In This Issue

- Principal’s report
- APRIM’s Report
- Students of the Week
- Middle Primary Photos

Friday in the life of Middle Primary

READY ~ SET ~ GO

Dates for this term’s Ready ~ Set ~ Go program.

Tuesday June 2nd and 9th
9.30am to 10.30am

Please note that we have changed the time to match in with the new recess time.

National Reconciliation Week

May 27th to June 3rd

Contact Us

Absentees 88521461
0407 610071 Text only

St Columba’s Memorial School
55 Warooka Road
YORKETOWN SA 5576
88521461
Email: info@scms.catholic.edu.au
Website: www.scms.catholic.edu.au

~ The Newsletter will now be published fortnightly ~
Dear Parents, Friends, Staff and Students of St Columba’s,

Thank you to those parents and staff who attended our ‘Mental Health’ info session run by ‘Headspace’ last week. It was a great session with much rich conversation; I know I personally found it very useful and relevant. If you were unable to make it, but would like to access any resources or discuss any concerns with me, please feel most welcome to see me.

On Friday last week, I gave a presentation to other Catholic primary principals and deputies, on the success our school is having implementing our latest version of Office 365. Our staff are leading our sector with online collaboration and it is a privilege to be held in such high esteem by other schools. Students are also beginning to make use of this software and I was most impressed to receive an email from a parent last week explaining how their child was teaching them to access their email. Our children are a great resource for our own learning and these opportunities support their growth in resilience, confidence and of course their own knowledge; so well done! As part of our latest agreement with Microsoft each student and staff member have 5 licences for the ‘office’ suite. If you would like more information on how to access these licences please contact your class teacher.

Thank you to our parents and friends committee for their organisation of the ‘biggest morning tea’ tomorrow. Please see the flyer in this newsletter for more info. Our SRC will also be providing Milo and a biscuit to students for $2 at recess time to support this event.

Congratulations to our year 4-7 students who reached the Grand final for Channel 7’s ‘The Story of Us’ competition. Although we made the top 5 out of thousands of schools we were unable to win the prize, but what an achievement!

*A reflection from Pope Francis:*

**His Voice Warms My Heart**

However Jesus, at a certain point, said: “My Father, who has given them to me …” (John 10:29), referring to his sheep. This is very important; it is a profound mystery, far from easy to understand. If I feel drawn to Jesus, if his voice warms my heart, it is thanks to God the Father who has sown within me the desire for love, for truth, for life, for beauty … and Jesus is all this in fullness!

*Regina Caeli address, April 21, 2013*

*Reflection:* Recall your journey with the Lord and the faith that he has sown within you. Take time to thank God for his grace. Ask him how you can use these gifts for his glory.

Blessings,

Todd Murfitt
Principal

This Newsletter and more can be found at our school website!

[www.scms.catholic.edu.au](http://www.scms.catholic.edu.au)

You can also follow us on twitter: @scmsyorketown

---

Please note that Friday, June 5th the school will be closed as staff will be participating in a Religious retreat. Thank you/

Friday, June 5th School Closure
Dear Parents and Caregivers,

As we approach the halfway mark of the term, it has been great to see the quality of learning that has occurred in all classes. If you haven’t had the opportunity to pop in and see the learning that goes on in each class, remember you are always welcome to discuss your child and their progress with their teacher or to strike up a conversation with your child on what they are learning in class.

I would like to say a big WELL DONE to the Junior Primary class, what on a sensational job they did to celebrate Pentecost last Thursday. They all participated beautifully, with such amazing singing and reading voices. I would like to make special mention to Lachlan Johnson, who ran the PowerPoint Presentation for the Liturgy with some support from Tom Robinson Gourdie. This is a big job for a reception student to do, and he did so confidently and extremely well. It was great to see so many parents attend our liturgy. I know it meant a lot to the students.

A BIG congratulations to Kym Smith and Paul Williams on the birth of their little son Rhett Ethan Williams. We could not be happier and wish you nothing but happiness. We can’t wait to meet the little one shortly.

We celebrated Pentecost this past Sunday and it is an important time in the Catholic faith. I would like to leave you with some light reading about Pentecost.

**Pentecost**

After Easter Sunday, Christmas is the second-greatest feast in the Catholic liturgical calendar, but Pentecost Sunday is not far behind. Coming 50 days after Easter and ten days after the Ascension of Our Lord, Pentecost marks the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles. For that reason, it is often called the "the birthday of the Church."

Pentecost Sunday is one of the most ancient festivals of the Church, celebrated early enough to be mentioned in the Acts of the Apostles (20:16) and St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians (16:8). It supplants the Jewish feast of Pentecost, which took place 50 days after the Passover and which celebrated the sealing of the Old Covenant on Mount Sinai.

**When is Pentecost?**

For Catholics, Pentecost is the 50th day after Easter (if we count both Easter and Pentecost). That means that it is a moveable feast—a feast whose date changes every year, based on the date of Easter in that year. The earliest possible date for Pentecost Sunday is May 10; the latest is June 13.

The Acts of the Apostles recounts the story of the original Pentecost (Acts 2). Jews from all over were gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate the Jewish feast. On that Sunday, ten days after the Ascension of Our Lord, the Apostles and the Blessed Virgin Mary were gathered in the Upper Room, where they had seen Christ after His Resurrection:

“And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a mighty wind coming, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them parted tongues as it were of fire, and it sat upon every one of them: And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they began to speak with diverse tongues, according as the Holy Ghost gave them to speak. [Acts 2:2-4]”

**This week’s reflection:**

*When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, “Lord what about him?” Jesus said to him, “What if I want him to remain until I come? What concern is it of yours? You follow me.” (John 21:21-22)*

There’s a stern tone in that scripture passage. Peter is wondering about the call of another disciple. In so many words, Jesus tells him “Don’t worry about him. Your job is to follow me!” It’s easy to compare ourselves with fellow believers especially those who are serving God in extraordinary ways. But God has given each of us a unique mission, one that only we can accomplish. Are you following your mission wholeheartedly? Or are you distracted by other disciples.

Something to think about over this week.

Take care of yourselves and each other.

God Bless
### Important Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, May 27th</td>
<td>Biggest Morning Tea—Please bring a plate to share.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, May 28th</td>
<td>Upper Primary class Assembly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, June 4th</td>
<td>Middle Primary Assembly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Friday, June 5th</strong></td>
<td><strong>School Closure</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, June 8th</td>
<td>Public Holiday—Queen’s Birthday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, June 10th</td>
<td>Tasty Wednesday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Living Safely with Pets—School Hall at 1.15pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, June 11th</td>
<td>Mass—9.10 am in St Columba church run by the Middle Primary Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, July 2nd</td>
<td>Mass—9.10 am in St Columba church run by the Upper Primary class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TERM 3</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, September 23rd</td>
<td>School Concert starting at 7 pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### School Sports Tops

We are missing 2 school sports tops that we lent to students for Interschool Sports Day on Tuesday March 26th, one is Size 6 and the other is a Size 14. These tops are similar to the school polo but have grey piping on the sleeves and collar and have St Columba's Memorial School embroidered across the back.

If you have one or both of these tops can you please return them to the school as they are required for the upcoming Catholic Schools Sports Day?

Thanks in anticipation. Gay

### Lost Property

A big reminder please, to label all your children’s belongings clearly. We have had an overwhelming amount of lost property handed into the office i.e hats, drink bottles, lunch containers and school jumpers. Please be aware that food and drink containers that are not claimed within the term will be disposed of.

### Students of the Week

Hayley for positive attitude to school and others. She is always smiling, happy and ready to learn.

Abbey B for trying so hard in class and wanting to be the best class mate possible.

Brock for starting Term 2 focused, determined and working hard towards improving.

Ben for fabulous work during Mathematics.

Charlee T Congratulations on your great work ethics. Well done!

Madison for exceptional effort and enthusiasm in all areas.

Jordan for taking on challenges regarding all aspects of his school life. Well done.

Kate M for her commitment to her leadership role and to her studies, her generous contributions to class discussion have been interesting.

### Prayer

**Prayer of St Columba**

Be, Lord Jesus, a bright flame before me, a guiding star above me, a smooth path below me, a kindly shepherd behind me: today, tonight, and forever.

Find us on Facebook and Twitter
From the Federation of Catholic School Parent Communities

The latest edition of Federation e-News has been posted on our website www.parentfederation.catholic.edu.au

The direct link to e-News is here

In this jam-packed edition, find out more about:

- Dyslexia – information and resources for families
- Annual Conference – don’t miss out!
- Call for nominations to Federation Council
- Transforming Catholic Education in SA
- New Director of Catholic education
- Putting NAPLAN in Perspective
- Results from our parent survey on Year 7 in SA
- Our latest call for funding equity for Year 7’s
- New Executive Officer for Catholic School Parents Australia
- The Australian Early Development Census
- Council member Uby Faddoul

And so much more.....

Be connected. Be informed. Be heard.
Supporting children with additional needs

Lee liked going to school. He liked playing with his friends, doing science, and he especially liked sports on Friday afternoons.

Unfortunately, Lee got sick a lot and sometimes had to go to hospital. Lee had a genetic condition that meant his body didn’t always work properly by itself. Lee didn’t like having to take special medications and going to doctors all the time.

When Lee came back to school after being sick, he felt nervous and shy. His friends all seemed to have other friends and new games to play. But when the class needed a goalie for soccer, Lee was ready. He loved playing goalie and being part of the team.

Lee’s teacher worried that he might get hurt playing soccer. She decided to talk to Lee’s parents to find out more about his health and other needs. Together Lee’s teacher and parents worked out some important things the school could do to include Lee safely and help meet his social and learning needs.

We’re all ‘differently abled’

Differences exist amongst all children and they will all benefit from having their individual needs met. Children with additional needs (such as children affected by a disability or medical condition) may face additional challenges when attending school or in the community.

When a child has additional needs, it may restrict them from being able to do some of the things that other children can do. For instance, chronic or permanent illness may affect children’s physical health, as shown in Lee’s story. Children with additional needs have their own unique strengths and abilities that need to be promoted to build resilience and support their learning, mental health and wellbeing.

Supporting children with additional needs

Supporting children with additional needs enables them to participate and feel included at school and in their community, and helps promote their strengths. Providing all children with the support they require helps to meet their needs and enables them to grow and achieve with their classmates. For children with additional needs, developing individualised strategies to support their needs can be beneficial, based on the child’s individual requirements (e.g., routines and structure can often be helpful for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder). However, children do all vary and can respond differently to strategies. It is important to always consider the child’s individual needs. By working together, families and schools can make sure that children with additional needs are well supported which is important for their mental health and wellbeing.
Schools can support students with additional needs by teaching children how to include and respect others

To include students with additional needs, schools can:
• work with parents and carers to meet children’s physical, social and emotional needs
• teach children that we all have strengths and differences and that everyone has a right to feel respected and valued
• provide opportunities for children with and without additional needs to play and learn together
• promote cooperative, caring and helpful behaviours for all students
• celebrate all children’s differences (eg culture, race, ethnicity, additional needs).

How parents and carers can help

Parents and carers of children with additional needs can talk to school staff about their child’s needs and strengths and about ways to make sure they are included at school. All parents and carers can:
• encourage their own children to include those of different abilities in their play
• support their child to identify strengths in themselves and others
• teach social skills that can help children manage friendships
• be role models for inclusion by showing through their actions how to be caring and respectful towards others.

What Lee’s parents and teacher decided to do

• Lee’s parents and teacher communicated regularly about how Lee was going at school and at home so they could coordinate support.
• Together they decided that Lee’s teacher would explain to the class why Lee kept getting sick and encourage his classmates to support him.
• Lee was given the role of classroom leader for science. This helped him and his classmates see what a valuable class member he is.
• Lee’s teacher also arranged for one of Lee’s health workers to come and talk to school staff about his condition and ways to support him and help him manage at school.

The following websites may be of interest

Parenting a child with a disability: www.raisingchildren.net.au
Parenting a child with a disability: www.parenting.sa.gov.au
Promoting inclusion: www.learninglinks.org.au

This resource is part of a range of KidsMatter Primary information sheets for families and school staff. View them all online at www.kidsmatter.edu.au

Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing

Copyright: © Commonwealth of Australia 2012-13. This work is copyright. You may use this work in accordance with the terms of licence available at www.kidsmatter.edu.au