



# St. Damian's Newsletter

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Thursday December 9th, 2021

No. 34 - 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 and Families

It seems strange to be writing this final newsletter as the realization hits that this school year is almost over. Once again we have experienced more interruptions, remote learning, lockdowns and restrictions. Hopefully this is now behind us and we pray that the joy and peace of Christmas is with all our families and staff. May the New Year bring normality, prosperity and good health to all.

As the year draws to a close, it is right to acknowledge the various contributions made to our community by many. Firstly, we congratulate our Year Six students on their successful completion of seven years of primary school. We wish them every success as they embrace the challenges of secondary school. We look forward to their Graduation which will take place on Tuesday evening, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 7.00pm. We certainly hope that these students continue their journey in education, with much success and happiness. Our hope is that they continue to be the "Hands, Hearts and Voice of Christ" as they go through life.

At St Damian's we value our partnership with parents. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our families for the support and loyalty shown to our school throughout the year. I sincerely thank you all for working with us to support the children's learning and also ensuring we kept everyone in our community safe during another COVID year. I also thank all our Committees, both school and parish that, despite the challenges this year, have continued to contribute greatly to the education and life of the children at St Damian's. I especially thank the members of the Education Board and our Parent's Committee and all who volunteered to support our camp program this year. The work and support of our community is highly valued and we thank you for your contribution to the life of our school.

A special thank you to our wonderful staff who are hardworking and committed to the students in their care. The staff kept up their great work to support our students and families and each other in many and varied ways this year. Their dedication to the students was most evident during our remote learning periods and their ability to constantly adapt and respond to challenges ensured that the students were supported at all times. Thank you to the wonderful staff of St Damian's School.

#### Advent Week 3



This Sunday is the third week of Advent. Each candle that is lit represents a new focus and time of reflection. The third week of Advent is the candle of joy. This is the pink candle and is also known as the "shepherd candle", it is in this third week of advent that we rejoice for the coming King. The shepherds experienced joy at the good news of the birth of the Messiah.

#### End of Year Assembly

The final school assembly will be held on **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 9.30am** in either the school hall or the new After School Care Space. Parents wishing to join us on this occasion must comply with Government directives and show proof of being double vaxxed and wear a mask. At the assembly we will gather together for the final time this year to celebrate all that has been achieved. We will also announce the new school leaders for 2022. The students will receive their badges next year at the first assembly for 2022.

We will also farewell many families leaving our school at the end of the year as the last of the children completes their primary education with us. We farewell and thank the following families; Agliano, Apicella, Braidwood, Constantinou, Coustley, Del Medico, Dieng, Fuga, Gianfriddo, Gonzalez, Graham, Kapoulitsa, Karamacoski, Karanfilovska, Kyriacou, Lin, Mavridis-Taneski, Micomonaco, Miras, Ngo, Novatsis, Pecakovski, Raffo, Sarmiento, Singh, Vass, Vescio, Wang.

As well we say goodbye to the following families across the school; Basso, Li, Lin, Gannon, Grey, Guerrisi, Lauria, O'Reiley, Shen, Wang and Yao.

On behalf of the St Damian's School Community I thank each of you for your trust and support over the years and for giving us the privilege of being part of your family and thank you for being a part of ours. May you all experience success, fulfillment and happiness as you move to your new schools and/or homes.

We thank you most sincerely for all you have contributed to our school community. Know that your contribution has made our school a richer and warmer place. With you go our very best wishes

### Year 6 Graduation



On Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December our Year 6 students will conclude their primary school education. We will mark this important milestone with a Mass beginning at 7.00pm in the Church. After Mass there will be some presentations to students followed by a reflection prepared by their teachers. We are so very proud of these young people as they all move onto their next chapter in their life story. With them go our love, our best wishes and all our hopes for much success and lots of happiness. Just a reminder that anyone attending the Mass and Graduation **must show proof of vaccination please.**

### First Two Days of 2022

Staff will use the first two days of the school year to assess students. Therefore, students from Year 1-6 will receive a time on either Monday 31<sup>st</sup> January or Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> February to come to school for half a day for either a morning block or an afternoon block. We ask that the children attend on their designated day and time as we have carefully divided the school into four equal groups to allow the testing to run smoothly and effectively. Please do not send the children at a different time to that stated on your sheet which is included in your child's report. During these sessions the teachers will focus their testing on Literacy and Mathematics so that they can begin their teaching targeted at the student's individual needs. Please ensure your child has their pencil case with writing pens/pencils, rubbers and anything else they may need. Also please ensure that they have either a morning snack if attending the morning session or an afternoon snack if attending in the afternoon. The students may come dressed in casual clothes on these days. Please bring a hat to wear outside as they will have a short break during the session. For the teachers these two assessment days are very long days as they begin at 8.15am and conclude at 4.30pm. Our teachers willingly embrace this opportunity as they are always focused on providing the most optimum learning experiences for the students.

### Last Day of Term and Start of the New Year

School will conclude for the year on **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> at 3.15pm**. All students from **Year 1 – Year 6 will begin** the new school year on **Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February**. The new **Foundation Year students will begin on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> February**. The Prep students will be tested on one of the Wednesday 'rest days' next year.

### School Reports

The end of year reports will be sent home with the students on tomorrow, Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December. Included in the report is the appointment time for your child to attend their testing session in 2022. Parents wishing to discuss any aspect of their child's report are encouraged to make a mutually convenient time with their child's teacher.

### Whole School Orientation for 2022

Next Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> December the students will have the opportunity to meet their new teachers and classmates and spend some time together. The students are usually very excited to know who is in their class and eager to make new friendships. As the teachers have taken great care with the placement of students in their new classes we are confident that each child will be able to flourish in their new class next year.

### Staff 2022

It is with pleasure that I introduce the new staff team for 2022. We welcome some new faces to St Damian's next year and we look forward to enjoying many learning opportunities as we work and grow together.

**Prep Teachers:** Mrs Anthony; Miss McArdle; Mrs Kerss/Mrs Tay

**Year 1:** Mrs Ciurleo; Ms Mullane; Ms Capogreco

**Year 2:** Miss Traficante; Ms Surace; Ms Walsh

**Year 3:** Mrs Cali; Miss Richardson; Miss Tran

**Year 4:** Mrs Milana; Miss Chalhoub

**Year 5:** Mr Bossini; Mrs Marotta

**Year 6:** Ms Starr; Mrs Cannatelli

### Leadership Team:

**Deputy and Teaching & Learning:** Mrs Jenny Rubira

**Religious Education Leader:** Mrs Mary-Ann Wright

**Literacy F-2:** Mrs Angela Lombardi,

**Literacy 3-6:** Mrs Mattie Dragonetti

**Wellbeing Leader:** Ms Charissa Beeby

**Mathematics Leader:** Mrs Carmen Bruce

### Specialist Teachers:

**P.E.** – Mr Tim Watson

**Performing Arts:** Mrs Rachael Lorkin

**Visual Arts** – Ms Charissa Beeby

**Bursar**— Lina Parisot

**Administration**— Angela Parisi

**Prayer***Christmas Blessing*

*We pray that the whole St Damian's Community will enjoy a Christmas that is full of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. We pray that all are safe in travel and in location and that each one enjoys the blessing of family over this festive time. May your greatest wishes come true and your blessings be multiplied as you bless others.*

*Have a safe and happy Christmas everyone and may the New Year bring much joy, peace and good health.*

*Rosanna*



## 2022 School Fees

**Family Fee**

School Fees	\$ 1,785
Capital Fees	\$ 560
	.....
	<b>\$ 2,345</b>

**Student Fees**

Curriculum Levy (includes excursions, student resources, art and library resources)

Year Prep	\$ 370
Years 1 to 3	\$ 430
Years 4 to 6	\$ 460

**Payment of School Fees**

We accept payments weekly, fortnightly, monthly or by term.

Payments welcome **by cash, cheque, credit card, BPay or Eftpos.**

Direct debits can be arranged. The forms are available from the school office.

School Camp fees will be invoiced for Years 3 to 6, prior to the Camp commencement date.



JAZZ·HIP HOP·BALLET·LYRICAL·TAP·TROUPE·ACRO·MUSICAL THEATRE·SINGING  
ALL AGES - *Toddlers – Adults*

**\*\*2022 ENROLMENTS ARE OPEN\*\***

Visit <https://dancestreet.com.au> for timetable

**RACHEL DUNNE FUGA (D.F.T.A) – Principal**

*Former Australian Champion                      30+ years of teaching expertise*

**0432 949 499**

# Faith News

## The Season of Advent

As we continue our celebration of the Season of Advent, this Sunday we light the third of the Advent Candles. We are reminded that the ancient peoples longed for someone to come to them and give them hope for a better way to live. May we embrace Advent as a season of joy, always knowing Jesus' life, death and resurrection made way for our salvation.

### A Christmas Blessing

*Whenever we gaze into a crib this Christmas season  
may new hope and joy flood our spirit.*

*Whenever we watch babies and young children play  
may new energy delight our hearts.*

*Whenever we are tantalised by the aroma of a bbq  
may we unwind, relax and enjoy time off.*

*Whenever the crush of family and friends overwhelms us  
may the hospitality of our hearts expand.*

*Whenever we provide a meal or bed over the holidays  
may we experience love and appreciation.*

*Whenever we put our feet up for leisure  
may the humble presence of the incarnate God companion us.  
Whenever we feel our distance from each other around the world  
may the Christ child draw us into unity.*

**Amen**

## Thank you

Thank you for your ongoing support of our Teachers and Students here at St Damian's as our School Community continues to grow in Faith and Love.

I wish all families a joyful and peaceful Christmas Season.

## Mary-Ann Wright

Religious Education Leader



Anastasia K from 6C has just represented Victoria as a part of the State Soccer Team. An amazing effort by Anastasia and one in which she should be very proud. Here is a short report from Anastasia about her representative duties.

For 5 days I went to Sydney to play for the Victoria state soccer team. At the end of the tournament my team came 3rd out of the states of Australia apart from Queensland. It was an all girl soccer state team and there were 24 girls in total representing Victoria. My position was goalkeeper and over the 7 games I let through 5 goals and stopped heaps. Before the games, I got to spend time with my family at the beach. Overall it was an amazing experience and I hope to play for the Matilda's in the future.



Happy Birthday to the following students who will celebrate their birthday



December		
10th	Cady	1S
13th	Kaiden	1M
	Dylan	Prep M
14th	Jonathan	3/4M
15th	Ian	3/4M
16th	Ashton	2C
18th	Siddhant	5B
19th	Cinzia	3/4A
	Gabriel	3/4W
20th	Lianna	Prep G
22nd	Matea	5B
23rd	Isabella	6S
26th	Franny	5B
	Olivia	3/4W
28th	Cassius	3/4W
29th	Domenico	1C
	Alexander	Prep G
	Ava	5M
	Zoey	2T



The last day for Canteen Lunch Orders is Friday 10th December



Term 4	
<b>December</b>	
Friday 10th	Year 6 Big Day Out
Monday 13th	Last Day of School Year 6's—Option 1
Tuesday 14th	Last Day of School Year 6's—Option 2
	Last Day of School Years P-5—Option 1
Wednesday 15th	Last Day of School Years P-5—Option 2

**St Damian's Parents and Friends Association**

**Thankyou for your support in 2021.**

**Wishing you a Happy Christmas.**

**See you in 2022**



**ACADEMY  
UNIFORMS**

Due to the strict COVID-19 restrictions, parents/guardians are required to make an appointment via the link below to attend Academy Uniform's Thomastown store to purchase their child's uniform for 2022.

The dates available are as follows:

Nov 29<sup>th</sup> – Dec 23<sup>rd</sup>. Appointments are for 20 minutes and bookings can be made between 9am & 2pm. Our experienced staff will allow for plenty of growth.

Bookings can be made at [www.academyuniforms.com.au/stdamians](http://www.academyuniforms.com.au/stdamians)



Term 4- week 10 Newsletter, December 2021

## The Greatest Showman HP theme!

Theircare St. Damians staff are all excited to see that most of our children are returning to the service.

We would also like to welcome Liliane as an addition to our wonderful staff. Liliane is of Lebanese background and has her degree in nursing. Liliane has been working in different services for Theircare, but she will be working with us during the Pupil Free Day's and Holiday Program.

One of the children's favourite theme this term has been St. Damians Theircare Got Talent, during the week children showed off some hidden talents for example Alissa and Alexandra using chopsticks to eat our yummy fried rice and pasta. Also Thomas with his acting skills with a great group and solo performances.

Another child's favourite theme was the Treasure hunt where the children got to make a treasure map and a treasure chest, a treasure was hidden outside but due to the poor weather we had to improvise and have a small treasure hunt indoors.

Our feature themes for term 4 will be based on Christmas. Children have already given our staff some great suggestions for Christmas activities.

We will not be moving into our new beautiful and awesome area until January 2022, as it is not a 100% complete.

We will continue to run Pupil Free Day's and a 3 day HP at the hall. Families will be notified for any changes to dates by our TheirCare St. Damian staff.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> December we have organised a Christmas Party for all our children during after school care. We will have party games yummy food (chicken nuggets and lollies) and some Christmas music to dance along to. We hope to see your child there as it will be a fun and exciting afternoon.

Regards,

Their Care Team, St Damian's

### Contact details:

Phone: 0477 731 175

Email: [stdmiansbundoora@theircare.com.au](mailto:stdmiansbundoora@theircare.com.au)

Customer support: 1300 072 410

Bookings: [www.theircare.com.au](http://www.theircare.com.au)

### 14<sup>th</sup> December 2021 – Christmas party!

We will be enjoying dancing, movie time, popcorn, and party treats with nuggets and chips!





Term 4- week 10 Newsletter, December 2021

## Reminders and dates for Parents

15<sup>th</sup> December last day of Term 4

16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> December Pupil Free Day/ all day care

*(Bookings are now open)*

20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> December Holiday Program

*(Bookings are now open)*

4<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> January 2022 Holiday Program

*(Bookings are now open)*

14th December TheirCare St. Damians Christmas Party!!

