



Francis Douglas Memorial College

From the Principal

Dedication to our school

It marks the end of an 18 year plus era that Principal's Personal Assistant Maree Fleming is moving on to a new opportunity. Just down the hill from where she lives, Oakura school will offer Maree the chance to broaden her workload and skills as their overall Office Manager.

I have valued Maree's skills and knowledge from the day I arrived here. Apart from her capable clerical work, a deep knowledge of our parent community meant that she was well placed to work as registrar of enrolments and she always had a ready answer to queries from our community. This knowledge would also come into play with her production of the College newsletter whereby she would select and collate material to keep everyone well informed. The Board will also miss Maree's skills as Secretary. On a personal level, I have appreciated Maree's concern for my wellbeing and assistance at challenging times.

Time's running out

Quality Education that prepares students for life is one of our Lasallian Core Values and this is the business term for study. Our NCEA students will have only ten days of formal lessons before external exams in term four and that time is taken up mainly with revision let alone the distractions of Labour Day, Y13 retreat, Prizegiving and the Graduation dinner. From today there are only 39 days of formal tuition left for the term. There are so many worthy opportunities that will pop up but the primacy of a good NCEA result remains. Please assist us in ensuring your son is conscientious. At the same time, it is important to monitor his stress levels to ensure his anxiety levels and mental health are not in a bad space.



Refurbished building

We started the term with the move into our refurbished Administration Block. I express gratitude to our Proprietor that Policy One funding

has been directed towards seismic strengthening and modernisation. We are noticing the differences already and things should improve even more once we are fully furnished and the builders have completed all finishing touches.

CCTV cameras

The school's Proprietor installed CCTV security cameras last year to assist in ensuring safety for persons and property. Recordings are retrievable for about a fortnight and can be inspected only by designated staff in the school or hostel if an adverse event is suspected or proven. The installation is not in response to an increase in any adverse behaviour. Instead, it has been carried out to stay abreast of modern practice in public places. Cameras have not been placed in locations where persons can expect privacy – namely toilets or changing rooms. In the event of your son observing or being the victim of a negative event, Deputy Principal Tim Stuck can be requested by parents/caregivers to refer to recordings.



MAD

This special tradition will occur in four weeks' time. As well as a liturgy remembering Father Francis Douglas' extraordinary life, we will hold House singing with musical items and students will then go on their famous sponsored walk to raise funds for Lasallian work. On my recent sabbatical visit to Pakistan, it was made very clear that the provision of fresh water was a priority for our Lasallian twin, Malkhanwala High School. Our funds will assist in transforming the school lives of our Pakistani brothers and sisters and in doing so, our students will be honouring another of our Core Lasallian Values - *Concern for the Poor and Social Justice* where we value a sensitivity and response to people who suffer from the effects of poverty and injustice.

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

Important Dates

Start date 2019

School will commence on
Tuesday
29 January
2019

PTA raffle

Each family has received a PTA raffle book detailing five prizes anyone would want to win. Please ensure yours is sold and the details returned. There are more at the school for any family that wants another. If you are not able to sell yours, please return it promptly so that someone else can. It closes on 10 August and is drawn three days later.

A recent donation of \$37,000 from the PTA to our school has enabled the purchase of: 32 more student lockers, a touch screen classroom TV, 5 additional hire blazers, 2 Chromebooks for Special Needs, a laser cutter for technology, a variety of general sports gear totalling more than \$9,000, a rugby tackle mat, physics data loggers and sensors, waka ama paddles, outdoor education gear, beach volleyball equipment and robotics equipment. This is an impressive list whereby our generous PTA enriches the educational life of each of our students.

Fees for optional activities

Because of the accounting lag in keeping budgets up to date, and as a matter of fairness, our Board of Trustees has decided that fee payments for optional activities need to have more definite deadlines. Students may not go on excursions unless prior payment has been made.

Nor may students be involved in a team activity beyond the third game/activity in the season if subscriptions have not been received. Families are of course invited to approach the school if difficulties are present and concessions regarding timing will be considered with compassion.

Start date 2019

School will commence on Tuesday 29 January 2019. Not all students will be required on that day. Details will follow later.

2019 Term Dates

Term 1 - Tuesday 29 January to Friday 12 April

Term 2 - Monday 29 April to Friday 5 July

Term 3 - Monday 22 July to Friday 27 September

Term 4 - Monday 14 October to Friday 6 December (to be confirmed)

TSSSA Gymnastics

Congratulations to the following boys who were placed at the TSSSA Gymnastics Tumbling Competition last week.

Unfortunately they were the only boys attending but among the 8 boys from the college the competition was fierce.



1st Place - Ethan Koning

2nd Place - Nathan Sharrock

3rd Place - Conor Ebert

**Taranaki Ripa Rugby**

Eight Good College Men attended the Taranaki Ripa Rugby competition (Yr 5 & 6) last Thursday and carried out the referee duties for the games. They were highly praised for their efforts by the Taranaki Rugby Union and represented the school well.



If your son has competed in any sports event outside the school we would love to hear about it and see any photos.

Please contact:

Gill Hurley ghu@fdmc.school.nz or Nick Taylor nta@fdmc.school.nz.

International Week 20-24th**August**

FDMC is interested in hearing from school parents who may be interested in contributing to International week. This is a celebration of different cultures and families may like to demonstrate cooking, share costumes for display, teach origami, teach a game, make street food sales, talk to a junior class etc. The International department would meet costs involved. Please contact Margie Smith, International Students Director
06 753 6149 ext 839 or 021 828 683 or msm@fdmc.school.nz

NZ Secondary Schools Rogaine Championships, Rotorua

These were awesome results from the SHGC and FDMC adventure race team at the NZ Secondary Schools Rogaine Championships.



1st place Junior Mixed - Heath Waayer, Nell Brown & Oscar Hadley. Great effort also from Robert Morgan & Flynn Barrett in the competitive junior boys category, they timed it perfectly and came in with



Sports Exchange v St John's College

Last Tuesday, 127 students took part in a sports exchange with St John's College in Hastings.

After the long drive over there, the exchange started with Badminton. Shinuk Park, Tomi Karasawa, Ethan Turner and Mitchell Turner all contributed to a successful 6-0 victory.

Later that evening was Senior A basketball. Under the guidance of coach Andy Cowie, the boys played well and convincingly won 107-41.

Early on Wednesday morning, in sunny but cold conditions, the golf team took their turn and again our boys did really well. Corban Dravitzki, George Goodwin and Liam Harvey all won their matches.

The Under 15 football team started their match well and took a 3-0 lead into half time. However, this was a classic game of two halves and unfortunately we went down 3-4.

The Under 15 rugby team had probably their best game of their season and finished with a fine 60-12 victory.

The Hockey 1st XI found themselves down 3-1 with ten minutes to go, but a couple of late goals saw us salvage a 3-3 draw.

The 2nd XV rugby had a very tight game, but our boys managed to close the game out with a 30-18 win.

The 1st XI football team enjoyed a wealth of possession and made the most of this with a pleasing 6-0 victory.

And the final fixture was the 1st XV rugby game. A good first half from our boys had us up enough to relax in the second half and come away with a 37-5 win.

The final result was a 7-1 overall victory to FDMC and I am extremely proud of the boys for their effort and commitment during their games, along with the positive way they held themselves on the sidelines representing FDMC.

I would also like to thank all of the volunteers and parents for their support.

Nick Taylor

Director of Sport



Year 10 Topec

In the penultimate week of term two, 38 Year 10 students spent an exciting week at TSB TOPEC. The students were put through their paces in a variety of outdoor pursuits and despite some average winter weather at times, they all had an excellent time. Highlights included a rafting trip down the Waitara River, high ropes activities and of course the famous TOPEC overnight camp in tents.



The instructors were awesome at challenging and motivating the teams who rose to every challenge and demonstrated good college men traits throughout. All students gained a lot from the week long camp, both in terms of outdoor skills and experience gained and also in the areas of teamwork, goal setting and whanaunatanga. Each team took turns preparing meals, so parents, please ask for a demonstration of these new found skills in the kitchen!

Matt Lash
HOD PE & Outdoor Education

Mission Action Day Sponsorship

The college would like to thank BDO and Kevin Landrigan for the generous sponsorship they have provided in support of our MAD day fundraising over previous years.

This year we are seeking a new sponsor, so would appreciate hearing from anyone in our community who could help. Typically the sponsorship is used to offer prizes to the students who raise the most in donations.

MAD Day is an annual fundraiser where we as a community come together to support fellow Lasallians, with a focus on Malkhan Wala School in Pakistan. This year our fundraising will help to ensure that the poorest students in that region will be able to attend school, which is very much in keeping with the ethos of our founder St John Baptist de La Salle. We look forward to your support.

Tina Dalliston
Lasallian Outreach Coordinator

Senior Adventure Racing

Team Win Qualifier

At the end of last term, our combined FDMC/ SHGC Senior Adventure Racing team competed in the Hillary Outdoors 6 Hour Adventure Race held in Rotorua.

The top five placing schools would qualify their school for the prestigious Hillary Challenge finals held each May in the Tongariro area.

The race consisted of navigation challenges both on foot and on mountain bikes as well as mental challenges to test team work and perseverance.

The team of eight had to travel at all times together and looked to maximize their score by collecting as many checkpoints as possible in the challenging hilly forest terrain.

Our team were back inside the allotted 6 hour time limit and when scores were tallied up, we were the top ranked team!

A superb result from a hard working and dedicated group of athletes, now the real hard work begins as they prepare for the finals next year. Special thanks to coach Brent Simpson who has worked tirelessly with the group, with help from Nick Brown and Jan Finnigan.

The students from left to right are William Hadley, Geordie Vink, Stella Webby, Finn Morris, Tayla Simpson, Tom Le Fleming, Jorja Simpson, and Anna Waayer

Matt Lash
HOD PE & Outdoor Education



Brain Bee Quiz

The Brain Bee Quiz is one of the extension programmes run by the Gifted and Talented programme at the college. This year Ethan Ngatai, Jackson Whitmore, Onno Dessing, Rahul Rajasingh and Seamus Walsh participated in the first round of the quiz in March, during Brain awareness week.

To prepare for the quiz the students had to study a variety of topics on Neuroscience at post secondary level. The first round was completed online at school. Approximately 500 students from all over the North Island participated in Round 1. Rahul Rajasingh and Seamus Walsh were among the 160 top students from the North Island invited to participate in Round 2 which was held at the Faculty of Medical and Health Science at the University of Auckland in Grafton on Thursday 5 July.

They participated in the quiz as individuals and in a team. They had the opportunity to visit the Anatomy Learning Centre where human tissue is on display, the MRI unit to see a

brain scan being done and met with scientists.

The competition was tough. Although the Francis Douglas students were not placed among the top 8 students or the top 4 schools, we congratulate our boys for making it through to Round 2 and for being the only school represented from Taranaki.

Jeanne Marshall
SENCO, Science & Biology Teacher



Wellbeing information from the Senior Deans

At this time of the year many boys start feeling overwhelmed by the pressure of school, winter bugs and so on.

There are many websites available which include practical tips on how to help your son manage his anxieties. The following comes from an Australian website - www.parentingstrategies.net

"Learning to deal well with problems can help reduce a teenager's risk of developing depression and clinical anxiety. When your teenager is faced with problems:

Ask them what they need from you (e.g. whether they just want you to listen or to offer advice).

Give your teenager time to talk through the problem before offering to discuss solutions. Do not try to solve all their problems for them. Help them break down potential challenges into smaller steps that are manageable.

Encourage your teenager by reminding them of times in the past when they have dealt well with problems. Praise your teenager when they deal well with problems. Recognise and encourage their problem-solving efforts, rather than focusing on the outcomes."

Another tremendous resource for families facing teen depression is: <http://www.keytolife.org.nz/pdf/resources/parents-Guide-to-Teen-Depression.pdf>

A good website for students to use is called SPARX. It is a free online e-therapy tool provided by the University of Auckland. SPARX has been proven to help young people with mild to moderate depression and anxiety. www.sparx.org.nz

We care for your sons and want the best for them emotionally and academically. They are welcome to seek assistance from their teachers, deans, careers advisor, and our guidance counsellor.

Kath Curd - Year 11 Dean
Shintaro Kirkcaldie - Year 12 Dean
Pascale Joines - Year 13 Dean

75th Anniversary Mass

Friday 27th July 2018 was a significant date for us all at Francis Douglas Memorial College. This date was the 75th Anniversary of the presumed death of Francis Douglas. It was on this day 75 years ago that he was last seen being driven away in a truck already more dead than alive from days of torture at the hands of the Japanese Soldiers in the Philippines.



2018 is also the centenary year of the Columban Missionary Order and there are celebrations happening wherever the Columbans are based. The New Zealand Columban Fathers chose to celebrate their centenary year and commemorate the life and service of Francis Douglas at the same Mass. On Friday I took Judy Hau, one of our Proprietors Reps on the Board, and six senior students

down to Lower Hutt where the Mass was celebrated in the Parish Church of Sts Peter and Paul. What an amazing Mass it was. The Mass was celebrated by Cardinal John Dew, assisted by Bishop Charles Drennan and Bishop Owen Dolan. Father Brian Vale who is the Superior of the Columbans in the Pacific, based in Melbourne and an old boy of Francis Douglas, was also present. There were around twenty other priests in attendance including our own Father Tom Lawn and Father Fergus Reeves.

Martin and Claire, Judy and I were very proud of the boys as they took roles of responsibility throughout the Mass. Wyatt Jones stepped up to altar serve, while Dominic Coleman, Troy Ryan, Xavier Kere-Rako, Corey Skvor and Samuel Hudson led the Prayers of the Faithful. Dominic and Xavier then brought the offertory forward with Vernon Douglas, nephew of Francis Douglas and Anna Douglas, his great-niece. After the Mass the boys had the opportunity to mingle with the community and were asked to pose in a number of photos. It was an event that we will all remember for a variety of reasons but the main one has to be the connection we have to the life and vocation of Francis Vernon Douglas.

Live Jesus in our Hearts Forever
Anna Zsigovits-Mace
Director of Religious Studies



Lucas Kiser Charity Evening

The final figure for funds raised at the Charity Evening was \$23,700. The money was presented to the family the day before they flew to the Stickler Syndrome Conference in Portland Oregon. The family has set up a Facebook page so you can follow Lucas' progress. Michael, Sonia and the Kiser whanau are humbled by the level of kindness and would like to thank the FDMC community for their generosity.

*Heta Smith
Dean of Boarders*

**College Uniform Shop**

The new Uniform Shop has now opened in the refurbished Administration Block. The shop is open Tuesday & Friday 11.30m - 2pm. Students can visit the shop at lunchtime only.

Uniform Shop Vacancy**Uniform Shop Supervisor**

5 hours per week during the school term.

Please phone the office if interested.

2018 Calendar of Events**AUGUST**

Sat 4	1st XV v Rathkeale (h)
Mon 6	Year 12 TOPEC Attitude Presentations Taranaki Science & Technology Fair
Tues 7	Highlands Exchange
Wed 8	BP Business challenge (Year 10) Yr 10 Science Quiz
Thurs 9	Y11 Mass
Fri 10	Yr 7 & 8 Rugby v Hawera Intermediate
Sun 12	Year 13 Geo Trip to Rotorua
Wed 15	Assumption Liturgy Speech finals 1.30pm
Thurs 16	Year 10 Retreat
Fri 17	Yr 7 & 8 Rugby v Devon Intermediate Debates FDMC v Spotswood College Intermediate Chess Tournament
Mon 20	Yr 10 & 12 Taranaki Career Expo
Tues 21	Why Ora 10 am - 2pm
Thurs 23	Yr 7 Mass Yr 7 & 8 Rugby v Huntley Prep
Fri 24	Waikato Band Comp

FREE Microsoft Office for students for up to five home devices.

<https://products.office.com/en-nz/student>

Requires a current school email address

Physiotherapy @ Carefirst

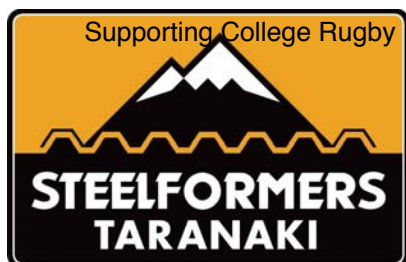
**ANDREW
LARKIN**
B ASSOCIATES

99 Tukapa Street • New Plymouth • Phone: (06) 753 4702
carefirst@clear.net.nz

International Students

The school welcomes 5 International students from **Dongguan Middle School in China**. They are here for one month in Year 10 which has become an annual for event for both schools. The Dongguan boys are being very well looked after by their buddies in Year 10. We hope they have an enjoyable and enriching time during their stay.

*Margie Smith
International Students Director*



Sponsors of FDMC Football

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Please support our Cricket sponsor