Dear Columba Families;

This Friday is **World Teacher’s Day** and we have organised a variety of activities in the coming week to celebrate the wonderful work of the Columba Staff.

Research indicates that the major factor in effective learning is teachers! The presence of a dynamic and enthusiastic teacher far outweighs the impact of facilities and resources in children’s learning.

At Columba, as I’m sure you will agree, we have a happy and committed group of people working together for the benefit of the children. During 2013 I have been impressed with the professionalism and hard work of the entire staff and I feel very privileged to be part of this wonderful group of people.

It is very important as a school community to acknowledge the achievements and efforts of the staff and to provide opportunities for relaxation and stress relief. Part of our School’s Vision is the care of staff, recognising all the challenges in their personal and professional life.

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*I am a teacher, and so I have a past that is rich in memories, I have a present that is challenging, adventurous and rewarding, And I am fortunate to spend my days with the future. I am a teacher…..........and I thank God for that every day!*  
Thomas O'Loughlin  
“The Spirituality of Teaching”

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**Please note that Monday 4th & Tuesday 5th November are school closure days for Columba.**
Assembly

The next Assembly is scheduled for Friday 1st November at 2:30pm. The Prayer will be lead by students from Grade 5/6. Please come along and help celebrate the achievements of the students. All families are welcome to attend each Assembly.

Our Amazing Students

PIP’s Summer Sports

Last Friday was an outstanding day at the PIP’s summer sports with Patrick Davis and Lilly Hatley-Smith being awarded the JJC medals for fairness and a friendly attitude towards students from the other two schools. All Columba students participated enthusiastically and were extremely well behaved with staff saying it was the best PIP’s day ever!

Thanks for a great day everyone!

State Championships

After an outstanding Regional competition the following students are heading off to the State Athletic Championships next Monday, 28th October:

Natalia 200 m.
Jake    High Jump
Georgia Shot Put

Go Columba!

Victorian Schools Sports Cup

Vanessa Gooden won the Girls 10/11 section of the BMX competition in the Victorian Schools Sports Cup and received a yellow jersey and gold medal for her efforts.
Vanessa has had an outstanding year in BMX racing and is one of the top competitors for her age group in Australia. Vanessa will compete in the Victorian Championships in early November to round off a very successful year.

Well done on many amazing achievements!

Library/Technology

As you are probably aware, Denise Cook our wonderful Librarian is unwell and is expected to be absent from school until the beginning of December.
In her absence, Janine Kilmartin will facilitate a Library/Technology session for all Grade One to Grade Six students. During these sessions students from Grade One to Grade Three will animate a scene from a story using the program Kahootz to provide movement and sound effects and the students from Grade Four to Grade Six will use research skills to develop and advertise a known product with a particular emphasis on marketing and demographics. Prep students will still receive their Library experience through book borrowing and story time on Tuesdays.
We wish Denise a speedy recovery and ask that you keep her in your thoughts and prayers.

Bingo

The next Bingo Duty is Thursday 7th November. If you would like to volunteer to assist on the evening please contact the office.
The team always has a fun-filled night and we thank Claire Hower for coordinating Bingo duty on behalf of Columba.

Orientation

Prep Orientation Days for Columba are fast approaching and we welcome the 2014 Preps:


Orientation Days take place on:
Thursday 14th November 2:00 pm—3:15 pm
Wednesday 20th November 2:00 pm—3:15 pm

Term Four School Mass

The Columba Community will celebrate Mass on Friday 8th November at 9:30 am in the Multi-Purpose Room. We look forward to welcoming Fr. Peter Slater. An invitation is warmly extended to parents and parishioners to attend. Please come along to help us celebrate. There will be Morning Tea for Parents after Mass and we would be grateful if you could bring along a plate.

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Parents & Friends Meeting

The P&F is scheduled to meet on Friday the 18th October at 9:15 am. All are welcome. We would love to see you there!

Grade Structures 2014

In 2014 we will increase to 8 classes. The Grade Structure is likely to be:

- Prep
- Prep/One
- One
- Two
- Two/Three
- Three/Four
- Four/Five
- Five/Six

Teachers will begin the process of grade placement for 2014 in the next few weeks. Teachers consider a number of factors when placing students in each grade including friendships, social skills and class dynamics. The main objective is to create the optimum learning environment for each student. It is important to emphasise that where a grade has been split, there will be a cross-section of students placed in both grades. Often there is a perception that students combined with a younger grade are at a disadvantage. With modern teaching methods and assessment procedures, teachers are adept at providing activities to specifically meet the needs of each student regardless of grade level or ability.

If you have information regarding the placement of your child please place it in writing by 1st November. However, as professionals, teachers make an informed judgment about student placement and consider the best interests of every child.

Information about Grades and classrooms will be sent home with your child’s Report on 16th December.

FAITH IN ACTION

Throughout the year our school community has been promoting the values which underpin our Catholic faith. As a staff we are learning about the ten principles of Catholic Social Justice Teaching and their implications in our own daily lives. Relevant principles support the Christian values we want the children to identify, adopt and act upon. In most cases how students have demonstrated this value has been included in their classmate awards, when presented at our School Assemblies.

The values chosen also relate to our Religious Education Program and the units the children study. In Term 1 our focus was Respect, Term 2—Service, Term 3—Forgiveness and now in Term 4—Care.

For each highlighted value we allocated a scripture passage to help us to anchor that value in our thoughts words and actions.

Term 4—CARE

A reading from John 3:18

“My children, let us love, not just in words and talk, but in true love and action.”

What does care/caring look like at our school?

What do I need to do to make sure it happens?

What could we do better?

Let us all think of one way we could be care filled.

Lucky Bottles ‘Op Shop’ Theme

Our next Lucky Bottles Day takes place next Friday 1st November and has an Op Shop Theme. Students can wear mismatched, garish and pre-loved items and bring along a bottle for next year’s Fete.

Once again we cannot accept perishable items which may be past their used-by date by the Fete. Jars and bottles filled with novelties, hair accessories and arts & crafts are always very popular!

School Bank

Friendly reminder that the School Bank operates on: Thursdays
The Great Columba Billy Cart Challenge

The Great Columba Billy Cart Challenge was a huge success considering we dodged rain, wind, lightning and other extreme weather conditions. Thank you to all who were able to attend on the day and to all our wonderful families who put a lot of time and effort into the designing, building and painting of those fabulous billy carts. Your children learnt many new skills and thoroughly enjoyed the racing. To our brave parents who took to the driver’s seat, you really made it a family event. Congratulations to our winning team “G.B. Racing Team” and to Lydia Marson who won the Parent Race.

A huge thank you to Tony Pisa who battled the weather for the past few months to make us a track. We appreciate your time and effort. Thank you also to Larmax (Papley family) and Drouin Tyre Service for the donation of tyres to use as barriers. Thanks also to the wonderful staff who did a lot of work behind the scenes to assist with the derby.

Thank you again to our enthusiastic and supportive parents / grandparents / neighbours who taught your children how to build a billy cart. You were certainly engaged in your child’s learning.

Due to the very poor weather we were unable to hold our Sausage Sizzle for the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

**We will be cooking sausages for the Gr4/5/6 students next Tuesday 29th October for lunch. Sausages will be $1 and cans of drink $1.50.**

Thanks again for your support
From everyone in Gr 4/5 and Gr 5/6.
Congratulations to Matt Bow, Vanessa Gooden, Jake Stewart and Wade Harris 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 Joseph, Natalia, Olivia & Lilly who worked hard as school leaders in the last two weeks of Term Three.

Website

Please make sure you have a look at the school website which can be accessed at:
http://www.bunyip.catholic.edu.au