



St. Damian's Newsletter

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Thursday November 14th, 2023

No. 36 - 2023

PLEASE NOTE:

SUPERVISION OF STUDENTS IS BETWEEN 8.30am TO 3.30pm ON SCHOOL DAYS.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL



This Sunday we light the third candle on the Advent wreath, the pink candle which symbolizes joy. It is also known as the "Shepherd's Candle," and is pink because rose is a liturgical color for joy. The third Sunday of Advent is also called Gaudete Sunday and is meant to remind us of the joy that the world experienced at the birth of Jesus, as well as the joy that we experience knowing we have reached the midpoint of Advent. The following Sunday is the fourth and final week of Advent where the fourth candle is lit which symbolizes love. The ultimate love of God that He might send His only Son for us. It is also known as the "Angels Candle". It reminds us of the message of the angels: "*Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward All Men.*" There is a fifth, and final, candle to be lit. Known as "Christ's candle", this white candle is placed in the middle of the Advent Wreath and lit on Christmas Day to represent the pure light of Jesus, who came on Christmas day as a baby in a manger.

At the final assembly held yesterday morning we announced all the student leaders for 2024. We whole heartedly congratulate all the new school leaders and know that each young person will try their best in their new roles next year. We also acknowledge and thank all the outgoing school leaders for their contribution over the year. We wish all these young people the very best as they move onto new adventures in 2024.

We also said farewell to the many families leaving us at the end of the year. We wish each one all the best as they move to other school communities and thank them for their contribution to our school community in their time here at St Damian's. Thank you and all the very best.

This evening we will hold the Year 6 Graduation. It will be very sad to say goodbye to these young people who have, in the main, been part of our school community for the past seven years. They have been an amazing group of young people and we have been blessed to have them as part of our school. Now it is time for them to move onto the next chapter of their life story and begin their Secondary schooling. We thank them for all they have contributed to our school and wish them every success into the future. Goodbye and Good Luck.

As we conclude the school year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support and loyalty to our school. I also thank all our Committees, both school and parish that contribute greatly to the education and life of the children at St Damian's. I especially thank our School Advisory Committee members and our Parent's Association. Most especially we thank all who volunteered in our school over the year, whether it was to support our camp program, our classroom learning, excursions, etc. The work and support of our parents, grandparents and friends is highly valued and we thank you for your contribution to the life of our school.

The 2023 School Year Ends today **Thursday 14th December** after graduation **for the Year 6 students** and tomorrow **Friday 15th for all students from Prep – Year 5** at the usual dismissal time of 3.15pm.

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 have received communication detailing the day and the time that the children will need to come to school on one of the two days, either Tuesday 30th or Wednesday 31st 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. Students from Year 1-6 will then begin the new school year on Thursday 1st February. The new Foundation Year students will begin on Friday 2nd February.

Prayer for our Graduates:

Heavenly Father, surround those who are graduating with Your Grace. Bless them with hope so that they move into the future with eager and open hearts. Help them to put the knowledge, skills and insights gained through their education to use for the good of all humankind. Inspire them to believe in the goodness of life even when faced with challenges and difficulties. As they commence a new chapter in their lives, may they grow ever more grateful and wise. All of this we ask in the name of Jesus, Your beloved Son. Amen



Christmas Prayer

"Loving Father, Help us remember the birth of Jesus that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men. Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Amen"

Merry Christmas and a happy New Year and thank you everyone. Until next year,

Rosanna

Faith News



Thank you

Thank you to all St Damian's Families for your generous contributions to our Christmas Giving Tree. St Vincent de Paul volunteers will now distribute the gifts to those in need.

The Season of Advent

As we continue our celebration of the Season of Advent, this Sunday we light the third of the Advent Candles. We are reminded that the ancient peoples longed for someone to come to them and give them hope for a better way to live. May we embrace Advent as a season of joy, always knowing Jesus' life, death and resurrection made way for our salvation

A Christmas Blessing

*Whenever we gaze into a crib this Christmas Season,
may new hope and joy flood our spirit.
Whenever we watch babies and young children play,
may new energy delight our hearts.
Whenever we are tantalised by the aroma of a bbq,
may we unwind, relax and enjoy time off.
Whenever the crush of family and friends overwhelms us,
may the hospitality of our hearts expand.
Whenever we provide a meal or bed over the holidays,
may we experience love and appreciation.
Whenever we put our feet up for leisure,
may the humble presence of the incarnate God companion us.
Whenever we feel our distance from each other around the world,
may the Christ child draw us into unity. Amen*

Thank you

Thank you to our School Community for your ongoing support of our Teachers and Students here at St Damian's. May we continue to grow in Faith and Love.

I wish all families a joyful and peaceful Christmas Season.

Mary-Ann Wright
Religious Education Leader

2024 SCHOOL FEES

FAMILY FEES

| | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| School Fees | \$ 1,970 |
| Capital Fees | \$ 575 |
| | |
| | \$ 2,545 |

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 30th 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.



| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Term 4 | |
| Thursday 14th | Last Day Year 6's |
| | Year 6 Graduation Mass 7.00pm |
| Friday 15th | Last Day of Term 4 |
| | |
| January 2024 | |
| Tuesday 30th | Student Testing 8.45am—3.15pm |
| Wednesday 31st | Student Testing 8.45am—3.15pm |
| February | |
| Thursday 1st | Year 1-6 students to commence school |



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 for any item requests

ST DAMIAN'S 2024 CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES



St. Damians Church
Bundoora



24TH DECEMBER: SUNDAY, CHRISTMAS EVE

6.00pm Christmas Carols

6.30pm Family Mass

9:00pm Christmas Carols

9:30pm Christmas Eve Mass

25TH DECEMBER: MONDAY, CHRISTMAS DAY



St Damian's Parish Dates to Remember

Saturday 9th December—Advent Retreat led by the Proclaim Office. 10.00am to 4.00pm, Venue St Damian's Parish

Friday 15th December 7.00pm—3rd Rite & Individual Confession if you wish.

Saturday 16th December—Christmas Preparation Working Bee at 9.00 to 11.30am

Friday 22nd December—Christmas Carols Prayer Service @ 7.30pm to 8.30pm

Sunday 24th December—Christmas Eve Mass , Carols at 6.00pm Mass at 6.30pm
Christmas Eve Mass, Carols at 9.00pm Mass at 9.30pm

Monday 25th December, Christmas Day—8.00am & 10.00 am Christmas Mass

Saturday 30th December—Feast of the Holy Family, 5.30pm

Sunday 31st December—Feast of the Holy Family 8.00am & 10.00am

Monday 1st January 2024—Mary, the Holy Mother of God, 7.00pm Mass

During January normal weekday and weekend Mass Program..



Merry Christmas

With another year coming to a close, we would like to wish all the St Damian's families a well deserved holiday break, a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

St Damian's Theircare will be operating all day care - 7am - 6:30pm on:

Monday 18th Dec
Tuesday 19th Dec
Wednesday 20th Dec

Holiday Program

Holiday Program commences on Monday 8th January 2024.

Visit theircare.com.au to book your child for our exciting summer program "Summer Passport". All children need to bring a healthy morning tea and lunch (nut free please!), a labelled water bottle, and SunSmart hat (as per our SunSmart policy). Children need to be wearing suitable clothing for active play and have closed toed shoes.

Theircare provides breakfast and afternoon tea, sunscreen and lots of fun activities!!!!

Term 1 - 2024

Pupil Free Days - all day care 7am - 6:30pm

Monday 29th Jan
Tuesday 30th Jan
Wednesday 31st Jan

Before and after school care resumes Thursday 1st February 2024

Children that 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 photo and necessary medication. *In the interest of Child Safety, care may be refused on the day should the appropriate documentation or medication not be supplied.*



SESSION TIMES

Morning: 7.00AM - 8.45AM
Afternoon: 2.15PM - 6.30PM
Holidays: 6.00AM - 6.30PM

CONTACT HEAD OFFICE

1300 344 144
info@theircareplus.com.au

CONTACT SERVICE

0477 731 175
stdmiansbudoora@theircare.com.au



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

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.

