

Athon Day 2024

Term 3, Week 10, Friday! (27/09/24)

Athon Day is a significant and exciting college event that is coming up in week 10. Athon Day at Cardijn is a celebration, community, fun, charity, and tradition. On this day, we as a college recognize the importance of mission, service, and justice through our support of our various house charities and our collective participation in various community-building, and fund-raising activities. These activities are intended to strengthen the community, build friendships, and raise funds and awareness for those less fortunate. Athon Day has been a highlight of the college for the past 38 years, providing opportunities to act out of community, charity, and celebration.

Athon Day is known to students across the campus as a vibrant celebration that is filled with engaging events and activities for anyone to watch and participate in. The morning starts with a joyful opening ceremony, where the principal and the college captains speak on what Athon Day is about, as well as what will be happening throughout the day. All students gather in their houses, participating in charity activities and friendly competition, allowing for positive teamwork. These activities foster community spirit which supports various causes such as St Vinnies, Caritas, Freds Van, etc. As the day carries on, the year twelve dance is performed, an event where the seniors perform, marking the celebration of their achievements and a way of saying goodbye to their school days. During the day, the Act-Athon is held, consisting of a variety of students performing their talents such as dancing, singing, and playing an instrument. Throughout this festive atmosphere, students are allowed to wear casual clothes, with a splash of house colour, bringing a gold coin donation to embrace the charity event, this adds a relaxed and family community vibe to the day.

Athon Day is an extremely important part of Cardijn's culture, as we began this tradition in 1985, with students participating in a 12km walkathon! In the present day, the charitable event has evolved into a fundraiser for numerous charities that each house has selected such as Chavon's 'Arist Solidarity', Chisholm's 'The Smith Family', Faulkner's 'The Adelaide Day Centre', Koble 'Hutt ST Centre', Lombard 'Freds Van', MacKillop's 'Canteen', Mitchell's 'Catherine Coolock House' and finally Romero's 'Vinnies'. The College supports these charities by creating numerous activities and fundraisers, as previously mentioned. As a year 12 student, Athon Day has become quite a significant part of our final year, and we strive to help support these charities through the organization of this day! Each year the amount of money raised varies depending on the volume of students participating. In 2023 the college raised over \$9,500, including a large number of essential items and non-perishable goods for the people in our community that need it the most! Athon Day is a memorable day for students, teachers, and the wider community. Being a student myself, I feel a great sense of community knowing the impact I can have on vulnerable members of the community's lives, through my involvement in such an enjoyable day, through involving myself in activities, donating a portion of money, and donating essential items and non-perishable goods. This small gesture can have a great impact on my house charity, 'the Adelaide Day Centre', and the grateful people of that charity, and knowing that other house charities are also experiencing this support, is incredibly rewarding.

Athon Day at Cardijn College is one of the best events throughout the year. It carries infectious energy, filled with high spirits, laughter, and loads of togetherness between the students and staff. It is truly a fun-filled day, whether walking 12 km in the Walkathon or engaging in service activities like cookie baking or backpack preparation for homeless people. Knowing that it's all for charities like Hutt St Centre and Catherine House, there is naturally a lot to be proud of. Athon Day reminds me of the power of giving back and how our collective actions truly make a difference.

Athon Day is a highlight for all year levels and staff at Cardijn and supports our local community immensely. So, we hope that each of you finds it just as engaging, fun, and recharging.