Dear Columba Families,

It is lovely to be back at school, the children look so well rested and refreshed after the holidays and full of energy for lots of great learning in 2016.

A special welcome to our new families and also to Very Rev. Peter Kooloos, our new Parish Priest and Chris Porter who joins the staff this year. We hope that Fr Peter, Chris and all our new families settle in quickly and have a happy and successful time at Columba. In our eight classes in 2016, we have 201 children with 116 families enrolled at school. I’m sure 2016 will be another fantastic year for the entire Columba Community and I look forward to catching up with you all in the near future.

Our first newsletter is a very important newsletter with emergency management procedures explained, dates & events listed and an excellent article, written by our Learning Leader Caz Websdale, describing how we are never too old to learn at Columba.

Prayer for the beginning of the school year -
Lord, Give us the courage and confidence to see “what is”; but make us dreamers and give us vision of all the possibilities for “what can be.” Use all of us as your instruments to form, inform, reform, and transform all those in our school community.
We ask this in your name, Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Prep Grade all smiles on their first day of School.
Congratulations to Darcy, Carson, Caitlyn & Ashelee who have been selected as school leaders for the next fortnight, the first for the 2016 school year. I am sure they will set a great example for all our School Leaders to follow.

Welcome to Columba

We are absolutely delighted to extend a warm welcome to our new families in 2016 and wish them every success as part of our amazing community.

Welcome to the following Families:

Brown—Maya
Hunt—Taleah
Metz—Peter
O’Hara—Eilish
Petrolo—Levi & Sade
Pickering—Lia
Smith—Trei
Wells—Kai

Our Amazing Students

Good Luck to the Columba Swim Team who will compete in the School Swimming Sports next Tuesday and the Tarago Swimming Competition also at Drouin on Wednesday 17th February from 9:30 am to 1:00 pm. Spectators Welcome!

Upcoming Excursions:

Tues 9th February
Columba Swimming Sports
Grades 4—6

Wednesday 17th February
Swimming Sports
(Columba Swim Team)

Upcoming Incursion:

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

Parent’s Lunch

Tomorrow 12:30 pm
Top Pub
All welcome

Internet Issues

Unfortunately we have had a rocky transition to Google Apps for Education (GAFE). The transfer has caused several internet difficulties and consequently we are unable to email a copy of the newsletter this week. We hope the problems will be resolved in the near future, however school newsletters, reminders, messages and events are also available on the Columba Skoolbag App.

Assembly

The next Assembly is scheduled for Friday 12th February at 2:30 pm. The Prayer will be lead by students from Grade 1/2CH. Please come along and help celebrate the achievements of the students. All families are welcome to attend each Assembly.
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

As you would be aware, Columba has meticulously planned procedures in case of an emergency at school or indeed in the local area.

Columba has three emergency options:
- **Lockdown** (Students gathered in Learning Centre)
- **Lockout** (Students gathered on gravel area in front of school)
- **Evacuation** (Students relocate to the Bunyip Recreational Reserve)

Throughout the year students practise each procedure so that in the event of an emergency they know exactly what to do. During the Summer months we are particularly conscious of the possible threat of bushfires and therefore the following details have been included for your information:

In the event of a fire in the local area, schools are contacted by the Emergency Response Team (stationed at Pakenham Police Station) and if necessary, a strike team is immediately dispatched to the school. Staff of Columba would initiate a LOCKDOWN procedure and everyone would gather in the Learning Centre (Library) until the threat is over. The Learning Centre has communication, toilet and water facilities and has been positioned and built to minimize threat from radiant heat.

**Please note:**
During a fire threat, it is not advisable for parents to try and get to the school or take their children away from the school. I cannot impress upon you more strongly the importance of not putting yourself at risk in order to be with the children. It is extremely dangerous to come to school and be on the roads at a time of poor visibility, smoke or fire especially when emergency vehicles are moving around and need priority road access.

In the event that the local area is under **Ongoing and Imminent Threat** or it is a **CODE RED Day** then Columba will be closed and parents given as much advanced warning as possible.

Useful Websites in times of fire threat:
- www.cfa.vic.gov.au
- www.bom.gov.au
- www.education.vic.gov.au
- www.cecv.catholic.edu.au

It is also timely to remind families that they should have a Fire Ready Plan for home and that a Fire Ready Kit can be downloaded from the CFA website.

Evacuation Procedures Continued!

As you would be aware, many schools have unfortunately received bomb threats this week and these schools have implemented their Evacuation Plan.

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.
Canteen begins this coming Monday!
Menu attached!

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.

Friday night dancing

Dancing will commence this Friday, 5th February.
All welcome, come and give it a try.

Junior (Prep-Grade 2) 3:30pm- 4:15pm
Seniors (Grade 3-6)     3:40pm – 4:45pm
Cost is $5 per person per week. In the Learning Centre with Ms Lucas.

Expressions of interest are also being sort for a pre-school dance class during assembly. If you have a preschooler who would like to dance please speak to Ms Lucas on a Monday or Friday.

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.
After School Procedures

There are two options at the end of the school day for parents to pick-up their child/children.

**Car Park:** park your car and come to the Multi-Purpose Room door, students will then be dismissed into your care. **Please note:** Because of the number of vehicles moving in and out of the car park, it is essential that once you have collected your child/children that you provide supervision at all times in the carpark!

**Pick-up Zone:** cars queue in the Pick-up Zone and teachers supervise students as they get into cars.

Just a reminder that the Pick-up zone is solely for school buses prior to 3:30 pm.
It is essential that the buses have free access to this area for the safety of students. The Pick-up zone is available after 3:30 pm for parents and you might consider arriving a little later to avoid queuing!

Staff remain on duty at the Pick-up area and in the Multipurpose Room until 3:45 pm and after this time any students remaining wait in the office. Thank you in anticipation of your patience, forbearance and cooperation.

Parents & Friends

The first Parents & Friends Meeting will be held in the Staff Room on 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
♦ 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!!

Parent Information Pack

A Parent Information Pack will be sent home next week 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.

Lunchtime Clubs

In 2016 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. This year we are introducing two new clubs as well as a Saturday Afternoon Club. (Flyer Attached)

All students are welcome to attend:
Monday—Book Club
Tuesday—ICT Club & Activity Club
Wednesday—Drama Club
Thursday—Chess Club & Gardening Club
Friday—Games Club

Also,
Don’t forget Dance Club each Friday after school!

“Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world.”
Nelson Mandela
**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 **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. Please let the school office know if you are coming along on Thursday 18th 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’ which is also a pre-requisite for volunteering at School.**

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**FETE NEWS**

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

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

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

Next Fete Meeting: Tuesday 16th February at 7:00 pm.  
*All welcome!*

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**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!

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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!**

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**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 Sacramental Program 2016

This year we welcome Sr. Cathy Dean as our Parish Sacramental Co-ordinator and our grateful thanks are extended to Sr Patricia Hickey for undertaking the role in the past two years. Sr Cathy can be contacted on MOB: 0459 427 062 or by email: cathy.dean@sosj.org.au

A tremendous thank you to all families who have returned their child’s blue enrolment forms for any sacrament their child is eligible for in 2016. This information allows Sr Cathy to contact you directly if necessary and assists with the allocation of resources.

The Parish Sacramental Information evening is being held at St James, Nar Nar Goon on Thursday 11th February at 7pm and all parents of children preparing for any sacrament are requested to attend (children are not required). Our guest speaker is Fr. Elio Capra and from previous experience, you will not only gain information about the Sacraments but will also be highly entertained.

Sacrament of Reconciliation
A letter accompanied by a purple Commitment form, was sent out on Tuesday re preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The purple form needs to be completed and is to be handed over to Father Peter at any one of the listed Commitment Masses;

- Saturday  6.00pm  St James- Nar Nar Goon  13th February
- Sunday  9.30am  St John’s- Koo Wee Rup  14th February
- Sunday  11.00am  St Joseph’s-Iona  14th February

Further dates will be distributed at the Sacramental Information evening.
If you have any concerns please don’t hesitate to contact myself or Sr. Cathy.

Masses
We thank Deacon Tony for leading the staffs from our three Parish schools last week. It is certainly a pleasure and privilege to have him in our midst.

We warmly welcome Fr. Peter Kooloos to our Parish and Columba school community. Fr Peter celebrated our Commencement Mass with us yesterday and will celebrate Ash Wednesday next week at Columba at 10.30am. You are most welcome to attend.

Masses for Term 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Grade Prep, Grade 1/2CH and 1/2F</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16th</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>23rd</td>
<td>Grade 3/4B, 3/4H and 3/4WP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Grade 5/6H and 5/6K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22nd</td>
<td>St Joseph’s Feast Day</td>
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Leonie Hester
REL
You’re never too old to learn!!

At the end of each year the staff of Columba spends the last day of school on a Mystery Tour visiting a secret destination; just like the Columba kids, the staff go on this excursion to listen, see and touch, learning about our world. Each year the staff has fun guessing where we are going…(and some try their best to trick me into telling them the destination!) 2015 was the third year we have gone out into the world and learned about an aspect of the school curriculum. In 2013 we visited the Immigration Museum in Melbourne and learned about the many reasons why people have immigrated to this wonderful country. We used this opportunity to plan and implement a wonderful inquiry about cultural diversity and explored each family’s story in coming to Australia.

In 2014 we explored the National Botanic Gardens in Cranbourne, learning about ecology, indigenous plants, conservation and ways gardening and nature can help us maintain wellbeing.

In 2015 the staff visited the Mary Mackillop Heritage Centre in East Melbourne. The day began with a presentation on the history of Melbourne and the wonderful work done by Mary MacKillop. We learned what a truly inspirational person she was: providing refuges for women and children, looking after orphans, establishing a religious order, the Josephites, who travelled to small towns across Australia providing aid to the poorest of the poor and establishing many schools.

Our parish and the original school at Iona, St Joseph’s, was established by the Josephites! It is very easy to see why she became Australia’s first saint, St Mary of the Cross.

After the presentation we viewed the displays showing the history of early Melbourne, particularly the work of the early Church in seeking social justice. We then walked to see Mary’s birthplace and a small cottage which remarkably survived the rapid growth of Melbourne city, still standing in Little Lonsdale Street. A replica of adjoining cottages is on display in the Melbourne Museum. We then visited the Telstra building which has on display in their foyer (free entry), artifacts saved when the site was excavated…archaeologists rule! It was amazing to see everyday items…bowls, pipes, hair-brushes etc. that are over 150 years old!

Many of the staff were amazed that they had driven or walked in this wonderful area and had not been aware of its historical significance. Some have already made plans to return to investigate some more.

Plans are already underway for this year’s Mystery Tour. I wonder where we will go and what we will learn about this time!

Caz Websdale
(Learning Leader)
Lucky Bottle Day

Our first Lucky Bottle Day will be held next Thursday 11th February. The theme is “Crazy Hair! Students can also come dressed in casual clothes.

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!

2016 Bunyip Soccer Club Registration Days

All junior players Boys and Girls (U7s – U16s) are invited to attend one of two Registration Days to be eligible to play the 2016 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
### February

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 5</td>
<td>Parent’s Lunch Top Pub 12:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 8</td>
<td>Canteen begins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 9</td>
<td>School Swimming Sports</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 10</td>
<td>Fete Meeting 7:00 pm Staffroom</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 10</td>
<td>No Preps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 10</td>
<td>Ash Wednesday Mass (MPR 10:30 am)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 10</td>
<td>School Board Meeting 5:00 pm Staffroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 11</td>
<td>Lucky Bottle Day—Crazy Hair Theme</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 11</td>
<td>Sacramental Parent Night—Elio Capra</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 12</td>
<td>Assembly Prayer: Grade 1/2 CH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 14</td>
<td>Commitment Mass for Reconciliation Iona 11:00 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 16</td>
<td>Mass for Grade Prep and 1/2GH &amp; 1/2F</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 16</td>
<td>Fete Meeting 7:00 pm Staffroom</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 17</td>
<td>No Preps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 17</td>
<td>Tarago Swimming Sports</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 18</td>
<td>Class Helpers Information Session 9:15 Staffroom</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 19</td>
<td>Parents &amp; Friends Staffroom 2:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 23</td>
<td>Mass for Grade 3/4B, 3/4H &amp; 3/4WP</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 23</td>
<td>Reconciliation Workshop (Columba 7:00 pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 24</td>
<td>No Preps</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 26</td>
<td>Assembly Prayer: Grade 1/2 F</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 29</td>
<td>Responsible Pet Ownership (Prep—Two)</td>
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### March

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 1</td>
<td>Mass for Grade 5/6H &amp; 5/6K</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 2</td>
<td>No Preps</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 3</td>
<td>Incursion: Responsible Pet Ownership Incursion Prep—2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 4</td>
<td>Lucky Bottle Day—Crazy Hair Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 8</td>
<td>Fete Meeting 7:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 9</td>
<td>No Preps</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 9</td>
<td>School Board 5:00 pm Staffroom</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 10</td>
<td>Tarago Athletics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 11</td>
<td>Assembly Prayer: Grade 5/6H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 14</td>
<td>Labour Day Public Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 16</td>
<td>First Wednesday for Preps</td>
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**Friday 18**  
**Columba Twilight Fete**

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### Tan Bark Roster

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>6th/7th Feb</th>
<th>Jackson Family</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13th/14th Feb</td>
<td>Nooy Family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20th/21st Feb</td>
<td>Cunningham Family</td>
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</tbody>
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**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.

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With kindest regards,

Jan Gubbins
Principal

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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
Term 1 – Lunch Order Menu – Every Monday

Regular Menu

Plain hot dog - $2.50
With cheese or bacon - $.50c each

Pie - $2.00

Sausage Roll - $2.00

3 x Steamed dim sims - $2.00

Bacon & Cheese buttered roll - $2.00

Chicken Schnitzel burger with lettuce, cheese & mayo - $4.00

Drinks

Chocolate or Strawberry Milk - $2.00

Apple or Orange Juice - $1.50

Snacks

Fruit Salad - $2.00

Zooper Dooper - $1.00

Choc Coated Ice Cream - $1.50

Monthly Special

February – 5 x Small salami pin wheels - (Puff pastry, tomato paste, salami, oregano & cheese) - $3.00

March – Salad roll (lettuce & tomato) with chicken loaf or salami or ham + mayo - $2.50

No extra charge for tomato or soy sauce. Please write request for sauce on your order as for health reasons it must be applied in canteen.

Please use brown paper bags for lunch orders NOT envelopes!
Correct Money is always appreciated.
A network of coding clubs for Aussie kids aged 9–11

Columba will be hosting a computer Code Club once a fortnight on Saturday afternoons from 2 til 4pm, attendance is free, and access to a computer/laptop can be provided.

Code club Australia is part of Code Club world, with the aim of providing opportunities for kids aged between 9-11 to have free access to Computer coding opportunities in Scratch, HTML and Python.

The club is to be facilitated by Simone Waterman, and will take place in the Learning centre at Columba.

To ensure each child receives appropriate learning opportunities, numbers will be limited. To book, either complete the form below and return to school, or email this information to: exceptionalkids@bigpond.com

- Child’s name…………………………………………......................
- Age…………………………………………………………….....
- Contact name/Parent: ...............................
- Email: .................................................................