



# Francis Douglas Memorial College

Catholic College in the tradition of  
the De La Salle Brothers

20 October 2010

## From the Principal

Last term's newsletter may have been left in school bags after the last day of term since not many of our PTA members read this notice that they have asked me to reprint:

*Our PTA wants to know if parents need some helpful advice in keeping their sons safe. They will arrange an evening that will feature appropriate speakers to give information on issues surrounding drugs, alcohol, sexuality, internet safety or other issues if there is adequate parental demand. Please email your wishes to office@fdmc.school.nz with the title 'PTA Parent Evening' and make suggestions for content if you believe a gathering is warranted.*

At their next meeting in November, the PTA will plan for such a meeting if more than 20 families have emailed us. Only three families did last time.

We express our sympathy to Christopher Pearce and his family in the loss of Chris's mother after a long illness. May she rest in peace. I know that Chris is well supported by his friends who will work to lessen his grief.

Practice examinations for Years 11 to 13 students have concluded and as soon as possible, reports will be sent home to give early advice in time for it to be heeded.

MAD Day occurs on Friday and lead up activities are indicating a successful day. I want to give special tribute to Tyler Fleming whose two fundraising movie evenings represented creative entrepreneurial thinking. One of the movies, Last Paradise, featuring our own John and Finlay Neeson, is a must-see for any Taranaki resident.

Following Labour Day a contingent of board members, staff and students will journey to Auckland for two days to meet with Brother Alvaro Rodriguez Echeverria who is the world leader of the De La Salle brothers. This should be another special occasion for De La Salle College, John Paul College

and us to strengthen the Lasallian bond we have in common.

Thanks to fundraising from our PTA we have been able to produce some impressive historical photographs for display in our office foyer. The one displayed above features all of our students on the day we opened in 1959.

*St John Baptist de La Salle – Pray for us  
Live Jesus in our hearts – forever  
Martin Chamberlain*

## UPCOMING EVENTS AND END YEAR PROCEDURES

### INFORMATION FOR ALL STUDENTS

#### Senior Prizegiving and school attendance for junior students

Prizegiving on Thursday 11 November applies only to senior students.

All students in Years 7 to 10 should treat Thursday and Friday 12 November as normal school days. All senior students are expected to be at school on Thursday 11 November and in attendance at the prizegiving which begins at 11:00am. Recipients of awards will be notified shortly. This is the final day of classes for Years 11 – 13 and there will be no formal classes for them on Friday 12 November.

#### Stationery for 2011

This year's Year 10, 11 and 12 students will have to order their stationery online or purchase it from the shops during the holidays.

This year's Year 7, 8 and 9 students will be given instructions before school for them ends this year.

#### Administrative matters for those leaving

Students who are NOT returning to the College for 2011 need to:

- Return all textbooks to the subject teacher - if not before exams then definitely straight after them.
- Collect a Leavers' Form from the school office, or download one from [www.fdmc.school.nz](http://www.fdmc.school.nz) and ensure it is returned completed to the school office prior to the last day at school. Leavers' Cards cannot be issued unless these forms returned.

### Behavioural Expectations

I have spoken with the students about my expectations of behaviour in the weeks leading up to the exam period and for the weeks leading up to the end of the year.

It is most important for students to recognise that these final weeks through until Thursday 11 December are standard school days and the dress and behaviour expectations of all students are the same as for the rest of the year. Any transgression of the College rules over this period will be treated with the usual disciplinary action. Senior students who indulge in such behaviour may be required to begin study leave early. For Year 13 students, depending on the seriousness of the matter, they may not receive a College testimonial nor may they be permitted to attend the Graduation Ball.

These consequences may seem harsh but in light of the experience of previous years, fortunately not recently, and the fact that the boys are here to study and to maximise their opportunities, such measures may be necessary. I will not let any boy or group of boys stop anyone from maximising their opportunities and achieving the best results they can and I ask parents to help us reinforce this.

### INFORMATION FOR ALL YEAR 7 TO 10 STUDENTS

#### Junior Examinations

Exams for students in Years 9 and 10 will be held on Thursday 18 and Friday 19 November.

#### Junior Prizegiving

Junior Prizegiving will be held on Thursday 9 December at 11am. All students will be released from the College for the year at the end of the ceremony. The likely finishing time is between 12:00 and 12:30 pm.

### INFORMATION FOR ALL YEAR 11, 12 & 13 STUDENTS

#### NCEA Examinations

Exams commence for many students on Monday 15 November. A copy of the exam timetable is available on [www.nzqa.govt.nz](http://www.nzqa.govt.nz) or [www.fdmc.school.nz](http://www.fdmc.school.nz). Students are to wear College uniform to all exams and the expected standards for hair, shaving, uniform, etc. should be maintained.

### Sportsman's Dinner

This is being held at The New Plymouth Club on Saturday 6 November. Tickets can be obtained from the office at a cost of \$35.00.

### INFORMATION FOR YEAR 13 STUDENTS

#### Graduation Mass & Senior Prize-giving on Thursday 11 November

As the Mass and Graduation are formal occasions, we request that students are in full College uniform, including tie, long black pants and black leather shoes. Ties and shirts are available at the Uniform Shop. Students with blazers are requested to wear them.

The Year 13 Graduation Mass will be held in the College Chapel at 9.00 am. Morning Tea for graduands and their families will be held in the Boarders' Dining Room following the Mass.

Everyone should be seated in the Gym for the commencement of prizegiving by 11.00 am.

#### Year 13 Graduation Ball

The Graduation Ball takes place on Friday 12 November at The Plymouth Hotel Ballroom. The doors will open at 6.45pm and all attendees must have entered the venue by 7:30pm. The Ball is scheduled to conclude at 1:00am.

The final date for payment of tickets to the school office is Friday 29 October. The cost is \$45.00 per single ticket – no doubles.

Since this is a formal occasion, students and their partners will be expected to act and present themselves in an appropriate manner. Dress will be formal – black suits only with black polished shoes, no caps, no jeans and no sneakers or informal footwear. If parents are not able to be present to accompany their son, they must nominate another attending parent to accept this responsibility and communicate the details to the school in writing or email to [office@fdmc.school.nz](mailto:office@fdmc.school.nz)

Drinks will be sold from a cash bar with eftpos facilities. Alcohol can add enjoyment to an occasion but must be imbibed in moderation, along with food. Wristbands enabling purchase of alcohol will be given to students who are 18 years or over. Partners who wish to obtain a wristband must provide proof of age in the form of a passport or driver's licence to FDMC staff before entering the venue.

This year group has been exceptional in terms of responsible behaviour at school so I look forward to an evening where they make us all feel proud.

**INFORMATION APPLYING ONLY TO BOARDERS**

**Senior Prizegiving**

At the conclusion of Prizegiving, all boarders sitting NCEA are expected to leave the hostel until they return to sit their first examination.

**NCEA Study Expectations in our Hostel**

It is my expectation that boarders sitting NCEA will be putting in several hours of study per day in addition to study periods that may be provided in the College. I know that hostel supervisors will be encouraging a studious environment so that students can study without distraction.

For students who stay in the hostel during examinations, supervised study will take place in the dormitories. Boarders will be expected to study in the mornings and afternoons when they have no examinations. All boarders will also be expected to study during normal evening study time.

**NCEA Examinations**

Exams commence for many students on Monday 15 November. So that the hostel can plan for meals and supervision, parents need to complete the Exam Leave Information form (available from the school office) and return to Mrs Simpson no later than Friday 6 November.

Because of the small number of Year 13 boarders, any Year 13 boys who wish to reside in the hostel during the exam period will be accommodated in the Brother Anthony Hawkins Hostel. This will necessitate either taking all their belongings home after prizegiving or moving things that they wish to leave here to a room in Anthony Hawkins. All students are expected to leave the hostel for the year following their final exam.

**Behavioural Expectations**

Any boy who indulges in disruptive behaviour believing that it will be ignored at the end of the year may be asked to leave the hostel and make arrangement to come to the College as a day student until the end of the year. For boys in Years 9 -12 who indulge in such behaviour, their continuance as a boarder in 2011 may have to be seriously reconsidered. Fortunately this has not been necessary over recent years.

**2011 College Gala Day**

The PTA committee have begun planning the 2011 Gala day which will be held on Saturday 26 March. This is a major fundraiser for the school and much time and effort is needed to ensure the financial success of the day. Accordingly, we are seeking help from parents who can assist in a variety of ways. Below we have set out areas where parents can assist us and our hope is that you will complete this form and return it to the school so that the PTA may continue to plan and involve as many of the school community as possible. Please return the portion below to the college office as soon as possible.

Thank you  
*Lindsay Thomson*

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**FDMC GALA 2011**

- ▶ I am happy to coordinate the running of a stall at the Gala Day (state stall preference)
- ▶ I am happy to work on a stall on the day (state stall preference)
- ▶ I am happy to sponsor/donate a prize to the Gala Day
- ▶ I believe the following business/businesses would consider donating a prize to the FDMC Gala Day if approached;

1. ....
2. ....
3. ....

Name: .....

Contact Number .....

**OTHER SCHOOL NEWS - Benilde**

Four of our Benilde students represented the college in the AWD (Athletes With Disabilities) Multi-sport Event at the TSB Stadium, New Plymouth on 22 September. The boys participated in a team event of Boccia. Shaun Gordon also participated in basketball. The students accompanied by Mrs Michelle Stevenson were Alexander Clarricoats, Matthew Tilt, Takudzwa Dzadya and Shaun Gordon.  
*Jeanne Marshall*



## Library News

An updated website has been created for our Library Wiki and is much easier to navigate! The link to the Wiki is under Careers on the FDMC school website. It has websites that can help with assignments, book reviews, and book video trailers. The latest inclusion is a website that will help students write up their bibliographies. Check out BibMe under the Bibliography Guidelines. Students could consider joining the Wiki and contributing their own book reviews, book recommendations, or starting their own discussion thread.

*Suzette Stephens - Library*

## Careers

### Student Job Search

Year 12 and 13 students who are intending to go on to Tertiary education in 2011 are able to use the services of Student Job Search over the summer. All you need to do is visit [www.sjs.co.nz](http://www.sjs.co.nz) and register online. To complete your registration you will need to present evidence of your intention to study. If you have any questions see Ms Land, check the website or telephone 0800 757 562

### WITT - Trades Taster Afternoon

1pm - 3pm at the WITT Campus, Bell Street, New Plymouth.

The session will cover a walk around workshops and classrooms, an overview of trade courses, questions and answer sessions, assistance with enrolling.

Some of the courses available are Automotive, welding, mechanical engineering, carpentry, electrical, architecture, constructions, truck driving as well as oil and gas.

### FORMER STUDENTS WHO HAVE RECENTLY GRADUATED FROM OTAGO UNIVERSITY

Shaan Davis	BPhEd
Jared Drummond	BCom
Thomas Fastier	BCom
Campbell Fleming	BCom
Daniel Graham	BSc
Thomas Hills	MB ChB
Scott Jackson	BCom Dip Grad
David Joines	BSc
Samuel Markham	BAppSc
Anthony Martin	CertFitMgt
Timothy O'Dowd	BSurv(Hons)
Shaun Smart	BSurv
Bruno Thomson-Baker	BPhEd

## Calendar Term 4

### October

Wednesday 20 Yr 9 students rostered home  
Thursday 21 Yr 11 students rostered home  
Friday 22

#### Mission Action Day

Students dismissed at 12 noon  
WITT Trades Taster afternoon  
@ WITT campus 1pm - 3pm

### Monday 25

Wednesday 27 Otago Liaison course planning 10.25am

#### Labour Day - School closed

### November

Thursday 4 TSS Relay Athletics  
Have a Go Sailing - Year 7 & 8  
Friday 5 Orientation Day for new pupils - 1.45pm in the gymnasium  
Have a Go Sailing Year 7 & 8  
Saturday 6 Sportsmen's Dinner @ New Plymouth Club 6.30pm  
Sunday 7 TSS Junior Tough Rugby @ Vogeltown Park  
Tuesday 9 BOT meeting 7.30pm  
Wednesday 10 TSS Junior Softball @ Waitara  
TSS Junior Tennis @ Waitara

### Thursday 11

**Leavers' Mass 9.00am**  
**Senior Prizegiving 11.00 am**

### Friday 12

**Graduation Ball 6.45pm**

### Monday 15

**NCEA Examinations begin**

### Thursday 18

**Year 9 & 10 Examinations**

### Friday 19

**Year 9 & 10 Examinations**

### Monday 22

Year 10 Retreats

TOPEC all week

### Monday 29

Year 9 & 10 cricket to Napier

### Tuesday 30

TSS Showjumping @ Stratford

### December

### Thursday 9

**Junior prizegiving 11.00 am**

**Students dismissed @**

**approximately 12.30pm**

### Friday 10

**Teacher Only Day**

### Cook Book For Sale

'How to Boil an Egg' has been produced by Andrea Kelly and is targeted for school leavers moving away from home. The books are available at the college office and are \$20 a copy. \$5.00 will be donated back to the college.

Please support our cricket sponsor

**TIMBERCO**

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