



# Term 1, Week 3 2025

## From the School Principal

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Welcome back to another exciting school year! A special welcome to all our new families, students, and staff joining our wonderful school community. We are thrilled to have you with us and look forward to a fantastic year ahead.

### **BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS**

The first two weeks of term have been a great success. Students have been busy building positive relationships with their teachers and peers, establishing classroom expectations, and deepening their understanding of themselves as learners. Through the **Grow Your Mind** activities, students have explored character strengths, starting with **respect**. They have discussed what respect looks like in our school, classroom, and home environments, and how demonstrating respect can help them value others and foster a welcoming and caring community.

### **MEET THE TEACHER NIGHT**

This Thursday, 13th February, we would also like to invite all families to our **Meet the Teacher Night**. This evening provides a fantastic opportunity to meet your child's class teacher, gain insights into classroom expectations and routines, and explore the learning environment. Please note that this event is not intended for individual parent-teacher conferences. If you wish to discuss your child's progress or specific concerns, please contact their teacher to arrange a separate meeting.

To support families, a **creche will be available** on the night for children aged **3 years and above**.

Parents and students attending our Meet the Teacher Night are invited to enjoy a FREE sausage sizzle provided by our amazing Parents & Friends Committee from 5.30pm.

We look forward to seeing all families in attendance and working together to create a positive and successful year for our students.

### **PBIS**

Last year we started the initial stages of our Positive Behaviour Intervention and Support journey, where we engaged our community in information sessions and working parties to establish our 3 core values. The following are our 3 R's:

**Respectful:** *At Dominican everyone has a right to learn and be safe. We treat others how we would like to be treated. We show care for the feelings of others even if they are different from our own. Respect means being kind and caring towards others, ourselves and our environment.*

**Resilience:** *At Dominican we have the ability to problem solve and bounce back and move forward when faced with challenges. We make choices that help us to adapt to different situations with a positive mindset. We accept challenges, step out of our comfort zone and use feedback to help us grow in order to be the 'best we can be'.*

**Responsible:** *At Dominican being responsible means being able to make good choices and taking accountability for our actions, learning and belongings. We look out for the wellbeing of others and understand that we all work together to make our school a thriving community.*

At the beginning of this year staff unpacked the behaviour matrix for expected behaviours in various areas of the school and this will continue to be taught to all students throughout the year. We are excited to see the positive effects of PBIS in creating a safe and supportive learning environment for all.

### **BEGINNING OF THE 2025 YEAR**

In the first week we celebrated our Beginning of Year Mass, where our 2025 School Theme was launched 'Living VERITAS with heart filled hearts and hands' and where all our staff were commissioned. This was a lovely celebration where all staff committed to providing a high quality education to all the students at Dominican.

Last Friday at our Welcome assembly, all our new students and staff were welcomed, and the following leadership roles were presented: Year 6 Justice Leaders and Semester 1 SRC reps. We congratulate all our student leaders and we have no doubt that they will rise to the occasion and enjoy the challenge and the additional responsibility their role brings them.

#### **Year 6 Justice Leaders**

Jacob T	Emma W
Autumn M	Georgia S
Katie K	Annabelle F
Harper E	Sophie T
Estelle F	Amelia L
Macy C	Imogen M
Ava R	Kyan J

#### **Semester 1 SRC Representatives**

RB	Willow H	Jack W	2N	Marni S	August B
RL	Havanna C	Oscar S	3/4AO	Carter H	Jason H
RM	Ruby C	Banjo J	3/4S	Conner W	Mason F
1F	Harlow R	Percy S	5/6M	Matilda H	Lincoln S
1V	Matilda S	Leonard S	5/6T	Jasmine K	Oliver C
2K	Indiana B	William B			

### **PARENT/TEACHER COMMUNICATION**

Please refer to the attached correspondence regarding the importance of work life balance for all staff, which in turn prevents burnout, and ensures that all staff have time to rest and recharge.

Parent Letter Re: Teacher Communication

### **STRATEGIC PLAN**

A school strategic plan is a document that outlines a school's long-term goals.

The plan helps guide decision-making, resource allocation, and ensures that everyone is working towards common objectives.

Please find below a copy of our schools 2022-2025 Strategic Plan



It's wonderful to see students eager and prepared to tackle various challenges as we start the new school year, setting clear goals for what they aim to achieve in the months ahead. Ensuring that students feel supported both at school and at home is essential, and by working together and maintaining open communication, we can inspire both their hearts and minds, helping them reach their full potential.

Many blessings for the coming weeks.

**Angela Scodella**  
**PRINCIPAL**

## Religious Education

### LIVING VERITAS WITH HOPE FILLED HEARTS AND HANDS

Welcome to 2025 at Dominican. A special welcome to our new students and families. Each year at Dominican School, we embrace a theme which guides us in our mission to live our motto of Veritas through our Pillars of Prayer, Study, Community and Ministry. 2025 is an extra special year as it is a Jubilee Year (observed every 25 years) and Pope Francis has called us to celebrate with the theme 'Pilgrims of hope'. Therefore, in collaboration with this, our 2025 Dominican theme is to Live Veritas with Hope Filled Hearts and Hands.

Pope Francis has asked us to celebrate this Jubilee Year with a deep faith, lively hope and active charity. This means trusting in God, looking forward with hope, and showing love to others through kind and caring actions.

*You are the light of the world - like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. (Mt 5:14-16)*

We draw inspiration from Matthew's Gospel to be people of HOPE and shine Christ's light of love. In the Scripture, Jesus tells the disciples, You are the light of the world... Let your light shine before others. At Dominican, each of us is called to follow Jesus and be the light.

## A prayer of hope

God, our loving Father,  
in this Jubilee Year,  
you remind us of our call to love creation.  
Help us to work together  
to replant, repair, and renew.

### Guide us on our journey as pilgrims of hope.

Jesus, our light,  
In this Jubilee Year,  
you remind us of our call to love  
our neighbours  
and to set free those who suffer.  
Help us to treat everyone with dignity;  
to be fair, forgiving and kind.

### Guide us on our journey as pilgrims of hope.

Holy Spirit, our inspiration,  
in this Jubilee Year, you remind us of our  
call to grow in faith and love.  
Help us to hear you in scripture, to see  
Jesus in others,  
and to be united as God's global family.

### Guide us on our journey as pilgrims of hope.

Amen



## CELEBRATING OUR FAITH

We are pleased to be able to share in Prayer, Liturgy and Mass celebrations with our school and parish communities. The dates for our Term 1 celebrations are outlined in our school calendar.

We will share in community prayer at the beginning of our assemblies at 9.00am in the Multi-Function Centre. For Masses, students will walk to and from the Church supervised by their teachers. Teachers will inform families of rehearsal dates and times in preparation for these celebrations. All families are warmly invited to join us for Prayer, Liturgies and Masses throughout the term.

## OPENING MASS

On Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January we celebrated our first school Mass for 2025. This was a special time for our students, staff, families and parishioners to gather with Deacon Tim and Father Joash, to ask God's blessing upon us as we begin a new school year and our journey to Live Veritas with Hope Filled Hearts and Hands.



## SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

Our Family Faith Formation Program involves children from Dominican School, Our Lady of the Visitation School and the Lefevre



Catholic Parish to prepare for and celebrate the Sacraments of First Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Holy Communion. The program is for Catholic children who are 8 years or over.

The next cycle of the Sacramental Program begins next week. We invite and welcome all children who would like to be a part of this program to support them on their faith journey. To register your child in the program, please contact Bernadette (Parish Sacramental Coordinator) or myself by Friday 14th February:

Bernadette Smith - familyfaith@catholicparishes.com.au ph: 8449 6378

Martina Kovacev - mkovacev@dominican.catholic.edu.au ph: 8114 3600

For further details access the [Sacraments Brochure](#).

**Martina Kovacev**

**ACTING ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL RELIGIOUS IDENTITY AND MISSION**

## Learning in the Classroom

### BRAIN BREAKS IN 3/4S

In 3/4S, we've been practicing whole-class brain breaks to help re-energise or calm our brains and bodies ready for learning. These short movement or mindfulness activities give us a chance to reset which supports focus, engagement, and well-being. Our favourite breaks so far are Pass the Bok, Imaginary Tennis, Popcorn, and Daisy Chain. Brain breaks support concentration, reduce stress, and foster a positive classroom environment—helping us all to be ready for our best learning!



**Genevieve Spencer**

**CLASSROOM TEACHER**

## Out of School Hours Care

### OSHC DECEMBER/JANUARY HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

The school holidays were packed with exciting activities in OSHC! Students enjoyed a variety of engaging programs, from creative arts and crafts to outdoor adventures and group games, making the holiday period a memorable experience for everyone involved. A big thank you to our OSHC team for providing such a fun-filled break!

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW HIGHLIGHTS](#)

## Sustainability

### INTRODUCING OUR 2025 STUDENT LEADERS IN SUSTAINABILITY AND ECOLOGICAL CONVERSION

#### ECO-WARRIORS

Our Eco-Warriors will take the lead in promoting sustainability throughout the school, overseeing initiatives such as recycling, composting, gardening, and other key environmental strategies. They will organise and promote sustainability events that inspire both students and the community, fostering a deeper understanding of environmental stewardship. Additionally, the Eco-Warriors will visit classrooms to share valuable insights and practical strategies on how we can all contribute to caring for our planet.

#### Semester 1 Eco-Warriors

Oliver C	Jasmine K
Matilda H	Lincoln S
Carter H	Mason F
Conner W	Jason H



#### SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

These student leaders will serve as the student representatives on the Dominican Sustainability Committee, working alongside staff, parents, and Green Adelaide representatives, to discuss and implement the objectives outlined in the Dominican Sustainability and Ecological Conversion Strategic Plan. They will also collaborate with the Student Eco-Warriors to organise school sustainability events and initiatives.



**Semester 1 Sustainability Committee**

Lincoln M	Sophie M
Angelique J	Sarina K
Emilee G	

**NUDE FOOD**

Our school is proud to be a Nude Food School, promoting healthier eating and reducing waste. By encouraging students to bring food in reusable containers, we help cut down on single-use plastics and packaging. This initiative not only supports a cleaner environment but also fosters good habits in choosing nutritious, waste-free snacks. Let's continue working together to make our school a healthier and more sustainable place.

**CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY**

As part of our commitment to Living Veritas with Hope-Filled Hearts and Hands, we are excited to participate in Clean Up Australia Day on Friday, 28th February. On this day, each year level will be assigned a specific area within the school or nearby surroundings to help collect rubbish. We warmly invite families to join us in this important initiative to care for God's creation and our Common Home. Stay tuned for more details coming soon!



Martina Kovacev

**SUSTAINABILITY CO-ORDINATOR**

**Student Wellbeing**

**KNOW AND GROW A STRENGTH: KINDNESS**

**WHAT IS IT?**

Kindness is showing you care about anyone and anything. Kindness is doing good things for others even if we do not know them well. If we are growing kindness we might make it our mission every day to do at least one kind thing for someone else. When you are kind you can be generous. You can do small things that brighten people's lives.

This year as a school we are focussing on character strengths as part of our Grow Your Mind Program. Character strengths are our positive qualities that help us think, feel and behave. They make us who we are and help us to grow into kind, confident and successful

people. When you know your best character traits, you can improve your life and thrive.

Each fortnight we will be focussing on a different character strength and at each assembly a class will present a short explanation and examples of the character strength. This fortnight's focus is on **kindness**. We can show our kindness to others by noticing when someone is sad and look after them or by doing things for others without expecting anything in return. We can also think before speaking about three things, "Is it true? Is it necessary? Is it kind?"

**Lisa Osborne**  
**SCHOOL COUNSELLOR**



We are excited to see Molly back at work on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

For those new to Dominican School, Molly is our school wellbeing dog and is a much loved and important member of our community.

The Dogs Connect program has supported us in implementing Molly into the community very gradually, thoroughly, and considerately. We encourage anyone who would like to know more about this program to look through the website using the link:

<https://dogsconnect.net.au>

We have a team of staff who lead this program. We would also like to assure the community that this program will not involve anyone who does not wish to be involved. This work has a positive impact on many people in our community, and we acknowledge and respect that connection with our wellbeing dog will be offered on a great variety of levels.

All members of the school community are asked to help Molly feel relaxed and happy whilst she is working at the school by following the rules:

- 1. We say hello to the person, not the dog.**
- 2. We give lots of space when we pass the dog.**
- 3. We keep moving (we don't stand around and stare).**



From the Student Leaders

**ST CATHERINES**

**House Captains - Elijah and Ella.**



St Catherine of Siena was a great role model through her life, helping the sick and poor. She was one of the shining lights of the Dominican order and she was also named a doctor of the church.



This year on St Catherine's feast day, our house team will be raising money for Heart Kids SA; helping the kids that have heart conditions and their families. This charity was chosen because St Catherine always helped the sick and injured, so its a great way to step into St Catherine's footsteps and help.

### ST PATRICKS

#### House Captains - Katie and Amelia

St Patrick is a saint chosen at our school because the Dominican sisters came from Ireland to build our community, and St Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland.



This year the St Patrick's team will be raising money for the Animal Welfare League. The AWL rehomes lost animals and take them back to their owners. They treat the animals by providing medicine and love. AWL saves thousands of animal's lives.

### ST DOMINICS

#### House Captains - Estelle and Kyan

St Dominic loved helping others, and he donated all his books to the poor. He is the Saint of this team because he created our Dominican pillars and founded the Dominican Order.



This year on our feast day St Dominics will be raising money for the Children's Cancer Foundation because many young Australians have cancer and can't afford proper support. This charity supports clinical research and trials and helps support families with cancer.

### ST MARYS

#### House Captains - Tiger and Isaac

St Mary was the mother of Jesus. The reason why St Mary is one of our school Saints is because she is the patron saint of the Dominican Order. She was also the first disciple of Jesus.



This year on her feast day St Marys will be raising money for the Little Heroes Foundation. This charity supports kids with physical and mental health issues in South Australia and this links with our school focus on wellbeing.

## Finance

### 2025 SCHOOL FEES

Statements for 2025 School fees were posted to all families last week.

Please complete and return the Payment Plan 2025 form as soon as possible.

Fees paid on or before 14th March 2025 will receive an early payment discount of 4%.

A friendly reminder that if you choose not to pay your fees in full, a payment plan must be in place, and we ask that you ensure that you are regularly meeting the payment requirements of your plan.

If you have any queries regarding your school fees, please contact Jo Freer, Finance Officer, on [accounts@dominican.catholic.edu.au](mailto:accounts@dominican.catholic.edu.au) or phone 81 14 3600.

Jo will also be in the office on Meet the Teacher Night, Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February if you wish to discuss your fee account.

All information and forms can be found on our website <https://www.dominican.catholic.edu.au/enrolment/school-fees>

**Jo Freer**

**FINANCE OFFICER**

## News and Other Reminders



We're proudly supporting

# Safer Internet Day

11 February 2025

Australian Government | eSafety Commissioner | eSafety.gov.au

The poster features a central illustration of a smartphone with various icons: a graduation cap, a smiling face, a play button, a pencil, a calendar showing '11', and a notebook. The background is a dark teal color.

For more information and resources for families, visit: <https://www.esafety.gov.au/newsroom/whats-on/sid/communities-and-families#resources-for-families>

### 2025 MUSIC TUITION

At Dominican there are opportunities for your child to learn piano, guitar, drums and singing.

Music lessons, incorporating music theory and harmonies, are run during school time. These lessons are taught by private tutors for a reasonable cost (**Please note the following increase in costs, 30mins - \$34.00 and 20mins - \$25.00**). Payment for tuition fees are made by the parents.



Please complete the attached form and return to the Front Office if your child is interested.

### 2025 Music Tuition Form



DOMINICAN SCHOOL P&F  
INVITE YOU TO A

# MEET & GREET NIGHT

Wednesday 19 February  
6.30pm - 7.30pm  
Dominican School  
Downstairs Breakout Space (Main Building)

Come along for a relaxed evening with drinks and nibbles provided. It's a great opportunity to meet other parents and learn more about how you can get involved!  
We'd love to see you there! 🍷  
Please RSVP by Friday 14 February by following the link or scanning the QR code.

This is a parent only event, creche will not be available.

Click here to RSVP

The poster has a dark blue background with white text and a QR code. It features a crest on the left and faint illustrations of a wine bottle and glasses.

### P&F MEET AND GREET NIGHT

Come along for a relaxed evening with drinks and nibbles provided. It's a great opportunity to meet other parents and learn more about how you can get involved!

We'd love to see you there.

Please RSVP by following the link below or scanning the QR code.

[Click here to RSVP](#)

### 2025 AGM

You're Invited to Our Annual General Meeting!

We are also excited to welcome a special presentation from the Carly Ryan Foundation, providing valuable insights on online safety.

Don't miss this informative and engaging evening! We look forward to seeing you there!

[CLICK HERE TO RSVP](#)

**DOMINICAN SCHOOL**  
**AGM MEETING INVITATION**

**TUESDAY 18 MARCH 2025** | **Starting at 6:00PM**

Join us for the School's Annual General Meeting, featuring presentations from our current School Board and Principal, Angela Scodella. We are also pleased to welcome a special presentation from the Carly Ryan Foundation (see flyer attached). Don't miss this informative and engaging evening!

**The Carly Ryan Foundation**  
Parent Online Safety Presentation  
6.00pm-7.30pm  
AGM to follow

**Event RSVP & School Board Nominations**  
Please RSVP by following the link below or scanning the QR code.  
**This is a parents-only event and is not suitable for children. Please note that no crèche will be available on the night.**  
If you are interested in nominating to become a school board member,

**the Carly Ryan foundation.**  
**Parent Online Safety Presentation**

**Dominican School**  
Tuesday March 18th 6pm  
237 Military Road, Semaphore

**The presentation explores**

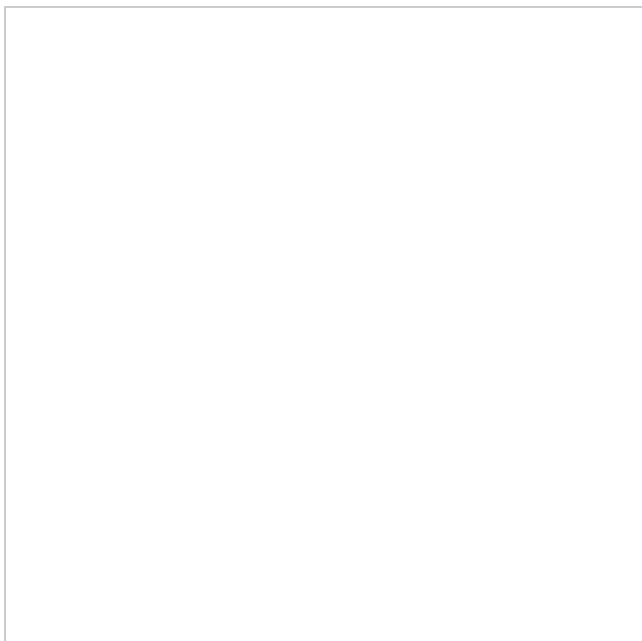
- Online Safety
- Opportunities vs risks
- Privacy settings
- Awareness
- Managing self
- Emotional intelligence
- Resilience
- Critical thinking
- Understanding the law
- Image based abuse
- Respectful relationships Communication
- Practical guidance
- Connection to support services

**EFTPOS AVAILABLE FOR TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS**

Please note this event is not suitable for children

[carlyryanfoundation.com](http://carlyryanfoundation.com)

### SCHOOL CALENDAR



[View Full Calendar](#)

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# **Uniform Shop**

# **Alinta Apparel**

## **383 Grange Road**

## **Findon SA 5023.**

## **Shop instore or online**

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Mondays to Fridays  
8:30am to 12:30pm & 1:00pm to 4.30pm  
Ph | 8447 2077  
[www.alintaapparel.com.au](http://www.alintaapparel.com.au)

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[Go to Online Uniform Shop](#)



[Lefevre Catholic Community Website](#)

Congratulations!!!





**WELCOME TO THE WORLD!**

We are delighted to share the wonderful news that the Phan family has welcomed a new addition! Hoa Thi and Hong Van, along with their children Jenny and Robben, are overjoyed to announce the birth of their beautiful baby boy, Alan.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to the Phan family on this joyous occasion!

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