



St. Damian's Newsletter

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Thursday February 9th, 2023

No. 1 - 2023

The St Damian's School Community acknowledges that we come together on the ancestral lands of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation

Welcome Back for 2023

A very warm welcome back to all our families, students and staff for the 2023 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 has been a very smooth start to our school year and it was wonderful to see the children as they came to attend their testing sessions last week and then begin the New Year on the Wednesday and Thursday mornings. The students all looked happy and excited to be back and reunited with their schoolmates and have now all settled into their class routines. Our newest members of the school community, the Preps, have now started in earnest and we are using the next few Wednesdays for testing. This will help the teachers to develop appropriate and targeted programs for their students.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new families and staff, who have joined our school community this year. In particular I welcome the following staff: **Mrs Dianne Viola** who has been appointed Deputy Principal and Learning and Teaching Leader; **Mrs Anna Walpole** who has joined the Year 2 team as a classroom teachers and **Mr Rodney Nethercote** who has joined the Year 4 team. We also extend a warm welcome to **Mr Simon Insolio** who has taken up P.E./Sport Role this year; **Mr Alex De La Rambelje** who is our new Performing Arts teacher; Mrs Alison Smith who is the Literacy Enhancement teacher and **Miss Giulia Benatti** 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 Dianne Viola – Deputy, Learning & Teaching Leader
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 and Miss Taylor-Jade Mullane
Year 1: Mrs Melissa Calli, Miss Caterina Capogreco & Mrs Mary Marotta,
Year 2: Mrs Lauren Davies, Miss Natasha Solomons & Mrs Anna Walpole
Year 3: Mrs Saveria Ciurleo, Miss Mary McArdle & Miss Martina Tran
Year 4: Mr Michael Fay, Mrs Barbara Milana, and Mr Rodney Nethercote
Year 5: Mr Riki Bossini & Ms Nicole Richardson
Year 6: Mrs Julie Cannatelli & Miss Amy Starr

Specialist Teachers:

Mr Alex De La Rambelje – Performing Arts; Mrs Marg O'Leary – Music; Miss Charissa Beeby – Visual Arts; Mr Simon Insolio – P.E. & Sport; Miss Giulia Benatti – Italian Language Leader, Mrs Renee Waters – Learning Diversity Leader; Mrs Alison Smith – Literacy Enhancement; Miss Sophie Jarman – I.T./Library

Learning Support Officers:

Mrs Elisa Answerth, Mrs Marie Costanzo, Mrs Lidia Hristova, Mrs Jenny Jirjys, Mrs Mimma Martini, Mrs Valli Della Riva, Mrs Joanne Sobey and Mrs Sally Tan.

Administrative Staff:

Mrs Angela Parisi: Mon – Thurs; Mrs Lina Parisot Bursur, Mon – Thurs & Office Fri (alternate), Miss Viv Babet – every alternate Fri

Learning Conversations

The Learning Conversations will be held on **Monday 20th February** from 8.30am until 7.00pm. This year we are offering both online and face to face opportunities.

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. Please note you will need to indicate your preference for the online interview so that teachers can then send a link. Information on how to book a time will be emailed to families.

EVERY DAY COUNTS LEGISLATION

Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child's education. 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 to ensure there is no interruption to the children's learning.

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 oval at 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. We expect that parents work with us on this because, as a school, we are mandated to comply with 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 the front carpark is not a drop off zone. When using this carpark, drivers must enter slowly and park in one of the bays. Students should then be accompanied to either the oval or the office if running late. Parents are never permitted to open and close gates. If drivers choose to park in this area please note that the gates are closed in the morning between 8.30am and 8.45am for the safety of the students arriving at school.

Cars must wait until a member of staff opens the gate. The same rule applies in the afternoon. The gates are closed from 3.15pm until 3.30pm to allow safe dismissal of students.

The Kiss and Drop zone allows for parents to drop off their children in the morning. **Cars are not permitted to enter this area and park in the teacher parking area even if the gates are open.** The gates may be open to allow access to the Before and After School Care program. This area is also supervised by staff between 8.30am and 8.50am and again between 3.15pm and 3.30pm.

Cars are not permitted to enter the school during dismissal time

Building Program

We are now moving into the next phase of the Building Program. We have been approved by MACS to refurbish 5 classrooms. The Architect has drawn up the new plans to create 5 new classrooms which will mirror the new classrooms already built, we are also refurbishing the upstairs girls' toilets, 2 new planning rooms and creating a new Maker's Space which will incorporate a STEM area. We are very excited to be able to offer such wonderful new facilities to our students.

Parent Helpers Program

Anyone wishing to volunteer in the school must hold a current Working With Children Check, these are available online and are free for volunteers. Also, anyone who has not previously volunteered in the school must fill in the forms and undergo the interview process. Please inquire at the office. We are very excited to be able to welcome families and helpers back into our school once again.

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

Term One School Community Masses

Our Opening School Mass will be celebrated next **Thursday 16th February at 12:45pm**. Our School Staff will also be commissioned at this Mass. We will celebrate Ash Wednesday Mass on **Wednesday 22nd February at 9:15am** with the Parish Community. You are most welcome to join us in celebrating each of these Masses.

Daily Christian Meditation

Each morning, our School Community begins the day with Christian Meditation. Meditation **begins at 8:45am and concludes at 8:50am**.

Christian Meditation:

Engages the mind in Prayer;

Provides an opportunity for Students to experience the real presence of God within their lives;

Provides an opportunity for Students to hear the Word of God speaking to them through the Scriptures;

Assists Students to discover the presence of God within them, thus, enabling them to meet God deep within their hearts.

Prayer

The beginning of the School Year can be an exciting time. We pray that God will always be with us.

God, Father of us all, we are beginning a new year together in our classes.

Help us to learn new things this year and to make new friends.

May we open our minds to learn more about you.

May we open our hearts to the needs of others.

May we have a welcoming word for those who are new or need a friend.

Help us to learn new ways to serve you in love. Amen

Mary-Ann Wright

Religious Education Leader

We

 Maths



Happy 2023 everyone!

I am very excited to be back as Maths Leader at St Damian's, and would like to introduce our Year 6 Maths Leaders Annabelle and Jonas. They will be helping me inspire a love of maths within our students and our community.

All students will have access to Essential Assessment (an online Maths tool) that can be used at school and at home. There are fun games in Sunset Maths and Jetpack Algebra for all year levels which will help consolidate skills learnt at school. Each student will also have personalised activities based on their skill level in each topic which will help develop their learning and reach specific goals. Keep an eye out for log in details which your student's teacher will hand out in the coming weeks. For returning students, your username and password should be the same as last year so you can log in and have a play at home.

Farewell to Mathletics. This year we say goodbye to Mathletics and will solely focus on Essential Assessment. We saw a downturn in usage and engagement of Mathletics with our students so decided we would not renew the subscription. Parents, do you love maths? If there are any parents who have a passion for maths and would like to work with me on some school wide or year level maths projects please send me an email. I would love to hear from you with suggestions and new ideas of ways we can engage the students and our community in all things maths. You can also come and see me at school, I am part-time and work every Tuesday and Wednesday.

Kind regards,

Carmen Bruce—Maths Leader

Carmen.bruce@sdbundoora.catholic.edu.au

Meet Our Staff...

Leadership Team



Rosanna Piccolo
Principal



Dianne Viola
Deputy Principal



Mattie Dragonetti
3/6 Literacy Leader
Fire Carrier Leader



Angela Lobardi
P-2 Literacy Leader



Carmen Bruce
Maths Leader



Mary-Ann Wright
RE Leader



Charissa Beeby
Wellbeing Leader

Administration Team



Reception/Office Admin



Bursar

SWELL Week at St Damian's

At St Damian's our first week of school each year is dedicated to SWELL Week. During this week our students and teachers spend a lot of time getting to know one another, establishing routines and expectations, sharing our talents and talking about child safety and wellbeing.

Over the past week the students have worked hard together to make our school a safe, happy and inclusive place for all. Everyone has had fun sharing their ideas, participating in activities and settling back into school. Now it's time to jump into learning and put those new skills into practise!



St Damian's 2023 School Fees

2023 Invoices will be sent home next week

Family Fee

School Fees	\$ 1,875
Capital Fees	\$ 560

	\$ 2,435

Student Fees

Curriculum Levy (includes excursions, student resources, art and library resources)

Year Prep	\$ 370
Years 1 to 3	\$ 430
Years 4 to 6	\$ 460

\$120 discount for fees paid in full by 30th March 2023

Payment of School Fees

We accept payments **weekly, fortnightly, monthly or by term.**

Payments welcome **by cash, cheque, credit card, BPay or Eftpos.**

Direct debits can be arranged. The forms are available from the school office.

School Camp fees will be invoiced for Years 3 to 6, prior to the Camp commencement date.



Term 1		March	
February		Wednesday 8th	School Photo Day
Monday 20th	Learning Conversation Student Free Day	Monday 13th	Labour Day Public Holiday
Thursday 16th	Opening School Mass 12.45pm. Parents Welcome		
Wednesday 22nd	Ash Wednesday School Mass 9.15am. Parents Welcome	April	
Monday 27th	School Assembly	Thursday 6th	Last Day of Term 1. 3.15pm Finish

Dear Parents / Carers,



This year, our school community will be aiming to reduce the amount of rubbish we produce. This will assist in minimising litter around our school grounds, as well as have a positive impact on the environment. We will be asking all students to bring home any waste they have brought into school, such as wrappers and Glad Wrap from their lunch boxes. They will not be permitted to bring any rubbish out onto the playground. Some other ways you can assist us in reducing our waste are:

- send food to school in small, reusable containers rather than plastic wrappers or packaging
- provide your child with reusable cutlery when required

We thank you for your support as we work towards reducing our impact on the environment and keeping our school clean.

Spriggy Schools

Introducing Spriggy Schools for online ordering

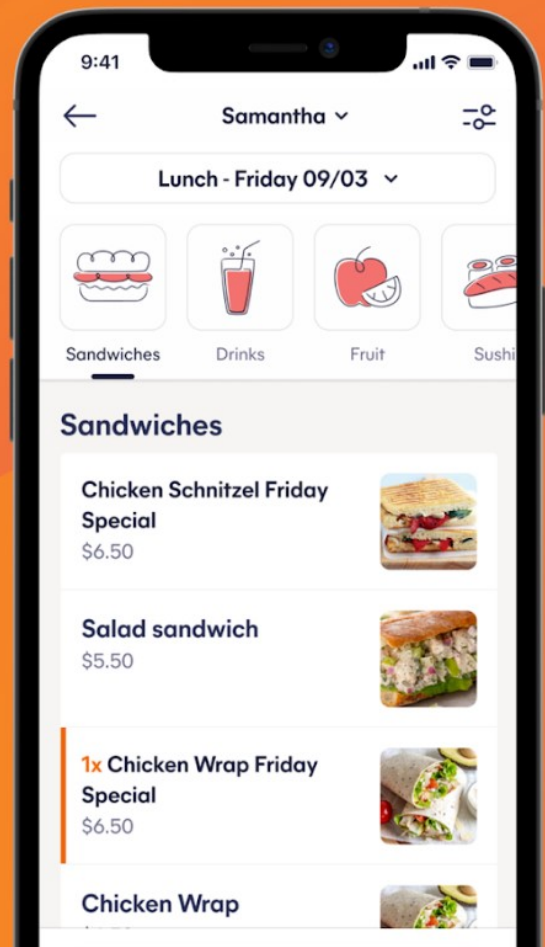
How to get started

1. Download the Spriggy Schools app
2. Create a profile for your child
3. Conveniently place orders online

Download the app now!



Check the T&C's and TMD for further information



PMI PRIMARY
MUSIC
INSTITUTE

Instrumental Music Lessons- on school campus
Places available for Term 1, 2023



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 \$20.50 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

Theircare at St Damian's would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands & waters on which we grow: The Wurundjeri people. We pay our respects to their elders past, present & future. We extend that respect to all Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people in our school & our community.

Welcome!

It has been lovely seeing all the children's beautiful faces once again and am amazed at how much they have all grown over the summer break. (Great to see the parents/carers too!!). A huge welcome to all our new families that have joined our TheirCare family, and our preps, who have transitioned into our care with confidence and ease.

On a sad note, we had to say goodbye to Neha (2IC) as she has taken a coordinators position at St Peter's Epping and we want to congratulate her on her new position and wish her the very best running her own TheirCare service!- but she will be back to join us for our term holiday program.

Summer Holiday Program

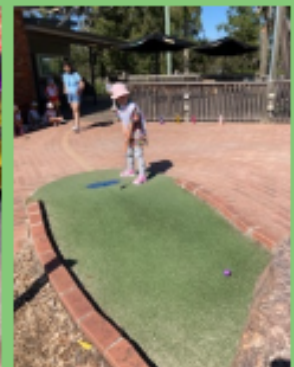
After a short Christmas break, the TheirCare team were back for holiday care. The "Fast & Curious" summer program incorporated 3 weeks of exciting and engaging activities, excursions and incursions.

Theircare hosted its fabulous "super" excursion - Carnival Spectacular! Neighbouring regions from TheirCare congregated at St Mary's Primary School in Ascot Vale for a fun and exciting day. The carnival action was never ending with epic rides, rock climbing, reptile handling, a magic show, giant games, popcorn and disco dancing! The children had big smiles all day!

Children visited Skaterz Roller & Skate, played mini golf at Yarra Bend Golf Course, saw "Lyle Lyle Crocodile" and jumped for joy on giant inflatables at Bundoora Action Indoor Sports. They made dream catchers and decorated lunch boxes, participated in cart racing and cartoon drawing incursions, had a dance workshop, and enjoyed playing their own games.

Looking forward to next holiday program!

Roula



Reminder, all children require a Wide brimmed hat during term 1, as per our policy -

No Hat No Play!

TIMES

Before School: 7:00AM - 8:35AM

After School: 3:15PM - 6:30PM

CONTACT HEAD OFFICE

1300 072 410

info@theircare.com.au

CONTACT SERVICE

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stdmiansbundoora@theircare.com.au