



St. Damian's Newsletter

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Thursday February 4, 2021

No. 01 - 2021

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

Welcome Back for 2021

A very warm welcome back to all our families, students and staff for the 2021 school year. I hope that the holiday break was both enjoyable and relaxing for all of you. I take this opportunity to welcome all who are new to St Damian's. I hope that your time here with us will enrich you. We value the contribution you make as a member of our community and we look forward to developing positive relationships with you as we work in partnership for the benefit of the children.

It was wonderful to welcome back last Friday morning all our Year 1 – Year 6 students who returned for the beginning of another school year. Even though the weather was not kind to us, the students all looked happy and excited to be back and reunited with their schoolmates. On Monday morning we welcomed the newest members of our school community, the 2021 Foundation Year (Prep) students. Commencing school is a very exciting and special time for the children and their families. So I wish to take this opportunity to thank all the parents who helped us ensure that we had a safe return to school and gracefully accepted the restrictions under which we are working at present. I understand that starting Prep is a special time and I would like to thank our Prep teachers, Mary McArdle, Celeste Cocchiara and Pat Goodrope for their commitment in ensuring a smooth settling in period for the children who all settled into their classes without any tears being shed.

Overall, our school year has started well and all the students have settled into their new classes. We are now looking ahead to an uninterrupted and exciting year of learning here at St Damian's.

This year, we extend a warm welcome to some new staff members. Miss Taylor-Jade Mullane and Miss Caterina Capogreco have joined the Year 1 team as a classroom teachers. Miss Lia Surace and Mrs Melissa Cali have joined the Year 2 team. Mrs Annemarie Anthony has joined the Year 3/4 team. We also welcome Mrs Sue Waters as our Learning Diversity Leader. We hope that all these staff members find their time here at St Damian's fulfilling and exciting.

2020 Staff Members

It is my pleasure to introduce to you the staff of St Damian's for 2020:

Leadership Team:

Fr. Vincent – Parish Priest

Mrs Rosanna Piccolo - Principal

Mrs Jenny Rubira – Deputy, Learning & Teaching Leader & Digital Technologies F-2

Mrs Mary-Ann Wright – Religious Education Leader

Mrs Angela Lombardi – English Leader F-2

Mrs Mattie Dragonetti – English Leader 3-6

Mrs Carmen Bruce – Mathematics Leader

Ms Charissa Beeby – Wellbeing Leader

Class Teachers:

Prep: Miss Celeste Cocchiara, Mrs Pat Goodrope and Miss Mary McArdle

Year 1: Miss Caterina Capogreco, Mrs Saveria Ciurleo & Mrs Sophie Kerss, Miss Taylor-Jade Mullane,

Year 2: Mrs Melissa Cali & Mrs Holly Denholm, Miss Lia Surace, Miss Lauren Traficante,

Year 3/4: Mrs Annemarie Anthony, Mrs Barbara Milana, Miss Hannah Walsh, Miss Martina Tran

Year 5: Mrs Mary Marotta, Mr Riki Bossini,

Year 6: Mrs Julie Cannatelli, Miss Amy Starr

Specialist Teachers:

Ms Rachael Lorkin – Performing Arts; Mrs Lidia Tanski – Music; Mrs Charissa Beeby – Visual Arts;

Mr Tim Watson – P.E. & Digital Tech Yr 3-6; Mrs Angela De Francesco – Italian Language Leader

Mrs Sue Waters – Learning Diversity Leader; Mrs Felicity Cockayne – Reading Recovery.

Learning Support Officers:

Mrs Kath Andrews (Library Assistant), Mrs Elisa Answerth, Mrs Marie Costanzo, Mrs Bernadette Douglas, Mr Benjamin Lim, Mrs Mimma Martini, Mrs Joanne Sobey, Mrs Sandra Spicer and Mrs Sally Tan.

Administrative Staff:

Mrs Angela Parisi: Mon – Fri (alternate) & Mrs Lina Parisot Bursur, Mon – Thurs & Office Fri (alternate).

Coronavirus update

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge and thank all in our community who have supported us to ensure that our school remains a safe environment. **Last night we had a poignant reminder that COVID can resurface at any time and constant vigilance is required.**

New guidance on face masks

We respectfully ask that all in our community note that following the Government's announcements regarding new statewide restrictions that came into effect at 11:59pm last night Wednesday 3 February, there is new guidance for schools regarding the wearing of masks. People aged 12 and over must wear a fitted face mask when in public indoor spaces unless there is a lawful reason not to. Visitors, including parents, to school sites must also wear masks when indoors. Please ensure anyone on your school site is aware of the updated face mask requirements. Further advice regarding these measures will be provided when available. Thank you all for your ongoing support of all of our students and staff and school community.

School Assembly

We will continue with our assemblies on alternate Friday afternoons at 2.30pm in the Hall. Unfortunately, at the moment we are not able to welcome parents to attend these. As soon as this changes we will let you know. The first school assembly will be **Friday 19th February**. During this assembly we will present badges to our 2021 School Captains and Sport Captain Leaders. As well as these all the curriculum leaders and SRC leaders will receive their badges as well.

School Captains: Ronit Mirpuri & Ava Constantinou **Vice Captains:** Julian Cosentini & Francesca Micomonaco

Damian House Captains: Julian Del Medico and An Dinh

Cosmos House Captains: Ben Vass and Sara Cassarino

Francis House Captains: An Ngo and Alexis Barry

Claire House Captains: Joseph Bellissimo and Zoe Braidwood

Prep Information Sessions

We are offering Information Sessions for our Prep families on Monday 8th February. This is an opportunity for our new and continuing families to meet the teachers and become more familiar with school expectations and curriculum at this level. Families should have received the information from the teachers. We hope to see as many families as possible at the meeting. Please remember to wear a mask if attending.

Learning Conversations

The Learning Conversations will be held on **Tuesday 16th February** from 8.30am until 8.00pm. These will be held in the school hall. **Students are not required to attend school on this day** as the teachers will be involved in the Learning Conversations, however we expect that the students will be participating in the Learning Conversations. Parents will need to book online for their interview times. Please look out for information regarding these.

EVERY DAY COUNTS LEGISLATION

Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child's education. Students learn new things at school every day – missing school puts them behind. We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begins with students coming to school each and every day. Whilst family holidays are to be treasured and even more so if visiting overseas, the inevitable repercussion is that students may fall behind with their learning. If intending to take extended leave from school parents are asked to fill in the relevant paperwork available at the office.

For more information on the relevant legislation, see:

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/participation/Pages/attendance.aspx>

Student Absences

Parents are reminded to notify the classroom teacher or the school office if a student is not attending school. This procedure ensures the safety of all students at all times. If a student is absent and we have not been notified, we are bound to make immediate contact with parents to ensure the child's safety. Therefore, please let us know if your child is not attending school on the day.

Anaphylaxis

It is important that I remind you that we have many students in our school who are at risk of having an anaphylactic reaction. Anaphylaxis is a severe allergic reaction that is life threatening. The most common allergens in school aged children are peanuts, eggs, tree nuts (e.g. cashews), cow's milk, fish and shell fish, wheat, soy, sesame, latex, certain insect stings and medication. The key to prevention of anaphylaxis in schools is knowledge of those students who have been diagnosed at risk, awareness of triggers (allergens) and prevention of exposure to these triggers.

Partnership between schools and parents is important in ensuring that certain foods or items are kept away from the student while at school. Adrenaline given through an EpiPen auto injector to the muscle of the outer mid-thigh is the most effective first aid treatment for anaphylaxis. Teachers will be sending home a letter informing you if there is a child in the class at risk of anaphylaxis. Please look out for a letter from your child's class teacher asking for your assistance to minimize harm to these children at risk of having an anaphylactic reaction and the associated triggers. I encourage you to take particular notice of this letter and I also encourage all parents to discuss the severity of anaphylaxis with their children. At St Damian's our policy also states that students are never to share food or buy food from the canteen to give to other students. This ensures that as a school, we are taking every precaution to ensure the safety of students who are at risk. Our Anaphylaxis Management Policy is available on our school website: www.sdbundoora.catholic.edu.au

SCHOOL SAFETY & CHILD SAFE STANDARDS

As a matter of child safety, parents are reminded that the school's **Duty of Care** regarding supervision of students **begins at 8.30am and concludes at 3.30pm every school day**. No child should ever be left unattended at school outside of these times. Our school protocols are that students gather on the top basketball court around 8.30am where there is a teacher already on duty. The music begins at 8.40am when teachers come out to collect the children and walk them into the classroom so they can ready themselves for the beginning of the day. **Meditation begins at 8.45am**. We ask that all students attend school on time to help them settle in for the day's learning. The children will also line up on the basketball court after each recess break and be taken into class by their respective teachers. At the end of the day all students will be dismissed from their classrooms to allow them to meet with parents/ guardians or grandparents at the agreed meeting place.

Any student arriving late must be signed in at the school office by an adult. Then the student will enter the buildings via the office area. All external doors will be locked at all times to ensure everyone's safety and that we know who is in the school and on the property at all times. All messages and items to be given to students must be done through the school office.

Parents entering the school building must sign in at the office and collect a visitor's badge. We expect that parents work with us on this because, as a school, we are mandated to comply with Child Safety Standards as well as ensure we have appropriate emergency procedures in place. Parents wishing to speak with teachers should communicate via email, phone or by making an appointment at a mutually suitable time.

The garage area is a space where adults are able to sit and wait for their children. **We would appreciate parents not entering corridors, or open areas in the morning or in the afternoon** as the noise can be very disruptive to the children's learning.

School Hats

St Damian's school is a Sunsmart school. This means that we expect all our students and staff to be wearing hats when outside during high UV periods, mainly in Term 1 and Term 4. Therefore, we ask all parents to ensure that your child(ren) have their **school hat** to wear when at school. *Australia* has one of the highest rates of *skin cancer* in the world. Anyone can be at risk of developing *skin cancer*. The majority of *skin cancers* in *Australia* are caused by exposure to UV radiation in sunlight. Hence our school policy: **NO HAT NO PLAY**

School Uniform

It is an expectation that students wear the correct school uniform at all times. This includes wearing school shoes, not black runners. School shoes should be **plain black leather**, which is much healthier for growing feet. Runners (whatever colour) should only be worn on sport days with school sport uniform. We also ask that students **do not** wear jewellery to school as this can easily be lost and can cause distress to both students and families. Only sleepers or stud earrings should be worn as a safety precaution. NO dangly earrings, nail polish or other accessories to be worn with the uniform, this includes hair accessories please.

Holidays

School Holidays (term breaks) are determined by the Education Department for all schools at particular times of the year. If parents decide to take holidays outside these times, an application form must be filled in with the relevant times and reason for the leave period. Whilst we understand that taking holidays outside of holiday periods is cheaper, the absence from school will have a detrimental impact on the student's learning. Parents should carefully consider the benefits of keeping children out of school for long periods of time as the learning in the classroom continues in the child's absence. Catching up with missed work is often difficult for students once they return.

Communicating with teachers

Effective home - school partnerships rely on positive relationships being established. One way to ensure this happens is to have good communication between teachers and parents. Our teachers' main job is to teach the children, therefore they may not always be available to speak with parents. For minor issues, parents can 'catch' a teacher when they collect their class in the morning. However, for important issues it is necessary to set aside appropriate time to meet. I encourage parents therefore to communicate via email or preferably make an appointment with the teacher so that issues or concerns can be addressed calmly and appropriately. Parents should also note that when sending an email, the teacher may not be able to respond immediately as they are usually involved with classroom duties. Parents should expect an answer to their email within a 24-48 hour period and only within business hours. Teachers will not respond to emails before 8.30am and after 5.30pm. Thank you for understanding.

Protocols for Addressing Issues

There may be times during the year when a concern arises, this could be a behaviour or an academic issue. These should be addressed with the classroom teacher in the first instance, as the classroom teacher has the most knowledge of the issue and knows the child best. If the issue continues to be a concern, then the Principal may need to be involved and an appointment made to meet. At no point should parents ever approach another child regarding an issue. This is not appropriate and certainly not helpful to anyone as this can exacerbate the situation for all parties and rarely leads to a resolution. I refer parents to the Code of Conduct which outlines expectations of all in the community.

School Photos

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

Education Board

The school Education Board will convene very soon. We will be looking for some new members as vacancies were created with the retirement of some members at the end of last year. Being a member of the school Education Board creates opportunities to better understand and contribute to the school. Meetings are held six (6) times in the year and the appointment period is for 2 years. Parent members have the opportunity represent their year level and gain input into the overall running of the school. Please consider coming on the Board for 2021. We would truly welcome you. We are looking for a Prep parent, a Year 2 parent and a Year 5 parent to join the Board.

Car parking

Car parking is very challenging here at St Damian's due to a limited number of car spaces. Whilst we acknowledge that everyone is very busy and that time is limited, parents are reminded **not** to use the Parish area, Irabina parking nor the parking bays outside the OHSC as these are reserved for staff. Irabina is a private company and therefore the parking there is for their clients. That area does not belong to the school and should not be used by parents as a pick up or drop off point. The only available area for parking at present is the front bottom section of the school grounds. Unfortunately there is limited parking so if this area is full, parents will need to park elsewhere. Once our Building Program begins, parents will not be able to park on school grounds. Double parking is not permitted, nor is parking along the entrance/exit. Parents are also reminded that the **gates must only be opened or closed by staff**. If we all do the right thing then our students will be safe and will also learn, through your modelling, what the expectations are and how to follow these. Thank you everyone for understanding.

Building Program

Unfortunately, due to COVID, our building program has suffered some setbacks. We are now looking at beginning building mid-way through the year. The process stalled last year due to lockdowns, etc. However, we are now back on track and the application is awaiting approval from MACS (formerly CEM) to finalise the tender process and apply for a loan. We expect that this will happen at the beginning of March.

School Governance

As from January 1st, the governance structure in Catholic Schools has now changed. Schools are now under the umbrella of MACS (Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools). This in essence means very little in the way we operate, other than we are no longer employed by Parish Priests and are totally systemic in that we are now governed by our Regional and Central offices.

Prayer for the Week:

Lord God of all Creation. We ask you to bless our students, families and staff throughout this year. Help all in our community to be the hands, heart and voice of Christ as they work and learn together.

Have a great week,

Rosanna

St Damian's Parents and Friends

The first St Damian's parent association meeting for 2021 will take place on Thursday 11th February 2021 at 7:30pm. The meeting will take place on line via Zoom. If you are interested in joining please contact the school office for further details.

The parent's association is run by a group of school parents who volunteer their time to work together on fundraising activities throughout the year. All proceeds go towards upgrading school resources and facilities. We welcome all parents to come along and be part of the parent's association! Any contribution, big or small will be greatly appreciated.

We look forward to seeing you.

For all Second Hand Uniform Shop enquiries please email stdpfcommittee@gmail.com

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, 2nd 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. Further details regarding the Sacrament of Confirmation will be sent home over the coming weeks.

Sacramental Evening

Our Sacramental Evening will take place on **Wednesday, 24th 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.

Daily Christian Meditation

Each morning, our School Community begins the day with Christian Meditation. Meditation **begins at 8:45am and concludes at 8:55am**.

Beginning of the School Year Prayer

*Father in Heaven,
Creator of all source of goodness and love.
Please look kindly upon
and receive our heartfelt gratitude
in this time of giving thanks.*

*Thank you for all the graces and blessings
you have bestowed upon us:*

*Our faith;
Our religious heritage;
Our food and shelter;
Our health;
The love we have for one another;
Our family and friends.*

*Dear Father, in Your infinite generosity,
please grant us continued graces and blessings
throughout the coming year.*

*This we ask in the name of Jesus,
Your Son and our Brother.
Amen.*

Mary-Ann Wright
Religious Education Leader



School Banking

School Banking will
commence on
Tuesday 9th February

Co.As.It After Hours Italian Language Program

Give your children a head start with this quality program.....



- Co.As.It is an accredited Community Language School Provider with the Department of Education and Training
- Catering for students from Pre-school to Year 10
- VCE Support Classes for students studying Italian in mainstream schools (2.5 to 3 hours classes)
- 3 hours weekly classes (Saturday 9.30-12.30pm)
- Small class sizes
- Qualified, experienced teachers
- Classes are held in the Co.As.It centre at 44 University Street, Carlton
- Preschool classes are held at the Tommaso Fiaschi Child Care Centre, 65 Station Street, Carlton

For further information and online enrolment for the 2021 program refer to the website: <https://www.coasit.com.au/doposcuola>

The Program will commence on Saturday 6 February 2021

CO.AS.IT. Pre-school Italian Program



"L'italiano per i vostri piccoli di 4 anni"
Learn Italian through songs, art, games and stories.

Classes Saturday mornings 10am to 12pm
at Tommaso Fiaschi Centre, Carlton VIC

Enrol now!

Call Maria on 03 9349 9019
for more information.



JAZZ·HIP HOP·BALLET·LYRICAL·TAP·TROUPE·ACRO·MUSICAL THEATRE·SINGING
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*

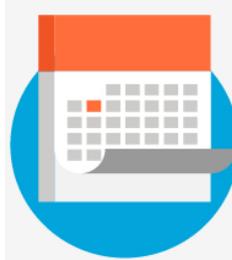
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Happy Birthday to the
following students who will
celebrate their birthday



February

4th	Nikhil	3/4W
	Amaya	3/4M
5th	Zachary	PC
7th	Stephen	2T
8th	Joshua	5B
	Franklin	3/4A
9th	Salome	1S
10th	Aaliyah	PG
11th	Mia	PM
	Sofia	1C



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Term 1

February

Monday 8th	Prep Information Evening—7pm School Hall
Friday 12th	Year 6 Interschool Sports Commences
Tuesday 16th	Learning Conversations 8.30am—8.00pm
Wednesday 17th	Ash Wednesday
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
Wednesday 17th	Student Free Day
Friday 12th	St Damian's Sports Day
Monday 29th	Confirmation Reflection Day—Year 6

April

Thursday 1st	End of Term 1
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Term 2

April

Monday 19th	First Day of Term 2
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2021 SCHOOL FEES

Family Fee

School Fees	\$ 1,750
Capital Fees	\$ 550

	\$ 2,300

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 26th 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.



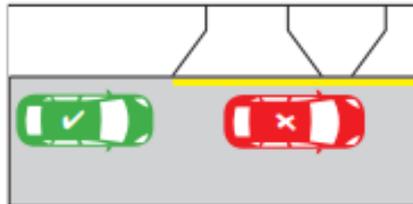
PARKING AND SAFETY AROUND SCHOOLS

Speed



Look out for the reduced speed limit around schools and slow down to improve safety.

Yellow edge line



A driver must not stop on the side of a road marked with a yellow edge line.

Parking/Stopping signage



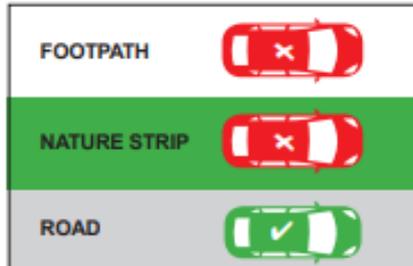
No stopping areas must be kept clear. If times/days are specified, restrictions are only applicable to the specified times/days. You cannot park in a P3 minute area for longer than three minutes.

School crossings



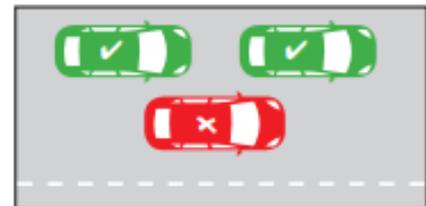
- Look out for flags and Crossing Supervisors
- You must stop for anyone waiting to cross, or who has started crossing
- Please remain stopped until the crossing is clear.

No parking on nature strips/footpaths



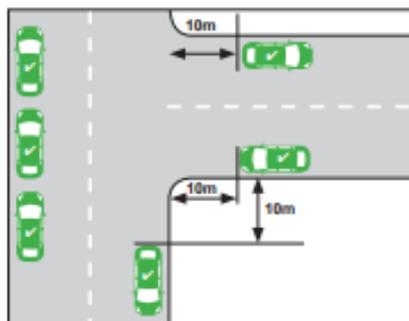
Parking is illegal on nature strips and footpaths.

Double parking



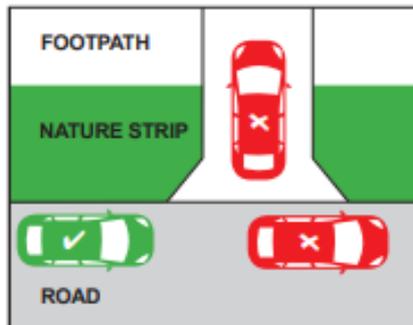
It is illegal to double park at any time. This affects the flow of traffic.

Within 10 metres of an intersection



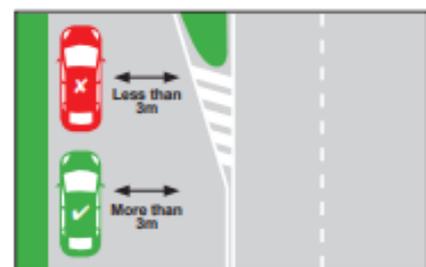
A driver must not stop with any part of their vehicle within 10 metres of an intersection unless signed otherwise.

Stopping across driveways



It is illegal to, stop/park across a driveway unless you stay in the car are there for no more than two minutes and move immediately if required to do so to allow entry or exit by the owner/occupier.

3 metre gap for signage



At least 3 metres must be left between your vehicle and the centre dividing line to allow other vehicles to pass safely and not obstruct traffic.

What can you do to stay safe

- Supervise your children in or near traffic
- Walk or cycle to school with your child
- Respect all road rules, parking signs and instructions from authorities
- Wait on the same side of the street as your child
- Always let your child out of the kerb side of the car.

Free Telephone Interpreter Service

العربية	9679 9871	Italiano	9679 9874	ਪੰਜਾਬੀ	9679 9879	Tiếng Việt	9679 9878
Ελληνικά	9679 9873	Македонски	9679 9875	தமிழ்	9679 9879	Other	9679 9879
हिंदी	9679 9879	简体中文	9679 9857	Türkçe	9679 9877		