



# St. Damian's Newsletter

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Thursday February 16th, 2023

No. 2 - 2023

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**

## Opening of the Year Mass

We are very grateful to Fr Dong for celebrating a special Mass today for our school to mark the beginning of the school year. It was wonderful to have our whole community together once again. Our teachers were commissioned at this Mass and all classroom prayer cloths blessed. We hope that everyone has a wonderful year in 2023.



## Sad News

It is with a heavy heart that I communicate to you the passing of one of our previous members of staff. Mrs Maree Foley-Smith passed away peacefully on Tuesday night. As you can imagine, staff who worked with her and knew her are devastated by the news. Maree was a devoted, hard-working member of the School Leadership Team, holding the position of Literacy Leader P-2 for a number of years. In her time here at St Damian's she worked alongside our teachers to ensure our students were given the best possible learning opportunities to develop their Literacy skills. Maree's bubbly and friendly personality kept everyone buoyed and she was a favourite of many staff and students. We offer our deepest sympathies to David, her husband and her family and friends and pray that God will grant them strength during this very sad time. **Vale Maree.**

## School Assembly

School Assemblies this year will be held every alternate Monday, where practical. The first school assembly for the year will be held on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February at 2.30pm in the hall. As in previous years this assembly is mainly to acknowledge, congratulate and present badges to our 2023 student leaders. Parents are warmly welcomed to attend.

## Learning Conversations

Our Learning Conversations will be held next Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February. These conversations are a wonderful opportunity to support the children as they begin their new year of learning. Through establishing positive relationships between school and home the children feel supported and know that everyone understands their needs. Please ensure that you have booked a time to meet with your child(ren)'s teacher. All information on how to book was sent home last week. This year we have allowed opportunity for both online and face to face to accommodate all families. We expect that the children will be present during these meetings. **Please note that due to the Learning Conversations, the children are not required at school.**

## Ash Wednesday

The Liturgical Season of Lent this year begins with Ash Wednesday next Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February. Lent marks for us as Christians a time to prepare for Easter. On Ash Wednesday we are marked with the cross to remind us that we are embarking on the 40 days of prayer, repentance and alms giving. This ends on Holy Thursday when the Season of Easter begins. This Lenten period allows us a time for self-discipline as we prepare for Easter, which is considered the holiest day of the year commemorating Jesus' resurrection. Lent for us also replicates Jesus' sacrifice in the desert and his avoidance of temptation during those 40 days. Therefore, in this period we try to abstain from luxuries and commit to fasting and prayer as a way to focus ourselves on the true importance of this time. As a whole school, we will be attending the Parish Mass at 9.15 am.

## School Photos

School Photos will be taken on Wednesday 8th March. Further information regarding ordering will be sent home closer to the date.

## School Closure Day

On Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March school will be closed for the Labour Day public holiday.

## Kiss & Drop & Parking

Thank you to all our parents for using the Kiss and Drop safely. Just to refresh procedures. This area is a drop off area only, drivers do not get out of the car for any purpose. Students alight from cars on the opposite side to the driver and walk quickly to the footpath. Staff are on duty to supervise the students to ensure everyone's safety.

## School Advisory Council

I wish to advise that the School Advisory Council AGM will be held on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March.

At the AGM we will be seeking nominations from the parent community to be part of this Council. We have 2-3 positions to fill to ensure we have full membership of this Council. The role of the SAC is to provide advice and guidance to the school and support the school's initiatives and directions. School Advisory Council is not a representative body, its role is purely advisory. Please consider being part of this exciting body. Membership is not onerous as we meet six (6) times a year usually in the evening for around 1.5 hours. I encourage our community to come along, hopefully we will have so much interest that it will necessitate a vote.



### Picnic on Oval

Save the date of **Friday March 3<sup>rd</sup> between 5.30pm and 8.30pm** to come and have a picnic on our oval. I would like to invite all in our community to come and join together in an informal way and meet one another. Bring your picnic baskets, your picnic blankets your non-alcoholic drinks and just relax on the oval. The children are welcome to bring their balls, etc and join with others in some fun games. This is not a school event, so teachers will not be required to be in attendance. Parents will be supervising their own children, especially if you allow them on the playground. This is a new initiative with a view to having this opportunity every year for our community.

### Prayer for the Week:

*Heavenly Father, Thank you for the precious gift of love you have given to the world. Thank you for blessing us every day with this love and the power and strength that we get from you every single day. Without this love we could not fully function. It's like food and medicine for our soul Lord.*

*Have a great week everyone,*

*Rosanna*



### National Apology Day At St Damian's School.

On February 13th we commemorated the 15th anniversary of the Apology. St Damians students learnt about this important historic event. They read stories, learnt about Aboriginal culture, participated in a liturgy (Yrs3 -5), and explored the Acknowledgment of Country.

We take pride in our school's journey of Reconciliation.



# Faith News

## Season of Lent

**Next Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February**, we commence our Lenten Journey - a journey in which we seek reconciliation with God, with our families, within our nation and with all people throughout the world. Throughout our journey, may we be reminded of our role as "ambassadors for Christ" (2 Cor 5:20). We are called to spread peace and the message of reconciliation to others. As we imitate Jesus' forty days in the wilderness, may we experience a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit and pray that we grow in faith, hope and love. As we prepare for the Church's central feast of Easter, may our hearts and minds encounter a conversion through reconciliation and Social Justice.

We will celebrate Ash Wednesday Mass next **Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February at 9:15am** with the Parish Community. Everyone is most welcome to join us in our celebration.

## Social Justice - Project Compassion

Throughout the Lenten Season, our School and Parish Community is reminded to pay attention to the care of others. We are invited to support a Caritas initiative, Project Compassion, to help others and ensure that we consider their wellbeing. Catholic Social Teaching directs our attention to the most vulnerable members of our society. Christ's presence in today's world is made known when we reach out in love to those in need. Each class has a Project Compassion collection box and we are encouraging students to make donations, no matter how small, throughout Lent. A donation box is also located at the Main Office. Donations over \$2 are tax deductible and Project Compassion will issue you with a receipt on completion of a donation form. Donation forms are available on each Project Compassion Box, many of which are located near the Office. Thank you for your ongoing support of this worthy cause.

## Lenten Prayer

*May the Spirit lead us to renew our lives and our relationships as we reflect on our own human frailty as Jesus aspired to do. Through Prayer and Fasting, may we too gain strength of Spirit and love to empower us to change our hearts and to overcome our own imperfections and broken relationships. Let us constantly pray the Our Father and may we become instruments filled with God's Spirit of Peace (John 14:25) and forgiveness so that what Jesus taught will become a lived reality of spiritual renewal for our whole world. May God's will be done "on earth as it is in heaven."*

**Mary-Ann Wright**  
Religious Education Leader



Dear Parents and Carers

If you have any good condition backpacks (from showbags etc) that you don't use anymore, I'd be happy to take them off your hands for a new maths initiative. Your child can drop bring them to school and leave them in my office.

Thanks in advance

**Carmen Bruce**  
Maths Leader





# Meet Our Staff...

## Learning Support Officers



Elisa Answerth



Marie Costanzo



Valli Dalla Riva



Lidia Hristova



Jenny Jirjys



Domenica Martini



Joanne Sobey



Sally Tan

## Specialist Team



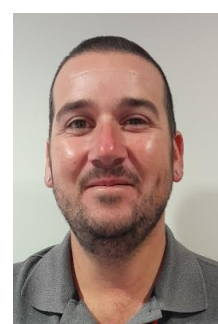
Charissa Beeby  
Visual Arts



Giulia Benatti  
LOTE



Alex De la Rambelje  
Drama



Simon Insolita  
PE



Sophie Jarman  
ICT/Library



Mary O'Leary  
Music



Alison Smith  
Literacy Enhancement



Renee Waters  
Learning Diversity



Term 1		March	
February		Wednesday 8th	School Photo Day
Monday 20th	Learning Conversation <b>Student Free Day</b>	Monday 13th	Labour Day Public Holiday
Wednesday 22nd	Ash Wednesday School Mass 9.15am. Parents Welcome		
Monday 27th	School Assembly 2.30pm	April	
		Thursday 6th	Last Day of Term 1. 3.15pm Finish



**niño**  
Early Learning Adventures

# TWILIGHT COMMUNITY FETE

**FREE EVENT**  
*Bring family & friends*

**Friday, 24 February**  
**6:30pm - 8pm**

Enjoy fun activities, market stalls & more!






Niño ELA Bundoora  
222 Plenty Rd  
(Enter via Enterprise Dr)

*stay updated*

