



St. Damian's Newsletter

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Thursday June 10th, 2021

No. 14 - 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

COVID News

We were delighted with news that the current lockdown will end tonight and that all our students will resume onsite learning this Friday. Teachers, students and parents will be very excited to have the students return to school and learn within the classroom environment. The school environment is the best place for learning to take place as school is not just about academic achievement, it is also about building friendships and relationships. As humans, we are programmed to be social and to interact with one another. This interaction sustains our wellbeing and keeps us mentally and emotionally healthy. I look forward to Friday and to welcoming everyone back. Please remember that everyone over the age of 12 MUST wear a mask, indoors and outdoors, and also to maintain socially distancing of 1.5m at all times.

Given the current state of affairs, the School's Operational Guide put out by MACS has stated that there are restrictions on visitors in schools. Therefore, at this stage we will not be able to welcome parents into the school building as helpers and volunteers. As soon as these restrictions are lifted we will inform you. I can assure you, we are as keen to have parents support in the classroom as parents are eager to be involved. Fingers crossed for a return to normality as soon as possible.

Education Board

Education Board met on Tuesday evening via Zoom. The Principal's report tabled at the meeting is included for your information.

Mid-Year Reports

Teachers have been very busy assessing students and writing reports. The reports are designed to give parents information on how the students have progressed in their learning over the first half of the year. They are also a wonderful opportunity to celebrate with the children their learning journey and to look at their personal growth over this time. We are emailing reports home on Friday 18th June. Please look out for these.

Learning Conversations

Next **Wednesday 23rd June** we will hold our Learning Conversations as scheduled. Holding Learning Conversations is a requirement of all schools and is part of meeting our compliance obligations. At this stage we are waiting to hear whether these will be face to face or online. We will inform you as soon as we know which method we will use. As this is a pupil free day, the students are not required at school. Thank you for understanding.

Public Holiday

Monday 14th June is the Queen's Birthday Public Holiday. Schools are closed on this day.

Prep 2022 Interviews

Interviews for our new Foundation Year Students have been put on hold at present due to the current situation. We prefer to hold these meeting face to face so that we can get to know our new students and their families a little better. The meetings are a valuable entry point into our school. Once restrictions have eased we will begin the process. Prep interviews are usually held with new families, however any current family who wishes to have an interview will need to contact the office to indicate your wish to make an time.

PRAYER –

Lord Jesus, give us the grace to hear your voice,
And the strength to continue working for your kingdom in this time of pandemic.
Do not allow us to be indifferent to those who are suffering the loss of a loved one,
or from the absence of work.
Give us the courage to accompany and side with those who suffer violence or injustice. Amen.

(Prayer: Javier Eduardo Martinez Rueda from Colombia.)

Have a great week everyone and keep safe. Please continue to look out for each other, especially those in our community who are most vulnerable.

FAITH NEWS

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Early next term, our **Year Three Students** will be participating in the Sacrament of Reconciliation on **Wednesday 4th August at 7:00pm** in the Church. Our **Year Two Students** will also participate in the Sacrament on **Thursday 5th August at 7:00pm**. Please remember to return your Ceremony Attendance form to the School promptly in order to fulfil government mandatory contact tracing requirements.

Sacrament of Reconciliation Parish Presentation Masses

Please choose whichever Mass time suits your family best: **Saturday 17th July at 5:30pm or Sunday 18th July at 10am**. The children do not need to bring anything with them. They will be invited to stand on the altar after the Homily and everyone present will be invited to pray for them.

Parish and School Family Mass – Saturday 19th June

Unfortunately, given current COVID government restrictions, Mass attendance is also restricted. Therefore, our Year Three and Year Four Parish and School Family Mass is postponed.

Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus – Friday 11th June

In 1899, Pope Leo XIII consecrated the whole world to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

The meaning of this devotion is clearly expressed in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 478: *The Sacred Heart of Jesus is quite rightly considered the chief sign and symbol of that love with which the divine Redeemer continually loves the eternal Father and all human beings without exception.*

The heart of Jesus was pierced for our sake. He willingly went to the cross and laid down His life as the atoning sacrifice for our sins. If we want to understand the depth and breadth of God's love for each of us, then we can look upon the heart that was pierced for us all. Jesus went to the cross to redeem us from sin and death.

May we be grateful that God is revealed to us through boundless mercy and infinite love. As we commemorate the Sacred Heart of Jesus, may we renew our love for Jesus, our Lord and God. In turn, may our devotion prompt us to show love and mercy to all others.

Prayer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

*O most holy heart of Jesus,
fountain of every blessing,
I adore you, I love you, and
with lively sorrow for my sins,
I offer you this poor heart of mine.
Make me humble, patient, pure
and wholly obedient to your will.
Grant, good Jesus,
that I may live in you and for you.
Protect me in the midst of danger.
Comfort me in my afflictions.
Give me health of body,
assistance in my temporal needs,
your blessing on all that I do,
and the grace of a holy death.
Amen.*

St. Vincent de Paul Annual Winter Appeal

In response to the St Vincent de Paul Annual Winter Appeal, please feel free to send retail vouchers to the School with your child. St Damian's will forward them to the Society on your behalf. The closing date for your donations is **Friday 18th June**.

Mary-Ann Wright
Religious Education Leader

Social Justice News

As Social Justice Leaders, we ask St. Damian's School Community to help out with our **Warm up Winter Campaign**. As you may have seen/heard, the Warm up Winter Drive would like everyone to donate any old or new winter clothing, hats, scarves, socks, etc., that are appropriate to be sent to **St Vincent De Paul**. As we all know, winter is coming up and it will get very cold, especially at night. Please send any appropriate items to your child's classroom by **Friday 18th June**.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Caleb, Emma and Megan
Social Justice Leaders 2021

SPORTS NEWS

After finishing in the top eight positions at the recent Bundoora District Cross Country, the following students then went on to represent the school at the Whittlesea Division Cross Country event held on the 25th May at Bundoora Park. Peter S - 9/10Y Boys (12th place), Alannah C - 11Y Girls (30th place), Billy B - 11Y Boys (24th place), Siena A (4th) and Sara C (14th) - 12/13Y Girls. Congratulations to all of these students. A tremendous effort from you all.

By finishing in the top ten, Siena A will now progress to the third stage of competition, the Northern Metropolitan Region Cross Country. Congratulations Siena and good luck when this event takes place.

Tim Watson
Physical Education Coordinator



Happy Birthday to the following students who will celebrate their birthday



June		
11th	Taylor	Prep C
	Leo	3/4M
12th	Kaity	2T
	Eadie	3/4M
15th	Linaya	Prep G
	Isobelle	3/4M
17th	Alex	5B
	Pax	3/4T

Belated birthday wishes to Lucy in 1M who celebrated her birthday on 28th of May

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.



Term 2 May	
June	
Wednesday 23rd	Student Learning Conversations—Student Free Day
Friday 25th	Assembly presented by 3/4T—2.30pm
	Last Day of Term 2—Students finish at 3.15pm
Term 3 July	
Monday 12th	First Day of School Term 3
Saturday 17th	Reconciliation Presentation Mass 5.30pm—Year 2 and 3 Families
Sunday 18th	Reconciliation Presentation Mass 10.00am—Year 2 and 3 Families
Wednesday 21st	St Damian's Family Day



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

Enrolments for 2022

We have had 88 applications for enrolment for Foundation Year 2022. We will have 3 Prep classes next year, with each class of 25 students. Unfortunately we have had to create a waiting list as numbers are capped for Prep. Given that every year there are always children who need to repeat kinder or families withdraw their enrolment, it could be that we may accommodate those on the waiting list, however this is dependent on what happens with those who have been accepted. All offers were sent out on Monday 7th by email and also post.

Family Masses

The first Parish School Mass was held on May 15th. We were pleased with the number in attendance as more attended than had actually indicated. There were a couple of hiccups with parish organization, however Mary-Ann our REL, managed the situation well. If we had known that so many children were coming we would have organized things a little differently and would have invited the children up on the altar and also invited their older siblings to support by doing the Readings. This is something for us to consider as we continue this program. The next Parish School Mass is scheduled for the 19th June. Given the current situation, we will need to wait and see whether it can go ahead.

Building Program

The expected start date for the building program is Term 3. We are waiting for the Director to sign off on the selection of builder and then we will begin. Builders are expected onsite during the school holidays so they can set up and do some of the noise demolition. As of Term 3, the bottom carpark will not be available for parent parking. Before School Care will operate from the Hall and parents needing to drop off students at the service can drive in and park on the second basketball court, however the gates (both ends) will be locked at 8.15am and only staff and people with special permits will be allowed to enter after this. After School Care will also operate from the hall and parents needing to pick up children will be able to do so after 3.45pm as the gates will be locked until then. We have asked anyone needing to park on the school grounds based on vulnerability or illness, etc to please ensure they have applied for and received their Parking Permit. This will enable them to enter and park on the second basketball court. No-one is allowed entry without one of these. Joseph Street kiss and drop will operate as normal.

School Production

The theme for this year's production is "*Matilda*". Staff and students with support from Ms Lorkins and Ms Tanski have been very busy practicing, choreographing and generally getting ready for the performance. We have booked the performance theatre at Loyola once again. This is a great venue and easily accessed by families. The production will be held over 2 nights, as we have two casts. The dates are 17th and 18th August. Hopefully, future lockdowns or restrictions will not impact on these dates for the production.

School Review

Next year we will be undergoing Review. Reviews are cyclical and occur every four years in schools. The previous review occurred in 2018. The review process enables schools to look at their School Improvement Plan and assess what has been achieved in relation to the goals set. Schools have the opportunity to look at what has been happening within the school over the four years and then to plan for a further four years, taking into account the vision and direction that the school is taking. We will be assigned a school reviewer, appointed by MACS. We will work closely with the Eastern Region Office staff to facilitate the process. Closure days are tagged to enable the process to be facilitated and parent and student involvement is very much sought. At the end of the process we will have developed our Self-Reflection Report and devised a new School Improvement Plan which will guide us in our work for the next four years.



Term 2 Newsletter, June 2021

Service Coordinator: Niwi Bambarandage
Second in charge: Michael Andino

TheirCare service will be moving to the School Hall after 18th of June

Please note:

TheirCare head office will communicate relevant information with all the parents/guardians through an email, once the date of the move is confirmed.

This will not affect your child/ children's bookings.



REMINDERS TO FAMILIES

Please remember to cancel bookings should you no longer require using the service, by your booking portal or text messaging on 0477 731 175

Children are not required to wear hats to play at the oval or playground for Term 2

Please note that we have a family arrival process due to COVID-19 virus, please ensure to wear a face mask upon your arrival and to sanitize your hands prior to sign-in/ sign-out your children near the service entrance.



We all loved making our Cubby houses



NCCD Information Sheet for Parents, Carers and Guardians

Nationally Consistent Collection of Data (NCCD) On School Students with Disability

What is the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data?

Schools must now complete the *Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD)* every year. It counts the number of students who receive additional adjustments or “help” at school because of a disability. The NCCD helps governments plan for the needs of students with disability.

Who is counted in the data collection?

To count a student in the NCCD, schools must think through some key questions:

1. Is the student getting help at school so that they can take part in education on the same basis as other students?
2. Is the help given because of a disability? The word ‘disability’ comes from the [Disability Discrimination Act 1992](#) (DDA) and it can include many students.
3. Has the school talked to you or your child about the help that they provide?
4. Has the school kept records about the help they provide, the student needs and the reasons that the student needs this help? The school will need to keep copies of tests, student work, assessments, records of meetings, medical reports or other paperwork and information about how the student’s learning is moving along over time.

Once the school decides that the student should be counted in the NCCD, they then choose a disability group and one of four levels of help that has been given to the student.

What does the word ‘disability’ mean in the NCCD?

In the NCCD the word ‘disability’ comes from the [Disability Discrimination Act 1992](#) (DDA). There are four types of disability that the school can choose from: sensory, cognitive, social-emotional and physical.

Many students that need help at school can be counted in the NCCD. For example, students with learning problems, e.g. specific learning disability or reading difficulty (sometimes called dyslexia), health problems (e.g. epilepsy or diabetes), physical disability (e.g. cerebral palsy), vision/hearing loss and social-emotional problems (e.g. selective mutism, Autism Spectrum Disorder, anxiety).

Letters from doctors or specialists can be very helpful for schools as they plan how to support students with their learning. Schools do not need to have these letters before they can count a

student in NCCD. Teachers can use all that they know about the student's learning and the records that they have collected over time to decide if a student can be counted in the NCCD.

What sort of help does the school give students?

Students need different types of help at school. Some students need a little help sometimes while other students need a lot of help nearly all the time. The type of help given depends on the needs of the student. The help can include changes to the school buildings or grounds (e.g. ramps or things like special desks or chairs), extra teacher help in classes, special learning programs, changes to the work they give the student or extra adult help.

How will the NCCD be different this year?

All schools have been counting students in the NCCD since 2015. The government will use the NCCD data as part of the funding to schools.

What will the school need to know about my child for the NCCD?

Schools work together with families to understand the needs of each child. It is helpful if families give their child's teacher a copy of any letters or reports they have. The letters or reports will help the school understand the child and the help that they might need. Letters from doctors, psychologists, speech pathologists, doctor, and occupational therapists etc. can be very helpful for schools. These reports along with information that the teacher has (i.e. school based tests, your child's work and learning plans) helps the school to understand and meet your child's needs.

What happens to the NCCD data? Who will have the NCCD information?

Each school principal must check the NCCD data in August of each year. The school will give the information to the Catholic Education Office. The school will work with the Catholic Education Office to make sure that the NCCD data is OK before they give the data to the government. The government will not be given the names of any students or any letters or records. Please ask your school for their privacy policy if you need to know more.

Does the school need me to agree with them about counting my child in the NCCD?

Amendments were made to the [Australian Education Act 2013](#) and [Australian Education Regulation 2013](#)). Schools do not need you to agree to let them count a child in the NCCD. You cannot ask the school not to count your child.

Where can I find out more?

Please contact your child's school if you have further questions about the NCCD and/or refer to the national [NCCD Portal](#).