St. Damian’s School Prayer

Loving God,

We thank you for St. Damian who was a messenger of God, a healer of the sick and a protector of children. Guided by St. Damian, we strive to be generous, compassionate and selfless through our words and actions.

Help us to be caring and supportive of one another in the way we act, speak and listen. Inspire us each day to build friendships, as modelled by Jesus, based on love and trust. Help us to live our faith each day as we learn and work together as a community.

Amen
Dear Parents,

This week is Catholic Education Week in the Archdiocese of Melbourne. It is a week where we celebrate our faith and our Catholic mission. This year the theme for Catholic Education week is Be The Face of Mercy which is inspired by the Year of Mercy, declared by Pope Francis. Traditionally, students from all Catholic schools in the Archdiocese gather together to participate in the Mass in St Patrick’s Cathedral and then continue the celebrations with a Concert in the Park. This is a favorite occasion for all students as they gather together to eat lunch and be entertained by musical bands and fellow students from Catholic schools. This year, due to our special Jubilee year, it has been an especially unique experience for our senior student leaders who were invited to lead the prayers of the Faithful during the Mass and to bring the gifts to the altar during the Offertory Procession, as well as accompany and sit with our local member during the Mass. Mrs Aoife McCarthy and I were very fortunate to share the experience with the students.

To coincide with the Catholic Education Week supplement in the Leader Newspaper, our school submitted an advertisement, along with our neighbouring Catholic schools, to alert the wider community that we are now receiving enrolments for 2017.

Open Day:
Yesterday was Open Day. The main purpose of Open Day is to provide prospective Prep parents with an opportunity to visit our school and to ask questions about the facilities and programs. There were quite a number of interested families visit our school, many of whom were very enthusiastic about attending St Damian’s. We congratulate and are very proud of our very responsible and mature senior student leaders who acted as Tour Guides during the Open Day. We received many compliments from our visitors on the way these students conducted themselves and represented our school. Their enthusiasm and positive connection to our school was evident in the way they spoke and presented themselves. Well done, leaders. Great work. Thank you, we appreciate your contribution to our great school community.

2017 Prep Enrolments for Existing Families
If you are an existing family and have a child who will commence Prep next year, we would appreciate receiving your enrolment form now. This will assist us with accommodating prospective enrolments. Thank you for your support.

Parent/Child/Teacher Conferences
I would like to thank all the parents who have taken the time and trouble to give us feedback on the new way of conducting these very important opportunities. Even though we received some feedback indicating dissatisfaction with the new procedures, the general consensus is that families have appreciated the new initiative. I have included a few comments from the feedback sheets:

- the new format has provided a much clearer understanding of the child’s learning and level and given parents direction to better assist;
- the involvement of the children enabled them to take charge of their learning;
- reviewing the test results with the teacher has meant that parents have a clearer indication of the children’s level of understanding and help set future learning goals
- we are now able to focus on specific areas at home and help our children with their learning.

Thank you everyone for your feedback, it is much appreciated. Unless I receive an avalanche of feedback to the contrary, we can safely assume that the parent community is satisfied with this new way of operating for the future and we will continue the practice for the mid-year reports.

50th Jubilee
Remember to keep free Sunday April 17, 2016 as this is Re-Union Day, the first major event for the year.

Education Board
On Tuesday night we held our first meeting of the Education Board. We welcomed four new members to this group as well as all the continuing members. Please see the attached Principal’s report tabled at the meeting. Please remember that your voice on the Board is through your level representative. To assist you in recognizing the members of the Board we aim to include a photo of each one in the first newsletter next term.

P&F Meeting
Tomorrow, Friday March 18 there is a meeting of the new P&F Committee. We are very excited that this group has been reformed and we are eager to welcome everyone who wishes to make a positive contribution to our school community. We will meet at 9:00am in the Briglia Room – come and join us we would love to have you there.

Holy Week Prayer Service
Next Thursday, March 24 is the last day of the term. At 11:30pm we will hold our Holy Week Prayer Service in the Church. We warmly invite all our families to join us for this service as we prayerfully reflect on the events of Holy Week. The students will be dismissed at 1:30pm.

Prayer for the week
We pray for all our St Damian’s parish and school students who are preparing for their First Reconciliation. We pray that they experience forgiveness and grow in their understanding of the need to forgive others.

Have a good week

Rosanna
St. Damian’s School Prayer
It is with great pleasure that we share our new St Damian’s School Prayer (printed on the cover of this newsletter). Work commenced on the prayer in 2015 when we had a whole school closure day facilitated by Dr. Marg Carswell which focused on prayer. We then held a meeting which was attended by staff, a parent group, a student group and Father Vincent. We began by discussing the qualities of St Damian and how we live out these qualities as a school. We held several more meetings as a staff where some drafts were put together. The student group then worked together to edit these drafts and create their own versions of the prayer. These student drafts were returned to staff for a final edit and we then voted on which prayer would become our school prayer. The final step in the process was to present the selected prayer to the Education Board for ratification.

We will now go ahead and begin to share this prayer with our students and discuss what it means for us each day. Thank you to Father Vincent, our staff and our parent group for working together to create the prayer. Our student group put a lot of thought and effort into discussing, writing and editing the prayer. I would like to acknowledge their input, so thank you to our 2015 School Captains Nathan M, Erica C, Caterina G, and Ethan A who have now moved on to other schools. Thank you also to Ben G, Oliver S, Annie L, and Matthew R, who were an invaluable part of the working group and who can now celebrate finally completing the process.

Reconciliation
Please pray for our Year Three students who will celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation next Tuesday March 22 at 7:30pm. These students, along with their families and teachers have been busy preparing for this special occasion. We wish them well and pray that the students feel blessed by the healing forgiveness of God.

Holy Week and Easter Prayer Services
Our Holy Week Prayer Service will take place at 11:30am on Thursday March 24. Our Year One/Two students will celebrate an Easter Sunday Prayer Service on Wednesday April 13 at 2:45pm. The students have been working hard to prepare for these special events so if you are free on either of these dates please consider joining us.

Aoife Mc Carthy
Religious Education Leader

HOW DO WE ACT FOR OTHERS?

In Years Five and Six we have been learning about the many people in our world who act for others, in a range of ways. We have also been thinking of ways we can make a difference - how we can make a difference to the lives of others through our actions. The final day for these actions will be next Tuesday March 22 at lunchtime. Keep an eye out for the posters!

Some of the planned activities are as follows:
- basketball training/skill development activities (free)
- raffles
- jewellery making group
- lucky dips
- ‘Buy a bookmark’ stall

WE ASK FOR A FIFTY CENT DONATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ABOVE ACTIVITIES.

- Donate a picture story book (more information next term)
- Come to a Friendship Group (more information next term)

As mentioned, activities will be held on Tuesday, March 22 at lunchtime. All money collected will go to Project Compassion and Vinnies.

Thank you for your support!
PRODUCTION AUDITIONS
As you are aware, the school production will be held during Term Three this year (Wednesday July 27 & Thursday July 28). We are looking for select children with special talents in the Performing Arts to showcase their talents. This may be in the area of singing, dancing or playing an instrument (Ms Lorkin is also looking for tap dancers). We will be holding auditions for these positions in Week One of Term Two on Wednesday and Thursday ONLY. A short 30 second performance will need to be performed. If your child is very talented in an area, they will need to bring music if needed or their instrument. NO COSTUMES PLEASE.
Please be aware, if chosen, they will be required to attend BOTH CONCERTS, however the parents do not need to stay at both concerts. They may also be required to rehearse during lunchtime once a week.
If you have any queries, please contact me at: rlorkin@sdbundoora.catholic.edu.au
Rachael Lorkin
Performing Arts Teacher

SPORT NEWS

Northern Region Swimming Finals
Congratulations to the students who competed in the Northern Region Swimming Finals last week. The students reported back that it was tough competition on the day but they enjoyed the experience and challenge. No one made it through to the State Finals however they should be pleased with the efforts.

Sporting Schools Football Program
Thank you to those students who have sent in replies for the Sporting Schools Football Programs next term. I would love to see some more Year Three-Six students take up this opportunity as the older students may have the chance to learn how to play AFL 9’s, footballs version of Twenty20 Cricket, depending on the students skill level.

Cross Country
Cross Country trials will go ahead this week for Year Four-Six students. If not completed this week they will be finished off next week. I wish all of the students trialling the best of luck.

Tim Watson
Physical Education Co-Ordinator

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MARCH
Friday 18th Year 6 Interschool Sports
P&F meeting, 9:00am, Briglia Room, all welcome
Monday 21st School Assembly, Celebration of Learning, 5/6KW
Tuesday 22nd Sacrament of Reconciliation, 7:30pm
Thursday 24th Holy Week Prayer Service, 11:30am
Last Day of Term 1, students dismissed at 1:30pm

APRIL
Monday 11th Students return for Term 2
Wednesday 13th Easter Prayer Service
Sunday 17th St Damian’s Jubilee Reunion Day
Tuesday 19th Confirmation Parent/Child Evening, 7:00pm

MAY
Saturday 14th Confirmation Presentation Mass, 5:30pm
Sunday 15th Confirmation Presentation Mass, 10:00am
Sunday 29th Sacrament of Confirmation, 2:00pm & 4:30pm
St Damian’s Parish 2016
Holy Week Program

Passion (Palm) Sunday, 20th March: Saturday Vigil Mass 5.30pm
  : Sunday 8.00am & 10.00am Masses
  (including blessing of palms)

Tuesday, 22nd March & Wednesday 23rd March: 9.15am Mass
  (Tuesday 11.00am Chrism Mass at St Patrick’s Cathedral)

Holy Thursday, 24th March: 7.30pm Mass of the Lord’s Supper
  followed by one hour of Silent Prayer
  (Please return your Project Compassion Boxes and Envelopes)

Good Friday, 25th March: 11.00am Ecumenical Stations
  of the Cross at Bundoora Uniting Church
  76 Greenwood Drive, Bundoora. The walk will take place entirely on the
  block. (followed by Morning Tea in Church Hall)

  3.00 pm Celebration of the Lord’s Passion

Holy Saturday, 26th March: 10.00-11.00am Individual Reconciliation

  6.30pm Easter Vigil (NO MASS at 5.30pm)
  (Blessing of fire and Paschal Candle ceremony in front of the Church)

Easter Sunday, 27th March:

  8.00am & 10.00am Masses
School Education Board Meeting March 15, 2016
Principal's Report

General
A very warm welcome to all members of the Board – to those who are returning and a special welcome to our new members,
Prep – Andrew McGregor
Year 1 – Damian Del Medico
Year 2 - Gen O'Connor
Year 3 – Kristy Whelan
Year 4 – Lina Borg
Year 5 – Vicki Gargaro
Year 6 – Karen Salisbury
P&F Rep: Nicole Raso
Staff Rep: Rachel Lorkin

Staffing
7 members of staff left at the end of last year for a variety of reasons. Therefore, we welcomed new staff to St Damian’s;
Maree Foley-Smith – Literacy Leader F-2
Tuppence Scott – Music
Rachel Lorkin – Drama
Mary McArdle – 1/2
Veronica Jack – 3/4 (instead of Drama)
Saveria Ciurleo – 5/6
Cris Brewer (digital technologies leader); Georgia Wise (1/2) & Louise Zannino (3/4) all returning part time from maternity leave.

Sacraments
Preparations have commenced for Reconciliation and Confirmation. The students receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation attended one of the Presentation Masses held on the weekend Masses of the 5th/6th March. First Reconciliation will take place during the last week of the term on Tuesday 22nd March. The Sacramental Evening was held earlier in the term facilitated by Michael Yore, who talked about being Sacramental People in the ‘everyday’. This evening was specifically for parents with many staff also attending. We thank Father Vincent, Aoife and all staff involved in these Sacraments.

Catholic Education Week
This week is Catholic Education Week and this year’s theme is ‘Be The Face of Mercy’, which aligns with Pope Francis’ declaration of the Jubilee Year of Mercy. Our senior student leaders will attend Mass and the celebrations in the gardens. These students will be accompanied by Aoife McCarthy and one other staff member.
As this year is also our Jubilee Year, we have been invited to read a Prayer of the Faithful, be part of the Offertory Procession and to accompany and sit with our local member of Parliament. We will also take our school banner to be taken into the cathedral by our leaders as part of the procession at the beginning of Mass.

P&F Meeting, tomorrow Friday March 18
9:00am in the Briglia Room
come and join us, we would love to have you there.

ST DAMIAN’S CATHOLIC PARISH - 2016 LENTEN TIMETABLE

LENTEN PRAYER MEETINGS: With Pastorelle Sisters

Wednesday Evening, March 23rd, 7.30pm – 8.30pm in Dunlop Room

INDIVIDUAL RECONCILIATION (1st Rite):
Saturday evenings 5.00pm – 5.30pm
(Before Vigil Mass)

WEEKDAY MASS TIME:
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday: 9.15am

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Open Day
Tomorrow is our annual ‘Open Day’. Our student leaders have been working with Jenny to prepare for the school tours. Both Jenny and I will also be available during the tours throughout the day and during the evening session. Once again, this year we have invited the senior students to attend the evening session to act as tour guides. We are hoping for many visitors who will enroll their Prep Child at St Damian’s for 2017.

Fire Carriers
As you are aware we are a ‘Fire Carrier School’, as such we continually promote the message of Aboriginal Reconciliation. Mattie Dragonetti, one of our staff, is very passionate about this work and once again this year we commissioned new Fire Carriers – both students and staff. Through the work of the FIRE Carriers we are able to focus on Aboriginal Perspectives which is a core part of the National Curriculum. At a recent assembly we had a beautiful commissioning ceremony for our four fire carriers. The role of these students is to further spread the word of Aboriginal Reconciliation. Last Tuesday there was a special day for the Fire Carriers at Amberley.

Commissioning Mass
This was held on Sunday 28th February. Unfortunately there was a very small representation of students at Mass. There was no socialization after Mass, this may have impacted on the attendance.

Coffee/Tea & Tissues
Morning Tea held on the first day of school was attended by number of parents. It was good to see some of our EAL parents present as well.

Information Evening
The information evenings were held over 2 nights to cater for all families. There were a good number in attendance on both nights, with a reasonable attendance at the classroom level. Some of the feedback received, while generally positive, indicated that parents felt the sessions were a little rushed. Staff also evaluated the sessions and the result is that next year we will allow for 45 minutes per session to allow parents to spend more time in the classroom and enable parents with children in older classes to move to the next session without feeling rushed. Overall the consensus was that they were successful.

Parent/Child/Teacher Conferences
With the change in Reporting this year we implemented changes to the way we conduct parent/teacher interviews. As a school we are always looking to more effective ways of managing these important opportunities. We believe that it is important to focus on the students' learning and also involve the students so that they take ownership of their own learning. Therefore, this year we invited the students to be part of the process and made it a conference where the child was able to input into the session. Staff were able to talk about the students' learning at this point in time referencing the extensive testing conducted and also using the data from their focused teaching. The students were then supported to develop learning goals to help them further develop their learning. Our aim was to also strengthen the partnership between school and home in terms of working together to assist the individual student's learning. The feedback from this new initiative has been extremely positive, with all families appreciating the opportunity to focus discussions on the children’s learning and future outcomes.

Holy Week
We will be holding our Holy Week Prayer service in the last week of the term. Parents are very welcome to join with us on Thursday 24th at 12.00pm, just prior to the conclusion of term one.

Changes to Routines:
We have changed our routines in the morning to ensure that all students are under supervision at all times. Students now assemble on the basketball courts in the morning as there is a teacher on duty to supervise. Once the music plays, students are taken into the school buildings by their classroom teacher and the buildings are all locked. This is a safety precaution, necessitated by the recent spate of bomb threats. We have found that students are actually settling into the morning routine much quicker and are better focused for learning. The corridors outside classrooms are quieter, enabling students to optimize the learning time. Parents wishing to enter the buildings may do so through the school office once they have signed in and are wearing a visitor’s badge.

Professional Learning
Emergency Evacuation
Anaphylaxis & First Aid Training
Mandatory Reporting eLearning Module
Literacy Helpers Training Yrs F-6 (parents)

50th Jubilee Celebrations
This year is our Jubilee year for both the school and parish. A committee has been working to organize and facilitate various celebrations to take place over the year. The first big event to be celebrated will be on Sunday 17th April. This is the Reunion Day with a Mass and tours planned for the day as well as a display of memorabilia in the hall. Light refreshments will also be served in the hall. Loyola College students will be supporting us on the day by acting as guides and serving of food. We will continue to keep the school community informed of events through updates via the school newsletter and the Facebook link on the school website.

Policy to be reviewed: Safe Schools Policy – Ministerial Order 870 (completion date August 1st 2016)
Happy Birthday

to the following students who will celebrate their birthday:

March
17th Matthew 3/4L
James 1/2T
18th Valentina PrepS
Aiden 5/6C
Alexander 3/4SZ
19th Heidi 3/4SZ
Olivia 1/2DW
20th Eric 1/2T
21st Tyson 3/4B
22nd Samuel 3/4L

PARADE COLLEGE

Enrichment Program
For Boys and Girls in Grades 5 and 6 and current Year 7 and 8 Parade College Students

Semester 1
Wednesday May 4th
Wednesday May 11th
Wednesday May 18th

Semester 2
Wednesday August 24th
Wednesday August 31st
Wednesday September 7th

PAST PROGRAMS HAVE INCLUDED:
- Engineering challenges
- Maths Team building
- Outward Bound, Adventure
- Introductory tennis
- Art and Design
- Chess Club
- Introduction to microchips
- High performance sport
- Master Chef

EDMUND RICE EDUCATION AUSTRALIA

Additional information and Enrolment Forms can be found on the Parade College website: www.parade.vic.edu.au or by contacting:
Dr Edmund Sharratt (9468 8073)
Mrs Stephanie Campbell (9468 8250).

DANCE STREET

DANCE, HIP HOP, ACRO, LYRICAL TAP & SINGING
ALL AGES - Toddlers - Adults

ENROL NOW!

Visit www.dancestreet.com.au for NEWS timetable

RACHEL DUNNE FUGA (D.F.T.A) – Principal
Former Australian Champion 25 years of teaching expertise

0432 949 499
Come and join the dStreet Performers

AUSIE HOOPS

LJ & PATTY SAY JUMP INTO IT!

REGISTER NOW AT AUSSIEHOOPS.COM.AU
For more information on your local Aussie Hoops program visit the website and type your postcode into the program locator.
REUNION DAY

Sunday 17th April 2016

10am: Reunion Mass at St Damian’s Church
5 Settlement Road, Bundoora.

Followed by St Damian’s school tours and memorabilia displays.

Light refreshments at the School/Parish Hall concluding at 3pm.

For catering purposes, please book online at:
http://www.trybooking.com/KMZR
http://www.trybooking.com/184539

or contact the Parish Office on 9467 2797 by 7th April 2016