



St. Damian's Newsletter

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Thursday March 11, 2021

No. 06 - 2021



Congratulations to our 2021 FIRE Carriers
Zac, Christiana, Savannah, Herman and Mrs Answerth



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

Sports Day

We are looking forward to our whole school sports day this Friday. Mr Watson, our P.E. teacher has organized for all the students to participate in various activities representing their house colour. I thank all our wonderful parents who have volunteered to help. We appreciate you making the time to support our school and most especially our students. We hope that all the students enjoy a fun day and support their house to the best of their abilities. Families are most welcome to come and watch given that the sports day is being run outdoors, we can accommodate spectators.

Catholic Education Week

In recognition of 200 years of **Catholic education** in Australia, **Catholic Education Week 2021** will align with **school** communities across Australia in celebrating this landmark event. The **theme** for the **week** is Faith in the Future which speaks of the essence of hope in faith, so needed against the backdrop of this past year.

Open Days

Next week we will hold our Open Days on **Monday 15th March, 9.30 – 10.30am, Tuesday 16th March, 11.30am – 12.30pm and Thursday 18th March, 6.00pm—6.30pm**. We look forward to welcoming many visitors during these times. Our senior students will be conducting the school tours. We thank Mrs Rubira who has spent much time preparing our school Leaders to help them conduct successful tours.

Pupil Free Day

Wednesday 17th March is a pupil free day to enable staff to familiarize themselves with the literacy resources **Students are not required at school on this day**.

School Education Board

The first meeting of the Education Board was held on **Tuesday** in the school library. The Principal's report tabled at the meeting has been added to this newsletter. Unfortunately there has not been any nominations for the Year 2 on the Board. If no-one nominates this year level will not have any representation. If you have a child in Year 2 please consider joining this group and support the school. We are still in the process of finalising the Year 4 nominee as we conclude the voting process. We thank the three nominees for generously putting themselves forward as representatives of this level. We expect that the Year 4 representative will attend the next Board meeting.

Are You New to our School?

During the meeting of the Board, it was agreed that we would once again make contact with our new families. The purpose of this contact is to connect with our new families and engage with them on a personal level. Unfortunately, we were not able to do this last year as we managed all the COVID restrictions. We are pleased to advise that all **new** families to our school will receive a call from a member of the School Board in the next few weeks. Calls are usually made in the evening or on the weekends so that working families can be contacted. This also allows our Board members the opportunity to make contact as they are all working mums.

End of Term

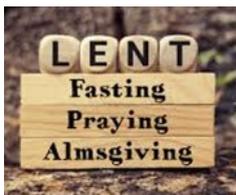
Term 1 will conclude on Thursday 1st April. As this is Holy Thursday the students will finish at **2.30pm** on this day. School will resume in Term 2 on Monday 19th April at 8.30am.

Lent prayer

Lord God, as we go about our busy days, we ask that you give us a sense of peace and calm. Help us not to get stressed out, worried or frantic by all the problems we see around us. Instead, give us a sense of peace and calm that comes from knowing You are in control, Please help us keep our eyes on You, not on all the negativity in the world around us. Amen

Have a great week everyone,

Rosanna



A reminder that the Tuck Shop will be closed tomorrow and Monday 15th March.

FIRE CARRIER COMMISSIONING 2021 (Friends Igniting Reconciliation in Education)

Last Thursday, 4th of March we held a special ceremony in the hall to commission our new FIRE Carrier leaders for 2021. It was a wonderful opportunity for our school to gather and witness this annual event. The ceremony entails our previous year's FIRE Carriers to pass on the flame of Reconciliation to our new leaders Zac, Christiana, Herman and Savannah. We also commissioned our staff member Elisa Answerth.

Below are the achievements and commitments of our FIRE Carriers as read by our students;

Raise the Aboriginal flag daily

Acknowledge the country we are on and its people. (Herman)

We commit to teaching and learning about Aboriginal Perspectives in our Curriculum

We share our Learning with our peers (Christiana)

We document our journey

We support Aboriginal students with fund raising (Zac)

We commit to continue our learning journey to gain a greater awareness and understanding of Aboriginal people, their land, culture and spirituality and their unique presence in this land (Mrs Answerth)

We wear our FIRE Carrier badge with pride as a Friend Igniting Reconciliation (Savannah)

We congratulate our new FIRE Carriers and wish them well in their work throughout the year.

Mrs Dragonetti.



SRC (Student Representative Council) News

Dear parents and guardians,

This year we will be developing our vegetable garden and some of our year levels will be investigating how things grow as an inquiry unit.

If you shop at Woolworths and are not planning to use the current promotion 'Discovery Garden Pots of Fun' we would appreciate any donations. If you are able to donate any 'Pots of Fun' could you please send them to school with your child/children? Our SRC members will collect and store the pots for use later this year.

We will keep you informed of our projects through the newsletter.

Thank you for your support
Mrs Rubira and the 2021 SRC



FAITH NEWS

Sacrament of Confirmation

Please pray for our Year Six Students and their families as they prepare to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation on **Sunday 2nd May at 2:00pm**. In preparation for this special occasion, the Year Six Students will be exploring the gifts and fruits of the Spirit and reflecting on why we are called to renew our baptismal vows at Confirmation. As with all investigations into our faith, the students will explore Scripture stories and Church teachings. The students will also research a particular Saint whom they aspire to live like. We encourage students and parents to discuss the significance of the chosen Saint together. A photographer has been booked so if your family wishes to order ceremony photographs, please fill in the order form which was sent out by Strike-a-Pose photography and return to the School by **Wednesday 24th March**.

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.

Inspiration from Pope Francis

While in creation, the Father gave us proof of His immense love by giving us life. In the passion and death of His Son He gave us the proof of proofs: He came to suffer and die for us. So great is God's mercy – He loves us, He forgives us; God forgives all and God forgives always.

Angelus Address, 15th March 2015

Lenten Reflection

Last Sunday's readings reveal the paradox of the nature of God. What does that mean for us and how we live our lives? The temptation is always to believe that we are the masters of our destiny, and that our sophisticated knowledge can answer all our questions. Yet Paul's heartfelt assertion that "God's weakness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength" (1 Corinthians 1:25), still resonates within us as a greater truth. Can we be transformed to live God's 'foolishness' and 'weakness', bringing life to ourselves and to the world?

Jan Newell

Lenten Prayer

Forgiving God, your mercy and compassion bring freedom and hope to our world. In this Season of Lent turn our hearts to you. Lift us up when we fall; restore our broken, fragile world, and give us confidence to live and love again. Amen

Solemnity of Saint Patrick (c. 415 – c. 493) – 17th March

Saint Patrick's humility and courage guided his life and he became instrumental in winning most of Ireland for Christ. Prior to the fifth century, Ireland's background was predominantly pagan. After being consecrated as a bishop at the age of forty-three, Saint Patrick continued in his lifelong desire to proclaim the Good News. He ordained many priests, divided Ireland into dioceses, held Church councils, founded several monasteries and continually urged his people to greater holiness in Christ.

What distinguishes Saint Patrick is the durability of his efforts. When we consider the state of Ireland when he began his mission work, the vast extent of his labours (most of Ireland) and how the seeds he planted continued to grow and flourish, we can only admire the kind of man Saint Patrick must have been. The holiness of a person is known only by the fruits of his or her work. May we, too, be called into action and commit ourselves to building a fair and just society. May we lead our lives unselfishly and proclaim the Gospel by example.

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.

Mary-Ann Wright
Religious Education Leader



What is Harmony Week?

It is a time to celebrate Australian multiculturalism, and the successful integration of migrants into our community.

Australia is one of the most successful multicultural countries in the world and we should celebrate this and work to maintain it.

Harmony week is about **inclusiveness, respect and belonging** for all Australians, regardless of cultural or linguistic background, united by a set core of Australian values. These values that we try to instil and maintain at St Damian's.

Harmony Day at St Damian's Primary School will be celebrated on Friday 19th March

On this day, students are invited to come dressed in clothing that reflects their cultural background. If they don't have cultural attire to wear they are invited to wear the colour orange.

HARMONY DAY

POSTER COMPETITION

2021 Theme: **Everyone Belongs**

Create an A4 or A3 drawing, painting or mixed media piece demonstrate in the school.

Remember to include the theme title 'Everyone Belongs' somewhere on your poster.

A winner for each year level will be announced during Harmony Week (15th – 21st March)

St Damian's Parents and Friends



The Parent's Association are inviting all St Damian's community members to participate in our annual Baker's Delight Hot Cross Bun fundraiser on Thursday 25th March.

Each pack is \$8. Please bring back your order form and money by no later than Tuesday 9th March. Order form sent home soon.



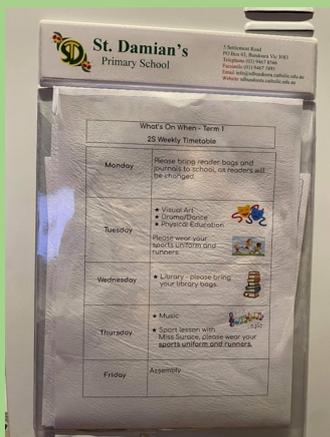
The St. Damian's Parent Association will be holding an Easter Raffle on Thursday 1st April.

Each classroom will be allocated an Easter prize to raffle. We are asking for donations of Easter eggs and/or Easter items (such as Easter colouring books & arts and crafts) for prizes.

Each student that donates towards the prize will receive **1 complimentary ticket** into the Easter Raffle. **Please clearly print your child's name and class on the donation bag to receive the complimentary Raffle ticket.**

Easter Raffle donations are due no later than **Thursday 25th March.**

Raffle tickets cost \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00. Raffle tickets will be sent home with students. The raffle will be drawn on Thursday 1st April 2021.



Fridge Magnet Sleeves

Parents Association are selling clever **Fridge Magnet Sleeves** for families to buy for \$8 each or two for \$15. Please support us this year. Order forms are available at office.

Second Hand Uniform Shop

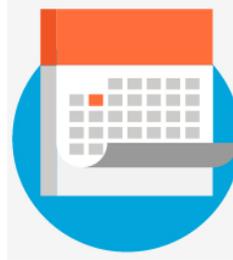
Due to Covid Restrictions, Second Hand Uniform shop has been closed. We will be available for the school community by "appointment only" on **Friday mornings** between 8.45am and 9.45am until restrictions ease. Please email stdpfcommittee@gmail.com for appointment. Cash Only.

Happy Birthday to the following students who will celebrate their birthday



March

12th	Nawal	3/4A
13th	Jade	2CD
	Craige	3/4T
15th	Felix	2S
	Laura	2S
17th	Kyle	3/4M
18th	Alexander	2S
	Valentina	5M
	Zoe	PM



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Term 1

March

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

OPEN DAY
SUNDAY 21 MARCH

COVID DELAYED



10am - 2pm Preston Campus 8 Clifton Grove
10am - 2pm Bundoora Campus 1436 Plenty Rd

Come and help us celebrate 150 years of educating well-rounded young men.

- Talk to our Principal and all our staff
- Watch the awesome Science Show
- Pick up an information pack with a special gift for your son
- Listen to our College bands
- Enjoy our free BBQ and café
- Listen to the Principal's address at 10.30, 11.30 & 1.00.

Register www.parade.vic.edu.au ■ p. 9468 3300 ■ registrar@parade.vic.edu.au



Year 7 2023 Enrolments Now Open ■ Limited places available in other year levels

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.

St Damian's Parish News

New Temporary Parish Priest & Pastoral Associates

As Fr Vincent is still on sick leave and we require some assistance in the Church & Office. We now have Fr Jan Szweda SVD, who will be our Temporary Parish Priest while Fr Vincent is away & Ann Robinson as our Temporary Pastoral Associate. We welcome Fr Szweda & Ann Robinson both to St Damian's Parish.

A Note From Ann Robinson

Dear St Damian's Parishioners,

I'm back in the parish, though it feels that I have never left. Thank you for the privilege of appointing me as a Pastoral Associate to be part of the parish team whilst Fr Vincent is on leave.

In the 1980s as a Loyola College student played the clarinet in our Saturday night youth choir and then in as young adult graduated to leading in the youth choir. Over the years in our parish have been involved in the running of prayer groups and scripture studies and a member of the Catholic Women's League Bundoora Branch. Since 2005 I have worked as a Pastoral Associate in the Archdiocese of Melbourne. At present I am Pastoral Associate at All Saints Fitzroy part time, secretary of the Catholic Women's League in the Archdiocese of Melbourne, and secretary of the Victorian World Day of Prayer Committee Victoria.

I will be in the office at St Damian's on Wednesday and Thursday mornings from 10am to 1pm.

I look forward to catching up with you all again.

Ann Robinson

St Damian's 2021 Lenten Timetable

LENTEN PRAYER MEETINGS with Pastorelle Sisters

Tuesday Evenings: 7.00pm to 8.00pm

Pastorelle Sisters Convent: 5 Nash Court Bundoora

(Tuesday, 16, 23, 30 March)

Bookings required due to Covid-19 as limited spaces

Please Contact: Sister Neila on 0411361081 to make a booking.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Friday Evenings 7.30pm to 8.00pm

(12th, 19, 26th March)

PRAYERS OF ADORATION with Pastorelle Sisters

Thursday Evenings:

Pastorelle Sisters Convent: 5 Nash Court Bundoora

Bookings required due to Covid and limited seats

Please Contact: Sister Neila on 0411361081 to make a booking.

INDIVIDUAL RECONCILIATION 1st Rite

Saturday Evenings 5.00pm to 5.30pm (before Vigil Mass)

Weekday Mass Times: 9.15am



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

(e) info@sdbundoora.catholic.edu.au

(t) 03 9467 8566



St Damian's Catholic Primary School Education Board March 9, 2021

Principal's Report

General

A very warm welcome to all members of the Board – to those who are returning and a special welcome to our new members,

Foundation (Prep) – Gillian McDonald

Year 1 – Sally McGregor

Year 2 -

Year 3 – Joanne Stingas

Year 4 – appointment still in progress

Year 5 – Jackie Licciardi

Year 6 – Lucia Apicella

P&F Rep—Vivienne Pantelidis

Staff Rep—Julie Cannattelli

The start of the 2021 school year was very smooth and calm. We used the first two days of the school year to refocus on our school priorities, especially the directions for curriculum development as well the plethora of administrative tasks required at the beginning of every year. We were very impressed with the way the students settled into their classes and the Preps were amazingly calm and settled. Unfortunately, for our Years 1-6 students the school year started on Friday 29th with a very wet and miserable day. However this did not seem to worry the students and all happily enjoyed each other's company. The new preps started on a much nicer day, the following Monday. However, due to COVID density compliance, the parents were not able to accompany their children into the classroom as we would normally have happen. This caused some angst, however the Preps did not fret and happily settled into their classrooms. To support the prep families, the teachers sent them all, via See Saw, pictures of their children in the classroom. All students have now settled into normal school routines.

I am pleased to report that our overall school enrolment numbers have increased this year and we are now back into the 400's. This is a slight increase from last year.

Staffing

This year we welcomed a number of new staff. Miss Caterina Capogreco and Miss Taylor-Jade Mullane in Year 1. Mrs Melissa Cali, sharing a class with Mrs Holly Denholm and Miss Lia Surace in Year 2. In Year 3/4 we welcomed Mrs Annemarie Anthony and finally we welcomed Mrs Sue Waters as the Learning Diversity Leader. The Leadership Team has also welcomed some new faces with Mrs Angela Lombardi appointed as Literacy Leader F-2 and Mrs Carmen Bruce returning from maternity leave to resume her position as Mathematics Leader, The remainder of the Leadership Team is the same as last year.

Tutor Program

We are currently completing all the assessments on the students to ascertain which students will require more assistance with their learning. The Tutor Program funded by the State Government has quite strict accountabilities around it, so we want to make sure we utilize this once off opportunity well. We are only able to accommodate about 30 students as the criteria sets out how we run this program. Therefore, it is imperative that we target the right cohort of students. We are focused on Literacy and Numeracy. Given that Term 2 & Term 3 are our best learning terms, this is when we plan to roll out the program. The funding given will allow us to employ 2 tutors for 13.5 hours per week for 20 weeks. One of our tutors is a current staff member, I am in the process of appointing a second tutor.

Capital Works

Our building project has just been approved by the Planning Committee which allows us to progress to finalizing the tender process. We are now able to apply for a grant to make up the difference between school funds and the Government grant. We will be taking out a loan of \$1.5M, which we will need to service over a period of time. We also need to source a portable (costing around \$120,000) to decant classes during the building program. The portable will be located on the top basketball court so this area will not be available for the children to play on. Once the building program starts, hopefully in term 2, the bottom carpark will need to be utilized for staff parking as the Creed area will be the Builder's compound. Before and After School Care will be located from the Hall as will the Music and Performing Arts Programs. The tuckshop will also operate from the kitchen in the hall, so there will not be over the counter sales during this period. Unfortunately, there will not be any parking for parents on the school grounds during our building program.

Sacraments

Sacramental Preparations are underway for students preparing to receive the Sacraments this year. As a result of COVID and the suspension of Masses and subsequently the celebration of the Sacraments, we now have 5 Year Levels receiving Sacraments this year. The Sacramental program began with a workshop evening for parents facilitated by Rev Fr Elio. The first of the Presentation Masses for Sacrament candidates will be for students receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation. Confirmation will be conferred by Bishop Curtin on May 2nd. This will be followed by Reconciliation with Year 2 & 3 students in August and finally First Eucharist for Year 4 & 5 students in October. Given the number of students, we have had to allocate classes to ceremonies.

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Catholic Education Week

Next week is Catholic Education Week. Given that we are under COVID restrictions, our students will not be attending the Mass at the Cathedral as has been our practice. During this time we will have our Open Days for prospective families.

Open Day

Once again our senior student leaders will act as tour guides during the Open Days. Jenny will train up the student leader who act as ambassadors for our school. In the past, it has been the students who have sold our school to prospective parents. We have had a good number of enrolment applications already lodged at the office. As per last year, we will wait to see what our numbers are for Prep before deciding whether we cap our numbers. We will make a decision around the number of classes once the application period closes in late May.

End of Term

We will conclude the term on Friday 1st April at 2.30pm as it is Holy Thursday. School will resume for Term 2 on Monday 19th April at 8.40am.

Governance

On January 1st 2021, the governance structure of all Catholic Systemic schools changed. This change was the result of the recommendations from the Royal Commission into institutional child abuse.

All Catholic Schools are now under a new structure known as MACS – Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools – and we are directly responsible to the Eastern Region Office and James Gould House. In essence, we are now governed by a central body formally known as Catholic Education Melbourne. The Archbishop is the incorporated entity and he is advised by members of a Board made up of various stakeholders.

The Director of Education is directly responsible to this Board. His main responsibility is to oversee the running of all the schools. Under him, the regional officers now have the responsibility to not only support schools as per the previous model, but in essence are now the decision makers. All schools are now directly accountable to each regional office, who in turn answers to the Director.

Parish Priests are no longer the official employers, however their presence and ministry is still critical to enable our schools to maintain their catholicity. Schools are still under the umbrella of the Parish and the relationship between school and parish will be maintained. There have been some refining of processes, especially around school finances and protocols and some minor adjustments to management of schools. All our school policies will eventually be consistent across all schools as MACS is currently rewriting and will make them available once completed. Also, we will be expected to follow a consistent approach with how we run our schools. This also affects School Boards which will undergo a name change to Advisory Boards. We are currently waiting for the guidelines and policy for this. In essence, other than a few tweeks, for schools it is 'business' as usual.



TheirCare
Where Kids love to be!

**The place to be these
Autumn Holidays**

**Autumn
Holiday Program**

**Welcome to
the Jungle!**



Animal Antics



Volcano Science



Movie Time



Mindful Moments