



Dear Community Members,

Welcome to Week 4!

As I reflect on these first few weeks at Dominican School, I am reminded of the strong community spirit we share in our commitment to live our 2023 School Theme:



Inspiring Hearts and Minds to be the **BEST** we can be

#### Our School Theme:

- is grounded in our **NEW Vision for Learning** that will be actioned through our *Pedagogical Principles of Community, Connection, Discovery and Challenge*.
- is deeply connected to our **Catholic Identity**, *inspired by the Scripture of Matthew (22: 37-39) to love God, ourselves and others with all our hearts, souls and minds*.
- aligns with our **CESA Positioning Statement, Raising Hearts & Minds**, which highlights the 'why' of our important work in *Catholic Education*.

In partnership with our exceptional staff and families, we are dedicated to providing a learning community of EXCELLENCE for each and every student at Dominican to reach their full potential to be thriving people, capable learners and leaders for God's world. Our school theme affirms this ongoing commitment.

As a school community we already have so much to celebrate and be proud of. This has been evident in the many ways we have gathered with students, families, staff and the parish to share in important community events including:

- New Families Meet & Greet - Coffee & Conversation Morning
- Welcome Assembly & Blessing Prayer - Presentation of 42 New Students & Year 6 Seniors
- Beginning of Year Mass – Living VERITAS with Faith & Love
- Weeks 1 & 2 Building the Foundations for Success – Engagement, Wellbeing & Learning
- Meet the Teacher Evening with creche for children attending
- Student Leaders Assembly – SRC, Sports Captains & Justice Leaders
- Acknowledgement of Country prepared by our Dominican School Nunga Club
- Shrove Tuesday Pancake Morning Tea organised by our Justice Leaders and the P&F
- Science of Reading Parent Workshop with Linda Clune

It is events like these that make us proud of who we are here at Dominican and that reflect true examples of what it means **to be the best we can be** as we work in positive partnership to **achieve new levels of excellence**.

An upcoming significant event in our school calendar is the **Annual General Meeting**. This will be held on **Monday 20 March at 6.30pm** in the **Multi-Function Centre** and you are all warmly invited to attend. I am pleased to announce that Rua Hashlamoun our Architect from Brown Falconer will be our guest speaker/ join us to present the preliminary design elements of our Stage 2 Master Plan. Rua is looking forward to sharing plans for the exciting next stage of our approved \$3 million upstairs build and refurbishment project to commence in July/August of this year. Keep the date and more information will follow to register for the evening.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to recognise and express sincere gratitude to **Phil Holmes**. After two and a half years of outstanding leadership as Principal of Dominican School, Phil has made the decision to resign to take on a Leadership Development role as Principal Consultant for the Brown Collective. During his time at Dominican, Phil has led our school with great integrity, vision and innovation and we give thanks for the significant contributions he has made to the life of our school community. We wish Phil all the very best in his future endeavours and look forward to acknowledging and celebrating his achievements at a community farewell later in the term.

Blessings for a wonderful week!

**Inspiring Hearts & Minds to be the BEST we can be.**

Kind regards

**Alison Tanti-Clark**  
ACTING PRINCIPAL



### OPENING MASS

On Friday 10th February we celebrated our first school Mass for 2023. This was a special time for our students, staff and families to gather with Father Roderick, to ask God's blessing upon us as we begin a new school year. At Dominican School, we look to St Dominic, our patron saint, who came to share the Good News of Jesus, and who shows us how to follow God's way. Our Opening Mass marked the beginning of our journey in 2023 to LIVE VERITAS with Faith & Love.

### THE SEASON OF LENT

On Tuesday, we celebrated **SHROVE TUESDAY** with a Pancake Morning Tea. Many thanks to the Justice Leaders and the P&F for their help with organising this event for all of our students and staff. As a school community we raised over \$250 for Project Compassion.

Yesterday we celebrated **ASH WEDNESDAY** with an R-6 Liturgy in the MFC. This was led by our Year 3-6 classes and was a special time to gather in faith to begin our Lenten journey to Easter. Each of us was marked with a cross of ash reminding us to act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with God this LENT.

In Pope Francis' words, 'Lent is a time for drawing near to Christ.' Ash Wednesday also marks the launch of CARITAS Australia's Project Compassion appeal on the theme, For All Future Generations. Each class and each student has been provided with a Project Compassion box to contribute to during Lent. Our support of Project Compassion is one way of putting our faith in action to support the most vulnerable in our world. So let's open our hearts to the poor and give generously to this worthy cause this Lent.



### NUDE FOOD EVERY DAY

In Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si: CARE OF OUR COMMON HOME*, we are reminded of our commitment to ecological conversion and the call to be stewards of God's gift of creation. At Dominican, we work in partnership to care for our school environment by ensuring we have NUDE FOOD EVERY DAY.

Nude Food is food without excess packaging. Usually, this means food that is not processed, often making it a healthier and more

environmentally friendly option. Nude Food reduces the amount of waste that needs to go in bins to be sent to landfill. Durable, reusable containers are a great way to bring food, as they may last from pre-school through to high school, providing long term cost savings and environmental benefits.

We give thanks for the beauty of God's creation and we look forward to continuing to work together to care for it.

**Martina Kovacev**  
**ACTING RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR**

## SCIENCE OF READING WITH LINDA CLUNE



This Tuesday we hosted a parent workshop to inform parents of some of the literacy practices that are occurring within our school. This was run by Linda Clune, a Specialist Dyslexia Teacher and Literacy Consultant, based at Fullarton House at Glenelg. She provided an opportunity for parents to be updated about how students learn to read, what approaches work the best for most beginning readers and how evidence-based research can be used to teach reading and spelling from Reception to Year 6. Linda provided insights from her own time educating and as a tutor at Fullarton House, as well as from the perspective of a parent. This was a great opportunity to find out how we are approaching literacy at Dominican and how you are best able to support your child to being a successful reader, as well as learning to have patience with them along the journey.

The infographic, **How Our Brains Learn to Read** (click image at right to see full size) provides an insight into understanding that the brain is not hardwired to read but is an essential skill that needs to be taught and mastered over time. Linda encouraged our parents of the younger year levels to expose their children to as much rich print and stories as possible and immerse them in rich language by having meaningful conversations with them. This is why we have begun with the initiative of sending Oral Language Reader packs for Reception students.

Please feel free to touch base with your child's teacher should you wish to learn more about our literacy approaches or how you can support them further with their reading at home.

**Nick Ryan**  
**LEADER OF LEARNING**



# ASH WEDNESDAY 2023





## PANCAKES WITH OUR RECEPTIONS

What a yummy way to start the day! Pancakes for Shrove Tuesday.  
We eat pancakes as we prepare for Easter.

**Julia Nofi**  
YEAR RN CLASSROOM TEACHER

## LET'S KEEP MOVING IN PE!



Term 1 is off to a great start at Dominican!

Basketball is underway as students had their first game this week. It is fantastic hear the students joy when they report back on their games. We have completed Swimming Trials and congratulate those selected students who will compete in the SAPSASA Swim Carnival in Week 6 and the SACPSSA Swim Carnival later in the term. Good luck swimmers!

As the temperature soared, this week we had to "beat the heat" with students attending the Port Adelaide Athletic Club for our annual Athletic Trials on Monday. We had 46 students, and with some amazing parent help, we were able to get through all the events quickly and with ease. Students will be selected to participate in the SAPSASA Athletics Carnival later in the term.

Across all year levels we are focusing on Athletics in PE to get ready for SPORTS DAY at the end of term. All year levels are participating in running, hurdles, shot put and relays to name a few.

Let's Keep Moving!

**Dayna Martin**  
PE & SPORTS COORDINATOR



## UNIFORM REMINDER

### SCHOOL UNIFORM

In Term 1 students are required to wear the Summer Uniform. We ask families to ensure that students are wearing the correct uniform items at all times. This includes:

- black formal school shoes (not black sports shoes)

- the new Summer Dress (the old style dress is being transitioned out)
- SKORTS are not permitted to be worn as part of the Sports Uniform. Please ensure that your child is wearing the correct sports shorts.

A copy of our Uniform Policy is in the student diary or can be viewed [here](#)

Uniform is purchased through Hambours Uniform Shop, in store or online (with delivery to school).

## ABSENTEES

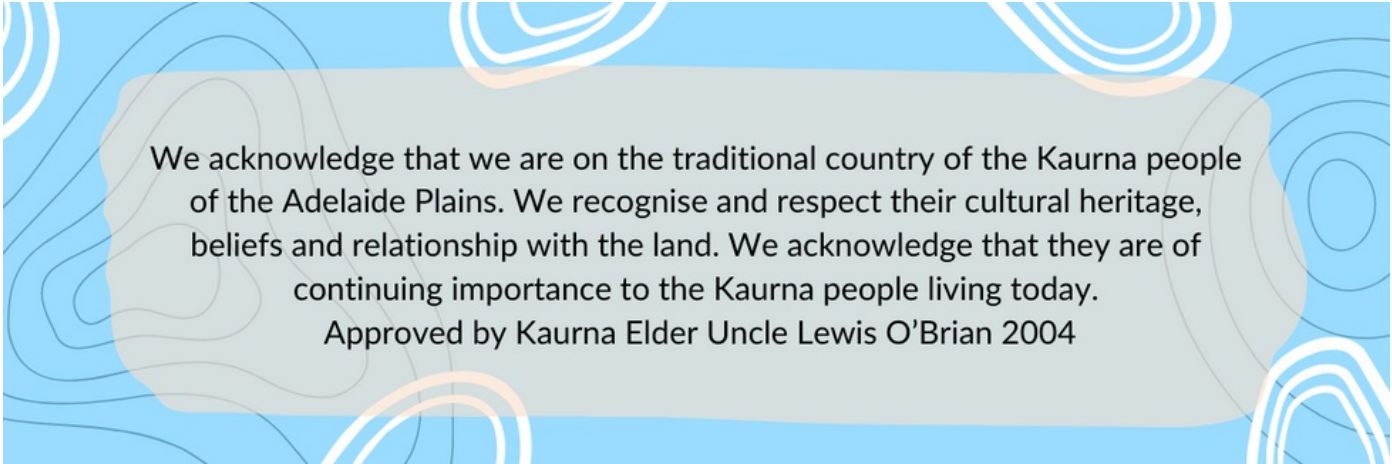
School commences at 8.50am and concludes at 3.05pm each day. Students who arrive after 8.50am must sign in at the Front Office.

If your child is absent from school, please email [absent@dominican.catholic.edu.au](mailto:absent@dominican.catholic.edu.au) or phone 8114 3600 Option 1 and leave your child's name, class and reason for absence.

If your child needs to be collected before the end of the school day, they must be collected from the Front Office and be signed out.

## COVID UPDATE

Whilst we are able to put many COVID restrictions behind us, COVID-19 continues to affect the community. We all have a part to play in keeping our school community safe and minimising the disruption to learning that can occur when illness circulates at school. Students who are unwell should stay home if they have cold or flu-like symptoms and get tested for COVID-19. If students have COVID-19, please advise the school as soon as possible, and stay at home until all acute symptoms (runny nose, sore throat, cough and fever) have cleared.



We acknowledge that we are on the traditional country of the Kurna people of the Adelaide Plains. We recognise and respect their cultural heritage, beliefs and relationship with the land. We acknowledge that they are of continuing importance to the Kurna people living today.  
Approved by Kurna Elder Uncle Lewis O'Brian 2004

# TERM 1

# IMPORTANT DATES

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**W5**

**MON 27 FEB - WED 1 MAR**

Year 4/5 Camp  
NARNU FARM



**W5**

**FRI 3 MAR**

1/2AB Prayer & Assembly  
9.00am  
Multi Function Centre



**W6**

**FRI 10 MAR**

3/4S Prayer & Assembly  
9.00am  
Multi Function Centre



**W7**

**MON 13 MAR**

**ADELAIDE CUP  
PUBLIC HOLIDAY**



**W7**

**FRI 17 MAR**

RS Prayer & Assembly  
9.00am  
Multi Function Centre



**W8**



**MON 20 MAR**  
**AGM - SCHOOL BOARD**  
**6.30pm**  
Year 6 Aquatics

**Uniform Shop**

**Alinta by Hambours**  
2 Wilson Street, Royal Park

**Shop instore or online**

Mondays to Thursdays  
9:00am to 12:30pm & 1:00pm to 5:00pm,  
Fridays: 9:00am - 12:30pm & 1:00pm to 4:00pm  
Ph | 8447 2077

<https://dominican.hambours.com.au>

shop online for 5% discount on most items

Go to Online Uniform Shop

Order through Qkr! App



Menu and Price List

LUNCH ORDER SERVICE MENU



# PRAYER, LITURGY & MASSES TERM 1, 2023

1

Friday 10 February 2023, 12.00pm  
**Opening Mass**  
Sacred Heart Church

2

Wednesday 22 Feb 2023, 12.00pm  
**Ash Wednesday Mass**  
Led by 3-6s, Sacred Heart Church

3

Friday 24 March 2023, 12.00pm  
**Harmony Day Mass**  
Led by R-2s, Sacred Heart Church

4

Tuesday 4 April 2023, 9.00am  
**Palm Sunday Liturgy**  
Led by Receptions, MFC

5

Wednesday 5 April 2023, 9.00am  
**Holy Thursday Liturgy**  
Led by 1/2s , MFC

6

Thursday 6 April 2023, 9.00am  
**Good Friday Liturgy**  
Led by 3/4s , MFC

7

Tuesday 11 April 2023, 9.00am  
**Easter Sunday Liturgy**  
Led by 5/6s, MFC



## WANT TO GET INVOLVED IN OUR COMMUNITY?

ARE YOU A MASTER OF THE BBQ?  
OR AN EVENT EXTRAORDINAIRE?  
DO YOU HAVE A FLAIR FOR FUNDRAISING?  
OR JUST LOOKING TO MEET NEW PEOPLE?

WE ARE LOOKING FOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS WHO ARE KEEN TO SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL AS PART OF OUR PARENTS & FRIENDS GROUP

IF THIS SOUNDS LIKE YOU, PLEASE CONTACT ALISON APPLEBY, OUR EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST.

YES - I AM KEEN!

# How Our Brains Learn to Read

Reading is an important and fun skill that nearly everyone can learn with time and practice. Our brains are naturally set up to learn to speak, but learning to read does not happen on its own. Scientists have found that we must develop certain parts of our brains and build connections between brain areas that were not connected before. The picture below shows **four different areas of our brains** that we use when we read.

## VISUAL CORTEX

This part of our brain helps us see things. We use this part when we look at and recognize written letters and words.

**STATE SKILLING:**  
Orthographic Processing

## ANGULAR GYRUS

This brain area helps us connect sounds with letters and letters with sounds. We use this part of our brain to read words aloud or to ourselves and to put words on a page.

**STATE SKILLING:**  
Sound-Form Connections and Semantic Processing

## AUDITORY CORTEX

This brain area allows us to hear and tell the difference between sounds in spoken language. When we read, we use this part of our brain to identify the sounds that make up words.

**STATE SKILLING:**  
Phonological Processing

## INFERIOR FRONTAL GYRUS

This part of our brain helps us make speech sounds, form words and sentences, and understand the meaning of what we listen to and read.

**STATE SKILLING:**  
Speech Production, Fluency, and Comprehension



## We Need to Teach Our Brains to DECODE to Become Good Readers

What we learn in school can help us build the brain connections that we need to read. The four decoding skills below help develop different parts of the brain. It is important that kindergarten, first grades, and second grades spend a lot of time in the classroom learning and practicing these skills because they are the building blocks of reading.

**At least 50% of our K-2 reading block time should focus on learning to decode.** We must also build our vocabulary and comprehension skills, but learning to decode is a critical first step in becoming a lifelong reader.



### Phonological Awareness

It is important that we can recognize all of the sounds in the English language to be able to read well. English has **44 different speech sounds**, which is more than many other languages. **Sound walls** in our classrooms can help us learn how to make these unique sounds.



### Print Concepts

To become readers, we must also recognize the **letters of our alphabet**, the **basic parts of a book**, and the **special rules** that print must follow. Pointing out the front and back of a book, capital letters, lowercase letters, and punctuation marks can help us understand how writing works.



### Phonics & Word Recognition

Once we know our sounds and the alphabet, we can begin to put them together to read words. We learn phonics when our teacher helps us to **sound out words** and know **which letters and combinations of letters make which sounds**. When we become good at this skill, we can read and spell many words.



### Fluency

Now that we've learned about the connections between sounds, letters, and words, we can put it all together by **reading sentences and books!** The more we practice sounding out words, the easier it will become to recognize both new and familiar words on the page.



Learn more about the strategies and systems needed to improve students' reading outcomes by visiting our reading resource center on [narrowing the third grade reading gap](#).  
[http://www.eab.org/our-center](#)