REMINDER: Early dismissal, this Friday, September 25th. Children will be dismissed at 2 pm in line with the Area School and the buses.
Dear Parents, Friends, Staff and Students of St Columba’s,

Congratulations to all of our students for a fantastic performance last night! It was wonderful to see our students so excited to perform for their families and friends. So very much work goes into our concert performance, with students taking on many extra roles. Well done to Tom and Georgia for not only producing the background PowerPoint, but running it on the night whilst still performing in the play! The capacity of our students to work to the highest standard never ceases to impress me.

Thank you to our parent volunteers who stood up once again to support our students achieve success. Your work has such a great effect on our school community. It sets a wonderful example to our students about community spirit and togetherness. Everything from in class-support with artwork to cooking up a storm on the barbecue, you can all pat yourselves on the back for a job well done!

Another special thank you to Miss Parham for an incredible job preparing the students and organising this production. A very successful debut as Director. We also wish Emily and Ashley all the best for her wedding this weekend, and look forward to welcoming ‘Mrs Rowe’ back to our school community.

As we reach the end of term, I wish you all a great holiday break and hope that it is a time of refreshment and joy. I look forward to term 4 and the exciting learning opportunities that it will bring.

Here is the next instalment of Pope Francis’ encyclical ‘on care for our common home’. If you would like the whole text it is available here: http://tinyurl.com/o6sowft

6. My predecessor Benedict XVI likewise proposed “eliminating the structural causes of the dysfunctions of the world economy and correcting models of growth which have proved incapable of ensuring respect for the environment”.[10] He observed that the world cannot be analyzed by isolating only one of its aspects, since “the book of nature is one and indivisible”, and includes the environment, life, sexuality, the family, social relations, and so forth. It follows that “the deterioration of nature is closely connected to the culture which shapes human coexistence”.[11] Pope Benedict asked us to recognize that the natural environment has been gravely damaged by our irresponsible behaviour. The social environment has also suffered damage. Both are ultimately due to the same evil: the notion that there are no indisputable truths to guide our lives, and hence human freedom is limitless. We have forgotten that “man is not only a freedom which he creates for himself. Man does not create himself. He is spirit and will, but also nature”.[12] With paternal concern, Benedict urged us to realize that creation is harmed “where we ourselves have the final word, where everything is simply our property and we use it for ourselves alone. The misuse of creation begins when we no longer recognize any higher instance than ourselves, when we see nothing else but ourselves”.[13]

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 would like to begin by saying “Thank You” to everyone who has made my last four years at St Columba’s truly special. I have been blessed to teach all students in one capacity or another and have loved my time in the classroom. I have seen so many students get taller, improve in their sporting abilities, academically, socially or emotionally. When looking at the Upper Primary Class, I see so many students that have matured into fine upstanding young adults and I could not be prouder of being a member of this wonderful school. I have been blessed by working with such amazing students, families and staff and encourage everyone to keep supporting the ethos that our school follows “In All Things Love”. We have something very special about our school community that I have not encountered in other schools. I would like to wish everyone all the best for the remainder of the school year and I am sure to pop in next term once the baby is born to introduce the new addition to our family.

I would like to leave you with this, my final reflection for the year. Thank you again for all that you have given me. I know that I have learnt so much from the kindness, compassion, generosity and love of others in our school community and look forward to returning in the future.

“My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my savior”. (Luke 1:46-47)

Everything is His gift. If we can realize that everything is God’s gift, how happy will our hearts be? Everything is His gift. He is our strength! Saying ‘thank you’ is such an easy thing, and yet so hard! How often do we say “thank you” to one another? These are essential words for our life in common. “Sorry”, “excuse me”, “thank you”. If families or friends can say these three things, they will be fine. “Sorry”, “excuse me”, “thank you”. How often do we say “thank you” in our families or to friends? How often do we say “thank you” to those who help us, those close to us, those at our side throughout life? All too often we take everything for granted! This happens with God too. It is easy to approach the Lord to ask for something, but to go and thank Him: “Well, I don’t need to.”

“Say Thank you” – Homily by Pope Francis at Saint Peters Square October 13th 2013.

God Bless

Annette Diassinas
**Important Dates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday, September 25th</td>
<td>End of Term—Early Dismissal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25th</td>
<td>Working Bee starting at 1 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, October 12th</td>
<td>Start of Term 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, October 20th</td>
<td>Shopping Night &amp; proposed Fashion Parade at School</td>
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**SYP ACTIVE KIDS**

Held every Friday of the school term for children aged 0—5 years.

A fun filled morning to explore, dance, throw, climb, jump, roll and play.

1st visit and all children under 1 year old are free. $5 per child or $8 for 2 or more from the same family. Held at the Yorketown Area School Gym

9 am to 10.15am

Like us on Facebook or contact Simone Rowe on 0419 830 631 for more information

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**Prayer**

Together as brothers and sisters

God our Father, extend our horizons, widen our vision, and remind us how inter-connected we are as your sons and daughters.

Breathe your Spirit into us that we may live more truly as brothers and sisters of one another.

Amen.

**QUOTE:**

The opinion of which other people have of you is their problem, not yours.

Elizabeth Kubler-Ross

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**Students of the Week**

Lylah for showing that practice makes perfect and improving in her sight words.

Riley S for working really hard to settle into our class. Doing a great job.

Tait for trying hard in class to write more and practice reading and sight words.

Liam for your outstanding achievement in sight words and reading. Keep it up.

Axyl for trying so hard to improve in all learning areas. Well done.

Archie for being a great team leader and role model.

Jordan for being a positive and persistent student and for embracing the guidance given to him.

Isabella V for her prompt response to doing the ‘Peace Poster’.

Bill for a brilliant RE script and role play performance.

Tom R-G for a brilliant RE script and role play performance.

Baden for a brilliant RE script and role play performance.

Charlee B for her enthusiasm and commitment to all aspects of her studies.

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"But I don't want to go among mad people," Alice remarked.

"Oh, you can't help that," said the Cat: "we're all mad here. I'm mad. You're mad."

"How do you know I'm mad?" said Alice.

"You must be," said the Cat, "or you wouldn't have come here."

— Lewis Carroll, *Alice in Wonderland*
On Friday, September 18th we conducted a Lock Down where students and staff practised the required processes that are put into place, if for some reason we need to have everyone secure inside our classrooms and buildings due to an emergency within the school. We conduct a practice once a term and next term a fire drill will be conducted. The Lock Down and Evacuation Procedures are a very important part of our Work, Health and Safety practices.

This week we welcomed Taylor a Yr. 10 student from YAS who is doing Work Experience in the school. Taylor has been a very welcomed helper in the Junior Primary classroom and with Concert rehearsals.

I asked Taylor how she was enjoying being at the school. Below is her write up.

It has been such a great opportunity to be able to experience the role of teaching. I have loved every minute of my work experience at St Columba’s. It’s such a positive thing to see students so eager to come to school and learn. Thank you for having me. Taylor W

RELAXATION AND MEDITATION

At St Columba’s School, we are about developing the whole person, academically, physically and spiritually. It is essential that students know how to be still and listen. These skills do not come naturally and students need to be taught them explicitly.

Regularly, young students have a time of Relaxation, where, under the teacher’s guidance, they quieten down, stretch out, breathe deeply and sometimes listen to music. Times like these do not only allow young people to recover after energetic activities in the playground, but to still themselves and be receptive to impending learning experiences.

At different times throughout the day, our students experience prayerful times; in assemblies, at Mass, with classroom Morning and Afternoon Prayer, and with Grace Before Meals. The students delight in talking to God. But importantly, teaching students to be quiet and still, through relaxation techniques of being still, stretching and deep breathing, also helps prepare them to be receptive to those times when God is speaking to them. "Be still and know that I am God". Psalm 46.
REMINDER:

The school is holding a Working Bee this Friday September 25th, to pull down the fence between Wilkinson's and the school. The fence line area will also need tidying up as a new fence will be erected during the holidays. The Working Bee will start around 1 pm, with a sausage sizzle and refreshment being provided for the workers after the work has been completed.

Workers are encouraged to bring along pruners, wrecking bars, claw hammers, wheelbarrows, and any safety equipment required, there will also be heavy equipment being used. If you would like any old corrugated iron and or wooden fence post, please bring along your truck, trailer or Ute to take home. All help will be greatly appreciated.

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From the Federation of Catholic School Parent Communities

With the school holidays just around the corner we thought we would share some great ideas from Nature Play SA – Things to do.

- 25 Things to do in Spring
- Try Geocaching
- Build a Cubby
- Make a Kite
On Friday, September the 25th starting from 11 am the front of the Admin building, behind the church and the staff car parking area will be OUT OF BOUNDS for all students, staff and parents. We will be holding a working bee in this area on Friday and the workers will be using some heavy machinery and equipment, to dismantle the fence on the western side of the school. For safety reasons the area will be closed off to all normal traffic.

If you need to access the school after 11am, please park on Marno street and ring admin to unlock the back gate.

Reminder: I will be posting the Woolworths Earn and Learn stickers on Friday, September 25th, if you have any stickers for the school, can you please send them in as soon as possible, Thanks Gay

UNIFORM NEWS:

Several children are missing their school jumpers. Can parents please check their children’s clothing to ensure they have their own uniform items? Return any items not belonging to you to the school or hand to the rightful owner.

Office staff are often asked by children if they can borrow a hat. Due to issues with Head Lice we are unable to lend out hats. Please ensure your child/children have a clean hat even if not a school hat, but the school hat is preferable, in their school bag.

Have you placed a Uniform order? At this stage I am unable to fulfil these orders due to our supplier being ill and not being able to complete the order. I am hopeful that all orders will be filled by the start of Term 4.

Gay

International Day of the Girl Child - October 11, 2015

On December 19, 2011, the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 66/170 to declare October 11 as the International Day of the Girl Child, to recognise girls’ rights and the unique challenges girls face around the world. The United Nations’ International Day of the Girl Child promotes girls’ human rights, highlights gender inequalities that remain between girls and boys and addresses the various forms of discrimination and abuse suffered by girls around the world.

“Begin at the beginning," the King said, very gravely, "and go on till you come to the end: then stop.”
— Lewis Carroll, Alice in Wonderland
Friendship skills: Suggestions for school staff

Having friends at school provides critical support for children’s social and emotional wellbeing

Children who have friends show more cooperative behaviour and feel more connected at school. Conversely, children who lack friends are more likely to be bullied and to show behavioural and mental health problems. School staff can play a key role in teaching and promoting positive friendship skills.

How school staff can help

Be a role model
Lead by example. Be sure to have a caring, empathic and respectful attitude to all students. Connecting with students in a personal way provides an important model for friendly behaviour. On the other hand, singling students out for criticism in front of others can indicate that it is okay for them to do likewise.

Create learning opportunities
Introduce classroom routines to teach friendly behaviour. For example, you might model giving compliments and then set up situations where students can practise giving and receiving them.

Integrate friendship skills across all key learning areas
Provide children with varied opportunities to practise what they are learning and reinforce core social skills. Literacy, drama and social studies lessons all lend themselves well to this. For example, you can select story books and writing topics that endorse key social messages (eg what makes a good friend).

You can also teach social skills through role play or dramatic rehearsal. Dramatic play is enjoyable for most children and gives them practice in using skills in real social situations.

Connecting with students in a personal way provides an important model for friendly behaviour.
Use small group work
Small group work is an effective way of providing children with opportunities to practise the skills of cooperation, including giving and receiving help, sharing ideas, and listening to one another’s point of view. For small group work to be successful children need to first be taught the relevant social and emotional skills, such as listening and sharing. Group tasks should be well-structured and monitored to ensure that children continue to develop skills for cooperative learning.

Take advantage of ‘real life’ situations to teach social skills
For example, help children express their feelings during emotionally-charged social situations (eg “I guess you might feel pretty angry that Sean spilled your drink”).

- Teach empathy and encourage children to be more understanding of the feelings of others (eg ask the child to tell you about how Sean is feeling in the situation).
- Promote problem-solving. Use questions and strategies to guide and encourage children to find mutually-satisfying solutions (eg understanding the other’s position, saying sorry, looking for solutions that meet each child’s needs).

School staff may also need to plan ways to support particular children with strategies to manage friendship conflicts outside the classroom.

Reinforce skills outside of the classroom
The playground often puts more demands on children’s social skills as there is less structure than inside the classroom. A whole-school approach will work best to establish clear behaviour guidelines for the playground. School staff may also need to plan ways to support particular children with strategies to manage friendship conflicts outside the classroom.

Involves parents and carers
Communicate with families about your strategies for supporting children’s developing social skills. Sharing information and ideas is important in every area of the child’s learning and encourages parents and carers to continue to teach and reinforce skills at home.

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