



St. Damian's Newsletter

5 Settlement Rd, Bundoora 3083

Ph: 9467 8566

Email: info@sdbundoora.catholic.edu.au

Thursday June 22nd, 2023

No. 17 - 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

Dear Parents/Guardians & Carers

We have come to the end of another successful and busy term. We have completed half a year of learning already. I find it amazing to think that half the year has already passed us by and that when we return we will already be in Term 3. I wish all in our community a relaxing and enjoyable break and look forward to everyone's return safe and sound next Term. Thank you to all our families who made the time to attend the Learning Conversations held on Monday either face to face or online. By all accounts they were very successful as families connected with their child(ren)'s teacher(s) to discuss the progress so far made by the students. We now have the opportunity to move forward with the children's learning as new goals have been set for the next Semester of the year.

On Tuesday, we welcomed Bishop Curtin to our school as he came to meet the Confirmation Candidates. The students had a special reflection day where they made some final preparations in anticipation of receiving the Sacrament next term. Confirmation will be conferred on July 15th by Bishop Curtin.

Yesterday we concluded our Prep interviews for 2024 and we now have confirmed 64 Preps for next year. This means we will have three Prep classes next year. We are very pleased with the enrolment numbers and look forward to welcoming our new Preps next term for orientation sessions.

School Production

Excitement is definitely mounting and much is being done in preparation for our school Production. We are all looking forward to -

St Damian's Primary School Production of
"A Magical Toy Box Tour"
Cast A - Thursday 24th August
Cast B - Friday 25th August
Performance begins at 6:30pm
Ticket sales have been released.



Staff News

On Friday we will farewell Miss Martina Tran as she takes leave to enjoy some overseas travel. We wish Miss Tran an enjoyable experience and look forward to her return next year. We welcome back Mrs Sophie Kerss who is returning from extended leave and will be taking over from Miss Tran and teaching Year 3T.

End of Term

The term ends on Friday 23rd June at the normal time of 3.15pm. School resumes in Term Three on Monday 10th July at 8.40 am.

School Closure Day

There is a school closure day scheduled for Wednesday 19th July. All staff will be involved in First Aid training on this day. All teachers are required to do Level 2 First Aid training every three years as well as refresher courses in the management of Asthma and Anaphylaxis. As all staff will be involved in this training, **students are not required at school on this day.** Thank you for understanding.

Prayer – World Refugee Day

Lord God, We pray for those who are vulnerable and who may not be able to see your might and presence in their lives at this moment. We pray for those fleeing violence, wars and persecution; be their guide and comfort. We pray for the millions of refugees around the world, waiting for justice and a new home. Amen

Have a safe holiday everyone, see you next term, Rosanna.

Faith News

Sacrament of Confirmation Parent / Child Evening

We look forward to welcoming you to our Sacrament of Confirmation Parent/Child Evening tonight, **Thursday 22nd June at 7pm**, in the Hall. 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 15th July at 2pm**. In preparation for this special occasion, the Year Six Students 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 have been exploring Scripture stories and Church teachings. The students have also been researching 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 – 24th 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.

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

PRAYER WHEN I NEED THE HOLY SPIRIT

*God our Father,
thank You
for sharing Your Holy Spirit
with me.*

*You give me Your Spirit
to teach me
how to be truthful
and loving
and ready to do
what pleases You.*

*Right now
I have a big decision
to make.*

*Help me
to listen to Your Holy Spirit
so that I may honour You
and be the best person
I can with your help.*

SCHOOL MUSICAL

The Magic Toy Box Tour - Tickets now on sale

The tickets for the school production went on sale on Tuesday this week. Before purchasing tickets, please be sure to double check your allocated performance date that was sent home a few weeks ago. You must know if you have been allocated Cast A or Cast B to book tickets for the correct night. Please refer to the email that was sent with ticketing information for more details about ticket limits etc.

Here is the link to purchase tickets:

<https://www.trybooking.com/CIJZC>

Students are doing great work learning songs, dances and rehearsing scenes. Every student has access to their learning resources for songs and dances online. Prep - Year 3 students have their resources on Seesaw and Year 4 - 6 have everything they need on Google Classroom. Please be sure to practise over the holidays so the routines are committed to memory. We can then focus on making the show look spectacular!

Alex de la Rambelje and Marg O'Leary—Performing Arts and Music Teachers

Congratulations Santino Gioffre - 6C

On Sunday the 21st of May, 2023 I competed in the Victorian State Championships and selections for Taekwondo. I had to participate in two divisions. For each division I had to compete against two older opponents and to my amazement I won each division. At the end of the day I walked away with 2 'Gold Medals.'

After the fight I felt very tired and happy. I went back to my family, took all my gear off and relaxed and watched my friend's compete. Everyone high fived me and congratulated me. What an amazing achievement!

By Santino Gioffre 6C.





Term 2	
June	
Friday 23rd	Last Day of Term 2—3.15pm Finish
Term 3	
July	
Monday 11th	First Day of Term 3
Wednesday 19th	Pupil Free Day—Staff Professional Training
Wednesday 26th	St Damian's Family Day
August	
Wednesday 16th	Whole School Production Rehearsal
Thursday 24th	School Production Cast A—6pm
Friday 25th	School Production Cast B—6pm



School Holiday Ideas

- Melbourne Museum
- Melbourne Zoo, Healesville Sanctuary and Werribee Zoo - free for kids in school holidays and weekends
- Newport Railway Museum (open every Saturday from 12-5pm)
- HMAS Castlemaine (naval ship museum) (open 11am - 4pm on weekends)
- Lightscape Melbourne, Botanical Gardens
- Masons Falls Walks, Kinglake
- Public Libraries usually have a timetable of activities for school holidays.



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 cannot accept damaged, old or stained items). Cash sales only.

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

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



Pyjamas Day

Monday was a Pupil Free Day and the children and educators came dressed in their comfy pj's, onesies and oodles. It was the perfect cold day! We had a competition with the categories: best pj's, onesies and slippers. Here is a photo of our winners with their prizes!

Art Work

We have been experimenting with different mediums to create great artwork. This week the children were given a paper plate, some plasticine and their imagination. The end result was astounding!



Holiday Program

Next week is the beginning of our fantastic holiday program: "We Can Be Heroes". Please book in prior to attending as places are limited and we do not want to disappoint.



TIMES

Before School: 7:00AM - 9:00AM
After School: 3:15PM - 6:30PM
Holidays: 7:00AM - 6:30PM

CONTACT HEAD OFFICE



1300 072 410



info@theircare.com.au

CONTACT SERVICE



0477 731 175



stdmiansbundoora@theircare.com.au

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