

DOMINIC COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

29 November 2023



From the Principal

CELEBRATING OUR 2023 YEAR 10s

Dear Year 10 Students,

As we approach the end of your academic journey at Dominic College, it is time to reflect on the incredible moments we have shared together. For some of you, this journey can be traced back to Kindergarten, whilst others joined along the way. This past year has been filled with growth, learning and unforgettable moments. As you prepare to transition to the next chapter of your high school years, we want to take a moment to celebrate your achievements, acknowledge your hard work and bid you a fond farewell.

Academic Achievements: You have demonstrated remarkable dedication to your studies and your academic achievements are a testament to your hard work and perseverance. Whether it was tackling a challenging exam, completing a demanding project, or mastering complex concepts, your commitment to excellence has not gone unnoticed. You have embraced that Dominic is **a SCHOOL that PREPARES FOR LIFE** through your determination and quest for excellence in learning.

Extracurricular Triumphs: Beyond the classroom, many of you have excelled in various extracurricular activities. From sports to arts, clubs to community service, your diverse talents have enriched our school community. Your passion, teamwork, and leadership during events such as the Relay for Life and our Community Fair have left a lasting impact, inspiring others to follow in your footsteps. You have modelled what it means to be part of **a PLAYGROUND where FRIENDS MEET AND ENJOY THEMSELVES** through your involvement and participation.

Friendships and Memories: One of the most cherished aspects of the past year has been the bonds of friendship that have formed among you, shown so evidently during your Retreat, masses and liturgical experiences. The memories created during sacred times will remain with you long after you leave these grounds. Treasure these connections as you embark on new adventures and continue to be people of faith and service, modelling what it means to be **a PARISH that EVANGELISES**.



As the Yeast in today's human family - 2023 Salesian Strenna

From the Principal continued...

Challenges Overcome: Life is full of challenges, and this year presented its own set of obstacles. In the face of the unexpected loss of your fellow student Ella James, our student community came together to support one another, demonstrating strength, resilience and unity during this challenging time. Whether it was navigating uncertainties, or overcoming personal challenges, you have shown that Dominic is always **a HOME that WELCOMES**, where care and support is offered to others especially in the most challenging times.

As you bid farewell to Year 10, remember that the journey does not end here - it is just the beginning of new learning adventures and opportunities. Embrace the future with enthusiasm, confidence and the knowledge that you are well prepared for the exciting road ahead.

On behalf of the entire community and staff, we want to express our gratitude for the joy, energy and enthusiasm you brought to our school community. We are confident that you will continue to achieve great things in the years to come.

My sincerest thanks and deepest gratitude go to our 2023 College Captains and Vice Captains Priyannika Kumrai, Jackson Smith, Lily-May Ward and Jett Benson and all our Year 10 House Captains and Leaders who have been great role models for the entire student body.

To each one of the graduates of the Class of 2023, I thank you for being young people who have tried to make the most of opportunities offered here and for striving to be model citizens who have represented our Salesian and Dominic community with pride.

Congratulations, Year 10, on a fantastic year! We wish you all the best in your future studies and endeavors.

Farewell and continue to 'live by the truth'!

Mr Stephen Casni
Dominic College Principal





A COMMUNITY OF FRIENDS

Dear Families

This week we take the opportunity to salute our Year 10 cohort as they complete their formal education at Dominic College. We send them off with much love and appreciation for their contributions to the life of the College.

In spite of having started their high school years in the grips of a global pandemic, this group has emerged with a sense of resilience, joy and adaptability which will hold them in good stead into the future. Their energy, vivaciousness and sense of humour have contributed to a culture of support and friendship at Dominic.

Last week, they sat their final exams and did this with a high level of preparation and maturity. They have immersed themselves in their learning and worked hard to achieve their potential across a vast range of activities and curriculum areas whether it be on the sporting field, in the creative arts precinct, or through community outreach.

Class of 2023, as you venture out in your various directions, we remind you that you will always hold a special place in our hearts and you will always belong to our community as Dominic Old Scholars. Best wishes to all of our Year 10 students in their future endeavours!

YEAR 10 REPORT COLLECTION MONDAY 11 DECEMBER, 2023

Year 10 students are invited back to the College on Monday 11 December to collect their Reports, Yearbooks and Statements of Learning. Students can drop into the Mackillop Learning Centre between 9.00am-10.00 am to collect these items. If they are unable to make it at that time, the items will be available in the Business Office, Grangeleigh, during office hours.

Mrs Alicia McMahon - Deputy Principal - Primary

Mrs Jan Marcenko - Deputy Principal - Secondary



As the Yeast in today's human family - 2023 Salesian Strenna



YEAR 10 LEADERS 2023



It has been our honour and privilege to represent Dominic College as your College Captains this year. We are both so grateful for every opportunity to leave our mark on this incredible school. The journey has been exhilarating, yet a challenge that we could not have overcome without the support of the entire College community; for this we thank you!

To begin this amazing year, we had the opportunity to lead Dominic in 'Relay for Life'. This event aimed to raise funds and awareness for cancer. Many people in our College community have been personally affected by this horrible disease, so 'Relay for Life' was one of our biggest events this year! Dominic College had the honour of leading the Luminary Ceremony for 2023. This was an extremely sentimental event for everyone involved, and is something we will both treasure for the rest of our lives. We were also lucky enough to share a video from Ella James, in which she shared her personal experience and battles with the illness.

Following this incredible event, we were faced with some of our hardest moments as a College. In the April holidays, we were informed of the passing of Ella James. As a valued Year 10 student, friend, Guzman Mission Captain, and strong leader, Ella's passing greatly impacted everyone in our College community, especially the Year 10 cohort. We cannot express enough, our gratitude towards everyone who showed us support during this time, and those who helped us honour Ella to the best of our ability.

Unfortunately, as the year progressed we found out that our beloved Ms Baker and Ms Graham had also passed away. Both of these staff members were amazing at what they did. They impacted the lives of a huge number of students and will always be remembered for their kindness and dedication to their work. Whilst these three deaths were hard on all of us, we surmounted them, supported one another and showed just how caring and connected the Dominic family really is.

As College Captains this year, we wanted to cultivate 'Acceptance and Diversity' in this place of belonging. We understand that everyone is different- we all have different strengths and qualities that make us who we are; we have different gifts that we can use for the betterment of the College and the outside community. We believe that these gifts should be recognised and cherished; that we should all be accepted for our diversity, no matter how big or small our talents are. We are pleased to say that as we reflect on this past year, we can see the growth that has occurred within this community. We have made each other stronger in the simplest of ways. Our staff vs. student games have strengthened our bonds and nurtured new ones.

Our relationships with students across K-10 have become more evident. We have shared both excitement and sorrow, overcoming challenges together- challenges that no one should have to face. We have celebrated our cultural differences and diversity through Harmony Day and the Asian Festival. We have not just accepted, but have embraced one another and the things that make us different. We have collectively built our family of different gifts and talents, learnt more about one another, and made friendships that may last a lifetime. We both could not be more proud of this community!

Finally, we could not have had such a memorable time in our roles, had it not been for the extraordinary effort of the team of magnificent people that have supported us throughout the year. While we cannot thank all of you enough for your unending encouragement, there are a few people we would like to mention specifically.

To Mr Casni, firstly, what a year! We cannot begin to thank you for leading us through such a tough and emotional time. It has been a real rollercoaster and we know it can't have been any easier for you than it was for us. You have been there for us



every step of the way, offering us your support and checking in every now and then. We cannot wait to see what you do for this school in the future.

To Mrs McMahon and Mrs Marcenko, thank you also for your support. The sense of encouragement we have both felt from your beautiful smiles and the considerable kindness you have shown every time you have checked in with us has made our time in these roles all the more enjoyable. We look forward to hearing about your influence on the College in the years to come. To Mr Kershaw, thank you for keeping us organised with upcoming events and special occasions. You are the reason that we have always been prepared for events, important gatherings, or simple mundane tasks. Everything you have done in your role has made our lives so much easier. You have been such an important figure to the two of us, and we are truly grateful for all of your efforts this year. We simply could not have done any of it without your continued support and encouragement!

To Mr Lapolla and Miss Farr, saying that we are grateful for the two of you stepping up and taking Mr Kershaw's position during one of the most stressful times of this year would be a major understatement. You brought a level of encouragement, excitement, and involvement to our Relay for Life fundraising that would have otherwise been lacking. You both make such a great team, and we are extremely thankful for your constant support, even after you went back to your original roles. We could not have made it through this year without you.

To Jett Benson and Lilymay Ward, our College Vice Captains. We could not have had as much fun as we did in our roles without the two of you. You each bring your own special talents to this crazy table we are all a part of. Lilymay, your creativity and eagerness to go above and beyond in tasks has helped us many times, and Jett, your impeccably kind and calm demeanour, and your willingness to help others has supported us through our most stressful times. We could not possibly ask for anything more from the two of you. You have made our lives all the more easier and fulfilling. Thank you for your unwavering commitment to the College and for having our backs. We truly appreciate all of the work you have done, especially behind the scenes! We know you will continue to be great leaders in the future.

To our House Captains and SRCs. Truly, we thank you for putting yourselves out there and giving your respective Houses the utmost commitment, respect, and dedication that our school sees everyday. From working behind the scenes, to running some of our major events, we cannot thank you enough for your efforts. As leaders this year, you have been a voice for the community, and have helped us address issues on behalf of the student body. You have all been great role models and representations of our schools through the way you conduct yourselves, especially when members of the public are present. We are so glad to have spent this time working with you, and cannot wait to see what the future holds in store for each of you.

To our classroom teachers, thank you for being so accommodating and supportive during our time in this role. We are extremely grateful for all the extensions you have given us, especially during the busiest times of the year. You are all amazing at what you do and we thank you for helping shape the people we are.

And finally, to the Class of 2023. You have given life and colour to this journey and we could not be more thankful for the time we have spent together, the memories we have made, all the laughter and banter, and the support of each and every one of you this year in particular. The past four years have been the most challenging, with us beginning high school with online learning, and slowly finding our ground with COVID. However, we made it through and we are both so proud of you all for completing Year 10 and overcoming the many obstacles we have faced.

We are so appreciative of all the support we have received, the friends we have made, and the memories we have created throughout our time here. We wish the 2024 College Captains: Millie, Michael, Will and Brooke the best of luck as they enter their final year at the College. We are leaving Dominic knowing that it is in the hands of mature and reliable young adults who we couldn't be more excited for. We encourage you all to make the most of your time here, and we thank you for allowing us this opportunity once again to lead you and leave our mark on the school that we call home!

Jackson Smith and Priyannika Kumrai - 2023 College Captains



A HOME THAT WELCOMES



A MOTIVATED COMMUNITY

It truly is a privilege to be able to pay tribute to, honour and farewell this wonderful group of young people on behalf of the staff of Dominic College. Some of you have been here for the majority of your lives having started at Dominic all the way back in Kinder, while others have joined the community more recently. As a staff, we have had the pleasure of seeing you all grow as you have navigated the highs and the lows of your secondary education, and to see you all come out the other side as confident and accomplished young adults fills us all with pride.

As a cohort, you have shown exemplary leadership and resilience, and we are so grateful to have had such a strong group of Captains, Vice Captains, House Captains, and the many, many unbadged leaders among you.

Year 10s, as you are belled out of Dominic College today, look to your bright futures with excitement and joy, and remember that you have the support of an entire community behind you. We are proud of all that you have achieved, and we look forward to seeing your smiling faces back here in the coming years. Please continue to sing our College song with vigour and dignity, and keep in touch. As was Don Bosco's wish, know that you, our students, are loved. We send you off with every blessing, and hope that you continue to share in the Salesian values of joy, friendship, strength and courage.

Mr Thomas Kershaw

Director of Learning and Wellbeing - Secondary



A HOME THAT WELCOMES



A CARING COMMUNITY

Year 10 Retreat – Unwrapping Our Gifts

From the 18-20 October, Year 10 attended the Spring Beach Youth Camp at Orford for a three-day Religious Education Retreat. The aim of the Retreat was for the students to appreciate the extent of their own and the gifts we see in others, and in doing so enhance their self-esteem and quality of relationships.

A highlight of the Retreat was the writing of affirmations for each other, and experiencing being affirmed for who they are, and recognising the positive qualities we all have. The students were very engaged and opened themselves up to the idea of retreating away from the everyday.

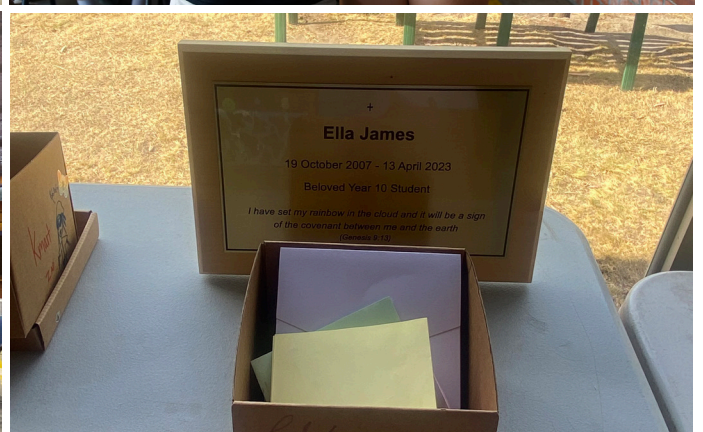
Many thanks to the staff that attended Mr Glidden, Miss Crawford, Miss Farr, Mr Roberts, Mr Kershaw, Ms Belinda Dooley, Fr Abilio Guterres SDB and Br Barry Parker SDB.

Year 10 Gratitude Mass

On 15 November, the Year 10 cohort gathered in the Mary Help of Christians Chapel for a gratitude Mass. This marked the final time that Year 10s would have Mass in the Chapel and was an opportunity to reflect on their journey, and to give thanks. The homily was delivered by a student representative from each core class, outlining the many things that they have been grateful for during their time at Dominic College.

Mr Adam Lapolla

Director of Faith, Mission and Identity



A PARISH THAT EVANGELISES



A LEARNING COMMUNITY

Congratulations, Year 10, on reaching this significant milestone in your learning journey. As you bid farewell to our College, we want to express our immense pride in your achievements. This year, Acceptance and Diversity have been a focus, and as a cohort, you embody strength and individuality within our diverse community.

Reflecting on your contributions over the years, you have embraced opportunities and have become an important part of Dominic College. From active involvement in sports teams, rosters, championships, and carnivals to participating in a range of co-curricular activities such as Tournament of the Minds, Debating Club, and after-school Art class. In addition to these, you have participated in various competitions including ICAS, the Japanese Speech Competition, Brain Bee, and the Australian History and Geography competitions. Your involvement in music ensembles, drama productions and visual art exhibitions have showcased your talents and developed confidence. Some of you took on the challenge of work experience or have had the opportunity to learn from experts in their field. These are only a few of your achievements illustrating how you have accepted diversity and enriched our community.

Academically, your classes have challenged you all, and have involved researching, presenting, writing, thinking, and experimenting. Exploring topics such as the historical context of World War 2, the inner workings of our genetics, the concepts of Shakespeare's Macbeth, and importance of geometry, has equipped you with a diverse skill set and has prepared you for a lifetime of learning. Carry this dedication and passion into your future adventures.

Your diverse ideas and qualities have played a crucial role in shaping your identity and will continue to guide you in your future endeavors. This is not the end of your learning journey; instead, it marks a new beginning. As you transition to a new community, whether it be a different school or workplace, carry with you the confidence to demonstrate your capabilities, strength, and eagerness to embrace new challenges. Accept feedback, if you receive it, and do not be afraid to reach out and ask for help.

As you embark on the next chapter, whether it involves senior secondary education, VET, traineeships, or apprenticeships, remember that this is your opportunity to choose the path that works for you. Embrace the spirit of learning, for it is through curiosity and knowledge that you will continue to grow and thrive. Continue to accept those around you and celebrate your own diversity within all that you do.

Ms Megan Eddington

**Director of Learning and Curriculum -
Secondary**



A SCHOOL THAT PREPARES FOR LIFE



A SPORTING COMMUNITY

Congratulation to our Year 10 students who have committed to the College's Sport Program.

If you have been at Dominic since Kindergarten, you would have participated in up to 36 School Carnivals in total over your journey. We hope you have created many memorable moments during these times.

A large cohort of our graduating Year 10 students have experienced success in many of their chosen sports during their time at Dominic College. Your commitment to College Sport from House Carnivals, Southern and State Carnivals, and participation in sporting teams has been outstanding.

Congratulations to our House Captains of 2023 Aivah Sproule, Jack Gilligan, Natasha McMaster, and Taylah Bernes on a very successful 2023.

We hope all students continue to pursue their sporting interests into the future.

Ms Kylee Chivers - Sports Administrator



A PLAYGROUND WHERE FRIENDS MEET



YEAR 10 SUBJECT AWARDS

Year 10 Religious Education
Priyannika Kumrai

Year 10 English
Priyannika Kumrai

Year 9/10 Creative Writing
Elena Nye

Year 10 Mathematics
Priyannika Kumrai

Year 10 Maths 10A Plus
Priyannika Kumrai

Year 10 Science
Priyannika Kumrai

Year 9/10 Animal Husbandry
Remi Holbrook

Year 9/10 Life Sciences
Priyannika Kumrai

Year 10 Humanities
Elina Korenstra

Year 10 Health and Physical Education
Natasha McMaster

Year 9/10 Athletic Development
Jack Gilligan

Year 9/10 Outdoor Education
Natasha McMaster

Year 9/10 Music
Priyannika Kumrai

Vocational Education and Training
Introduction to Hospitality (VET)
Rebekah James

Year 9/10 Information Technology
Ethan Lane

Vocational Education and Training
Introduction to Construction (VET)
Jayden Reid

Vocational Education and Training
Introduction to Engineering Pathways (VET)
Charlie Carr



YEAR 10 AWARDS

Ng Lavelle Family Academic Achievement Award
Sanjo Pakkathu Soviachen

Olympic Change Maker
Natasha McMaster

Ampol Best All-Rounder
Priyannika Kumrai

The GYC Bursary
Elina Korenstra

The Australian Defence Force: Long Tan Leadership & Teamwork Award
Evangeline Morrison

The Australian Defence Force: Future Innovators Award
Priyannika Kumrai

Rector's Award for Leadership in the Salesian Tradition
Jett Benson
Aidan Rayner
Annabelle Tolman
Lilymay Ward
Annabelle Rime
Lucy Johnston

Fr Kevin O'Mara SDB Sporting Commitment
Aivah Sproule

Fr Kevin O'Mara SDB Sporting Commitment
Jack Gilligan

Sr Pamela Davis OP Outstanding Achievement in Creative Arts
Priyannika Kumrai

Fr Kevin O'Leary SDB Outstanding Achievement in Creative Arts
Charlie Carr

Caroline Chisholm Distinguished Community Service Award
Ella James

St John Bosco Distinguished Community Service Award
Sanjo Pakkathu Soviachen

St Catherine of Siena Academic Student of the Year Award
Priyannika Kumrai

St Dominic Guzman Academic Student of the Year Award
Sanjo Pakkathu Soviachen

St Mary MacKillop Outstanding Leadership Award
Priyannika Kumrai

St Dominic Savio Outstanding Leadership Award
Jackson Smith

The College Principal's Award for Excellence
Annabelle Rime

Br Peter Dezani SDB Best All-round Student Award
Priyannika Kumrai