Dear Columba Families,

Because Sunday is Mother’s Day, I have included this very special prayer as a tribute to all the wonderful mums and special women in the lives of the children at Columba. Make sure you also read the tribute by the Grade Four/Five students included in the newsletter. Have a fantastic and richly deserved day and God Bless you all!

Loving God, we thank you for the love of the mothers you have given to us.
Whose love is so precious that it can never be measured,
whose patience seems to have no end.
May we see your loving hand behind them and guiding them.
We pray for those mothers who fear they will run out of strength or time or patience.
We ask you to bless them with your special love.
We pray for families, that they may appreciate, love and support their mothers and wives.
We ask this in the name of Jesus who showed us how to love and care for Mothers.
Amen
Our Amazing Students

Well Done Vanessa!
Many congratulations to Vanessa Gooden who competed in the Australian BMX Championships last week in Queensland. Vanessa finished in fifth place which puts her in the top 5 riders for her age group. An amazing effort!

Zone Sports
Today, 19 students attended the Zone Athletics Championships in Newborough. This is an outstanding achievement for Columba that so many students reached this level.

Congratulations to our Bookfair Competition winners!

Car Park changes
I hope the new entry and exit area in the carpark allows for smoother flow of traffic and I ask drivers to abide by these signs to ensure this area is kept free at all times. Shortly we will also be extending the gravel area to allow for further parking and pathways.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge again the patience and forbearance of Columba parents particularly at the end of the day when the area is most congested.

Wet Weather Gear
Please ensure that your child has suitable wet weather gear if they are using the Pick-Up Line at the end of the day.

Because so many students are now using the Pick-up line it is impractical to have them wait in the Multi-purpose Room on wet days! (Don’t forget, this includes staff as well!!)

In the event of torrential rain we will place students inside but on all other occasions they will need wet weather gear to wait outside in the Pick-Up area.
Australia’s Biggest Morning Tea

Is an opportunity for us all to get behind Cancer research and make a difference. This is an invitation for you to join us on

Wednesday 15th May 10am
Iona-Maryknoll Parish Office
Next to St James School
60 Nar Nar Goon Road, Nar Nar Goon

Sadly we are all touched by Cancer and no one is immune. By supporting events such as this we can contribute and hopefully one day there will be a cure. We remember especially at this time Fr John Allen & many of our parishioners who are currently receiving treatment for Cancer.

Further info ph. June 0410 561 842 or the parish Office 5942 593

School Board

The Annual General Meeting of the School Advisory Board took place last night. Our Board consists of four parent representatives, a representative of the P&F, a staff representative, the Principal and the Parish Priest.

Two positions for parent representatives were available for election this year. In accordance with the Constitution of the School Board we have undertaken the election process during the early part of Term Two and whilst several recommendations were made, only two people were able to accept nomination for the School Board. I thank all those parents who took the time to send back a nomination form; it confirms that we have many capable people within our community.

I congratulate Cathy Tynan & Dave Bracken on accepting the nomination and welcome them as members of the 2013/14 School Board.

We thank all members, for their dedication and willingness, to continue to give their time and collective wisdom for the benefit of us all.

Our grateful appreciation is extended to Michelle Gooden as our outgoing Board Member. We thank Michelle for her enthusiasm and commitment to the school. Michelle should be very proud of her achievements as a Board Member and this contribution to the school community has been invaluable. I know Michelle will continue to share her leadership skills within the school community through her work as Pastoral Care Vice-President of the Parents & Friends.

The School Advisory Board comprises:
Fr John Allen (Deacon Tony Aspinall)
Jan Gubbins
Belinda Fawkner & Carol Websdale (Staff Reps)
Dave Bracken, Cathy Tyanan, Tabatha Fisher-Smith, Debbie McNamara (Parent Reps)
Parents & Friends Rep (Donna Schreurs)

Assembly

The next Assembly is scheduled for Friday 17th May at 2:30 pm. The Prayer will be lead by students from Grade Four/Five. Please come along and help celebrate the achievements of the students. All families are welcome to attend each Assembly.
Please keep the following students in your prayers as they prepare for the Sacrament of First Eucharist:

Cailyn Smith, Liam Marson, Christina Pisa, Tanja van der Veer, Sarah-Belle Joynes, Eddy Hatley-Smith, Ben Hower, Josh Collins, Keely Bow, Keely Hampton, Ethan Brown, Lachlan Brown, Bronson Crisfield, Patrick Davis, Josh Evans, Teagan Harris, Jessica King, Campbell Knight & Leon Varrasso.

The Catholic Education Commission of Victoria has asked all schools to pass on the following information to Parents.

Whilst no local cases have been reported, it is important to make everyone aware of the seriousness of this infection.

**Outbreak of Cryptosporidium Infection**

- An outbreak of cryptosporidium infection (also referred to as ‘crypto’) is affecting Melbourne and many parts of regional Victoria.
- The Department of Health is requesting that parents and guardians of all children who attend swimming lessons or swim clubs in Victoria be provided with information on how to protect themselves and others when swimming.
- Crypto is a parasitic infection that causes gastroenteritis, with the most common symptoms being diarrhoea, stomach cramps and nausea. Symptoms may last for weeks and have serious consequences for people who have weakened immune systems.
- During swimming, people can become infected by swallowing water which has become contaminated by human faeces, usually from tiny amounts that cannot be seen. Crypto can also be spread from person to person, especially in settings such as childcare facilities and in households where there are cases.
- All swimming pool patrons are able to become infected if the pool is contaminated with crypto because crypto parasites are not killed by the normal levels of chlorine used in swimming pools. Without realising, people with crypto infection can contaminate pool water up to 14 days after their diarrhoea has stopped.
- Pool operators have taken steps including decontamination of water where appropriate as a protective measure, but this cannot break the cycle of crypto infection without the help of patrons.

**RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

- Parents should ensure that they and their children take the following actions to protect themselves and others:
  - do not swim if you have diarrhoea or if you have had diarrhoea in the past two weeks
  - shower and wash thoroughly with soap before entering the pool
  - wash your hands with soap after going to the toilet or changing a nappy
  - avoid swallowing pool water.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

- For more general information on avoiding Crypto and other infectious diseases while swimming, please go to: http://www.health.vic.gov.au/water/recreational/cryptosporidium.ht
- If you have any concerns about your health or the health of your child, please consider seeking medical advice.
REMEMBER TO LOOK UP AT THE STARS, NOT DOWN AT YOUR FEET.

You may have noticed this phrase on display in the office area and on our notice board at the front of the school!

We think this phrase is really important for our community and we would love to know what your family thinks this might mean for our school. Have a chat over dinner one night and write down your thoughts!

We will place all families who send their ideas to school in the draw for a Family FILM Pass! There are no wrong answers only great ideas.

Our Mums by Grade 4/5

My Mum is funny because:

- She sings in the car
- She dances around the house, music at full volume
- She laughs a lot
- She tells silly jokes
- She is really PREPARED when we go out or away for a holiday
- She adds even more super-safety rules
- She knows what I am thinking before I do!

We love our Mums because they each have such a big heart to love and support everyone in the family. Our Mums use wisdom, knowledge and courage to be the best mums ever!
May
Thursday 9  Mother’s Day Luncheon
Sunday 12  Mother’s Day
Sunday 12  Commitment Mass Eucharist
Tuesday 14  NAPLAN begins (Grade 3 & 5)
Friday 17  Parents & Friends Meeting
Friday 17  Scienceworks (Grade 2 & 3)
Friday 17  Assembly Prayer: Grade Prep
Tuesday 21  Grade 4 & 5 Liturgy of the Word and Communion
Tuesday 21  Eucharist Workshop
Thursday 23  Newsletter
Friday 24  Interschool Sport (Warragul) Away
Friday 24  School Disco
Friday 31  Assembly Prayer: Grade 2

June
Tuesday 4  Dr. Fr. Elio Capra, St James NNG (workshop 2)
Thursday 6  Newsletter
Friday 7  Columba Day
Monday 10  Public Holiday
Wednesday 12  School Board Meeting
Friday 14  Assembly Prayer: Grade 3
Wednesday 19  I love to Learn Expo
Friday 21  Parents & Friends Meeting
Friday 21  Interschool Sport (Traf) Away
Sunday 23  Sacrament of Eucharist
Thursday 27  Reports sent home
Friday 28  Last day of Term

Congratulations to Dylan, Matthew, Kassy & Olivia who have been selected as school leaders for the next fortnight. I am sure they will set a great example for all our students to follow. Well done to Liam, Charlotte, Stephanie & William who worked hard as school leaders in the past two weeks.

For Sale
1 x size 8 White First Communion Dress with short white jacket to match. Worn once.
1pr x size 2 white shoes (with insoles, If needed ) $120 the lot
Contact: Cindy Hogan on 0407053023

Sick Bay Linen
10th May  Pullin Family
17th May  Ahrens Family
24th May  Grigglestone Family
25th/26th May Jackson Family

Tan Bark
11th/12th May  Huston Family
18th/19th May  Price Family
25th/26th May Jackson 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