



# St. Damian's Newsletter

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Thursday February 15th, 2024

No. 2 - 2024

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

## PLEASE NOTE:

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

**Ash Wednesday** marks the beginning of the Lenten Season, one of the most important holy days in the liturgical calendar. Lent is a time of fasting, alms giving and prayer. Ash Wednesday comes from the ancient Jewish tradition of penance and fasting. The practice includes the wearing of ashes on the head. The ashes symbolise the dust from which God made us. Writings from the Second-century Church refer to the wearing of ashes as a sign of penance. The ashes are administered during Mass and all are invited to accept the ashes as a visible symbol of penance. Even non-Christians are welcome to receive the ashes. The ashes are made from blessed palm branches, taken from the previous year's Palm Sunday Mass.

Yesterday, we celebrated Ash Wednesday Mass where all the students were invited to receive the Ashes. We were very pleased to also welcome some of our families who joined us in the celebration of Mass.

## Learning Conversations

This coming Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February we will be holding our Learning Conversations from 8.30am concluding at 5.30pm. These conversations are a wonderful opportunity to support the children as they begin their new year of learning. Please ensure that you have booked on our COMPASS APP a time to meet with your child(ren)'s teacher. There is opportunity for both online and face to face to accommodate all families. We expect that the children will be present during these meetings. **Please note that due to the Learning Conversations, the children are not required at school.** TheirCare will be operating all day on Monday for those students whose parents are working.

## St Damians Parents Association (P.A.)

On Tuesday night the P.A. met for the first time this year. It was wonderful to welcome some new members to this group. Some exciting opportunities for the children and families were discussed and will be organized over the year. If anyone would like to join this dynamic group of very enthusiastic mums please come along. The next meeting is on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March.

## School Photos

School Photos will be taken on March 6th. Further information regarding ordering will be sent home closer to the date.

## School Closure Day

On Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March school will be closed for the Labour Day public holiday.

## Car parking

Just a reminder that the front carpark is not a drop off zone. Please note that the carpark gates close between 8.30am and 8.45am and again between 3.15pm and 3.30pm. To allow a buffer period of safety whilst the students are entering or leaving the school premises. Parents are not allowed to open or close gates, this is the responsibility of the staff on duty. Working together in this ensures that everyone is kept safe at all times. Thank you for understanding.

## Picnic on Oval

Don't forget that **Friday February 23rd between 5.00pm and 7.00pm** is our Picnic on the Oval. Come along and enjoy a picnic on our oval and meet other families. Bring your picnic baskets, your picnic blankets your drinks (preferably non-alcoholic) and just relax on the oval. The children are welcome to bring their balls, etc 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. We hope many of our families will come and enjoy a little community time.



## Wet/Extreme Weather

Thankfully, the weather is a little cooler and more comfortable at present after experiencing two very hot days. Our policy here at St Damian's is that on days where the temperature is 35 degrees or above or on days when it is raining, the students remain inside. This ensures that students do not overheat on very hot days and are kept dry on wet days. Teachers supervise the students when indoors during this time while the students play inside games. It might be an idea to provide your child with an activity book to use during these times. These can be sent to school and kept in your child's tub.

**A Prayer for Ash Wednesday**

Merciful God, you called us forth from the dust of the earth; you claimed us for Christ in the waters of Baptism. Look upon us as we enter these Forty Days bearing the mark of ashes, and bless the journey through the desert of Lent to the font of rebirth. Amen

*Have a great week,  
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?*

**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

**2024 SCHOOL FEES**

Invoices will be sent out next week

**FAMILY FEES**

School Fees	\$ 1,970
Capital Fees	\$ 575
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	<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



<b>Prep C</b>	Prep C	For settling into school life so easily.
<b>Prep M</b>	Stevie Burns	For a fantastic start to Prep. Well done for demonstrating great listening.
<b>Prep W</b>	Alice Khosravi	For being a good listener in class and always working quietly.
<b>1M</b>	1M Class	For doing their best and demonstrating kindness towards each other.
<b>2AB</b>	2AB	For doing their best to settle into Year 2.
<b>2C</b>	Akagi Silva	For settling into our classroom and for being a good friend to others.
<b>2Y</b>	Farah Hage	For a wonderful start to Year 6.
<b>3B</b>	Noah Abbas	For respecting the environment by always keeping the classroom and your room tidy.
<b>3M</b>	Kosta Burneski	For following school expectations and for a great start to Grade 3.
<b>3SR</b>	Marshall Davide	For always doing your best in every task and sharing thoughtful contributions to class.
<b>4B</b>	Angela Chen	For setting a wonderful example by always doing her best.
<b>4C</b>	Erica Collaga	For doing her best work through SWELL week.
<b>5AT</b>	Ella Burns	For her excellent contribution to class discussions.
<b>5M</b>	Julietta Pineda Garcia	For demonstrating exceptional politeness and following school expectations.
<b>5R</b>	Jade Peterson	For demonstrating leadership qualities and being nominated as a SRC representative.
<b>6GC</b>	Lambros Grandikis	For making an excellent start to the new school year and in a new school.