



St. Damian's Newsletter

5 Settlement Rd, Bundoora 3083

Ph: 9467 8566

Email: info@sdbundoora.catholic.edu.au

Thursday May 6th, 2021

No. 10 - 2021

The St Damian's School Community acknowledges that we come together on the ancestral lands of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation

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

Year 6 Camp

Yesterday afternoon we welcomed back two very tired teachers, a number of exhausted parents and some very weary but happy students who returned from their camp experience at Flinders. I am sure everyone was very pleased to be able to sleep in their own beds on Wednesday night. A huge thankyou to Mrs Cannatelli, Miss Starr, Mrs Kyriakou, Mrs Cousley, Mrs Vass, and Mrs Ngo for their care of the students during this time. This concludes the senior student's camp experience for the year. The younger students F-2 will experience their 'camps' at school in the second half of the year.

Education Board

The Education Board met on Tuesday evening and the Principal's report tabled at the meeting is included with this newsletter.

Sand Pit

During the Education Board meeting, it was brought up that some families would like our school to have a sand pit in which the students can play. I understand that the sand pit is very popular at the kindergartens and child care centers and is eagerly sought out by the younger children. I am very open to looking into getting a sand pit, obviously with a cover to avoid animal contamination, but would welcome other parents' opinions. The members of the Board were divided on this as many stated they were very pleased not to have to deal with sand any more, however this is not about us, it is about the children. Sand play is an important component of developmental play and very beneficial for students to learn how to play together, co-operate and share. I would be very interested to hear from other parents and get a broader opinion. Please send me an email with your thoughts on this. Send your email to principal@sdbundoora.catholic.edu.au or alternatively speak to your representative on the Education Board.

Mothers' Day Stall

This Thursday is the Mothers' Day stall. The students will have the opportunity to browse and buy something special for their mum. We thank all the parents who have volunteered to help on the stall. We especially thank Vivienne Pantelidis and all the P.A. members for their help and support in organizing and running this fundraiser for our school. We also thank everyone in the community who has supported the school with last term's Easter raffle, which was a wonderful success and of course with Mothers' Day. All money raised goes directly to benefit the students either through the purchase of learning resources or equipment.

Classroom Helpers Program Resumes

We are pleased to inform our community that we are able to recommence our classroom helpers program. Parents are warmly welcomed into our classrooms once again to support the students in literacy, numeracy and in other ways. Just a reminder that all parents MUST hold a current **Working With Children Check** prior to volunteering in the school. Classroom teachers will let families know when they can resume volunteering in the classroom. We thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

NAPLAN

Next week the students in Year 3 & Year 5 will be sitting the NAPLAN assessments. NAPLAN is an annual assessment for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 and covers skills in Reading, Writing, Grammar, Spelling and Numeracy. All schools are mandated to administer these tests. We wish all our students the best and know that each one will try their hardest to perform well on each day. Parents it is good to encourage your child by simply reassuring them. Let's remember that this is only one test on one particular day and does not totally reflect the individual student's true abilities. As a school we have many rigorous processes in place to monitor student progress and NAPLAN is only a small part of this process.

Gates

At the moment all our school gates are being locked as a safety measure. It is necessary to ensure that some of our younger students who have a tendency to "escape" are not able to leave the school grounds. As you realise, our school is situated on a very busy road and it is a concern for us should students 'leave' the school grounds.

We are actively looking at alternatives at present, namely installing pool safety gates so that these can be opened easily by adults and older students. In the meantime, I apologise for the inconvenience this has caused many in our community. We are doing our best to remedy this situation as soon as possible and ask for your patience please.



Prayer

Loving God, you have given us life and cared for us through our mothers.
 We thank you for the care and the wisdom they have taught us.
 Fill them today and all days with your Holy Spirit of wisdom and love.
 Help them hear your voice, follow you and teach their children to do the same.
 May we honour them with profound respect and by living Your Gospel.
 Grant this through Christ Our Lord. Amen

Happy Mothers' Day to all the mums, grandmothers, and mother figures in our school and parish community. Wishing you all a wonderful day spent with your loved ones. I hope you are duly spoilt on this special day.

Have a great week everyone,
 Rosanna

Parent Helpers

Parent Class Assistant Workshops in Literacy for Years 3-6 2021

Parent Helpers now permitted back into schools.

Assisting in the Literacy program in your child's class is a positive and rewarding experience which allows you to observe current teaching practices and assist the class teacher and the students with their learning. This year once again we will offer a one and a half hour workshop for parents who would like to make a commitment to helping in the Year 3-6 classes. Please note that if you have completed the junior training, you will be required to complete this workshop as content is different. Two session times will be offered for your convenience.

Tuesday 18th May 9:00am—10:30am

Thursday 20th May 9:00am—10:30am

You will be working with small groups of students while the teacher works with other groups. Your help is required on a regular basis, (weekly or fortnightly). Please note that toddlers are **not** permitted to accompany you.

Both teachers and students benefit enormously having one or more adults in the room. Your support in the room ensures that the teacher can remain on task while the teacher is teaching.

All parent helpers are required by law to hold a current '**Working with children**' card. These are easy to arrange. Forms are available from the post office. You are still welcome to do the training while waiting for the paper work to come through.

If you are keen to assist please collect a Parent Helper Form from the office and return to the school by May 12th.

Mattie Dragonetti—Senior Literacy Leader
Angela Lombardi—Junior Literacy Leader

FAITH NEWS

Sacrament of Confirmation

Congratulations to our students who celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation last weekend. We also extend our congratulations to those students who received a Special Blessing. Father Jan Szweda was joined by Most Rev. Bishop Terence R. Curtin. We thank them for welcoming everyone and celebrating with us. Thank you, also, to our families who prepared with their children, and to our Year Six teachers, Mrs Julie Cannatelli and Ms Amy Starr who worked with the students throughout the term.

Parish and School Family Masses

This term, all our Prep – Year Two teachers and students are collaborating to prepare a celebration of the Eucharist on Saturday 15th May at 5:30pm. This Mass celebrates the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord and all students and families are invited to attend the Mass which unites the Parish and School Community. Importantly, St. Damian's Community aims to nurture and support a learning environment deeply embedded within the Catholic culture.

Later during the term, our Year Three and Year Four teachers and students unite through their preparation of a liturgical celebration on Saturday 19th June at 5:30pm.

Prayer for Mother's Day

*Loving God, you have given us life and cared for us through our mothers.
We thank you for the care and wisdom they have taught us.
Fill them today and all days with your Holy Spirit of wisdom and love.
Help them hear your voice, follow you and teach their children to do the same.
May we honour them with profound respect and by living your Gospel.
Grant this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

Mary-Ann Wright
Religious Education Leader

NAPLAN NATIONAL ASSESSMENT PROGRAM Literacy and Numeracy

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual assessment for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. It has been an everyday part of the school calendar since 2008.

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) 2021 for Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 students will be held on Tuesday 11 May, Wednesday 12 May and Thursday 13 May 2021. NAPLAN tests assess student knowledge and skills in Writing, Reading, Language Conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and Numeracy.

The results of the tests provide information for students, parents, teachers and principals which can be used to improve student achievement.

All students are expected to participate in the NAPLAN tests. During test week, catch-up tests will be available for individual students who are absent on test days. These students may undertake catch-up tests on the days in the test week after the scheduled test, up to and including Friday 14 May 2021.

Test Schedule for Year Three and Five

Test	Date 2021	Test Session Time
Language Conventions	Tuesday 11 May	Before recess
Writing	Tuesday 11 May	Before lunch
Reading	Wednesday 12 May	Before recess
Numeracy	Thursday 13 May	Before recess

For more information about the tests, please visit the VCAA website at www.vcaa.vic.edu.au or the NAP website at www.nap.edu.au.

If you have any concerns regarding NAPLAN please contact me.

Jenny Rubira—Deputy/Learning and Teaching Leader

Happy Birthday to the following students who will celebrate their birthday



May		
6th	Alyssa	2C
7th	Sebastian	1M
	Emilia	Prep G
11th	Joshua	1S
	Joanna	3/4W
	Jason	5M
13th	Christian	5B

ST DAMIAN'S PARISH

Booking Mass for the Weekend

Must be booked via Trybooking

Saturday Vigil: at 5.30pm

Sunday Mass: 8.00am & 10.00am are to be booked under the heading Masses for 2021 and then please select the day and time you wish to attend.

If you are unable to book via Trybooking please phone the Parish Office on 9467-2797.

If you miss out booking please come to the church and you can register in the Church Foyer.

Trybooking Link: www.trybooking.com/BNRPS

Piety Shop for Confirmation Gifts

A wide selection of gifts suitable for confirmation is now available. There are also cards, bookmarks, rosaries and inspirational items in stock. The shop is open after all weekend Masses.

Please free to come in and browse.



Prep C	Eileen X
Prep G	Jane L
Prep M	Reya P
1C	Grace W
1M	Lucy M
1S	Cady C and Spencer M
2CD	Leonard B
2S	Laura X
3/4A	Dinara D
3/4M	Annabelle T & Alexander J/M
3/4T	Alexandra H/T
3/4W	Lucas C
5B	Jordan T
5M	All of 5M
6C	Adam G
6S	Rafael S

BUY YOUR TICKETS AND SUPPORT ST DAMIAN'S

THE COMBINED CATHOLIC PARISHES RAFFLE

1 x NEW **SUZUKI BALENO** TO BE WON!!!

1st PRIZE

SUZUKI BALENO



All New 2021 Suzuki Baleno Series II GL
valued @ \$22,390 Drive Away

- * 1.4ltr Auto
- * Reverse Camera
- * Touchscreen Display
- * Multimedia Sat Nav
- * Apple Car Play®
- * Cruise Control!

2nd Prize – Gift Cards to the value of \$5,000

3rd Prize – Gift Cards to the value of \$2,000

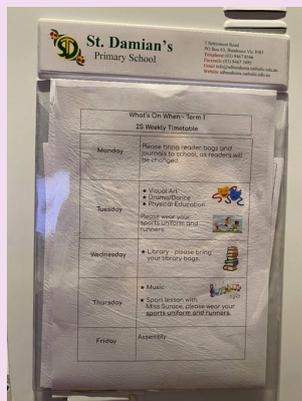
4th - 6th Prizes - Gift Cards to the value of \$1000 each

\$2.00 PER TICKET

RAFFLE DRAWN 5th June 2021

Victorian Commission for Gambling Regulation Permit No - 10110/21

St Damian's Parents and Friends



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.



Please ensure that your child has the exact money with their lunch order.

If your child requires change over \$3.00, they will need to collect and sign for it at the canteen.



St Damian's Catholic Primary School Education Board May 4, 2021

Principal's Report

Sacrament of Confirmation

The Sacrament of Confirmation was celebrated on Sunday 4th May at 2.00pm. As always the celebrations were prayerful and meaningful. Bishop Curtin officiated with Fr Jan as co-celebrant. The students were prepared very well which is a credit to their teachers and families who have supported them during their preparations. The Ceremony was compliant with COVID Safe practices with unfortunately restrictions on numbers attending. All in attendance had been registered with names and contact details taken to fulfill COVID requirements.

Enrolments for 2021

Enrolments are slowly coming in for Foundation Year 2021. We currently have about 58 applications. What our final numbers are will determine how many classes of Foundation we will be able to offer. At present of the 58, I am only accepting 50 which will give us 2 classes, unless our numbers exceed 70, in which case we will have 3 classes. Enrolments close at the end of May and offers for places to be mailed out on the 7th June. All Catholic Primary schools in this zone will be adhering to this timeline. Interviews with all new families will be conducted during June - July. We accept enrolments for Prep throughout the year until we reach maximum capacity, i.e. 75 students.

School Choir

The school choir sang at Bundoora Extended Care to support the ANZAC day commemorations. Having the choir sing at this ceremony was very much appreciated by this organization and Lidia, the Music teacher, received a lovely acknowledgement thanking her and our students for their contribution.

Family Masses

Post COVID lockdowns, we are once again offering our school community the opportunity to join together as a parish at Mass. The first Parish School Mass is on May 15th for Prep – Year 2. These families have been invited to come, however the take up is a little disappointing. Hopefully, this will pick up and we will have more families attend. We do need to be mindful of numbers though as we still have to adhere to density limits in places of Worship.

NAPLAN

NAPLAN will go ahead this year and will be held from 11th – 13th May. The tasks are being administered as follows:

- Tuesday 11th – Language Conventions & Writing
- Wednesday 12th – Reading
- Thursday 13th – Mathematics

With opportunities up until Friday 14th for students who are absent on testing days to catch-up. There is also provision for families to withdraw children if it is determined that sitting NAPLAN is not in their best interest. Our School has also been selected to participate in an Equating Study. This will be held on Friday 7th May and will be administered by Helen Murnane, a representative of ACAA to one Year 3 and one Year 5 cohort. They are only sitting the Language Conventions component.

Tutor Program

The Government Tutor Program has now started. Whilst we were given some funding for this initiative, we have also supplemented this with school funds so that we can target as many students as possible. This program was a result of the Remote Learning periods during COVID lockdowns, where some students struggled to manage their learning and became at risk of falling behind their peers. Our main focus in supporting these students was in the area of Reading, Writing and Mathematics, where student data has shown that they are needing extra support. Our two tutors, Angela and Sonia, worked with Jenny to identify the students and have developed programs to cater for these students. They are working over Term 2 and Term 3 and each student will have 3 sessions per week in their identified area of need. This intensive intervention program should result in good progress for these students.