



St. Damian's Newsletter

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Thursday March 19, 2020

No. 6- 2020

**PLEASE NOTE:
SUPERVISION OF STUDENTS IS BETWEEN 8.30am TO 3.30pm ON SCHOOL DAYS.**

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents

It has been a very difficult and stressful week for many of us in the school community. I understand that many parents are worried about their children contracting the virus, however it is important that we all maintain perspective and remain calm. The daily scenes, especially at Supermarkets, that greet us as we try to go about our normal business is both shocking and distasteful.

Many of our students are currently being kept home, even though our school environment is relatively safe. If students are being kept at home, then I would hope that they are not visiting shopping centres and public spaces, which are possibly not as safe as actually being at school. Learning is continuing here at school for those students who are present, this means that those that are absent are missing out on vital learning. The Government has continued with its stance that schools should remain open. This ensures that children are not wandering around in public places being unnecessarily exposed. It also ensures that workers are able to continue with their normal employment for as long as possible.

As a nation, we have not reached peak levels yet, so school closures may happen later on. In which case as a school we have been preparing for this eventuality. We have been looking at possible online learning opportunities for our students and other ways we can help to ensure the students are keeping up with their school work. Obviously, it is not the same as being at school, however consolidating learning will be important during this time. Fortunately our students in Years 4-6 have their own devices which will be much utilized in this eventuality. We will keep our community updated as things unfold and as we are communicated with by the relevant authorities. In the meantime, please keep safe and try to look out for one another, especially the more vulnerable in our community.

Coronavirus – COVID19

Please refer to letter at the bottom of this page which is the latest communication from CEM to support families during these unprecedented and difficult times as we all try to deal with this virus.

Thank You

A very huge thank you to two of our families – Lin Family (Franny 4WT) and the Ma Family (Chloe 4WT)– for their generous donation of hand sanitisers, tissues & anti-bacterial wipes. Both of these families run businesses where they supply these items. We are very grateful in these uncertain times to receive these essentials as they are so hard to source in the general community and we were unable to source them even through our normal suppliers. These items have now been put in classrooms to further help with the students' daily hygiene regime. We are most grateful to both families and again, a huge thank you for the support to everyone in our school community. This shows that we are indeed a community who look out for each other. Thank you so much!

Enrolment for Foundation Year (Prep) 2021

Enrolments are still open for Prep next year. If you have a child starting school next year, could you please collect an enrolment form and lodge at the office as soon as possible. Thanking you.

Sports Day

Congratulations to all our students on a very enjoyable and fun day last Friday. It was a great day for Red Team who were the overall winners. Congratulations to Red Team and to Gold Team, Blue Team and Green Team for all your efforts and participation. Until next year.

A huge thank you to Mr Watson for all the hard work in co-ordinating and organizing, the Sports Captains for all their help and all our wonderful parents for their support on the day. A huge effort put in by many which resulted in a very successful event. Thank you to everyone.

School Education Board

The meeting of the Education Board was cancelled due to protocols put in place because of COVID 19. We will reschedule this as soon as we are able.

School Photos

School Photos have been postponed until further notice.

Open Days:

Open Day Tours have been postponed until further notice.

ANZAC Day Services

All ANZAC Day services have been cancelled. There will not be a dawn service at Watsonia RSL, there will not be a 10.00am service, however the Wreath laying service will go ahead at 10.00am

Sacraments

Both Reconciliation and Confirmation have been postponed until further notice.

Masses & Easter Liturgies

Please read the letter attached from Father Vincent.

Condolences

We offer our deepest sympathies and prayers to the Maroge Family on the passing of Diane's brother and uncle to Alyssa and Alana. We also extend our sympathies and prayers to the Gonzales family on the passing of Sara's mother and Ivan's grandmother. We pray that each of these families receive God's grace and peace during this very sad time.

Please be mindful..

We are in very unprecedented times and things are very difficult for everyone at the moment. However, we need to be mindful that we are not putting the blame on individuals for this pandemic. Some of our students here at school are feeling very unsafe at the moment as they are being targeted and they're feeling as though they are being blamed for what is happening around the world. These types of attitudes usually emanate from home, where children are listening to parents talking or being exposed to programs where racial vilification may be happening. Parents, please be mindful as the children at our school and their parents and families are not 'responsible for this pandemic' and throw-away remarks can be very hurtful and damaging to others. Just for your information – the coronavirus that is currently in Australia has been found to have come from Europe or America.

Prayer for the Week:

Heavenly Father, during these terrible times we ask for your mercy and grace. We pray for each other and especially for those who have succumbed to COVID 19, that your grace will protect them. We also pray for those at the frontlines – especially doctors, nurses and medical staff and other carers, including clergy – that the Lord will protect them as they place their own wellbeing at risk in the service of all.

Amen.

Keep safe everyone and remember to check in on each other during these difficult times,

NO PUBLIC MASSES IN CHURCH UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Dear Friends,

The Catholic Bishops of Victoria have just announced the immediate suspension of public Liturgies and celebration of Mass until further notice as well as the suspension of all other church gatherings.

This decision has been made in light of the Prime Minister's ban on non essential indoor gatherings of 100 people.

"We are very aware that this restriction will be particularly difficult for families who are planning liturgies such as funerals, weddings and baptisms", the notice reads.

"At this time, so long as appropriate precautions are able to be put in place (such as distancing between participants), it may be possible for these liturgies to proceed with a carefully limited congregation".

We are encouraged to continue our religious activities through personal and family prayer and participating in an online mass.

For more information please visit the Archdiocesan website at:

<https://www.cam.org.au/Guidance-for-Parishes-COVID-19>.

Thank you for your understanding and patience.

Fr Vincent Le. PP.



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March 19th 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians

The rapid evolution of the COVID-19 (coronavirus) outbreak continues to be a challenge for everyone in education.

I am aware that it has caused concerns for parents, staff and students.

Because the health and safety of school communities is our highest priority, the school's decision to stay open is based on advice from the Australian and Victorian Chief Medical Officers.

Currently, the advice of Dr Brett Sutton, Victorian Chief Health Officer, is that 'pre-emptive school closures are not likely to be proportionate or effective as a public health intervention to prevent community transmission of COVID-19 at this time'.

When advice from the Chief Medical Officers changes, we will communicate those changes to our school community.

We continue to actively monitor developments and are working closely with the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria Ltd (CECV).

The CECV is partnering with the Victorian Department of Education and Training, and Victorian Department of Health and Human Services to ensure our practices reflect current advice and support the needs of our school community.

I am receiving regular updates from the CECV, and ensuring school leaders and staff are aware of coronavirus reporting and management practices, and are well-placed to respond as circumstances change.

The school's leaders and teaching staff are committed to ensuring that learning remains available to students as part of all students' entitlement to access the Victorian curriculum. We have plans in place to support students to learn from home but, while we remain open, the emphasis will be on the learning and teaching currently in place in the classroom.

The methods our students will use to access this learning will be a school-based decision, and will vary according to need and context. We already have localised resources and ideas for supporting the students' learning from home.

Learning from home requires careful management and may not be available immediately.

Should you have any concerns relating to school operations, or the health and safety of students, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,

Rosanna Piccolo.
Principal.



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Dear Parents,

The Catholic Education Commission of Victoria Ltd has released the following information for families to support them in managing the health and wellbeing of their children.

Supporting school communities

We are all aware that some people in our school communities have heightened levels of concern and anxiety regarding the many impacts of the coronavirus pandemic.

These thoughts and feelings are normal and understandable.

Most adults and children will be able to manage these feelings through being resilient and practising positive coping skills. However, some may feel overwhelmed and unable to adequately express their concerns. This may result in escalated levels of distress or worry.

Conversations with children and young people

Families and caregivers of children and young people should discuss news of the virus with those in their care in an open and honest way.

Try to relate the facts without causing alarm, and in a way that is appropriate for their age and temperament.

It is important to listen to any questions they may have, and to let them know that they are safe and that it's normal to feel concerned.

If the media or the news is getting to be too much for them, encourage them to limit their exposure.

Resources

A range of key resources, including videos and tips for young people, have been collated for you to share with your staff, students and families to help promote ongoing wellbeing and good health across your school community:

SPECIAL REPORT: Coronavirus – Dr Michael Carr-Gregg developed this video for parents and school staff. Catholic Education Melbourne acknowledges the generosity of SchoolTV in making the report accessible to parents and staff in Catholic school communities.

How to talk to your children about coronavirus – *ABC News* article

Worried about your child getting coronavirus? Here's what you need to know – *The Conversation* article

Talking to children about natural disasters, traumatic events, or worries about the future – This Emerging Minds video introduces ways for parents and carers to manage media coverage of traumatic events, and talk to their children about their worries and fears

Traumatic events, the media and your child – This Emerging Minds fact sheet provides guidance on how to support and reassure children during ongoing media coverage of COVID-19.

Try to maintain a practical and calm approach

While families are the main source of comfort and information, school staff play a key role in supporting and reassuring children and young people. Familiarity, predictability and stability in the school environment enhance children's sense of safety and capacity to manage emotional responses. Refer to:

- The Australian Psychological Society's [advice for maintaining positive mental health](#) during the coronavirus outbreak
- Beyond Blue's information about [mental health](#) in relation to the coronavirus, facts about [anxiety](#), and other practical advice and resources at www.beyondblue.org.au
- The Royal Children's Hospital (RCH) Melbourne's [keeping healthy and staying safe](#) video with Infectious Diseases Physician Dr Andrew Daley
- Headspace's information for young people and [Tips to maintain a healthy headspace](#).

Online safety

The [eSafety Commissioner](#) website provides information for parents/families about child safety best practice online, including: supervising young people using [technology](#) and [privacy](#) for young people in the online world.

Faith News

Social Justice - Project Compassion

Thank you to each family on behalf of Caritas for your generosity in supporting Project Compassion throughout Lent. Please remember to return all Project Compassion collection box donations to the school by **Friday, 27th March**.

Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord – 25th March

You will conceive in your womb and bear a Son, and you will name him Jesus
Luke 1:31

The Annunciation of the Lord commemorates the angel's announcement to Mary that she would be the mother of Jesus, the Messiah. Secular society is often goal and success orientated. This commemoration reminds Catholics to recognise and rejoice at the beginning of God's work in a person's life rather than merely celebrating their accomplishments. We can celebrate beginnings by welcoming a new believer who professes faith in Christ. In solidarity, may we heed the Scriptural call to welcome the stranger among us. Perhaps we can take the time to write a note of encouragement to someone who has chosen to listen to God's Word. May we grasp every opportunity to celebrate the beginnings of God's work in the lives of others.

Mary-Ann Wright
Religious Education Leader

St Damian's Parent's Association News



BAKER'S DELIGHT HOT CROSS BUN MORNING TEA Cancelled

Parent's Association would like to advise that due to the current situation, we have decided to postpone the Hot Cross Buns morning tea. We will continue with a similar fundraiser in Term 2.

Casual Clothes Day Will Go Ahead

Friday March 27

A gold coin donation will be collected on the day.
All proceeds will be donated to Caritas Christi.

Second Hand School Uniforms

We provide a service for parents by selling second hand /good condition uniform. If you are wanting to donate please do so with good condition uniform, with no holes, mended stitching or faded emblems.

Come in and grab a bargain!

Open Term 1 - Mondays and Wednesdays.8.45 am to 10.00 am

If you are unable to attend but require uniform please email:

Stdpfcommittee@gmail.com

Happy Birthday to the
following students who will
celebrate their birthday



March

22nd	Alisha	1/2MZ
	Elsa	3T
24th	Alessia	1/2J
	Chelsea	1/2C
	Daniel	1/2C
25th	Dean	5S
26th	Dev	4WT
	Candy	5L

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



TERM 1

March

Monday 23rd
Wednesday 25th
Friday 27th

Harmony Day
Yr 3 Reconciliation Ceremony—**Cancelled**
End of Term 1

TERM 2

April

Tuesday 14th

First Day of Term 2

TERM 4

October

Tuesday 6th

Whole School Production Rehearsal at
Loyola College
CAST A Production at Loyola College
CAST B Production at Loyola College

Tuesday 13th

Wednesday 14th

Stay in touch with FlexiBuzz

STEP
01



Search "FlexiBuzz"
in your app store.



Go to
web.flexibuzz.com
and click "Sign Up".

Sign up for FlexiBuzz and then login

STEP
02



Select the 'Search' icon and type in our
name. Select us from the results.

Connect to us

STEP
03



Click the 'Add' icon beside the
communication groups that
apply to you.

Select your communication groups

STEP
04



Click the 'Home' icon to
view our recent posts.

Get started

For further information or assistance please visit our website
www.flexibuzz.com or email us via support@flexibuzz.com.



FlexiBuzz 是我校所采用的沟通工具之一。老师用 **FlexiBuzz** 把自己班里重要的信息传给家长。家长也可用 **FlexiBuzz** 来通知学校孩子生病无法上学的信息，或出国等等。**FlexiBuzz** 有不同的语文功能。请跟着以下的步骤在手机里装上 **FlexiBuzz**。

1. 到手机的  Google Play or App Store  寻找 **FlexiBuzz**，选择‘下载’ **INSTALL** 到手机里
2. 下载后，启动 **FlexiBuzz** **OPEN**
3. 按 **NEXT**，选择加入 **SIGN UP**，输入姓名，国家，网址，设立密码等。填完，按 **SIGN UP**
4. 左上角，选择 
5. 寻找 **St Damian Primary School**
6. 加入 您孩子的班级 **ADD**
7. 右上角，进入 ，在 **Translation**，选择 **Chinese**。您所收到的信息将为您翻译好。
8. 到 **home** 按‘缺席’，家长可通过这里通知学校孩子哪天无法上课。

若有何疑问，请到办公室咨询。
谢谢。

St Damian's Primary School



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FOOTBALL CLUB

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Under 11 &
Under 13.**

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to register or for more information

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