<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, March 9th</td>
<td>Ready, Set, Go starting at 10. am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, March 10th</td>
<td>Sports Day - 9am at the Yorketown town Oval</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, March 14th</td>
<td>Adelaide Cup Holiday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Working Bee ~ 8am to 12 noon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, March 16th</td>
<td>Ready, Set, Go starting at 10. am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>St Columba’s Memorial School AGM— 7pm start</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, March 17th</td>
<td>St Patrick’s Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MP Assembly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, March 24th</td>
<td>Evening Mass ~ Time to be advised</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, March 25th</td>
<td>Good Friday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, March 28th</td>
<td>Easter Monday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, March 31st</td>
<td>REC Assembly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, April 5th</td>
<td>Tasty Tuesday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 9th</td>
<td>School Board Meeting starting at 7pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, April 14th</td>
<td>Mass 9.15 in St Columba Church</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Yorketown Area School is having a

**Student Free Day**

**Friday March 18th**

Only the Marion Bay and Corny Point Buses will be running

St Columba's commuter vans are running as normal

Please note that the timetable for the school day has changed to the following:

8.50am to 11.00am—Lessons with a supervised Crunch and Sip time

11.00am to 11.20am—Recess

11.20am to 12.50pm—Lessons

12.50pm to 1 pm—Eating time

1 pm to 1.40pm Lunch time

1.40pm to 3 pm—Lessons

3 pm Dismissal time

---

St Columba's is a Nut Free School
Dear Parents,

We are all looking forward to our Sports Day on Thursday, 10th March at the Town Oval starting at 9.00am. Students can travel straight to the oval that morning. We are planning to conclude the activities with a lunch supplied by the P & F at around 12.30pm. Students may then go home with their parents or, if parents are not there they will come back to school until the regular dismissal time. I enclose a program for you. The staff will monitor the student participation, taking into account the weather. It was going to be hot so we plan to finish by 1.00pm. If the forecast for Maitland on the ABC TV news on Wednesday night is 38 degrees or more we will postpone until Friday. If it is too wet we will decide that morning to postpone until the next day and return to the school. Students will be supervised and transported by our busses. We want the day to be a fun day for all students.

The AGM for the School Board is coming up on Wednesday 16 March at 7.00pm. This is a meeting that you all are invited to attend. There will be reports from the Chair of the Board and the Principal. The School Budget will be looked at as well as some discussion about the school’s Strategic Plan for the next few years. I am interested to find out the parent perspective of what we do well here at St Columba’s Memorial School and if there are any suggestions for improvement. There is a chance for you to nominate to join the school board at this time. Please look at the role description in this newsletter and fill out the nomination form if you are interested. I look forward to seeing a large number of people from our community at the AGM.

Please come along to the school on Monday 14 March to help with the Working Bee. I will be here from 8.00am to 12.00noon. If you only want to come for an hour or so that would be appreciated also. Some of the jobs have already been completed by our parents in their own time. Thank you to all those who are contributing their time to maintain and improve our school. This is a real positive feature of our school.

The staff have been asked by me to be aware of their supervision responsibilities and we do this to try to keep your children safe. I would like to remind you that morning supervision begins at 8.30am and students should not be in the yard before that time. After school we have a teacher supervising the safety of bus students. Other students are expected to go home once dismissed at 3.00pm. I know that sometimes people may be late and we can work around that.

I have appreciated it when parents come to see me to clarify any issues. If you have concerns about your child’s progress or their development in any area, the first thing would be to speak to the class teacher. We will schedule an interview time for you in the week after Easter. It is essential for parents and teachers to meet early in the year to talk about how the students are going and what will be done to ensure successful learning occurs.

God Bless you

Michael Preece

Kids Matter Contact Numbers:
Beyond Blue: 1300 224 636
Lifeline: 13 11 14
Kids Help Line: 1800 551 800
Lunch Orders:

In the last few days we have had some lunch orders placed with name but no order, or orders with no name on them or the order has insufficient funds to cover what had been ordered.

When ordering please ensure that the child’s name is on top of the order, you have written what is required and either the correct money or more to cover the order: Change will be given.

Thank you

SPORTS DAY:

Children need to be at the Yorketown Oval for Sports Day by 9.00 am on Thursday, March 10th. It is the expectation that all children be in their full sports uniforms, including a hat. Sunscreen can be applied before attending the event, with the First Aid/Scorer’s tent having extra available as the day wears on. Children will need to have full water bottle.

QUOTE OF THE DAY:

We must all suffer one of two things: the pain of discipline or the pain of regret or disappointment.

Jim Rohn

ENROLMENTS:

We are finalising the Transition days for Term 3 intake of new reception children. If you have or know of any child/children that are intending to attend and HAVE NOT submitted an enrolment form, please let Margie or myself know, so it can be followed up. With Thanks

Gay

Mini Vinnies:

We will continue selling ice blocks for fifty cents until the end of term 1.

The Mini Vinnies would like to thank the parents for sending in money to support this worthwhile cause and for the donations of packets of ice blocks. We appreciate it all

Mini Vinnies Group.

TARPS WANTED:

HAS ANYONE ANY SPARE TARPS THAT COULD BE USED ON SPORTS DAY FOR THE CHILDREN TO SIT ON. IT IS EXPECTED THAT DUE TO THE RAIN THIS WEEK, THE GRASS WILL BE WET AND PROVE UNCOMFORTABLE TO SIT ON.

Students of the Week:

Edwin for being such a good helper. He is a very kind and caring person to others in the classroom and yard.

Jade for being such a caring and kind person to others in the classroom.

Charlee—Congratulations on your great effort in all areas of your school life.

Dakota—for a fabulous effort in all areas of English.

Madison B -

PRAYER OF THE DAY

IN GOD'S HANDS

Every night
I turn my worries over to God - he's going to be up all night anyway.

- Mary Crowley

From the Library:

Could all Issue 2 Book Club orders be returned to the Front Office by Monday, 21st of March.

Thank you for supporting the Library by placing an order.

Julie Anderson

Children are required to wear their Sports uniforms on the following days.

Reception Class—Thursday
Junior Primary—Yrs. 1/2—Friday
Middle Primary—Yrs. 3/4—Tuesday and Friday
Upper Primary Yrs. 5/6/7—Monday, Wednesday and Friday

REMINDER:

We ask all parents not to supply any nuts or products which are made or contain nuts i.e. Nutella, muesli bars, etc... as St Columba's Memorial School is a Nut Free school, due to children with allergies.
ST COLUMBA'S MEMORIAL SCHOOL BOARD

The school AGM will be held on Wednesday, March 16th started at 7pm in the Staff room. All parents are invited to attend. If you would like to be on the School Board, please fill in the nomination form below and return to the school by NO LATER THAN Monday, March 14th.

If you would like to nominate someone to be on the Board, please get them to sign an acknowledgment that they will accept the nomination. All nominations are welcome.

Below is the criteria for being a School Board member, with Board meetings being held approximately once a month for a maximum of 2 hours.

Role of the Board
Each diocesan School Board has responsibility for the overall wellbeing of its school. In practice, this means that, in a spirit of partnership, Boards act in an advisory capacity to:
- develop policies that nurture the religious dimension and guide the direction of the school;
- develop the relationship between the school and the local Church;
- ensure that the academic standards of the school must be at least as distinguished as that achieved in other schools in the region;
- support the administration of the school;
- offer pastoral care to the school community;
- protect children;
- monitor buildings and grounds development and maintenance;
- exercise financial stewardship of the school;
- ensure compliance with legal obligations.

Potential members of a School Board should:
- possess an enthusiasm for and willingness to promote the mission of Catholic schools;
- bring to the Board their gifts and skills;
- desire to give service to their school community;
- have an ability to work cooperatively and constructively with all members of the Board;
- be prepared to undertake formation;
- have an ability and desire to uphold confidentiality in Board matters;
- have sufficient time to devote to Board duties.

St Columba's Memorial School Board AGM—2016

I……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….would like to nominate myself for a School Board member.

Signed …………………………………………………………….date…………………………………………………………..

or the following person to be a Board Member ………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………..

I……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….accept the nomination to be on School Board member.

Signed……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………..

date……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………..
Helping children to choose wisely

Nine year-old Zak was in a bit of a panic: “Grandma, Grandma, you have to write a note!” “Why, Zak?” his Grandma wanted to know. “Because I didn’t do my homework and I don’t want my teacher to get mad at me.”

Zak’s Grandma remembered asking him that afternoon if he had any homework. At the time he was watching his favourite TV show. He told her, “Not much. I’ll do it in a minute.”

After that Amos had called and invited Zak over. Amos had a new video game and Zak couldn’t wait to play it. He had forgotten all about his homework.

Now it was bedtime and Zak suddenly remembered that his homework wasn’t done. If only Zak would learn to think through his decisions more carefully!

It’s frustrating for parents and carers when children don’t think ahead and they are left to sort out problems at the last minute. Adults might be able to come up with a solution for the immediate crisis, but what about getting children to think things through in the first place?

Effective decision-making is a skill that children can learn

To be able to make good decisions children must learn to:

- recognise when there is a choice for them to make
- understand that they are responsible for making the decision
- take others’ needs into account
- think of different possible choices or solutions and decide which is best.

Children learn skills for effective decision-making when they are taught the steps and given opportunities to practise using them to solve problems. Teaching Zak these steps and reminding him to use them could have helped him make a better decision.

Being able to plan ahead and choose wisely are very important skills that help children succeed at home, at school and in life. Parents and carers can help by teaching children how to think through decisions and giving them opportunities to practise their skills.
Learning the steps

Steps for decision-making

1. What do you have to decide about?
2. What choices do you have?
3. Weigh up the pros and cons of each option and choose the best one.
4. Put your choice into action and then check how it works out.

Example
- Deciding what to do after school
  - Go and play with friends
  - Stay and do homework
  - Watch my favourite TV show
- Going to friend's house is more fun than homework
  - Watching TV is fun and relaxing
  - I'll get into trouble if homework doesn't get done
- Do homework as soon as I get home from school so that I can watch TV, or if a friend calls, I am free to go and play.

Helping children take responsibility

Children often focus on immediate wants and don’t consider long-term consequences. They need adult guidance to develop their decision-making skills. Parents and carers can prompt good decision-making by identifying appropriate choices for children to make and using questions to help them think through the steps.

To learn to use decision-making skills children need to be shown how to use the steps and be given opportunities to practise them. Practice and experience are necessary for building skills.

It is important to remember that children’s thinking skills develop gradually, and so does their capacity for planning ahead and weighing up options in order to make decisions. Children do not learn to make good decisions overnight. They need to start with simple things.

How parents and carers can help

- Give children a choice between two options. This helps to make decisions manageable.
- Limit the number of choices to ones that are realistic for children to make (depending on their age and ability).
- Encourage children to give reasons for their choices. This teaches them to think through their decisions.
- Ask, “Is that a good idea?” or “Do you think that will work?” instead of saying, “This is what you should do;” ask “What about this?” Asking encourages children to develop their own judgment.
- Listen with interest to children’s explanations. Learning to explain their thinking helps children think better.
- Give children a role in family decisions, for example, when planning activities or deciding on household jobs. This helps children learn how to make decisions that take others into account.

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
beyondblue
APS Australian Psychological Society
Principals Australia Institute
Learning Leading

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
Lent and Easter

I have often told people that Easter is like the Grand Final of the Church Calendar. It’s the pinnacle of our year, the triumph, the trophy, the most important feast of all. But all too often it is not given as much attention or thought. For many, Christmas is bigger, better and more enjoyable; who doesn’t love a baby and birthday celebrations right?! But maybe if we delved more fully into what happens at Easter, what it is, we could come to see just how important each of those 3 days are and therefore why we have the season of Lent, to prepare.

To get some background on Easter, let’s go back a little, well a lot actually, let’s go back to Adam and Eve. Here we know the story of these famous two well, they are created in the image of God, given all things, in charge of all creatures and then Eve being tempted by the snake, gives the apple to Adam to eat and oh no, Original sin occurs. They have purposely chosen to turn from God and his command. So God lets them know that there are consequences of their decisions (consequences the snake was happy to not tell them about) and from here on in starts the real love story. God striving, working, and desiring reconciliation and restoration with His beloved, His people. Throughout the Old Testament, we see God’s interaction with his people, forming covenants with them to bring them back to him. First the covenant between Adam and Eve, a couple, then Noah, a family unit, then Abraham, an extended family, then Moses, a nation, then David, a Kingdom and finally we come to the most important covenant, Jesus, and the Universal family. By dying on the cross He makes the eternal covenant that finally crushes Original Sin and reconciles the whole of humanity to Him. THIS is what Easter is all about, remembering that day when he died for the sins of the whole world, for OUR sins, and took on what had to be done to restore our relationship with Our creator. Then, Easter Sunday, when he conquered death by rising from the dead. The victory of that moment is so magnificent that we cannot truly appreciate it here on earth. The joy, the triumph, the sheer beauty of it is amazing. Here we were, all on our own, lost from our own decision and choice, and yet God comes searching for us, desiring us, to the point of His own sacrifice. Jesus, the Lamb, lies down to be slaughtered for us. Not just us as a collective, but me and you. We cannot think that he didn’t think of us during this time. He did. When he was praying in the Garden of Gethsemane, he was thinking of you. When he was beaten and spat on, he was thinking of you. When the crown of thorns was piercing his head, he was thinking of you. As he walked with the cross, as he stumbled, as he was nailed to it and finally as he died, he was thinking of you. Of me. By name. And then when he rose from the dead, his joy was immense, for finally the bridge had been restored. Now we were able to come to Him. And that is exactly what happens at our baptism, Jesus claims our soul for himself.

This should show you why we need time to prepare for Easter. It’s a ‘special time of prayer, penance, sacrifice and good works in preparation of the celebration of Easter’ (Fr W Saunders). The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy of Vatican Council II stated, “The two elements which are especially characteristic of Lent -- the recalling of baptism or the preparation for it, and penance -- should be given greater emphasis in the liturgy and in liturgical catechesis.” Our baptism is directly linked to Easter Sunday. It is the conquering of life over death, of Jesus over Original sin. That is why we renew our baptismal promises at Easter. We remember what occurred on that first Easter Sunday and what happened at our baptism because of Easter. The second element, Penance or most often fasting, can easily become a habit with no substance.
Fr Christopher explained very well the reason for fasting on Sunday. It is a way to form our will power. Giving up something good, helps us to form a strong will power so that when there are times when we need to do something we don't necessarily want to or like, we have built up the strength to do it. It also helps us to unite ourselves with Christ. When we are tempted to give up on the fasting, we can turn to Him for help and to remember why we are doing it in the first place. It becomes a prayer, a reminder of what's ahead.

As we come into the final weeks of Lent, it might be a good time to reflect on your fasting and how it is going and to re-commit to the next few weeks to really prepare for Easter. You may like to add some extra prayer in and also remember that Lent is a time of good works. Of going outside of yourself to do something nice for someone else.

I hope you have a very fruitful rest of Lent and very safe and happy Easter!

Peace,

Miriam, REC
Firstly I would like to welcome our newly elected committee for 2016. Jackie Baryczka as Secretary, Amanda Loechel as Vice President, Michelle Thompson as Treasurer and I am continuing on as President. Our committee includes Michelle Dodd, Kym Williams, Angie Tonkin and Robyn Clasohm. I am looking forward to working together with you all this year. Please find my president report from 2015 attached & on our school website (along with all our minutes from the meetings).

The whole School Breakfast was fantastic and we thank Jo Minks and Natalie Mackinlay for sharing their time and expertise with the kids and our families. We are hoping to make this into an annual event.

A big thank you to Michelle Dodd, Jackie & Julie Tonkin who have been working in the garden, with the aquaponics & the chickens this year. We are hoping to set up a roster to help assist the teachers with this area of the school. Coming up soon we will have an expert teach us about the Aquaponics - everyone is welcome to come along and learn.

Sports Day is this Thursday. Thank you of the parents who have volunteered to bake or work in the Canteen. We are still looking for help to cook the BBQ, if you know of anyone who is available to help.

Lastly we have our Twilight Market on Friday April 1st, We hope you can come! Thank you & God Bless.

HELP WANTED!
Do you.....
* enjoy Gardening
* like working with Fish
* loves Chooks
* making new friends
* helping others

If you enjoy one or more of these activities, we would welcome your help!

Contact Kath, Jackie or Michelle D.

WANTED:
GLASS JARS
Twilight Market

ST COLUMBA'S MEMORIAL SCHOOL

FRIDAY APRIL 1ST
4.30pm - dusk

FOOD ~ MARKETS ~ LIVE MUSIC
~ FASHION PARADE ~
~ LOCAL ART EXHIBITION ~

55 WAROOKA RD, YORKETOWN
INTERESTED STALL HOLDERS,
CONTACT 0408307569
Friday 18th March is the National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence.

The National Day of Action provides a focus for schools and the wider school community to strengthen their everyday messages against bullying and violence.

There is a very informative website for parents and carers which provides information about bullying, harassment, discrimination and violence in schools. This can be found at: http://www.bullyingnoway.gov.au/parents/index.html

For parents with older children, the Office of the Children’s esafety Commissioner is also a valuable resource. There is a very simple eSafety health check which is a great starting point for conversations with our young people. https://www.esafety.gov.au/about-the-office/events/national-day-of-action-against-bullying-and-violence

It’s well worth the look!
ST COLUMBA'S MEMORIAL SCHOOL
SPORTS DAY 2016

Thursday the 10th of March, 2016
Available from the Canteen.

To help with catering, please pre-order your lunch
Return form & money no later than Monday 7th of March, 2016

PARENTS & FRIENDS MENU

MENU:
Sausage Sizzle cost: $2.00 each
Mini Salad Roll
  * Ham, lettuce, tomato & Cheese cost: $3.50 each
  * Chicken, lettuce & Mayo cost: $3.50 each
  * Ham & Cheese cost: $2.50 each

Drinks & Snacks available from $1 - $3.50 for Recess & Lunch

Muffins, Cakes, Biscuits
Ice Blocks
Soft Drinks, Water & Fruit boxes
Fresh Fruit.
Tea & Coffee

FAMILY NAME: ____________________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sausage &amp; Bread</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mini Salad Roll – Ham Salad</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chicken Salad</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ham &amp; Cheese</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TOTAL enclosed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please return in a sealed envelope with your NAME & SPORTS DAY written on the front clearly marked with correct money enclosed by Monday 7th of March, 2016

THANK YOU 😊