Have you a Current Catholic Police Clearance? Are you coming into the school on a regular basis to help in the classroom or listen to children read? Or do you want to come into the school and help in the classroom or listen to children read?

If you think you need a Police Clearance, please see Gay or Margie in the school office.
Dear Parents, Friends, Staff and Students of St Columba’s,

I trust you all had a great long weekend. Thank you to Mrs Diassinas for leading our staff on a wonderful retreat last Friday. It has been a very busy year to date, and this was a perfect opportunity to reflect on ourselves and our work.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of our amazing volunteers! Well done to those parents who supported our athletics team last Thursday! Thank you to Joe and Miriam Honner, Mrs Rachwal, Mrs Wilkey and Mrs Murfitt for your incredible support driving our school van. Mrs Anderson and her troop of volunteers supporting in the garden and the library… and the many others of you who continue to offer your time and skills to improve the learning opportunities of our students!

Thank you and have a happy St Columba’s feast day.

Blessings,

Todd Murfitt
Principal

This Newsletter and more can be found at our school website!  
www.scms.catholic.edu.au
You can also follow us on twitter: @scmsyorketown
Dear Parents and Caregivers,

I hope you all enjoyed an extended long weekend. I think it was a much deserved mini-break for the students who have been working extremely hard all term.

A big congratulation to those students who represented our school at the South Australian Catholic Primary Schools Sports Day on Thursday. The students did a tremendous job representing our school and were extremely competitive on the day WELL DONE! A BIG thank you to all parents who drove students to and from the event. Fantastic days like these would not be possible without your valued support and we really appreciate it.

On Friday, I ran a staff Retreat at Seven Hills with the staff focusing on our Relationships with ourselves, others and God. It was a very spiritual day for all involved as we began the day with a Mass run by Father Christopher. It was great to see the staff really embrace the teachings and bring their own reflective learning back to our school environment.

Today, the 9th of June is St Columba’s Feast Day. To celebrate our School’s Saint, the students participated in a variety of Irish and Scottish games in the afternoon to celebrate our school’s saint and where he came from. They had an absolute ball with this. As well as this, this coming Thursday the 2/3/4 class is running a whole school mass at 9.15am in the Church to honour St Columba’s. We are having a morning tea after Mass in the hall and have asked if families can bring a plate of something to share as all students, staff, parishioners and parents have been invited.

This week I would like to leave you with some information about the life of St Columba’s. I encourage you to take the time to read this and reflect on the extraordinary life he had.

May you have a safe week.

God Bless

Annette Diassinas
APRIM

Kids Matter Contact Numbers:
Beyond Blue: 1300 224 636
Lifeline: 13 11 14
Kids Help Line: 1800 551 800
Living safely with Pets: Wednesday June 10th Kerri and friends from Living Safely with Pets will be visiting us tomorrow and doing a workshop with some of the children. Parents and pre schoolers are welcome to attend either session.

Thank you.

Session 1  1.15 - 1.55  with Reception/grade 1
Session 2  2.00-2.40  with Middle Primary Class

**Prayer**

The Grail Prayer

Lord Jesus,
I give you my hands to do your work.
I give you my feet to go your way.
I give you my eyes to see as you do.
I give you my tongue to speak your words.
I give you my mind that you may think in me.
I give you my spirit that you may pray in me.
Above all,
I give you my heart that you may love in me
your Father and all mankind.
I give you my whole self that you may grow in me,
so that it is you, Lord Jesus,
who live and work and pray in me.
Amen

**Lost Property**

We have quite a few school jumpers in our lost property boxes, which have no names on them. If you are missing one of these and are positive that your child owns it, please collect from the school office. We also ask all parents to check the jumpers their child/children are wearing, to ensure it is not another student’s that has accidently been brought home. If so, please return to the rightful owner.

Please ensure you name your children’s uniform items etc... so we can return to the correct owner.

Any un named uniform items not collect from the school office by the end of the term, will be washed and put into the second hand cupboard. Any lunch boxes and drink bottles left in the lost property box will be donated to Charity.

**Missing School Tops**

We are missing 4 school Tops, which we use for outside school events like Interschool Sports day etc...:

1 each of Sizes 6, 8, 12 and 14 are missing and need to be returned. If you have them at home, can you please return to the school as soon as possible? These tops have grey piping on the sleeves and St Columba’s Memorial School embroidered across the back.

**Please Keep Children Home if Unwell**

Like many other schools we are currently experiencing quite a lot of sickness amongst the children. Whilst attendance is of utmost importance, it is also important that children are not sent to school if they are unwell. If your child vomits they should generally not attend school for 24 hours after the vomiting stops. Please monitor your children carefully and watch for symptoms as we all need to be mindful of passing on germs. Please encourage your children to cough into their elbow and to make sure they wash their hands frequently with soap and water.
SAINT COLUMBA or COLUMCILLE 521-597

FEAST DAY: 9th of June

St Columba is a saint who still, after fourteen hundred years, exerts an appeal upon our imaginations. Born in Ireland, in Donegal in the year 521, he was of the blood royal, and might indeed have become High King of Ireland had he not chosen to be a priest. His vital, vigorous personality has given rise to many legends, and it is a little hard to sift fact from what is more probably fiction. We do know that he was a man of tremendous energy, probably somewhat headstrong in his youth, but with his tendency to violence curbed by a gentle magnanimity.

It seems certain that he left Ireland as an act of penance, although it is less certain how far this was connected with his quarrelling over a copy of the Gospels he had made, a dispute that led to a bloody battle. He came from Ireland to Scotland, to the colony of Dalriada founded on the west coast by his fellow Irish Scots who were at that time somewhat oppressed by the dominant Picts. With twelve companions he founded his monastery on Iona in the year 563.

These Celtic monks lived in communities of separate cells, but Columba and his companions combined their contemplative life with extraordinary missionary activity. Amongst his many accomplishments, Columba was a splendid sailor. He sailed far amongst the islands and travelled deep inland, making converts and founding little churches. In Ireland he had already, it is said, founded a hundred churches.

Of all the Celtic saints in Scotland, Columba’s life is much the best documented, because manuscripts of his life, written by St Adamnan, one of his early successors as abbot of Iona, have survived. Iona itself remains a place of the greatest beauty, a serene island set in seas that take on brilliant colours in the sunshine, recalling the life and background of this remarkable man whose mission led to the conversion of Scotland and of the north of England, and indeed carried its influence far further a field. It later became the site of a Benedictine Abbey and of a little cathedral. These were dismantled by the Scottish reformers in 1561, and part of Columba’s prophecy was fulfilled:

In Iona of my heart, Iona of my love,
Instead of monks’ voices shall be lowing of cattle,
But ere the world come to an end
Iona shall be as it was.

When Dr Samuel Johnson visited the island in 1773 he observed, ‘That man is little to be envied, whose patriotism would not gain force upon the plain of Marathon, or whose piety would not grow warmer among the ruins of Iona!’

Columba was a poet as well as a man of action. Some of his poems in both Latin and Gaelic have come down to us, and they reveal him as a man very sensitive to the beauty of his surroundings, as well as always, in St Adamnan’s phrase, ‘gladdened in his inmost heart by the joy of the Holy Spirit.’ He died in the year 597.

Building Fund

As the end of the 2014/2015 Financial Year draws closer we are asking school families to consider donating to our Voluntary Building Fund this financial year if you are able.

All contributions to our Building Fund are Tax Deductible.

We currently have around $1,500 in our Building Fund and would like to increase this over the next few years to enable the school to embark on any future capital projects in line with our 5 year plan.

Donations can be any amount you feel you can contribute and a letter and receipt will be issued to claim your donation on the 2014/2015 Tax Return.

Thank you for those families whom have contributed to our fund this financial year, your support is very much appreciated.

Margie
Disability: Suggestions for families

Parenting a child with a disability is often challenging, especially when your child’s additional needs are complex and time-consuming. Working together as a family and getting support from relatives, friends and professional services is really important. The following suggestions may be helpful to assist with these challenges and promote family wellbeing.

Be an advocate for your child

Being an advocate for your child involves letting others know about your child’s needs and working with them to find ways to have them met. You can be active in this by finding out what kinds of additional support is available for your child and making sure this is provided. This can be hard work at times, so gather allies to help you. Supportive allies may include family, friends, school staff or health professionals who understand your child’s abilities and difficulties and are committed to meeting the child’s needs. There are also a number of disability advocacy groups who can provide valuable support.

Work collaboratively with the school

Discuss your child’s needs with school staff and work with them to develop strategies for supporting your child’s learning and their social and emotional development. Talk with school staff about ways you can collaborate to actively support your child’s involvement in school life so that it is a positive and enjoyable experience. For example, you might write a letter to introduce your child to the class. Make sure to communicate regularly with your child’s teacher so you can share information, provide updates and continue to work together effectively. One strategy is to use a booklet for daily or weekly communication between home and school. Another approach is to set up regular telephone or meeting times to talk about how your child is managing socially as well as academically.

Teach social and emotional skills

Social relationships can sometimes be difficult for all children. Parents can help by supporting the development of social and emotional skills. Extra help may be needed by children with disabilities if they have been absent from school due to ill health and have to re-engage with others, or if they face intolerance or bullying behaviour. For some children, the nature of the disability may mean that learning social skills is difficult and therefore requires lots of guidance and practice. For more, see the KidsMatter Primary information sheets on social and emotional learning.
Provide opportunities for developing friendships

Inviting classmates over to play can be a good way to strengthen a budding friendship. Help your child to choose activities or games that they can do confidently with friends. With younger children, or if your child’s social skills are limited, ensure you are available to provide support if needed.

Support siblings

Be open with siblings about the challenges that affect their brother or sister with a disability. Provide important acknowledgement by showing you appreciate their help, but also ensure that they have time and space for themselves. Listening to their feelings and experiences lets them know you are there for them too. Setting aside some regular time to spend with your other children, even if it is brief, helps to maintain positive family relationships.

Get support for you

Parents have needs too. There is no such thing as a ‘perfect’ or ‘super’ parent. It’s important to set realistic expectations of what you can and can’t do. Take some time out. Spend time with friends, your partner, or alone doing something that you enjoy. Asking friends, family or respite services for help when you need it is a really important coping strategy for families. Talking with other parents or carers of children with disabilities can be very helpful.

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