



# *St. Damian's Newsletter*

5 Settlement Rd, Bundoora 3083

Ph: 9467 8566

Email: [info@sdbundoora.catholic.edu.au](mailto:info@sdbundoora.catholic.edu.au)

Thursday November 30th, 2023

No. 35 - 2023

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



## *St Damian's Primary School Christmas Carols*

*Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December*

*Time: 7pm*

**PLEASE NOTE:**  
**SUPERVISION OF STUDENTS IS BETWEEN 8.30am TO 3.30pm ON SCHOOL DAYS.**  
**FROM THE PRINCIPAL**

This Sunday begins the season of Advent. The first day of Advent is the first day of a new Liturgical (or Church) calendar and begins a four week period of preparation for the nativity of Jesus Christ at Christmas. The Advent Season is all about reflecting on how we can prepare our hearts and homes for Christ's birth in the world as it is today. During the Advent Season we use the Advent Wreath to remind us that Christmas is very close. The four candles of the Advent Wreath specifically symbolise the Christian concepts of hope, peace, joy and love, with these candles being lit subsequently throughout each week of the Advent Season. On the first week of Advent we light the candle of hope. Jesus' birth is a time of hope. As the world faces crises of violence, injustice, war and brokenness, only God's redemptive love can truly bring peace and healing. God works through us as Christians when we do our part, through prayer and action, to love our neighbors near and far. We can trust in God's promises of restoration for the world. During this first week of Advent, let us pray for a world that is less violent and destructive and bring hope and peace to all those we meet.



### **Christmas Carols**

Our decision to postpone the Carols to next Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December was the right decision based on the cold and wet weather we experienced yesterday. As this is the final event for the year we are hoping that all our families will join us to celebrate the end of another wonderful year of learning. Families are invited to bring picnic rugs, picnic chairs and join in with the singing as the students present a simple Nativity story. Hopefully it will be a lovely evening weather wise for us to enjoy our last community event together. Don't forget to buy your tickets for the Christmas Raffle which will be drawn on this night.

### **Whole School Orientation for 2024**

The students from Prep to Year 5 will meet their new classes and teacher for next year on December 8<sup>th</sup> for lunch at 11.30am and then again for an hour's activity session on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 10.30am. We hope that as many of the new teachers as possible will be able to join us on these days.

### **School Closure Day**

**Please note that next Thursday December 7<sup>th</sup> is a pupil free day to allow staff to plan for the 2024 school year. Students are not required at school on this day.**

### **Final School Assembly**

The final school assembly will be held Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 9.15am in the hall. At this assembly we usually announce our new Student Leaders for 2024 as well as farewell staff officially. Families are warmly welcome to attend.

### **Staff News**

After 43 years of service at St Damian's and to Catholic Education in general, **Mrs Mattie Dragonetti** is retiring!! Mrs Dragonetti began her teaching career at St Damian's in 1980 as a classroom teacher and then as Literacy Leader Years 3-6 supporting staff and students alike, as well as being instrumental in her role as mentor teacher and FIRE Carrier Leader. We will miss her very much but wish her all the very best as she begins this new phase in her life. Thank you Mattie. Enjoy retirement and all it has to offer.

**Mrs Melissa Cali** is also leaving us and is joining the school community at St Catherine's school in Lalor. Mrs Cali has been at St Damian's for three years and has taught the students in the middle and junior years. We wish her all the best in her new school and thank her for her contribution to our school community. We also say goodbye to **Miss Lauren Davies** who is leaving us after a short time here at St Damian's. Miss Davies is moving back to the Ministry Schools taking up a teaching position at Willmot Primary. We thank her for her work here at St Damian's and wish her all the best in her new school. **Miss Gabriela Guimaeras** our STEM teacher is moving to Bourke in NSW and taking up a teaching position in the country. Miss Guimaeras has only been with us a short time but has provided the junior students with some exciting STEM experiences in this time. We wish her all the best in her new adventures.

**Mr Michael Fay** is also leaving us. Mr Fay came to our school halfway through 2022 and taught Year 2, this year he has been working with the Year 4 students. Mr Fay has accepted a position at Lakes Entrance and is making a 'sea (lake) change'. We thank him for his contribution to our school and wish him all the best next year. **Mrs Sophie Kerss** is leaving St Damian's after a number of years. In the past few years Mrs Kerss has worked part-time whilst on Maternity Leave and returned to full time teaching in the second half of this year after taking some Long Service Leave. In her time at St Damian's Mrs Kerss worked across the school teaching different year levels. We wish her all the best as she moves to the Ministry Schools teaching at Montmorency Primary next year. We thank her for her work at St Damian's. **Miss Natasha Solomons** has accepted a teaching position at St Mary McKillop of the Cross in Epping and will begin there next year. Miss Solomons has been at St Damian's for two years and has mainly taught Year 2 students. We thank her for her work with her students and wish her all the best in her new school. **Miss Martina Tran** who is currently on leave has decided not to return to St Damian's next year. Miss Tran has caught the travel bug and is enjoying visiting many places. Next year Miss Tran is moving to Queensland and will be teaching in the warmth. We wish Miss Tran all the very best and thank her for all her work at St Damian's. We wish each of these teachers a wonderful new year, may their new schools or new adventures bring them much joy and fulfillment well into the future.

The 2023 School Year Ends on **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December** after graduation **for the Year 6 students** and on **Friday 15<sup>th</sup>** for **all students from Prep – Year 5.**

### First Two Days of 2024

As we did last year, staff will use the first two days of the school year to assess all students. All families will receive a letter detailing the day and the time that the children will need to come to school on one of the two days, either Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> or Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> of January. We request that families come on the day assigned as we have a limited timeframe to test students and if they come on the wrong day there may not be time to assess properly. This information will be sent home soon. Students from Year 1-6 will then begin the new school year on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February. The new Foundation Year students will begin on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February.

### School Reports

The end of year reports will be emailed to families on Friday 8th December. The teachers have dedicated much time and effort to assessing the students and providing you with the details of their progress, standard reached and achievements. Parents wishing to discuss any aspect of their child's report are encouraged to make a mutually convenient time with their child's teacher.

### Prayer

Scripture: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

We name the brokenness of the world we live in, and we ask God to restore creation — to shine God's face upon the world so that God's righteousness and justice might reign. We long for signs of hope for restoration.

*Have a great week everyone.*

*Rosanna*

## St Damian's Parent Association

### St Damian's Christmas Raffle

St Damian's Xmas Raffle is an easy way to help raise funds for important projects at school. By purchasing tickets to the raffle, you will get a chance to win great prizes.



#### Thanks to our Donating Business'

- \$500 Carpet Call Rug Voucher
- Watermarc Family Slide Vouchers
- Chemist Warehouse Hamper
- 2x \$50 Deb's Design Lab
- Ray White Bundoora
- Paddy's Meats \$50 Voucher
- Coles Voucher
- Woolworths Voucher
- Bernie's Pizza \$25 Voucher
- OzTen|Pin Bowling Family Pass
- Bounce Heidelberg Family Voucher
- Pure Clean Co. 1 hour Home Clean
- Lollipops Family Passes
- Cafe Lucio Voucher Pack
- Prego Bundoora Cafe Voucher Pack
- Bundoora Fine Fruits Voucher Pack
- Flowers By Elizabeth Victoria Voucher

**carpetCALL**  
FLOOR CENTRE



FLOWERS BY

*Elizabeth Victoria*



**PADDY'S MEATS**  
& FINE WINES



**BOUNCE**  
FREE SPIRITS UNLEASHED





# Faith News

## St. Damian's Nativity and Christmas Carols Evening

Our Christmas Carols Evening has been postponed to next **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December**. We will be presenting the Nativity along with some traditional carols. The evening will commence at 7:00pm. The Students have been preparing in earnest so please come along and celebrate with our community. Thank you for your support.

## Sacraments 2024

Please find below the Sacramental Dates for 2024. These dates will be published again in 2024. However, you might like to add any relevant dates to your Diary as reference.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation 2024 – Year 2 Students – Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June 7pm;**

**Sacrament of Confirmation 2024 – Year 6 Students – Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2pm; and**

**Sacrament of Eucharist 2023 – Year 4 Students – Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2pm.**

## End of Year Mass

St Damian's School Community will celebrate our End of Year Mass next **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December at 9:15am**. All are welcome to attend.

## The Season of Advent

As we begin our celebration of the Season of Advent, this Sunday we light the first candle. To this waiting time we bring the experiences of the year past, and we are reminded again of the love God has for us, endless and ever new, symbolised in the circle of the Advent Wreath. As we light the first of the candles, we look forward with hope to the celebration of Jesus' birth.

## The Colours of Advent

For many centuries, purple was the colour used during Advent. Purple, in our Church, is a colour associated with an attitude of repentance and sorrow and corresponds to how people prepare themselves. In more recent times, however, and in alignment with the Advent Scripture Readings, the darker coloured purple has been replaced by a lighter, less sombre violet to better represent the feelings of hope, joy, expectation and anticipation as we wait and prepare to celebrate the memory of Jesus' coming at the first Christmas.

## Advent in the Catholic Tradition

Advent is about joyful waiting. Our anticipation builds each Sunday as we wait through the darkness of injustice for the dawning of right relationship. We see a new vision for our world and for how we might live. Our focus is liberation, justice and peace, as embodied in the words of Mary's Magnificat (Lk 1:46-55).

Advent prepares us for Christmas when Christ's first coming to us is remembered. Throughout the season, our minds and hearts are directed to await Christ's second coming at the end of time.

The Scriptural images of Advent tell of a God who frees us from rigidity, gives sight to our blindness, feeds our hungering hearts and sets us in equality with all people. Advent is the season when we intentionally practise hope, when we consciously act for justice, and when we joyfully live in expectation of promises fulfilled.

## St. Damian's Christmas Giving Tree

As is tradition at St. Damian's, we have been invited by St. Vincent De Paul to support those in need by providing gifts. We would be most appreciative if you could contribute to our collection. To enable enough time for the gifts to be distributed to those in need, the closing date for donations is this **Friday 1st December**.

Thank you in advance for your contributions towards this worthy cause. It is a privilege to witness our community take action for others.

## A Prayer for Advent

*May we take the time to be aware that  
in the midst of our busy preparations for the celebration of  
Christ's birth in ancient Bethlehem, Christ is reborn in  
the Bethlehems of our homes and daily lives.*

*May we take time, slow down and be still.  
May we be awake to the Divine Mystery that looks so common  
and so ordinary yet is wondrously present. Amen.*

**Mary-Ann Wright**  
Religious Education Leader

## 2024 SCHOOL FEES

### FAMILY FEES

School Fees	\$ 1,970
Capital Fees	\$ 575
	.....
	<b>\$ 2,545</b>

### STUDENT FEES

#### **Curriculum Levy**

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

Year Prep	\$ 395
Years 1 to 3	\$ 460
Years 4 to 6	\$ 490

**\$130.00 discount for fees paid in full by the 30<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

#### **Camp Fees**

Year 3 Camp Experience	\$ TBA
Year 4 Camp Experience	\$ TBA
Year 5/6 Camp Experience	\$ TBA

School Camp fees must be paid prior to the Camp commencement date.

**LOYOLA**  
JUSTICE FAITH  
MERCY

# COMMUNITY

## FOOD TRUCK & CAROLS NIGHT

<b>5.00pm</b>	Gates Open: Food Trucks & Market Stalls Available
<b>5.30pm</b>	'Open Door Singers' (Musical Performance) Roaming Magician Entertainment
<b>6.00pm</b>	'Open Door Singers' (Musical Performance) Magic Show @ Two Wolves Hub
<b>6.45pm</b>	'Open Door Singers' (Musical Performance) Roaming Magician Entertainment
<b>7.45pm</b>	Loyola Christmas Carols Commence
<b>8.15pm</b>	Food Trucks Close
<b>9.00pm</b>	Event Concludes

**GOLD COIN ENTRY**  
325 Grimshaw Street  
Watsonia

# Student of the Week

<b>Prep A</b>	Samuel D'Errico	For being a thoughtful and caring student.
<b>Prep M</b>	Salma Shaik	For having a great attitude to school and learning and always giving 100%.
<b>1A</b>	Jason Han	For being a helpful and cooperative student and working well with others.
<b>1C</b>	Charles Deng	For working really hard when writing an information report.
<b>1M</b>	Ashlea Lin	For doing her very best all the time.
	Luka Calleja	For doing his best handwriting and for writing interesting sentences.
<b>2D</b>	Edwin Lee	For his hard work towards researching and drafting a detailed information report on squirrels.
<b>2W</b>	Kristy Xue	For her detailed information report writing.
<b>3C</b>	Lucas Gao	For working diligently to improve your writing skills.
	Mahalia Bhatt	For her wonderful information report about Pythons.
<b>3K</b>	Cruz De Silva	For staying focused and producing a wonderful recount about our excursion.
<b>3M</b>	Josephine Yousif	For doing her best by consistently displaying a positive attitude towards learning.
<b>4F</b>	Robbie Mullick	For improving his handwriting and being a team member of 4F.
<b>4M</b>	Jade Peterson	For demonstrating your understanding of human impact on animal habitats.
<b>5B</b>	Alex Junacko-Moschoyiannis	For consistently contributing to all class discussions.
<b>5R</b>	Alexander D'Errico	For demonstrating improved leadership skills.
<b>6C</b>	Haresh Yasokarthikeyan	For consistently taking the initiative to complete his Literature Circle tasks.
<b>6S</b>	Jonathan Capuana	Being a thoughtful and considerate member of 6S.



**Micah Burns 2D**  
**Alex Grandikis 2D**  
**Radmehr Nakhostinfathi 2D**  
**Reya Porwal 2D**

**Serena Yu 3C**

**Kasia Arfi 4M**  
**Adan Bugueno 4M**  
**Samuel Gusatto 4M**  
**Mikey Kelly 4M**





## ADOPTING CHICKS (FREE)

Dear families,

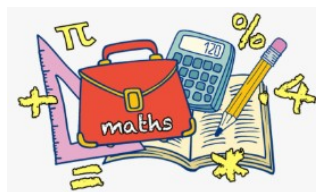
The Year 1 students have had the opportunity to watch chickens emerge from their eggs as part of their Inquiry Unit, The Diversity of Different Habitats. Currently we have nine chicks and have seen six eggs hatch with another four getting ready to hatch, which has been very exciting.

From next Friday, our chicks will be available for permanent adoption. Our chicks are free to go to a good home (but must be adopted as at least a pair as chickens are a flock animal) and starter kits will be available to purchase for \$40.

If you would like to adopt a chick, please contact Linda from Henny Penny Hatching on 0422 404 233 or email [hpnortheast@hotmail.com](mailto:hpnortheast@hotmail.com).

More information and fact sheets can be obtained by emailing Mrs Cali on [Melissa.cali@sdbundoora.catholic.edu.au](mailto:Melissa.cali@sdbundoora.catholic.edu.au)





### Maths Family Fun

#### Seniors

A clothing manufacturer uses  $\frac{1}{5}$  of a bottle of colour dye to make one pair of pants. The manufacturer used  $\frac{4}{5}$  of a bottle yesterday. How many pairs of pants did the manufacturer make?

#### Juniors

Ariel was playing basketball. 1 of her shots went in the hoop. 2 of her shots did not go in the hoop. How many shots were there in total?

**Take a photo of your workings out, and submit to [Carmen.bruce@sdbundoora.catholic.edu.au](mailto:Carmen.bruce@sdbundoora.catholic.edu.au)**

The maths leaders will then go through the submissions and assign and collate points to families. So get cracking!

**Happy Solving!**

**Carmen Bruce - Maths Leader**



<b>Term 4</b>	
<b>December</b>	
<b>Tuesday 5th</b>	St Damian's Carols Evening 7pm
<b>Wednesday 6th</b>	End of Year School Mass 9.15am
<b>Thursday 7th</b>	Student Free Day
<b>Thursday 14th</b>	Last Day Year 6's
	Year 6 Graduation Mass 7.00pm
<b>Friday 15th</b>	Last Day of Term 4
<b>January 2024</b>	
<b>Tuesday 30th</b>	Student Testing 8.45am—3.15pm
<b>Wednesday 31st</b>	Student Testing 8.45am—3.15pm

**SECOND HAND**  
**UNIFORM SHOP**

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).

Please email [sduniformshop@hotmail.com](mailto:sduniformshop@hotmail.com) for any item requests



TheirCare at St Damian's would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands and water on which we learn and grow, the Wurundjeri people. We pay our respects to our Elders past, present and future.



## WHAT WE HAVE BEEN UP TO!

Transitioning into the month of December, TheirCare at St Damian's has started to prepare for our favourite festive season, Christmas. We have been decorating snowflakes, elf hats and much more!

## Pupil Free Day

An important reminder to all our families that Thursday the 7th of December is a Pupil Free Day: all day care - 7.00am - 6.30pm



## Holiday Program

The year is coming to an end, which means Holiday Program is only around the corner. Friday the 15th of December is the last day of school for all our learners. However, Monday the 18th of December, Tuesday the 19th of December and Wednesday the 20th of December TheirCare at St Damian's will begin holiday program.



### TIMES

Before School: 7:00AM- 8:35AM  
After School: 3:15PM - 6:30PM  
Holidays: 7:00AM - 6:30PM

### CONTACT HEAD OFFICE

 1300 072 410  
 [info@theircare.com.au](mailto:info@theircare.com.au)

### CONTACT SERVICE

 0477 731 175  
 [stdmiansbundoora@theircare.com.au](mailto:stdmiansbundoora@theircare.com.au)

Check out  
what's happening December  
at your local TheirCare!



The place to be  
these holidays!

# Summer Vibes

## St Damien's School

18 DEC



### Tropic Like it's Hot

Chill out! Cool down this summer with 'Tropic Like it's Hot' uncover the frosty secrets of Ice Painting! Create your own yummy summer treat with DIY Ice cream in a bag, engage in an exhilarating Water Balloon Relay, and craft your way to a garden of lively and vivid Summer Accordion Paper Flowers. A tropical blast awaits!

From as low as \$7.14\*  
Full fee \$71.42\*\*

19 DEC



### Festive Season Fun

It's festive time! Embark on the 'Polar Express-tacular' adventure! Join the festive fun with Santa's Reindeer Scavenger Hunt, craft dazzling Salt & Watercolour Snowflakes, witness the Exploding Snowman Experiment, challenge your skills in Cone Air Hockey, and don't miss the excitement of the Present Relay Race!

From as low as \$7.14\*  
Full fee \$71.42\*\*

20 DEC



### Summer Camp Party

Join the 'Summer Camp Party' for an action-packed adventure! Soar to the skies in the Airplane Group Game, mosey down to the barnyard with the Farmyard Group Game, create adorable Finger Print Bug Jars, and craft Popsicle Stick Bird Feeders. It's a day of fun and creativity that you won't want to miss!

From as low as \$7.14\*  
Full fee \$71.42\*\*

\*With the maximum CHILD CARE SUBSIDY. \*\*Without the CHILD CARE SUBSIDY.

**Book now at [theircare.com.au](http://theircare.com.au)**

**Save up to 90% with the  
Child Care Subsidy**

**More exciting activities happening throughout January! Go to the website to find out!**



The place to be these holidays!

**TheirCare**  
Where Kids love to be!

# Summer Passport

## Summer Holiday Program

**Movie Time**

**Splashtacular**

**Cultural Drumming**

**STEM Bubbles**

**Book now at [theircare.com.au](http://theircare.com.au)**

Save up to 90% with the Child Care Subsidy



# Holiday Program Important Information!

## What to bring

- ☐ A healthy morning tea and lunch
- ☐ A labelled drink bottle for water
- ☐ Suitable clothing for an active day – closed toe shoes and jacket if wet/cold
- ☐ SunSmart hat for Spring and Summer holidays
- ☐ Medical Management Plan & Medication if applicable – see below for details



## Don't forget!

- ☐ Keep your lunchbox nut-free to keep everyone safe
- ☐ Do not include food items that need to be reheated
- ☐ Label all items with child's name!
- ☐ Bus departure and arrival times are indicative only. For an accurate estimated time of arrival and departure please contact your service directly.



## Personal belongings

Electronic devices, money and other valuables should be left at home.

If brought to the service, these items remain the responsibility of the family. TheirCare does not accept responsibility for loss or damage.



## TheirCare provides

- ☒ Breakfast and afternoon tea snack
- ☒ Sunscreen
- ☒ Water to refill bottles



## Child Care Subsidy

Please note that subsidised hours are calculated and allocated by Centrelink on a fortnightly basis. Check Centrelink for eligibility. Each session is calculated using the full service operational hours, not the hours attended by the child.



## Unexpected changes to activities

In the unlikely event that an activity is unable to run, an alternative activity will be provided.

Activities and times are subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances such as severe weather or provider availability. If an alternative cannot be sourced, we will update your invoice to reflect this.



## Serious stuff!

### Medical Management Plan & Medication

All children who have been diagnosed with a medical condition including allergies, food/chemical intolerances, anaphylaxis, asthma, epilepsy will need to provide:

- ☐ a completed Medical Management Plan with a colour photo
- ☐ necessary medication

Please note it is a legal requirement under the Education & Care National Regulations and the Terms and Conditions for booking that these are provided.

In the interests of child safety, care may be refused on the day should the appropriate documentation or medication or medication not be supplied.



## Changes to your booking

Simply log into your account anytime to make the relevant changes or call us between 8:30am – 9:00pm weekdays on 1300 072 410.



## Fees for changes to your booking

More than 5 days	Less than 5 days*	On the day
No Charge	\$10.00	Full Fee

\*Less than 5 days from the start of the booking (120 hours from the start of the session).

When making additional bookings, the \$10.00 fee is eligible for the Child Care Subsidy, which means you may only need to pay the gap, depending on your families' circumstances.

