17th December

Dear Families,

The Staff of Columba wish the entire community a joyous, peaceful and safe Christmas with family and friends.

“Glory to God in the highest. And on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased”

Luke 2:14

END OF TERM
School finishes tomorrow
1:00 pm Wed., 18th December
The Columba Code Awards and Reading Awards were presented today at a mini Assembly for staff and students to celebrate a wonderful year together. The Columba Code Awards are presented to a member of each grade who demonstrates respect for themselves, others and their school. The Reading Award goes to a student who displays a love of reading in class and borrows regularly from the Library. The Principal’s Award, (renamed the “Riley Harris Award”) goes to a student who is a wonderful role-model to all in resilience and displays determination in learning.

This year we are delighted to announce:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Columba Code Award</th>
<th>Reading Award</th>
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<tr>
<td>Prep</td>
<td>Nathan King</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Lily Anne Wouters</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prep/One</td>
<td>Jesse Wouters</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Matilda McKenna</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grade 1</td>
<td>Annabelle Frake</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ethan Marson</td>
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<td>Grade 2</td>
<td>Ronan McNamara</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sophie Miller</td>
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<td>Grade 3</td>
<td>Carson Raymond-Smith</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Pandora Frake</td>
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<td>Grade 4/5</td>
<td>Ethan Miller</td>
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<td>Lauren Birkett</td>
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<td>Grade 5/6</td>
<td>Jake Stewart</td>
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<td>Kassy Interlandi</td>
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**Riley Harris Award:** (Columba Code) Wade Harris

Many congratulations to the recipients of the Grade Six Awards presented last Tuesday Night at the Christmas Carols.

**RSL Community Award:** Finn Hower & Charlotte Harvie

**Rotary Citizenship Award:** Jason Pisa & Caitlin Marson

**Columba Sports Award:** Georgia King & Dylan Gallasch

**Columba Arts Award:** Olivia Wilson

**Parents & Friends Academic Award:** Jaimie Pullin
Many, many thanks to the entire community for your support of the School Crossing issue. We hope to hear from the council this week with a response to the latest survey and all your letters of protest. Special thanks to Michelle Birkett who has made direct contact with the Shire Council and has been instrumental in ensuring that the council reassesses their decision. Great work Michelle!

Staff 2014

Principal Jan Gubbins
Deputy Principal Leonie Hester
Grade 5/6 Caz Websdale
Grade 4/5 Donna Handley
Grade 3/4 Janine Kilmartin
Grade 2/3 Ellie Frindt
Grade 2 Daniel Howells
Grade 1 Leonie Hester/Alanna Vanderhorst
Grade Prep/One Rachel Braun
Grade Prep Katelyn Sligar

Learning Support Tory Parker
Italian Diane Robbins
Music & Choir Rose Ahrens
Visual Arts Kylee Kinder
Library Denise Cook
Playgroup Rose Ahrens
Guitar Nathan Power

Integration Aide Bron Wallace
Belinda Fawkner
Brianna Buza
Claire Hower

Admin Officer Jan Buza
Belinda Fawkner

Welcome

A special welcome to Katelyn Sligar & Ellie Frindt who join the school staff for 2014. We look forward to working with them and making the most of their amazing talents!

Farewell

A special farewell to our wonderful grade six students!
Liam, Matthew B., Stephanie, Dylan, Wade, Charlotte, Lilly, Finn, Kassy, Georgia, Caitlin, Matt N., Jason, Jaimie, Olivia and Will.

We hope they take many happy memories with them of their time at Columba. This year’s Grade six has been an amazingly reliable and responsible group, willing to take on many leadership responsibilities within the school. They have set an excellent standard in community service and academic excellence which will be greatly missed.

We also farewell Paige, Tyler, Brae and Jorja and wish them the best of luck at their new schools.

We would also like to acknowledge the wonderful contribution of the six families leaving Columba this year.

God Bless and best wishes to the:
Bow Family
Interlandi Family
Nadenbousch Family
Smith Family
Winters Family
Withall Family

We would also like to wish the Grigglestone family the very best for their time in Western Australia, we look forward to seeing you back at Columba in 2015.

Thank you for all your efforts in making Columba such a great community!
Farewell Mary

After another action-packed and memorable year at Columba Catholic Primary School we say a fond farewell to Mary Kearns who is retiring after 26 years working in schools in the Iona-MaryKnoll Parish.

Apart from her many years working at St James and St Joseph’s, Mary is a foundation staff member at Columba and has had many and varied roles as a teacher, including literacy support, literacy extension, class teacher and art teacher. Every student attending Columba has at one time or another been taught by Mary. Mary has an innate ability to motivate students to write, even a reluctant writer discovers a passion and ability once they have worked with Mary.

Mary has supported each school initiative and attended all school events using her creative and artistic talents to enthral and delight both staff and students alike. Mary is a beloved staff member, who has with great kindness and thoughtfulness supported each member of staff and become a wise and generous friend to all. Mary reminds us that ‘with one kind gesture you can change a life and with one person at a time you can change the world’  

(Steve Maraboli).

We wish Mary every happiness in her well-deserved retirement, we look forward to seeing her from time to time at Columba and also to seeing her devote more time to her passion for painting.

We thank Mary for her outstanding contribution to Columba, Mary, you will be greatly missed and very well remembered! God Bless.

Congratulations to Natalia, Lauren, Ethan & Billy on being appointed as our school leaders. We look forward to their leadership and example. Our new leaders’ duties will continue over into next year!

Many thanks and well done to Jake, Vanessa, Shainia & Xavier in their efforts as school leaders. They were a very obliging and good humored group, no job was too big or too small!

Holiday Maintenance Update:

Over the holidays lots of work will be happening around Columba:
- Admin. Roof cleaned
- Gravel carpark extended
- Portables painted and cleaned
- Installation of the new Fitness Stations near the oval.
- (fingers crossed) Tree line and temporary fencing removed!
- Gardens weeded and pruned
Calendar of Events

Beginning of the year 2014

January
Tuesday 28 Teachers begin back at School
Wednesday 29 Uniform Shop 10:00am – 11:30am
Wednesday 29 Assessment Day (Grade 1—6)
Thursday 30 Assessment Day (Grade 1—6)
Friday 31 Assessment Day (Grade 1—Grade 6)
Friday 31 First Day for Preps (9:00 am -1:30 pm)

February
Monday 3 All Grades at School (Prep—Grade 6)
Friday 7 Parents Lunch (Top Pub)

Christmas in a Shoebox.

Thank you for such a wonderful and generous response to our “Christmas in a Shoebox” appeal. Gifts appeared “mysteriously” each day, to add to our Advent display in the foyer. Advent is truly a season of preparation and hope; for ourselves and for others, and especially for those in need in our local community. The response to this appeal has been truly social justice in action—in giving of ourselves through your generous donations.

All gifts were presented to a member of our local St Vincent de Paul group, at our End of Year School Mass today. Gifts will be distributed to families within our Parish and local area.
I continue to be proud of our school community who generously opens its heart to assist those in need.
Your ongoing support is greatly appreciated.

Leonie Hester
R.E.L

Tan Bark
Before 1st Term Reid Family

GOAL: To ensure there is a consistent and even coverage of Tan Bark throughout the adventure playground.

You will need to bring a rake with you. This task can be completed anytime between 3:30pm Friday and 8:00am Monday.

Sick Bay Linen
18th Dec Miller Family

GOAL: To ensure that the sick bay linen is clean and hygienic.

TASK: Stripping the sick bay bed of linen and making it up again with fresh linen, which is usually done on a Friday. The linen from the bed needs to be laundered and returned by the following Thursday.

Website
Please make sure you have a look at the school website which can be accessed at;
http://www.bunyip.catholic.edu.au
Christmas Carols