2012 Annual Report to the School Community

Columba Catholic Primary School Bunyip

Registered School Number: 1196
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Contact Details

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Our School Vision

“Those who seek the Lord lack no great thing”
St Columba

Columba Catholic Primary School is a community that gives witness to the Church’s mission to proclaim Christ’s message. Our hope is to further develop an environment of spiritual, academic, emotional and physical well being.

At Columba:

We believe in providing a welcome and open place of learning for those who wish to foster Christian values.

We believe in providing quality Religious Education that enables students to deepen their faith.

We believe that each child is entitled to a comprehensive curriculum that acknowledges that all children learn differently and can achieve.

We believe in providing positive learning experiences as well as a positive environment that encourages and challenges students to take responsibility for their own learning.

We believe teachers require special qualities of heart and mind; they must prepare carefully and be constantly aware of changes to current teaching practice.

We believe in providing a welcome, friendly and safe environment where everyone is respected and treated fairly and justly.

We believe students and staff thrive in a school that is well managed and resourced.

We believe in acknowledging the vital role of parents in the education of their children.

We believe in building on the partnership that exists between school families, parish and the wider community.
School Overview

Columba Catholic Primary School opened for the first time in Hope Street Bunyip in March, 2001. Columba is part of the Iona-Maryknoll Parish. The school has a modern and innovative facility including new classrooms and a library containing the latest technology.

In 2012 there were 17 staff members, 101 families and 146 students. Columba prides itself on catering for the individual needs of students with extensive intervention programs and extra-curricula activities. Columba uses the Blueearth sports program and has a strong Arts focus with students regularly participating in Music, Visual and Performing Arts.

Columba has a tremendously dedicated staff who use exemplary teaching skills and strategies to facilitate learning. Through these learning experiences students are taught to be life-long, co-operative and inquiring learners. Columba boasts highly successful student leadership initiatives and very effective pastoral care and wellbeing processes. Our motto is ‘Let Your Light Shine’.

Parents are an integral part of the school and are encouraged to participate in all programs. Education is seen as a partnership between home, school and the wider parish community including the Sacramental program which is “Parish Based, Family Centred and School Supported”.

Art Show 2012
Education in Faith

Goals and Intended Outcomes

To deepen students’ faith and understanding of their relationship with God through their improved knowledge of Jesus’ life.

Through:
- Continuing to provide opportunities for students to reflect on their faith, pray together and celebrate liturgies and Sacraments.
- The promotion of prayer, liturgies and Sacraments across all grade levels.
- A continued emphasis of service to the local and global community.
- The promotion of family participation in all religious events of the school and parish.

Columba has an excellent partnership with the Parish of St Joseph’s, Iona and the other Parishes and Catholic Schools within the area. The staff of Columba fully supports the Family-centred, Parish-based Sacramental Program and staff representatives attend all Parish Celebrations. Fr John Allen, Parish Priest, continued to provide both support and faith leadership to the school community and we welcomed Rev. Tony Aspinall as Parish Deacon and June Aspinall as the new Parish Pastoral Co-ordinator. The Staff continued to provide a comprehensive and effective Religious Education Curriculum through the implementation of Journeying Together in Hope. The extent to which parent, students and staff value and support all that the school provides in Faith Education is clear to see in the many achievements listed below.

Achievements:
- Support given by students, families and staff to local and global charities including, Caritas, The Bishop’s Family Foundation, St Vincent De Paul, Royal Children’s Hospital Appeal and MS Readathon.
- 100% attendance by families at Sacramental Workshops.
- Each class presented a Prayer or Reflection at the beginning of Assembly demonstrating learning from their Religious Education topic or celebrating an event in the Church year.
- Classes prepared a Mass each term as well as a Reconciliation celebration.
- Staff inservice at Warragul exploring aspects of Social Justice
- Visit of Bishop Christopher Prowse to Columba prior to Confirmation.

VALUE ADDED

Further notable events for 2012 included:
- Excellent family participation in the Family Life Program.
- Memorable celebrations for Columba Day, the Graduation Mass and Class Masses and the increased participation of parishioners in school based masses and liturgies.
- Parish Mother’s Day Luncheon hosted by Columba, celebrating the role of women in the local church.
- Participation in the Caritas Student Leadership Day.
- The development of Pastoral initiatives between Parish and School including greater participation of school families in Parish Masses.
Learning and Teaching

Goals and Intended Outcomes

To provide a learning environment that excites, engages and encourages students’ growth.

To encourage students to experience a sense of joy and optimism in their journey to becoming successful learners.

Through:

- Provision of individualised programs to meet the specific needs and interests of students
- Effective use of data and assessment information to inform planning and teaching
- The use of ICT in all curriculum areas
- Creating opportunities to celebrate the successes of all students in all curriculum areas
- Students setting their own learning goals

Achievements

The entire community participated in a School Renewal process in 2012, enabling us to evaluate all facets of school life. We were able to set new goals and develop ground-breaking strategies to ensure that education at Columba continues to be forward thinking and innovative. A highly qualified and enthusiastic staff worked tirelessly to provide for the wellbeing and learning of all students throughout 2012. We successfully provided learning opportunities, including extra-curricula activities, which enhanced classroom programs and met the individual needs and interests of the students. Both parents and students were very enthusiastic and supportive of learning activities in 2012. Maximum student attendance and participation is a clear indication of the success of these learning experiences as highlighted in the following achievements:

Achievements & Value Added

- Provision of many extra-curricula and co-curricula activities throughout the year including the Gardening Club, Equestrian Team and the Chess Club.
- The purchase of iPads as well as more Laptops to enhance learning through technology.
- The acclaimed Columba Student Artshow was held in the Learning Centre in October. Students from each grade contributed art pieces representing each area of the curriculum to the commendation and appreciation of the entire community.
- The Debating Team placed first in its competition and Columba produced four first prizes at the Bunyip Art Show as well as many other awards. A record number of 34 students participated in the prestigious Australian Mathematics Competition.
Participation by all eligible students in a Grade 5 & 6 Camp at Sovereign Hill, Ballarat, the Grade Four Camp at Philip Island and Grade Three Sleepover at School.

Incursions and excursions were an important part of learning at Columba throughout 2011. The Junior Grades enjoyed a visit to Zoo and the Bookweek performance particularly captured the students’ interest.

A Science Expo was held in May to showcase classroom learning and enable students to share their particular interest in Science. Families were asked to develop a poster demonstrating their understanding of Science. Over 90 families produced a poster and these were displayed during the Expo.

The annual Columba Writing Awards were held during Bookweek with over 60 entries received from students across the school. A perpetual trophy was awarded to the winning entry, “Transformation Tuesday”.

### PORTION OF STUDENTS MEETING THE MINIMUM STANDARDS IN YEARS 3 & 5

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<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>YEAR 3 READING</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>87.5%</td>
<td>-12.5 %</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>+12.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YEAR 3 WRITING</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>0 %</td>
<td>93.8%</td>
<td>-6.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YEAR 3 SPELLING</td>
<td>93.8%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>+6.2 %</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>0 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YEAR 3 GRAMMAR &amp; PUNCTUATION</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>93.8%</td>
<td>+18.8 %</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>+6.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YEAR 3 NUMERACY</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>0 %</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>0 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YEAR 5 READING</td>
<td>95.7%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>+4.3 %</td>
<td>93.3%</td>
<td>-6.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YEAR 5 WRITING</td>
<td>95.7%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>+4.3 %</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>0 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YEAR 5 SPELLING</td>
<td>95.7%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>+4.3 %</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>0 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YEAR 5 GRAMMAR &amp; PUNCTUATION</td>
<td>95.7%</td>
<td>94.4%</td>
<td>-1.3 %</td>
<td>93.3%</td>
<td>-1.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YEAR 5 NUMERACY</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>89.5%</td>
<td>-10.5 %</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>+10.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Students in Grade 3 and 5 participated in NAPLAN in 2012. The NAPLAN data (tabled above) indicates that in 2011 and 2012 more students at Columba were at or above the National Benchmark than in previous years. The data also highlights the variable nature of abilities and skills in each year level. The data confirms that intervention programs in Literacy have been effective at Columba in improving results from those achieved by students in Grade 3 compared to their achievement in Grade 5.

Whilst, it is difficult to predict trends for our community, (particularly when comparison data involves groups of less than 20 students), analysis of the Data enables teachers at Columba to promptly respond to the individual needs of each group of students. The teachers at Columba are to be commended for their incredible energy and dedication to ensure that planning and teaching reflects the specific needs of the students. Additional support for students in Junior classes was identified and provided in the areas of Reading and Writing. In the Senior classes Numeracy was identified as a priority area. Professional Learning for teachers in relation to these areas was also implemented.

Other Assessment Data

The Staff also believe in rigorous and ongoing school-based assessment to support external assessment and to assist in planning and developing an appropriate curriculum to suit learning needs. Examples include:

- **Literacy Project results** indicated excellent progress of Prep students across the year
- **Running Records** regularly administered
- **EMU** (Grade 1) post test indicated 100% success rate for participants
- **Benchmark Reading Assessments** for Grade 1 & 2, all students reaching age appropriate levels
- **Observations** and **student self-assessment** used on a regular basis.
- **PAT Maths** and **TORCH** assessments for Senior students indicated continued progress for all students

During 2012 **Intervention Programs** continued in both Literacy and Numeracy to support learning needs. Programs such as ELMS (Extending Literacy, Maths & Science), Reading Recovery, EMU, Decoding Strategies and Bridges (both reading programs) were utilised throughout 2012. A Learning Support Teacher was also employed to cater for specific learning needs in the Middle and Senior Grades.
School Community and Student Wellbeing

Goals and Intended Outcomes

To generate a sense of connectedness between school, families, Parish and community members through an emphasis on wellbeing and resilience.

Through:-

- Improvement of behaviour both in the classroom and playground
- Providing a consistent, whole school approach by staff to wellbeing and discipline
- Improve data collection processes for wellbeing and medical issues

Achievement

The school had another successful year in 2012 in school sports and the Bluearth sports program continued to be a highly motivating and popular activity for all students. Many opportunities were offered to the wider community to participate in school events. The Columba School Advisory Board and Parents and Friends Association worked tirelessly throughout the year to provide support for the school and ensure the ongoing development of facilities and resources. Throughout 2012 the importance of the partnership between home and school continued to be emphasized and the staff worked diligently to develop a consistent whole school approach to student wellbeing.

Achievements & Value Added

- During Term One, an Open Evening was held to showcase the innovative learning opportunities taking place in classrooms at Columba. The teachers were overwhelmed with the number of parents who came for the evening and the feedback was extremely positive. Parents appreciated having an insight into classroom programs and particularly enjoyed the games and activities.
- In 2012 there was a significant increase in enrolments to senior grades, and in response a New Students Transition Program was established to assist students to settle into Columbia. The program was highly successful in assisting students to form new friendships and was very well received by the students.
- Other Wellbeing programs provided during the year were the Learning Assistance Program (LAP) and Seasons For Growth, a peer support program for those experiencing grief and loss.
- As we have come to expect, students from Columba participated enthusiastically in community events such as ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day services as well as visiting the local Hostel and providing entertainment for elderly citizens. The feedback from local community groups is always extremely positive and we regularly receive compliments on the behaviour of our students during local events.

ANZAC Day, Father’s Day, Open Evening &Transition
Life Education also took place in Term One and themes of personal safety, resilience and avoiding peer pressure were explored.

The Father’s Day Breakfast was an outstanding success much to the delight of the students. Greater than 80% of Dads attended this event. Students welcomed Dads into the classrooms after breakfast. At the Mother’s Day Luncheon students played host to mums and grandmothers as well as providing entertainment.

Utilisation of the school facilities by local Parish and Community groups is always encouraged with regular after-school sports activities and craft days.

A highlight of the year was the twilight Columba Fete with significant funds raised much to the satisfaction of a hardworking and energetic Fete Committee. Because our Fete is so popular throughout the local area, many families take the opportunity to attend the Fete prior to enrolling their child in Prep. These families always comment on the welcoming nature of the Columba community.

Once again students successfully competed in Sporting Competitions including; Winter Round Robin, Athletics, Hooptime, Cross Country, Swimming and Equestrian events. Many students participated at Regional and Zone level with two students reaching the state final in Athletics. One student participated in the BMX Victorian Championship and the Junior Hooptime team made it to the Victorian Finals.

The Swim Safety program was introduced in Term One for students from Grade One – Three. This program complemented the Junior and Middle School exploration of wellbeing and safety as part of Integrated Studies.

The students in Grade Four and Five participated in a gardening initiative sponsored by the Cardinia Shire Council at Hillview Retirement Home. Students assisted in the establishment of a new garden at Hillview and received many great gardening tips from the residents.

The Columba Playgroup continued to attract new families with as many as 20 families enrolled and participating each week.

During Term Three Columba Staff participated in the Diocesan Education Expo and presented the school focus of ‘Powerful Parent Partnerships’.

During Term Four our annual ‘Walktober Day’ was held to encourage students and their families to develop an active lifestyle.

The Christmas Concert was a wonderful way for the entire community to celebrate the many achievements throughout the year. Everyone enjoyed the cosy atmosphere of the Learning Centre and joined in the singing of traditional Christmas carols. Community and Academic Awards were presented to Grade Six students. It was with sadness that we said goodbye to our leaving students and families, however the concert was a perfect way to express our gratitude and acknowledge their outstanding contribution to the Columba Community.
AVERAGE STUDENT ATTENDANCE RATE BY YEAR LEVEL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>96.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>91.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>89.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>92.33</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>91.88</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>93.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall average attendance</td>
<td>92.49</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

Overall Student attendance figures at Columba are very good with a commendable average of 92.49% per student and this includes data from long-term illness and extended holidays involving five families. Parents greatly value the education provided at Columba and recognize the importance of regular attendance at School. In the event that there is concern over attendance, the Student Wellbeing Leader makes contact with parents through phone-calls and letters to assist families and to ensure that strategies are put in place so that school attendance is optimised.

STUDENT SATISFACTION

- 3905 books borrowed from the Library by students throughout the course of the year which is an average of 27 books per child.
- Student engagement in school activities was highly evident in their enthusiastic participation in the Science Expo and also in the overwhelming number of entries for the Columba Writing Competition, inaugural Art Show as well as the Bunyip Art Show.
- Lunchtime Clubs were also popular with students especially the Chess and Dance Club.
- The use of a Student Learning Journal was highly successful in documenting student progress as well as their individual learning goals. Students took great pride in preparing pieces for their learning journal and completing self-assessments about their work and learning.
- Students were enthusiastic about having their work on display through the newsletter, in the office, Learning Centre, in the church foyer and in the Multi-purpose Room as part of Liturgies and Assemblies.

PARENT SATISFACTION

- 100% attendance rate of families in Sacramental Workshops and at least two staff representatives at each liturgical event including Commissioning masses and Sacramental celebrations.
During Parent/Teacher Meetings parents expressed their satisfaction in curriculum programs as well as the Integrated Students Program and indicated their confidence in the progress and achievements of their children.

Data from Insight SRC also confirmed the overall parent satisfaction specifically in the area of teacher professionalism, faith development and communication between school and home.

The use of a Student Learning Journal was highly successful in documenting student progress as well as their individual learning goals. Parents found them particularly informative during Parent/Teacher meetings and students proudly took them home at the end of the year as a record of their achievement in 2012.

Most school families attended the Art Show and Science Expo and the feedback from parents was extremely positive.
Leadership and Stewardship

Goals and Intended Outcomes

To provide opportunities and support for all members of the school community to achieve their leadership potential.

Through:-
- opportunities for students to develop leadership skills both within the school and local community
- opportunities for students to participate in decision-making processes with regard to their own learning
- increasing opportunities for parents to have input into the school
- increasing opportunities for staff members to undertake leadership roles
- completion of various building projects.

Achievements

During 2012 the highly successful pastoral initiative, Respect Effect, continued with the students participating enthusiastically in activities and discussions during the fortnightly Respect Effect focus. (The Respect Effect program reinforces appropriate behaviour and an awareness of social justice issues.) The Respect Effect also reflects and articulates the high expectations of our school community with regard to behavior and personal responsibility.

The staff continued to be involved in a variety of professional development opportunities, many outside of school hours. Columba has a highly qualified staff, who exemplify life-long learning. The children represented their school with pride on excursions, at sports carnivals and during community events. The Senior students displayed excellent leadership throughout the year and set a great tone for the school. Other successful initiatives are:

Achievements & Value Added

- The highly successful Buddy Program between Preps and Grade 6 students, culminating in a ‘Buddy Day’ as part of the Transition Program for new preps in Term Four.
- During 2012 a new Leadership Structure was introduced to include:
  - Leadership Team
  - Learning Team
  - Pastoral Care Team

The new Leadership Structure was developed in response to a growing school community, additional staff members and to utilise the skills and aspirations of a highly professional and dedicated staff.

- Also during 2012, every staff member held a role of responsibility which included responsibility for a specific curriculum area. The staff worked with great dedication and persistence to ensure that students received the best possible learning opportunities.

- Opportunities for Grade Five and Six students to further develop leadership skills through participation in the fortnightly School Leaders Program and by acting as Sports Captains and Friendship Captains. The school leaders are also responsible for leading Assembly as well as presenting the much valued Playground Awards.
The new Master Plan was completed in October, detailing exciting plans for the future of Columba including the refurbishment of the Administration area, enhancements in technology and a new building to include four learning spaces, toilets and storage.

Columba gained re-registration with the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority through the Renewal Process.

The eleventh year of Columba was celebrated on 8th June. The students sang with gusto during the celebration Mass and participated enthusiastically in cross-age activities. The day concluded with a Talent Quest in which the audience clapped and cheered the amazing performances of our very talented students.

On the playground, incidences of inappropriate behaviour were further reduced and during anti-bullying and friendship surveys the students particularly commented on the inclusive nature of games at playtime and lunchtime.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TEACHING STAFF ATTENDANCE RATE</th>
<th>96.9%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>STAFF RETENTION RATE</td>
<td>75%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DOCTORATE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MASTERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRADUATE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CERTIFICATE GRADUATE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEGREE BACHELOR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DIPLOMA ADVANCED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NO QUALIFICATIONS LISTED</td>
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</table>
STAFF COMPOSITION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Principal Class</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching Staff (Head Count)</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FTE Teaching Staff</td>
<td>8.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Teaching Staff (Head Count)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FTE Non-Teaching Staff</td>
<td>2.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indigenous Teaching Staff</td>
<td>0</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

TEACHER SATISFACTION

The staff attendance rate at school, being a commendable 96.9% (including Professional Development days) is a clear indicator of high level of satisfaction with the school.

- 100% attendance by staff at the Commissioning Mass and combined Parishes in Partnership, Staff Spirituality Retreat held at Rawson in July with Fr John Allan and Terry Wallace as the Guest Speakers.
- Staff Wellbeing Week was well received by staff and culminated in the celebration of World Teacher’s Day. The professionalism and dedication of Staff was recognised by parent groups at this time with a letter of acknowledgement from the School Board and a thank you morning tea from the Parents & Friends.
- Staff surveys as part of the Renewal Process also indicated that staff were confident and enthusiastic about curriculum development which was undertaken throughout the year and were particularly excited about the enhancement to class programs using technology such as; iPads, Laptops and interactive whiteboards.
## Financial Performance
Financial Performance for the year ended 31 December 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reporting Framework</th>
<th>Modified Cash</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Recurrent income</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School fees</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other fee income</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private income</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State government recurrent grants</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian government recurrent grants</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total recurrent income</strong></td>
<td>$1,487,287</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Recurrent expenditure</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salaries, allowances and related expenses</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non salary expenses</td>
<td>$200,741</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total recurrent expenditure</strong></td>
<td>$1,209,484</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Capital income and expenditure</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government capital grants</td>
<td>$6,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital fees and levies</td>
<td>$88,187</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other capital income</td>
<td>$13,894</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total capital income</strong></td>
<td>$108,081</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total capital expenditure</strong></td>
<td>$108,908</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loans (includes refundable enrolment deposits and recurrent, capital and bridging loans)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total opening balance</strong></td>
<td>$70,474</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total closing balance</strong></td>
<td>$54,406</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Non DEEWR FQ reported items</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>System levies (payments)</td>
<td>$(252,596)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intra systemic transfer receipts (payments)</td>
<td>$(198)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diocesan capital fund (SCF) receipts (payments)</td>
<td>$(5,840)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note that the information provided above does not include the following items:**

System levies charged to individual schools, intra-systemic transfers and diocesan supplementary capital fund (SCF) supported borrowings for primary schools. The information provided is not comparable with other educational sectors. This VRQA template is not comparable to the ACARA school-level income reporting requirements which are to be reported on the MySchool website. ACARA school level reporting requirements will require system level income from Government grants and some private income to be allocated by school. This will be a small adjustment in relation to the total level of school resources. At this stage, recurrent income from Government sources, school generated income and capital expenditure are to be reported by schools. Additionally when assessing the private income of the school include both recurrent and capital school fees.
Principal’s Report

Future Directions

2012 was an extraordinary year at Columba. Everyone participated with enthusiasm in the Renewal Process and it was a credit to the commitment, dedication and energy of the entire school community that the outcomes were so well received. As a community we look forward to implementing the many strategies developed through the Renewal process and contributing to the continued success of our school.

In 2012 we continued to evaluate our planning processes to more fully cater for the individual needs of our students. Staff provide many extra and co-curricula activities to support learning as well as differentiated learning activities within the classroom.

In 2012, one of our key objectives was to develop Leadership across all areas of the school community including staff, students and parents - Leadership in faith and learning, in school management and in service to the community. The leadership skills and resilience displayed by the students throughout the year was exactly what we wanted to achieve! We are very proud of Columba Students.

In 2013 we will build on these skills, not just for students but for our families as well. We pride ourselves on being a Catholic community school with a strong partnership between home and school. We know that excellence in education at Columba is only achieved as a result of the support and input of our parents. Parents at Columba are great role-models of learning!

2013 will be the time to make the optimum use of our new facilities. With the completion of the Learning Centre (Library), new classrooms and circulation area a new era in education has begun at Columba. Columba will be at the forefront of innovative learning and this is especially pleasing because of the hard work of our parent groups to raise funds to improve the technology in the school.

2013 will also be a time to showcase advances in Literacy & Numeracy at Columba. Throughout the year we will highlight and celebrate classroom learning through the newsletter, displays and school events. We wish to ensure families have a greater understanding of the wonderful work occurring in classrooms. We also want students to be very proud of their achievements in learning and continue to strive to produce their very best efforts.

We look forward to continued success at Columba, building on the achievements of 2012 and moving forward together as a strong catholic community, committed to excellence in learning and the development of faith-filled, resilient and enthusiastic young people.

Jan Gubbins
Principal