



St. Damian's Newsletter

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Thursday April 18th, 2024

No. 8- 2024

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

Dear Parents/Guardians & Carers

A warm welcome back to all our families, students and staff. I trust everyone had a restful holiday and a happy Easter. Term 2 has started well and everyone has settled into their learning routines. This term we look forward to completing our enrolment process with interviews; Reconciliation Week, Sorry Day and the Long Walk. The P & A have organized a Wine Tour for the community which promises to be a fun day. There is more information on this further down in the newsletter. The Year 2 students are beginning their preparations to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation to be celebrated in June. The Year 6's also begin their formal preparations for the Sacrament of Confirmation celebrated in July. We also look forward to Family Day which will be celebrated in July. Of course, amongst all this there is the normal daily learning and teaching. We are looking forward to another very busy term.

ANZAC DAY

ANZAC Day is the national day of commemoration of Australia and New Zealand for victims of war and for recognition of the role of their armed forces. It marks the first major military action fought by Australian and New Zealand forces during the First World War. Next Thursday, some of our student leaders will take part in the wreath laying ceremony at the Watsonia RSL. Our school is one of the many schools in the area that will lay a wreath in honor of all those who served in this campaign.

Before School Supervision

It is becoming increasingly alarming to see many students being dropped off at school before supervision begins. Parents, this is **not a safe practice!** Staff do not begin their work day, therefore supervision of students, until 8.30am, so your children are not being cared for by anyone until then. Staff on premises cannot see or hear the children, so if something goes wrong no one would be aware. The office does not open until 8.30am and the school is locked. NO students are to be left at school prior to 8.30am. I am well aware that many parents work and that is why we have contracted with the Out of Hours Care Service – Their Care – who operate from 7.00am to cater for students who need to come to school early. Parents must use this service or else remain with their children until staff duty begins. This is to ensure that your children are safe at all times. Please work with us to keep your children safe!!

Kiss and Drop

The Kiss and Drop area off Joseph Street is closed to cars after school. At times parents may see the gates open, however this is **not an invitation to enter**. Cars are not permitted to enter the school from this entry point in the afternoon as students and families exit the school and it is very dangerous. Also, please be aware that only one side of Joseph Street is available for parking. The other side is a No Standing Zone. Park your car in surrounding side streets and walk to the school grounds. Walking is very good exercise for both adults and children alike. Also do not use the driveway closest to the school gate to conduct a three point turn. Again, this is very dangerous as children and families exit the school via the gate. Only families picking up from After School Care may enter the school **after 3.30pm**. Thank you for your co-operation.

School Assembly

Our next school assembly is next Monday 22nd May at 2.40pm in the hall. The Year 5R class will present at this assembly. All families welcome.

Uniforms Term 2

As term two begins in April, the weather may be variable with some warmer days experienced as well as some cooler days. For the remainder of April, the students may wear either summer or winter uniform to suit the weather. Please do not mix summer and winter uniform. It is one or the other. From 6th May, which is week four of term two, all students will be expected in full winter uniform.

School Closure Days

Thursday 25th April is ANZAC Day a public holiday. On **Friday 26th April** school is closed for a Time In Lieu day for staff to compensate for extra hours worked over the second term.

Monday 6th May is a School Closure Day. Staff will be engaged on working with Ingrid Green on developing their R.E. Programs. Students are not required at school on this day.

Staff News

We welcome Mrs Dorothy Lee and Mrs Anita Filomeno to our Learning Support Team this term. We hope that both Dorothy and Anita find their time here at St Damian's is both rewarding and enjoyable.

Prayer

May the glory and the promise of this joyous time of year bring peace and happiness to you and those you hold most dear. And may Christ, Our Risen Savior, always be there by your side to bless you most abundantly and be your loving guide.

Have a great week everyone,

Faith News

Sacrament of Reconciliation

This term, our Year Two Students will be participating in the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Thursday 6th June at 7pm in the Church. We pray that we may be good examples of forgiveness and healing in the way we live our lives.

Sacrament of Reconciliation Parish Presentation Masses

Please choose whichever Mass time suits your family best: Saturday 25th May at 5:30pm or Sunday 26th May at 10am. The children do not need to bring anything with them. They will be invited to stand on the altar after the Homily and everyone present will be invited to pray for them.

Sacrament of Confirmation

Early in Term Three, our Year Six Students will be renewing their baptismal promises and professing their faith as they celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation on Saturday 20th July at 2pm. We pray for them as they prepare to participate in the full outpouring of the Holy Spirit as once granted to the Apostles on the day of Pentecost. Further details regarding the Sacrament of Confirmation will be sent home over the coming weeks.

Sacrament of Confirmation Parish Presentation Masses

Please choose whichever Mass time suits your family best: Saturday 15th June at 5:30pm or Sunday 16th June at 10am. The children do not need to bring anything with them. They will be invited to stand on the altar after the Homily and everyone present will be invited to pray for them. The students will receive a copy of the Nicene Creed and a Confirmation pin.

Sacrament of Confirmation Parent / Child Evening

We are looking forward to welcoming you to our Sacrament of Confirmation Parent / Child Evening on Thursday 20th June at 7pm. The evening will be facilitated by Michele from the Presentation Family Project.

Sacrament of Eucharist

This year, our Year Four Students will be participating in the Sacrament of Eucharist on Saturday 23rd November at 2pm. Please keep them in your Prayers.

Social Justice - Project Compassion

Thank you to each family on behalf of Caritas for your generosity in supporting Project Compassion throughout Lent. Our School Community raised \$346.70.

The core of faith is equated with the doing of justice....

The doing of justice is not the application of religious faith, but its substance.

Without it, God remains unknown.... John O'Donohue.

A Prayer for World Peace

*We pray for the power to be gentle,
the strength to be forgiving,
and the endurance to accept the consequences
of holding on to what we believe to be right.
May we put our trust in the power of good to overcome evil
and the power of love to overcome hatred.
We pray for the vision to see and the faith
to believe in a world emancipated from violence,
a new world where fear shall no longer
lead men or women to commit injustice,
nor selfishness make them bring suffering to others.
Help us to devote our whole life and thought and energy
to the task of making peace,
praying always for the inspiration
and the power to fulfill the destiny for which
we and all men and women were created. Amen.*

Mary-Ann Wright—Religious Education Leader

St Damian's Choir Performs at the Northern Health ANZAC Day Service

Today, members of our Choir performed at the Northern Health ANZAC Day Service held in the grounds of Bundoora Extended Care Centre at 1231 Plenty Road, Bundoora. They sang with such positive spirit and confidence along with two other choirs - Northside Christian College Choir and the Northern Health Community Choir.

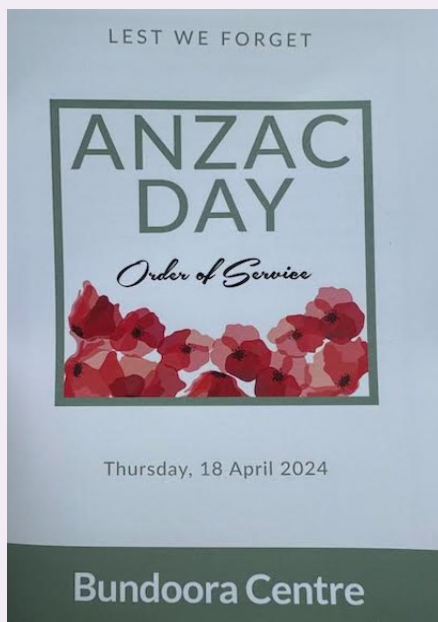
In addition to singing *Here I Am, Lord* - the opening hymn - and performing a rousing version of *Advance Australia Fair* at the end of the ceremony, our students also helped to entertain the elderly citizens and guests with a set of iconic Australian songs: *Home Among the Gumtrees*, *I Still Call Australia Home* and *I Am Australian*.

Attending a traditional ANZAC Day Service proved to be an enriching experience for the students, many of whom had never seen a mounting of the catafalque (four soldiers with their heads bowed and standing guard near the flags), heard a bugle play *The Last Post* or *Reveille*, witnessed a Wreath laying accompanied by a bagpiper or heard the traditional poem *In Flanders Field* or the special *Prayer of Remembrance*.

Many thanks to the parents who kindly accompanied the choir on this excursion from 9am to 12pm: Diana Randazzo, Daniela Zinni, Cecilia Ho and Alyse Stojanovski. The support of LSO, Ms Lidia Hristova, was also very much appreciated.

Well done to all Choir members. Be so proud of yourselves for the commitment you showed to rehearsing throughout Term 1 [and being prepared to give up your lunchtimes to do this]. Finally, congratulations on learning to sing so well in two-part harmony!

Ms Marg O'Leary
Music and Choir Teacher



CONGRATULATIONS!

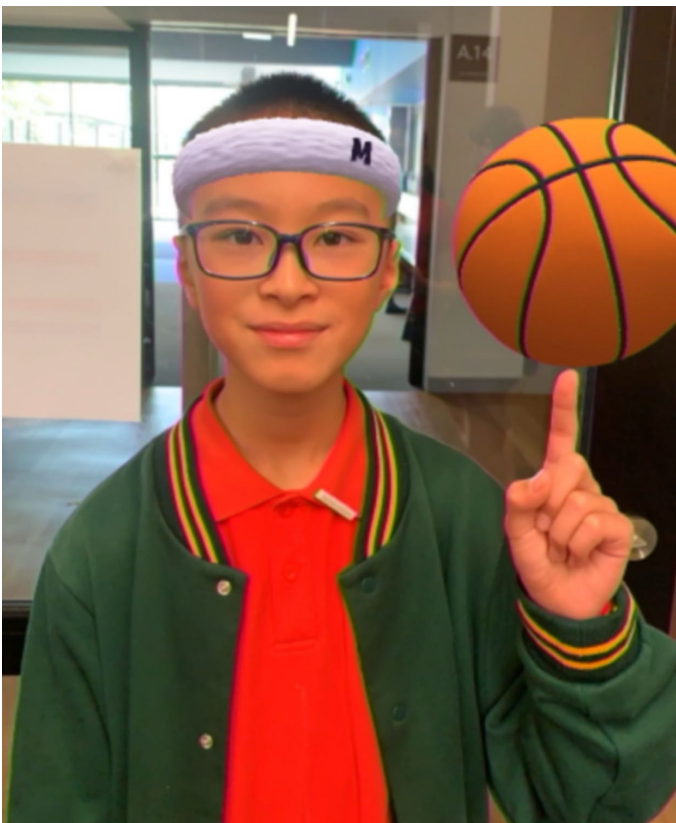
Last year, the Year 5 students participated in a fun and engaging maths game called NBA Maths Hoops. It was great fun with excellent learning so we decided to continue the game into 2024.



A Learn Fresh Program

However, this year I nominated our two Maths leaders, Charbel and Orion from Year 6, to represent St Damian's and Australia at the **GLOBAL CHAMPIONSHIP in New York, USA!** I am so ecstatic to announce that Orion was chosen and will be heading to New York with his lucky dad on an all expenses paid trip in June!!!!!!

Mrs Bruce—Maths Leader



Some photos from playing maths hoops at school and the Melbourne Championships that 6 students participated in last year.

My name is Orion and I'm in Class 6S. It is my honour to represent St. Damian's in the NBA Maths Hoops Global Championship in New York.



On the school holidays, Mrs Bruce called my mum in the morning and soon came over to my house to break the news to me. She gave me a 'puzzle' to solve. When I read the message on the final puzzle, it told me that I was going! Mrs Bruce was expecting an overjoyed reaction from me, but I'm not really the type of person who jumps around doing cartwheels. Instead I was very excited on the inside and my mum and Mrs Bruce jumped around screaming instead! Although I wasn't running around the house screaming in happiness, I was still excited that I had been accepted.

Thank you everyone! I am extremely grateful to have this opportunity to represent St Damian's in the Global Championships. I promise to try my very best in the competition.

I would like to thank Mrs Bruce for giving me the opportunity to participate and also sacrificing her time to support me, Mrs Piccolo for letting me borrow her jacket in the process of the video for submission, Ms Starr and Ms Richardson for encouraging me in the process, Lucas, Lori, Alex J and Jack for participating in my video application. I owe you all one! Last but not least, I would like to thank all my friends for supporting me, Ian, Aiden, Alex D, Declan and Charbel.

St Damian's Parent Association

Hello St Damians Parents and Friends,

The bookings link is now available for the Term 2 P&A fundraising event. Lunch at Rochford Wines.

Click on the try booking link on the attached flyer or below to secure your seat. There are only 57 seats available. Get in early so you don't miss out.

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

If you have any questions regarding this event please email us at sdbudoora.events@gmail.com



St. Damian's Parents Association presents

Lunch at Rochford Wines.

-Saturday 25th May 2024-

Itinerary

9:45am SHARP: Depart St Damian's (meeting point - basketball court)

10:40am: Arrive at Yarra Valley Chocolaterie & ice creamery. Purchase a hot beverage or some fine chocolate or simply sit and take in the beautiful surroundings, all at your own leisure.

11:40am: Depart the Chocolaterie

12:00pm: Arrive at Rochford Wines. We will enjoy a set 3 course experience of shared platters, including entrée, mains, sides and individual dessert. Also included is a set beverage menu of fine wines, soft drinks & juices. (Dietary requirements will be catered for please advise.)

4:00pm: Depart Rochford

4:40pm: Arrive back at St Damian's.

\$130.00 per adult.

Bookings Now Opened!!!

Please click on the link and proceed to securing your seat.

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

Yarra Valley Chocolaterie & Ice Creamery
Experience it

Rochford R

Maths Competitions at St Damian's Primary School 2024

This year, St Damian's is excited to offer the following Mathematical Competitions.

Date	Competition Name	Year Level	Cost
Tues 21 May	CAT Computational and Algorithmic Thinking Comp	5 & 6 only	\$8.50
Tues 18 June	OUCC Oxford University Computing Challenge	5 & 6 only	\$5.00
Tues 6 Aug	AMC Australian Maths Competition	3, 4, 5 & 6	\$8.50
	Double Bundle CAT & AMC	5 & 6 only	\$13.50
	Triple Bundle CAT, OUCC & AMC	5 & 6 only	\$16.50
5-9 Aug	Matific Online Comp	Whole School	Free (automatic entry)
27 Aug	ICAS	2, 3, 4, 5 & 6	More information TBA

The CAT, OUCC and AMC are all run by the Australian Maths Trust. Matific is a whole school online maths games competition and the ICAS is an external competition that we have hosted at the school for the last 3 years. All competitions are completely voluntary and are run online during school hours.

If you wish for your child to participate in either the CAT, OUCC or AMC, please keep an eye out for a notice on Compass. Please see the bundle deals if your child wishes to participate in more than one competition. **(This year, payment will be made ONLINE only through COMPASS).**

A separate notice will be sent about ICAS as ICAS takes payment through their portal.

To find out more about the competitions, see below or please take a look at <https://www.amt.edu.au/competitions>

CAT	A 60 minute problem-solving competition for Years 5 to 12, designed to encourage curiosity and multiple modes of thinking.
OUCC	A 60 minute online programming competition to develop computational thinking skills for Years 5 to 12. Second round is invitational.
AMC	A 60 to 75 minute maths competition for Years 3 to 12. Australia's longest running, largest and most well known maths competition.

Please register your child's interest and make payment by Friday May 3rd through COMPASS



Whooping Cough Notification—Important Information

What is the issue?

The South East Public Health Unit (SEPHU) has been notified of whooping cough (pertussis) outbreaks in several schools in its catchment. Notification data indicates that there has been an increase in cases notified to the Department of Health, with the majority of cases within the 10-to-14-year age group.

What is whooping cough (pertussis)?

Whooping cough is a very contagious respiratory infection caused by the bacterium *Bordetella Pertussis*. The major symptom of whooping cough is the characteristic cough which is often followed by a 'whooping' sound (which is not always obvious) when breathing in. Cold like symptoms often precede the cough, and vomiting after coughing is common. The bacterium is spread by airborne droplets from the upper respiratory tract (when the infected person coughs or sneezes). A person is infectious for the first 21 days of their cough or until they have completed an appropriate course of antibiotics. However, the cough may persist for up to 3 months, despite antibiotic treatment.

Who is most at risk?

Babies under 12 months of age are most at risk and the infection can potentially be life-threatening for infants aged 6 months and under. Household contacts and carers such as parents and siblings are often the source of infection in infants.

Is whooping cough preventable?

Whooping cough is a vaccine-preventable disease and the vaccine is provided at no cost under the National Immunisation Program (NIP). Under the NIP, vaccination is recommended for children at 2,4,6, and 18 months and 4 years of age. Adolescents in Year 7 (or age equivalent) are also eligible for a booster.

Adults who have not had a dose in the last 10 years are recommended to have boosters. Routine boosters are recommended for certain adult cohorts and includes women who are pregnant or breastfeeding, healthcare workers, earlier childhood educators and carer and people in close contact with infants.

Pertussis-containing vaccines protect against severe and typical pertussis. Immunity after receiving a pertussis-containing vaccine does wane over time. It is important for individuals to keep up to date with their vaccinations, including boosters.

What should schools do if there are reported cases of whooping cough among students and staff?

As per the Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2019, Schedule 7, the minimum period of exclusion from primary schools and children's services for children diagnosed with whooping cough is 21 days after the onset of cough or until they have completed 5 days of a course of antibiotic treatment. Contacts aged less than 7 years in the same classroom as the case who have not received three doses of pertussis vaccine should be excluded for 14 days after the last exposure to the infectious case, or until they have taken 5 days of a course of effective antibiotic treatment

Communication to the wider school community is beneficial for alerting them of cases and to present to their local health service for appropriate testing and treatment if they develop symptoms.

Schools may continue to notify SEPHU of cases and outbreaks at sephu.trace@monashhealth.org, or if assistance is required with managing the outbreak.