St. Damian’s News

We congratulate our 2016 School Leaders

School Captains and Vice Captains: Olivia, Oliver, Alysha, Georgie

Cosmos House Captains and Vice Captains: Marcus, Annie, Zoe, Jaden

Frances House Captains and Vice Captains: Sarah, Keane, Claudia, Jacob

Clare House Captains and Vice Captains: Chiara, Gabby, Ben, Yoael

Damian House Captains and Vice Captains: Nishara, Dante, Anniebelle, Adam
FROM THE PRINCIPAL

It was wonderful to have Fr Vincent back yesterday in time to celebrate Ash Wednesday Mass which the whole school attended. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. “As Catholics we take up the Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving every year. These practices help us to remember the merciful love and compassion that God shows all people. Participating in these practices, we journey toward repentance with our community and God and toward the celebration of the Paschal Mystery of our Lord. We do not make this journey alone. The whole Church prepares for the celebration and together we try to live more faithfully to God’s call to be merciful, loving and compassionate to those around us. Our acts of love through sacrifice and prayer are a tangible witness of God’s love to those around us.” (U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. 2016.)

This year has been declared the Year of Mercy by Pope Francis. Let us as a community of faith and believers, take this opportunity to show compassion and mercy so we can authentically follow Jesus and treat all others, as if they were Christ in disguise. During this Jubilee Year we are invited to help others, especially the poor by giving alms and responding to their basic human needs. This can easily be achieved by donating to organizations that have the ability to provide support and services for those in need, most especially Caritas through the Project Compassion Boxes.

**Thought for the Week:** This Lent, instead of eating out at restaurants or buying that latte/coffee, donate the money to a charity or put that money in the collection basket at church.

**Parent Information Evenings**
Once again we are offering Information Sessions for parents this year. These evening will be held over two nights on the Tuesday February 23 and Wednesday February 24 beginning at 7.00pm. The first evening is for our Junior classes with the Prep session at 7:00pm and the Year One/Two session at 7:30pm. Similar to last year, the sessions will begin as a whole level in the Library and then parents will be invited to attend a brief session with their child’s teacher who will outline their expectations and class routines. The second evening is for the Year Three-Six levels and these will be done in the same way as the Junior classes with the Year Three/Four session at 7:00pm and the Five/Six session at 7:30pm. We welcome all our parents and look forward to meeting you all over these two evenings.

**School Photos**
As you are aware our school photos will be taken on Thursday March 3. It would be appreciated if all students could be present on the day wearing their correct summer uniform, including black shoes. Student photo envelopes will be distributed shortly and need to be returned by Wednesday March 2. Once you have received your student envelopes, you will be able to pick up a Family photo envelope from the School Office if you wish to purchase these.

**Staff Commissioning & Welcoming of New Families Mass**
On Sunday February 28 during 10:00am Mass, Father Vincent will commission all the staff and welcome both the new Prep children and our new families to the school and parish community. We hope to see all of our families at Mass.

**Safety and Traffic Management**
It is always a good idea to revisit and clarify expectations of drivers in order to ensure everyone’s safety, most especially the children’s. In order to ensure the safety of the children and pedestrians at school please note the following:

- **Parking in Bottom Car Park (Settlement Rd entrance)**
  Entrance is before 8.30am in the mornings, and 3.15pm in the afternoon.
  Exit is after 8.45am in the morning and 3.30pm in the afternoon.
  Drivers are asked to park in the appropriate bays only. NO Double parking as this constitutes a hazard should an emergency occur.

- The basketball courts are not available for parking in the morning or afternoon.

- **The Parish parking area is not for use by parents of St Damian’s.** This area is reserved for Parish business and for staff parking. Parents are not to park in this area please.

- Students arriving or departing from St Damian’s are expected to enter or exit via the Settlement Road or Joseph Street Pedestrian Gates. (It is too dangerous to exit via Plenty Road.)

- **Kiss and Drop (Joseph Street)**
  Gates open at 8.30am. Cars using the kiss and drop area should be respectful of the neighbours and not park across driveways. Remember that to keep traffic moving drivers are not to get out of cars. Children should exit cars and move quickly and safely onto the pathway. Adults are not to leave cars as it holds up traffic. Cars are not to block traffic by creating a middle lane and then using driveways to turn, this is both inconsiderate and dangerous. Children should never be dropped off on the street, either on Plenty Road or on the corner of Joseph Street, this is a very unsafe practice.

  Gates are locked at 9.00am. Pedestrian gates are re-opened at 3.00pm and close at 3.30pm.
  Whilst we recognise that parking is a difficulty at the school, parents are reminded that there is ample parking at the Coles carpark.

**School Closure Friday February 26.**
Focus: Staff will be updating their First Aid qualifications as required by the Catholic Education Office and the Governments. Students are not required at school on this day.

**Open Day: Wednesday March 16**
There will be an open day on Wednesday March 16. The main purpose of the Open Day is to provide prospective Prep families with an opportunity to visit our school. However if you are an existing parent and would like to tour the school, you are welcome to join a tour. Tours will be available at 9.30am, 11.30am, 2.30pm and 6.00pm.

**New Families to St Damian’s**
We also extend a warm welcome the Marjoram family who commenced at St Damian’s this year.
Pancake Tuesday
On Tuesday the school enjoyed making and eating pancakes for morning tea. Thank you to Nat for organizing the event and to the many parents who were able to help out on the day.

New School Routines
Thank you to all our parents and families for your patience and support as we all become accustomed to the new routines. The changes have resulted in a more positive and quiet learning environment for the children as the whole school day is optimized for student learning at the same time ensuring their safety at all times. We appreciate our families’ co-operation and understanding as we work through some of the difficulties that have been experienced, but we know you will understand that we always try to bring about change that will improve the learning environment and opportunities for our students — your children — and we thank you sincerely for working with us on this. Again, parents are very welcome to use both the garage and the parent room facilities while waiting to pick up children.

Just to reiterate the procedures in place:
Students will be collected by class teachers when the music plays at 8.40am. The school day begins with Meditation at 8.45. The students now eat both play lunch and lunch in the classroom. Morning Recess is from 10:50 (eating time 10 minutes) until 11:20. Lunch is from 1:20 (eating time 10 minutes) until 2:20. The afternoon session is from 2:20-3:15. Students are dismissed from outside the school buildings. Parents should meet at the agreed meeting point.

All parents entering the school should do so via the school office. If assisting in classrooms or entering the building, please ensure you have signed in at the office and have a Visitor’s badge. This is a necessary safety precaution required so that we know who is on the premises in case of an emergency.

Once again, thank you for working with us.

Pope Francis’ Prayer of Mercy
Lord Jesus Christ,
You have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father,
and have told us that whoever sees you sees Him.
Show us your face and we will be saved.
Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with its anointing, so that the Jubilee of Mercy
may be a year of grace from the Lord, and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor,
proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed, and restore sight to the blind.
We ask this through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy, you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever.

Amen.

Have a great week,
Rosanna

FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

NIRODAH Counselling Service at St Damian’s Primary School
St. Damian’s uses a counselling service provided by NIRODAH.
We welcome Chantelle Schokman who will be working in St. Damian’s weekly. Chantelle is an experienced psychologist and an associate member of the Australian Psychological Society. She has experience providing counselling services to a broad client group including children, adults and those with special needs. NIRODAH’s ADVANCE Program provides an easily accessible service to the community by utilising the Medicare Mental Health Rebate System to place psychologists/social workers into schools and provide a service that can be accessed by all members of the school community.

With a referral from a GP, psychiatrist or pediatrician stating a Mental Health Plan in place, a client will have access to up to ten individual sessions per calendar year through Medicare. Group sessions are also available.

This is at no cost to the family.

NIRODAH offers counselling for individuals with a range of presenting issues such as depression, anxiety, grief/loss, social skills, sleeping difficulties, trauma and many more. The service provides significant benefits to the school and its community:

- School setting is a safe environment for students to access counselling services
- Little disruption to school attendance as the sessions are timetabled within the school day
- Qualified and experienced psychologist or social worker(s)
- Behavioural and emotional issues within the school are targeted with professional guidance
- Commitment to provide communication with the referring doctor, client and/or guardian and school staff
- No travel and time issues for parents

If you feel you would like to access this service please do not hesitate to contact your child’s class teacher.

Jenny Rubira
Teaching and Learning Leader
Reminder for Sacrament Bookings
A letter was sent out last Friday with the booking details for Confirmation and Eucharist. Bookings will open at 9:00am tomorrow, Friday February 12. The website is www.schoolinterviews.com and the relevant booking codes are below – just in case you have misplaced the letter.

Confirmation booking code: LBWEE
Eucharist booking code: T986R

Term One Masses
We celebrated Ash Wednesday Mass this week and we were delighted to welcome Father Vincent back to us after a period of illness. We will gather as a faith community again next week to celebrate our Opening School Mass for 2016. If you are free on Thursday February 18 at 9:15am then please join us in celebration.
In addition, Father Vincent will be celebrating a Staff Commissioning and Prep Welcome Mass on Sunday February 28 at 10:00am. At this Mass the staff of St Damian’s will be commissioned and Preps welcomed to the community. The staff will say a prayer together and preps will be invited to stand on the altar so the parish can make them welcome. All families are warmly invited to attend.

Project Compassion
Throughout the Lenten Season we will be collecting money in aid of Project Compassion, which is an initiative of Caritas. Each class has a donation box and there is also a donation box at the Main Office should you wish to make a contribution. The work that Caritas does both in Australia and around the world makes a real difference to people in need. If you are interested in finding out more about social justice and the life changing work done by Caritas visit www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion. There are lots of photographs, stories and video clips featuring some of the families who benefit from the donations. Thank you for your support.

Aoife Mc Arthy
Religious Education Leader

ICT NEWS

Today, every child will bring home the Annual Photograph and Permission to Publish Form. We ask that you fill out and sign this form and return it your child’s teacher by Monday 15th February. This form will give our school, the Catholic Education of Melbourne and the Catholic Commission of Victoria the permission to use photographs and videos of your child. A form must be completed for every child in your family. Please note that our school adheres to guidelines of acceptable use and your child’s online identity will remain secure.

Thank you,
Cris Brewer
ICT Leader

STUDENT FREE DAY
FRIDAY FEBRUARY 26
(STAFF FIRST AID TRAINING)

UNIFORM SHOP

Please note that the uniform shop will be closed tomorrow Friday February 12 and will open on Monday February 15, 9:00am—10:00am
Sean D (5/6SC) and Ciaran D (3/4G) competed at the Australian Pool Titles

Congratulations to Sean and Ciaran D who competed at the Australian Pool Titles in Perth during the Summer holidays.

Sean competed in the Singles Under 12 round robin tournament where they play the first to win three frames. He made it to the finals where he was then defeated and so came fourth out of eleven competitors. Sean then played a Team event where each member of the team plays their equivalent age group i.e. U12, U15, U18 girls & U18 open, for one frame. Sean won eight of his twelve matches.

Tasmania were short players so Ciaran was picked up to play for them as an U12 player. He also played very well managing to win five out of his twelve matches.

Who knows, Sean or Ciaran might turn out to be the next Eddie Charlton.

St Damian’s is a SunSmart School

We are proud to acknowledge that St Damian’s is recognised as a SunSmart school. From wearing hats during outdoor activities in first and fourth term activities to providing students with shaded area to play, the school has long been involved in keeping students up to date with what is required in regards to being SunSmart. At St Damian’s we also encourage students to bring their own sunscreen to apply and re-apply throughout the day to help keep them protected from harmful UV rays.

If you would like to find out information to help you become more SunSmart, please check out the SunSmart website at: http://www.sunsmart.com.au

Victorian Primary School Sports Team Nominations

Any parents of Year 6 students who feel their child excels in a particular sport may be interested in nominating their child to attend trials for School Sport Victoria State Teams. The sports include Australian Football, Baseball, Basketball, Cricket, Football (Soccer), Golf, Hockey, Netball and Tennis.

If you are interested in nominating your child you should contact me to discuss possible nomination for the appropriate team. Please remember that you must consider your child to be ‘elite’ in their sport and at the very least they must be a stand out at Representative Level, as competition for spots is extremely competitive considering teams are chosen from students from right across Victoria.

Tim Watson
Physical Education Coordinator

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2016 TERM DATES

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term One</th>
<th>Thursday January 28</th>
<th>Thursday March 24</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Term Two</td>
<td>Monday April 11</td>
<td>Friday June 24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term Three</td>
<td>Monday July 11</td>
<td>Friday September 16</td>
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<td>Term Four</td>
<td>Monday October 3</td>
<td>Tuesday December 20</td>
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Pancake Tuesday
Last Tuesday, the whole school celebrated Pancake Day. It was a special day that all of the children enjoyed. We want to acknowledge and thank our helpers on the day: Lina Parisot, Lia Aiello, Cindy Pannam, Nina Catanese, Michelle Graham, Diana Dharmawan, Surya Tjoa, Andrea Groom, Cindy Poh, Mira Gregorio, Vicki Gargaro, Joane Comito, Meg Werner, Ruby Pannu, Donna Ribera, Teresa Arambatzidis, Angela Carta, Karen Hamshari, Dianne Kapiriaris, Louise Toppo, Ruby Singh, Angela Casasanta, Maddy Galgano, Connie Dupes, Deborah Tatasciore, Mary Rizzo, Samatha Knight, Ayomi Jayawardena, Donna Gullone, Sylvia Menezes, Louise Trapani, Gai Pham, Thi Pham, and Susan Raffo. We also extend our thanks to those families who lent us electric fry pans for the day. Without their generous support we would not be able to run Pancake Day for the school.
Thank you once again!!!
Nat

Woolworths Earn and Learn
Thank you to the many families who collected stickers during the Woolworths Earn and Learn Promotion and to the P&F Committee who organised this last year. We were able to collect a wonderful range of items to assist in the Science and Music curriculums. We know the teachers and children will love being able to make use of these during their lessons.

ST DAMIAN’S CATHOLIC PARISH - 2016 LENTEN TIMETABLE

LENTEN PRAYER MEETINGS: With Pastorelle Sisters
*Wednesday Evenings: 7.30pm – 8.30pm in Dunlop Room,
(17th, 24th February; 2nd, 9th, 16th & 23rd March) *except 3 March in Briglia Room

STATIONS OF THE CROSS:
Friday Evenings: 7.30-8.00pm
(12th, 19th & 26th February; 11th, 18th, & 25th March – with Legion of Mary)

INDIVIDUAL RECONCILIATION (1st Rite):
Saturday evenings 5.00 – 5.30pm (Before Vigil Mass)
Friday 4th March during Holy Hour

WEEKDAY MASS TIME:
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday: 9.15am
### Student of the Week

**Prep B**  Hugo  For being a kind and caring friend.

**Prep C**  Class  For being so brave and having a fabulous start to the year.

**Prep S**  Class  For a fantastic start to school. Well done!

**1/2DW**  Class  For settling into our routines with ease! Well done!

**1/2M**  Tracy  For completing her ‘Holiday Tales’ booklet and including lots of information.

**1/2MM**  Aarchi  For completing a fabulous recount piece about her holidays.

**1/2MO**  Isabella  For setting a great example in caring for the environment.

**1/2T**  Oliver  For being a hardworker and a great friend to others.

**3/4B**  Alexandrea  For making a wonderfully smooth transition into 3/4B.

**3/4B**  Erin  For adjusting effortlessly to her new school.

**3/4G**  Class  For displaying a positive attitude to the start of the year.

**3/4J**  Alana  For her doing her best and modelling good behaviour at all times. Well done Alana.

**3/4L**  Class  For working together to create a harmonious start to the year.

**3/4SZ**  Ethan  For persisting with his holiday recount and not giving up.

**5/6C**  Anthony  For already demonstrating wonderful effort with his work. Keep it up!

**5/6KW**  Anastasia  For being a wonderful friend in her new school.

**5/6M**  Class  For a wonderful start to the school year. Well done!

**5/6S**  Class  For a wonderful start to the year. Well done!

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### Happy Birthday

to the following students who will celebrate their birthday:

**February**

- 8th  Giulia  5/6M
- 12th  Alexis  5/6SC
- 13th  Jaden  5/6S
- 15th  Damian  5/6C
- Sarah  5/6M
- Daniel  3/4G

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### SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

The school newsletter is available to access through the School Website, via email and our school app. A hard copy of the newsletter is not automatically distributed to each family. If you cannot access the newsletter by email, the school app or website and a hard copy is required, can you please send a note to your eldest child’s classroom teacher and a copy will be sent home each week.

Our school app is also used to send instant messages to parents. If you haven’t downloaded the school app please follow these steps:

- Search **tiqbiz** in your app store
- Open tiqbiz and register/log-in
- Inside the menu, click on ‘find and tick’ Type in St Damian’s and select the school
- Click the grey tick on the boxes that apply to you. Make sure you tick ‘whole school’ as well as the individual year levels that apply to your child. When the tick turns green, you’re connected.
- Click on the inbox icon. This is where you will receive our instant messages, newsletters and notices.

The app can also be downloaded onto your PC or Mac at: www.tiqbiz.com/register

Please contact the school office should you have any queries.
## TERM ONE, DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### FEBRUARY

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>12th</td>
<td>Year 6 Interschool Sports   Swimming Trials, Year 4-6, 11:30am —1:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>16th</td>
<td>Year 3 Parent Sacramental Evening, 7:30—8:30pm, School Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>18th</td>
<td>Opening of the School Year Mass, 9:15am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>19th</td>
<td>Year 6 Interschool Sports</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>22nd</td>
<td>School Assembly, Reflection 5/6S</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>23rd</td>
<td>Year Prep—Two information evening, 7:00pm—8:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>24th</td>
<td>Year Three—Six information evening, 7:00pm—8:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>26th</td>
<td>Student Free Day, Staff First Aid Training</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>28th</td>
<td>Staff Commissioning and Welcoming of New Families Mass. 10:00am</td>
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### MARCH

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<th>Day</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>School Photos. Students to be in full summer uniform</td>
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<td>Parent Helper Training, 9:00am—10:00am in the Library</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>4th</td>
<td>Year 6 Interschool Sports</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>5th</td>
<td>Reconciliation Presentation Mass, 5:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>6th</td>
<td>Reconciliation Presentation Mass, 10:00am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>7th</td>
<td>School Assembly, Reflection 5/6M</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>8th</td>
<td>Parent/Teacher/Child Conferences, 2:00pm—8:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>9th</td>
<td>Parent/Teacher/Child Conferences, 3:30pm—5:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>10th</td>
<td>Parent helpers Training, 9:00am—10:00am in the Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>11th</td>
<td>Year 6 Interschool Sports</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>14th</td>
<td>Labour Day Public Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>15th</td>
<td>Preps commence full time</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>16th</td>
<td>St Damian’s Open Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>17th</td>
<td>Parent helper Training, 9:00am—10:00am in the Library</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>18th</td>
<td>Year 6 Interschool Sports</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>19th</td>
<td>P&amp;F BBQ at Bunnings Thomastown</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>21st</td>
<td>School Assembly, Reflection 5/6KW</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>22nd</td>
<td>Sacrament of Reconciliation, 7:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>24th</td>
<td>Last Day of Term 1, students dismissed at 1:30pm</td>
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### APRIL

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<th>Day</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>11th</td>
<td>Students return for Term 2</td>
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Enrolments for Year 7, 2016 in Catholic Schools
A reminder that if you are enrolling your child into a Catholic Secondary College in 2017, enrolments close on Friday February 26.