Dear Families,

I hope you are not too overwhelmed with all the letters and reminders coming to you from school this term! First term is always an extremely busy time at Columba as we prepare for the Fete and fulfil some of our sporting commitments. This term the Parishes in Partnership schools have also booked a very special guest speaker. **Michael Grose**, renowned throughout Australia as an author of Parenting Books, will speak with staff from the three schools in the afternoon of Tuesday 26 March followed by a parent session in the evening. Michael is an extremely informative and entertaining presenter, so mark the date in your diaries. (More details following soon!)

In the meantime 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 during the Ash Wednesday Mass, as many parishioners and parents commented on the reverence shown by Columba students, it was a truly lovely celebration for our first Mass of the year. We have also received excellent feedback after the swimming sports and staff members returned to school to report that the students not only tried their best but their good behavior and enthusiasm made for the best sports excursion ever, very high praise indeed!

**School Closure Days**

(Monday 11th March)

Public Holiday—Labor Day Weekend

(Tuesday 12th March)

Staff from Columba, St James & St John’s will attend a spirituality inservice conducted by Catholic Education Office personnel at Koo Wee Rup.

*Enjoy the extra long weekend!*
**OUR AMAZING STUDENTS**

**Congratulations to:**

The Swimming Squad who had an exceptional meeting last Tuesday. Many students will go onto the next stage (Tuesday, 5th March).

Vanessa Gooden who was awarded Under 16 most improved female rider last weekend. Vanessa competed with girls well above her age group and we congratulate her on this outstanding achievement.

To our cricketing stars, Matt N., Matt B., Liam, Will P. and Jake who have been selected to attend the Victorian School Cricket squad trials. Best of luck to you all.

New Playground

All the students are excitedly watching the installation of the new playground. We have our fingers crossed that the students will be able play on it from tomorrow. Whilst all grades will be given a chance to ‘test’ out the new equipment, the playground will be designated as the Senior Playground for students in Grade 3—Grade 6.

We are extremely grateful to our hard – working Parents & Friends Group who have undertaken to meet the loan repayments for the playground having finalised the oval loan one year ahead of schedule.

Thank you Parents & Friends!

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 **Tuesday the 19th of March 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 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’ which is also a pre-requisite for volunteering at School.
Lucky Bottles Day
The theme for our final Lucky Bottle Day will be My Favourite Colour. Students may come dressed in their favourite colour/s and bring along a bottle to be sold as part of our Lucky Bottle Stall.

Fete Helpers notes need to be returned Tomorrow, so that jobs can be allocated. Please consider opting for a time slot after 5 pm as we have sufficient volunteers between 3 pm—5 pm.

A Fete Update went home yesterday with the last request and reminders.

The Final Fete Meeting is Friday 8 March and we ask all co-ordinators to attend the meeting for final instructions.

Classroom Contact Parents
We are still looking for volunteers to become the Classroom Contact Parents for 2013. Classroom Contact Parents assist teachers to prepare for class events as well as organising classroom helpers. Teachers find Class Contacts extremely helpful and an effective way of sharing information with families.

If you would like to be a Class Contact Parent please speak to the appropriate teacher.

School Leaders
Congratulations to Matt Bow, Dylan, Lilly and Olivia 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.
Well done to Stephanie, Charlotte, Will Winters & Matt Nadenbousch who did a marvelous job as the school leaders of the year.

Assembly
The next Assembly is scheduled for Friday 8th March at 2:30 pm. The Prayer will be lead by students from Grade 1. Please come along and help celebrate the achievements of the students. All families are welcome to attend each Assembly.

Mathletics & Reading Eggs
This year we have invested in Mathletics for Grades 3—6 and Reading Eggs for Prep—2. These computer programs are internet based and can be accessed both at home and at school. Over the next few weeks information will be sent home with details regarding access at home and staff will also hold information sessions at school to familiarize parents with these outstanding programs.
LOTE THEMES – TERM ONE, 2013

Preps

We will focus on getting to know each other during Term One. Pinocchio the little Italian puppet will lend a hand, telling us stories, teaching us songs and poems about all things Italian. The children in Preps will bring home a letter explaining this theme and it will contain some of the Italian vocabulary used during the sessions.

Ones

The Grade One children will be concentrating on a Food theme (Il Cibo) – always ever so popular! They will learn the name of everyday foods in Italian, play games, sing songs and create interesting artwork to go on display. They will also learn how to say simple sentences in Italian that relate to this fun-filled theme. The Grade One children will bring home a letter which will provide you with some greater detail about the Italian vocabulary being used in class and the way in which it is pronounced.

Grades Two & Three

The Grade Two & Three children will also be looking at the Food theme (Il Cibo) – they will listen to traditional Italian folktales about food, role play the stories, learn simple sentences (to read, say & write in Italian), food-related songs and create amazing food related artworks – good enough to eat!

Grades Four/ Five & Five/Six

The children from Grades 4/5 & 5/6 will focus on cultural aspects of Italy this term – in particular the fascinating theme of Famous Italians (Gli Italiani Famosi). Children have already completed a simple homework task to find out some facts about a famous Italian which they shared with the class last week. They will start a group project shortly focusing on the life and times of Leonardo da Vinci.

Ciao!
Signora Robbins - LOTE Specialist

Enrolments 2014

The process for Enrolments at Columba for 2014 will be slightly different from previous years. We ask Columba Families with a Prep to enrol in 2014 to collect an Enrolment Form from the Office and return it to school by the end of Term One. This process will enable us to decide how many places remain for new families and allow us to make decisions for the future development of school facilities. General Enrolments will then open on April 15th and school tours for new families and school families will be organised after this date.
Many thanks to Kellie Smith for our wonderful promotional poster!
## Calendar of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 5</td>
<td>District Swimming Finals</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 5</td>
<td><strong>Confirmation Workshop 7pm (Bunyip)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 6</td>
<td>Prep Information Sessions (9:15 am or 5:30 pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 6</td>
<td>No Preps</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 8</td>
<td>Lucky Bottles Casual Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 8</td>
<td>Assembly Prayer: Grade 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 11</td>
<td>Public Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 12</td>
<td>RE Inservice Day for Staff (School Closure)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 13</td>
<td>Preps first Wednesday at school</td>
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<td>Wednesday 13</td>
<td>School Board</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 14</td>
<td>Newsletter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 15</td>
<td><strong>School Twilight Fete</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 19</td>
<td><strong>Confirmation Workshop 7 pm (Nar Nar Goon)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 22</td>
<td>School House Sports</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 24</td>
<td>Palm Sunday (Holy Week begins)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 26</td>
<td><strong>Michael Grose (Parent Night) Nar Nar Goon</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 28</td>
<td>Holy Thursday liturgy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 28</td>
<td>End of Term (1:00 pm finish)</td>
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### Confirmation

We pray for the following students who have committed to preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation:

Liam Bow, Matthew Bow, Stephanie Evans, Dylan Gallasch, Wade Harris, Lilly Hatley-Smith, Finn Hower, Kassy Interlandi, Caitlin Marson, Jason Pisa, Jaimie Pullin and Olivia Wilson.

### Prep Information Sessions

Prep Parents are invited to attend either the 9:15 am or 5:30 pm Information sessions hosted by the class teachers on Wednesday 6th March.

### Sick Bay Linen

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Linen Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st March</td>
<td>Carlsen Family</td>
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<tr>
<td>8th March</td>
<td>Squires Family</td>
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### Tan Bark

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Bark Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>2nd/3rd March</td>
<td>Pisa Family</td>
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<tr>
<td>9th/10th March</td>
<td>Anderson Family</td>
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### School Board

The next School Board Meeting will be held in the Staffroom on Wednesday 13 March at 5:00 pm.

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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

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With kindest regards,

Jan Gubbins  
Principal