



St. Damian's Newsletter

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Thursday June 6th, 2024

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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

Please keep our Year 2 students in your prayers as they receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time tonight. This important occasion is another step along the children's faith journey as they come to know God's boundless love and mercy and grow closer to a forgiving Lord.

Last Friday morning our student FIRE Carrier leaders accompanied by Mrs Cannatelli and Ms Beeby attended the Whittlesea Council for the Sorry Day ceremony. The students heard the many stories of different indigenous people, listened to different speakers give their perspectives of how we can support Reconciliation and also listened to one of the elders speak of their own personal experiences. As a FIRE Carrier school, our focus is to ensure that the mistakes and wrongs of the past are never committed again and that we acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait people as the traditional owners of these lands in a true spirit of Reconciliation. I am certain that our FIRE Carrier students felt very privileged to be part of such an important day.

Prep 2025

We are in the process of completing interviews for our new Prep 2025 students and families. It is an absolute pleasure to meet each little person and their parents and to get to know them a little better. Through these interviews we also learn more about the individual students and their needs, so they are an important part of the enrolment process. If any current family would also like an interview time to discuss their child's needs please let the office know so an appointment can be made. Again, a gentle reminder to any families who have a child starting Prep next year and have not yet lodged an enrolment form to please do so asap. If you know of anyone looking for a Prep placement for their child for next year please let them know of our school. Thank you for your support.

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. We will hold the Learning Conversations on **Monday 24th June from 8.30am – 5.00pm**. 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.

Public Holiday

Please remember that Monday 10th June is the King's Birthday public holiday. School is closed on this day. I trust everyone will enjoy the long weekend and take the opportunity to de-stress and relax.

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

Please remember Mrs Martini (one of our LSO's) and her family in your prayers as they mourn the loss of her father-in-law. May God give him eternal peace and the family consolation in knowing that he is now in eternal rest.

Prayer – Given the unrest in the world we pray:

*Lord, come to our aid! Grant us peace,
teach us peace; guide our steps in the way of peace.
Open our eyes and our hearts, and give us the courage to say: "Never again war!"; "With war everything is lost".
Instill in our hearts the courage to take concrete steps to achieve peace.
Amen*

Have a great week everyone, Keep warm

Rosanna

Faith News

Sacrament of Reconciliation

We pray for our Students who will participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation this evening. We thank Father Dong Tran for celebrating with us. Thank you, also, to our Families who prepared with their children, and to our Year Two Teachers, Mrs Bozinovski, Mrs Ciurleo, Mrs Karayannis and Ms Young who worked with the Students throughout the term.

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 Parent/Child Evening

We look 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 and will be held in the Hall.

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. 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 **Friday 14th June**.

Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus – Friday 7th June

In 1899, Pope Leo XIII consecrated the whole world to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

The meaning of this devotion is clearly expressed in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 478: *The Sacred Heart of Jesus is quite rightly considered the chief sign and symbol of that love with which the divine Redeemer continually loves the eternal Father and all human beings without exception.*

The heart of Jesus was pierced for our sake. He willingly went to the cross and laid down His life as the atoning sacrifice for our sins. If we want to understand the depth and breadth of God's love for each of us, then we can look upon the heart that was pierced for us all. Jesus went to the cross to redeem us from sin and death. May we be grateful that God is revealed to us through boundless mercy and infinite love. As we commemorate the Sacred Heart of Jesus, may we renew our love for Jesus, our Lord and God. In turn, may our devotion prompt us to show love and mercy to all others.

St. Vincent de Paul Annual Winter Appeal

Winter is upon us. Therefore, the time has come for our School to once again, support the *St. Vincent de Paul Annual Winter Appeal*. With the rising costs of gas and electricity, many people are looking for alternative ways to stay warm in the winter months. In response to this need, our Social Justice Leaders are running a *Warm Up Winter Drive* in aid of Vinnies. Donations of items such as socks, beanies, hats, scarves, gloves etc. would be most sincerely appreciated. Please send these donations to your child's classroom by **Friday 14th June**. Your donated items will be distributed to families in need. St. Damian's has a strong tradition of caring for those in need.

Prayer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

*O most holy heart of Jesus,
fountain of every blessing,
I adore you, I love you, and
with lively sorrow for my sins,
I offer you this poor heart of mine.
Make me humble, patient, pure
and wholly obedient to your will.
Grant, good Jesus,
that I may live in you and for you.
Protect me in the midst of danger.
Comfort me in my afflictions.
Give me health of body,
assistance in my temporal needs,
your blessing on all that I do,
and the grace of a holy death.
Amen.*

Mary-Ann Wright
Religious Education Leader