Dear Columba Families,

I hope you are not too overwhelmed with all the letters and reminders coming to you from school this week! First term is always an extremely busy time at Columba as we prepare for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Twilight Fete as well as fulfil some of our sporting commitments.

Students have settled really well into class this year and teachers have expressed their satisfaction with the attitude and focus of the students during class activities. I would especially like to congratulate students on their superb behaviour and reverence during the Beginning of Year Mass last Wednesday. It was a truly lovely celebration for our first liturgy of the year. This year we are planning a Morning Tea for parents and parishioners after each Mass in the Multi-purpose Room. Many, many thanks to all the parents who attended the senior mass yesterday; the students were very excited to see you all there. Your support of school activities is greatly appreciated.

**RECONCILIATION**

Please keep the following students in your prayers as they prepare for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Congratulations to Eli, Ronan, Ally S. & Ashlyn who have been selected as school leaders for the next fortnight. I am sure they will set a great example for all our School Leaders to follow. Thank you to Stacey, Lachlan, Cassidy & Hugh for an amazing start to the year. Job Well Done!!

Assembly
The next Assembly is scheduled for Friday 24 February at 2:30 pm. The Prayer will be lead by students from Grade 1/2 BC. Please come along and help celebrate the achievements of the students. All families are welcome to attend each Assembly.

Wall of Crosses.
We are very excited about the additions to our Wall of Crosses with thanks to the Nightingale, Puncheon, Lieshout and Payne Families who have all donated beautiful crosses from their travels over the Summer holidays.
The crosses come from Fiji, the Czech Republic, New Zealand and South Africa

THURSDAY MORNINGS
9.00am - 11.00am

ALL WELCOME!
Rose Ahrens will conduct a two hour program at Playgroup catering for all pre-school ages. Please tell family and friends about Playgroup, everyone is welcome to come along.

Our School has Skoolbag iPhone App to help us communicate more effectively with our Parent community. The App may be used on iPhone, windows phone and tablet version.
To install it, just look for our school name Columba Catholic Primary School in the Apple App Store, and install it on your iPhone or iPad.
For Windows Phone and Windows Store, search for Skoolbag, install the app, and then find our school. Please note it must be a Windows 8.1 device.
The Android version may be accessed in the Google Play Store.
Twilight Athletic Sports

As advertised, Columba Athletic Sports this year will be a twilight event. This gives us the opportunity to share all the wonderful learning the students have been doing so far this year and shines a light on the importance of Physical Education within the school curriculum.

Following is a timetable for the day:

School begins at **11.30am** (a modified program will be available from 9am for those families who find the late start to school difficult to negotiate)

Aths sports **begin at 11.45am** beginning with the sprints

Field events begin at approx. 12.30pm

Lunch break 1.10 (eating lunch inside) 1.30-2.00pm (outside)

2.10-3.00pm Field events resume

3.00-3.40pm Open classrooms and afternoon tea inside

3.50-4.50 Field events are completed

5pm-6pm Relays, House Game and Presentations

A letter will be going home tomorrow requesting parent helpers. An event such as this is impossible without the generous support of our school families.

We are looking forward to another great Columba event…see you there!

Caz Websdale (Phys. Ed. Leader)

Our amazing students

Best of Luck to our amazing Swim Team who will participate in the Tarago Swim Competition tomorrow.

Go Columba!!
**Child Safety**

**Before School**

Just a reminder that students should not arrive before 8:30 am in the morning. Staff are generally in their classrooms at this time preparing for the day ahead and are unable to supervise early arrivals.

After 8:30 am:

When students arrive at school they wait in the office area until 8:40 am. The classrooms are then opened, students deposit their bag, change reading books and most importantly have a chat with their classroom teacher. Students then head outside for a quick run around before the start of the day.

Parents are also welcome to have a quick chat with teachers at this time, however please keep in mind teachers are very busy preparing for the day and may only be able to spare a few moments. If you require a longer conversation please ask the teacher for a more suitable time. For parents who are unable to make it to the school, most teachers are also available via email or alternatively you can give them a ring. When ringing or emailing a teacher please be patient in waiting for a response as the teachers will not access emails during class time and often have duties at playtimes.

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**Parents & Friends**

The first Parents & Friends Meeting will be held in the Staff Room on Friday, 17th February at 2:30 pm.

This will be a very important and exciting meeting as we will finalise planning for the Fete!

Agenda items include:

- A Fete update
- Social events
- Pastoral Care
- Class Contacts
- Catering (Twilight Sports day)

Everyone is welcome to attend meetings and new families are cordially invited. You do not have to sign yourself up for a job, but can attend meetings to find out more about the school, meet people and have input on decisions!

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**Mathletics & Reading Eggs**

This year we will continue with our subscription to Mathletics (for Grades 3—6) and Reading Eggs (for Prep—2). These programs are internet based and can be accessed both at home and at school.

Over the next few weeks information will come home to you with regard to these programs. Students who are continuing with the same program may use their password from last year to access the program.

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**Prep Information Session**

Just a further reminder that the Prep Information Session will be held next Wednesday, 22nd February.

Parents may attend the 9:30 am session or the 5:30 pm session whichever is most convenient.

This session enables Katelyn to give details about the Prep program for the year and explains some of the types of learning experiences in which students will be involved. Katelyn will also clarify the Home Learning (Homework) Program and answer any questions from parents.

Please confirm your attendance if you have not already done so by contacting Katelyn via email:

ksligar@bunyip.catholic.edu.au

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"Education is a journey, not a race!"
**Classroom Helpers**

At Columba we value the assistance of parents in the classroom and on excursions. If you would like to help in the classroom on a regular or casual basis or if you would like to attend excursions you are asked to attend a ‘Parent as Helpers’ workshop. This will be held on **Thursday 23 February at 9:15 am**. If you attended this session in previous years you do not need to attend again. Unfortunately parents cannot assist in classrooms or on excursions unless they have attended one of these sessions. If you cannot make this date, please let me know and I will organize another workshop at a mutually convenient time. Please let the school office know if you are coming along on Thursday 23 Feb. so that we appropriately cater for numbers. At our Parents as Helpers Meeting we will also discuss the requirements of the ‘Working with Children Check’ and Child Safety Regulations which are also pre-requisites for volunteering at School.

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**FETE NEWS**

Columba School Fete  
Friday 17 March  
3:00 pm—8:00 pm  

*St Patrick’s Day*

All the rides are booked and we will again have Fireworks, weather permitting.

A book of Raffle Tickets was sent home yesterday to each family.

Next Fete Meeting: Tomorrow—Friday 17 February at 2:30 pm.  

All welcome!

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**Sponsorship**

In 2014 we established a sponsorship plan for the Fireworks and Rides at the Fete. This year we would like to extend Sponsorship opportunities as a means of offsetting the cost of the rides and fireworks. Both Rides and Fireworks are immensely popular and attract many people to our Fete. Because of the positive flow on effects from the Fireworks, the Fete committee has voted to have them again this year, weather permitting and permit approved!

**PREMIUM SPONSORSHIP** $500
- Name, logo, business information included in the school newsletter until the end of Term Three (12 editions)
- Name etc included on colouring competition sheet
- Name etc. included on the Sponsor’s Board
- Name etc. included on signs around the Fete
- Name etc. included on Fete Flyer, distributed within the local area

**GOLD SPONSORSHIP** $300
- Name, logo, business information included in the school newsletter until the end of Term Two (8 editions)
- Name etc. included on the Sponsor’s Board
- Name etc. included on signs around the Fete
- Name etc. included on Fete Flyer, distributed within local area

**SILVER SPONSORSHIP** $100
- Name, logo, business information included in the school newsletter until the end of Term One (3 editions)
- Name etc. included on the Sponsor’s Board
- Name etc. included on signs around the Fete

Please contact the office if you are interested in Sponsoring the Fireworks and /or Rides or alternatively pass this information on to family and friends.
ALL ABOUT CREATION
We have been identifying, imagining and making God’s creation in Grade 1/2 WH.
Below are our prayers to thank God for this wonderful gift.
Can you find the following photographic clues in our class mural!

Dear God,
I praise you for mountain goats. They use their horns for fighting. They can climb up steep hills easily.
Caitlyn

Dear God
I praise you for all of our animals.
James

Dear God
I praise you for all the animals. There are different animals for us to learn about. My favourite animals are the dolphin and turtle.
Pippa

Dear God
I praise you for colour in the world; the blue of the sea and the sky, the green of the grass, the yellow of the sun and the colours of the rainbow.
Tayla

Dear God
If we didn’t have earth there wouldn’t be anything and if there were no people the world would be strange. Thank you God for us. We are like animals but we are special, smart and strong.
Louis

Dear God
I praise you for making us because we are healthy. Thank you for making the butterflies and ladybirds because they make me happy when I see them in the garden at Nanna’s.
Marley

Dear God
I praise you for my nanny. I loved her because she looked after me every day my mum went to work.
Charlee

Dear God
I praise you for dogs to play with because they can do tricks.
Cohen

Dear God
I praise you for the Rainbow Fish because they are sparkly and pretty beneath the sea.
Bridget

Dear God
I praise you for nature like ...birds because they are cute and clever. They are clever because they tell you when there is danger. They are cute because they tweet. You can also teach them to talk and sing and they are colourful.
Jade

Dear God
I praise you for giving us animals like horses because they give us piggybacks!
Dakodah

Dear God
I praise you for all the animals.
James

Dear God
I praise you for making us because we are healthy. Thank you for making the butterflies and ladybirds because they make me happy when I see them in the garden at Nanna’s.
Marley
Dear God
I praise you for sharks in nature because they are beautiful sea creatures.  
Lachlan

Dear God
I praise you for my mum and dad and Cortez my horse.  
Shiloh

Dear God
Thank you for my mum and dad and Cortez my horse.  

Dear God
I praise you for the dolphins because they are fun to swim with and they make me happy.  
Grace

Dear God
I praise you for the dolphins because they are fun to swim with and they make me happy.  
Grace

Dear God
I praise you for the sea, so we can swim in it and stay hydrated.  
Clancy

Dear God
Thank you for my mum and dad and Cortez my horse.  

Dear God
I praise you for my mum and dad who love me too!  
Natalia

Dear God
I praise you for food because it keeps us alive. I praise you for trees because they give us air.  
Tom

Dear God
I praise you for sharks in nature because they are beautiful sea creatures.  
Lachlan

Dear God
I praise you for the dolphins because they are fun to swim with and they make me happy.  
Grace

Dear God
I praise you for all the water in the world. We need water to live.  
Trei

Dear God
I praise you for the sea, so we can swim in it and stay hydrated.  
Clancy

Dear God
Thank you for my mum and dad and Cortez my horse.  
Shiloh

Dear God
Thank you for my mum and dad and Cortez my horse.  
Shiloh

Dear God
I praise you for the dolphins because they are fun to swim with and they make me happy.  
Grace

Dear God
I praise you for the dolphins because they are fun to swim with and they make me happy.  
Grace

Dear God
Thank you for the gifts of Creation and the wonders we see.
Parish and Religious Education News

Fr Peter Kooloos celebrates Mass with us on Wednesday mornings at 9:15am. Morning tea will follow Mass and you are most welcome to attend:

Masses for Term 1
Wednesday 15th March  Middle school
Wednesday 22nd March  Junior School

2017 Parish Sacramental Program
Thank you to all the families who attended the Sacramental information session last week. We hope you found it informative and supportive of all you do at home and at school. If you were unable to attend and you have any questions please contact myself, Kelly Lucas, at school or the Parish. This year our Parish Sacramental Coordinators are Maree Wright and Marlene Scanlon. Maree can be contacted on: 0359 428 327

Commitment Mass for Reconciliation is this Sunday, 19th February 11am at Iona.

Ash Wednesday Mass

9:30 AM
Iona
Wednesday 1 March

Please join with the Parish and Columba students to celebrate Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent.

Project Compassion
Please keep an eye out for next fortnight’s newsletter when we will launch Project Compassion for 2017. Project Compassion Boxes will be sent home at the beginning of Lent, in two weeks’ time.

Thanks and God Bless,
Kelly Lucas
Religious Education Leader
PHYSICAL EDUCATION AT COLUMBA: THE BLUEARTH APPROACH

Physical Activity and Health

Exercise improves health through its various benefits, such as a decreased risk of chronic disease, cardiovascular disease, stress/anxiety and depression and improved movements of joints and muscles, strength and endurance, motor skills, sleeping patterns, weight control, concentration, self-esteem, confidence and sense of well-being.

30-60 minutes per day of moderate to vigorous physical activity is of great benefit in building healthy minds and bodies.

Physical Activity And Development

Physical activity helps the production of functional nerve cells in the brain which are responsible for learning and memory. Physical activity started during childhood and sustained throughout the lifetime improves learning, creates multiple physical and psychological health benefits. Increased participation in physical activity leads to improved cognitive functioning (information processing), memory, concentration, behaviour and academic achievement.

Schools have a responsibility for the learning and development of children across the curriculum and we know that physical activity supports that learning and development.

Columba’s Bluearth Program aims to provide a foundation that enables students to engage in lifelong physical activities, active leisure pursuits or sports of their choosing. Through various activities, both physical and cognitive, the program aims to develop in students a conscious awareness and acceptance of themselves and their abilities. Activities aim to build a sense of purposefulness in students by developing an appreciation of how and why they are doing each activity. Building purposefulness allows students to exercise choice and intention and have a sense of control over their lives. However, having a sense of control requires being responsible for consequences. Teaching students to take responsibility for their actions and choices is therefore another key aim of the program.

Blueearth activities fall into the following 3 divisions;

- Facilitated space (activity),
- Contemplative space (contemplation)
- Shared space and discussion (understanding).

Activities that may be used in a Blueearth session include:

- Dynamic movement control exercises and basic skills development
- Partner/Small group activities, challenges exploring teamwork & problem solving
- Meditative activities, stretching and core work
- Parkour – free running using obstacles in the environment as an opportunity for learning

Every class participates in at least one hour of Blueearth each week. This will be supplemented by a variety of activities throughout the year which may include:

Organized school sports days: Athletics, Cross-Country and Swimming Sports, Inter-school sports programs, PMP for all Preps and other students as appropriate, yoga/meditation and relaxation sessions, physical & team challenges, sports clinics, special interest activities, for example, Jump Rope For Heart etc. and excursions/outdoor education camps for years 3-6.

The students at Columba participate in Blueearth sports as it is a program which develops the whole child: physically, emotionally and socially.

Caz Websdale  (Phys. Ed. Leader)
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government’s commitment to breaking the link between a student’s background and their outcomes.

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors, excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works and sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF will be provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:
• $125 for primary school students
• $225 for secondary school students.

HOW TO APPLY

Contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

MORE INFORMATION

For the CSEF application closing dates and more information about the fund visit www.education.vic.gov.au/csef
### Calendar of Events

**February**
- **Friday 17**
  - Parents & Friends/Fete meeting Staffroom 2:30 pm
  - Tarago Swimming Sports
- **Sunday 19**
  - Commitment Mass—Reconciliation
- **Wednesday 22**
  - No Preps
- **Thursday 23**
  - Class Helpers Induction Session 9:15 Staffroom
  - Assembly Prayer: Grade 1/2 BC
- **Friday 24**
  - TWILIGHT SCHOOL SPORTS DAY
- **Tuesday 28**
  - No Preps

**March**
- **Wednesday 1**
  - No Preps
  - Ash Wednesday
- **Thursday 2**
  - iPad Rollout Night (Grade 3)
  - Newsletter Class In Focus: Grade 4/5 K
- **Tuesday 7**
  - Reconciliation Workshop (Nar Nar Goon 7:00 pm)
- **Wednesday 8**
  - No Preps
  - School Board 5:00 pm Staffroom
- **Thursday 9**
  - Lucky Bottle Day—Sports Hero Day
- **Friday 10**
  - Assembly Prayer: Grade 3/4 H
- **Monday 13**
  - Labour Day Public Holiday
- **Wednesday 15**
  - First Wednesday for Preps
- **Thursday 16**
  - Regional Swimming Competition
  - Newsletter Class In Focus: Grade 5/6H
- **Friday 18**
  - Columba Twilight Fete
- **Tuesday 21**
  - Senior excursion: National Sports Museum MCG
  - Assembly Prayer: Grade 5/6 PF
- **Friday 24**
  - Tarago District Athletics Competition
- **Tuesday 28**
  - Sacrament of Reconciliation
  - Newsletter Class In Focus: Grade 3/4 H
  - Last Day of term (1:00 pm finish)

**Tan Bark Roster**

**GOAL**: To ensure there is plenty of bark placed under any drop areas (i.e. beneath the monkey bars).

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date Range</th>
<th>Family</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18th/19th February</td>
<td>Griggslestone Family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25th/26th February</td>
<td>Stewart Family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th/5th March</td>
<td>Craig Family</td>
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</tbody>
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**Website**

Please make sure you have a look at the school website which can be accessed at;

http://www.bunyip.catholic.edu.au

**SCHOOL BLOG**

http://columba.global2.vic.edu.au/

Username: columbaparents
Password: iona

**GOAL**: To ensure there is plenty of bark placed under any drop areas (i.e. beneath the monkey bars).
$5 ENTRY

Pakenham Blue Light Dance Party

Friday 17th Feb
Pakenham Hall
John Street, Pakenham
6.30 - 9pm | 9 to 14 year olds

Contact Sharon Patterson or Cathy Emmett
03 5945 2500

Facebook Pakenham Blue Light Disco
Ask your parents to like the page if you are under 13

Instagram Bluelight_VIC