



St. Damian's Newsletter

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Thursday October 21st 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 and Families

A huge welcome back to our students in Prep and Year 1,2,5 & 6 who have returned or will return to school this week. It was absolutely wonderful to see the Preps on Monday and Tuesday. The children were also very happy to be back judging by the many smiles. The noise emanating from the playground during recess and lunch play was a welcome sound indeed. Those children who were a little reticent in returning quickly got over it and were joining in games with friends on yard. By mid-morning everyone was fully into the swing of school life again. Today we welcomed the Year 1 & 2 students. They also appeared very happy to return to school and quickly adapted to school routines again. These little young people have certainly displayed a great deal of resilience, for which they should be commended.

I would like to thank and congratulate all the families for all your work with the children – especially supporting them with school work, supporting them emotionally, helping them grow into confident and resilient little people- you have done an outstanding job. Thank you.

On Friday we look forward to welcoming back the Year 5 & 6 students. I know that many of them are very eager to return to school and re-connect with their friends. We look forward to welcoming back all the year levels next week with the return of the Year 3 & 4 on Tuesday. Whilst the staggered returns continue until November 5th the students will resume remote learning on the days they are not onsite.

Just a reminder that all students from Year 3 onwards must wear a mask whilst in the classroom. Masks are not required whilst playing outdoors. Please ensure students bring their face mask to school each day. Disposable masks and cloth masks should only be worn for one day. Therefore, students should have a clean fresh mask each day. This requirement stands as it has been mandated by the Health Authorities and is a small measure to keep the students safe.

Yesterday the staff spent the day with Father Elio Capra developing their knowledge in R.E. Some of you may remember Fr Elio from his presentation at the Sacramental Evening for Parents held in 2019. Fr Elio is a very engaging and entertaining presenter who manages to capture his audience at the same time provide very in depth and interesting information. Fr Elio's work with staff yesterday was on the Theology of Christmas and Advent – recontextualising through the medium of art. Even though it was a full day, I personally felt the day go by very quickly as I was so interested in what he taught us. I know the teachers also felt very inspired and refreshed in their thinking on Christmas and Advent. A huge thank you to Mrs Wright for organizing this opportunity for our staff.

School Closure Days

November 1st has been planned as a school closure day. This is traditionally taken as a report writing day and is the day before the Public Holiday for the Melbourne Cup. There will not be any school/remote learning on this day as well.

MACSSIS Surveys

Thank you to all the families who have completed their surveys. Just a gentle reminder that these surveys close next week. I respectfully ask that families who have received a survey please complete it to help us as a school. Surveys are available in many languages. Thank you for your support.

Prep 2022 Orientations

Unfortunately due to lockdowns and restrictions, we have been forced to hold the Prep Orientation Sessions online again this year. The next session is scheduled for next Wednesday at 9.30am on Zoom.

Prayer

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with peace that we may live as brothers and sisters. We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love, and peace.

Taken from Laudato Sí, By Pope Francis

Keep safe and well

Rosanna

FAITH NEWS

Sacrament of Eucharist 2021 Masses – Rescheduled

Fortunately, First Eucharist Masses for this year are now rescheduled. We thank Father Dong for allowing us to hold these Masses separate to the Parish Masses. Our First Communicants will celebrate the Sacrament of Eucharist at the following Masses:

5B – Saturday 20th November at 2:00pm;
Year 4 Students – Saturday 27th November at 2:00pm; and
5M – Saturday 4th December at 2:00pm.

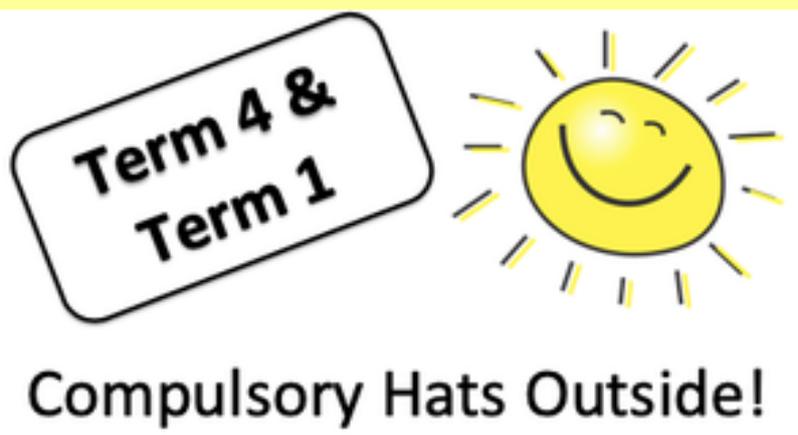
As you are aware, there are current density limits in places of worship. As a result, we have allocated days to classes. Given that only 150 people are permitted at Mass, we can only allow five people (including the First Communicant) from each family to attend the celebration. Therefore, we ask that only immediate family attend with the child receiving the Sacrament of Eucharist. Other family members will be able to access the Mass as it will be livestreamed on the day. Log-in details will be advised.

A Prayer to the Creator

*Lord, Father of our human family,
 you created all human beings equal in dignity:
 pour forth into our hearts a fraternal spirit
 and inspire in us a dream of renewed encounter,
 dialogue, justice and peace.
 Move us to create healthier societies
 and a more dignified world,
 a world without hunger, poverty, violence and war.
 May our hearts be open
 to all the peoples and nations of the earth.
 May we recognise the goodness and beauty
 that you have sown in each of us,
 and thus forge bonds of unity, common projects,
 and shared dreams. Amen.*

Pope Francis, *Fratelli Tutti*, Encyclical Letter, 3rd October 2020

Mary-Ann Wright
Religious Education Leader



Happy Birthday to the following students who will celebrate their birthday



| October | | |
|---------|-----------|------|
| 22nd | Tiffany | 1M |
| 24th | An | 6S |
| | Nathan | 2C |
| | Jonas | 3/4A |
| 25th | Adam | 5M |
| 26th | Andy | PG |
| | Yinuo | PM |
| 27th | Imogen | 6C |
| | Alexander | 3/4M |
| 28th | Alexis | 6S |



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|-----------------|--|
| Term 4 | |
| November | |
| Monday 1st | Student Free Day |
| Tuesday 2nd | Melbourne Cup Public Holiday |
| Saturday 20th | Sacrament of Eucharist—5B 2pm |
| Saturday 27th | Sacrament of Eucharist—Year 4's 2pm |
| | |
| December | |
| Saturday 4th | Sacrament of Eucharist—5M 2pm |
| Wednesday 1st | St Damian's Carols Evening—7pm |
| Thursday 9th | End of Year Whole School Mass— 9.15am |
| Friday 10th | Year 6 Big Day Out |
| Monday 13th | Year 6 Graduation Mass—7pm |
| Tuesday 14th | Last Day Term 4 |



St Damian's Reading Challenge

The reading challenge is being extended until all students return to school on a full time basis. All reading challenge forms and sponsorship money is to be returned to school by 5/11/21. A reminder that all students who participate in the reading challenge will enter their year level raffle for a \$30 bookshop voucher

Students at St Damian's Primary School have been working very hard during Remote Learning.



