



St. Damian's Newsletter

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Thursday May 19th, 2022

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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/Guardians & Carers

Year 5/6 Camp to Phillip Island

Our students in Years 5 and 6 returned from their camp experience yesterday. The students left on Monday morning for a three day and two night adventure staying at the Phillip Island camp resort. The students enjoyed participating in a variety of activities, including watching the penguin parade at Summerland Beach. They then followed the penguins as they made their way along the boardwalks at Phillip Island Nature Park to their burrows. By all accounts the students had a very enjoyable camp experience, however they were all very happy to be back home once again. A huge thank you to the wonderful parents who helped with the supervision of students and to the amazing teachers for their commitment and hard work.

Prep 2023 Enrolments

Just a gentle reminder to all our families who have children starting Prep next year that enrolments close very soon. Offers of places for 2023 will be sent out on Friday 27th May. Please ensure you have put your enrolment form in so that you do not miss out on a spot. Thank you

School Assembly

Our next school assembly is this Friday 20th May at 2.30pm in the hall. The Year 4M class will present their celebration of Learning at this assembly. All families welcome.

School Uniform

All students should now be in full winter uniform. Could I please remind parents and students that our uniform should be worn properly and with pride. This means that all students must be wearing the **correct uniform** and not a mix and match. This applies most especially to footwear and jumpers. Runners are only to be worn with sports uniform on days when students are participating in Physical Education lessons. Otherwise, all students should be wearing black leather shoes. Students should be wearing the school jumper and not zip tops and such. The Year 6 students only wear their Year 6 bomber jacket. I reiterate, all students are expected to wear the correct school uniform at all times.

Lost property box

The lost property box is bursting with lost items of uniform. Could I encourage students and parents to please come and check for missing items of uniform and to please take home. Uniforms are very expensive, so I am certain that families would be very glad to have lost uniform pieces returned. We will soon be emptying this box and donating the items to the second hand uniform shop for resale.

Moving Classrooms

As we are moving classrooms very soon we would appreciate any help we can get. We love to have some parents to help teachers with moving furniture, cleaning rooms, taking down displays, etc and helping set up new classrooms. If you are able to spare a couple of hours we would love to hear from you. Many classes are changing rooms to accommodate all the classes back into the main building. The portable classrooms on the basketball courts will be removed in early June as the building works are finished up. We will send out a call out for helpers next week once we receive the certificate of occupancy. At this stage we will begin the move from Monday 30th May. Finally, it will be great to use the new spaces and to have our school back to normal without the noise and mess.

NAPLAN Assessments

Our students have now completed all the NAPLAN assessments. I congratulate both the students and the teachers on the successful way in which these assessments took place. I particularly thank Mrs Rubira and Mrs Lombardi for all their preparations to ensure that the assessments were administered in a calm and orderly manner. I also thank the Year 3 and Year 5 teachers for their wonderful support and preparation of the students.

Fr Vincent

A huge thank you to all who contributed to Father Vincent's gift. As a result of your generosity, we were able to combine with the Parish and presented Father with a cheque for over \$1000.00, half of which came from the school. Once again, thank you to everyone for your kind contribution. It was fitting to present Father with a gift as we marked his ministry in both the parish and school over the past 10 years. Whilst the farewell afternoon tea was a small gathering, it was still lovely to farewell Father in such a nice way and to have the opportunity to thank him personally for his work and dedication to our school and parish community.

Prayer

Dear God, every day, every moment, we are called to open our eyes to the broader story of grace and love happening all around us. Help us to make meaning of our experiences, to see how goodness, hope and love are resurrected again and again in our lives. Lead us to understand that the person of Jesus, can find us anywhere, in hallways, boardrooms, at our home offices or shared workstations. Let us make the most of all opportunities to stop, look around and see the sacred in our midst every day and in every moment.

Amen

Have a great week everyone,

Rosanna

Faith News

Solemnity of Our Lady, Help of Christians – 24th May

Since the Middle-Ages, the Church has devoted the month of May to Mary. We find strength when seeking Mary's intercession and gain confidence in knowing that God continues to act in the world. On all Marian feast days, we continue to celebrate Jesus Christ, for Mary's privilege is received from God. Whilst we continue to pray and the practice of charity, we can remain assured that our prayers will be answered. With maternal love for us, Mary wants what is best for us as she urges, "Do whatever He tells you" (John 2:5). May we continue to lead others to know and love her Son too. May we feel empowered to turn to her in prayer as we continue to love Jesus and others with a greater love.

Mary's Peace Prayer

*Mary, Mother of God, my mother, Queen of Peace.
Please ask your Son, Jesus, to give us the gift of peace.
Pray for us, for peace; peace in our hearts;
peace of mind and of soul;
peace within our families;
peace with all whom we meet; the peace of Jesus.
Jesus, our Lord and Saviour, our Brother, King of Peace.
We come to you and Mary, Queen of Peace,
to humbly ask you for a new outpouring
of the gift of peace.
Pour out on us your Holy Spirit of Peace.
Give us peace, Jesus; peace within ourselves;
peace within our families;
peace within our everyday lives.
Give peace to our nation, and to all nations;
peace amongst all people;
peace in the world.
Jesus, our mediator with the Father,
take our Prayers to the Father to pray for peace.
Father, Father of Jesus, our Father,
we come to you with your Son, Jesus.
In Him and with Him and through Him,
we pray for peace. Amen.*

St. Vincent de Paul Annual Winter Appeal

Winter will soon be upon us. Therefore, the time has come for our School to once again, support the St. Vincent de Paul Annual Winter Appeal. With the rising costs of gas and electricity, many people are looking for alternative ways to stay warm in the winter months. In response to this need, our Social Justice Leaders are running a Warm Up Winter Drive in aid of Vinnies. Donations of items such as socks, beanies, hats, scarves, gloves etc. would be most sincerely appreciated. Please send these donations to your child's classroom anytime between **Monday 23rd May and Friday 17th June**. Your donated items will be distributed to families in need. St. Damian's has a strong tradition of caring for those in need.

Mary-Ann Wright
Religious Education Leader

Year 3 Darebin Parklands Spiritual Trail Excursion



My two favourite things when we went on our excursion were closing my eyes and hearing the relaxing waterfall dropping in the water and eating a crunchy plant called Lomandra. It was super skinny so it was hard to bite off.

By Madison B 3C

The amazing parts of our excursion were seeing fascinating things like a baby possum, a nest and tons of different types of amazing things. I also got to eat a plant called Lomandra and one of the things I learnt was that you can wash food by rubbing two of your fingers on the tip of it. We also stopped twice to close our eyes and listen to what was around us. The first time I heard birds and the second time I heard splashing sounds in the river.

Lucia 3C

It was fun when we could play with the satisfying artefacts because one of my friends almost made a fire with the firesticks. Firesticks are an Aboriginal tool to light up a fire. It was exciting when Uncle Trevor led us to a cliff and what was amazing was when he told us to close our eyes and listen to the beautiful sound of the water. It was relaxing.

Henry 3C

My favourite part of the excursion was the peaceful waterfall because it was relaxing. Also it was cool when we were on the high cliff because we could see the splashing water. Uncle Trevor was talking about how the people lived there in Darebin Parklands many years ago.

By Rishab 3C

Year 3 Excursion Reflection

<p>First we stood in a circle and felt the breeze and listened to nature. This was the welcoming circle.</p> <p>Next we went to a cliff with blue water running below. Uncle Trevor told us this was a 'pantry' At first I didn't know what he meant. Then he told us it was because there were fish in there. It was the Aboriginals' version of our pantry where we keep our food.</p> <p>Alyssa 3R</p>	<p>Woosh...Woosh! Cheep...cheep!</p> <p>We were standing in a circle listening to nature at Darebin Parklands. Our leader, Uncle Trevor, showed us some Aboriginal artefacts. The killer boomerang was designed to break a kangaroos' legs. The emu caller was used to call the emus out from hiding so they could kill them for food. The possum skins are used for cloaks. Each year a new one gets added.</p> <p>Wenxi 3R</p>	<p>We walked down the hill before setting a fire. When the first was lit we each got a gum leaf. The gum leaf represented a type of passport they used to welcome new visitors to their land.</p> <p>Our leader, Uncle Trevor, told us how to dance like the Aboriginals do. The clap sticks signalled the beginning of our dance and we moved. While we were dancing we threw our gum leaves on the fire.</p> <p>Jeremy 3R</p>	<p>Uncle Trevor explained that wattle symbolises Adult Aboriginals and the Cherry Ballart symbolises Aboriginal children.</p> <p>The Cherry Ballart plant attaches itself to a different plant and over a few years it detaches itself - just like a child does from its parents.</p> <p>Zoe 3R</p>
<p>We got to look at some Aboriginal stuff. My favourite was a boomerang.</p> <p>After that, we went on a walk with Uncle Trevor and I got to throw a boomerang.</p> <p>Oliver B 3T</p>	<p>I went on an excursion. We went on a bus to Darebin Parklands. When we got there, we ate.</p> <p>Then we saw all the Aboriginal things. I learnt so much about them.</p> <p>Then we went on a walk with Uncle Trevor. We stopped where there were lots of birds and then we went to a waterfall and it was very high.</p> <p>Kaitlyn 3T</p>	<p>Uncle Trevor taught us about Aboriginals and we saw lots of Aboriginal weapons.</p> <p>We went to a river, it was cool and scary. Then we lit a fire, then we saw Uncle Trevor eat a plant out of a bush and we saw Uncle Trevor's pet.</p> <p>Alessia 3T</p>	<p>The first thing we did was get on the bus and I sat next to Ava. Ava and I played 5 questions.</p> <p>Once we got off the bus, we crossed the road and went to an art centre. We saw lots of cool Aboriginal things like: emu callers and fire makers.</p> <p>Soraya 3T</p>

Fr Vincent Le's Retirement

Last Saturday the Parish held a small get together for Fr Vincent at his request he asked to keep the event small. We presented to him from the School and the Parish the card everyone had signed in the Church and School and gifts and also a plaque which is in the Church Foyer for all to view .



Thank you Message, from Fr Vincent Le

It was difficult to come back to St Damian's after more than a year in absence because of illness. It was even more difficult to say goodbye to a place where I received so much faith-filled acceptance, generous support, enormous kindness, loving trust and good friendship over those 11 years (2010-2021). So it was a mixed feeling of joy and sadness in me to be at the farewell afternoon tea last Saturday. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for those precious years at St Damian's, especially for the goodwill and gifts I received at that gathering in the presence of many parish people and for those who organised it. I am no longer with you in the same place of work and play but we are still very much in the same faith, hope and love as God's people on our separate journeys. May God be you and protect you always.

(Fr) Vincent Le

St Damian's Parents and Friends

Mother's Day Stall

We hope all Mothers, Grandmothers and Carers enjoyed the presents from the stall. The children absolutely loved the experience.

\$1227 was raised for the school. Thanks again everyone involved.



The Parents Association would like to recognise our parent volunteers especially this week being National Volunteer Week.

Your decision to get involved places you as a positive role model for other parents and encourages positive school involvement.

Thank you to all our Parent Volunteers.

Second Hand Uniform Shop

The Second Hand Uniform Shop will be open this Friday morning 9am - 10am.
Located in the School Hall- behind stage

Cash Only /Masks Required

Yellow and Red Polos at \$5 - Winter Jumpers \$10 - Green Parkas/Jackets for \$8



St. Damian's Umbrellas

Thanks to the money raised from the recent Hot Cross Bun drive we were able to purchase personalised St. Damian's umbrellas for staff to use.

If anyone is keen to purchase one they are available at the uniform shop.

Bring your family and friends for a night of fun!



MOVIE

LIGHTYEAR

BOUGHT TO YOU BY
St Damian's
Parents and Friends



Come watch Lightyear with your friends from St Damian's! For a fun night under the stars and amongst your friends.

The movie starts at 7:00pm sharp, and gates will be open from 6:30pm.

Watch young astronaut Buzz Lightyear, who, after being marooned on a hostile planet with his commander and crew, tries to find a way back home through space and time, while also confronting a threat to the universe's safety.



Get the tickets from
<https://www.trybooking.com/BZ000>



PARADE SAINTS

JUNIOR FOOTBALL

Boys & Girls Aged 7, 9 & 10

LIMITED SPACES STILL AVAILABLE

paradesaints.com.au

call us on 0422 844 462



Friday Nights & Saturday Mornings

Come and start your AFL football journey with the family club!

Mixed groups of **girls and boys** for all sessions

Binnak Park Oval

Friday 5pm & Saturday 9am

to register or for more information

paradesaints.com.au/auskick

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Term 2	
May	
Monday 30th	Year 5 Excursion—Immigration Museum
June	
Friday 3rd	Whole School Assembly. 2.30pm
Saturday 4th	Sacrament of Reconciliation. Presentation Mass. 5.30pm
Sunday 5th	Sacrament of Reconciliation. Presentation Mass. 10.00am
Monday 6th	Year 4 Excursion—Melbourne Museum
Tuesday 7th	Long Walk—Year 6's & Fire Carriers
Monday 13th	Queens Birthday Public Holiday
Saturday 18th	Sacrament of Confirmation Presentation Mass 5.30pm
Sunday 19th	Sacrament of Confirmation Presentation Mass.10.00am
Friday 24th	Last Day of Term 2
July	
Thursday 14th	Sacrament of Confirmation Parent/ Child Evening. 7pm
Saturday 23rd	Sacrament of Confirmation 2pm



Nude Food Day will be every Wednesday this term. Nude Food is when there are no wrappers and all food is brought to school in containers or reusable bags. We will be increasing the days that we do nude food throughout the year. Our goal is to become a Nude Food School

