



# St. Damian's Newsletter

5 Settlement Rd, Bundoora 3083

Ph: 9467 8566

Email: info@sdbundoora.catholic.edu.au

Thursday February 17, 2021

No. 03 - 2021

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

I imagine the Premier's sudden announcement last Friday afternoon caught everyone by surprise. Though we live in such uncertainty at present that we should be ready for just about anything. I was not at school as I was attending a Principal's Conference just out of Melbourne, however as a Principal's network we were aware of what was happening and in contact with our school communities. I am very grateful for the efforts of the staff and most especially Mrs Rubira, who was in charge at the time of my absence. Under her guidance and with support of all the staff, our students were sent home with learning packs for the snap lockdown period. As you would understand, remote learning is not possible to organise in just 2 hours so the teachers did the best they could do under the circumstances. I commend them for their efforts in ensuring all students had some work to occupy them during the lockdown period.

We were overjoyed to learn on Wednesday morning that the lockdown would end as initially announced and that our school could reopen once again. This morning, we were very pleased to welcome back all the students and to recommence learning onsite. We need to be mindful though that COVID has not gone away and that we must wear masks and maintain social distancing and to be vigilant with personal hygiene. If students are unwell, please do not send to school. Fingers crossed that we can have a normal school year in 2021 and that the vaccine is rolled out as soon as possible to help with immunisation against this virus.

#### **School Assembly**

We will hold our school assembly this Friday (19<sup>th</sup> February ) afternoon at 2.30pm as planned. During this assembly we will present badges to our 2021 student leaders. I understand that parents would like to attend, however given the situation with COVID and the uncertainties, we have been advised that for the present we should only have students and staff. Therefore, we are unable to invite parents to attend the assembly. I do apologise for the inconvenience, but I am certain that everyone agrees that we need to adhere to the rules so that schools can remain open and students attend as normal.

#### **Learning Conversations**

Thank you to all our families for attending the Learning Conversations held via Zoom on Tuesday. I especially wish to thank and acknowledge the efforts of our teachers who quickly transitioned from face to face meeting to online. Staff spent a considerable amount of time re-organising and co-ordinating to make the Learning Conversations happen as scheduled. It is amazing how adaptive and flexible we have all become over the past 12 months. I trust this opportunity to meet with your child's teacher was productive and has enabled you all to understand better how to work together to support your child's learning. Thank you everyone for your attendance, your patience and most especially, your support.

#### **Lunches**

We respectfully ask that parents refrain from coming to school with 'special' lunches for their children. I understand that at times students may forget their lunch or even that households may run out of bread or other items to send for lunch. In which case it may necessitate that parents may need to drop off lunch, but we ask that this is not a normal occurrence. It is disruptive to classes to have students called down to the office as students need to come with a fellow classmate and this interrupts both students' learning. Also, it is very unfair to other students to watch classmates eating special treats. We have a school canteen that families can access if they wish to 'treat' their children, otherwise we ask that children bring 'normal' lunches and snacks to have at school. Special food should be consumed at home please. Also, our office staff are busy and the constant calling of students to collect special lunches interrupts their normal work flow and at times this may even result in students not receiving their lunch. We would appreciate families working with us on this. Thank you.

#### **Pupil Free Day**

On Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March the staff will be working with Pearson Publications to better understand how to use the Fountas and Pinnell Literacy Resources to support our students' literacy attainment. These resources were purchased with funds raised by the Parent's Association through their fund raising efforts in 2019. As these resources are very expensive, costing \$20,000 we want to know that we are using them in the most effective way. Therefore, we are holding a pupil free day to ensure that staff have a good understanding of how to use this resource to complement their assessments and ensure that each child is able to develop their literacy skills by targeting their individual point of need. Students are not required at school on this day.

#### **School Photos**

School Photos will be taken on **Wednesday March 3**. Further information regarding ordering will be sent home closer to the date.

### Ash Wednesday

Unfortunately, due to the lockdown we were not able to celebrate Mass together as a school community. However, we are now in the season of Lent a time of renewal and reflection. In his message for Lent Pope Francis calls on us as God's people to *"renew our faith, draw from the living waters of hope, and receive with open hearts the love of God."* Pope Francis goes on to say, that the journey of conversion, through fasting, prayer, and almsgiving, "makes it possible for us to live lives of sincere faith, living hope, and effective charity." The Holy Father explains "accepting and living the truth revealed in Christ means, first of all, opening our hearts to God's word." Through fasting, "experienced as a form of self-denial," we are able "to rediscover God's gift and recognize that, created in His image and likeness, we find our fulfillment in Him." Fasting, too, by helping us recognize our own poverty, helps us to love both God and neighbour.

"Lent is a time for believing," the Pope says, "for welcoming God into our lives and allowing Him to 'make His dwelling' in us." Pope Francis relates the virtue of hope to the 'living water' that Jesus promises the Samaritan woman at the well. This is not the physical water the woman is expecting, but rather the Holy Spirit who is given through the Paschal Mystery. Although hope may seem challenging in fragile and uncertain times, "Lent is precisely the season of hope, when we turn back to God."

Hope, he says, "is given to us as inspiration and interior light" through "recollection and silent prayer." The experience of hope in Lent, he says, "means receiving the hope of Christ, who gave His life on the Cross and was raised by God on the third day."

The Holy Father also states that Love is the highest expression of faith and hope "It brings us out of ourselves and creates bonds of sharing and communion." The Holy Father emphasizes the need for "social love" in building up "a civilization of love." "Love is a gift that gives meaning to our lives," he says. Love helps us to see all men and women as our brothers and sisters. Charity is multiplied when given with love, as we see not only in the Scriptures, but in our own lives, too, when we give alms "with joy and simplicity." "To experience Lent with love," says Pope Francis, "means caring for those who suffer or feel abandoned because of the Covid-19 pandemic." He invites us to "speak words of reassurance, and help others to realise that God loves them all as sons and daughters."

After reminding us that "every moment of our lives is a time for believing, hoping, and loving,"

Pope Francis concludes by saying:

*"The call to experience Lent as a journey of conversion, prayer and sharing of our goods, helps us – as communities and as individuals – to revive the faith that comes from the living Christ, the hope inspired by the breath of the Holy Spirit and the love flowing from the merciful heart of the Father."*

**(taken from Vatican News)**

### Open Days

Each year we hold our Open Days during Catholic Education Week in March. The main purpose of Open Days is to provide prospective parents with an opportunity to visit our school and gain a feel for what we offer. Current families are always warmly welcome to join a tour. Tours will be available on **Monday 15th March, 9.30 – 10.30am, Tuesday 16th March, 11.30am – 12.30pm and Thursday 18th March, 6.00pm—6.30pm.** Tours may also be organized by appointment outside of these times for families not able to attend on the official Open Days. If you know of families looking for a school for their children please spread the word regarding our Open Days. Enrolment applications are already coming in, which is pleasing.

### Enrolment for Foundation Year (Prep) 2022

We are now taking enrolments 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. If you know of families wanting to enrol at St Damian's please let them know we are now taking enrolments. Please spread the word. Information spread by word of mouth is very powerful and can draw others into our community. Thank you.

### E-waste recycling made easy at St Damian's School & Parish

On 1 July 2019, the Victorian Government's ban on the disposal of e-waste to landfill came into effect. This means e-waste can no longer be put in your bins at home. To help you make recycling e-waste easy, we will be hosting an e-waste recycling skip from this Friday 19<sup>th</sup> Feb to 12<sup>th</sup> March. This opportunity will enable our community the opportunity to get rid of any unwanted E-waste. E-waste refers to any household appliance with a battery or cord.

When the skip arrives, any small household electrical items with a cord or battery into it, such as: televisions, computers, laptops, tablets, printers, faxes, scanners, copiers, keyboards, speakers, monitors, gaming consoles, modems, set top boxes, routers, server, vacuum cleaners, toasters, hair dryers, hi-fi equipment, video and DVD players, electronic toys and other household electronic appliances can be placed into it.

What will **NOT** be accepted in the skip: Any whitegoods - refrigerators, freezers, dish washers, washing machines, clothes dryers and microwaves or Solar panels.

To get rid of whitegoods such as fridges, freezers and microwaves, book a free collection by phoning Kids off the Kerb on 9982 5600.

We offer this opportunity to get rid of any unwanted **e-waste items** easily through our school.

**Condolences**

Our heartfelt sympathies are extended to the **Werner** family on the passing of Michael's mother and grandmother to Archer and Hugo(5M) and to the **Sobey** Family on the passing of Joanne's father. We pray that God's love and mercy brings them all strength and hope during this difficult and sad time.

**Prayer for the Week:**

We pray that...

through our Lenten prayer, fasting and almsgiving, God may renew our resolve to work together to end poverty and injustice. We also pray for our parish and school community that we may be moved by God's love to reach out to others, especially to those who are struggling, so that no one may feel abandoned, forgotten or alone. We especially pray for everyone in our global family who is affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, for those in our own community and country, and for those who live in countries where healthcare is limited and poverty brings enormous challenges. May God grant us all the gift of an open-hearted, generous and compassionate response to those in need. Lord, in your mercy we pray that during this Lenten season we may *renew our faith, draw from the living waters of hope, and receive with open hearts the love of God.* Amen.

*Have a great week everyone,  
Rosanna*

**2021 Mathematics Leaders**

Josh, Nathaniel and Thisath are our Maths leaders for 2021. They will be introducing some fun activities and numeracy based initiatives throughout the year.

Here's a little bit about our leaders...

**Josh** - Barracks for Collingwood, loves playing tennis and riding his bike, his favourite TV show is Friends and he wants to be a teacher when he grows up. Why does Josh love maths? "I love maths because you can have many ideas and have whole class discussions that can go on forever and a day. Maths isn't a 2 minute job you have to perfect it".

**Nathaniel** - His favourite TV show is Bugs Bunny, he loves Hawthorn and Carlton (but I will try and convert him to a Pies supporter!!). He loves doing addition in maths because it is fun, and would like to be a computer programmer when he grows up.

**Thisath** - Loves playing with Lego, barracks for Carlton, he wants to be either a scientist, mathematician or a lego set designer when he grows up. He loves learning about times tables, area, division and angles in maths class. An interesting fact about Thisath is that he was born in Dubai!

I look forward to working with these students and continuing to make maths fun and engaging.

**Carmen Bruce**  
Maths Leader

# FAITH NEWS

## **Sacrament of Confirmation**

Early in Term Two, our Year Six Students will be renewing their baptismal promises and professing their faith as they celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation on **Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> May at 2:00pm**. We pray for them as they prepare to participate in the full outpouring of the Holy Spirit as once granted to the Apostles on the day of Pentecost.

If your child is participating in the Sacrament, please ensure that completed **CONFIRMATION CARD DETAILS** are returned to the School promptly. If you wish your child to receive a Blessing at the Ceremony, please advise me in writing. Further details regarding the Sacrament of Confirmation will be sent home over the coming weeks.

## **Sacramental Evening**

Our Sacramental Evening will take place next **Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> February at 7:30pm** in the School Hall. Rev. Dr. Elio Capra will be our guest speaker for the evening. This evening is a parent only event and although it is aimed towards parents of students in Years Two, Three, Four, Five and Six, all parents are welcome to attend.

## **Lent**

Lent is a time of reflection and renewal. It is a time for Christians to consider how they live the Word of God and to renew this living. The Lenten practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving are one way in which Christians embody the values of justice, compassion and generosity and the giving up of oneself.

## **Social Justice - Project Compassion**

Throughout the Lenten Season, our School and Parish Community is reminded to pay attention to the care of others. We are invited to support a Caritas initiative, Project Compassion, to help others and ensure that we consider their wellbeing. Catholic Social Teaching directs our attention to the most vulnerable members of our society. Christ's presence in today's world is made known when we reach out in love to those in need.

This year's theme for Project Compassion is 'be more,' referring to the words of El Salvadorian priest and martyr, Saint Oscar Romero, 'Aspire not to have more, but to be more.' This simple idea serves as a reminder of the actions people can take to 'be more' for our world, and help make a difference in the lives of others. It is a timely message, given that this year, owing to complications resulting from coronavirus, rates of extreme poverty are set to rise for the first time in twenty years. Each class has a Project Compassion collection box and we are encouraging students to make donations, no matter how small, throughout Lent. A donation box is also located at the Main Office. Donations over \$2 are tax deductible and Project Compassion will issue you with a receipt on completion of a donation form. Donation forms are available on each Project Compassion Box, many of which are located near the Office. Thank you for your ongoing support of this worthy cause.

## **A Daily Prayer During Lent**

*Lord, I will turn,  
Turn my face towards you.  
I will lay before you the dessert areas I hide  
And turn to soak in your refreshing words of life.  
I will cast aside the barren, selfish pursuits  
And turn to rest in the tranquil warmth of your love.  
I will draw back from the harsh pull of the media  
And turn to bathe in the gentle power of your Spirit.  
Lord, today I turn my face towards you.*

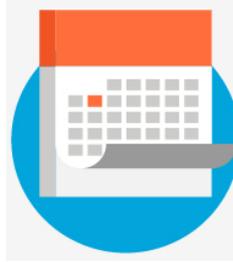
*Lord, I will turn  
To soak in your words of life,  
To rest in the warmth of your love,  
And to bathe in the power of your Spirit.*

Happy Birthday to the  
following students who will  
celebrate their birthday



### February

19th	Thomas	1S
	Madison	2S
	Tracy	6C
	Ishana	PM
	Benjamin	1C
	Sierra	2C
20th	Grace	5B
21st	Josh	3/4M
22nd	Thomas	1M
25th	Lucas	3/4W
	Adriana	2T



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### Term 1

#### February

Wednesday 24th Sacramental Evening— Year 2— 6  
Parents Only 7.30pm. School Hall

#### March

Monday 1st Preps start full week  
Wednesday 3rd School Photos  
Monday 8th Labour Day Holiday  
Friday 12th St Damian's Sports Day  
Wednesday 17th Student Free Day  
Monday 29th Confirmation Reflection Day—Year 6

#### April

Thursday 1st End of Term 1

### Term 2

#### April

Monday 19th First Day of Term 2

## 2021 SCHOOL FEES

### Family Fee

School Fees	\$ 1,750
Capital Fees	\$ 550
	.....
	<b>\$ 2,300</b>

### Student Fees

**Curriculum Levy** (includes excursions, student, art and library resources)

Year Prep	\$ 360
Years 1 to 3	\$ 420
Years 4 to 6	\$ 450

**\$115.00 discount for fees paid in full by the 26<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

**Please note: Camp Fees are not included in the school fees. A note will be sent out to parents regarding Camp Fees.**

**Fees will be issued and sent home next week.**

# CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS AT ST DAMIAN'S



 SCHOLASTIC

Book Club LOOP

All Book Club orders must be completed online.  
No cash payments will be accepted.

Orders close Friday 19th February, 2021

## St Damian's Parents and Friends

### 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 **Friday mornings** between 8.45am and 9.45am until restrictions ease.

Please email [stdpfcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:stdpfcommittee@gmail.com) for appointment. Cash Only.



[www.grippingpotential.com.au](http://www.grippingpotential.com.au)



## GP TENNIS COACHING AUS OPEN SPECIAL

### 25% OFF GROUP PROGRAMS

NEW TO GP TENNIS? We are offering 25% off our normal group program price for all new enrolments in Term 1.  
FREE junior racquet for all new Hot Shot enrolments.  
Please mention this ad when booking!

CONTACT: [INFO@GRIPPINGPOTENTIAL.COM.AU](mailto:INFO@GRIPPINGPOTENTIAL.COM.AU) OR CALL 0402 296 835

## E-waste Collection

### Take your E-waste to a better place!



To make recycling e-waste easy, we will be hosting an e-waste recycling skip from **Friday 19 February - Friday 12 March.**

E-waste refers to any household appliance with a battery or cord. When the skip arrives, you can put any small household electrical items with a cord or battery into it, such as: televisions, computers, laptops, tablets, printers, faxes, scanners, copiers, keyboards, speakers, monitors, gaming consoles, modems, set top boxes, routers, server, vacuum cleaners, toasters, hair dryers, hi-fi equipment, video and DVD players, electronic toys and other household electronic appliances.

#### ✓ What WILL be accepted:

Any small household electrical or electronic items with a cord or battery, for example: computers, televisions, vacuum cleaners, printers, toasters, hair dryers, video and DVD players, hi-fi equipment, stereo equipment, digital cameras and video cameras.

#### ✗ What will NOT be accepted:

Any whitegoods (refrigerators, freezers, dish washers, washing machines, clothes dryers and microwaves) and solar panels. To dispose of whitegoods book a free collection by calling Kids Off The Kerb on 9982 5600.



**Dance Street**  
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ALL AGES - Toddlers – Adults

**\*\*2021 ENROLMENTS NOW OPEN\*\***

Visit <https://dancestreet.com.au> for timetable

**RACHEL DUNNE FUGA** (D.F.T.A) – Principal

Former Australian Champion 30 years of teaching expertise

**0432 949 499**

## Tuck Shop News

Tuck shop will be closed on Friday 12th March and Monday 15th March 2021



# St Damian's Primary School

5 Settlement Road, Bundoora 3083

**Now Taking Foundation 2022 Enrolments**

**Open Day School Tours**

**Monday 15th March 9.30am—10.30am**

**Tuesday 16th March 11.30am—12.30pm**

**Thursday 18th March—6.00pm—7.00pm**

**(no appointments necessary)**

预备班 2022 - 现在开始接收报名。



**Alternate tours available by appointment**

**(w) [www.sdbundoora.catholic.edu.au](http://www.sdbundoora.catholic.edu.au)**

**(e) [info@sdbundoora.catholic.edu.au](mailto:info@sdbundoora.catholic.edu.au)**

**(t) 03 9467 8566**