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 2015.

A special welcome to our new families and also to Fiona Cathcart who joins the staff this year. We hope that Fiona and all our new families settle in quickly and have a happy and successful time at Columba. In our eight classes in 2015, we have 196 children with 117 families enrolled at school. I’m sure 2015 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 the 2015 focus of Teaching and Learning 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 Keely B, Keely H, Ethan and Liam who have been selected as school leaders for the next fortnight, the first for the 2015 school year. Keely, Keely, Ethan and Liam attended the Caritas Leadership Seminar last year and 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 2015 and wish them every success as part of our amazing community.

Welcome to the following Families: Barnes—Ellie-Ruth Doherty—Grace Callinan—Hayden & Hayley Grundy—Taylah Kivits—Davey Pace—Ruby White—Lillyca

Welcome back to the following Family: Bow—Lilly

Parent’s Lunch

Tomorrow 12:30 pm

Top Pub

All welcome

Canteen begins this coming Monday!

Menu attached!

Our amazing Students

Good Luck to the Columba Swim Team who will compete in the Tarago Swimming Competition in Warragul on Thursday 19th February from 9:30 am to 1:00 pm. Spectators Welcome!

Upcoming Excursions:

Wed 18th February
Ash Wednesday Mass
Grades 3—6

Thurs 19th February
Swimming Sports
(Columba Swim Team)

Mon 23rd February
Grade 1/2 Traffic School

Upcoming Incursion:

Wednesday 25th February
Grade 3—6 First Aid Training

Assembly

The next Assembly is scheduled for Friday 13th February at 2:30 pm. The Prayer will be lead by students from Grade 4/5. 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.

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.

A book of Raffle Tickets will be sent home tomorrow to each family.

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.

Next Fete Meeting: Tuesday 10th February at 7:00 pm.

    All welcome!

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.
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, 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!!

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 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!!
Lucky Bottle Day

Our first Lucky Bottle Day will be held next Friday 13th February. The theme is “Spooky” since it is Friday the 13th and this will be a great way to prepare for our Spooky Fete which is also Friday the 13th! (March)

Students can come dressed in a spooky theme, I’m sure there are many great costumes from Halloween that could be used!

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!

Lunch wrappers to go home!
You may have already noticed that children are bringing home all wrappers, containers and uneaten food in their lunch box. This initiative is part of our environmental sustainability program and will also allow you to see what has and has not been eaten during the course of the day!
As another year of learning and teaching begins it is a great time to remind ourselves of why we all come together at Columba. Our school motto, “Let your light shine”, inspired by scripture in Matthew chapter 5, challenges us to become the very best version of ourselves we can be and share our talents and gifts with those around us.

Staff and parents are called to work as a team to develop the whole child: gone are the days when school was all about the 3R’s: reading, writing and arithmetic, as we strive to prepare our children to thrive in an ever-changing and increasingly globalized world. We are preparing our children for jobs which may not even exist yet. Education therefore is about building attitudes and skills like flexibility, resilience, cooperation, resourcefulness and compassion rather than knowledge alone.

At Columba we encourage students to think about how they best learn. Students in the Middle and Senior levels in particular will look at the different ‘Smarts’: word, number, body, nature, picture, music, people and self. Over the next few weeks, the students will be discussing their ‘smart’ and also plan towards developing areas which are not their strength. All the staff and students will make learning goals and create a plan of action for the term or semester.

To support students in developing their talents, we provide a wide variety of learning opportunities. In addition to core subjects: English, Maths, Religious Education, Phys. Ed. and Integrated Studies-Science, History, Geography etc. students participate in specialist programs which seek to give students a broad learning experience: Music/Performing Arts, Visual Art and L.O.T.E (Italian).

We also provide many extra-curricula activities which enrich classroom programs. Already this term we have planned many learning opportunities: beginning of the year Mass, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Mass for St Joseph’s feast day, Athletics sports, district/division Swimming sports, incursions: first-aid for years 3-6, responsible pet ownership for Prep-2 and hope to hold a “Safety expo” at the end of the term to wrap-up this term’s whole school Inquiry theme about Health and Safety.

A major emphasis of life at Columba is developing the student’s skills and attitudes with regard to citizenship. They learn about the various communities they belong to and encourage them to be involved through activities such as the Columba Fete, charity fundraising and community events. We emphasize the idea that we are each uniquely loved and gifted by God and have a responsibility to others and to the world in which we live. Programs like the Buddies program, Transition group, Seasons for Growth, Camps/Sleepover, Friendship circle and Lunchtime clubs help students make friends and develop personal skills and work alongside programs such as Guitar, ELMS, literacy support, Integration support and EMU which support academic growth.

We look forward to another fabulous (and busy!) year of learning and encourage you to take advantage of all opportunities to support your child’s learning.

Caz Websdale
(Leader of Learning)
Friday night dancing

Preschool, Junior and Senior dance classes

Come and join Ms Lucas and Sarah for dancing, fun and games. New students welcome.
Preschoolers every second Friday during assembly time 2:30pm-3:15pm
Junior and Senior classes every Friday in the Learning Centre
Junior (Prep – Grade 2) 3:30pm till 4:15pm
Senior (Grade 3 – 6) 3:40pm till 4:45pm
Only $5 a week.

Classes will include Ballroom Dancing, Latin American, group routines, fitness, games and more.

Classes start Friday 6th February.

Students meet in the Multipurpose Room at dismissal time and will be taken to the Learning Centre for dancing.

Parents are welcome to watch or collect their children at the end on the class.

Unfortunately I have a clash on the first two Fridays and I am required at the Catholic Education Office in Warragul for Reading Recovery training.

Luckily Sarah and Miss Braun will be there to start the classes and I will join you as soon as I can.

Thanks everyone. Ms Kelly Lucas

BUNYIP & DISTRICT “STRIKERS” SOCCER CLUB
NOW RECRUITING MEN AND WOMEN, BOYS AND GIRLS
FOR SENIOR AND JUNIOR TEAMS
FOR SEASON 2015

Club Registration Day held at our grounds
On February, 8th 10am till 1pm.
Free sausage sizzle.
CONTACT ADRIAN GATTI: 0417 590 830

Come & try Calisthenics in 2015 and get 2 FREE classes!
Call now or email to find out more information on class times and fees

Sorella Calisthenics is located in Tynong.
Fun, Family, Fitness for all ages!

Sorella Calisthenics
18 Railway Avenue, Tynong
0421424079
sorellacc@hotmail.com
www.sorellacalisthenics.com
February

Friday 6  FETE Raffle Tickets distributed
Friday 6  Parent’s Lunch Top Pub 12:30 pm
Monday 9  Canteen begins
Tuesday 10 Fete Meeting 7:00 pm Staffroom
Wednesday 11 No Preps
Wednesday 11 School Board Meeting 5:00 pm Staffroom
Friday 13 Lucky Bottle Day—Spooky Theme
Friday 13 Assembly Prayer: Grade 4/5
Sunday 15 Commitment Mass for Reconciliation Iona 11:00 am
Wednesday 18 No Preps
Wednesday 18 Ash Wednesday Mass Iona 11:30 am (Grades 3 –6)
Thursday 19 Tarago Swimming Sports Warragul
Friday 20 Class Helpers Information Session 9:15 Staffroom
Friday 20 Parents & Friends Staffroom 2:30 pm
Monday 23 Excursion: Traffic School Excursion Grades1 & 2
Tuesday 24 SCHOOL SPORTS DAY
Wednesday 25 No Preps
Wednesday 25 Incursion: First Aid Training Grades 3—6
Thursday 26 Installation of new Bishop, Sale Diocese, Sale Cathedral
Thursday 26 iPad Roll-Out Evening for Grade 3 students and Parents
Thursday 27 Assembly Prayer: Grade 1/2 F

March

Tuesday 3  Reconciliation Workshop Columba 7:00 pm
Wednesday 4  No Preps
Wednesday 4  Marist-Sion Information Meeting for Year 7 2016
Thursday 5  Incursion: Responsible Pet Ownership Incursion Prep—2
Friday 6  Lucky Bottle Day—Crazy Hair Day
Monday 9  Labour Day—Public Holiday
Wednesday 11 School Board 5:00 pm Staffroom
Wednesday 11  First Wednesday for Prep
Friday 13  Columba Twilight Fete

Rosters

Tan Bark
7th/8th Feb  G&S Wouters Family
14th/15th Feb  Brunt Family
21st/22nd Feb  Reid Family

Sick Bay Linen
6th Feb  Kinder Family
13th Feb  McNamara Family
20th Feb  Whiting 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.

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

With kindest regards,

Jan Gubbins
Principal
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

Jam Donut - $1.50

Zooper Dooper - $1.00

Choc Coated Ice Cream - $1.50

Monthly Special

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

March – Raw Veggie sticks, plain biscuits & cheese with Tzatziki dip – $2.00

- No extra charge for tomato or soy sauce. Please make your request 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.