



St. Damian's Newsletter

5 Settlement Rd, Bundoora 3083

Ph: 9467 8566

Email: info@sdbundoora.catholic.edu.au

Thursday August 19th, 2021

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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

Dear Parents

I hope you are all managing well during these trying times. Listening to the case numbers this morning made me feel very sad as the realization hit that perhaps we would not be coming out of lockdown soon. It is very challenging for all of us at present, but we need to keep our spirits up and look at this in a positive light. As long as we are all well and healthy, we will get through this. We need to remember to keep in touch, either via phone or internet, with our family and friends and support each other. It is so easy to become self-absorbed in our own difficulties and challenges and begin to lose hope. Reach out to one another, remain connected in any way possible and trust that there is an end in sight. Please remember to seek support where needed. It is not a sign of weakness, but of strength to admit that we need help and then reach out for support.

Father's Day Stall

I am very sad to report that due to the extended lockdowns it has become clear that we will not be able to have the Fathers' Day Stall. The lockdowns and the difficulties in sourcing products has meant that this event will need to be cancelled. I would like to thank Mrs Vivienne Pantalides who has been working behind the scenes to try to give the students this opportunity. I know Vivienne has tried her absolute best and I wish to acknowledge all her hard work and commitment.

Preparations for 2022 School Year

To assist us with planning for the 2022 year I am asking families to please advise us as soon as possible if you are not returning to St Damian's next year. Knowing what movements we can expect helps us to plan better for next year. Thank you for your support.

MACSSIS Surveys

All our families would have received via email a letter explaining about surveys undertaken every year in schools. We have been informed by MACS that these surveys will now be postponed until October to allow for the lockdowns to be lifted and some normality to return.

Parish and School Mass

The Parish and School Mass scheduled for this Saturday evening is cancelled as all places of Worship are closed at present.

Remote Learning and Meets

I just want to alert, not alarm, parents to how some students are using the Meet opportunities. As you know our teachers have created classroom codes to allow students to meet as a class or small group for instructions by the teacher. It has come to my attention that somehow students in the older year levels have created their own codes and are conducting their own meets. Please be clear, there is nothing wrong with this practice as long as students are using these meets to collaborate and work together in mixed class groups. This practice happens naturally when they are at school and is indeed the preferred way of working for many students.

The reason I am bringing this to parent's attention is that I want you to be aware that it is happening. As you know all students are learning online, this is inevitable at present given the current circumstances. Therefore we need to be extra vigilant as there could be the possibility of anyone hacking into these meets as it is common knowledge that children are online. Parents, please be vigilant and do not allow your children to be online without some sort of supervision. It is for their safety that I ask that you please check in with the children regularly to ensure that they are safe. We do not want to stop them working or communicating with their classmates or friends, but we do want to know that this is happening in a safe way. If possible do not allow children to work in a closed room, but in an area where adults have them in sight and can see what is happening on screen. I understand totally that many parents are juggling working from home and remote learning for the students at present, but I'm sure we all agree that the safety of the children is absolutely paramount.

Prayer

Let us remember in our thoughts and prayers the people of Afghanistan and Haiti. Pope Francis calls us to pray for these two countries in crisis.

Let us pray:

O merciful Father, who have taught us in your holy Word that you do not willingly afflict or grieve the children of men: Look with pity upon the sorrows of the people of Afghanistan and Haiti, for whom our prayers are offered.

Remember them, O Lord, in mercy, nourish their souls with patience, comfort them with a sense of your goodness, lift up your countenance upon them, and give them peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Keep safe and well everyone

Rosanna

Happy Birthday to the following students who will celebrate their birthday



August		
20th	Thisath	6C
21st	Minnie	6C
22nd	Vicent	3/4A
24th	Kasia	2S
25th	Luca	5M
	Ronit	6C

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 2021and 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 Seeking Volunteer

Volunteer Required to Co—Ordinate the Piety Shop located in the Church Foyer.

The Piety Shop is our Religious Gift Shop and we need one or two people to fill this role. The shop has been open for many years and has given everyone easy access to religious gifts for Baptism, Communions & Confirmations. Please contact the Parish Office on 94672797 for all enquiries.



St Damian's 2021 Reading Challenge

Unfortunately, we will be in lockdown again this year for CBCA Book Week however, we will endeavour to celebrate the week with lots of great and engaging activities for the students online. The Theme for this Year is **'Old Worlds, New Worlds, Other Worlds'**.

The major focus for all St Damian's students this year is: **'The St Damian's 2021 Reading Challenge'**. This is an excellent opportunity to engage **all** our students in reading. We expect every student from Prep to Year Six at St Damian's to participate to the best of their ability in this challenge. In doing so, the students will gain an appreciation of a variety of literature both fiction and non-fiction while developing their stamina and skills in Reading.

Teachers will be encouraging all students in their class to incorporate reading as part of their daily activities. The reading material can consist of their class daily texts, books they have at home, online reading (Epic), books they borrow from local libraries.

If you have not already joined your local library, it would be the perfect time to do so as these offer lots of books online. Here are some links below.

<https://www.yprl.vic.gov.au/about-the-library/get-in-touch/>

<https://www.yprl.vic.gov.au/locations/whittlesea-library/>

<https://www.darebinlibraries.vic.gov.au/>

Whilst we are encouraging all students to participate for the benefits of reading, it is an opportunity to raise some funds to support the purchase of our school's Literacy resources- for example: our 'Fountas and Pinnell' Guided Reading books and Decodable readers. We would appreciate parents to encourage and support their child/children and **make a donation in recognition of their efforts.**

Stay tuned to this page for further information. Stay safe
Mattie Dragonetti and Angela Lombardi—Literacy Leaders .

Writer of the Week

Leo B - 1S
Alisha P - 2CD
Maxwell M - Prep C

Olivia V - 6S
Isabella L - 6S
Matthew G - 6S
Elana B - 5B
Chloe T - 5B
Charleigh P - 4M

Congratulations to these students.
Mrs Dragonetti and Mrs Lombardi

ST DAMIAN'S READING CHALLENGE

Are you ready for Book Week? The Reading Challenge is back!



Preps to Grade 2

Read up to 30 books
(picture books)

Grade 3 - Grade 6

Read up to 15 books
(mix of fiction and non-fiction)



The place to be these
Spring Holidays

Spring Holiday Program Monster Mayhem!



Adventure Time



Aliens from Space



Monster Mash



At the Movies

Book Now at www.theircare.com.au

Save up to 85% with the Child Care Subsidy