



St. Damian's Newsletter

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Thursday February 3rd, 2022

No. 1 - 2022

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

Welcome Back for 2022

A very warm welcome back to all our families, students and staff for the 2022 school year. I hope that the holiday break was both enjoyable and relaxing for all of you. I take this opportunity to welcome all who are new to St Damian's. I hope that your time here with us will enrich you. We value the contribution you make as a member of our community and we look forward to developing positive relationships with you as we work in partnership for the benefit of the children.

It was wonderful to see the children as they came to attend their testing session and even more wonderful to welcome back on Wednesday morning all our Year 1 – Year 6 students who returned for the beginning of another school year. The students all looked happy and excited to be back and reunited with their schoolmates. This morning we welcomed the newest members of our school community, the 2022 Foundation Year (Prep) students. Commencing school is a very exciting and special time for the children and their families. So I wish to take this opportunity to thank all the parents who helped us ensure that we had a safe return to school and gracefully accepted the restrictions under which we are working at present. I understand that starting Prep is a special time and I would like to thank our Prep teachers, Annemarie Anthony, Mary McArdle, and Sonia Tay/Sophie Kerse for their commitment in ensuring a smooth settling in period for the children.

Overall, our school year has started well and all the students have settled into their new classes. We are hopeful for an uninterrupted and exciting year of learning here at St Damian's.

This year, we extend a warm welcome to some new staff members. **Mrs Sonia Tay** who has joined the Prep Team, **Miss Natasha Solomons** who has joined the Year 2 team as a classroom teachers, in place of Miss Walsh who took another position at a different school. **Miss Nicole Richardson** who has joined the Year 3 team and **Miss Rita Chalhoub** who has joined the Year 4 team. We also extend a warm welcome to **Mrs Renee Waters** who has taken up the Learning Diversity Leader role; **Mrs Marg O'Leary** who is the Music teacher and **Miss Bianca Wilson** who is the new Performing Arts teacher, taking up the position in place of Mrs Lorkins who left on the last day to take up another position in a different school. We also welcome **Miss Sophie Jarman** as our new I.T/Library tech in place of Mrs Kath Andrews who is currently on Long Service Leave. **Mrs Cristina Giovannini** who is the new Italian assistant. We hope that all these staff members find their time here at St Damian's fulfilling and exciting.

2020 Staff Members—It is my pleasure to introduce to you the staff of St Damian's for 2022:

Leadership Team:

Fr. Dong – Parish Priest
Mrs Rosanna Piccolo - Principal
Mrs Jenny Rubira – Deputy, Learning & Teaching Leader & Digital Tech F-2
Mrs Mary-Ann Wright – Religious Education Leader
Mrs Angela Lombardi – English Leader F-2
Mrs Mattie Dragonetti – English Leader 3-6
Mrs Carmen Bruce – Mathematics Leader
Ms Charissa Beeby – Wellbeing Leader

Class Teachers:

Prep: Mrs Annemarie Anthony, Mrs Sonia Tay/Mrs Sophie Kerse and Miss Mary McArdle
Year 1: Miss Caterina Capogreco, Mrs Saveria Ciurleo & Miss Taylor-Jade Mullane,
Year 2: Miss Lia Surace, Mrs Lauren Bozinovski & Miss Natasha Solomons
Year 3: Mrs Melissa Calli, Miss Nicole Richardson and Miss Martina Tran
Year 4: Mrs Barbara Milana, and Miss Rita Chalhoub
Year 5: Mrs Mary Marotta, Mr Riki Bossini,
Year 6: Mrs Julie Cannatelli, Miss Amy Starr

Specialist Teachers:

Miss Bianca Wilson – Performing Arts; Mrs Marg O'Leary – Music; Miss Charissa Beeby – Visual Arts;
Mr Tim Watson – P.E. & Digital Tech Yr 3-6; Mrs Cristina Giovannini – Italian Language Leader,
Mrs Renee Waters – Learning Diversity Leader; Mrs Felicity Cockayne – Reading Recovery; Miss Sophie Jarman – I.T./ Library.

Learning Support Officers:

Mrs Elisa Answerth, Mrs Marie Costanzo, Mr Benjamin Lim, Mrs Mimma Martini, Mrs Joanne Sobey, Mrs Sandra Spicer and Mrs Sally Tan.

Administrative Staff:

Mrs Angela Parisi: Mon – Fri (alternate) & Mrs Lina Parisot Bursur, Mon – Thurs & Office Fri (alternate)

School Captains: Ipsita M and Hugo W **Vice Captains:** Chloe T and Ned M

Damian House: Captains: Billy B and Ruby B
Cosmos House: Captains: Alannah C and Aston S
Francis House: Captains: Zac L and Samuel S
Claire House: Captains: Thomas S and Bianca B

Learning Conversations

The Learning Conversations will be held this **Monday 7th February** from 8.30am until 8.00pm. These will be held online as we are not permitted to have face to face meetings at present. **Students are not required to attend school on this day** as the teachers will be involved in the Learning Conversations, however we expect that the students will be participating in the Learning Conversations. Parents will need to book online for their interview times. Information on how to book a time has already been emailed to families.

EVERY DAY COUNTS LEGISLATION

Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child's education. This is something we have all learnt over the past two years as we have endured endless lockdowns and remote learning. School attendance allows for more than just academic achievement, it provides an avenue for social interactions and building relationships. Therefore, unless a student is ill, attending school is important. We ask that families reserve taking holidays during the designated holiday periods in term breaks.

Student Absences

Parents are reminded to notify the classroom teacher or the school office if a student is not attending school. This procedure ensures the safety of all students at all times. If a student is absent and we have not been notified, we are bound to make immediate contact with parents to ensure the child's safety. Therefore, please let us know if your child is not attending school on the day.

Anaphylaxis

It is important that I remind you that we have many students in our school who are at risk of having an anaphylactic reaction. Anaphylaxis is a severe allergic reaction that is life threatening. The most common allergens in school aged children are peanuts, eggs, tree nuts (e.g. cashews), cow's milk, fish and shell fish, wheat, soy, sesame, latex, certain insect stings and medication. The key to prevention of anaphylaxis in schools is knowledge of those students who have been diagnosed at risk, awareness of triggers (allergens) and prevention of exposure to these triggers.

Partnership between schools and parents is important in ensuring that certain foods or items are kept away from the student while at school. Adrenaline given through an EpiPen auto injector to the muscle of the outer mid thigh is the most effective first aid treatment for anaphylaxis. Teachers will be sending home a letter informing you if there is a child in the class at risk of anaphylaxis. Please look out for a letter from your child's class teacher asking for your assistance to minimize harm to these children at risk of having an anaphylactic reaction and the associated triggers. I encourage you to take particular notice of this letter and I also encourage all parents to discuss the severity of anaphylaxis with their children. At St Damian's our policy also states that students are never to share food or buy food from the canteen to give to other students. This ensures that as a school, we are taking every precaution to ensure the safety of students who are at risk. Our Anaphylaxis Management Policy is available on our school website: www.sdbundoora.catholic.edu.au

SCHOOL SAFETY & CHILD SAFE STANDARDS

As a matter of child safety, parents are reminded that the school's **Duty of Care** regarding supervision of students **begins at 8.30am and concludes at 3.30pm every school day**. No child should ever be left unattended at school outside of these times. Our school protocols are that students gather on the top basketball court around 8.30am where there is a teacher already on duty. The music begins at 8.40am when teachers come out to collect the children and walk them into the classroom so they can ready themselves for the beginning of the day. **Meditation begins at 8.45am**. We ask that all students attend school on time to help them settle in for the day's learning. The children will also line up on the basketball court after each recess break and be taken into class by their respective teachers. At the end of the day all students will be dismissed from their classrooms to allow them to meet with parents/ guardians or grandparents at the agreed meeting place.

Any student arriving late must be signed in at the school office by an adult. Then the student will enter the buildings via the office area. All external doors will be locked at all times to ensure everyone's safety and that we know who is in the school and on the property at all times. All messages and items to be given to students must be done through the school office.

Parents entering the school building must sign in at the office and collect a visitor's badge. Only parents who can show proof of vaccination are able to enter the school buildings. We expect that parents work with us on this because, as a school, we are mandated to comply with COVID safe rules, Child Safety Standards as well as ensure we have appropriate emergency procedures in place. Parents wishing to speak with teachers should communicate via email, phone or by making an appointment at a mutually suitable time.

School Hats

St Damian's school is a Sunsmart school. This means that we expect all our students and staff to be wearing hats when outside during high UV periods, mainly in Term 1 and Term 4. Therefore, we ask all parents to ensure that your child(ren) have their **school hat** to wear when at school. *Australia* has one of the highest rates of *skin cancer* in the world. Anyone can be at risk of developing *skin cancer*. The majority of *skin cancers* in *Australia* are caused by exposure to UV radiation in sunlight. Hence our school policy: **NO HAT NO PLAY**

School Uniform

It is an expectation that students wear the correct school uniform at all times. This includes wearing school shoes, not black runners. School shoes should be **plain black leather**, which is much healthier for growing feet. Runners (whatever colour) should only be worn on sport days with school sport uniform. We also ask that students **do not** wear jewellery to school as this can easily be lost and can cause distress to both students and families. Only sleepers or stud earrings should be worn as a safety precaution. NO dangly earrings, nail polish or other accessories to be worn with the uniform, this includes hair accessories please. Also, please ensure that hair that is longer than shoulder length is tied back.

Holidays

School Holidays (term breaks) are determined by the Education Department for all schools at particular times of the year. If parents decide to take holidays outside these times, an application form must be filled in with the relevant times and reason for the leave period. Whilst we understand that taking holidays outside of holiday periods is cheaper, the absence from school will have a detrimental impact on the student's learning. Parents should carefully consider the benefits of keeping children out of school for long periods of time as the learning in the classroom continues in the child's absence. Catching up with missed work is often difficult for students once they return.

Communicating with teachers

Effective home - school partnerships rely on positive relationships being established. One way to ensure this happens is to have good communication between teachers and parents. Our teachers' main job is to teach the children, therefore they may not always be available to speak with parents. For minor issues, parents can 'catch' a teacher when they collect their class in the morning. However, for important issues it is necessary to set aside appropriate time to meet. I encourage parents therefore to communicate via email or preferably make an appointment with the teacher so that issues or concerns can be addressed calmly and appropriately. Parents should also note that when sending an email, the teacher may not be able to respond immediately as they are usually involved with classroom duties. Parents should expect an answer to their email within a 24-48 hour period and only within business hours. Teachers will not respond to emails before 8.30am and after 5.30pm. Thank you for understanding.

Protocols for Addressing Issues

There may be times during the year when a concern arises, this could be a behaviour or an academic issue. These should be addressed with the classroom teacher in the first instance, as the classroom teacher has the most knowledge of the issue and knows the child best. If the issue continues to be a concern, then the Principal may need to be involved and an appointment made to meet. At no point should parents ever approach another child regarding an issue. This is not appropriate and certainly not helpful to anyone as this can exacerbate the situation for all parties and rarely leads to a resolution. I refer parents to the Code of Conduct which outlines expectations of all in the community.

Car parking

Just a reminder that there is **no parent parking on the school grounds** as the front carpark is used by the teachers whilst we are undergoing our building program.

Building Program

The Building Program is progressing well with work underway to create the new Library, Parent room/Uniform shop, 3 new classrooms and teacher planning room. Once this is completed we will be refurbishing the junior toilets downstairs.

Before and After School Care Program

The new multipurpose area is the new facility for this service. At present the team from TheirCare are preparing to move into this new space. Parents will be notified when the move is complete as the Hall will no longer be used for this purpose.

Prayer for the Week:

Lord God of all Creation. We ask you to bless our students, families and staff throughout this year. Help all in our community to be the hands, heart and voice of Christ as they work and learn together.

Have a great week,

Rosanna

Faith News

Sacramental Evening

Our Sacramental Evening will take place on **Wednesday 23rd February at 7:30pm**. Ingrid Greene will be our guest speaker for the evening. This evening is a Parent only event and although it is aimed towards Parents of Students in Years Two, Four, and Six, all Parents are welcome to attend. Please note, all attendees will be required to show proof of vaccination.

Daily Christian Meditation

Each morning, our School Community begins the day with Christian Meditation. Meditation **begins at 8:45am and concludes at 8:55am**.

Beginning of the School Year Prayer

*Father in Heaven,
Creator of all source of goodness and love.
Please look kindly upon
and receive our heartfelt gratitude
in this time of giving thanks.*

*Thank you for all the graces and blessings
you have bestowed upon us:*

*Our faith;
Our religious heritage;
Our food and shelter;
Our health;
The love we have for one another;
Our family and friends.*

*Dear Father, in your infinite generosity,
please grant us continued graces and blessings
throughout the coming year.*

*This we ask in the name of Jesus,
Your Son and our Brother.
Amen.*

Mary-Ann Wright
Religious Education Leader



**TheirCare service is moving to the
New Building next week!**

Please note:

Starting from Monday, **7th February 2022** TheirCare service will be operating from the new building (Old Garage building).

TheirCare head office will be sending out the communication to the families this Friday regarding the move.

Therefore, please bring your children to the new service starting from Monday. If you have trouble finding the service, please call the service number on 0477 731 175.



Instrumental Music Lessons - on school campus
Places available for Term 1, 2022



Small Group & Private Lessons

- Primary Music Institute offer instrumental music lessons right here on school campus!
- To find out all about the music lessons please visit PMI's website. You can check which instruments are available, get up to date program details and apply for lessons online
- Please **ENROL TODAY** via PMI's website
- Lessons are held once per week on school campus – with lessons typically during school hours
- Only \$19.50 per child per small group lesson (2-5 students for 30 minutes)
- Private lessons (1-on-1) and pair lessons (max 2 students) are also available
- Online lessons (after hours) are also available direct to your home – contact us to find out more
- Instrumental music can improve your child's school results – including for reading, maths, coordination, IQ, abstract reasoning, performance confidence... and is great fun!

P: 1300 362 824

E: admin@primarymusicinstitute.com.au

www.primarymusicinstitute.com.au



PARADE ST DAMIANS
- JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB -
paradesaints.com.au | [@paradesaintsjfc](https://www.instagram.com/paradesaintsjfc)



- Registration info and assistance
- Uniform fittings and orders
- Fittings for Free training top
- Free BBQ
- Mouth-guard fittings
- Activities on the Oval
- Tour our new Binnak Park Facilities

**Registration
& Open Day**
Sunday 6th February

10AM TO 2PM, BINNAK PARK OVAL,
12 ANDERSON PARADE, BUNDOORA



Place your canteen orders online with Spriggy Schools

The canteen has
partnered with
Spriggy Schools for
online lunch orders!

We are excited to announce the introduction of a new online lunch ordering system called Spriggy Schools on 7th February, 2022

St Damian's canteen ordering will only be available through the Spriggy Schools App. Cash lunch orders will not be accepted. Sales during the Lunch Break will still be available.

Spriggy Schools will make lunch orders more convenient for both families and the canteen.

Steps to get started:

1. Go to www.spriggy.schools.com.au to register and download the app.
2. Add a profile for each of your children, making sure you select St Damian's Primary School and your child's class.
3. Start placing lunch orders! You can place orders up to 1 week in advance.

If you have any questions, please contact Spriggy Schools via their website.

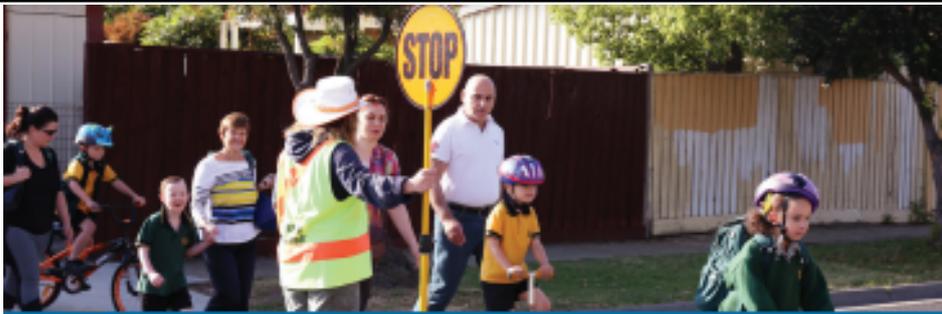
Creating your account

- Download the app
- Register your details
- Create a profile for each child

Placing your first order

- View the canteen menu on the home screen
- Browse the menu and tap 'Add to Cart' on any item
- Go to cart and tap 'Place Order' to confirm
- You can edit or cancel your order before the cut-off time

Download the app now!



City of Whittlesea

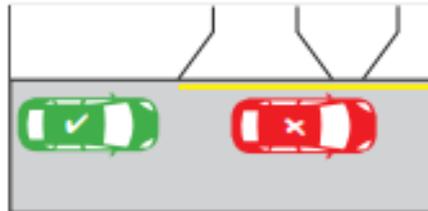
PARKING AND SAFETY AROUND SCHOOLS

Speed



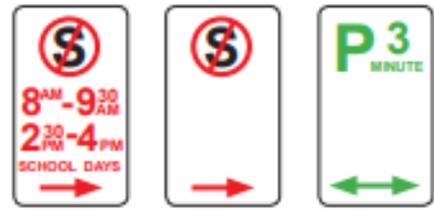
Look out for the reduced speed limit around schools and slow down to improve safety.

Yellow edge line



A driver must not stop on the side of a road marked with a yellow edge line.

Parking/Stopping signage



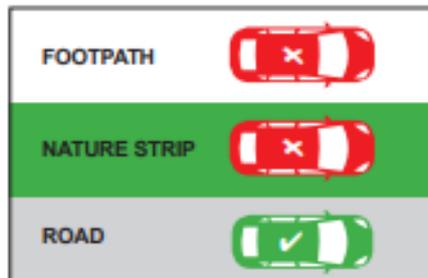
No stopping areas must be kept clear. If times/days are specified, restrictions are only applicable to the specified times/days. You cannot park in a P3 minute area for longer than three minutes.

School crossings



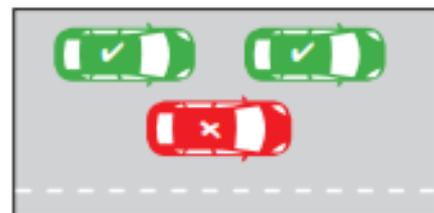
- Look out for flags and Crossing Supervisors
- You must stop for anyone waiting to cross, or who has started crossing
- Please remain stopped until the crossing is clear.

No parking on nature strips/footpaths



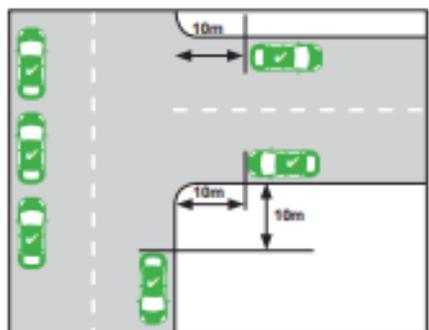
Parking is illegal on nature strips and footpaths.

Double parking



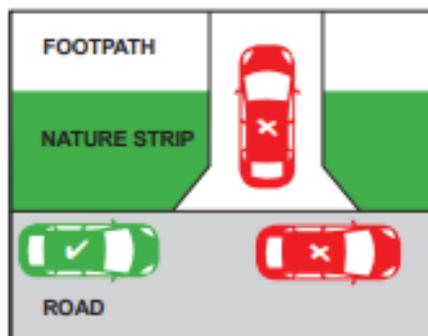
It is illegal to double park at any time. This affects the flow of traffic.

Within 10 metres of an intersection



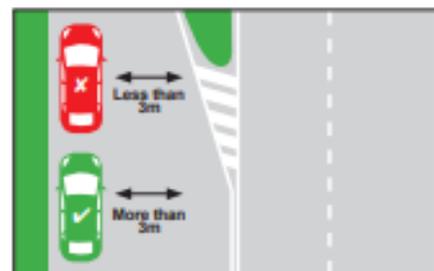
A driver must not stop with any part of their vehicle within 10 metres of an intersection unless signed otherwise.

Stopping across driveways



It is illegal to stop/park across a driveway unless you stay in the car are there for no more than two minutes and move immediately if required to do so to allow entry or exit by the owner/occupier.

3 metre gap for signage



At least 3 metres must be left between your vehicle and the centre dividing line to allow other vehicles to pass safely and not obstruct traffic.

What can you do to stay safe

- Supervise your children in or near traffic
- Walk or cycle to school with your child
- Respect all road rules, parking signs and instructions from authorities
- Wait on the same side of the street as your child
- Always let your child out of the kerb side of the car.

Free Telephone Interpreter Service

العربية	9679 9871	Italiano	9679 9874	ਪੰਜਾਬੀ	9679 9879	Tiếng Việt	9679 9878
Ελληνικά	9679 9873	Македонски	9679 9875	தமிழ்	9679 9879	Other	9679 9879
हिंदी	9679 9879	简体中文	9679 9857	Türkçe	9679 9877		