Dear Columba Families,

This week I really enjoyed reading ‘Learning Matters’ because the entire edition was devoted to Student Leadership. Each article emphasized that all students are potential leaders and that leadership involves initiating action as well as being a role model. At Columba we share student leadership opportunities regularly for these very reasons. I am always delighted to see students ‘step-up’ and make the most of the leadership opportunities to grow in confidence and awareness of their responsibility towards others. Each time we have Assembly I am in awe of the school leaders and the job they do in running the session. The new House Captains and Sports Leader are excited about the opportunities awaiting them this year especially with the upcoming Columba School Sports.

I’m sure you would agree that over the past years many students have blossomed into confident and assertive young people because they have had the opportunity and experience of being a school leader.

“If you want to be a leader you have to like to help out. You can’t be voted or appointed and then just stand back and let everything happen. You have to be involved. You have to have responsibility to stand up for yourself and for your school.”

Learning Matters Vol. 13 p.5

Reconciliation

Please keep the following students in your prayers as they prepare for Reconciliation:

Diesel Ashe, Jessica Bow, Phoebe Bracken, Brodie Brasier, Hayden Callinan, Matilda Cunningham, Erina Evesleens, Cohen Gilbert, Isaac Graton, Sam Grummisch, Meredith Hatley-Smith, Samuel Hughes, Nathan King, Matilda McKenna, Peter Metz, Robbie Nooy, Brianna O’Connor, Elish Pepping, Nathan Pisa, Alice-Ann Simon, Cody Templeton, Aaron Wlazly and Lily-Anne Wouters.
Congratulations to Hayley, Maddy, Mitch & Kale 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.

Our amazing students

Fingers crossed that our Swim Team will actually be able to compete next Tuesday 23rd in the Tarago Swimming Competition. Staff and students have been very understanding about the ongoing changes and cancellations! Spectators Welcome!

Award Winners

Assembly

The next Assembly is scheduled for Friday 26th February at 2:30 pm. The Prayer will be lead by students from Grade 1/2F. Please come along and help celebrate the achievements of the students. All families are welcome to attend each Assembly.

Tarago Swimming

Once again the weather was against us yesterday for the Tarago District Swimming Sports which have been postponed until next Tuesday Feb 23rd. Let’s hope the weather is as predicted..bright and sunny! The next level of competition, the West Gippsland Division sports will be held on Wednesday, March 2nd at the Drouin outdoor pool for students who place 1st and 2nd.

House Sports Captains and School Sports Captain

All students in grades 4-6 talked about leadership and what it takes to be a good leader. They voted for House Captains and the following students were presented at assembly last week. We are sure they will be great leaders in our school.

Red house: Alex Squires and Adeline Wilson
Green House: Darcy Eveleens and Mitchell Harvie
Gold House: Ben Brasier and Pandora Frake

The teachers and staff also nominated and then voted for the School Sports Captain. This role is a very important one in the life of Columba and congratulations goes to Madeline A’herne who will be our Sports captain for 2016. Keep an eye out for Maddy’s regular article in the newsletter about what’s happening in sport at Columba.

Columba Athletics

All the children are busily practising their events for our school sports which will be held on Thursday February 25th. A note about the sports and asking for parent helpers will be sent out tomorrow. We very much appreciate the wonderful parent assistance we receive every year which helps make our sports such a great day.
COLUMBA HOUSE SPORTS

The Columba School Sports will be held on **Thursday 25th February** beginning at 9:30 am.

We are really looking forward to an active day and Caz Websdale, our Sports Co-ordinator has worked hard to construct a program for maximum participation and enjoyment.

Caz will send home a note of request asking for assistance on the day. Parents are invited to come along to support their child/children and to help out with the various events.

Students may wear their team colours and/or sports uniform on the day.

Junior grades generally participate in novelty events whilst older grades compete for places on the Athletics Team.

**Just a thought…..**

The emphasis at Columba, especially in the Junior Grades, is not on winning but participation, aiming for personal best and supporting team mates. We want Columba students to be proud of their achievements even if they don’t come first. Our aim is that Columba students will strive to do their best in every circumstance and most particularly when they face challenges.

Some children are overly competitive and they struggle with the idea that they haven’t won or sometimes they don’t even try because they fear to lose. Most children gradually learn, that losing is just part of the way life should be and by accepting defeat graciously the disappointment of losing is reduced.

Losing is a vital ‘skill’ for children to learn, especially if they are able to maintain their determination and work courageously towards a goal regardless of the circumstances. This is a vital life skill which will stand them in good stead in secondary school and in the challenges they will face as young adults.

Our job as teachers and parents is to encourage and support children whilst ensuring that they focus on the important aspects of sport; fun, participation and personal best.

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Evacuation Procedures Continued!

As you would be aware, schools are continuing to receive bomb threats and all of these schools have implemented their Evacuation Plan under instructions from the educational authorities and police.

If this situation was to occur at Columba or indeed any other emergency requiring an Evacuation, students would be taken to Bunyip Recreational Reserve.

In this circumstance, we would immediately contact Columba families via the Skoolbag App with the following Alert:

**Evacuation at Columba Students at Bunyip Reserve**

This would then be followed by the message at the resolution of the emergency:

**Emergency resolved Students back at Columba**

It is recommended that you download the Columba Skoolbag App, if you have not already done so, as it is our most efficient means of communication with parents. Details about installing the App are included below.

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.
Upcoming Excursions:

Tuesday 23 February
Tarago Swimming Sports
(Columba Swim Team)

Monday 29 February
Richmond Football Club Superclinic
(Grade 3 & 4)

Upcoming Incursion:

Monday 29th February
Responsible Pet Ownership
(Prep-Grade 2)

Special Medical Needs

Because we have students in the school with special medical needs, it will be very important this year, to inform the school immediately that you are aware that your child has an infectious complaint. This will enable us to inform the particular families and give them the option of keeping their child at home to avoid any health risks.

also

Because we have students with severe allergies it is the policy of the school that:

- No food be shared
- Eating areas are kept clean
- Hands are washed after eating

All Columba students are aware of our eating rules and we would be grateful if you could also reinforce the eating rules at home.

UNIFORM ORDERING 2016

Bulk order periods-
Winter Uniform – late term 1 – early term 2 delivery
Summer Uniform – late term 3 – early term 4 delivery
Order forms will be sent home and payment can be made at time of delivery (credit cards accepted at these times only)

Other orders-
Orders are accepted throughout the year (subject to stock availability) by returning your order form and payment (no credit cards) to the office.
Orders are now packaged every Friday and sent home with your child. Orders are unable to be filled by office staff due to the move up to the parent room in the new building.
I will now be available in the parent room on Friday mornings between 8.30 – 9am for any fittings or queries.
Order forms are available on the skoolbag app or at the office. Payment methods are cash/chq/eft
Any queries please call or text 0407 194300.
For sizes outside the range on the order form please contact me as these are often available.
Tracey Puncheon

“Education is not the learning of facts but training the mind to think.”

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 8:40am. 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.
Parents & Friends

The first Parents & Friends Meeting will be held in the Staff Room tomorrow Friday, 19th February at 2:30 pm.

This will be a very important and exciting meeting as we will visit the new Parent Room!

Agenda items include:
♦ A Fete update
♦ Parent Room
♦ Big Screen TV’s
♦ Pastoral Care
♦ Class Contacts

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!

We look forward to seeing lots of people at our first meeting of the year!!

Parent Information Pack

A Parent Information Pack will be sent home tomorrow and this includes details about school structures and protocols. The Pack will be particularly useful in assisting new families to settle in and become familiar with school routines. Please let the office know if you did not receive a copy for your family by the end of next week.

Bingo Coordinator

This year we are searching for a volunteer to become the new Bingo Co-ordinator! Kate Herman-Ashe is stepping aside after several successful and fun-filled years as co-ordinator. The Bingo crew always have a terrific time, with lots of stories to tell after each night. Columba is responsible for the Nar Nar Goon Bingo three times a year and it is a great fundraiser for the Parents & Friends. Please contact the office if you would like to help!

Bingo dates for 2016 are:
April 7th
August 11th
December 8th

PLAY GROUP

THURSDAY
MORNINGS
9.00am - 11.00am
ALL WELCOME!

This year Rose Ahrens will conduct a two hour program at Playgroup catering for all pre-school ages. Please tell family and friends about the exciting development at Playgroup, everyone is welcome to come along.

The Playgroup would love a playpen for the little ones during playgroup sessions. If you no longer have use for your playpen and are willing to donate it to the Playgroup, please contact Rose Ahrens or the school office.
Fete News
Columba School Twilight Fete
Friday 18 March
3:00 pm—8:00 pm

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

Coming home today:-
• Armband Order forms

Coming home soon: -
• Helpers List
• Filled Basket Instructions

Raffle Tickets due back Tuesday 1 March

Next Fete Meeting: Tuesday 1 March at 7:00 pm. All welcome!

Lucky Bottle Day
Superheroes and Fairytale Characters!
Our final Lucky Bottle Day will be held on Friday 4th March. The theme is Superheroes and Fairytale Characters.

Students need to bring along an appropriate bottle or jar filled with goodies to be sold at the Lucky Bottle Stall at the Fete. These bottles or jars should be suitable for children and not be past or close to the use-by date!

Twilight Fete
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 (14 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.
Parish News
This year Sr. Cathy Dean is our Parish Sacramental Co-ordinator and Sr Cathy can be contacted on: MOB: 0459 427 062 or by email: cathy.dean@sosj.org.au

Fr Peter Koolooos celebrates Mass with us on Tuesday mornings.
You are most welcome to attend.

Masses for Term 1
Tuesday 23 Feb Grade 3/4B, 3/4H and 3/4WP
Tuesday 1st Mar Grade 5/6H and 5/6K
Tuesday 22nd Mar St Joseph’s Feast Day

Easter Timetable 2016

Stations of the Cross and Reconciliation
St John’s Kooweerup – Friday Feb 19th 7 to 8 pm
St Josephs Iona – Friday Feb 26th
St James Nar Nar Goon – Friday March 4th 7 to 8 pm

Tenebrae Services (to be followed by Reconciliation)
St Johns Kooweerup – Wednesday March 23rd 7.30 pm
St Josephs Iona – Wednesday March 23rd 7.30 pm
Holy Family Maryknoll – Tuesday March 22nd 7.30 pm

Holy Thursday March 24th Mass of the Lord’s Supper
St James Nar Nar Goon – 7.30 pm
St Johns Kooweerup – 7.30 pm

Good Friday March 25th Stations of the Cross
Maryknoll 10.00am
Kooweerup 11.00am

Solemn Liturgy of the Passion
St Johns Kooweerup – 3.00 pm
St Josephs Iona – 3.00 pm

Holy Saturday Vigil March 26th
St Johns Kooweerup – 7.30 pm
St Josephs Iona – 7.30 pm

Easter Sunday March 27th
St Marys Lang Lang – 9.00 am
Holy Family Maryknoll – 9.00 am
St James Nar Nar Goon – 11.00 am

(Please note there will be NO Mass at Iona on Easter Sunday)

It would be very much appreciated if there were children willing to assist with Altar serving at the Easter Masses. Please contact the Parish office or Sr Cathy, Thank you.
Project Compassion 2016

Running through the six weeks of Lent each year, Project Compassion is an extraordinary, ongoing demonstration of the faith, love and generosity of caring supporters, all in the name of justice and peace and is generously supported by Columba families.

The theme for Project Compassion 2016 is “Learning more, creating change”.

This theme of “Learning more, creating change” is explored through six feature stories for the six weeks of Lent. These stories demonstrate how education, training and sharing knowledge empowers individuals and communities to transform their futures and create lasting change.

1. Malawi: Like many families in her remote village, Doney and her family have often gone months without enough to eat. But with the support of Caritas Australia the people of Doney’s community have learned to harness their strengths. Today they are building new livelihoods, improving health and growing literacy to create paths towards a better future.

2. Laos: With limited support services for children living with intellectual disabilities in Laos, Duangmala feared that her eight-year-old son, Hum Noy, would never reach his full potential because he has Down Syndrome. However, now Hum Noy has a chance to learn and thrive at a specialist School supported by Caritas Australia.

Lent sharpens our awareness of prayer and the importance of doing good work. Teresa of Ávila reminds us to act with selflessness and compassion when she says: “Christ has no body now on earth but yours…Yours are the eyes through which to look out with Christ’s compassion to the world. Yours are the feet with which he is to go about doing good.”

In Pope Francis’ words, “Lent is a time for drawing near to Christ,” so thank you for supporting Caritas Australia this Lenten season as we celebrate 50 years of Project Compassion.
Together we can empower the world’s poorest people with the opportunity to learn, grow and create change.

Leonie Hester
R.E.L
Joseph Building:

The Senior students and staff are delighted to finally be in our new building which will be called the Joseph Building, reminding us of our connection to our parish church of St Joseph's.

We are very proud of the new classrooms which offer flexible learning spaces, quiet working areas and outdoor learning. The students are settling in well and are adapting to the innovative use of space which will only enhance learning opportunities and experiences for Columba students.

There is already a lovely working buzz to be heard in the Joseph Building!

*The students say:*

The amenities (toilets and sink) are great and we don’t have to go far or get wet on rainy days.

It is very spacious and we can mix with the other grade.

The big windows let in a lot of natural light.

There are times for being just Grade 5 students or just Grade 6 students.

It is like a house for the senior students.

There are lots of rooms to work in and you can use the soundproof room if you want a small, cosy space.

There is freedom to move to help you learn.

There are times to work with your friends from the other grade.

If you have not already visited, please take the opportunity to have a look around the Joseph Building.
We were writing down what we think is healthy for our bodies—Noah

We were learning about what makes us healthy and fit—Erina

We traced our bodies so we could get a picture of our body and record what keeps us healthy—Annabelle

Our group wrote down things like water, bananas, apples, brushing your hair, fit bits and protecting your eyes—Bailey
Bunyip Bulls Basketball Club

2016 Winter Season REGISTRATION DAYS

All junior players (U10s – U19s) are required to attend one of two registration days to be eligible to play the 2016 Winter season. This includes all previous and prospective players.

Registration will take place at the Bunyip Auditorium on;

**Wednesday 17th February, 6.00pm – 8.00pm**

**Saturday 20th February, 9.00am – 11.30am**

Payment of fees is required at the time of registration.
Cheque, cash or eftPOS accepted.

Hope to see you there!
Bunyip Basketball Club Committee
With kindest regards,

Jan Gubbins
Principal

February

Friday 19
Parents & Friends Staffroom 2:30 pm

Tuesday 23
Mass for Grade 3/4B, 3/4H & 3/4WP

Tuesday 23
Reconciliation Workshop (Columba 7:00 pm)

Wednesday 24
No Preps

Thursday 25
SCHOOL SPORTS DAY

Friday 26
Assembly Prayer: Grade 1/2 F

Monday 29
Responsible Pet Ownership (Prep—Two)

Friday 26
Richmond Football Club Superclinic (Grade 3 & 4)

March

Tuesday 1
Mass for Grade 5/6H & 5/6K

Wednesday 2
No Preps

Friday 4
Lucky Bottle Day—Superhero & Fairytale Theme

Tuesday 8
Fete Meeting 7:00 pm

Wednesday 9
No Preps

Wednesday 9
School Board 5:00 pm Staffroom

Thursday 10
Tarago Athletics

Friday 11
Assembly Prayer: Grade 5/6H

Monday 14
Labour Day Public Holiday

Wednesday 16
First Wednesday for Preps

Friday 18
Columba Twilight Fete

It’s a new baby!

Many congratulations to the Crisfield Family on the arrival of Tamara. Best wishes to Sean and Keshya and of course Kale, who is a very excited uncle!

God Bless!

Friends of Mt Cannibal
Flora and Fauna Reserve

Are excited to invite you to the launch of:
Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
“Communities for Nature” grant funded Mt Cannibal publications

~ Virtual Ranger Trail, and
~ Mt Cannibal: A Nature Walker’s Guide

Who: Everyone, plus a friend!

What: Grand Launch and Demonstration

Where: Mt Cannibal Flora and Fauna Reserve (Garfield Nth Rd, Garfield Nth)

A free copy of the guide will be given to every family attending the opening

Why not follow us on Facebook, or visit our website for regular new, info and updates about Mt Cannibal Flora and Fauna Reserve:

www.FriendsOfMCannibal.weebly.com
or Facebook.com/friendsofMCannibal

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.

Tan Bark Roster

20th/21st Feb Cunningham Family
27th/28th Feb O’Farrell Family
5th/6th March McAuley Family

With kindest regards,

Jan Gubbins
Principal

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