Dear Columba Families;

This week I have been reading a ‘well-thumbed’ edition of Education Horizons. The issue is devoted to the Arts (music, visual arts, drama and dance) and its importance in the development of children’s fullest potential.

In the feature article, ‘Why the Arts are Important’, Dr Neryl Jeanneret states that the Arts are not so much a result of inspiration and talent but rather a person’s capacity for creative thinking and imagining, problem solving and creative judgement. Dr Jeanneret argues that from creativity and imagination the solutions to political and social problems will come.

Dr Jeanneret emphasizes that teachers know that children understand more than they can verbalise and their understanding can be observed in activities other than verbal or written responses. The Arts provide multiple ways for people to express ideas and feelings and develop their understanding of cultures and traditions.

(Educational Horizons Vol.10 No. 5)

The Commonwealth of Australia Arts Education Report also concluded that:

- Develop the full variety of human intelligence
- Develop the ability for creative thought and action
- Develop an understanding of culture and difference
- Develop feeling and sensitivity
- Develop physical and perceptual skills
- Achieve positive self-esteem

I am sure you will agree that Columba provides a wonderful Arts Program and the emphasis is always on providing a variety of experiences for students, enabling them to find out more about themselves as well as the world in which they live. I would particularly like to acknowledge the work of Kylee Kinder, Nathan Power and Kelly Lucas in providing such a high quality arts program for the students of Columba that was so well reflected in our School Performance last term and in the work on display in each classroom.

Welcome to Columba

In 2014 we will welcome two new class teachers to Columba, Katelyn Sligar and Ellie Frindt. Both are extremely excited about their appointment and looking forward to meeting students and families in the new year.

Both Ellie and Katelyn have a strong affinity with the arts. Katelyn plays the piano and Ellie studied drama at university. I’m sure we can put these talents (and many others) to great use next year!
**FETE MEETING**

Friday 29th November
9:15 am

At this meeting we will confirm the Fete Committee and organize co-ordinators for the various stalls.
All Welcome!

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**Parents & Friends Report**

We are delighted to announce the new executive for the Parents & Friends for 2014.

**Executive:**
- President: Jodie Pullin
- Vice President Fundraising: Jo Shoesmith
- Vice President: Pastoral Care Michelle Gooden
- Secretary: Fiona Bow
- Treasurer: Megan Mathisen
- School Board Rep. Donna Schreurs

**Non Executive Positions**
- Canteen: Kate Herman-Ashe, Jacky A’Herne, Kim Delosa
- Bingo: Claire Hower
- Uniforms: Sharon Harris
- Fete Co-ordinator: Andrea Williams

Many thanks to you all for your support of the school and example of leadership within the parent community. There is just one position left to fill; that of Vice-President: Social and we encourage anyone who would like to work with an enthusiastic and motivated team to volunteer to take on this role.

We are also very grateful to the outgoing Executive for their highly successful and effective work during 2013. We particularly acknowledge the work of Liz McDonagh, Deanna Gallasch and Kim Caldwell who have all made an outstanding contribution to the P&F.

This year the Parents and Friends have:
- Provided fun-filled and community building social events such as the school disco, the Denim and Diamonds disco and winery tour
- Provided excellent pastoral care and support for Columba families
- Organised the fabulous 2013 Fete
- Enabled students to purchase memorable gifts at the Mother’s and Father’s day stalls
- Provided nutritious and yummy Monday lunches as well as catering for events such as the school performance and Columba Day.
- Purchased 6 iPads for classroom use
- Met the loan repayment for the new adventure playground
- Provided funds which will be used to purchase reading books and fitness stations around the oval.

As you can see from this amazing list of achievements the Parents and Friends is a very active and essential component of our community. The Parents & Friends Executive welcome everyone to their meetings and these are held every third Friday of the month at 9:15 am.

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**Assembly**

The next Assembly is scheduled for Friday 29th November at **2:30pm**. 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.

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**End of Year Mass**

The end of year Mass will be celebrated at Iona on Tuesday 17th December at the new time of **11:30 am**. Please place this date in your diary so that you are able to join us in celebrating the end of another action-packed and successful year at Columba.

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**School Bank**

Friendly reminder that the School Bank operates on: **Thursdays**
Congratulations to David, Natalia, Leon and Lauren 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 and thank you to Angelina, Willow, Ethan and Will Papley who worked hard as school leaders in the past two weeks.

**Lice**

Unfortunately we have had several reported cases of Lice in the Junior Grades over the past few weeks. As a justice issue to other students and to avoid further cases, we encourage you to regularly check your child/children's hair and also ensure that long hair is tied back.

**Tree-line Troubles**

As you may have noticed a temporary fence has been erected along the tree-line adjacent to the playground. Unfortunately we have had two trees fall in the past few weeks and it would appear that the majority of gum trees have compromised root systems and, unfortunately, will need to be removed.

We expect this to be done over the Summer with lots and lots of tree and shrub planting in store for Columba families in the Autumn.

**Lucky Bottles Summer Theme**

Our last **Lucky Bottles Day** takes place on **Friday 29th November** and has a Summer Theme. Students can wear summer clothes although these will need to be Sunsmart because of playtime and lunchtime.

This time we can accept perishable items but only if their used-by date is well after the fete in March 2014. Lollies and chocolates may not survive the summer holidays so a little caution is advised!

**FREE!**

**4 WEEK SOCCER CLINIC**

Bunyip Soccer Club is offering a come and try soccer clinic held at our grounds. The clinic will run on Wednesday 27th Nov & 4th, 11th, 18th of Dec 2013. Boys & Girls aged from 8 to 15 years welcome.

To secure a place contact
Tony Arrigo 0407563441
Adrian Gatti 0417590830

**Starts at 5.30pm to 6.30pm.**
2013 Christmas in a Shoebox.

Dear Columba Families

Christmas will soon be upon us, yet again!

In the past seven years, Columba families have helped bring joy and hope to less fortunate children and families within our local community, through the donation of gifts for children up to and including 16 years in age for our “Christmas In A Shoe-box Appeal”. This Catholic Social Justice initiative complements the Parish Christmas Project which will be advertised in the Parish bulletin.

In 2013 we have been asked to assist a similar number of children with the focus on donated gifts for teenage children where possible. Last year’s contribution was incredibly successful with over 80 gifts donated to this most worthy cause and I am again asking families to be involved in this simple, hands-on project while focusing on the true meaning of Christmas.

All families received an information sheet regarding our “Christmas In a Shoebox Appeal” last week. If you are unable to locate your copy or require further information, please contact the school office and a copy shall be forwarded to you.

Thank you to the families who have already responded so kindly and charitably.
As always, I thank you in anticipation of your generous response.

Leonie Hester
R.E.L.

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 any-time between 3:30pm Friday and 8:00am Monday.

With kindest regards,

Jan Gubbins
Principal