of students and staff set off on an overseas cultural experience to Japan over the holidays. This trip had been very much anticipated, with a lot of preparation going into the planning.

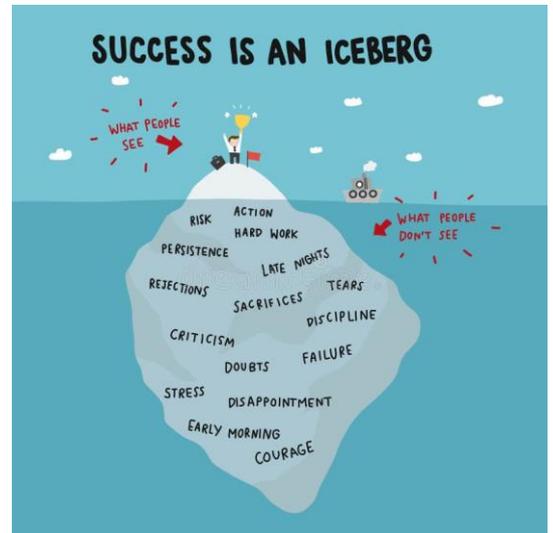


I was lucky enough to catch up with the girls at one of our sister schools in Shinagawa, Tokyo. They were having a fabulous time and really enjoying experiencing the culture and language from within.



A huge thanks to lead teacher Karino Ito for everything you did to organise and prepare the girls for this adventure. Also, to Mr Jellyman for your support and guidance.

A great trip for all involved and certainly some precious memories have been made!



## Gateway Programme 2024

Our Gateway Programme provides opportunities for some of our Year 12 & 13 students to experience possible career pathways in a hands-on and practical way.

This year some of our students attended placements which saw them not only experience a taste of career possibilities, but also provided authentic learning contexts that supported growth of understanding in different fields and pathways.

These placements included culinary school where students were taught in a master class environment by highly accredited chefs and hospitality providers.

Childcare, trades and medicine are also areas where Gateway can provide a taster for students still undecided as to their career pathway.

All students enrolled in Gateway programmes, come away with not only great experience, but also gain valuable Level 3 NCEA credits, and certificates in their chosen field.

Thank you to all the providers that support our students and of course to Ms Ally Glen for your organisation and guidance in the Gateway programme.



## **Touring Netball Teams from Australia**

On the last Thursday of term, we hosted a touring netball team from Melbourne, Australia.



The *Melbourne Pasifika Secondary Schools* team was in New Zealand to compete in the Pacific Rim Invitational Secondary Schools Tournament that was held at Te Pai Netball Centre over the holidays.

Joining them on their tour was their Junior Academy team, and we were asked to put up a team of our own Junior players for a game. Thank you to all who played, coached, umpired, and helped to organise this fun event, and to our families, staff and students who came along to support.

## **Year 7&8 Basketball**

Our Year 7&8 Basketball team enjoyed participating at the Western Zones competition at The Trusts Stadium, in the last week of term. They played hard and fair and came away with a plate win!

A huge thank you to Mrs Batiri Hughes for sharing your skills and knowledge of the game, and to all our parent and grandparent supporters.

It is always great to see our students representing their school at Western Zone competitions. The experience helps support a great sense of sportsmanship, fun and school pride.

Well done to all our students who participate in these events.



## **Pacific Rim Secondary Schools Netball Tournament**

We had five students representing their respective Pacific nations at the Pacific Rim Secondary Schools Tournament.



Bella Latu (Tonga), Jenaya Lata (Samoa),  
Anuella Vagana (Samoa), Mia Swann (Samoa)  
Esther Prasad (Fiji).



It was great to see St Doms represented at this high level of representative netball. Well done girls. You make us all very proud.

### **Attendance**

In term 4, we continue with our focus on attendance and punctuality. Consistent attendance at school remains the number one contributor to academic success and is the foundation of our college culture. Unless unwell, students are expected at school, on time, every day. Please continue to support your daughter each day, to get to school on time, with everything she needs. Thank you.

### **Uniform and Jewellery expectations**

Thank you for your on-going support of our uniform expectations at the College. We remain incredibly proud of the standard of our uniform at St Dominic's, and appreciate your support in upholding this. The school holidays are always a lovely opportunity for our students to pierce, stick, wear, dye or grow some fabulous additions. Please remind your daughters that in preparation for her return to school on Monday, anything that doesn't meet the uniform expectations will need to be removed. Our uniform helps us maintain an equitable and proud school culture.

As always, thank you for your support in this. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact your daughter's dean.

Enjoy your weekend everyone.  
Looking forward to a great term ahead.

Ngā manaakitanga,  
Anna Swann

*“The future  
belongs to those  
who believe in  
the beauty  
of  
their dreams.”*

*- Eleanor Roosevelt*

**Some Highlights from the Calendar** - *Please check the college calendar on your portal for more information*

**Week 1 - Timetable B**

*Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October*

- Sports Prizegiving at 7pm

**Week 2 - Timetable A**

*Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October*

- Book Character Dress Up Day
- Senior Prizegiving at 7pm

**Week 3 - Timetable B**

*Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October*

- Labour Day School Closed

*Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> October*

- Thanksgiving Mass

*Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> October*

- Year 12 Leadership Day
- Orientation Evening

**Week 4 - Timetable A**

*Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November*

- Board Meeting

*Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November*

- NCEA exams start

*Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November*

- Year 7 Arataki Trip

*Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November*

- Year 7 Arataki Trip

**Week 5 - Timetable B**

*Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November*

- Year 9 Camp Week
- Year 7&8 Touch Tournament

*Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November*

- Year 12 Leadership Day
- Year 9 Campers return