We Congratulate our 2013 School Leaders
FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents,

Ash Wednesday and Lent
Last Wednesday, February 13 was Ash Wednesday and as a school we acknowledged the beginning of the Liturgical Season of Lent, by joining our Parish Mass. As we received the ashes we were invited to “Turn back to God and believe in the Gospel.” We thank Father Vincent for celebrating this and we also thank our Religious Education Leader, Aoife McCarthy for preparing and organising this Mass. Lent is a special time for renewal in many different ways. It is a special time where we are able to reach out to others, to give to others and to make sacrifices. It is also a time to stop and reflect and to turn to God, who always waits lovingly for us. It is a time to deepen our relationship with God and to deepen our commitment with others. The prayer below encourages us to think and to pray about our actions. It encourages us to find the courage, strength and faith to do better in word and action.

LENT - A REFLECTION

Thoughts for Lent
  You asked for my hands
  that You might use them for Your purpose.
  I gave them for a moment then withdrew them
  for the work was hard.

  You asked for my mouth
  to speak out against injustice.
  I gave You a whisper that I might not be accused.

  You asked for my eyes to see the pain of poverty.
  I closed them for I did not want to see.

  You asked for my life
  that you might work through me.
  I gave a small part that I might not get too involved.

  Lord forgive my calculated efforts to serve You,
  only when it is convenient for me to do so,
  only in those places where it is safe to do so,
  and only with those who make it easy to do so.

    Father, forgive me,
    renew me
    send me out
    as a usable instrument
    that I might take seriously
    the meaning of Your cross.
FROM THE PRINCIPAL Continued

School Photos
As you are aware our school photos will be taken next Tuesday, February 26. It would be appreciated if all students are present and wearing their correct uniform. It would be appreciated if the student photo envelopes are returned by Friday, February 22. The family photo envelopes are available from the School Office.

Parent Information Evenings
Thank you all so much for attending our Parent Information Evenings. We are looking forward to our Year One /Two Information Evening which will take place tonight. We have been impressed with the number of parents who attended, and consider this is a true indication of how supportive you are of your children. Jenny and I have attended the three meetings that have already taken place this week and we would like to thank all the teachers who prepared and facilitated these evenings. Teachers have many additional demands placed on them, but they were most enthusiastic about these evenings.

Parent Teacher Interviews: Wednesday February 27.
As previously advertised there will be Parent/Teacher Interviews next Wednesday, February 27. These will commence at 2.00pm. These interviews will provide you with an opportunity to have an individual discussion with your child’s teacher. Please do not expect a progress report on that night. The students will be supervised at school until 3.15pm. However, if you wish to collect them after your interview you are most welcome.

Mathematics Professional Learning Day/School Closure: Friday March 01
As advertised in last week’s Newsletter all our staff will be involved in a Mathematics Professional Learning Day on March 1. This Mathematics Professional Learning Day has been organised as a part of the Mathematics Strategic Support which St Damian’s is currently receiving. Our school will be closed on that day, so please make arrangements for the supervision of your children.

Sacramental Evening: Wednesday March 6
A Sacramental evening has been organized for Wednesday, March 6 at 7.30pm in the hall. This evening will be facilitated by Paul Spence who is a well-known and highly recommended speaker. We would appreciate at least one parent attending, if your child is preparing to celebrate Reconciliation, Eucharist or Confirmation.

Internet Safety Awareness Information Sessions: Wednesday March 13
On Wednesday, March 13 our students from Year Three to Year Six will be involved in Internet Safety Awareness Information Sessions, facilitated by the Australian Communication and Media Authority (ACMA). In addition all staff will be participating in a similar session at their staff meeting. As previously notified on the evening of the same day, in the school hall at 7.30pm, there will be an information session for parents. This presentation will provide valuable information about the risks confronting children online. It will offer appropriate tools and strategies to help make their experiences safe and positive. We look forward to your attendance as our children are living in an increasingly digital world.

Open Day: Wednesday March 13 2013
There will be an open day on Wednesday, March 13. This main purpose of the open day is to provide prospective prep parents 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.

School Education Board
As was planned last year, the first meeting will be on Tuesday, March 19, at 7.30pm. At this stage we have no nominations for the vacant positions. As outlined in previous correspondence we have vacancies in Prep, Year One, Year Two and Year Six.

Safety and Traffic Management
Kiss and Drop
The Car Park contains an area that is affectionately known as the ‘Kiss and Drop’ which is designed for parents wishing to simply drop off children without parking. We ask you to follow this procedure carefully as it eliminates the need for ‘backing’, and ensures greater safety for all. If you intend to walk your children to their classrooms, please park on the street or in Coles Car Park.

To ensure the traffic flows smoothly and quickly please adhere to the following procedures when using ‘Kiss and Drop’:

- If you are the first in line please move to the designated front space
- The two cars following need to also move into their correct spaces
- It is essential that children are organised to move in and out of cars quickly. If a problem occurs please park.
FROM THE PRINCIPAL Continued

Parking in Bottom Car Park
Entrance is before 8.30 in the mornings and 3.15 in the afternoon.
Exit is after 8.45 in the morning and 3.30 in the afternoon.

Cars Entering and Exiting School Property
Between 7.00 and 9.00 in the mornings cars enter the school grounds via Settlement Road and exit via Plenty Road.
The above procedure applies in the afternoon between 3.00 and 6.00.

Entrance and Exits for Pedestrian Students to the School
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.)

Simply Strings Music Program
As in past years, we have been invited by Joe Favrin and staff of Loyola to participate in their ‘Simply Strings Music Program.’ Tuition is available for the violin, viola and cello and I encourage you to consider this opportunity for your child.
If you are interested in your child participating, please collect the information letter from the stand in the School Front Foyer. The details are outlined in this information letter.

Correct Footwear
Please ensure that your children wear their black school shoes on all days except the day they are undertaking their physical education.
When they are wearing their sports uniform they are expected to wear proper sports shoes. Proper sports shoes are runners with ankle support and plenty of tread on the soles. Soft canvas runners, without laces and ankle support are not appropriate. We would be appreciative of your support.

Prayer
―God help us to change.
To change ourselves and to change the world.
To know the need for it.
To deal with the pain of it.
To feel the joy of it.
To undertake the journey without
Understanding the destination.
The art of gentle revolution‖

Michael Leunig - A Common Prayer

Yours sincerely

Helen Hannay
Principal

FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents
The classes at St Damian’s have settled into a term of engaged learning. Our corridor displays indicate the learning that is occurring throughout our school.
This week we have held some Information Evenings for our parents. I believe these evenings were informative and I congratulate the teachers on their dedication to our students.
This term the levels are investigating rich questions through the inquiry process.
Year Prep – Who are we? (You, Me, Us)
Year One/Two – We live in a multicultural world, how do I live in harmony with others?
Year Three/Four – What are our rights and responsibilities as Christian people?
Year Five/Six – Who are we and what is our place in the community?
We encourage you to foster your child’s curiosity, wonderings and investigations around these questions.
In 2013 we are continuing the Strategic Support in Mathematics through the Catholic Education Office Melbourne. Meaghan Norrie is working closely with the School Advisers-Mathematics to facilitate professional learning sessions for our teaching teams. Our teachers are involved in discussions about the teaching and learning of Mathematics. I would like to acknowledge the professionalism, of teachers as they design units of work to cater for the needs of the students in their classes.

Kind regards,

Jenny Rubira
Deputy Principal/Learning & Teaching Leader
FAITH NEWS

Lent
The season of Lent is traditionally a time commemorating Jesus’ 40 day fast in the wilderness after he was baptised where he prayed and generally contemplated his life and mission. Ash Wednesday is the first Sunday of Lent and occurs 46 days before Easter – there are the 40 days of Lent and the 6 Sundays of Lent. The Sundays of Lent are not counted as days of Lent, because each Sunday of the year is a day on which the joy of the resurrection is remembered and celebrated. During Lent we are encouraged to turn back to God and believe in the Gospel. Over the coming weeks you might like to read a Bible story and discuss it as a family.

Help needed
As you may be aware we hold Prayer Services during Holy Week and during Advent. The children sometimes get dressed up to re-enact scenes from the Bible. Our costumes are looking a little tired so we are hoping to make some new ones. If you have an hour to spare and can do some hemming of cloth or sewing on of Velcro please come and see me. Many hands make light work so you may like to gather together a few people to work together. All offers of help gratefully received!

Reconciliation
Just a gentle reminder to Year Three parents: Please remember to book your child’s Reconciliation ceremony via the online booking system. Please contact the Office if you are having trouble logging on. Please remember that sashes are optional. Sashes and sash orders (if required) need to be placed by the 28th of Feb.

Aoife Mc Carthy
Religious Education Leader

SPORT NEWS

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, Cross Country, Diving, Football (Soccer), Golf, Hockey, Netball, Orienteering, Rugby League, Softball, Surfing, Swimming, Tennis, Touch, Track and Field, Triathlon, Volleyball and Water Polo.

Not all sports are participated in at school so I may be unaware of your child’s talents in one of the listed sports. If you are interested in nominating your child you should contact Mr Tim Watson to discuss possible nomination for the appropriate team. Please remember that you must consider your child to be “elite” in their sport as competition for spots is extremely competitive considering teams are chosen from students from right across Victoria.

Swimming Trials and Carnival
Congratulations to all of the students who have been selected to represent St Damian’s at the Bundoora District School Sports Association Swimming Carnival to be held on February 28, 2013.
Thank you also to all of the students who tried out for a place on the team. We enjoyed a great day at Thomastown Pool where the children swam their hearts out and had time for a quick play afterwards.
Another thank you must also go to the parents who helped out on the day. Without your help we would be unable to run these trials. I know the students appreciated your support on the day.
Good luck to the St Damian’s Swim Team.

Premier’s Active Families Challenge
Last week your eldest child would have received a handout about the Premier’s Active Families Challenge which runs from March 4 until the April 14, 2013. This is a fun and free challenge promoting the importance of physical activity during childhood. If you are interested, there are some registration forms outside the office or you can simply register online at: www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/challenge.

If you decide to enter you will be offered incentives, such as free YMCA passes, to help your family get active. It’s also a chance for the whole family to spend time together and enjoy the benefits of regular exercise. For those families with students in Year’s 3-6 this would also be a chance for your child to share their knowledge learnt during our early PE lessons which focused on health and fitness, in particular ‘Fitness Circuits’. I also have a variety of activities that I would be happy to share with any families who are interested.

Tim Watson (Sports Co-Ordinator)
DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Term 1

February 2013
Thu 21st  Year One/Two Information Evenings
Mon 25th  Assembly-Reflection by 5/6G 2.30pm
Tue 26th  School Photo Day - 9am
Wed 27th  Parent Teacher Interviews
Thu 28th  BDSSA Swimming Carnival at WaterMarc,
          Greensborough-9am
          EMA closes

March 2013
Fri 1st  Professional Learning Day-School Closure
Sat 2nd  Reconciliation Presentation Mass-5.30pm
Sun 3rd  Reconciliation Presentation Mass-8.00 & 10.00 am
Mon 4th  Divisional Swimming Carnival at Coburg
         Pool
Wed 6th  Sacramental Evening - 7.30pm in the Hall
Tue 12th Assembly-Reflection by 5/6DF-2.30pm
Wed 13th Open Day - School Tours will be available at
         9.30am, 11.30am, 2.30pm and 6.00pm
         Northern Region Swimming Championships-9.00am
         Internet Safety Awareness Information
         Sessions
         Information Session for Parents--7.30pm in
         the Hall
Mon 18th Year 3/4 Incursion Catchment Story
Tue 19th Year 3/4 Incursion Catchment Story
         School Education Board - 7.30pm
         Evening Literacy Parent Assistant Workshop -7.30pm
Wed 20th Reconciliation Ceremony-7.30pm
Thu 21st Harmony Day for Whole Day-Hall and Creed Centre
         Reconciliation Ceremony-7.30pm
Fri 22nd Year 3/4 Incursion Waterbugs
Mon 25th Assembly-Reflection by 5/6CW-2.30pm
Sun 31st Easter Sunday

Welcome back to the OSHC newsletter for 2013! We have begun the year celebrating Chinese New Year and Valentines Day with many art and craft activities to suit the occasions.

As most parents are now aware March 1 is a pupil free day. Camp Australia is currently considering to open our OSHC service for the day (7am - 6pm) for those parents who are unable to find alternative care for their children. However, in order to open the service we need to get a minimum of 20 children to attend. If you are interested in Using this service please come to the Creed Centre and express your interest on the form in the OSHC room. I will then advise parents whether or not the service will operate via a form on the door of the Creed Centre.

On a similar note, if you are interested in using the OSHC service either casually or permanently you will need to go onto www.campaustralia.com.au and register your child/ren before they will be permitted to use the service.

Also I go back to university on March 4 in order to start my Masters of Teaching course. Although I will still be coordinating the service I will only be on site every Thursday and Friday (BSC & ASC) due to placements. My assistant coordinator (and sister) Emily will be coordinating Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday services. If there are any queries or concerns please feel free to speak to Emily as she will be able to assist you or feel free to see me when I am at the service.

We look forward to seeing you!

Jenny and the OSHC Team

What’s on at OSHC this Week

UNIFORM SHOP NEWS

Winter Uniform

Orders for Winter Uniform are now being accepted. If your daughter requires a Tunic for Term 2, please place your orders NOW to ensure delivery by the beginning of next term. These are “customer special orders” which take four weeks to manufacture.

Deadline for Tunic orders is Friday March 22.
Grey trousers and polo shirts must also be ordered by this date. Orders may be placed via the office message bin, or in person on Fridays between 9.00 am and 10.00 am

Thank You
Uniform Shop Manager

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING DAY

SCHOOL CLOSURE

FOCUS: MATHEMATICS

FRIDAY MARCH 1
ST DAMIAN’S ‘PARENTS & FRIENDS’ FUNDRAISER

Please complete your order below and return this form with correct money to St Damian’s Primary School no later than Wednesday March 13, 2013

Parents & Friends Corner 2013

The year has started with a very well attended meeting. A big thank-you, to all the parents who came along. P&F has confirmed a number of fundraising events and we are hoping to be able to work towards some significant improvements for the school. More details to follow soon.

This year Parents & Friends has decided to set up small committees to organise fundraising events. We are seeking parents to join a sub-committee to help organise and run an event. Many of the current P & F members have work commitments during the day and we need the support of parents who can come up to the school during school hours. Sub-committees will have members of the P & F committee to work with you.

Parents & Friends are also seeking donations and sponsorship for our events. Please consider supporting one of the following activities. If you are able to help, please return the slip below.

YES! I can assist the Parents & Friends Committee 2013

Parent Name: ...........................................................  Child’s Name ....................................................

Best Contact No: ...........................................................  Child’s Class: ....................................................

I would like to join the following sub-committee

☐ BBQ, team: Organises 1 BBQ per term for the students

☐ Mother’s Day & Father’s Day Stall: Terms 2 & 3. Purchases gifts and runs each of the stalls.

☐ Something-A-Thon: Term 3. Annual Activity Day which coincides with St Damian’s Feats Day in September. Previous events have included: Lap-a-thon, Skip-a-thon, Olymp-a-thon.

☐ Art Show: This is a new initiative which we hope will be a fabulous exhibition of school work.

☐ Casual Clothes Days: 3 per year. Help needed to count money on the day.


☐ Calendars/ Cards: Term 3 – 4. Assist with collation of orders and distribution.

☐ World Teacher Day: Term 4. Organising a function to recognise our teachers.

☐ Donations: I am able to make a donation of goods towards one of the above events Details:..............................................................................................................................

☐ Sponsorship: I am able to provide sponsorship towards one of the above events. Details:..............................................................................................................................

☐ Other:..................................................................................................................................
## Happy Birthday List

The following children will celebrate their birthday in the coming weeks:

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<td>Feb</td>
<td>Jonathan</td>
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<td>Giulia</td>
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<td>9th</td>
<td>Corey</td>
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<td>Marcus</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Justin</td>
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### ST DAMIANS ‘PARENTS & FRIENDS’ SWEET TREATS FUNDRAISER

Please complete your order and return this form with correct money to School no later than Wednesday March 13, 2013—Flyers will be sent out Monday.

### IMPORTANT CLARIFICATION RE INTERNET SAFETY AWARENESS

Presentation Date—Wednesday March 13

Starting Time - 7.30 pm

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**Parent Helpers for Computer and Visual Art Classes**

We are on the lookout for volunteers to assist during Art and Computer Classes. If you have skills or are passionate about one of these subjects we would love you assistance. If you are interested in assisting you would require a Working with Children Check. The specialist classes run on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. So if you are available to offer your time and your skills please write your name on the form that will be located outside of the Art Room and we will get in touch with you.

Thank you for your support

Cris Cirone & Jessica Quinn (ICT and Contemporary Arts Teachers)
CATHOLIC LADIES’ COLLEGE

TWILIGHT TOUR
Thursday, 21 February, 2013
5.00 pm—7.00 pm
Year 7 Enrolment Information 7:15 pm

For further information on how your daughter could flourish here please go to our website www.clc.vic.edu.au or contact our College Registrar, Mrs Helen Cattapan
Telephone: 9439 4077
19 Diamond Street
Eltham 3095

PRIVATE LESSONS
$25
SINGING GUITAR PIANO DRUMS
KEYBOARD VIOLIN

NEW LOCATION
EPPING AURORA

JUNIOR STRINGS OF BANYULE
are now accepting new members for 2013

JSB was founded in 1996 and offers excellent ensemble experience to young string players. Its aim is to provide an enjoyable and positive environment for young musicians. Full ensemble rehearsals as well as sectional tutorials are directed by enthusiastic and experienced string educators. The minimum standard required to join is AMEB Grade 1. JSB rehearse every Wednesday 5.00 – 6.30pm (during school terms) at St. James Parish Centre, Ivanhoe.

Please phone 9005 1792 for more information on joining.

OUR LADY OF MERCY COLLEGE

HEIDELBERG

Applications for enrolments for Year 7, 2014 close on Friday 1st March 2013
Places for 2014 will be offered early in Term 2 2013 after consultation with neighbouring Colleges.

School Tours are being held throughout the year on normal school days. We also offer Twilight School Tours. All tours last for approx. 1.5 hours. Bookings must be made by telephoning College Reception on 9459 2511.

Applications for enrolment in Year 7 2014, Year 7 2015, Year 7 2016 and Year 7 2017 are now being taken. Application forms and enrolment policy information are available by contacting the College on 9459 2511.

Office hours are 8:00 am - 5.00 pm Monday - Friday

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

Married couples, we encourage you to prioritise your relationship. It underpins your family life. Please join us for a Marriage Encounter weekend. Our weekend helps you to remember why you married and gives you skills to maintain your love for each other.
Couples and a priest present the weekend. It is based around catholic values but you don’t need to be catholic to attend. There is no group sharing.

Our next weekends in 2013 are on:
19-21 April, 14-16 June and 9-11 August in Melbourne.

For further information and bookings contact Marianne & Marcel Van den Bronk (03) 9733 0997 or email vicbookings@wwme.org.au

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Curves Complete
90 Days of Diet, Exercise and 1-on-1 Coaching
Curves Greensborough/Watsonia
Diamond Village Shopping Centre
78 Nepean Street, Watsonia 3087
Phone: 9432 559
Email: curvesgreen@cjkfitness.com.au

DanceTrain
Dance, Tap & Singing
New Classes starting February 2013
Focus on Fun, Fitness & Technique
All ages – Toddlers up to Adult fitness classes
Principal - Rachel Dunne-Fuga (D.F.T.A)
(former proprietor of Stiletto Dance Studio)
Over 30 years of dance experience
Over 20 years of teaching experience
Trained in all styles of dance: Jazz, Ballroom, Rhythm & Movement, Tap and Classical
To enquire or enrol call Rachel
0432 949 499
“like” us on Facebook
Enrolments being accepted now!
Classes held at St Peter’s Hall, Alma Rd, Bundoora

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS
The Premier’s Active Families Challenge encourages Victorians to participate in thirty minutes of physical activity for thirty days over six weeks. It’s free, it’s fun and it is part of the Victorian Government’s commitment to get more people, more active, more often.
Now in its fifth year, the 2013 Challenge will be held from March 4 to April 14.
Flyers are available in the Foyer

OUR LADY OF MERCY COLLEGE
HEIDELBERG
Applications for enrolments for Year 7, 2014 close on - Friday March 1, 2013
Please contact College Reception on 9459 2511