



# St. Damian's Newsletter

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Thursday June 23rd, 2022

No. 19 - 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/Guardians & Carers

It has been an eventful week here at St Damian's. Monday was a busy day for us all as we received notification from the Architect that the Certificate of Occupancy had finally been issued. This allowed us to move into our new spaces at last. Given, that notice came so late, it was not possible to advise our community, however our very capable staff managed the move with minimum fuss. Whilst the classroom teachers were busy with the Learning Conversations, the Learning Support Officers and other staff onsite assisted our maintenance personnel and began the big move. By the end of the day on Monday four classrooms had been completely moved and 3 classrooms were partially moved. This allowed for everyone else to move on Tuesday and Wednesday. The classes have all been moved into their new spaces now and the teachers have almost completed organizing their classrooms. Some of our senior students also helped with the move on Tuesday and Wednesday carrying small items, chairs and wheeling in resources. The heavy and bulky items and furniture was moved by the maintenance personnel, Gary and Matthew. A huge thank you to everyone for their hard work and for the smooth way the whole operation was managed. Nothing broken, no one hurt and everything cleaned and put in their right places. The portable which is currently on the basketball court will be removed in the first week of the school holidays. This will be great news for the students who will have use of the top basketball court once more.

The Learning Conversations which were held on Monday seemed to go well, with families taking the opportunity to meet with the teacher and discuss learning progress so far. I believe there were some families dissatisfied with the Learning Conversations being online and there has been quite a significant negative response on social media. I would like to say a thank you and acknowledge **two families** who respectfully addressed their concerns directly with me which led to the issue being resolved very quickly and to everyone's satisfaction. There is a lesson to be learnt here. When addressed correctly, rather than through social media, situations which can escalate unnecessarily creating media gossip and frenzy, usually have a resolution which can be agreed upon by all parties. Both families requested a face to face meeting which was organised with the relevant class teachers. When we work together, then often situations can be worked out and everyone feels valued, respected and heard. Let me take this opportunity to remind our families that caution should be taken when using social media, most especially what is written. As a school or as individuals, we have the right to legal recourse in the case of defamatory comments being put on social media.

## Sacraments

Last night, the students in Year 2 received the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to all the students and their families on this important occasion and in reaching this milestone in their faith development. On Tuesday, Bishop Curtin visited the Year 6 students who are also preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in July. The Bishop spent some time chatting with the students and discussing the importance of this Sacrament in our lives. It was wonderful for the Bishop and the students to have this informal time together. The Bishop then joined the staff for morning tea before leaving. We will see him again on the 23<sup>rd</sup> July when he will confer the Sacrament on the Confirmation Candidates. Please keep the Year 2 and the Year 6 students in your prayers during this special time.

## Official Opening and Blessing of New Spaces

After consultation with both Fr Dong and the School Advisory Board members we have agreed that this event will take place early in Term 3. As is the usual practice, all Government funded projects must be officially opened with government representatives and MACS staff in attendance. At present we are trying to co-ordinate a suitable date with either the Archbishop or the Bishop who will be invited to officiate at the blessing of the new spaces. All our families are very warmly welcomed to join us for this wonderful event. We will communicate the date and time as soon as it is confirmed.

## Sickness

Just a reminder to all parents that children who show signs of being unwell, have runny noses, are coughing, complain of headache or generally unwell must not be sent to school. There has been quite a number of cases of children having to be sent home due to feeling unwell or being symptomatic. Germs are easily spread in the classroom and it is not appropriate to expose others to viruses and germs when this is avoidable. Please keep sick children home until fully recovered.

## End of Term

The school term will conclude this Friday at 3.15pm. As is usual, we invite the students to attend school dressed in casual clothes wearing appropriate footwear. We ask for a gold coin donation please.

**Parking**

Now that the building works are complete, the staff have returned to parking in their previous areas. This has now freed the bottom carpark for families to use. Could I please remind everyone that if you choose to park on the bottom carpark, you must park in the correct bays and then walk your child(ren) into the school. This area is **not a kiss and drop zone** as this is dangerous given that children are moving about. Please also remember that there is no parking in Irabina nor in the Parish carpark. Drivers should not enter the school grounds via Plenty Road and definitely no parking in the staff car park or in the top driveway. Thank you for understanding.

**Staff News**

Mrs Lauren Bosinovski is finishing up at the end of this term as she and her husband Steve await the birth of their first baby. We congratulate both Lauren and Steve and wish them all the best as they welcome their new bub into their family. We welcome Mr Michael Fay who is taking over from Mrs Bosinovski, Michael will be teaching Year 2B for the remainder of this year.

We also welcome Mrs Alison Smith who has been appointed as Tutor teacher. We have been very fortunate to be able to employ Mrs Smith in this role as the current teacher shortage has resulted in a lack of interest in many positions advertised in schools. Mrs Smith will be assessing to determine which students will be taken onto this program. Given that we only have one Tutor teacher, we will only be able to support a very limited number of students.

**Condolences**

Our heartfelt sympathies are extended to the Gonzales –Arfi family on the recent passing of their father and grandfather (Orlando 6C and Kasia 3R). We pray that God bring them all comfort and healing during this very difficult and sad time. May he rest in peace in God's warm embrace.

**A Prayer for Reconciliation**

*God of all creation, as we journey together in this Great Southern Land, we pray for healing, forgiveness and unity, creating a path of good will, with justice and compassion. Amen (adapted from Reconciliation Prayer written by a small group of Aboriginal Elder women – NATSICC website)*

*Wishing everyone a restful holiday. Keep safe and keep warm.*

*Rosanna*

# PARISH NEWS

**New and Renew Ministry Readers, Eucharistic Ministers and Altar Servers**

Fr. Joe Dong Tran is now looking at obtaining a list of all New and Current Volunteers for the roles of Ministry Readers, Eucharistic Ministers, and Altar Servers. I would like to kindly ask you to consider joining in by filling out the form on the table in the Foyer.

Let us remember that we are all different and also we are all having different gifts that the Holy Spirit has given to us to produce the God's work in this earthly place, so let us develop our gifts. Therefore, I today firmly encourage you all to involve in one of these roles and let us work together to build up our community for a better place. If you have any requirements please don't hesitate to talk to me or ring to our Parish Office. Thank to you all!

**Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help and St. Joseph, Protector of All Christians**

The Novena to our Lady Perpetual Help and St. Joseph, Protector of all Christians from now on will be held on every Wednesday after 9:15 am Mass. Please save this date coming to pray for one another. Thank you.

**Novena for Sacred Heart of Jesus**

Please also note that the Devotion on Novena to the Sacred heart of Jesus has held on every First Friday of each month, included – the Silent Adoration, Sacrament of Confession and Benediction.

**Feast of Corpus Christi Celebration**

This weekend the Holy Mother Church celebrates the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus et Sanguis Christi). The HOLY HOUR and BENEDICTION will take place right after the 5:30 pm Mass and until 9:00 pm. All would like to attend. Please note: NO Saturday Confession before the Vigil Mass and it happens during the Holy Hour, approximately 30 minutes.

# Faith News

## Sacrament of Reconciliation

Congratulations to our students who celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation yesterday evening. We also extend our congratulations to those students who received a Special Blessing. Thank you to our families who prepared with their children, and to our Year Two Teachers Lauren Bozinovski, Lauren Davies and Natasha Solomons who worked with the Students throughout the term.

## Sacrament of Confirmation Parent / Child Evening

We are looking forward to welcoming you to our Sacrament of Confirmation Parent / Child Evening early next term on **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> July at 7pm**. The evening will be facilitated by Michele from the Presentation Family Project.

## Sacrament of Confirmation

Please pray for our Year Six Students and their families as they prepare to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation on **Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> July at 2pm**. In preparation for this special occasion, they will be exploring the gifts and fruits of the Spirit and reflecting on why we are called to renew our baptismal vows at Confirmation. As with all investigations into our faith, the students will explore Scripture stories and Church teachings. The students will also research a particular Saint whom they aspire to live like. We encourage students and parents to discuss the significance of the chosen Saint together.

## Solemnity of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June

Saint John was a model of selflessness and humility as he pointed away from himself to Jesus who was greater: *Behold, one is coming after me; I am not worthy to unfasten the sandals of his feet* (Acts 13:25). Saint John was the forerunner for Christ and he paved the way for His coming. He suffered imprisonment and hardship as a witness to Christ and gave his life for Him. His persecutors did not demand that Saint John deny Christ. Rather, they wanted him to keep silent about the Truth. Ultimately, John died for Christ and thus, died for the Truth.

Just as Saint John spoke with strength and conviction, God calls us to reach out to others, empowered and committed. We are discouraged from discriminating against those we feel may not be worthy of our time and efforts. We, like Saint John, are called to embrace all of God's people with courage and passion. We are called to always speak the Truth, not remain silent, even amidst persecution and adversity.

## Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June

In 1899, Pope Leo XIII consecrated the whole world to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

The meaning of this devotion is clearly expressed in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 478: *The Sacred Heart of Jesus is quite rightly considered the chief sign and symbol of that love with which the divine Redeemer continually loves the eternal Father and all human beings without exception.*

The heart of Jesus was pierced for our sake. He willingly went to the cross and laid down His life as the atoning sacrifice for our sins. If we want to understand the depth and breadth of God's love for each of us, then we can look upon the heart that was pierced for us all. Jesus went to the cross to redeem us from sin and death.

May we be grateful that God is revealed to us through boundless mercy and infinite love. As we commemorate the Sacred Heart of Jesus, may we renew our love for Jesus, our Lord and God. In turn, may our devotion prompt us to show love and mercy to all others.

May God Bless you and keep you and your family safe throughout the School term break.

## Prayer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

*O most holy heart of Jesus, fountain of every blessing,  
 I adore you, I love you, and with lively sorrow for my sins,  
 I offer you this poor heart of mine.  
 Make me humble, patient, pure and wholly obedient to your will.  
 Grant, good Jesus, that I may live in you and for you.  
 Protect me in the midst of danger.  
 Comfort me in my afflictions.  
 Give me health of body, assistance in my temporal needs,  
 your blessing on all that I do, and the grace of a holy death.  
 Amen.*

# DRAMA

## St Damian's Got Talent Competition

Congratulations to all the winners of the Talent Competition.

What a great effort from all those students who participated in the competition and put their talent on show.

The Winners : Ethan L, Kasia A, Nawal M and Sarah F, Farrah H, Milana I and Kevin R.

Special mention to: Josh L and Jade P.

**Thank you to the Drama Leaders: Ava S, Alessia C and Demi G** for organising the competition and working many hours into making it happen. Also thank you to the parents/carers who watched and helped their child practise and create these fantastic performances.

Thank you to Ms Wilson, Mrs O'Leary and any other teachers like myself who helped. What a great end to a very busy term.

Have a great break and see you all next term.

**Mrs Hessenkamp—Drama Teacher**



Next term, as a part of our inquiry, Year Three will be conducting experiments to explore the elements of force.

We are asking that if any families have the following items and are happy to donate, could you please send them to school with your child. The students can send them up to our classrooms: 3C, 3R and 3T.

**Can You Help?**

empty water bottles (500ml or small bottles)	straws	string	playdoh
icy pole sticks	balloons	plastic cups	golf balls
masking tape	cardboard	icy pole sticks	rubber bands
plastic spoons	plastic plates	paper rolls	binder clip
batteries AA		Tools - screwdriver, hammer etc	

We would appreciate anything that can be donated! Thank you for your support.

Year 3 team, Melissa Cali, Nicole Richardson and Martina Tran.



<b>Prep A</b>	Aryan Gursahani	For making good choices and following instructions.
<b>Prep S</b>	Luana Catanese	For her incredible efforts in reading and writing.
<b>Prep M</b>	Sylvia Xie	For always doing her best and helping others succeed and respecting the environment.
<b>1C</b>	Alexander Grandikis	For listening carefully to teacher instructions and always doing his best.
<b>1M</b>	Oscar Ngo	For trying your best to take on teacher feedback and adding punctuation to your writing.
<b>1S</b>	Alessio Gioffre	For doing his best handwriting when publishing.
<b>2B</b>	Elise Cutajar	For always trying her best and taking great pride in the presentation of her work.
<b>2N</b>	Joshua Butcher	For doing his best by staying focused on learning tasks.
<b>2D</b>	Yiota Evangelakos	For being an excellent helper and striving to achieve learning goals.
<b>3C</b>	Lucia Bernardi	For always displaying fabulous focus in the floor and when working independently.
<b>3R</b>	Jack Soklev	For his exemplary self management skills.
<b>3T</b>	Lincoln Patterson	For having a growth mindset and positive attitude when faced with challenges.
<b>4C</b>	Jayden Carapellotti	For always doing your best and displaying exceptional behaviour.
<b>4M</b>	Justin Wilam Ethan Stingas	For being a great listener and always engaging in class discussions. For always trying his best and being actively involved in all learning experiences.
<b>5M</b>	Annabelle Then	For always presenting her work and demonstrating a passion for learning.
<b>6C</b>	Matea Proseva	For always showing kindness towards others and the effort she places on the overall appearance of her work.
<b>6S</b>	Sam Simpson	For always striving to do your best.



### Donation to opening the Doors Foundation

During Reconciliation Week, we had a fundraiser to raise money for Opening the Doors Foundation. Thank you to our school community. We raised \$500 which was sent to the foundation today. Sincere thanks to all.

Mattie Dragonetti

## **St Damian's Parent Association**

### **Term 3 Fundraiser**

Personalised Bookmarks - More details to come.



### **Second Hand Uniform Shop**

Second Hand Uniform Shop will be OPEN from 9am to 10am this Friday.



### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Term 3	
July	
Thursday 14th	Sacrament of Confirmation Parent/Child Evening. 7pm
Saturday 23rd	Sacrament of Confirmation 2pm
Tuesday 26th	St Damian's Family Day

### **Writers of the Week**

**Evelyn Prep A  
Billie Prep A  
Andy 1M**



**TheirCare**  
where kids love to be!



## Pokemon



Pokemon was the theme in week 7 and the children absolutely loved it!

Pokemon related art and craft activities were a hit!

We made bookmarks, card keepers and even created our own character. Children applied their Pokemon knowledge to crosswords and wordsearches and it was heartwarming to see the older children help the little ones that wanted to learn about Pokemon.



Two of our beautiful children were inspired to show their love for OSCHC (Out of Hours School Care) by creating a Theircare Lego sign. It is so impressive and is wonderful to see the children enjoy being in our care.

This will be on display in the sign in area for all to admire!!!!



## Minecraft

Week 8 was Minecraft week and the "inner gamer" emerged! Children made various Creeper inspired crafts such as mosaic weaving and pop-up cards as well as getting imaginative with their own art creations using crayons and paint sticks (the current fav!).

Outdoor play was limited as the weather is getting colder and wetter but the children, alongside the educators, are finding different ways to beat the rain with a variety of indoor activities. Pretend play had (almost) everyone participate playing "house" by creating their own play corner.

It is always great to see the children's confidence grow and we were privileged to see a spontaneous singing performance from two of our girls!



Book  
Now!

School Holiday Program  
27th June - 8th July 22

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

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# OUR BIGGEST FANS



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KIDS GO  
**FREE MONTH**  
**JUNE 16-JULY 10**

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