



St. Damian's Newsletter

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Thursday June 13th, 2024

No. 14. 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.

Dear Parents/Guardians & Carers

I hope everyone had a great long weekend and found time to both relax and enjoy the lovely sunshine last Monday. It has certainly been cold and wet since then and we know that we are very much in the depths of Winter now.

This weekend, the Year 6 Confirmation Candidates will be presented to the Parish Community at each of the Masses celebrated on Saturday evening or Sunday morning. We ask that you keep these young people in your prayers as they continue their preparations for the reception of this Sacrament which concludes the three Sacraments of Initiation. Bishop Curtin will visit the Candidates next Tuesday and spend some time with them during their Reflection Day which is a time for them to spend together getting themselves ready to receive Confirmation in July.

Reports and Learning Conversations

It is almost that time of year again when we report to families on how the students have progressed in their learning. Teachers have been very busy assessing and writing reports. Parents will receive their child's report online on Friday 21st June.

Please note that the Learning Conversations are on **Monday 24th June from 8.30am – 5.30pm**. As usual this will be a **Pupil Free Day** students are not required at school on this day. Please book online for the Learning Conversations.

School Advisory Council

There is a meeting of the SAC this coming Tuesday evening, 18th June at 7.30pm in the school. Please note that should anyone wish to bring something up for discussion at the meeting, it must be in writing, signed and addressed to the Council. The SAC is a formal group and we need to adhere to the MACS guidelines. Thank you for understanding.

End of Term Two

Term Two will conclude on **Friday 28th June at 1.30pm**. Students will be dismissed at this time to allow staff to finish at the normal gazetted time and not accrue Time In Lieu. School will resume on Monday 15th July at 8.40am.

Staff News

We welcome Mrs Annette Hora to our staff as the Year 1M teacher for the remainder of the year replacing Mrs Marotta who is taking personal leave.

Prayer

Dear Lord,

Open the heart and minds of our Candidates as they prepare for Confirmation.
Help them to know that you are confirming all the goodness that they are and all the goodness that they will become.
Increase their desire to know and follow Jesus as his disciples with a grateful and courageous heart.

Amen.

Have a great week everyone, Keep warm.

Rosanna

Faith News

Sacrament of Confirmation Parish Presentation Masses

Please choose whichever Mass time suits your family best: this 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

Next Tuesday 18th June, our Year Six Students will be participating in a Sacrament of Confirmation Reflection Day. All Year Six Students are invited to wear casual clothes on this day. Most Rev. Bishop Terence R. Curtin will also be visiting the Students on this day. As in previous years, he will challenge them to reflect on the world around them and the types of choices they will be called to make as they journey through life.

Please continue to pray for our Sacrament of Confirmation Candidates and their Families as they prepare to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation on Saturday 20th July at 2pm. A photographer has been booked so if your family wishes to order ceremony photographs, please fill in the order form which was sent out by Strike-a-Pose Photography and return to the School by this Friday 14th June.

Sacrament of Confirmation Parent / Child Evening

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

St. Vincent de Paul Annual Winter Appeal

Thank you for your generosity in supporting the Vinnies Winter Appeal. We will finish collecting donations on Friday 14th June.

Caritas Australia's Papua New Guinea Landslide Disaster

Remote communities in Papua New Guinea have been devastated by a catastrophic landslide that struck at 3am on 24th May. The timing of the landslide meant most people were sleeping at the time of the disaster, with little time to escape. Thousands are feared dead. Although the initial estimate from the United Nations was that at least 670 people may have lost their lives, this number could climb dramatically from recent reports. The total population of the entire affected ward is nearly 4,000 people, but this number could be higher due to an increased number of displaced people who have been living in the area in recent times. The ongoing search and rescue operations are facing challenges due to the hazardous terrain and the continuous threat of landslides. As rescue efforts continue, those who have lost their homes urgently need our support now, and in the weeks and months ahead. Your valuable donations can be made online at www.caritas.org.au/png or phone 1800 024 413. Thank you for your generosity.

A Prayer to the Creator

*Lord, Father of our human family,
you created all human beings equal in dignity:
pour forth into our hearts a fraternal spirit
and inspire in us a dream of
renewed encounter,
dialogue, justice and peace.
Move us to create healthier societies
and a more dignified world,
a world without hunger, poverty,
violence and war.
May our hearts be open
to all the peoples and nations of the earth.
May we recognise the goodness and beauty
that you have sown in each of us,
and thus forge bonds of unity,
common projects,
and shared dreams. Amen.*

Pope Francis, *Fratelli Tutti*, Encyclical Letter, 3rd October 2020.

Mary-Ann Wright
Religious Education Leader

St Martin of Tours Primary School
Wednesday 21 August 2024 7-8.30pm



WANT TO BE A BETTER DAD?

There is a manual for almost everything these days, except for the most crucial and influential role most men play: **Fatherhood!**

Fathers matter as one of the key drivers of success and happiness in children. Research shows that children perform better in every social indicator if they have an involved, nurturing, and loving father. Fathering in today's world requires men to embrace a more involved and proactive approach to parenting - beyond the traditional roles of "provide, protect, and punish".

With over 20 years experience in engaging with men across the country, menALIVE's RAISING FATHERS evenings bring valuable insights and practical advice on modern fathering in a powerful and transformative evening. The evening is based on the recent book of the same name, co-authored by menALIVE co-founder Robert Falzon together with twelve other men, of varying backgrounds and ages, who share their collective and diverse lived experiences of fathering in today's world. Robert Falzon has presented RAISING FATHERS evenings across Australia together with one of his co-authors.

Event Highlights:

- **Practical Advice for Modern Fatherhood:** Unpack actionable insights for thriving in today's fatherhood landscape.
- **Powerful Stories:** Engage with impactful and informative testimonies and stories of other fathers that resonate deeply with the challenges and joys of modern-day fatherhood.
- **Real Discussions:** Participate in candid conversations with other fathers and community leaders navigating the frontiers of contemporary fatherhood.
- **Inclusive Invitation:** The event welcomes men and their partners from all backgrounds. Come and be part of this transformative experience.

A menALIVE RAISING FATHERS evening has the potential to transform a father's approach to parenting. This has a powerful impact on the lives of the entire family and sets the children on a path to becoming successful, well-balanced, caring, engaged, and productive members of the community.

Attending a RAISING FATHERS event is **an investment in the lives of your children's future.**

Bookings can be made via <https://www.trybooking.com/CSJAR> or via scanning QR code.

