



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools



St. Damian's Newsletter

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Thursday 13th February 2025

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

A Note From the Principal

Dear Parents/Guardians & Carers

Opening of the Year Mass

Today we held our beginning of the year Mass, together with the commissioning of students and teachers. It was wonderful to experience our first whole school Mass where all the students, including the Preps, staff and the parish community gathered together to celebrate the beginning of the new school year. I know that we are all excited to be back and ready for lots of great learning.

School Assembly

School Assemblies are held every alternate Monday, where practical. The next school assembly for the year will be held on Monday 24th February at 2.40pm in the hall. The SRC representatives from each class will be presented with their badges at this assembly. Usually, at each assembly a class, or group of classes, present some aspects of their learning and we celebrate with the students their growth. There are also Student of the Week awards presented to students who demonstrate one or more of our school expectations. Parents are always warmly welcome to attend.

Learning Conversations

Our Learning Conversations will be held next Monday 17th February from 8.30am and conclude at 5.30pm. These conversations are a wonderful opportunity to support the children as they begin their new year of learning. Through establishing positive relationships between school and home the children feel supported and know that everyone understands their needs. Please ensure that you have booked a time to meet with your child(ren)'s teacher. There is opportunity for both online and face to face to accommodate all families. Please indicate whether you wish an online meeting when booking. Online booking is now open, please ensure you have booked a time with the relevant teachers. We expect that the children will be present during these meetings. **Please note that due to the Learning Conversations, the children are not required at school.**

Parents Association

This coming Tuesday, 18th February, we will be holding the Annual General Meeting of the Parent's Association (P.A.). We would really like to have more parents come and join this dynamic group. The P.A. supports the school financially through fundraising to enable the purchase of many different resources that benefit the students and the community alike. Come and be part of this group and also connect with different families, This helps promote a real sense of belonging as well as knowing that your efforts are benefitting your children. We will meet in the school library at 7.00pm.

School Hats

St Damian's school is a Sunsmart school. This means that we expect all our students and staff to be wearing hats when outside during high UV periods, mainly in Term 1 and Term 4. Therefore, we ask all parents to ensure that your child(ren) have their **school hat** to wear when at school. Australia has one of the highest rates of skin cancer in the world. Anyone can be at risk of developing skin cancer. The majority of skin cancers in Australia are caused by exposure to UV radiation in sunlight. Hence our school policy: **NO HAT NO PLAY.**

School Uniform

It is an expectation that students wear the correct school uniform **at all times**. This includes wearing **school shoes**, not black runners. School shoes should be **plain black leather**, which is much healthier for growing feet. Runners (whatever colour) should only be worn on sport days with school sport uniform. We also ask that students **do not** wear jewelry to school as this can easily be lost and can cause distress to both students and families. Only sleepers or stud earrings should be worn as a safety precaution. **NO** dangly earrings, nail polish or other accessories to be worn with the uniform, this includes hair accessories please. Also, please ensure that hair that is longer than shoulder length is tied back.

Car parking

Just a reminder that the **front carpark is not a drop off zone**. Please note that the carpark gates close between 8.30am and 8.45am and again between 3.15pm and 3.30pm. to allow a buffer period of safety whilst the students are entering or leaving the school premises. Parents are not allowed to open or close gates, this is the responsibility of the staff on duty. Also, drivers are requested to remain in the bays until the gates are open. No parking on the driveways please and never double park. If the car park is full you will need to park at Coles. Working together in this ensures that everyone is kept safe at all times. Thank you for understanding.

Kiss & Drop & Parking

Thank you to all our parents for using the Kiss and Drop safely. Just to refresh procedures. This area is a drop off area only, drivers do not get out of the car for any purpose. Students alight from cars on the opposite side to the driver and walk quickly to the footpath. Staff are on duty to supervise the students to ensure everyone's safety. Parents cannot park in the school, the side area near the playground is for staff parking only.

Parish Car Park and the Vet Car Park

Parents are advised that there is **no parking** available for parents at either of these spaces. The Parish car park is exclusively for cars visiting the Parish office and the Vet car park is reserved at all times for that business. Parents may park on the bottom car park only or alternatively at Coles. Thank you.

School Advisory Council

I wish to advise that the first School Advisory Council meeting for 2025 will be held on Tuesday 11th March at 7.30pm. The role of the SAC is to provide advice and guidance to the school and support the school's initiatives and directions. School Advisory Council is not a representative body, its role is purely advisory. We are able to accommodate an extra member if a parent is keen to join. Membership is not onerous as we meet six (6) times a year, usually in the evening, for around 1.5 hours. The previous members of the SAC are continuing in their roles for 2025.

Prep Picnic and Play

Save the date of **Thursday February 27th between 5.30pm and 7.00pm**. All families who have a child in Prep are invited to come along to the school and have a picnic on our school grounds. This is a great way for new families and current families to come and join together in an informal way and meet one another. Bring your picnic baskets, your picnic blankets your drinks (preferably non-alcoholic) and just relax on the oval. The children are welcome to bring their balls, etc and join with others in some fun games. This is not a school event, so teachers are not required to be in attendance. Parents will be supervising their own children, especially if you allow them on the playground. We hope many of our families will come and enjoy a little community time. All attending students will be given a super dooper to enjoy.

**School Photos**

School Photos will be taken on Tuesday March 12th. Further information regarding ordering will be sent home closer to the date.

School Closure Day

On Monday 10th March school will be closed for the Labour Day public holiday.

NAPLAN

The NAPLAN Assessments will begin on Tuesday 12th March.

Prayer for the Week:

Dear Lord,

we gather together in Your name,
as a community of believers, a family of your children.

We thank you for the renewal of the past months and our safe return to this place.
We thank you for the promise of the days ahead and for the blessing of your accompaniment.
Be with us this year.

Amen

Have a great week,

Rosanna

Faith News

Sacraments 2025

Please find below the Sacramental Dates for 2025.

Sacrament of Confirmation 2025 – Year 6 Students – Saturday 31st May 2pm;

Sacrament of Reconciliation 2025 – Year 2 Students – Thursday 5th June 7pm;

Sacrament of Eucharist 2025 – Year 4 Students – Saturday 13th September 2pm.

Ash Wednesday Mass – 5th March 9:15am

Thank you to all the families who attended our Opening School and Staff Commissioning Mass this morning. We will celebrate Ash Wednesday with a Whole School Mass on **Wednesday 5th March at 9:15am** with the Parish Community. You are most welcome to join us as we continue to ensure our Catholic Faith and Traditions are nurtured across the generations.

Daily Christian Meditation

Each morning, our School Community begins the day with Christian Meditation. Meditation **begins at 8:45am and concludes at 8:50am.**

Christian Meditation:

Engages the mind in Prayer;

Provides an opportunity for Students to experience the real presence of God within their lives;

Provides an opportunity for Students to hear the Word of God speaking to them through the Scriptures;

Assists Students to discover the presence of God within them, thus, enabling them to meet God deep within their hearts.

Prayer

God, Father of us all, we are beginning a new year together in our classes.

Help us to learn new things this year and to make new friends.

May we open our minds to learn more about you.

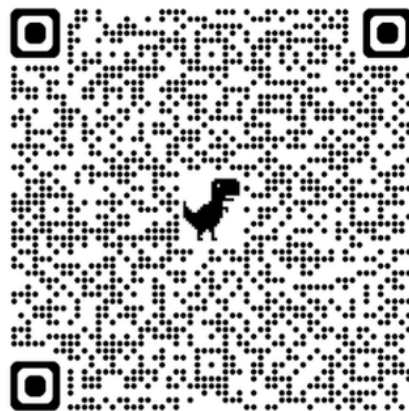
May we open our hearts to the needs of others.

May we have a welcoming word for those who are new or need a friend.

Help us to learn new ways to serve you in love. Amen

Mary-Ann Wright

Religious Education Leader



COFFEE ADDICT CAFE

Mention Ad to get a FREE Coffee



I am thrilled to announce that last week, Friday 7th February our new FIRE Carrier leaders were commissioned at our FIRE Carrier Commissioning ceremony. The Hon Colin Brooks also joined our ceremony and showed his support of our FIRE Carrier program.

Congratulations to Thomas Akbacak, Dahlia Batal, Joanna Bijoy and Vincent Wilam. We look forward to witnessing all your amazing work and your eagerness to share your ideas with our school community. We were also very fortunate to have St Damians staff express their interest in becoming FIRE Carriers also. Congratulations to Mrs Viola, Miss Young, Mrs Bozinoski, Miss S. and Mr Gauci.

FIRE carriers are students and teachers that share a passion for learning about Aboriginal culture and history and are committed to sharing this knowledge and promoting reconciliation within and beyond the school community.



Julie Cannatelli
FIRE Carrier Leader

STUDENT WELLBEING NEWS

In Term One the students will be learning about the value of

COMPASSION

Child Safety Standards

St Damian's Primary School is a Child Safe School.

We have a firm commitment to uphold the Child Safe Standards and to embed a culture of child safety.

We are committed to ensuring that our students are principled, caring, balanced members of our community.

We are committed to the safety, participation and empowerment of our children and have zero tolerance of child abuse. All allegations and safety concerns will be treated very seriously and consistently. We have legal and moral obligations to contact authorities when we are worried about a child's safety, which we follow rigorously. The school is committed to regularly training and educating our staff and volunteers on child abuse risks and all staff undertake Mandatory Reporting training.

We support and respect all children, as well as our staff and volunteers, and are committed to the cultural safety of children from diverse backgrounds, and to providing a safe environment for children with a disability.

Lunchtime Clubs

This year Lunchtime Clubs will recommence for students looking to enjoy quiet activities at playtime.

These sessions are monitored by a teacher each lunchtime and are held in the downstairs multipurpose area.

Monday - Prep to Year 2

Tuesday - Years 3 to 6

Wednesday - Prep to Year 2

Thursday - Years 3 to 6

Friday - Prep to Year 2

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

Students engage in social emotional learning every week at St Damian's. All students participate in a focussed Respectful Relationships lesson, spend time reflecting in their gratitude journal, participate in Circle Time and engage in a lesson focussed on a St Damian's value.

Term One value: **Compassion**

Term One RR topic: Emotional Literacy

PARENT RESOURCE

Did you know? The Kids Helpline website has resources for parents and for children. Follow the link to a wide a range of resources about stress, bullying, anxiety, unsafe behaviour and more.

<https://kidshelpline.com.au/parents>

ST DAMIAN'S THEIRCARE



WEEKLY WRAP UP
TERM 1 - WEEK 2

Indoor activities

We had a scorcher of a second week. Due to the heat, we had many incredible activities inside!

Together with the children we made playdoh. The children created a variety of colours and experimented with the ratios of water to flour to make the perfect playdoh mix.



We had a variety of Lunar New Year activities throughout the week including bookmarks, colouring in sheets, and making your own lanterns!



The children also finished some All About Me flowers that have been displayed in our space.

Reminders

As is it is Term 1, NO HAT NO PLAY, everyone must be wearing a hat at OSHC.

We provide sunscreen for all children, but please ensure a hat is brought along in their bags!

Reflections

SUCCESSES:

- Getting back into school routine
- Being kind!

CHALLENGES

- Remembering safety rules (running inside)
- Packing up after ourselves

Outdoor activities

Getting outside and enjoying the summer sunshine (in a sun-safe way) is always a priority for us!

We had a lot of fun this week playing on the playground, having intense soccer matches with incredible skills shown, as well as tennis where fairness and good sportsmanship was on show!

We can't wait for what's to come next week!

Goals

- Be sun-smart!
- Meet personal expectations
- Practice child led play
- Make good choices
- Be good listeners
- Respect others and play fair
- Be creative and try new things
- Have fun!