



St. Damian's Newsletter

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Thursday September 15th, 2022

No. 27 - 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians & Carers

It has been wonderful to return to work this week and resume some normality at last after such a long absence. Unfortunately, I have had to follow medical advice and have only been allowed to drive during non peak periods. Therefore, I have not had the opportunity to see you and chat with you. I want to convey my thanks to all of you who reached out in many ways during my convalescence to offer support. A huge thank you for the many cards and thoughtful messages and for the lovely gifts received. This certainly helped to sustain my recovery. I am hoping that I will be fully back on deck next term.

I also want to acknowledge and sincerely thank Mrs Jenny Rubira who was Acting Principal and Mrs Angela Lombardi as acting Deputy Principal and all the members of the Leadership Team, for their outstanding work during my absence. I felt very confident that the school community was in good hands during my absence. It is never easy to step in and take over at a moment's notice, which is what happened, and I appreciate the combined effort that was put in to keep the ship sailing. A job extremely well done.

Congratulations – Fantastic Achievement

A huge congratulations to all our students in Years 4 – 6, who competed in the Math Olympiad competition and to all the teachers and Mrs Bruce on the outstanding results achieved. Our students certainly have made us all proud and are testament to the wonderful work that we do here at St Damian's. **Our school came 3rd** in Victoria ahead of many schools and even more outstanding is that we **came 9th** in Australia and New Zealand combined. **There were over 1000 schools participating.** An amazing achievement. Well done everyone.

NAPLAN

Parents of students in Year 3 and Year 5 should have received their child's NAPLAN results by now. It is worth noting that this year's tests were conducted online for the first time. If parents wish to discuss their child's results with the teacher please contact the teacher and make a time that is mutually convenient for both.

Sacraments

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to all the students in Year 4 and Year 6 and their families on the reception of the Sacraments of First Communion and Confirmation respectively. We congratulate all the students in reaching this important milestone in their faith development. A huge thank you to Mrs Milana, Miss Chalhoub, Mrs Cannatelli, Miss Starr and Mrs Wright on the preparation of the students.

School Organisation for 2023

Once again we are at the time of year where we begin to look ahead to the following year. Part of the preparation involves staffing and student enrolment numbers. Could I ask any family who is not returning to St Damian's in 2023 to please let the office know, via email, so that we have an understanding of student numbers for next year. Knowing enrolment numbers helps us determine the number and size of grades. This time of year we also have an indication of staff movements as staff assess career options and opportunities. Knowing our student numbers helps to determine whether we need extra staffing. It is also important to know if we have vacancies so that we can offer places to families who make inquiries to come to our school. We understand that there is always movement at this time of year as families move suburb or leave to accommodate new circumstances, so we would really appreciate it if you could let us know asap if you are leaving.

End of Term/ Casual Clothes Day

The school term will conclude this Friday 17th September 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. School resumes for Term 4 on Monday 3rd October at 8.40am.

Condolences

We were saddened by the news that Aileen Zappa, Vic's wife has passed. Vic was our maintenance person here at St Damian's for many years and both he and his wife Aileen were very much involved in both the school and parish, serving on many committees and always supporting in any way possible. Our heartfelt sympathies are extended to the whole Zappa Family. We pray that God bring them all comfort and healing during this very difficult and sad time. May Aileen now rest in peace in God's warm embrace. The funeral for Aileen will be held at St Damian's on Monday 26th September at 11.00am.

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, we pray for your continued protection. During these next two weeks of holidays, support us with Your strength and grace when we're weary. Help us to be mindful of Your presence and love in times of stress and guide us to make our time together meaningful and memorable. In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen. — Unknown

Wishing everyone a restful holiday. Keep safe and I look forward to being with you again next term.

Rosanna

Faith News

Sacrament of Eucharist

Congratulations to our Year Four Students who celebrated the Sacrament of Eucharist last weekend. We also extend our congratulations to those Students who received a Special Blessing. We thank Father Dong for welcoming everyone and celebrating with us. Thank you also to our Families who prepared with their children, and to our Year Four Teachers, Ms Rita Chalhoub and Mrs Barabara Milana who worked with the Students throughout the term.

Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows – 15th September

Scripture references to Mary's sorrows are located in Luke 2:35 and John 19:26 – 27. Luke's passage narrates Simeon's prediction about a sword piercing Mary's soul and John's passage relates Jesus' words from the cross to Mary and to the beloved disciple.

Early Church writers interpret the sword as Mary's sorrows, especially as she saw Jesus die on the cross. Therefore, the two passages are brought together as prediction and fulfilment.

Saint Ambrose sees Mary as a sorrowful yet powerful figure at the cross. Mary stood fearlessly at the cross while others fled. She looked on her Son's wounds with pity, but saw in them the salvation of the world. As Jesus hung on the cross, Mary did not fear to be killed, but offered herself to her persecutors.

Reflection

John's account of Jesus' death is highly symbolic. When Jesus gives the beloved disciple to Mary, we are invited to appreciate Mary's important role within the Church and Catholic Tradition. We believe that Mary symbolises the Church and that John represents all believers. As Mary mothered Jesus, she is now mother to all His followers. Furthermore, as Jesus died, He handed over His Spirit. Mary and the Spirit unite in creating new children of God and are reflected in Luke's account of Jesus' conception. Christians can trust that they will continue to experience the caring presence of Mary and Jesus' Spirit throughout their lives and throughout history.

Saint Damian's Feast Day – 26th September

Saint Damian dedicated his life to serving the people of God. He was steadfast in his faith and offered his helping hands to the sick, as well as professing his love of God. We pray that we too may we be the practical sign of the hands, heart and voice of Jesus.

Prayer to Saint Damian

*Saint Damian, to you we pray, guide us through each day.
You cared for the weak, the frail and the lonely.
You cared for those who were ill; you gave your life serving others.
Teach us to live your way.*

*Saint Damian, to you we pray, guide us through each day.
You used your skills, knowledge and talents.
You walked in the path of Christ; you set no fee for serving others.
Teach us to live your way.*

*Saint Damian, to you we pray, guide us through each day.
You heard God's Word, "love one another," and cared for those in need.
You gave new life, hope and compassion.
Teach us to live your way.*

Saint Damian, to you we pray, guide us through each day.

I wish everyone a restful and peaceful break and look forward to seeing you next term. Please stay safe.



Australian Maths Competition

The Australian Maths competition was held on August 3rd and the results were released this week. 68 students participated from years 3-6 and we received the following results:

9 Participation, 26 Proficiency, 23 Credit, 8 Distinction, 2 High Distinction.
 Congratulations to Gurshaan Garcha who received the BEST IN SCHOOL award.

Matific Maths Olympiad

The Matific online maths Olympiad was held last week in years 4-6. Congratulations to Andrew Groom who came 1st in the St Damian's leaderboard and won a \$30 voucher. Our top 10 students were Andrew Groom, Gurshaan Garcha, Ned Moulin, Nathan Lu, Ian Zhang, Aiden Jose, James Harper, Orion Tian, Eddyson Huang and Dinara Dissanayake. Our top performing class was 4M!

A representative from Matific will be coming out in our first assembly of Term 4 to present our school with an award for coming 3rd in Victoria and 9th in the whole competition (Australian and New Zealand).

ICAS

The ICAS test results log in details have been sent to parents. More details about results will be in the Term 4 newsletter.

Keep up the excellent Maths!

Carmen Bruce
Maths Leader



UPCOMING PERFORMING ARTS CONCERT
 ASSEMBLY
 OCTOBER 20TH - 2.20 to 3.15PM
 SCHOOL HALL

This will be an opportunity to showcase some selected soloists, especially those who excelled in the Talent Show held earlier in the year, and to share and affirm learning success from class learning in Drama and Music classes across the school at St Damian's School. Parents are most welcome..

Mrs Zeena Hessenkamp (Drama teacher)
 and Ms Marg O'Leary (Music teacher)



RU Okay Day was acknowledged by the Staff and Students at St Damian's.

RU OK? is a harm prevention charity that encourages people to stay connected and have conversations that can help others through difficult times in their lives.



Footy Fun and Sausage Sizzle at St Damian's Dinara D-5M

On the 9th of September the students of St Damian's Primary School dressed up in their AFL footy team colours. The teachers had lined up some AFL themed activities to get the students into the spirit of this true blue Aussie game. Some activities were learning about AFL history, mindfulness colouring in, designing a banner for their team and many more!

Recess was a festival of colours in the playground with everyone dressed boldly in their team colours. Finding someone in a game of hide and seek was like trying to find a needle in a haystack. Around one hour after recess classes started to segregate into their teams on the basketball court and the rivalry began. Each team walked proudly around the court while their song played loudly. Mr Watson, the PE teacher, was cheeky and played his team's song (Melbourne Demons) several times.

After all the teams had been around once, the footy day sponsors, Ray White Bundoora, held a footy day raffle. We all gave a big congratulatory cheer to the winners. The students were excited to find their sizzling sausage lunch after the parade. Many students enjoyed a special and delicious lunch thanks to the parent helpers.

This was an amazing day and students look forward to next year's footy day. Thank you to Mr Watson for coordinating the day!

The Exciting Footy Day Scarlett F-5B

On the 9th of September, St.Damian's Primary School had an eventful Footy Day. The AFL is a very popular sport and well known all throughout Australia. It is one of the biggest sporting events that is celebrated, especially when the finals are on.

Everyone at school got to wear their Footy colours to show what team they supported. Most classes did footy activities like word searches or booklets. Some went outside to play a footy game or just kicked the ball around. The Parents and Friends Association organised a sausage sizzle for the students. Each student who paid \$2.00 and received a sausage sizzle for lunch. It was so delicious!!

At around 12:30pm, there was a parade on the basketball court. Everyone sat with their football team. I really don't support a football team, but I dressed in Black and Red to support my best friend's team, Essendon. The most popular football team seemed to be Collingwood. There were so many students wearing black and white.

We asked Lincoln from 3T if he was looking forward to next year's parade. He quoted, "I liked to get high fives and the sausage sizzle."

So hopefully, we'll have another Footy Day sausage sizzle next year!



ST DAMIAN'S PARISH
INVITES YOU AND YOUR FAMILY
TO CELEBRATE



ST DAMIAN'S FEAST DAY
Sunday, 9th October 2022
MASS AT 10.00 A.M.



Followed by Entertainment at 11.00 A.M.- 2.00 P.M.
IN PARISH /SCHOOL HALL
FREE EVENT
SAUSAGE SIZZLE
INTERNATIONAL FOODS
COFFEE, TEA AND SOFT DRINK
*ENTERTAINMENT * FACE PAINTING *
COLOURED HAIR SPRAY *DOOR PRIZES
ALL WELCOME!!

PERFORMANCES FOR ST DAMIAN'S FEAST DAY CELEBRATIONS

St Damian's will be celebrating its Feast Day on Sunday 9th of October with Mass at 10.00am, followed by celebrations in the School/ Parish Hall from 11.00am to 2.00pm. We are looking for dancers, singers, musicians etc. to perform on the day. Performers over the age of 18 require a working with children check. If you are interested please contact the Parish Office by 27th September on 9467 2797.

INTERNATIONAL FOODS FOR FEAST DAY

This year for Feast Day, as our Parish has many different nationalities . We thought we would like food from around the world. It Can be savory or dessert just needs to serve about eight to ten people and also show the ingredients on a sign for the dish. If you are interested in cooking and donating the food to be eaten on feast day in the hall. Please Contact Dianne at the Parish Office : on 9467 2797 For further details.

ST DAMIAN'S FEAST DAY, 9TH OCTOBER 2022 DONATIONS

We are requesting donations of gifts for door prizes to the value of \$5 - \$10. Examples, pot plants, boxes of chocolates, bottles of wine, story books, etc. Could you please drop off at Church, Parish or School Offices. Thank you

ST DAMIAN'S FEAST DAY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.

We require volunteers for our feast day. All volunteers require a Working with Children to help on the day. If you would like to help on the day please contact the Parish office on 9467 2797. If you do not have a Working with Children and would like to help please contact Dianne at the Parish office to arrange a time to process your application. Thank you

St Damian's Parish Footy Day

We thank Ray White Bundoora for sponsoring Footy Day.

Great excitement by all the children, when the Ray White Footy raffle was being drawn. Congratulations to all the winners.

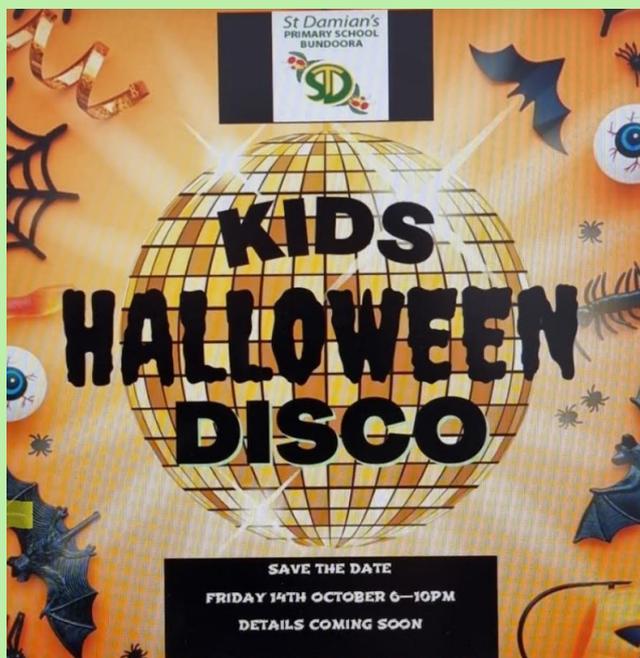
Thanks to Every one for dressing in your footy colours. Thank you to Mr Watson for organising the Parade and all the mums who assisted and prepared our footy day lunch.



St Damian's Parent Association

Second Hand Uniform Shop
Closed tomorrow—Will re open next Term

Halloween Disco Fundraiser
Volunteers needed
<https://signup.com/go/kXUrfyO>



Congratulations and thanks to St Damian's School Choir members:

Alannah, Alyssa, Winter, Laura, Neveah, Dinara, Sarah, Erica and Henry
who so generously gave of their time and effort - along with their parents and grandparents' support -
on last Saturday afternoon - September 10th.

Your singing at the First Eucharist Mass was aptly melodious and joyful.
It truly enhanced the special celebration for all involved.

Looking forward now to full participation in the upcoming events in Term 4:
the St Damian's Parish Feast Day on Sunday October 9th from 10am to 1pm,
the Performing Arts Assembly Concert on Thursday October 20th, and
the Christmas Carols Evening Concert .

Thank you so much.
From Ms Marg O'Leary
Music Teacher

TERM 3 IN PICTURES



BOOK NOW
SCHOOL
HOLIDAYS



School Holiday Program

BEGINS MONDAY!!!

19th - 30th September 22

theircare.com.au



Booking your child into the program in 3 simple steps:

1. Create an account through www.theircare.com.au. Bookings & cancellations can be managed through your account.
2. Provide CRN Centrelink details, any medical conditions & contact details.
3. Select booking dates through your calendar. Casual bookings & regular bookings available. Bookings made within 48 hours/changes to bookings will occur a small fee.