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NEWSLETTER

Thursday May 8th 2014
 Term 2 Week 3

Engaging, Inspiring, Empowering

Dear Parent & Caregivers,

This week our school community has been saddened by the unexpected death of Shane's father, Geoff Bruty. We pass on our deepest condolences to Shane, Whitney, Jenny (Shane's mother) and the entire Bruty family. I ask you to continue to keep them in your thoughts and prayers.



Thank you to those parents who were able to make arrangements to pick your children up early from school today. I know it was difficult for many families to organise. The staff really appreciated the efforts that you made which enabled many of us to attend the funeral.

I thank Noreen Baxter and Emma Richards for teaching in LG 7 and 9 this week and for ensuring that the children had a settled week at school. I also thank Marg Schreenan for working with the children in LG 12 while Caity has been away sick. At this stage, Shane, Whitney and Caity will all be back at school next week.

*Loving God, we thank you for mothers – for all they mean
 or have meant, for the love they have shown and the care they have given.
 We thank you for the qualities of mothers – their patience, their kindness, concern and understanding.
 We thank you for the part they play in our lives, and we thank you for this day of saying 'thank you' this opportunity to say what we so often mean to say
 but so rarely do.
 For mothers and motherhood,
 for children and families
 we bring you this day our grateful praise.*



Change to the Specialist Timetable

Starting next week the specialist timetable for LG 10 and LG 11 will be swapped. Children in these classes will continue to have specialists on a Wednesday. New times are listed below.

LG 10

9.45 – 10.45 PE/Sport
 11.15 – 12.15 Music
 12.15 – 1.15 Spanish/Art

LG 11

8.45 -9.45 Spanish /Art
 9.45 – 10.45 Music
 11.15 – 12.15 PE/Sport

Talking with ACU Students

On Thursday 22nd May twelve of our Gd 5/6 students will be travelling to ACU to spend 45 minutes chatting with the 4th Year Teaching students at ACU. Our Gd 5/6 children will speak to the ACU students in small groups about what their idea of a 'great teacher' is. The ACU students would also like to hear from parents about your idea of positive parent/teacher relationships, views on homework, different approaches etc. We would love to have 4 parents who would be willing to accompany us on this day. If you are able and willing to join with us, please let either myself, Kathy or Chris in the office know.

DIARY DATES

- Fri 9th May**
 9.00 Mother's Day Liturgy
 Followed by the Biggest Morning Tea in the Hall
 YR 5/6 Interschool Sports
- Sun 11th May**
 Mother's Day
- Tue 13th May**
 Confirmation /Eucharist preparation begins 7.00
- Tue 13th – Thu 15th May**
 NAPLAN testing (Years 3 & 5)
- Thu 15th May**
 Communications & Engagement Committee meeting 7.30pm
 School Disco
- Mon 19th May**
 Golf Clinic (Gd 5/6)
 Marks Reserve
- Tue 20th May**
 Confirmation /Eucharist session 7.00pm (Hall)
- Mon 26th May**
 School Closure Day
- Thurs 12th June**
 School Concert
- Fri 13th June**
 School Closure Day
- Thurs 17th July**
 School Photo's

Our New Arrivals

There was great excitement earlier in the week with a number of our incubated eggs starting to crack. With the aid of a stethoscope the children could hear the baby chickens preparing to make their way out into the big wide world. On Tuesday morning we were all very excited to find 11 baby chickens had hatched. We will now watch carefully as the chickens continue to grow and develop. Thanks to the Walter family for providing us with the equipment and the eggs.



NAPLAN testing

Next Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, students in Years 3 and 5 will be taking part in NAPLAN testing. Today a brochure has been sent home with all student in Years 3 and 5 explaining the testing program. I have included one of Michael Grose's articles on helping to prepare your child for the NAPLAN tests. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak with your child's teacher.

Kind Regards,

Kim Butler
Principal

Helping students get ready for the NAPLAN tests

by Michael Grose (www.parentingideas.com.au)

The most resilient children and young people are those who rise to meet rather than retreat from the challenges presented to them. Perhaps it's best to view the NAPLAN tests as good learning experiences rather than dreaded pressure tests.

During the second week of May Australian children in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 will take part in the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). The stated purpose of this testing program is to gain an overall picture of educational attainment levels to assist education policy and decision-making.

The program first implemented in 2008 has drawn some criticism from a number of different quarters, particularly in regard to the use of the information gained through the NAPLAN tests. You've probably heard a number of different viewpoints expressed in the media over the last few weeks.

One view commonly put forward is that the NAPLAN tests put undue pressure on children to perform in test situations. If so, then perhaps the best approach for parents and teachers is to help them handle the pressure rather than avoid it. The most resilient children and young people are those who rise to meet rather than retreat from the challenges presented to them. Perhaps it's best to view the NAPLAN tests as good learning experiences rather than dreaded pressure tests.

Children and young people take their cues from their parents about how to handle many situations. American psychologist Martin Seligman discovered more than a decade ago, through his research into children's thinking styles, how closely a child's explanatory style mimics that of the parent they spend most time around. Optimistic parents beget optimistic kids, just as anxious parents can beget anxious kids. The impact of a parent's explanatory style seems to be magnified somehow in small families where there are fewer voices to be heard.

As a parent it helps your child, if you take a positive view of the NAPLAN tests. It's better to see them as learning opportunities for kids as well as opportunities to overcome any anxieties or nerves that these tests may bring on. It's also worth remembering that many children don't stress over these tests. The vast majority take them in their stride, wondering what all the fuss is about.

[Whether your child stresses or takes them in his stride here are some tips to help prepare for the NAPLAN tests:](#)

- [Take your cues from your child:](#) If your child doesn't worry about them then neither should you. Be careful not to create a problem that doesn't exist by incessantly talking about, or worse, worrying about the test.
- [Focus on doing their best and trying hard:](#) Choose your words carefully when you speak with your kids. As with all their learning activities place your focus squarely on effort rather than results. The only pressure on kids should be to try hard rather than to do well.
- [Listen to any concerns they have:](#) If your child confesses to some nerves then validate their feelings, rather than shut them down with a 'get over it' response. "Yes, sometimes tests can be a little scary, but they get easier every time you take them." Use this as an opportunity to develop some emotional smarts, which starts with recognising how kids feel.
- [Give them some relaxation ideas:](#) Anxious or nervous kids will benefit from some simple relaxation strategies. Taking some deep breaths, changing their thinking and exercising the morning of the test are some simple ways to help kids get some feeling of control.
- [Help them retain their perspective:](#) One way to help children who become excessively anxious about an event is to ask what's the worst thing that could happen? Okay, they may not do as well as they would like but the sun will still rise tomorrow, regardless of how well they do. Keeping perspective is a life skill that we all need to practise.

[A positive, caring parent attitude is one of the best gifts you can give a child when they are apprehensive or nervous about approaching any different situation whether it's going on school camp, joining a new club or sitting a NAPLAN test.](#)

St. Columba's R.E. News

Mothers / Special Person's Liturgy

Tomorrow morning we welcome all members of our school and parish community to recognise and celebrate the special gifts of mothers. We will reflect on Mary as the mother of Jesus and the mother of us all. During the month of May we remember Mary and it is significant that we can honour her for her gifts of kindness, compassion and love. We will also focus on the Mums and special persons from our school community. We look forward to celebrating this special occasion with you.

Tomorrow morning each teacher will take the class roll and then the parents can meet the children in their youngest child's class. The children can then escort their special guests to the church for our celebration. Following the liturgy all are invited to the Biggest Morning Tea supporting the Cancer Council. This will be held in the school hall. You will then have the opportunity to view our Portrait Gallery. All children in the school will sketch a portrait of their Mum or special person and this will be displayed for this wonderful occasion.

We wish all Mums and Grandmothers a very Happy Mother's Day. We hope have a lovely day being spoilt and pampered!



Religious Education Learning In Term Two

During Term Two, each learning Community is focusing on teaching units of work from Awakenings. This is the Religious Education program which is implemented in all Catholic schools across the Ballarat diocese. The units are as follows-

Prep Level	Grade One/ Two	Grade Three/ Four	Grade Five Six
I Am Special and so are You	Grief and Loss	For Creation Praise	People of Prayer
I Care for God's World	Sacraments are Special celebrations	Sacraments of Initiation	Sacramental Life

Sacramental Preparation

During this term children from our school will participate in the preparation for the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist. The first meeting will take place next Tuesday night at 7pm in the school hall and thus will continue for the following four weeks. As a school and parish community it is very important to recognise and support our children and families as they work together to deepen their understandings and develop a stronger faith commitment.

Alison Thorpe

Religious Education Coordinator

Parish News:

St. Columba's Parish Sacramental Preparation

Confirmation & Eucharist Preparation commences NEXT Tuesday evening.

Parent & Child sessions

Tues 13th May 2014, 7-8pm School Hall
Tues 20th May 2014, 7-8pm School Hall
Tues 27th May 2014, 7-8 pm School Hall
Tues 3rd June 2014, 7-8 pm School Hall
Tues 10th June 2014, 7-8pm School Hall

Dismissals

Sat 17th/ Sun 18th May St. Columba's Church
Sat 24th /Sun 25th May St. Columba's Church
Sat 31st/Sun 1st June St. Columba's Church
Sat 7th/Sun 8th June St. Columba's Church

Confirmation / Eucharist celebration will be held over 2 weekends

Sat 14th/Sun 15th June **or** Sat 21st /Sun 22nd June

You will need to indicate which date best suits your child to receive their Sacraments at our first meeting. There is a limit of 8 families per celebration. I look forward to seeing you on Tuesday!

Torie Waight

Parish Sacramental Coordinator

Senior Learning Community News

Last Tuesday our senior students had a fantastic day at Sovereign Hill even though it was extremely wet. The children participated in a lesson at the Education Centre on why people immigrated to Australia. A big thank you to all the parents who came along and helped out.

We have another excursion coming up on Tuesday the 27th May to the Art Gallery. Both of these excursions link to our History research.

Tomorrow Friday 9th May we have interschool sports at St James, Sebastopol. Children will need to wear their sports uniform. If it's cold please bring a coat.

We do still have some notes for Golf Clinic, Art Gallery Excursion and Interschool Sports not returned. All notes need to be signed and returned to your child's classroom teacher. If your child doesn't return their note they will not be able to attend. Children will need to wear full winter school uniform to the Art Gallery.



Choir News

The choir has been busy preparing songs to sing at the forthcoming Choral Festival. This year the festival will take place on Sunday, June 1st, 1.30pm at St. Patrick's Cathedral on Sturt Street. It is a wonderful opportunity for the children to perform and listen to other local choirs in Ballarat. Availability/permission slips will be given out in choir this week. Please return these before the next choir session so that arrangements can be made. Thank you to Clare Duffy who will be our piano accompanist on the day. Thank you *Ruth and Rachel*.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints invites you to a:

CHORAL FESTIVAL

SUNDAY, JUNE 1ST 2014, 1.30PM.

ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL, STURT ST, BALLARAT



The 19th Annual Ballarat Choral Festival 2014



FREE PERFORMANCE.

Choirs include: a children's & an adult choir from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, St Patrick's Cathedral Choir, St Patrick's College boys' choir, St Cecilia's singers & Golden Voices choir, Loreto College Las Estralles, Clarendon College Chamber Choir, Phoenix College choir, and St Columba's P.S. choir.

Enquiries: Margaret Lenan Ellis. Ph: 0400 650 234. Email: mfilellis@netconnect.com.au

Sport News - Mrs Russell



Cross Country: Congratulations to all those wonderful children who participated in the Catholic Cross Country Championships on Monday. The course is renowned for being tough and the conditions were extreme. Thanks to the parents and carers who assisted and transported the children. Well done to the following children who will participate in the Division Cross Country on the 16th May at Victoria Park. Milly Simpson, Eva Costa, Rosie Todd, Harry Barnett, Joe Darbin, Tamsyn Smith, Kyle Smith and Kasey Drew.

Athletics: Thank you so much to all those wonderful parents and staff who offered to assist at our sports day. It was a huge decision to postpone it but definitely a good one. We look forward to running it again in Term 4.

Golf: MYGolf National Skills Challenge Program is being held on May 14th, 21st, 28th, June 4th and 11th. The cost is \$40 which includes 5 clinics at Midlands Golf Club. For further details contact Tony Collier on 0408519628.

Diary Dates

May 9th Interschool Sports for years 3/4/5/6 (Sports uniform)
May 16th Division Cross Country Vic Park
May 30th Football Catholic Lightning Premiership will be at St. Patrick's College.
June 2nd State Tennis – Go Hugh McManus
June 19th Regional Cross Country – Hamilton
June 20th Netball Mixed and A Grade
June 20th Soccer Morsehead Park

Parents & Friends

The next P & F meeting is **Monday 2nd June at 7.30pm** in the boardroom. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Cupcakes: Thank you to all our class coordinators for making the cupcakes for our Mothers. We would also like to say thank you to all the helpers that came in today to help the children ice their cakes. Your support was much appreciated.

Biggest Morning Tea

We are taking part in the 2014 Cancer Councils Biggest Morning Tea. This will be held in the hall after the Mother's Day Para liturgy tomorrow morning May 9th. All money raised will go directly to the Cancer Council to help with Cancer research, prevention, education and support services. Everyone is welcome to join us for a cuppa and raise some much needed funds. A gold coin donation would be appreciated and a collection box is in the office for donations if you would like to make one before the day. We look forward to seeing you all there.

School Disco

The school disco is being held next Thursday 15th May in the hall. Cost is \$3 per child which includes cordial and a lolly pop. A roster has been sent out to all our wonderful volunteers so thank you for your support.

Disco times:

5:00 – 5:45 Junior Disco (Yr Prep, 1 & 2)
6:00 – 6:45 Middle Disco (Yrs 3 & 4)
7:00 – 8:00 Senior Disco (Yrs 5 & 6)

Please note: Due to safety reasons no younger siblings will be permitted at the Disco – it is for current students only. Please also be aware that the playground is out of bounds for all children on the night. We thank you in advance for your co-operation.

Hot Dogs-



Hot dogs are now available on **Thursday lunch times during Terms 2 & 3** at the cost of **\$3 each**. Please place your money in a brown paper bag and write your child's name and LG on it. If your child **does not want sauce**, please write on the bag **"NO SAUCE"**. **All rosters have now been sent home, thank you to our volunteers.**

Volunteers for May 15th – Julie O'Connor, Emily Wallis & Sarah Jones

Uniform Shop

If you require anything the shop it is open on a Tuesday morning from 8.30am – 9.00am and a Thursday afternoon from 3.00pm – 3.30pm. If you wish to leave an order at the office it will be filled the next time the shop is open and can be collected from the office. You can also download the uniform price list from the school website.

Volunteers for Week 4:

Tuesday May 13th – Julie Seviar

Thursday May 15th Lisa Clark & Kate Smith

Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers.

Footy Tipping

Round 7 Update: Footy Tipping is off and running with the newcomer to school taking the early lead. It seems our staff members know more about footy than we do. Kim Butler our Principal along with Alana and Kathy Haintz are on a score of 45 to be equal first. Coming a close second is the Gaylor family on a score of 44 and then David Bourke and Jonte Jarred coming 3rd sitting on 43. Good luck to all and stay tuned for more regular updates.

St Columba's Business Directory

The P & F Committee are seeking expressions of interest for a St Columba's Business Directory.

There are many families within the school and parish communities that have their own businesses and we thought that a business directory would be a great way to support members of this community and also as a fundraiser for the school.

We are seeking expressions of interest from anyone within the school and parish community who would like to advertise in this business directory to complete the below form so we can gauge interest in such a publication. At this stage we envisage a paper copy to be given to all school families and parishioners at St Columba's. We are also looking at having a copy on the school website and possibly showcasing these businesses on the school newsletter during the school year.

At this stage we are just requesting expressions of interest and will give further details regarding this, once a decision is made as to the possible success of this publication. By completing the expression of interest you are not committing to advertising in the directory. Thank you for your continued support.

I/We are interested in receiving further information about advertising in a St Columba's Business Directory.

Business name: _____

Contact person: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Melinda Watt – President Melinda.watt@gmail.com

Julie Bull – Vice-President juliembull@optusnet.com.au

Wanted to buy: Winter school tunic size 12 with the removable top bib. Please call Angela on 0401139381 if you would like to sell.

LOST: Two woollen jumpers, one size 10 named Meg Maher the other is a size 6 named Jacob Rae. If either jumpers are found please return to the office.

BLOSSOM CONNECT

Blossom Connect is a new online hub for busy parents in Ballarat & surrounding areas. This community service provides the latest information, news and events for children in the area through the web, social media and email newsletters. Membership is free and also includes special offers from local businesses working with children and regular competitions and giveaways. For more information to help your little buds blossom, or to sign up visit <http://www.blossomconnect.com.au>

Year 3/4 Note:

Message to parents of children in LG 6 (Kelly) and 9 (Whitney)

Sharon and Janet are planning some social gatherings for parents. If you have not already let us know your contact details, you are invited to email or text us so we can keep you informed of any get togethers. Thanks Sharon 0417166562/ sharon.cronin@bigpond.com and Janet 0402835936/ jsmith.chefstoolbox@gmail.com

Centacare/FRC are very proud to be supporting Aaron Clarke in initiating and hosting the CHFL's inaugural Indigenous Football Round match.

It would be great to see as many members of the community as possible there to support this initiative to eradicate racism in our community.



Saturday 31st May: 10am - 5pm
Rokewood-Corindhap FNC
vs
Smythesdale FNC
Rokewood Recreation Reserve

**FREE KIDS ACTIVITIES
& FACE PAINTING**

Indigenous player, Aaron Clarke, on behalf of the Rokewood-Corindhap FNC, would like to invite you to attend the Central Highlands Football League's inaugural:

INDIGENOUS ROUND

In 2013, a spectator was banned from future CHFL games for racially abusing Aaron on the field. The club and the event's sponsors would like to promote their stance on eradicating racism in football, netball and in the broader community.

Proudly supported by: Centacare's Ballarat Family Relationship Centre, Grampians Indigenous Family Violence Regional Action Group, Bendigo Bank, Espresso Mobile, Golden Plains Shire and Central Highlands Football League

Ballarat Family Relationship Centre
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