



# St. Damian's Newsletter

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Thursday June 25th, 2020

No. 17 - 2020

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

### Dear Parents and Families

We have come to the end of another school term. This term has been a most challenging and unusual term we have ever experienced. A combination of both remote and onsite learning presented many different opportunities but also created some issues for all involved, students, parents and teachers. We have come to accept a new normal in the past three months as restrictions eased and now have been tightened again. It certainly keeps us on our toes as we await each new announcement from the Government. We hope that the current situation is managed quickly and that the current number of COVID cases diminish, and most importantly, that everyone understands their own responsibility in keeping themselves and others safe. It is important to maintain vigilance with social distancing. I also thank all our families who have been pro-active with keeping unwell children home and where necessary being tested. This is certainly reassuring to everyone else in our community, especially our teaching staff who are at the coalface each day. Thank you most sincerely, we appreciate your consideration for the safety of our whole school community. Hopefully Term 3 will be less stressful and more settled as we get on with our normal business of learning and teaching. In the meantime, I hope that everyone rests over the holidays and perhaps has the opportunity to enjoy some recreational activities.

### Learning Conversations

Thank you to all our families for being so accommodating with the new way of conducting the Semester Two learning conversations. I hope that you found them informative and reassuring.

### Surveys

This year CEM will not be supplying the usual surveys to schools, however they developed surveys for parents which we **emailed** to families yesterday. We need to hear everyone's voice in this space so we ask that ALL families please take a few minutes to complete the surveys for our school. We would really appreciate your feedback and point of view.

### Joseph Street Pick up Points

Parents using this pick up point at the end of the day are reminded that parking is **only** available **on one side of the street**. There are **No Parking** signs erected on the other side which means that fines can and will be issued to offending drivers. Drivers are **not to use** the driveway closest to the school to turn vehicles when students are being dismissed. This is not only dangerous behaviour, it is reckless and selfish.

### Year 7 Applications 2022

Just a reminder that all applications for Secondary Schools close on the 21<sup>st</sup> August 2020. Please ensure that you have sent your form to be received by the school(s) of your choice by this date.

### Staff News

We offer our condolences to Mrs Mattie Dragonetti, our Literacy Leader Yrs 3-6, and her family on the recent passing of her husband, Maurice. We extend our sincerest sympathies and keep them all in our prayers during this very difficult time.

### Term 2 Finishes

The last day of Term Two is Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June. The students will finish at 3.15pm as normal. Term 3 will begin on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July at 8.30am.

### Gospel Reflection – 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time, 28 June 2020—2 Kgs 4:8-11.14-16; Rm 6:3-4.8-11; Mt 10:37-42

Dear Friends,

In daily activities we come into contact with people around us. We know them for many reasons. Some people make a good impression on us for special qualities they possess such as kindness, sincerity, friendliness, warmth, generosity, hospitality. We admire them for their ability to share those qualities with us. The Gospel of this Sunday reminds us of those qualities as the authentic nature of Jesus' disciples. Jesus says that even the hospitality of a cup of cold water would carry with it the guarantee of a good reward.

We know that it is important to give ourselves, to be generous with our time, talents and resources. But there is a special quality that is more important and most needed. It is a generous and sincere heart towards people. This quality can be seen in the way we speak about others, in the way that we accept them for their differences, in the way that we forgive their faults and failings, in the way we encourage them, and even in the way we think about them. With that open and kind heart, we can be sure that it radiates the very generosity, kindness and hospitality of a God who loves all peoples.

Nowadays our world is dominated by war and violence, power conflict and wealth struggle. That's why people in the society are divided by hatred, suspicion, selfishness and dishonesty. Even worse we are living in a difficult time with the constant threat of being infected by the Covid-19 pandemic. We are advised by health authorities to follow the rules of social distancing and to exercise hygienic measures to keep safe. The words 'lockdown' or 'isolation' are so often used on the news. That's why we tend to withdraw into our own safety zone in order to protect ourselves. We close our hearts and become strangers to one another.

As people of faith who follow the way that Jesus has taught us we are called to discover God in people around us and to meet God in ordinary situations. Jesus says that whoever welcomes him welcomes the One who sent him. When we share our time and our resources with the poor and the needy, with the suffering and the underprivileged, we make God's saving love and his healing grace touch their lives. Jesus calls us to share his mission by proclaiming God's salvation and to make God's love known to people around us. Simply but importantly, people would come to experience what God's love is, through our daily witness to faith and the authenticity of our Christian life.

If the more physical isolation and social distancing rules are required for our health and safety, then the more spiritual closeness to God and heart openness to people are needed for the peace of mind and the joy of life.

**Fr Vincent Le PP**

*Keep safe and have a great holiday everyone.*

*Rosanna*

## FAITH NEWS

### **Online Mass**

Each weekend, Father Vincent is celebrating Mass online. Weekly Mass can be accessed via the St Damian's Catholic Parish Bundoora website, Live Streaming link at <https://stdamiansbundoora.cam.org.au/index.php/live-streaming>. Mass can also be accessed directly via the St Damian's Parish Bundoora YouTube page or via the St Damian's Parish Bundoora Facebook page. All are welcome to join in the celebration.

### **Sacrament of Reconciliation**

As you are aware, the scheduled Sacrament of Reconciliation Ceremony for 2020 was postponed due to COVID-19 lockdown restrictions. We now congratulate our 3T Students who celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation today. We also extend our congratulations to those students who received a Special Blessing. Thank you to Father Vincent for leading us in our celebration. Thank you also to our families who prepared with their children, and to our Year Three Teachers, Mrs Carmen Bruce, Mrs Holly Denholm, Miss Laura Maguire and Miss Martina Tran who worked with the students throughout the year.



May you all have a safe and restful break.

*Let nothing disturb you,*

*Let nothing frighten you.*

*All things are passing: God alone is changeless.*

*Patience gains all things,*

*Who has God wants nothing: God alone suffices.*

St Teresa of Ávil

**Mary-Ann Wright**  
Religious Education Leader

# WELLBEING

## ISOLATION CELEBRATION

A fun day was had by all.

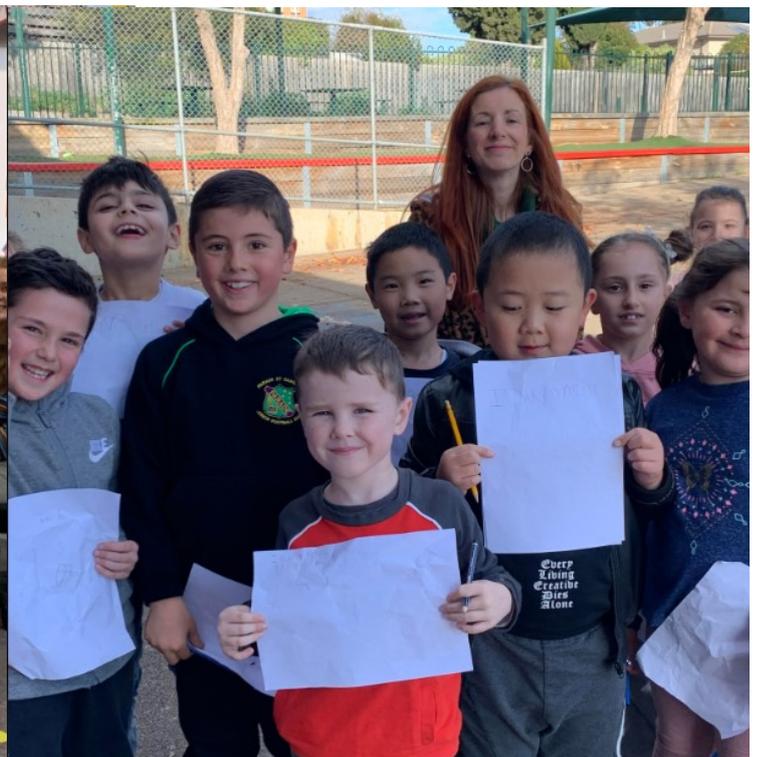
Students were very excited to receive a special delivery of popcorn to eat while they viewed a video about Remote Learning at St. Damian's.

We hope you enjoy the video that is being sent out through Flexi Buzz today about Remote Learning. The day was full of fun and we were all very relaxed in our pyjamas and casual gear.

Happy Holidays Everyone and Stay Safe.

We hope you enjoy the video that is being sent out today about Remote Learning.

## HERE ARE SOME PHOTOS OF THE DAY





Dear Families,

**CANCELLATIONS AND NON ATTENDANCE – WE NEED YOUR HELP**

With free care being extended until July 12, we are unfortunately seeing an increase in non-attendances at services without families cancelling prior. Whilst childcare is free until July 12 – not cancelling bookings or cancelling at the last minute does impact us significantly.

**We need your help!**

If you have a booking for the remainder of this week or the holidays and you are not intending to use it – can you please cancel the booking (either online or by calling us on 1300 072 410).

Under the current government childcare payments that providers receive from the Government until July 12, we receive a fixed payment regardless of attendance. Our attendances during the holiday program are far exceeding the amount that we get paid by the Government.

That means, TheirCare is subsidising care at most schools this holiday program because we want your children to have a great experience. But if we have bookings that are not cancelled (or cancelled at late notice) we invest in additional resources or staff and we do not get this money back from Government.

Unlike many other providers we are not capping attendances or rejecting bookings. The only time we will cap numbers is if we reach licence or safe limits which is a regulatory requirement.

Providing us visibility of your cancellation or non-attendance helps us deliver a quality service to your families now and into the future. So if you can check your bookings as we plan for the holiday program that would be fantastic.

Have a great day and keep safe.

Thanks

TheirCare Support Team  
P: 1300 072 410

**A Note For Prep Parents**

A special request to please check at home for St Damian's picture story books that were home readers during first term. A large blue folder with book and questions. We are missing quite a number, please return to school ASAP.

Maree Foley-Smith (Literacy Leader)



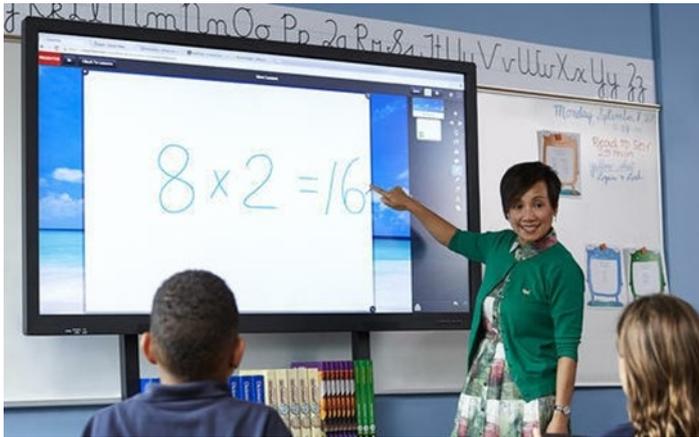
<b>June</b>	
25th	Orlando—1/2B
	Jordan—5S
26th	Oliver—PA
	Ted—4M
27th	Sara—5L
	Jaxon—6C
	Anna—3BM
28th	Adam—5L
<b>July</b>	
2nd	Ava—6C

# St Damian's Parents Association

## Thank You To Our School Community

The Parent's Association wish to advise that money raised through the fundraising events held in 2019 have been used by the school to purchase the following for our staff your children.

4 New 'ActiveTouch' 65" LED interactive touchscreen TVs with stands for 3 of the 1/2 classes and 1 Prep class. Unfortunately, the previous interactive TVs could not be repaired. On all accounts, the teachers and children are enjoying their new teaching tools!



Funds raised in 2019 also went to purchasing 'Levelled Texts' by Fountas and Pinnell which complement current assessment resources, that are also used as teaching tools to support reading outcomes.

Thank you to all the families that have contributed to our fundraising events. Without your continued support these events would not be a success. We look forward to continuing to work with our school community on future fundraising events!

## Second Hand Uniform Shop

Due to Covid Restrictions, Second Hand Uniform shop has been closed.

We will be available for the school community by "appointment only" on Thursday mornings between 9am and 10am until restrictions ease.

Please email [stdpfcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:stdpfcommittee@gmail.com) for price list, your order request or appointment.

Thank you.

**STOP THE SPREAD**

<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus>



## PLAY AT SCHOOL

It is vitally important that your child has access to play at school. And not only in early years but throughout the entire school. In a recent poll we undertook, 85 per cent of Australians agreed that children today spend less time playing compared to when they were growing up. A further 93 per cent agree that play helps children to build the skills they need for the future. Yet, despite recognising its value, little has happened to make play a more prominent part of the school day.

Optimally, we would like to see increased recess or breaks during school days and more learning through play in the classroom. While there will always be demands placed on teachers and students by an increasingly crowded curriculum, and formal learning structures as the norm, as parents we must push back on this and be advocates for a child's play.

Australian schools must re-think their practice regarding play. If you are lucky to be at a school that offers opportunities for more play in the school day, please give play a chance and get on board and support what they are trying to achieve. Be part of the conversation with your child's school and other parents to ensure everyone is on the same page about recognising the need for increased play time.



## PLAY AT HOME

**As a parent, what can you do at home to support a child's need to play?**



Make time for unstructured, free play as regularly as you can. This might mean re-considering your extra-curricular schedule or putting away the screens in favour of visiting a playground or letting them roam around in the garden.



Get outside every day and in any weather- outdoor play offers the optimal benefits to children and natural elements stimulate a child's creativity beyond what toys can. It is OK to let your child be bored sometimes, too. When a child has time to create their own experiences, their imagination works hard.



Provide a wide range of developmentally appropriate toys. The right kinds of toys can enhance a child's developmental outcomes. These need not be expensive, as long as they are open-ended and encourage a child's imagination. If resources are stretched, you could use things like the local toy library to provide your child with a wide range of toys.



Play with your child when you can. Research has found that the benefits of play are even more pronounced when parents play with their child and pretend, talk, build and interact.