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:

Chloe A’Herne, Trent Capizzi, Brodie Collins, Abbey Ashe, Holly Carlsen, Isabella Doherty, Hayley Eeltink, Taylah Grundy, Ethan Marson, Daniel McDonagh, Amelia Millis, Lincoln Morehu, William Smith, Olivia Tynan, Damon Osborne, Phoebe Pepping, Korey Puncheon and Jesse Wouters
Congratulations to Campbell, Jessica, Irene and Lachlan who have been selected as school leaders for the next fortnight. Many thanks to Keely B, Keely H, Ethan and Liam who set a great example for all our School Leaders to follow as the first School Leaders of the Year.

It's a new Baby!
Many congratulations to the Simon Family on the arrival of Hazel-Mae, a daughter for Michael and Linda and a new little sister for Alice-Ann and Claire-Rose. God Bless

Cross Wall
Many thanks for the additions to our Cross Wall which were so thoughtfully and generously obtained by families during the holidays. We are now following the suggestion of Kale Crisfield (Grade 4/5) who recommended that we begin placing crosses above the pin-up board in the Multi-Purpose Room where they can be seen during liturgies.

Thanks for the great idea Kale!

Playgroup
All Welcome!
Each Thursday Morning during the school term from 9:00 am until 11:00 am.

Assembly
The next Assembly is scheduled for Friday 27th February at 2:30 pm. The Prayer will be lead by students from Grade 1/2 F. Please come along and help celebrate the achievements of the students. All families are welcome to attend each Assembly.

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Many, congratulations to the Simon Family on the arrival of Hazel-Mae, a daughter for Michael and Linda and a new little sister for Alice-Ann and Claire-Rose.

God Bless

Upcoming Excursions:
Monday 23rd February
Grade 1/2, Traffic School

Thursday 19 March
Athletics Team—Tarago Aths. Competition
Prep—Three, Feast of St Joseph’s Iona

Upcoming Incursions:
Wednesday 25th February
Grade 3—6, First Aid Training

Thursday 5th March
Prep—Two, Responsible Pet Ownership

Hi from the Art Room!
I have a collaborative art piece for our young artists to be part of this year and we need as many plastic lids (like the ones on milk bottles) as we can get. Any colour is fine. It's going to be beautiful! More details to come...

Love Mrs K

Our Amazing Students

Well done to our amazing Swim Team who participated in the Tarago Swim Competition today! The students swam as though they had a shark on their tail!
COLUMBA HOUSE SPORTS

The Columba School Sports will be held on Tuesday 24th February beginning at 9:30 am.

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

Caz sent home a note of request yesterday 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 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.

FETE NEWS

The theme for this year’s Fete is a Spooky theme because the Fete falls on Friday 13th March.

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

We also have the following dates available in which to sell raffle tickets at IGA.

- Thursday 12th Feb
- Thursday 19th Feb
- Thursday 26th Feb
- Thursday 5th March
- Thursday 12th March

All times for above dates are 9am – 2pm and can be shared between two or three volunteers.

If you are able to assist please contact the Office.

This week we have attached the ARMBAND order form and Helpers form to the Newsletter!

Next Fete Meetings:

Parents & Friends (tomorrow) Tuesday 24th February (7:00 pm)

All welcome!

House Captains

Congratulations to our newly elected Sports Captains who will lead our sports teams throughout the year.

Gold— Ben Hower & Teagan Harris
Green— Keely Hampton & Josh Collins
Red— Josh Evans & Tanja van der Veer

Sports Leader

We proudly announce that Patrick Davis has been selected as sports leader at Columba. He has demonstrated the same determination in both learning in the classroom as well as enthusiasm and commitment in numerous sports. We look forward to his leadership, contribution to our school and the example he will set for all Columba Students.
Reading Eggs and Mathletics

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 via the Home Learning Grid with regard to these programs. Students who are continuing with the same program may use their password from last year to access the program.

Parents & Friends

The first Parents & Friends Meeting will be held in the Staff Room tomorrow, Friday, 20th February at 2:30 pm. Please note the new time for all future Parents & Friends Meeting.

This will be a very important and exciting meeting as we now have a full committee!

Agenda items include:
♦ A Fete update
♦ Social events
♦ 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!!

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.

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.

TEACHER: "John, every day since school started you've been late. Why?"

JOHN: "It's not my fault! There's a sign at almost every crossing that says, 'go slow'!!"

School Bank Day Wednesday

If you would like to help please contact the office

Lunchtime Clubs

In 2015 we will continue our very popular Lunchtime Clubs to provide alternative activities for students between 1:30 pm—1:55 pm in the Learning Centre. These activities cater for particular areas of interest and also allow every student to have some time outside to unwind and run around before classes begin at 2:20 pm.

All students are welcome to attend:
Monday—Games Club
Tuesday—Book Club
Wednesday—Drama Club
Thursday—Chess Club
Friday—Computer Club

Also,
Don't forget Dance Club each Friday after school!
Congratulations Award Winners

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 tomorrow, Friday the 20th 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.

At our Parent as Helpers Meeting we will also discuss the requirements of the ‘Working with Children Check’ which is also a pre-requisite for volunteering at School.

Gulls Hockey Club

Registration & Training

11th March 2015
Bellbird Park Drouin

Join us on the 11th March for Registration and our First Training Session at Bellbird Park
U8 & U10’s – 4pm-4.45pm.
U12’s – 4.30-5.30pm.
U14 & U16’s – 5pm-6pm.

Juniors & Seniors needed, beginners most welcome!
For all enquiries please contact Natasha on 0400 732 615

Twilight Fete

Sponsorship

Last year 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.
In Grade 3 we have been playing lots of games to improve our knowledge of place value.

I really like playing tiny tens frames because we are learning and playing games at the same time. We have to figure out how to make numbers and count them up to make them easily and quickly.

'Guess what number I have' is a good game because we had to narrow down the number. We had to ask yes or no questions to find out the 3 digit number.

We are learning that it’s easy to make numbers on a number line but you have to make small spaces between big numbers because there's not as much space.

We use playing cards, Pick up 3 or 4 cards and then you turn them over and put them in a line and say the number. Then you put it on a number line.
# Calendar of Events

### February

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 20</td>
<td>Class Helpers Information Session 9:15 Staffroom</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 20</td>
<td>Parents &amp; Friends Staffroom 2:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 23</td>
<td>Excursion: Traffic School Excursion Grades 1 &amp; 2</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday 24</strong></td>
<td><strong>SCHOOL SPORTS DAY</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 25</td>
<td>No Preps</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 25</td>
<td>Incursion: First Aid Training Grades 3—6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 26</td>
<td>iPad Roll-Out Evening for Grade 3 students and Parents</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 26</td>
<td>Assembly Roll Out Evening</td>
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### March

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 3</td>
<td>Reconciliation Workshop Columba 7:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 4</td>
<td>No Preps</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 4</td>
<td>Marist-Sion Information Meeting for Year 7 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 5</td>
<td>Incursion: Responsible Pet Ownership Incursion Prep—2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 6</td>
<td>Lucky Bottle Day—Crazy Hair Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 9</td>
<td>Labour Day—Public Holiday</td>
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<td>Wednesday 11</td>
<td>School Board 5:00 pm Staffroom</td>
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<td>Wednesday 11</td>
<td>First Wednesday for Prep</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Friday 13</strong></td>
<td><strong>Columba Twilight Fete</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday 24</strong></td>
<td><strong>Safety Expo</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday 26</strong></td>
<td><strong>Sacrament of Reconciliation 7:00 pm</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 27</td>
<td>Assembly Prayer: Grade 1/2 V (Morning)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 27</td>
<td>End of Term (1:00 pm finish)</td>
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**Tan Bark**

- 21st/22nd Feb  
  Reid Family
- 28th Feb/1st Mar  
  Davis Family
- 7th/8th Mar  
  Waterman Family

**Sick Bay Linen**

- 20th Feb  
  Whiting Family
- 27th Feb  
  Carlsen Family
- 6th Mar  
  Lieshout 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.

**Rosters**

**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

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With kindest regards,

Jan Gubbins  
Principal