## **DOMINICAN SCHOOL SEMAPHORE**

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Dear Parents and Caregivers,

I hope this letter finds you well and refreshed after a wonderful holiday break. As the Principal of Dominican school, I am delighted to welcome each and every one of you back for what promises to be an exciting and fulfilling school year. I especially welcome all our new families.

At our school, we strive to create a nurturing and inclusive environment where every student can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. Our dedicated educators are committed to providing the highest quality education and support to our students, ensuring their growth and success.

I want to express my gratitude to our incredible community of parents and caregivers. Your unwavering support and active involvement in your child's education play a vital role in their overall development. Together, we can create a strong partnership that will enable our students to reach their full potential.

Throughout the year, we will continue to foster a love for learning by offering a well-rounded curriculum that caters to the diverse interests and abilities of our students. Our dedicated staff will provide engaging learning opportunities, ensuring that each child's unique talents are nurtured and celebrated.

In addition to academic excellence, we also prioritise the holistic development of our students. We will continue to encourage teamwork, creativity, and personal wellbeing and growth; all essential life skills that allow students to discover their passions and thrive far beyond the classroom.

Communication is key to a successful partnership, and we are committed to keeping you informed and involved in your child's education. We will regularly update you on school events, important dates, and academic progress through our newsletters, parent-teacher conferences, and SeeSaw. Email will be the main form of communication regarding any issues or concerns related to learning, wellbeing and/or behaviour. All other incidental and whole school messages will be sent via SeeSaw.

As we embark on this new school year together, I am confident that with our collective efforts, we will create a safe, supportive, and inspiring learning environment for our students. I encourage you to actively engage with our school community, attend events, and participate in the various opportunities available to you.

I extend my gratitude for your patience as our building program progresses. There have been some delays with the building project, so the expected completion of Stage 2 is now the end of Term 1. I do apologise sincerely for the delay, and I thank all the Year 5/6 and 3/4 students for working collaboratively in a shared learning space. I also thank the teachers for being so adaptable.

To assist families with forward planning, I encourage you to access the 2024 School Calendar regularly on the Dominican Website or via the School Newsletter that is distributed in Weeks 3,6 and 9 of each term. The school calendar outlines when school activities, such as Masses and other important celebrations and events will take place.

This year the *starting time for school is 8:45am*. Starting from next week, when the music starts playing in the morning, all students will make their way sensibly and carefully to their classroom, where their teachers will be ready to greet them and start the day. Any students arriving after 8:50am will need to sign in through the front office. Students and families can still enter from 8:30am via the front gate or the double gates on Dunn Street. All students will be expected to wait sensibly on the court area until the morning music starts.

2024 also brings a change in Leadership structure- Angela Scodella- Principal, Nicholas Ryan-Leader of Learning/Inclusive Ed Co-ordinator and Martina Kovacev- Religious Education Coordinator (REC). This is an exciting change that will support the school in achieving new levels of excellence.

The beginning of the year is also an ideal time to remind all students and families about the importance of wearing the correct school uniforms (Summer, Winter, Sport) respectfully and with pride. Please refer to the <u>Uniform Policy</u> for further clarification

Once again, welcome back to our primary school community. Let us embrace the challenges and triumphs that lie ahead, knowing that together, we can make this a truly remarkable year for our students

With warm regards,

Angela Scodella

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Principal