

# St. Dominic's Primary School Camberwell East



## School Newsletter No. 14

## Thursday 12th September, 2024



St Dominic's Primary School is committed to the care, safety and wellbeing of children and young people as a central and fundamental responsibility of Catholic education. St Dominic's Primary School acknowledges the Wurundjeri people as the traditional custodians of the land on which we work, learn and gather. We pay our respects to the Elders of the past, present and future and acknowledge their spiritual connection to Country.



# IMPORTANT DATES

### St. Dominic's School Google Calendar

### DATES:

- Sacrament of Confirmation Retreat Day- Thursday 12th September
- Sacrament of Confirmation- Thursday 12th September: 7pm St Dominic's Church
- Year P-2s Level Assembly- Friday 13th September (2.45pm)
- Year 3/4s Werribee Zoo Excursion- Tuesday 17th September
- Prep 2025 'Story & Play' Session 3- Wednesday 18th September (2.30pm)
- Whole School End of Term Assembly- Friday 20th September (12.00pm)
- END OF TERM 3: Friday 20th September (1.00pm)

### UPCOMING DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

- TERM 4 COMMENCES- Monday 7th October
- School Review: Mon 14/10; Mon 21/10, Tues 22/10; Wed 13/11
- Prep 2025 Key Transition Dates: Thurs 27/10- Welcome to St. Dominic's; Weds 30/10, 20/11, 4/12- Prep Transition Sessions
- Level Masses- Year 5/6s- Thurs 17/10 & Years P-2- Thurs 31/10

### Every Week:

- Sunflower Kids Playgroup- Mon. 2.30-3.30pm & Thurs. 9.00-10.30am (Community Hub)
  - ] Chess for Kids- Wednesdays 1.40-2.40pm (Veritas Hall)
- St Dom's School Choir practice- Friday mornings at 8.00am (Italian room)



Parents, we ask you to regularly check on school dates, via Google Calendar, our weekly Newsletter/Bulletin, & via your Audiri app which is linked to the Google Calendar. If you need assistance with accessing any of this information, please contact our school office staff. Thank you

# Prayer for our Confirmation Candidates

Lord, we pray for our Confirmation candidates, who this week, receive the Gifts of the Holy Spirit through the Sacrament of Confirmation. May their lives be forever blessed with, and inspired by these gifts and the spirit-filled people in their lives.



God our Creator Spirit Life is your gift to us. Through Baptism, you call us to the fullness of life. You invite us to share your gift of life by serving others. We ask you to bless the symbols That we use as signs of the living Spirit within us. You call us to share your life and your love in our world. Be with us as we choose again each day to be your disciples. Give us courage and freedom to respond generously to your call. As we journey together, we pray that we will value and celebrate the life and gifts of each person. We ask this through Jesus' name. Amen

# The Gifts of our Community .....

### Parents & Carers,

This week marks R U OK? Day 2024. Each of us, whether silently or shared, carries our own burdens, crosses and challenges, sometimes in our workplace, in our immediate families and very often in our own personal lives. Let's all continue to reach out to one another as a caring, inclusive and welcoming school community, to consciously support and be supported.... To be the GIFT in another's life

Each member of our school community is so highly-valued. We are mindful that so many in our community often carry their own crosses, though don't always reach out for the care, support or advice they need. Let's continue to be intuitive and mindful of those around us, including our staff, students and other parents. It is important to notice, ask, listen and take action & ask R U OK? Any Day, because **life** happens **every** day.

A lot can happen in a year, a month, a week. Whether it's your friend, family member, colleague, partner, or teammate, the people you care about go through life's ups and downs daily. By having regular, meaningful conversations & connections, we can build trust and normalise talking about what's really going on. In doing this, when the people in your world find themselves struggling, they know you're someone they can talk to.



So whilst R U OK?Day on Thursday September 12 is a National Day of Action, we encourage you to Ask R U OK? Any Day of the year because conversations can change lives.

As the school holidays near, we sense an air of excitement as well as great tiredness! It has been an exceptionally busy term at St. Dom's. Those of you who follow our social media and keep up to date with our Newsletters & Bulletins, will know what's been happening in our very very busy school world! Our staff team have gone above and beyond once again, to meet the needs of all students, in their learning, socially with friendships, as well as in their ongoing care and attention to wellbeing. We have much to be proud of!

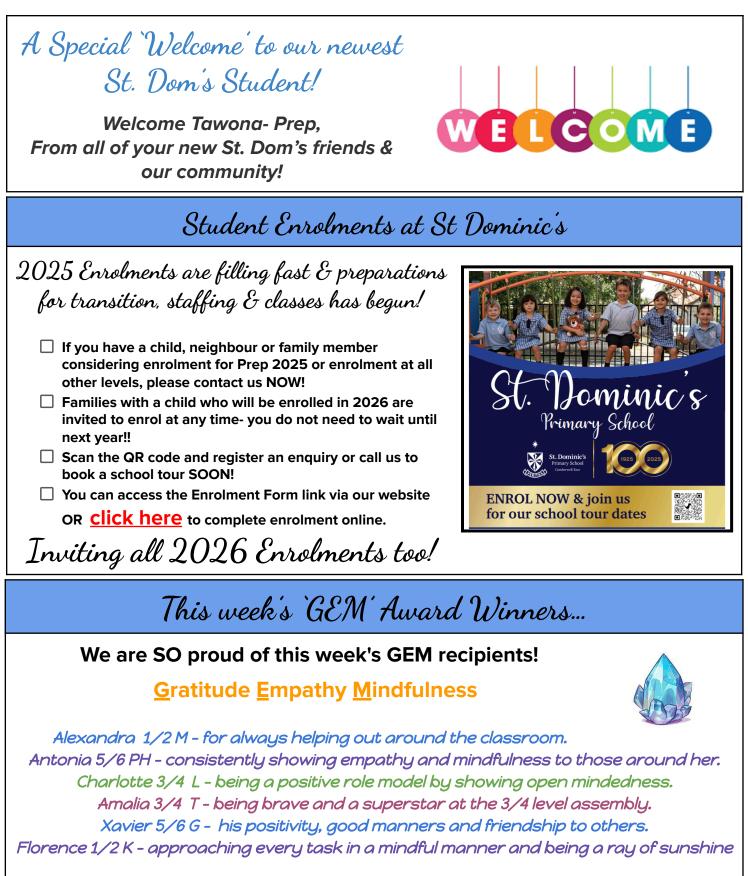
At the end of this term, we say farewell to our Year 1 friends, Clara & Lucy Lunardello as they move to another school. We will certainly miss their smiling faces, care for everyone and determination to always be their best selves. This term we have welcomed 6 new students and their families into our community: Ben, Sebastian, Sofia, Wutong, Bonnie & Tawona. Just last week, I invited all new families from Term 2 and 3 for a coffee catch up together and this will become a regular thing! Each term, there will be a coffee catch up for new families, which will be advertised in the newsletter and on our school Google calendar. If you are able to pop in to make our new parents feel welcome and say hi, you are very welcome!

During the school holidays, I am most fortunate to be taking the opportunity of travelling with other Principals to Spain, for the El Camino Pilgrimage. Whilst it is a couple of weeks away still, the day will arrive soon and I look forward to the enriching experience ahead, knowing that I am blessed to have this opportunity. I will be on leave in Week 1, Term 4, and Helen will be Acting Principal for this week. I look forward to my return when I can share some of this experience, to a place where our school's Patron Saint, St. Dominic, was born & raised, preached and carried out his mission.

I hope that the coming holidays allow your own families to have a 'circuit breaker' and time to recharge and reconnect. Thank you for all that you do with and for this wonderful community of St. Dom's!

Thank you for your support and our partnership.

Mrs Natalie Kenny - Principal principal@sdcamberwelleast.catholic.edu.au nkenny@sdcamberwelleast.catholic.edu.au



Thank you to these kind and considerate St. Dom's students. What a joy and a gift it is to show GEM towards others!



## MACSSIS: Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools School Improvement Surveys

Parents & Carers, Information regarding our 2024 MACSSIS has been sent to all families, along with a survey link and family PIN.

This is your invitation to participate in MACSSIS 2024 & the survey window is <u>2nd-20th September</u>. Your responses are valued and your voice and the data we receive helps to shape our school's future.

> Thank you in advance. From the St. Dom's Team

Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools

### MACSSIS

Imagine if, in about 30 minutes, you could help improve your child's school.

The MACSSIS family survey is open Monday 2 September – Friday 20 September 2024.

# Sacrament of Confirmation: Visit to Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre







Recently, as a very special part of Confirmation formation, our Year 6 students visited Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre, East Melbourne.

The day was filled with learning, discovery, working & learning together and finding out more about St. Mary of the Cross- Australia's first Saint.

May we continue to be inspired by spirit-filled people in our own lives and be one ourselves too!

# Year 3/4 Level Mass



Our 3/4 Level celebrated the life and work of Mother Teresa in their recent level mass. Prayers and songs highlighted the importance of helping others and following in the footsteps of Mother Teresa and her Missionary Work.

## GIDSSA Athletics Carnival- Years 3-6

Congratulations to the 51 students who represented St Dominic's at the District Athletics on Wednesday 11 September. Team St Dom's showed off its strength, speed, agility and great teamwork to win the GIDSSA Aggregate Shield - again! The day was fun, exciting and very competitive. Our competitors displayed great sportsmanship and tried their very best in all events. We are very proud of all our team members.

A special mention to the students who have progressed to Division which will be held next term -Aimee G, Benny P , Finn J and Maddy A.

I would like to say a big thank you to Kirsten B and Luke M - our parent helpers and the staff who attended who all helped make the day so successful.



# St. Dominic's 2024 School Review



As you are aware, we are currently in the process of School Review, with key dates coming up in early Term 4. Our St. Dom's Leadership Team and all Staff have worked intensively with MACS (Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools) support this year, as we prepare for our four-yearly Review.

Every four years, Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Melbourne undertake a School Review that is used to support deep learning and ongoing monitoring of improvement throughout the four-year continuous improvement process within the School Improvement Framework (SIF).

School Review supports schools to foster improvement in an ongoing and continuous way, as well as ensuring schools continue to meet external legislative and regulatory requirements. School Review has two main dimensions – improvement and compliance. While the four-year process moves cyclically, improvement is a continuous and ongoing process, with schools growing and flourishing in multidimensional ways over time.

Our school reviewer will have full access to our work in the coming weeks, then we will welcome her onsite in Term 4. We have a Preliminary Visit, Review days 1 & 2, then Dialogue and Engagement sessions, where all stakeholders in our school community will be engaged, consulted and give voice to the narrative at St. Dominic's: ie. in the 5 spheres of School Community, Learning & Teaching, Religious Dimension, Leadership & Management, and Student Wellbeing. Further information about how you can be part of this very important consultative process, will be shared once Term 4 commences.

# Our 2025 Centenary Year.... Get Excited!

Calling all St. Dom's friends, families, alumni and community members!

As we prepare for our 2025 Centenary, let us know if you would like to be part of our Centenary Team. Please contact Natalie Kenny or email our office staff to express interest in being part of our Centenary Team: nkenny@sdcamberwelleast.catholic.edu.au OR office@sdcamberwelleast.catholic.edu.au

Thank you to the members of our community who were able to join us for our online Centenary Information Session this week. Below you will see a snippet of the events in store! And much more!! We look forward to collaborating with our community to ensure that 2025 is indeed a year to remember!

Those who have offered to support will be contacted early in Term 4 to meet together.

Lastly, if you know of anyone interested in supporting a team of parents with the research, sourcing of photos and documenting our school history for publishing, Please call 98368300

### Centenary Launch Event:

Sunday 16th February, 2025

Mass at SD Church, Gathering event with photo display, official launch, special guests & visitors, school tours available

Who? All students, staff & families invited to attend, along with parishioners & past staff, families



### Centenary Gala Dinner/Cocktail Event:

Date TBC: May/June 2025

Venue: Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club



Who? All parents & staff of our school community







Centenary 'Coffee Table Book', filled with memories, stories and inspiration!

Needed: connections with alumni, networking, photos, stories, team to support



TBC: Tuesday 25th March OR Tuesday 1st April, 2025

100 Years Showcase of Learning, Faith & Community:

Student learning ('Connections & Community') will be on display for families to be engaged with, students dress in 'era' of focus; special car display of each decade of the past 100 years (1920s, 30s, 40s, etc); food trucks & family fun

### Performing Arts/School Concert:

### September 2025 (date TBC)

Term 3, 2025, Kinect 2 Dance- Concert Program: `Blast From the Past: Dance through the Decades!



Who? Students take part in 10 week dance program with celebration of learning through a school concert for families!

### Centenary Merchandise & Online Store!

Caps, drink bottles, coffee cups, beanies, Centenary bear/dog, T-shirts, jackets, pens, wine, etc



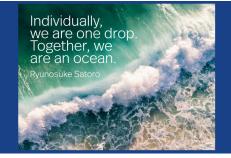
### More details TBC











## OHSC - Beyond EduCare

FORTNIGHTLY PROGRAM TERM 3 (WEEK 9 & 10)

#### BEYOND EDUCARE Empowering Children

Empowering Criticiten

### Building our Support Toolkit Recognising R U OK Day 9/09/24 - 20/09/24

Quality Area 1 Educational Program and Practice. Educators plan programs that are responsive to children's knowledge, strengths, ideas, culture, abilities and interests. Our service will display the educational program and make children's learning visible to share documentation in ways that are accessible, understanding and meaningful for children, families and visitors to the service

**MAK** 

PROGRAM AIM.

This fortnight's program aims to cultivate a supportive and caring community where children learn the importance of mental health, how to express their feelings, and the value of asking others, "R U OK?" This program will focus on fostering empathy, communication skills, and emotional awareness,

It has been developed in preparation for the celebrations of R U OK Day?, taking place on Thursday the 12th of September, 2024.

#### WHAT IS R U OK DAY?

R U OK? Day is a special day where we remind ourselves to ask our friends and family, "Are you OK?" It's a day to think about how important it is to listen to each other and support our friends when they're feeling sad or having a tough time. It teaches us to be kind, to care about how others are feeling, and to help each other feel better by just being there and listening. It's a great way to make sure everyone around us knows they have someone to talk to if they need it.

Cultural and community connections & Indoor experiences:

#### COMMUNITY HELPER THANK YOU CARDS:

#### Create cards to thank local mental health professionals, counselors, and other community helpers, recognizing their efforts in supporting wellness. FEELINGS COLLAGE:

Create collages using magazine cutouts that represent different emotions. Discuss why certain images were chosen and how they relate to personal feelings.

MINDFULNESS AND RELAXATION CORNER:

Set up a quiet area where children can engage in guided mindfulness activities, listen to calming music, or practice deep breathing exercises.



Our daily group chat and the sharing acts of kindness plays an integral part of our OSHC routine. Continuing this and making connections through the R U OK? Day program can significantly enhance the impact of the activities and foster a supportive community among the children.

The group chats encourage children to articulate their feelings and listen to others, enhancing their emotional iteracy. As the children are regularly sharing experiences and acts of kindness, a sense of community and collective responsibility among the children is simultaneously outlivated.

Both the group chats and the sharing of kindness acts tie back to the program's core themes of empathy, support, and community engagement. They serve as practical, everyday applications of these abstract concepts.

This year, the events of R U OK Day are being held on Thursday, the 12th of September. While this day is a special celebration to support our friends, families and others around us, we hope to apply this important message regularly and throughout our interactions with people, all year round.

#### **Creative Arts:**

STORY STONES: children can paint stones with different facial expressions or words related to emotions. These can be used in storyteling or as a way to express how they're feeling by choosing a stone that matches their current mood.

#### FRIENDSHIP

BRACELETS: Lay out beads, string or loom bands and assist the children with how to make friendship bracelets using different colors to represent different emotions or qualities of a good friend (like kindness, listening, humor). They can exchange these bracelets with friends as a sign of support and connection.

R U OK?

#### Language and Literacy:

12

#### COMIC STRIP CREATIONS

Let children create comic strips that depict various scenarios of showing empathy or asking someone if they're okay. This combines artistic expression with literacy and helps solidify their understanding of the program's themes.

#### POETRY CORNER

Introduce children to simple poetic forms like haiku, acrostic, or free verse focused on themes of empathy, kindness, and emotional expressions. This encourages creativity in how they express feelings and view the world.

#### EMOTION WORD WALL

Create a word wall dedicated to emotions and related vocabulary. Children can add new words they learn throughout the program, along with their definitions and synonyms. This visual tool helps expand their emotional vocabulary and aids in articulating their feelings more precisely.

#### **Outdoor experiences:**

Over the course of this program, team-building exercises and games that require communication and support (i.e, capture the flag, gaga ball) can assist children in exercising their sportsmanship and consideration of others.

Outdoor settings provide a perfect backdrop for mindfulness and relaxation exercises. The calm and serenity of nature can help children practice mindfulness more effectively, promoting mental clarity and emotional balance. Activities like guided meditation, yoga, or quiet reflection are particularly beneficial in such settings.

### My Time, Our Place Connections:

#### 1.1 - Children feel safe, secure, and supported

- $\ast\,$  establish and maintain respectful, trusting relationships with other children and edu
- sense and respond to a feeling of belonging
  openly express their feelings and ideas in their interactions with others
- initiate interactions and conversations with trusted educators
- 1.4 Children learn to interact in relation to others with care, empathy and re
- show interest in other children and being part of a group
- · spend a large proportion of their time with peers
- establish and maintain relationships with peers
- · express a wide range of emotions, thoughts and views constructively
- empathise with and express concern for others
- · display awareness of and respect for others' perspectives

#### LEARNING GOALS:

- Emotional Awareness: Improve children's ability to recognize and express their own emotions as well as to empathize with others.
- Communication Skills: Enhance children's ability to ask for help when needed and to offer support to others.
- Community Awareness: Teach children about the role of different community members in supporting mental health.



# St. Dom's Google Reviews!



At St. Dom's, we would be grateful if you took a few moments to add a positive Google Review for our school! Just this year, we have welcomed another 20 new students and their families into our school community, several who have been the result of your recommendations!

Word of mouth is the best form of marketing and we are grateful for our families who have told their family, friends and neighbours about our wonderful school!

Thank you, in advance!

Thank you for this most recent Google review.... We are so happy that you have joined our community!

### ★★★★★ 3 hours ago NEW

We recently moved from the country to Melbourne. With 4 children in tow, it was important we chose the right school. From the moment we were greeted by Natalie and the team we knew instantly St. Dominic's was it!! The kids have settled in beautifully and the community has welcomed us with open arms. We couldn't be happier!!!

# Still looking for a Community Pantry....

Families,

If you have an old cupboard, chest or similar to the above which could be given a 'new life' as our St. Dom's Community Pantry, please let us know.

As a community, our Community Pantry will become a source of goodness and connection!! Goods can be donated or taken, with a gold coin donation. Our students will be engaged in the preparation of goods from the garden and coordinating the selling of produce. Our Community Pantry will include locally grown produce, from our school productive garden, as well as your own homes (eg. homegrown tomatoes, lemons, lettuce, herbs).



Email principal@sdcamberwelleast.catholic.edu.au if you can assist!

# Catholic Mission

Catholic Mission is inviting all families from St Dominics to participate in a program of connected, inclusive and compassionate community support for vulnerable children in Mongolia.



Catholic Mission is Pope Francis' official overseas missionary aid agency. Through their 140 offices around the world they are connected directly to 359,000 missionaries. This year the focus for Australia to Mongolia. A place where Mongolia. A place where some of the population are currently experiencing the difficult economic, social, and environmental changes of our world.

> It is with this in mind that our focus in schools this year is for the children in the Don Bosco Caring Centre.

In solidarity with the people of Mongolia and in line with the **Catholic Social Teaching Principles of the** Common Good, we invite you to join us in *'kicking goals for good'*. You can do this by encouraging and supporting your child/children to choose personal goals of their own and detail these in their web page. By using their webpage as a platform for donations, they commit to their personal goal or goals. This web page then becomes a means to both encourage the development of the individual's personal goals and in doing so, support the children from Mongolia at the same

time.

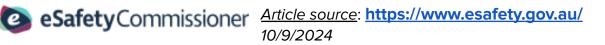
If you would like to get involved, visit our website at socktober.org.au to register.



# Parenting Matters: eSafety

## eSafety statement: national age restrictions for digital platforms





eSafety will continue working with stakeholders across government and the community to further refine Australia's approach to online harms following Prime Minister Anthony Albanese's announcement today of a Commonwealth-led approach to age restrictions on digital platforms.

Taking action at a federal level will better enable alignment with the national regulatory framework already established under the Online Safety Act 2021 ('OSA').

eSafety is delivering strong outcomes under the OSA already, including preventive and educational programs, systemic interventions, and much greater levels of tech transparency.

Early next month, for example, digital industry associations are expected to return to eSafety, as an indicative target of progress, draft codes limiting access by children to a range of inappropriate content types, including pornography. Final draft codes covering 8 sections of the online industry, including social media services, messaging and gaming services, app stores and others, are due to the Commissioner to consider for registration by 19 December 2024.

eSafety will also continue building on work it started with the Age Verification Roadmap, leveraging its transparency powers and research capability to expand the evidence base and help ensure future measures are implementable, effective and avoid unintended consequences.

The Government's review of the OSA and its Age Assurance Trial to explore available age assurance techniques will also be central to this process. We know online harms can threaten safety across a range of platforms at any age, both before and after the mid-teen years, so it is crucial that we continue to advocate for Safety by Design and build digital literacy as part of a multi-faceted approach.

eSafety remains committed to working with teachers, parents and young people through the eSafety Youth Council to co-design educational resources that help develop vital critical reasoning skills and resilience. We need to continue preparing our young people for the technology trends and digital environment of the future. More information on eSafety's resources, programs and complaint schemes can be found at: www.esafety.gov.au.

### Statement source: ABC 9/9/2024:

The government is consulting on an age limit between 14 and 16. Children aged up to 16 could be banned from social media, as the federal government promises legislation to impose a minimum age to use platforms like Facebook and Instagram by the end of this year.

# What does this look like for my family?

Some recommended resources to support you and your family navigate this space...



eSafetyCommissioner

https://www.esafety.gov.au/kids/be-an-esafe-kid

https://www.informandempower.com.au/free-parents





## https://www.sdcamberwelleast.catholic.edu.au/ Keep Watching this space!

Over the coming months, we will be making some updates to our school website, which will include:

### NEW in TERM 3:

- Direct links to our Social Media- Instagram and Facebook
- Links to organisations & school partners, eg. Edstart, Siena College, Enquiry Tracker, Beyond Educare & others

### COMING SOON in TERM 4:

- Parent Testimonials. We want to continue to showcase all that we love about St. Dominic's! You will be invited to share your testimonials, including: Why did you choose St. Dominic's? & What is special about our school community?
- Year 5/6s Feature- showcasing the depth & breadth of senior student learning, Student Leadership and extra-curricular & cross-curricular experiences
- Updated Student photos of learning, events and play
- St. Dominic's Centenary (1925-2025) COMING in 2025:
  - Centenary Online Merchandise Store!
  - Centenary Gallery



# Sunflower Kids Playgroup

### Families,

This week, we have welcomed many new and returning friends to our Sunflower Kids Playgroup!! Many of these children and their parents are looking forward to the years ahead when they will be joining our school community and their children become St. Dom's students!

If you know of any friends or neighbours who are looking for a welcoming, inclusive, educational environment for Playgroup, please tell them about us!

Also, if you know of a local business, child care or community group where we can continue our community connections and advertise Sunflower Kids, please contact our school office. We already have posters in most local kinders and some businesses in the area.



Thank you for your support of our preschooler friends and their families in our community!

We offer 2 Playgroup sessions each week:

Mondays, 2.30-3.30pm & Thursdays 9.00-10.30am

Bookings via the QR code on our posters & board at the front of the school.

Thank you, from the `Sunflower Kids Team'!



## St. Dominic's Parish News

### St. Dominic's Parish Newsletter The Dominican

Parents, Don't Forget: Follow us on our Socials



## Chess

## Junior Rockers: Guitars & Vocals

🥑 🛛 Guitar

on specialists

🔦 Singing 🔹

Sign up to shared lessons with a friend, get 1 free lesson each!

Music Tuition In Your School

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### TERM 4, 2024 - REGISTER NOW @ <u>Chessforschools.com.au</u>

#### SPECIALISED CHESS COACHING

Since 2002, we have been providing our popular Chess For Schools program in schools throughout Melbourne and Greater Geelong





I am thrilled with the tremendous success of he chess program run by Chess for Schools. The student's doration for the program is evident as they eagerly anticipate lunchtime on Tuesdays, bursting with excitement. The nstructors' delication, patience and uttentiveness foster an engaging and untruring learning environment, igniting the children's passion for chess as their skills lourish'.

HOW CAN CHESS RENEFIT YOUR CHILD?

 ational:
 Improved IQ, critical thinking, concentration, analytical skills, memory.

 al:
 Develop new friendships, social interaction skills, sportsmanship.

 tional:
 Confidence, self-esteem, resilience through winning and losing games

\_\_\_\_\_

Different lessons are taught each week from a structured syllabus ranging from tactics, strategies, master openings, traps & special moves. After the lesson children are paired up in a fun tournament play off. Prizes are awarded to the top 3 players at end of term.

BOOK HERE 📦 <u>Chessforschools.com.au</u>

DAY	TIME	LOCATION	DATES	COST
Wednesdays	1:40pm - 2:30pm	Library	16 October to 11 December	\$138 per child per term



# St. Dominic's Netball Club

Come and try, no need to register for now, just turn up. Woolworths kindly supplies healthy snacks before the session. Bring a friend and see you there!!! Open to Preps & Years 1, 2 & 3



# St. Dominic's Tennis Club



### Come join St Doms Tennis Club

- Open to players of all levels, for social play, night competition, seniors or juniors
  - Very affordable annual membership fees
    - Family \$230
    - Adult \$120
    - Student \$50
    - One-off joining fee waived for school families
- Mod-grass courts (3) with lights, with access to BBQ and clubhouse facilities too.
- New members very welcome, especially from school
- Contact president Peter Davy, davyp@bevwill.com.au or 0417 142 464

## Community News





