Melbourne Storm visit St Damian’s senior students
PLEASE NOTE:
SUPERVISION OF STUDENTS IS BETWEEN 8.30am TO 3.30pm ON SCHOOL DAYS.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Beginning of the Year School Mass
Thank you to those who joined us this morning for our beginning of the year Mass. At the mass we celebrated new beginnings for our 2017 school year. Our school theme for the year continues on from last year as we strengthen our commitment to be the, “hands, heart and voice of Christ.” At this Mass, all staff were commissioned as well. This year, it was decided that the commissioning of staff would take place as part of the beginning of the year Mass so that all students would be present to witness this important commitment made by their teachers.

School Assembly
The next school assembly is scheduled for Monday 20th February. At this assembly we will be acknowledging and presenting all our 2017 School Leaders with their badges.

We congratulate 2017 School Leaders who are as follows:

School Captains: Gabriel D’Amicis & Leah Salisbury
Vice School Captains: Daniel Marcou & Sienna Knell

House Captains & Vice Captains
Damian (Green): Captains: Isaiah Markovsky & Alannah Young
V. Captains: Justin Thai & Daniella Biviano
Cosmos (Blue): Captains: Damian Accardi & Cristina Biasizzo
V. Captains: Adam Lagana & Taliia Biasizzo
Clare (Gold): Captains: Holly Skudutis & Gianluca Gatto
V. Captains: Belle Raso & Ashley Stubna
Frances (Red): Captains: Isaac Borg & Jade McDonald
V. Captains: Arpita Mandal & Christopher Koletsis

We will also present badges to the SRC Leaders, who will be voted in by their peers over the next couple of weeks. We are confident that each of these students will support and assist all our students, that they will always listen and show compassion.

CHILD SAFE STANDARDS
As part of the Child Safe Standards, schools are now required to put into place strict controls when recruiting staff, contractors and volunteers in schools. The new process involves a more open and transparent screening process, therefore as with the engagement of new staff any new volunteer to schools must present for interview and also provide the name and contact details of two referees before any volunteering can be accepted by the school. We appreciate that this may be burdensome to parents and schools, however we all share the responsibility for the wellbeing and safety of our children and I am certain that as parents you want to be reassured that everyone coming into contact with your children is suitable. Anyone wishing to volunteer in any capacity in the school must make contact with your child’s teacher in the first instance so that we can ascertain the process required for this to happen.

I have also attached a letter from the Director of Catholic Education to parents related to this. I thank you all for your understanding as we work through these safety measures together.

EVERY DAY COUNTS LEGISLATION
Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child’s education. Students learn new things at school every day – missing school puts them behind. We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day. In March 2014, new legislation related to enrolment and attendance came into effect. For more information on the relevant legislation, see:

Many of our families often take holidays during the school term and whilst we believe that visiting another country is a wonderful learning experience for the children there are certain protocols that should be followed. I have included an excerpt from the documents so that parents understand the process when applying for leave to take the children on an extended holiday during the school year.

If you are planning an extended holiday, discuss this with your school principal well in advance of finalising any plans. The principal has the discretion to decide whether or not to approve the absence. If the principal decides not to approve the absence, you should work with the school to decide on a reasonable length of absence or more mutually convenient time for the holiday.
If you decide to go ahead with a holiday during a school term despite it being an ‘unapproved’ absence and the duration of the absence is over five days, the principal may choose to refer the case to the School Attendance Officer for further action, which may result in an Infringement Notice being issued.
Parents & Friends Committee
Last night our Parents & Friends Committee gathered for our first meeting and we warmly welcomed all who attended. We would be delighted to welcome new members to our committee as we all know that “many hands make light work”. Everyone is welcome to attend the meetings held during the year so keep an eye out for the dates this committee meets. The committee discussed and have begun organising many fundraising activities to be held over the year. I encourage all our families to get behind this hardworking group of dedicated mums as they strive to raise funds which ultimately benefit all the children in the school. The money raised over the last two years will be used to purchase more play equipment for the children. This will be installed over the term holidays so that the children can enjoy playing on the equipment from Term Two onwards. We will need to extend the shade cloth over the new equipment, so this will be the goal for this year’s fundraising. I have attached a snapshot of the proposal of the equipment we are purchasing. The total cost is $22,000

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. Please observe the entry and exit gates. No parent is to open or close gates, the teacher on duty has that responsibility. The basketball courts are not available for parking in the morning or afternoon. Please note this is NOT a drop off area.

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.

Overviews
All class overviews will be sent home this Friday. Please check your children’s bags for these as they outline the work that the class will be undertaking during the term and also gives information about important dates for you to diaries as well as contact details of your child’s teacher to help facilitate better communication.

Prayer for the Week:

Lord God of all Creation. We ask you to bless our students, families and staff throughout this year. Help all in our community to be the hands, heart and voice of Christ as they work and learn together.

Have a great week
Rosanna
Faith News

Sacrament Bookings

A letter is being sent home today with the booking details for Confirmation and Eucharist. Bookings will open at 10am on Monday 20th February. The website is www.schoolinterviews.com and the relevant booking codes are below.

Confirmation booking code: nxwms
Eucharist booking code: mvah7

Opening School/Staff Commissioning Mass

Thank you to Father Vincent for celebrating our Mass this morning. It was a warm and humid start to the day but everyone felt welcomed as we celebrated once again gathering as a community of Christ.

Aoife Mc Carthy
Religious Education Leader

Have You Been Thinking About Becoming Catholic? Are you married to a Catholic? Are your children Catholic? Do you feel it is time to enquire further into the Catholic faith?

The Church welcomes all people who genuinely search for God. The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is designed for people who feel a call to know more about Jesus Christ and the Catholic faith. The RCIA is a process for preparing adults for Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist (Holy Communion).

It involves a series of sessions learning about the life of Jesus through the Gospels, to discuss what His message means for us in everyday life and to enlighten, inform and discuss Catholic beliefs and practices.
Starting now will see you ready to share Communion with your child at their First Eucharist.

Please feel free to speak to Fr Vincent, either after any Mass or through the Parish Office, or Ellen, the RCIA team leader, on 94676225, for any further information.

Morning Meditation

Each morning we begin the day with meditation which is a whole school prayer. Meditation begins at 8.45am until 8.55am. We welcome anyone who wishes to join us in this prayer time.
Melbourne Storm Player Visit

Last Thursday afternoon the Year 3-6 students had a visit from Melbourne Storm duet Billy Slater and Suliasi Vunivalu. Ali Tuai from the NRL ran the session with the Storm players and they covered the topics of Respect, Belonging and Welcoming as well as giving out handouts and prizes. We were lucky to have Billy and Suliasi here as they are two of the best credentialed players in the Storm Team and among the best players in the whole NRL. They presented well and both staff and students commented on how valuable the presentation was.

Let's hope the Carlton player visit this afternoon is as valuable for the Year 5 and 6 students.

Sporting Schools Tennis

Spots in the Year 1-2 sessions have completely filled up however we have a few remaining Prep and Year 3-4 positions available. Tomorrow will be the last day that I accept notes as details have to be provided to Gripping Potential (the coaches taking Tennis.)

If any Year 1-2 students (or any other interested students) missed out on a position in the sporting schools tennis please contact John at Gripping potential Tennis as he is happy for students to go and have a free trial lesson with him before you decide if you’d like to join proper tennis lessons.

Swimming Trials

Swimming Trials are held tomorrow morning at TRAC. We wish these students the best of luck.

Mr Tim Watson
Physical Education Coordinator

Today your child will bring home:

- Annual Photograph and Permission to Publish Form (one per child)

This form will give St. Damian’s, the Catholic Education of Melbourne and the Catholic Commission of Victoria the permission to use photographs and videos of your child in a school setting. 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.

- Standard Collection Notice (one per family)

- User Code of Conduct (one per child).

We ask that you fill out the forms and return them to your child’s teacher by Monday February 13th.

If you require any further information please contact Mrs Jenny Rubira or Mr Riki Bossini
TERM ONE
DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

February
Monday 20th  School Assembly at 2.30pm, presentation of Student Leader badges
Monday-Friday 20th-24th  Fire Carrier Art Exhibition at St Damian’s
Tuesday 21st  Information Evening
Wednesday 22nd  Information Evening
Saturday 25th  Reconciliation Presentation Mass at 5.30pm
Sunday 26th  Reconciliation Presentation Mass 10am
Tuesday 28th  Sacramental Evening for Parents at 7.30pm

March
Thursday 2nd  School Photos
Tuesday 7th  Learning Conversations 2-8pm
Wednesday 8th  Learning Conversations 3.30-5.30pm
Monday 13th  Labour Day Public Holiday (School Closed)
Tuesday 14th  Open Day/ School Tours (TBC)
Foundation students commence full time
Friday 17th  St Patrick’s Day
Wednesday 22nd  Reconciliation Ceremony at 7pm
Year 5/6 Camp
Thursday 23rd  Year 5/6 Camp
Friday 24th  Year 5/6 Camp
Friday 31st  End of Term 1
Happy Birthday

to the following students who will celebrate their birthday:

February
9th    Corey       6C
      Thomas      3CW
10th   Jack        6C
12th   Matthew     5SF
15th   Sarah       6C
        Damian     6G
        Daniel     5SF

Student of the week

Prep B  PREP B              For making a great start to school life
Prep S  PREP S              For a fantastic start to school!
1T      Ruby               For being a helpful and hardworking member of 1T
3J      Nasir              For settling well into the school year and being a friendly face in 3J
4C      All Students       For completing a successful first week back at school. I have been extremely impressed with your keen and positive attitude.
4DA     Krishna            For settling into his new school with ease. We hope you enjoy year 4 at St Damian’s
5C      Lucas              For trying his best and listening very well in class
5SF     Emily              For applying a growth mindset during her learning in English
6C      Amber              For setting up excellent working routines to begin the new year
6M      Rose               For establishing new friendships and routines at St Damian’s
        Nav                For establishing new friendships and routines at St Damian’s
        Rahaf             For establishing new friendships and routines at St Damian’s

Please Note

Parish Parking is not to be used for Student Pick Up and Drop Off
TIQBIZ—SCHOOL APP

Please Note: All current users must re-login to TIQBIZ for 2017

For all our new families at St Damian’s here are instructions on how to use and download the TIQBIZ app:

The first step is to download TIQBIZ to your phone, tablet, computer…..or all of them.

Search for: TIQBIZ

Important: Click ‘allow notifications' when asked. This is to allow your school to send you important alert notices.

Once installed, follow these steps:

Find and tick our school

Log-in
Open tiqbiz and register/log-in.

Find Our School
Click the ‘Find’ icon and type our school name into the search bar.
You will now see our school boxes

Tick On
Click on the grey tick beside our school box and any other boxes that apply to you.
When the tick turns green, you’re connected.

Inbox
Click on the Inbox icon.
This is where you will receive our instant messages, newsletters and notices.

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OPEN DAY PARADE COLLEGE

SUNDAY 19 FEBRUARY

10am – 2pm Preston Campus
8 Clifton Grove

11am – 3pm Bundoora Campus
1436 Plenty Road

Open Day registration via - www.parade.vic.edu.au

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WE NEED YOU TO BE A CLASS REP

In the coming week, classes who do not as yet have a class representative for 2017 will receive a nomination form requesting a volunteer parent/guardian to take up this position.

Please read the information attached to the nomination form, which provides a brief description of the role.

We encourage all to consider being a 2017 class representative.

Thanks P&F
Associazione Culturale “L’Aurora”

ASSOCIATIONS INCORPORATION ACT 1981: Registered No. A0028192Z

Italian Language classes run by Associazione Culturale L’Aurora will begin at St Damian’s Primary School, 5 Settlement Rd, Bundoora, on Thursday 16th February 2017.

Classes will run during school terms and will be of 2.5 hours’ duration from 3:45pm to 6:15pm every Thursday.

The tuition fee for the year is $200.00 per student. A discount of $15 per child is allowed for families with additional children attending.

If you require further information please phone: 0409 356 696 or visit our school website www.lauroraschool.com.au

Second Hand Uniform

Second Hand uniforms to be sold in the Dunlop Room

This year the P&F Committee will be taking over the sale of the second hand uniforms.

All uniforms can be donated by placing in the second hand uniform box. Located in the school office.

All uniforms need to be in a good condition.

The second hand uniform shop will be open on a Friday every fortnight.

Starting this Friday 10th February

Time: 2.30 pm to 4.00pm

Venue: Dunlop Room

Only Cash or Cheque

Academy Uniforms will be operating in the Uniform Shop at St Damian’s Every Friday 8.30am-9.30am for the 1st Term of School

Miscellaneous computer items.

Various computer items available to good home. Items were not collected last year.

Please contact Mr Riki Bossini via info@sdbundoora.catholic.edu.au if you are interested.

Items will be given to the first Inquirers.
In reply please quote: GE16/0002

27 January 2017

Dear Parents

Re: Child Safe Standards –Engaging Volunteers

A distinctive mark of our Catholic schools is the emphasis on principals, teachers, staff and parents working together - and also with the wider community - to educate and develop the whole child. This approach encompasses spiritual, academic, emotional, physical and social development.

This whole of community approach extends to a shared responsibility for the wellbeing and safety of all children and young people in our schools.

With the introduction of the Victorian Child Safe Standards in 2016, all Victorian schools are required to systematically develop, implement, monitor and evaluate risk management strategies to ensure child safety in all school environments.

As the 2017 school year begins, Catholic schools are continuing to work closely with their communities to review and strengthen child safety policies, codes of conduct and related procedures and practices for the wellbeing and protection of all students. This will result in growing community awareness and understandings of our shared responsibility.

As part of the Child Safe Standards, schools are also required to demonstrate evidence of their commitment to safer recruitment of staff including, teachers, volunteers and contractors. This requirement extends to the engagement of parent volunteers and involves more open and transparent screening and supervision practices.

Volunteers continue to be a valued and vital aspect of Catholic education and Catholic schools welcome and encourage involvement of parent volunteers to share their skills, experience and expertise.

As parents of children in Catholic schools, when you enrol your child, you should feel confident that their safety is a priority while at school and in the care of all members of the learning community.

I thank you for your support and engagement with numerous child safety initiatives. Your commitment and involvement helps to maintain a safe, secure, and nurturing learning environment for all students and staff in Catholic schools.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

Stephen Elder
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR