



St. Damian's Newsletter

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Thursday February 23rd, 2023

No. 3 - 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

It was wonderful to see all our families last Monday during the Learning Conversations. Thank you to all our parents/carers for making the time to meet with the teachers. I would also like to acknowledge and thank our teachers for all their hard work and commitment to their students. It was a long working day for them finishing at 7.00pm. These opportunities are important as we work together to improve learning opportunities for your children, our students.

This coming Friday, 24th February, Mrs Maree Foley-Smith's funeral will be held at St Mary's in Greensborough at 11.00am. Please keep Maree and her family and loved ones in your prayers as we farewell her and commend her to God.

Lent

The Liturgical Season of Lent has now begun. We all attended Ash Wednesday Mass yesterday joining the parishioners as Fr Dong celebrated the service. I want to commend our students who were very respectful throughout the Mass. We now prepare for Easter over these next forty days of Lent.

School Uniform

I have noticed a number of students wearing black runners as school shoes. Runners are not part of the uniform and this is quite explicit in both our school policy as well as in handbooks and information packs given to parents at enrolment. Runners are only to be worn with the Sports Uniform during sport/P.E. When in school uniform students must wear black leather **school shoes**. Could I please ask all parents to ensure that our uniform rules are followed.

School Photos

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

School Closure Day

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

School Assembly

Our first assembly of the year will be held next Monday, 27th February at 2.30pm in the school hall. Our student leaders will receive their badges and be formally acknowledged at this assembly. Families are most welcome to attend.

Open Days

Each year we hold our Open Days in March. The main purpose of Open Days is to provide prospective parents with an opportunity to visit our school and gain a feel for what we offer. Current families are always warmly welcome to join a tour. Tours will be available on **Tuesday 7th March, 2.30pm – 4.30pm & 6.30pm-7.30pm and Wednesday 15th March, 2.30pm – 4.30pm & 6.30pm—7.30pm**. Tours may also be organized by appointment outside of these times for families not able to attend on the official Open Days.

Enrolment for Foundation Year (Prep) 2024

We are now taking enrolments for Prep next year. If you have a child starting school next year, could you please collect an enrolment form and lodge at the office as soon as possible. If you know of families wanting to enrol at St Damian's please let them know we are now taking and accepting enrolments. Please spread the word. Information spread by word of mouth is very powerful and can draw others into our community. Thank you.

School Advisory Council

I wish to advise that the School Advisory Council AGM will be held on Tuesday 21st March at 7.30pm. 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

Remember to save the date of **Friday March 3rd 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, and play equipment 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. Unfortunately family pets, such as dogs are not permitted on school grounds. This is a new initiative with a view to having this opportunity every year for our community.

**Prayer**

Christ Jesus, help me to listen to your word and to see you in all people that I meet.
May I approach all encounters with an open heart and work together with others to transform our world.
Amen.

*Have a great week everyone,
Rosanna*

Faith News

Season of Lent

Lent is a time of reflection and renewal. It is a time for Christians to consider how they live the Word of God and to renew this living. The Lenten practices of Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving are one way in which Christians embody the values of justice, compassion and generosity and the giving up of oneself.

Inspiration from Pope Francis

If we are witnesses of the Living Christ, many people will encounter Jesus in us, in our witness. But, we ask – and each one of us can ask ourselves – does the Lord feel at home in my life? Do we allow Him to ‘cleanse’ our hearts? Do I allow Him to cleanse all the behaviours that are against God, against our neighbour, and against ourselves?

Angelus Address, 8th March 2015.

Social Justice - Project Compassion

Throughout the Lenten Season, our School 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

*Loving God, as we begin our Lenten Journey,
we pray that the mists that can cloud our vision may lift,
so that we may see the road that lies before us and so,
come with open hearts to you, the source of living water.*

*Melt what is frozen within us, warm our hearts,
and lift our spirits that we do not lose heart in our capacity to grow,
or in your desire to lead us safely home.*

Amen.

Mary-Ann Wright

Religious Education Leader



Donations of clean, good condition uniforms and school bags etc are gratefully appreciated. They can be left in the labelled box outside the School Office.

(We will not accept damaged, old or stained items). Cash sales only.

Open each FRIDAY: 9am-10am (located up the hill just after the office entrance)

SPORTS

NEWS

Round 1 Inter School Sports Results

Mixed Volleyball

St Damians lost 1 set to Findon Primary 2 sets

Girls Volleyball

St Damians won 2 sets to Findon Primary 1 set

Tennis (Combined)

St Damians won 8 sets to Findon Primary 4 sets

Netball Girls

St Damians won 3 goals to Findon Primary 0 goals

Netball Mixed

St Damians won 14 goals to Findon Primary 2 goals

Congratulations to all of our year 6 students on a successful first round of Inter School Sports, good luck in round 2 against Plenty Parklands Primary School this Friday.

Mr Insolia—PE Teacher



St Damian's School Choir has now resumed and already there have been three rehearsals. It is wonderful to have 18 enthusiastic members who treat the activity like a singing club. A very special welcome to the eight new members already signed up for this year!

Enrolments will be open for one more week. Students who are in Years 3 to 6 can join. If interested, please see Ms Marg O'Leary, the Music Teacher.

Thank you to the those who performed last Thursday during the Opening School and Staff Commissioning Mass and this week for the Ash Wednesday Whole School Mass.

It is anticipated that the Choir will prepare a gig at an Aged Care home for later this year as well as being active for special school events such as the School Production and Masses associated with the school sacramental program.

Thank you so much for the commitment shown so far.

Meet Our Staff...

Teaching Staff



Annemarie Anthony



Jaylor Jade Mullane



Caterina Capogreco



Melissa Cali



Mary Marotta



Lauren Davies



Natasha Solomons



Anna Walpole



Mary McArdle



Saveria Ciurleo



Martina Tran



Barbara Milana



Rodney Nethercote



Michael Fay



Riki Bossini



Nicole Richardson



Julie Cannatelli



Amy Starr



Term 1		March	
February		Wednesday 8th	School Photo Day
Monday 27th	School Assembly 2.30pm	Monday 13th	Labour Day Public Holiday
		April	
		Thursday 6th	Last Day of Term 1. 3.15pm Finish

SCHOOL PHOTOS 2023 - Important Registration Information



School Photographs will be taken at

St. Damian's Primary School

Wednesday 8th March 2023

There is no need to return any forms or payment to school before photo day

Flyers with Unique Image Codes will be issued to all students on or after photo day

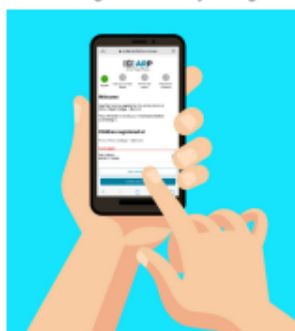
When you receive your child's 2023 image code

Follow these 3 simple steps -

1 Go to order.arphotos.com.au and enter your child's **2023 image code**



2 Tap on 'Add another child' to enter the image codes of any siblings



3 Fill in your contact details & review before confirming your registration*



*This information will only be used for distribution of personal image codes and ordering details.

That's it!

**It's important to register each year to link your child's NEW images to your contact details
When 2023 images are ready to view in our secure webshop you'll be notified by email and SMS**

• Create photo packages with any layout & YOUR choice of images + Multiple Image Downloads

• Order on any mobile device • Share the images with family & friends for FREE

**** Please wait to receive notifications that new images are online BEFORE ordering for 2023 ****