



Melbourne Archdiocese  
Catholic Schools



# St. Damian's Newsletter

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Thursday September 12th 2024

## *A Note From the Principal*

### **Dear Parents/Guardians & Carers**

Tonight we are holding the final of the camp experiences with the Preps and Year 1 and 2 students. The students are very excited and are looking forward to enjoying their camp experience tonight. The teachers have organized some fun activities for the students to participate in and enjoy. Our camp experience program is designed to support the students in their Social Emotional Learning as well as develop their social skills within a framework that is structured, fun and exciting.

Next week is our final week for Term 3. It is very hard to believe that we have already completed three quarters of the school year. It has absolutely flown. It has been a year of many changes which have been embraced by teachers and students alike. What a wonderful year we have had so far with so many rich learning opportunities. Our school data is showing that students are showing fantastic progress. Well done everyone.

We are looking forward to next week's events. Lots of things happening including the St Damian's Feast/Footy Day on Thursday. I hope that everyone has ordered their sausages! We are finishing up with a wonderful celebration on Friday as we mark the Official Blessing and Opening of our new school facilities. I hope to see as many of you as possible to help us celebrate this event.

### **2025 Orientation Session**

Today we held the third orientation session for our 2025 incoming Preps. This session was run by Mrs Mary-Ann Wright, our Religious Education Leader who outlined how we teach Religious Education in our school. The next orientation session will be in Term 4, 22nd October.

### **Planning for 2025**

Could any families who are not returning to St Damian's school next year please let us know as soon as possible so that we can begin to plan for next year. Families may send an email to either myself at [principal@sdbundoora.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@sdbundoora.catholic.edu.au) or to the office at [info@sdbundoora.catholic.edu.au](mailto:info@sdbundoora.catholic.edu.au). It is important to have this information as we begin to consider classes and teachers for the following year. Thank you for your understanding.

### **MACSSIS Surveys**

Thank you to all the families who have already completed the Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools School Improvement Survey (MACSSIS). We encourage all families to complete the survey as we value your input and your feedback about our school. These surveys are designed to help us understand what is working well in our school and also where there are opportunities for improvement. The survey addresses areas such as, School climate, Student safety, Family engagement, Communication and Catholic Identity. The survey can be completed in many languages. There is only one week left as the survey period ends on Friday 20 September.

### **School Advisory Council**

The next meeting of the SAC will be held on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm in the school.

### **Last Day of Term 3**

Students will finish school on **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September at 1.30pm**. All students will attend school in full school uniform – no sports uniform please – as this day is also our Official Blessing and Opening of the new facilities. School will resume for Term 4 on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October at 8.40am.

### **Prayer**

*Saint Damian, you gave your life for the love of God,  
and always cared for your fellow man.  
You taught us to love God above all things, and to love others as ourselves,  
professing always and without fear,  
your love of Jesus and God.*

*Have a great week everyone.*

*Rosanna*



St Damian's Primary School invites

## **Our School families**

to the Blessing and the Official Opening of

## **The Refurbished Facilities**

by His Grace, Most Reverend Peter A Comensoli  
Archbishop of Melbourne

&

The Hon. Colin Brooks MP  
Member for Bundoora

**Friday 20 September 2024**

Ceremony will commence at 10.00 am

You are kindly asked to be seated by 9:45 am

Please bring a small plate to share following the ceremony and leave in  
the office prior to the ceremony

St Damian's Primary School  
5 Settlement Rd Bundoora

# Faith News

We will be celebrating the Feast of St Damian with a Whole School Mass next **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September at 9:15am**. Everyone is welcome to join in the Liturgical Celebration.

## **Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows – Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September**

Scripture references to Mary's sorrows are located in Luke 2:35 and John 19:26 – 27. Luke's passage narrates Simeon's prediction about a sword piercing Mary's soul and John's passage relates Jesus' words from the cross to Mary and to the beloved disciple.

Early Church writers interpret the sword as Mary's sorrows, especially as she saw Jesus die on the cross. Therefore, the two passages are brought together as prediction and fulfilment. Saint Ambrose sees Mary as a sorrowful yet powerful figure at the cross. Mary stood fearlessly at the cross while others fled. She looked on her Son's wounds with pity, but saw in them the salvation of the world. As Jesus hung on the cross, Mary did not fear to be killed, but offered herself to her persecutors.

### **Reflection**

John's account of Jesus' death is highly symbolic. When Jesus gives the beloved disciple to Mary, we are invited to appreciate Mary's important role within the Church and Catholic Tradition. We believe that Mary symbolises the Church and that John represents all believers. As Mary mothered Jesus, she is now mother to all His followers. Furthermore, as Jesus died, He handed over His Spirit. Mary and the Spirit unite in creating new children of God and are reflected in Luke's account of Jesus' conception. Christians can trust that they will continue to experience the caring presence of Mary and Jesus' Spirit throughout their lives and throughout history.

### **Prayer to Our Lady of Sorrows**

***Our Mother of Sorrows,  
With strength from above you stood by the cross,  
sharing in the sufferings of Jesus,  
and with tender care you bore him in your arms,  
mourning and weeping.  
We praise you for your faith, which accepted the life  
God planned for you.  
We praise you for your hope,  
which trusted that God would do great things in you.  
We praise you for your love in bearing with  
Jesus the sorrows of his passion.  
Holy Mary, may we follow your example, and stand by  
all your children who need comfort and love.  
Mother of God, stand by us in our trials and  
care for us in our many needs.  
Pray for us now and at the hour of our death.  
Amen.***

**Mary-Ann Wright**  
Religious Education Leader

# SECOND HAND UNIFORM SHOP

The Secondhand Uniform Shop will be open:

- Friday 13th September 9-10am
- Wednesday 18th September 9-10am

Find some great value Summer Uniform items for Term 4... (located up the hill from the office). Cash only.

Outgrown uniform donations are greatly appreciated. They can be left in the labelled box in the white cupboard outside the School Office or brought into the Uniform Shop



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



Dear Parents and Carers,

We are looking for some volunteers to help the Parents and Friends Committee to run a sausage sizzle at the upcoming Arts and Maths Show being held on Thursday 24th of October from 4-7pm. The P&F would love it if you could volunteer an hour of your time to help run the sausage sizzle. It's a great way to meet other parents and give back to the St Damian's Community. Volunteers must have a Working With Children Check number. Please click this link to sign up!

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/173D-ZRkI9zeOvm4IAEmeBOqzHjuP9uKesJczblBb4/edit>

Thanks from the Art and Maths Show Committee



# Maths Take Home Bag of Fun

Kayla from 2C was the lucky duck that had fun with the Maths Take Home Bag. Kayla's favourite activity was the geo-boards. She made houses, faces and her name on the board.

Email your pictures to

[carmen.bruce@sdbundoora.catholic.edu.au](mailto:carmen.bruce@sdbundoora.catholic.edu.au)



## Maths @ St Damian's

The staffroom was overtaken by our Year 2 scientists. The three classes were engaged in an activity that involved literacy, maths and science. The Year 2s have been immersed in the Little Learners Love Literacy program learning all about phonics. The children liked making the jelly joys but loved eating them the most!





