



St. Damian's Newsletter

5 Settlement Rd, Bundoora 3083

Ph: 9467 8566

Email: info@sdbundoora.catholic.edu.au

Thursday June 20th, 2024

No. 15. 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

Well, winter is definitely here. We have experienced some very chilly mornings followed by cold but sunny days. Melbourne's winter has absolutely descended and is making itself felt. I hope everyone manages to keep warm as we push through these frosty days.

Next week is our final week for the term. The first half of the year has flown past once again with so many events, activities and focused learning keeping us busy. This Monday 24th of June is the Learning Conversations. I hope everyone has managed to book in a time to speak with their child's teacher. Please look out for your child's report which will be available to you online this Friday 21st June.

Monday 24th June is a Pupil Free Day to accommodate the Learning Conversations, students are not required at school on this day. However, students should, where possible, be attending the Learning Conversation with their teacher.

Sacraments

On Tuesday the Bishop visited the Year 6 students to chat with them about their preparation to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. The Bishop was most impressed with the students and their understanding of the meaning of the Sacrament. He then stayed and spent some time with staff during Morning Tea. We will see the Bishop again on Saturday 20th July at 2.00pm when the Confirmation Candidates will be Confirmed. This Thursday evening, there is a Parent/Child evening at 7.00pm which is also part of the preparation for Confirmation. Please keep the Year 6 students in your prayers during this special time.

Addressing Conflict Situations at School

We have experienced some instances this year where parents have been approached by other parents either by text or face to face to resolve issues arising between students at school. Conflict between students is a normal part of their development and to be expected as children learn how to manage themselves and others when in conflict. When this occurs, the response required to support the children should be measured and carefully considered to maintain the dignity of each individual. In instances where we, as a school, are required to deal with conflict amongst students we look at both sides of the situation and help the students to resolve their differences in a respectful manner.

I understand that ongoing conflict situations can be frustrating and some parents feel that the only solution is to then contact other parents. However, this is an inappropriate response for several reasons. It's generally more respectful and effective to communicate directly with the school who will manage the situation according to our behaviour management policy. Confronting or texting another parent could strain relationships between families which then transfers into the school environment. This may unnecessarily create tension or more conflict between the students. Therefore, whilst it's important to address conflicts involving your child, it's generally best to do so through open communication with your child and appropriate adults such as teachers or the school, who can mediate and facilitate resolution in a fair and supportive manner.

This approach helps maintain respect, understanding, and positive relationships amongst all parties involved. Similarly, addressing conflicts involving children can be delicate and challenging. It is most inappropriate to approach other people's children directly when conflicts arise involving your own child. Approaching another child directly about a conflict can blur boundaries and potentially cause confusion or discomfort for both children. It is important to remember that children may not always accurately relay what happened during a conflict. Approaching another child without knowing the full context can lead to misunderstandings or misinterpretations of the situation. Confronting another child can be intimidating or upsetting for them, especially if they feel singled out or blamed for the conflict. It's important to consider the emotional well-being of all children involved. It's also important to remember that approaching another child could be seen as overstepping appropriate boundaries and does not align with our school's approach to conflict resolution as well as the school's Child Safety Policy. At school, the teachers are better equipped to facilitate discussions and mediate conflicts between children. They know the children and can provide guidance to support a fair and constructive resolution. Here at St Damian's our aim is to build an environment where all the students feel safe and where trust exists between families and children. By following and respecting our school's values and vision as well as adhering to our policies, everyone helps to foster an environment where trust and respect can be maintained. It is important to remember that by modelling respectful and appropriate conflict resolution behaviours, you teach your child valuable skills in handling disputes in a constructive manner rather than resorting to direct confrontation.

Our school's and MACS Parent/Guardian/Carer Code of Conduct is attached to this newsletter. I encourage all our families to re-familiarise themselves with it to avoid any future situations where families or students feel embarrassed or harassed by inappropriate handling of situations. In this way, we work together to maintain the dignity and wellbeing of everyone in our school community.

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. As is usual, we invite the students to attend school dressed in casual clothes wearing appropriate footwear. We ask for a gold coin donation please.

Prayer

We await your peace O Lord, a new peace – not the old peace, not a return to comfort and selfish desires, but Your peace – which shall bring us into the life of heaven, where we find Jesus Christ, the Living One, our Shepherd and Leader. Amen

Have a great week everyone, Keep warm, Rosanna.

Faith News

Sacrament of Confirmation Parent / Child Evening

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

Sacrament of Confirmation

Please pray for our Year Six Students and their Families as they prepare to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation on Saturday 20th July at 2pm. In preparation for this special occasion, the Year Six Students will be exploring the gifts and fruits of the Spirit and reflecting on why we are called to renew our baptismal vows at Confirmation. As with all investigations into our faith, the Students have been exploring Scripture stories and Church teachings. The Students have also been researching a particular Saint whom they aspire to live like. We encourage Students and Parents to discuss the significance of the chosen Saint together.

Solemnity of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist – Monday 24th June

Saint John was a model of selflessness and humility as he pointed away from himself to Jesus who was greater: *Behold, one is coming after me; I am not worthy to unfasten the sandals of his feet* (Acts 13:25). Saint John was the forerunner for Christ and he paved the way for His coming. He suffered imprisonment and hardship as a witness to Christ and gave his life for Him. His persecutors did not demand that Saint John deny Christ. Rather, they wanted him to keep silent about the Truth. Ultimately, John died for Christ and thus, died for the Truth. Just as Saint John spoke with strength and conviction, God calls us to reach out to others, empowered and committed. We are discouraged from discriminating against those we feel may not be worthy of our time and efforts. We, like Saint John, are called to embrace all of God's people with courage and passion. We are called to always speak the Truth, not remain silent, even amidst persecution and adversity.

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.

World Refugee Day 2024 – Thursday 20th June—Pope Francis' Prayer for Immigrants

Merciful God, we pray to you for all the men, women and children who have died after leaving their homelands in search of a better life.

Though many of their graves bear no name, to you each one is known, loved and cherished.

May we never forget them, but honour their sacrifice with deeds more than words. We entrust to you all those who have made this journey, enduring fear, uncertainty and humiliation, in order to reach a place of safety and hope.

Just as you never abandoned your Son as he was brought to a safe place by Mary and Joseph, so now be close to these, your sons and daughters, through our tenderness and protection.

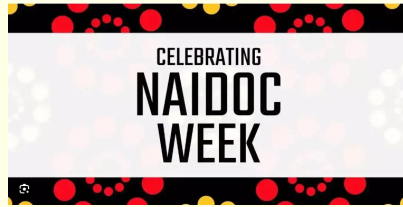
In caring for them may we seek a world where none are forced to leave their home and where all can live in freedom, dignity and peace.

Merciful God and Father of all, wake us from the slumber of indifference, open our eyes to their suffering, and free us from the insensitivity born of worldly comfort and self-centeredness.

Inspire us, as nations, communities and individuals, to see that those who come to our shores are our brothers and sisters.

May we share with them the blessings we have received from your hand, and recognise that together, as one human family, we are all migrants, journeying in hope to you, our true home, where every tear will be wiped away, where we will be at peace and safe in your embrace.

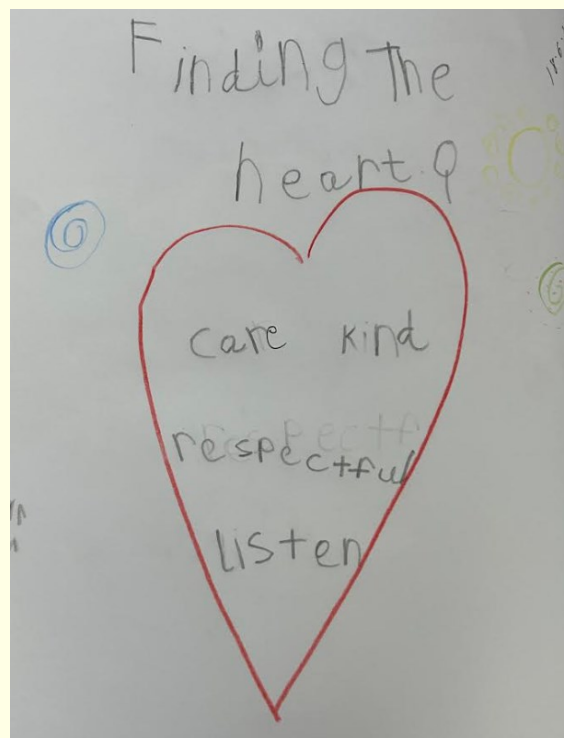
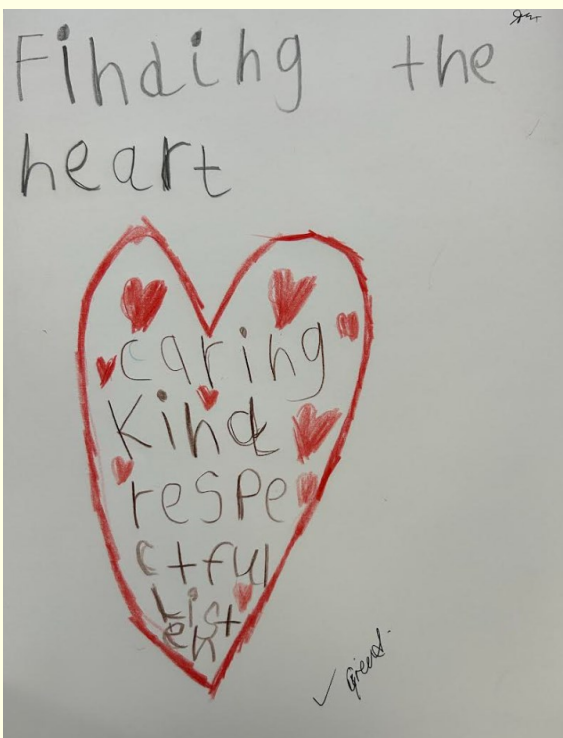
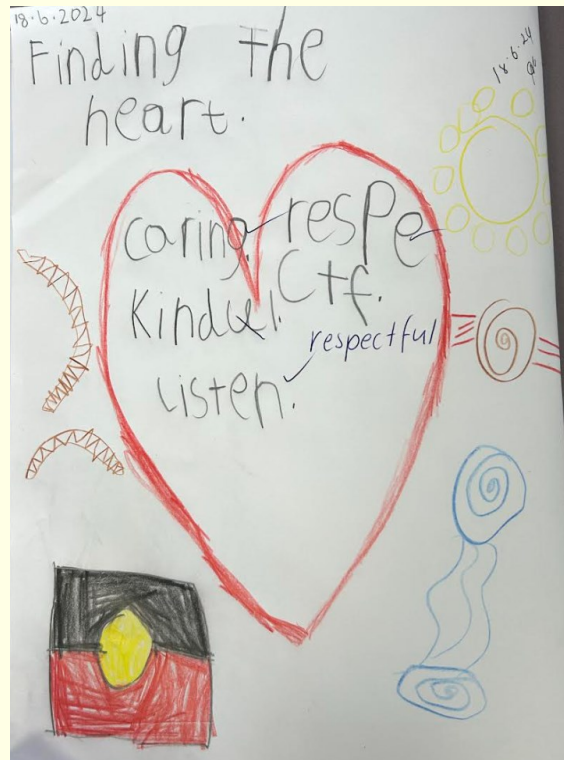
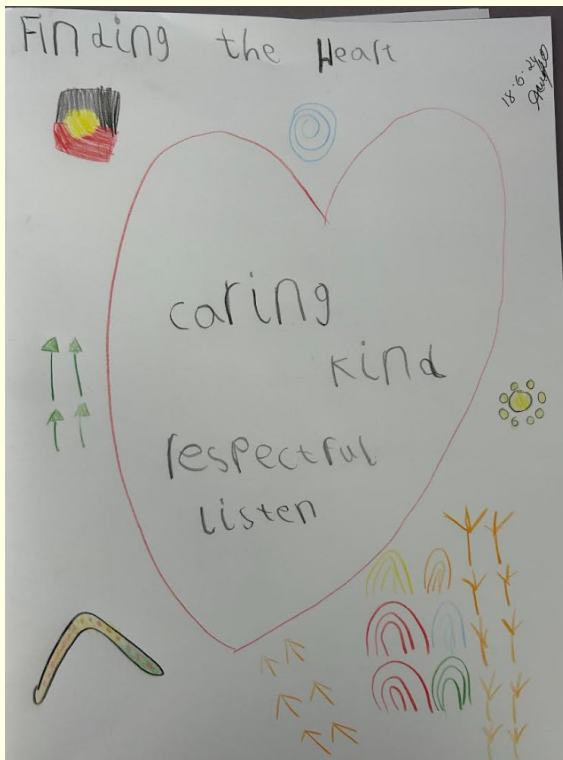
Mary-Ann Wright—Religious Education Leader



NAIDOC Week (National Aboriginal and Islanders Day Observance Committee) occurs annually in July, and celebrates the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. In preparation for AIDOC week many classes participated in an online story telling session by an Indigenous Author named Thomas Mayo. He read the students a story, 'Finding Our Heart' and discussed his life as an author and the importance of his Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander heritage.

Students in Prep W thoroughly enjoyed this experience and participated in a follow up activity to demonstrate their learning after listening to the story. Please find some examples of their wonderful work.

Julie Canatelli—FIRE Carrier Leader



NCCD - PSG Meetings

We extend our sincere gratitude to all the parents who attended the recent PSG meetings. These sessions allowed us to review the current goals and student progress, as well as to discuss new objectives, supports, and interventions for the upcoming term.

We are pleased to announce the implementation of several new support and intervention programs, which have already received positive feedback from families.

I would like to personally thank our Learning Support Officers and Teachers for their hard work and dedication to our students.

Tim Holland
Learning Diversity Leader



Prep C	Florence Keeler	For always being an active participant during class discussions.
Prep M	Aleks Silva	For working cooperatively and giving all learning tasks a go.
Prep W	Jayson Qian	For doing his best to sound out words in his spelling tasks.
1M	Charlotte Goh	For working hard in class to learn her sounds.
1S	Alex Maroge	For being persistent in his learning by taking on the challenges with a positive mindset.
2C	Kayla Zhang	For sharing her learning and helping others.
2Y	Samuel King	For listening to and using teacher feedback to improve his recount writing.
3B	Sara Khatri	For doing her best and using a range of strategies when reading challenging texts.
3M	Alexander Grandikis	For consistently following our school expectations.
3SR	Lianna Bansal	For embracing new learning and being willing to challenge herself.
4B	Aria Calleja	For consistently producing high quality work.
4C	Tiffany Wang	For being an enthusiastic learner and working hard in all areas of the curriculum.
5AT	Hanna Sethi	For her diligent work ethics and always being respectful to her peers.
5M	Kaini Liu	For writing an entertaining narrative that showcased her ability to use 'personification'.
5R	Johnny Xie	For your improved contributions to discussion and dedication to learning.
6GC	Jonathan Jiang	For consistently showing excellent leadership skills.
6S	Gabri Gioffre	For the wonderful work habits you've built this term.



St Damian's Parents Association Fundraising Event

Dress in your PJs for the day.



Thursday 25th July 2024

Gold Coin Donation

We will be fundraising for ASTHMA AUSTRALIA as this is an organisation that is relevant for our school communities' children.





Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools

Parent/Guardian/Carer Code of Conduct



St Damian's is a school which operates with the consent of the Catholic Archbishop of Melbourne and is owned, operated and governed by Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools Ltd (MACS). This Code of Code is created with reference to St Damian's Enrolment Policy and St Damian's Enrolment Agreement. Parents/Guardians/Carers are expected to read, sign, and comply with the Code of Conduct for the student's enrolment to be accepted.

Purpose

St Damian's is committed to ensuring a respectful learning environment that is safe, positive, and supportive for all students, staff and visitors of the school.

It is the intention of St Damian's to provide clear guidelines to all parents and visitors regarding the conduct expected of them while in a school environment, engaging in school-related activities or representing the school. Parents/guardians/carers and visitors are expected to uphold the school's core values at all times.

Scope

This Code of Conduct applies to all St Damian's parents, guardians, carers and visitors to the school and school related places. The application of this code is not limited to the school site and school hours. It extends to all school-related activities and events (including, but not limited to: school fetes, camps or sporting events, online activity, etc.) and when visiting or representing the school.

Principles

This Code of Conduct is based on the following principles that everyone at St Damian's:

- has the right to be safe
- has the right to be treated with respect and be valued even in disagreement
- has the right to participate within a secure environment without interference, intimidation, harassment, bullying, discrimination or any harmful, threatening or abusive behaviour
- is encouraged to be respectful, polite, courteous and considerate of others
- has the right to be supported and challenged as ongoing learners.

Expected conduct and bearing of all parents / guardians / carers

It is expected that every parent/guardian/carers will:

- uphold the school's core beliefs and values
- behave in a manner that does not endanger the health, safety and wellbeing of themselves or others
- abide by all health and safety rules and procedures operating within the school and other locations at which they may visit while representing the school
- ensure that their actions do not bring the school into disrepute
- respect school staff and accept their authority and direction within the exercise of their duties at the school
- observe all school rules as required
- strictly adhere to the school's policies and procedures as required
- behave with respect, courtesy, and consideration for others

- refrain from all forms of bullying and harassment
- refrain from any form of verbal insult or abuse and from any form of physical abuse or intimidation
- refrain from activities, conduct or communication that would reasonably be seen to undermine the reputation of the school, employees or students of the school, including activities on social media
- respect school property and the property of staff, contractors, volunteers and other students
- not be intoxicated by alcohol or under the influence of illicit drugs or other substances harmful to health while visiting the school site, attending school functions or engaging in school-based activities
- respect school staff and accept their authority and direction within the exercise of their duties at the school
- use the school's Complaints Handling Policy to seek resolution for any problems that arise and accept the school's procedures for handling matters of complaint.

Unacceptable conduct

Unacceptable conduct includes, but is not limited to:

- touching, handling, pushing or otherwise physically or sexually engaging with students, children or others in a manner which is not appropriate and may endanger the health, safety and wellbeing of that person
- any form of physical or verbal violence including fighting, assault or threats of violence or behaviour that is otherwise harmful, threatening or abusive
- approaching a child that is not your own with a view to disciplining that child for their behaviour. Such matters are only to be dealt with by school staff
- approaching other school parents to resolve issues arising between students at school. Such matters should be referred to school staff
- any form of cyber bullying or cyber abuse that is directed towards the school, staff members, students or parents or any member connected to the school
- any form of threatening language, gestures or conduct
- language or conduct which is harmful, threatening, abusive or likely to offend, harass, bully or unfairly discriminate against any student, employee, contractor, volunteer or other
- corresponding or communicating with school staff in a manner which is unreasonable (including for example, via email or app's) in terms of the frequency or volume of communications, or the nature or tone of such communications
- theft, fraud or misuse of school resources
- the use of inappropriate or profane words or gestures and images
- visiting school, attending social, sporting or other functions while intoxicated by alcohol or under the influence of illicit drugs or other substances harmful to health
- smoking on the school premises or within the immediate environs of the school
- claiming to represent the school in any matter without explicit permission from the school principal to do so.

Breach of the code of conduct

Parents/guardians/carers are, as a condition of enrolment, expected to read, sign, and comply with the [insert school name] Enrolment Agreement, St Damian's Parent/Guardian/Carer Code of Conduct (**Code of Conduct**), and relevant school policies.

Parents/guardians/carers who breach this Code of Conduct or Enrolment Agreement will be contacted by the principal. Appropriate action, which may include limiting and reducing access to school grounds, attending school functions or school-based activities or, setting mandatory parameters around methods and timing of communication, or imposing an Immediate or Ongoing School Community Safety Order is at the discretion of the principal and other authorised persons.

Should any parent/guardian/carer:

- (a) repeatedly breach the terms of the Agreement, Code of Conduct, and/or relevant school policies (after the parent/guardian/carer or the family collectively, has been warned that any further breach may result in a termination of enrolment); or
- (b) engage in conduct on a single occasion which constitutes a serious breach of the Code of Conduct and/or relevant school policies (involving for example, conduct which poses a serious risk to staff or student health and safety), the circumstances may result in a termination of their child's enrolment.
- (c) A termination of enrolment may also occur where any parent/guardian/carer has engaged in conduct on a single occasion which constitutes a serious breach of the Parent / Guardian / Carer Code of Conduct and/or relevant school policies (involving for example, conduct which poses a serious risk to staff or student health and safety.) In these circumstances, it will not be necessary for a warning to be given before consideration is given to termination of enrolment.

A decision to withdraw or terminate the enrolment of a student may only be made by the Director, Learning and Regional Services upon consideration of the following:

- the view of the principal of the school
- an objective assessment of all presenting circumstances, including the nature and gravity of the conduct and whether any previous warnings have been provided to the parent/guardian/carer
- the principles of procedural fairness are followed in the decision-making process, including an opportunity for the student and their family/guardians/carers to be heard, all relevant information considered.

Before any final decision as to termination of enrolment is made, the student's family will be provided with an opportunity to comment on and/or provide any relevant information for consideration in this regard.

In accordance with applicable legislation and the school's Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy, the police and/or 'Families and Children's Services' within the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH), Commission for Children and Young People (CCYP), and/or any other relevant bodies will be informed of any unlawful breaches of this code.

Parent / guardian / carer code of conduct

Parent 1/Guardian 1/ Carer 1 name	
Parent 1/Guardian 1/ Carer 1 signature	
Date	
Parent 2/ Guardian 2/ Carer 2 name	
Parent 2/Guardian 2/ Carer 2 signature	
Date	

Policy information table

Responsible director	Director, Learning and Regional Services
Policy owner	General Manager, Learning Diversity
Approving authority	Executive Director
Assigned board committee	Education Strategy and Policy