



St. Damian's Newsletter

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Thursday August 13th, 2020

No. 21 - 2020

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Families,

School Board Meeting

Members of the School Education Board meet via Zoom on Tuesday evening. This is the first meeting of the year. It was a very new way to meet but necessary in these times. The Principal's report tabled at the meeting has been included with this newsletter.



Feast of the Assumption of Mary

This coming Saturday, 15th August, we celebrate the Feast Day of the Assumption of Our Lady when according to our faith, the Holy Mother, "having completed her course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory". The Assumption signals the end of Mary's earthly life and marks her return to heaven to be reunited with Jesus. While the bodies of both Jesus and Mary are now in heaven, there is a difference between the Assumption and the Resurrection. Where Jesus arose from the tomb and ascended into heaven by his own power, Mary's body was taken up to heaven by the power of her Son.

Preparations for 2021 School Year

It doesn't seem possible that we are now looking forward to preparations for a new year when we are in the midst of such an unusual year. However, now is the time of year when we begin to consider and begin planning for the following year. We have firmed our Foundation Year (Prep) enrolments for 2021 and we expect that we will be maintaining three classes for this level with enrolment numbers of 72 incoming students. I understand that this may be the last thing on families' minds at the moment, but to assist us with planning for the 2021 year I am asking families to please advise us in the next couple of weeks of their intentions if not returning to St Damian's next year. This will determine our class structure for 2021, which at the moment looks very positive.

Gospel Reflection – 20th Sunday of Ordinary Time, 16 August 2020—Mt 15:21-28

Dear Friends,

Anesthesiologist Néstor Ramírez Arrieta of Colombia takes advantage of every opportunity to pray the Rosary when he has a chance during his hours of work in his COVID-19 Hospital. This is the story of a man of faith being told by his friend, an Evangelical Protestant pastor, Luis Alberto Gallego, who took a photo of him at prayer while still wearing protective gear and shared it on Facebook with a moving message: "This image of my great friend and brother, the doctor anesthesiologist Nestor Ramírez, breaks my heart. He, like many doctors, endures endless shifts, and very intense emotional pressure that many of us would not be able to sustain. Even so, in short moments of rest, he takes out his rosary and dedicates himself to prayer. Although we differ in the way we worship and pray, can anyone doubt that GOD hears this prayer?"



Facing difficulties and challenges in life we are constantly in need of support and guidance, strength and perseverance to win the battle, especially during these days of the coronavirus pandemic. The Gospel today tells us of a Canaanite woman from the gentile district of Tyre and Sidon who stood at the crossroads, emptying herself before Jesus, pleading for her sick daughter. She patiently refused to be put off or to give up. Her perseverance, courage, humility and love helped her to achieve her request. Jesus answered her, '*Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.*' (Mt 15:27) It is her attitude that we need to maintain in our life struggles. It is her faith that helps us to cope with illness, poverty, death and the failure of high ideas. Sometimes, the only thing we can only do is to sit still in prayer, often not even finding the words, but simply emptying ourselves before God so that we can be filled with strength, energy and light. To pray like this is to acknowledge that before God we are poor and empty so that God can tell us, 'Let your wish be granted'.

Fr Vincent Le PP

Have a good week everyone and keep safe and well

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.

Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary – 15th August

The Assumption of Mary into Heaven after her death is the most important Marian feast in the Liturgical Calendar of the Catholic Church and is a holy day of obligation in Australia. This feast day highlights how important the Blessed Virgin is in the Catholic Tradition. It can be said that Mary is the very first Christian. She carried, gave birth to and raised God's only Son, Jesus. As a child, Jesus would have taken guidance from his mother and lived under her motherly protection. Jesus the child, followed in his mother's footsteps, and she in turn followed in His.

The Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55) depicts Mary exalting in blessings in disguise. Peter Steele, in his collection of homilies, *Bread for the Journey*, reflects on Mary as a relevant and important role model within the Church. He observes this about the Mother of God:

*And if she has one thing more than another to teach us today, surely this is it:
That growth in humanity, growth in the Spirit, begins and is fostered just where we thank God
for our blessings.
Our blessings include each other, and they include ourselves.*

Mary's unique openness to being blessed inspires us to celebrate the Feast of the Assumption.



Mary-Ann Wright
Religious Education Leader

SPORTS NEWS

Well done to all of the students who came to the PE Meets on Monday. It was great to see so many students take the time to dress up in their favourite team's colours or wear something 'sporty'. There were soccer tops, football jumpers, scarves, basketball singlets and shirts, sports caps, footballs, basketballs, soccer balls, cricket shirts, motor racing shirts, rugby tops, water bottles, capes and much, much more, all in team colours. Seeing you all fill me screen with so many different colours really made my week. I apologise to the P-2 students as I forgot to save the screenshot or paste it anywhere before I took the 3-6 screenshot, so I couldn't include your photo in the newsletter. Also, my grid view wasn't working as it should have been so not all students from Year 3-6 are in the picture.





August		
14th	Siena	5S
	Vivienne	5L
15th	Jonathan	1/2C
16th	Nicholas	PT
17th	Alexia	3BM
18th	Aston	4M
19th	Ava	5S
	Jana	6C



Online Music Lessons- Term 3

Direct to your home via video link to our tutor



Lessons still available for Term 3 !

- Primary Music Institute now offer online instrumental music lessons – a fun, flexible option that students can access from home whilst they are learning remotely this term. All you need is an instrument, and an internet connection!
- Lessons are held once per week. Only \$18.50 per child per small group lesson (for 30 minutes)
- Private lessons (1-on-1) and pair lessons (max 2 students) are also available
- Instrumental music can improve your child's school results – including for reading, maths, coordination, IQ, abstract reasoning, performance confidence... and is great fun!
- Please **ENROL TODAY** via PMI's website

P: 1300 362 824 E: admin@primarymusicinstitute.com.au www.primarymusicinstitute.com.au

Stop the Spread of Coronavirus!



Practice good hygiene.



Keep your distance
with a space of at least 6 feet (2 meters).



Stay home
if you or someone you have been around is sick.



Follow the latest government guidelines.

WELL BEING



BUILDING STAMINA FOR REMOTE LEARNING

Are you looking for ways to help children maintain focus on their schoolwork at home? That is completely understandable. Children are accustomed to the rituals and routines of school. In their school's classrooms, they go to a specific environment that deliberately is structured for learning. Now for many children, those structures are different, and they are trying to understand what it means to learn more independently. Based on research at Berry Street Education Model (BSEM), stress can negatively impact a child's stamina to learn and their ability to focus. Managing this change as parents, carers and teachers can be overwhelming. Here are three strategies that can help:

Your relationship with your children comes first.

Practice compassion and kindness if they are struggling to sit in front of a screen or focus on worksheets or other tasks for even a short period of time. Practice kindness with yourself, too. Be aware if you need to step away for a minute so that you can stay in your calm rather than join into any chaos.

Set stamina goals for children learning.

A simple strategy for independent reading for completing their learning is to take a sticky note or bookmark and have the child place it where they predict they will reach by the end of a timed session. If they reach the spot before the work session ends, congratulate them and set a new goal for the remainder of the session. If they do not reach the goal, have a chat with these prompts: Were there any distractions? Was there confusion about the work? Did they over-predict for the allotted time? Through reflection, children can set a more obtainable goal next time or can work to troubleshoot distractions or other issues.

Set timed work sessions.

For older kids try the Pomodoro Technique, designed by Francesco Cirillo. It is a simple way to balance deliberate focus with scheduled breaks.

- Step 1: Have the child decide on the task to be done
- Step 2: Set a timer, making sure your child can always see how much time remains. (25 minutes is a good amount to build up to)
- Step 3: Work on the task until the timer rings
- Step 4: Take a 5 minute break
- Step 5: Take a 15-30 minute break once they've completed 3-4 pomodoro cycles

For younger children try five minutes on-task then five minutes break time. This is useful if your child is struggling to focus for an extended period of time as five minutes feels much more achievable. If you have two children who you are supporting with schoolwork at the same time, while one is working, the other can have a break.

This is still a new situation for everyone, so leading with compassion and understanding builds relationships for everyone. By trying strategies such as setting small stamina goals, giving frequent breaks, and providing continuous encouragement, we hope that you see which work best for you or adapt them so they become your own!

I have also included a video link which you may like to view. It is very parent friendly and is a reminder that consistency, predictability and routine during remote learning are foundations to success at home as they are school.

Helping Kids Get Ready to Learn Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SGaddpXjV80>

Stay Well and Stay Safe,

Tania Micomonaco
Student Wellbeing Leader

*A Little
Progress
Each Day
Adds Up To
Big Results*

BUY YOUR TICKETS AND SUPPORT ST DAMIAN'S

THE COMBINED CATHOLIC PARISHES RAFFLE

3 x NEW SUZUKI BALENO TO BE WON!!!!!!!!!!

4th and 5th Prizes \$1000 Coles Myer Gift Cards

6th to 14th Prizes \$500 Coles Myer Gift Cards



\$2.00 Per Ticket

To purchase tickets please fill out the form and return with money to parish office.

Tue - Thurs 10.00am to 3.00pm & Friday 10.00 am to 1pm

or via post to : PO Box 63, Bundoora 3083

Tickets can also be purchased by emailing the Parish Office at

Bundoora@cam.org.au or Phone 9467-2797

Thank you for your support

\$1.50 of each ticket sold goes directly to St Damian's Parish

Please detach and send the payment
The Combined Catholic Parish Raffle

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Address : _____

Postcode: _____ Phone: _____

I would like to purchase _____ tickets @ \$2.00 each

Direct Deposit: BSB: 083347 585071188 (please put name in narrative for deposit)

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Thank you for supporting St Damian's Bundoora—9467 2797



St Damian's Catholic Primary School Education Board Meeting August 11, 2020

Principal's Report

General

A very warm, if somewhat belated, welcome to all members of the Board both continuing members and new members,

Foundation (Prep) – Sally McGregor

Year 1 – Mary Grouios

Year 2 - Joanne Stingas

Year 3 – Sally McGregor

Year 4 – Suzie Gray

Year 5 – Lucia Apicella

Year 6 – Vicki Gargaro

P&F Rep—Vivienne Pantelidis

Staff Rep—Julie Cannattelli

Our 2020 school year was very smooth and calm and started well with all students settled into school routines. We worked with families who had been overseas and managed the situation to ensure everyone's safety. Unfortunately, we only had the opportunity to experience one normal school term and then we were all put into isolation due to the coronavirus. This resulted in remote/online learning for our students for 5 weeks for P-Yr 2 and 7 weeks for Yrs 3-6. During this period we averaged around 17 - 20 students onsite per day. These children were from families who were not able to work from home. We returned briefly for the latter part of term 2 where, once again the students re-settled into normal school routines. This was quickly followed by the term holidays. We were very glad of the opportunity to stop and catch our breath for what we imagined would be a return to normal schooling in term 3. Unfortunately, given the escalation of the crisis, we find ourselves once more in isolation and returned to remote learning. The Government initially indicated August 19th as the end of isolation, however we now find ourselves in Stage 4 restrictions with a possible end on September 13th. At this point in time we are not certain of the timeline in regards to the resumption of onsite schooling for everyone.

Remote Learning

As you can imagine, remote learning was a very unfamiliar space for everyone. As teachers we were trying to learn new digital platforms and work out how these could best be utilized to support our students. The first round of remote learning was pretty much a steep learning curve for everyone and I commend the teaching staff on their flexibility and commitment to embrace the new challenges. In this current round of remote learning, we recognized that it was important to continue the explicit teaching to enable our students to continue to learn. Therefore, the delivery of online learning has become more student-centred and focused. Teachers are doing more online teaching which requires students to attend more meets. We recognize the difficulty for some, but are also acutely aware that the academic year is quickly passing and that the students need to be engaged in purposeful learning. The delivery of curriculum in this way is also more demanding of teachers as we try to manage this new way of working. Our Learning Support Officers have also tried to support students by being available to them in a co-ordinated way. We are all feeling the pressures of remote learning and cannot wait to resume our normal way of operation, which is more personal and satisfying.

Staffing

This year we welcomed into our staff, Miss Celeste Cocchiara as one of the Year 1/2 teachers, Miss Martina Tran as Year 3 teacher, Miss Laura Maguire, who initially shared a Year 3 class with Mrs Carmen Bruce and is now sharing with Mrs Holly Denholm as Carmen has taken maternity leave. Miss Hannah Walsh as Year 4 teacher and Mrs Jan Tivisini, who is sharing the class with Hannah and works on Fridays. Mrs Angela De Francesco is our Leading Languages (Italian) teacher and is continuing to work with class teachers to implement Italian. The majority of the staff have continued which has ensured consistency in the school. The School Leadership Team is comprised of leaders who hold responsibility in areas of the curriculum. Mrs Rubira (Learning & Teaching and Deputy) Mrs Dragonetti and Mrs Foley-Smith (Literacy Leaders), Mrs Tania Micomonaco (Wellbeing Leader), Mrs Maryanne Wright (REL), and we welcome Mrs Michele Klooger to the team as Mathematics Leader replacing Mrs Bruce.

Leading Languages Initiative

This year we have embarked on our Italian language initiative. Angela De Francesco, with the support of a core team, is working with the teachers to implement Italian on a daily basis. Students, with their teachers, are asked to practice the language 10mins daily. Angela ensures that the teachers have the videos and resources they need to do this. The students have responded positively and are beginning to confidently use phrases and greetings in conjunction with gestures to support their learning. Unfortunately the current crisis has impacted on this new initiative, however we are continuing as best we can.

Capital Works

We were fortunate to receive a Victorian Government Capital Grant at the end of last year. This money, together with a capital loan and some school funds will allow us to complete first stage of our Masterplan at a cost of \$4.5M. This Masterplan was developed in 2017 and outlined works over three stages. We have been working with Minx Architects over this period and have now reached documentation stage. Town Planning has held us up a little as the architects worked with Whittlesea Council to ensure we receive the relevant planning permits which allow us to progress to the tender stage. Unfortunately, once again, Stage 4 restrictions have impacted. The Architectural firm has been forced to direct their staff to work from home. This turn of events will impact on the timeline. At this stage, we are very hopeful to be able to start the tender process in November which hopefully will enable us to begin works in the new year.

Governance

By January 1st 2021, the governance structure of all Catholic schools will change as a result of the recommendations from the Royal Commission into institutional child abuse. Essentially this means that schools will be governed by a central body, namely the Catholic Education Office. The Archbishop is the incorporated entity and he will be advised by a Board, made up of various stakeholders. This Board, will then work with CEM who will be responsible for the running and administration of all primary and secondary schools. Parish Priests will no longer be the official employers, however their presence and ministry is still critical to enable our schools to maintain their catholicity. Schools will still be under the umbrella of the Parish and the relationship between school and parish will be maintained. The Parish Priest will still be a key stakeholder in schools, however they are not the ultimate authority, this falls to CEM and ultimately the Archbishop.

Sacraments

With the closure of church services, the reception of the Sacraments is also on hold at the moment. Fortunately, we were able to go forward with the Sacrament of Reconciliation at the end of last term when restrictions had slightly eased. The Reconciliation candidates received this Sacrament during school time in their class groups. Whilst not the ideal, it was still a beautiful experience for the children as they shared this time with their classmates. Father Vincent asked the teachers to take a photo of the student and to send this to the families as a memento of the occasion. The Archbishop has asked for Confirmation to be conferred on all candidates this year, so we will need to see how this can eventuate in the next few months. Of course, we will need to follow Government regulations in regard to services and numbers. Everything is uncertain at the moment.

