



St. Damian's Newsletter

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Thursday August 26th, 2021

No. 22 - 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

Dear Parents

Yesterday the students who were onsite celebrated Book Week with a dress up parade, some fun activities based on the shortlisted books and viewing either Matilda or the cartoon version of Robin Hood. It was wonderful to see the smiles back on the children's faces. They enjoyed a low key day free from devices and in the company of other children. My heartfelt thanks to Mrs Lombardi and Mrs Dragonetti for organizing the day and allowing the children to just be themselves and have some fun. Thank you to all our students for getting into the spirit of the day, to all the families for all their efforts in supporting the children to enjoy the day and of course a huge thank you to our wonderful staff for all the hard work, preparations and enthusiasm. I would also like to thank and acknowledge the hard work put in by two of our fabulous mums in organizing the Reading Challenge for our school once again. Thank you to Rodoulla and Donna for everything you do. The money raised will go towards the purchase of reading texts to support our Reading Program across the school. Thank you everyone and happy Book Week to each of you.

Building Works

Construction of the building works continues and in speaking with the Builder it seems that we are slightly ahead of schedule. However, the difficulty in sourcing building materials is proving to be a challenge to both the Architect and the Builder as they try to look at alternatives in materials. I have been able to sneak a peek at what is happening with the building project and am absolutely thrilled with what I have seen so far. The downstairs area has been totally gutted and re designed to fit the new tuckshop, the new OHSC facilities and eventually the new library. The Creed Centre is also progressing well with all the demolition works completed and the rebuilding stage underway. This building will have a new roof which is insulated, and three learning areas. The next phase of the works is to demolish the current art room, tuckshop and literacy offices to then complete the new library space. The current library will also have a huge hole blasted into the floor at one end to create a lightwell for the new downstairs library and then two new classrooms created at the other end. A lift will also be installed just outside the current library. Fingers crossed that we remain on track to have everything completed by the beginning of Term 3, 2022. To further ensure this happens **it has been confirmed by MACS, following advice from the VBSA that St Damian's is now listed as Critical Infrastructure and can operate at 100% capacity on site**, with no limits on the number of workers, irrespective of the lockdown requirements on building sites. This is great and very welcome news for us and will mean that the project will continue without interruption.

Tutor Meets

Just a gentle reminder that the Tutoring group sessions are continuing throughout the remote learning period. Can parents whose children attend these classes please support the children to attend their relevant meets at the right time. These sessions conclude at the end of this term as the funding ends.

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.

Prayer

God of All,

My life feels messy, things are not going smoothly at all.

Some of it I have done, some of it has been done to me, some of it just seems to have happened.

Sometimes I feel angry, sometimes guilt.

I could use some help through these tough times, I am open to receive help from any source that has my wellbeing in mind.

Please, place good people, kind people, along my path.

Please God, help me have the wisdom to make right choices.

This is my cry to you. In Jesus' name, Amen.

John 16:33

Keep safe and well everyone.

Rosanna



Social Justice Sunday – 29th August 2021

Next Sunday, we celebrate Social Justice Sunday. The Australian Catholic Bishops' Social Justice Statement for 2021 – 2022 is entitled, *Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor*.

It affirms that “*we human beings need a change of heart, mind, and behaviour*”. The statement draws from Scripture, from our theological tradition, from Catholic Social Teaching, and from the wisdom of the world, including the insights of the First Nations.

We are invited to respond to Pope Francis' invitation to take a seven-year journey towards total ecological sustainability guided by the seven Laudato Si' goals: *Response to the Cry of the Earth; Response to the Cry of the Poor; Ecological Economics; Sustainable Lifestyles; Ecological Spirituality; Ecological Education; and Community Engagement and Participatory Action*. The message of *Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor*, stems from Pope Francis' call to care for the earth and recognise that the climate crisis will impact the most vulnerable people first.

This year's Social Justice Statement reflects on creation in and through the Trinity; the sacramentality of all created things; the wonder and beauty available to the contemplative eye; and the need for conversion and change of life. May we be inspired to care for creation while responding to the needs of the disadvantaged and excluded.

“It is essential to show special care for indigenous communities and their cultural traditions. For them, land is not a commodity but a gift from God and from their ancestors who rest there, a sacred space with which they need to interact if they are to maintain their identity and values” Pope Francis, Laudato Si' n 146.

I encourage all families to make time this weekend and explore this year's Social Justice Statement together at <https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/2021/06/24/social-justice-statement-2021-22/>

Social Justice Prayer

Lord, when we listen with your ears we hear: the bush grown more silent, the birdsong less vibrant, the stream's sluggish ripple.

Have mercy and open our ears.

Lord, when we look with your eyes we see: the soil depleted, the sky smudged, the oceans rubbished and the great currents slowed.

Have mercy and help us to see.

Lord, when we look with your eyes we see: the workers who struggle to get by, the women subjected to violence, the people who are excluded.

Have mercy and help us to see.

Lord, when we listen with your ears we hear: the sound of hungry children, the distress of the mentally ill, the silent pain of homeless women and men.

Have mercy and open our ears.

Send your Spirit upon us Lord to renew our sight, to restore our hearing, and to reclaim your reign of justice for all people and peace for creation.

Amen.

Mary-Ann Wright
Religious Education Leader

Dear Lord,

Thank you for this new day of learning and for all the good people you have made walk into our lives.

Help us to build strength and resilience as we are challenged during this difficult time.

Help us to show compassion towards others, as we help each other get through this together.

May we find inspiration in your word, as we follow you in the right direction.

Protect us from the bad and guide us through the good each day.

Amen

By Megan D - 6C

Book Week

Book Week was celebrated by the staff and students who were onsite this Wednesday. Everyone had a great time dressing up, playing bingo, watching a movie and of course reading books!! Thank you to Mrs Lombardi and Mrs Dragonetti for organising the day.



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 .

Happy Birthday to the
following students who will
celebrate their birthday



August		
27th	Emmerson	3/4M
	Madeleine	2CD
	Oscar	1C
28th	Joshua	Prep M
31st	Jacob	3/4T
September		
1st	Robbie	2T
2nd	Jane	Prep G
	Soraya	2T

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

Creative Writing

Time Slayers By Matthew Grey 6S

Ed is a tidy, well dressed boy with glasses who loves science. His older brother Jacob is a clever and tolerant person. Younger sister Sarah is stylish and a perfectionist. They live in a large house in the suburbs of Sydney Australia.

They all live in a large two storey house with a basement under the stairs. The basement is a dark old room with sweeping cobwebs. The children are not often there. Daily their friends Kyle and Janet came to play a board game with them. One Saturday, Ed and Jacob go to the basement to get a game.

As they enter the dark basement they are surprised to see an aurora-like glow behind some boxes. Jacob wonders what is causing the glow as he moves the boxes out of his way. He finds a chest big enough to fit a fully grown labrador, that has the blue-green glow emanating out from under the lid. They stare at it in amazement and wonder what is inside. Carefully, they grab the wooden chest by the handles and bring it upstairs to show the others.

Curiously Ed and Jaob lift the lid and peer inside to find a glowing orb. Jacob slowly reaches in and grabs it. "I think it's a fortune teller ball", suggests Sarah. "I think it must be a party decoration that's accidentally turned on" responds Janet. They continue discussing what it is when suddenly the orb starts to get brighter. There is a sudden flash of light and they are all transported back in time to the year 1100 AD.

Gently they open their eyes and find themselves in a vibrant jungle. All of a sudden, Kyle bolts up and blurts out "Did aliens abduct us?". "No!" everyone else yells back. They are shocked and wonder what is going on. They slowly start walking and see a path with a wooden sign. They try to read the writing on the sign but it is in another language.

The only person to understand the writing is Janet. "I can read it", announces Janet. "It says, "10 miles to Rivertown". When Janet reads this, she is alarmed. She says the language is old Chinese which no one uses anymore.

They try to figure out what is going on and how to use the orb that Jacob is still holding. They decide to head to Rivertown to stay for the night because it is getting dark. Since Janet is the only one who can speak the language she asks one of the villagers to let them stay for the night. The fit looking man welcomes them inside and offers them some delicious dumplings.

Once inside, the man tells them he is grateful that they are not thieves. The man says that the Chinese dragon Guardian was stolen by thieves, he explains.

So the next morning they decide to bring back the dragon Guardian. When they get there they hide behind bushes and start planning.

They decide to break into two groups, Kyle and Sarah each take half the thieves away from the camp. While Ed waits outside of the cave to warn them if someone comes. While Jacob and Janet go into the cave and look for the dragon.

Suddenly they hear a banging sound and follow it. They look around the corner and see the dragon in the cage with thieves guarding it.

They decide to lure one of the thieves to get his weapon. They get the thief and knock him out and then take his weapon. They try to sneak and one of the other thieves sees him and they start fighting.

They knock out the rest of the thieves and let the dragon out. Ed came in and told them that Kyle and Sarah were captured.

The dragon says he can help them. The dragon comes out of the cave and starts attacking the thieves. Ed, Jacob and Janet free Kyle and Sarah. They defeat the thieves and capture them with the Dragon.

The dragon gives them a ride to the city and they all thank them. When they leave the city they walk on the path and figure out how to use the orb and get back home.

They were given a sword by the emperor. They brought the sword to the basement and used it as a trophy room.

ST DAMIAN'S READING CHALLENGE

Each child who participates in the reading challenge will automatically go into the draw for their year level raffle. The prize for each year level will be a \$30.00 book shop voucher. Good luck!

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)



Monster Mayhem!

Holiday Program Bookings Now Open!

We are so excited for our Monster Mayhem Holiday Program to kick off! The last few weeks in NSW and Victoria have been long and difficult, so we wanted to add a little excitement to everyone's lockdown. . .

Our Booking Mayhem Competition!

Families who book into our Holiday Program by 11:59 pm on Friday 27 August 2021 will automatically be in the running to win 1 of 5 prizes:

1. An iPad
2. A Craft Kit valued at \$150.00
3. Coles Voucher valued at \$100.00
4. Coles Voucher valued at \$100.00
5. Family Movie Voucher valued at \$65

Don't miss out! – follow the link below to book in your Holiday Program sessions.

If lockdown or restrictions impact your bookings, we will ensure that no out of pocket fees will be charged to you. Please get in early to secure your child's bookings and avoid missing out.

To qualify for the competition, simply make a booking for the upcoming Holiday Programs via our website or by calling our Customer Service team on 1300 072 410. Winners will be contacted on Friday 3 September by phone call and email.



Book Now



MONSTER MASH

Time to head into the kitchen! On today's menu our little zombie helpers will be cooking up a storm, preparing yummy monster brains (spaghetti & sauce) for lunch and a gooey dessert.

**PAINTING WITH WATER**

Today we will be creating art masterpieces using watercolour pencils and water which you can take home. We will then explore the world of chemistry with our puff paint and exploding bags experiments

TIME JUMP

Step back in time as we explore ancient civilisations from Egypt to Greece and beyond! Get wrapped up as a dizzy mummy, prepare a mask, take part in a mini Olympic challenge and make chocolate bliss balls.



As low as \$9.60 per day with the Child Care Subsidy

Bookings are now open!

Visit www.theircare.com.au or call 1300 072 410 to find out what is happening at your local Holiday Program



Theircare Pty Ltd
Podium Level, Tooronga Village, Toorak Road, Glen Iris Vic 3146
Phone: 1300 072 410 Web: www.theircare.com.au

Booking your child into the program with 3 simple steps.

1:

Create an account through www.theircare.com.au. Bookings and cancelations can be managed through your account.

2:

Provide CRN Centrelink details, any medical conditions and contact details.

3:

Select booking dates through your calendar. Casual bookings and regular bookings available. Bookings made within 48 hours / changes to bookings will occur a small fee.

Should you have any concerns, questions please call our service number 0477 731 175
Niwi Bambarandage - Coordinator



Our weekly menu follows Nutrition Australia's guidelines and is created with the children and parents. All cultural needs are considered, any dietary requirements are to be discussed with program coordinator.

Before school care meals include a selection of cereals, whole-meal bread, fruit and milk. We offer special days such as pancakes and toasties.

After school care meals include fresh vegetables, fresh fruit, sandwiches, wraps, dips, crackers, rice, pasta and soups.