

"The whole of life
belongs to God."



St Columba's School

Engaging • Inspiring • Empowering

Newsletter

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www.scballarat.catholic.edu.au

Thursday 5th February 2015
Term1 Week 1

Dear Parents and Carers,

WELCOME BACK

to the start of the 2015 school year and a special welcome to all the new families joining the St Columba's School community. On Wednesday we welcomed 49 new students; 40 Preps and 9 students in other grade levels. We welcome the following families to St Columba's: Fogarty/Lauritz, Godbold, Murphy, O'Keeffe/Sadowski, Hill & Pitman Families.

As it can be a little daunting when joining any new community, I ask that our current families extend a warm and friendly St Columba's welcome to our new families.

We also welcome Torie Waight, Emily Mullane and Helena Harrison to the staff this year. Torie is teaching in LG 11, Emily in LG 12 and Helena is working as an Learning Support Officer in the Prep and 5/6 Learning Communities.

The year has started very smoothly, with all children settling into their classroom routines. Walking through the school on Wednesday morning it was great to see the student's enthusiasm and excitement at being back at school. There seems to have been a seamless transition with children adjusting to routines very quickly.

At the start of a new school year your child might be feeling a little anxious as they move into a new classroom, grade or school. If so, reassure them that everyone is finding things that are new and different. It will take a little time for all to settle. If need be, speak to your child's classroom teacher and make them aware of the situation.

NEW BRANDING

Hopefully you will have noticed the new-look newsletter. The newsletter format is a part of a suite of promotional materials developed by the Communications and Engagement Committee last year. The materials use a consistent style for all our school communications.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Whitney and Shane Bruty on the wonderful news of expecting your first child.

DIARY DATES

Mon 9th Feb
P&F meeting 7.30pm

Tues 10th Feb
SNR Reconciliation
Parent info meeting
7.00pm in the School
Hall

Wed 11th Feb
SAC dinner meeting (Nth
Britain Hotel) 7.00pm

Fri 13th Feb
Opening School Mass
9.15am

Sat 14th Feb
Commissioning Mass
6.00pm

Tues 17th Feb
Family Picnic & Info
night

Wed 18th Feb
Ash Wednesday Mass

**Tue 24th & Wed 25th
Feb**
Parent/Teacher
Interviews

Sat 28th Feb
Sun 1st March
Snr Reconciliation

Mon 9th March
Labour Day Holiday

**Wed 11th March-Fri 13th
March**
5/6 Camp

Thurs 12th March
Enrolment Info evening
7.00pm



WITH SYMPATHY

Our thoughts and prayers are with Terryce, James, Nicholas, Oliver, Alexandria & Charlie (LG4) Richardson who lost their treasured mum and Nana during the holidays and Sue, Haydn & Kate (LG4) McDougall on the recent loss of their mother and grandmother. Our deepest sympathy goes to you all.

OPENING SCHOOL MASS

Parents and friends are invited to join with the staff and students to celebrate our Opening School Mass next Friday 13th February at 9.15am in the St Columba's Church. At this Mass our 2015 Grade 6 students will receive their school badges.

COMMISSIONING MASS

On Saturday 14th February the staff of St Columba's will be commissioned in the role as educators during the Parish Mass. Our School Captains Ella Weyers, Isaiah Britt & Vice Captains Anna Smart & Maddie Palmer will also be commissioned in their leadership roles and receive their Captains badges. Our House Captains Argyle (Blue) Cooper James & Eliza Smith, Iona (Gold) Alexander Pituch & Samara Stott, Clonard (Red) Joe Darbin & Hannah Sergeant & Donegal (Green) Olivia Paterson & Emma Taylor will also receive their badges. All families are welcome to attend.

SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES

School Assemblies will be held in the school's hall every second Wednesday afternoon starting at **2.40pm**. At assembly we pray together, share our learning, recognise and affirm achievements and share school news. Assembly normally runs for about 30 minutes. All parents, grandparents and friends are most welcome to attend. Our next Assembly will be held on Wednesday 18th February. Prep children are welcome to attend assembly with their parents on Wednesdays during Term 1.

DROP OFF AND PICK UP POINTS

In the morning students are able to enter the school grounds via the gates on Howard Street from 8.20am onwards. Until 8.35am, children are asked to sit on the seats outside the Art Room, where they will be supervised by the teacher on duty. The gates on Armstrong Street and the doors into the Columba Wing on Gregory Street will be opened at 8.35am. At 8.35am, children are able to enter their classrooms and organise themselves for the day ahead. The first bell will ring at 8.45am, with all children expected to be in classrooms ready to learn before 8.50am when the second bell will ring.

At the end of each day, students can leave the school via the gates on Howard Street, Armstrong Street or Gregory Street. Children must sit and wait to be picked up after school. It is not a time to be playing with sports equipment or on the playground. We ask that all children be picked up before 3.30pm. After this time, parents will need to enter the school via the office as gates will be locked.

We would also like to remind all parents to be especially careful when dropping off and picking up your children. Please **refrain from double parking** and take care when backing out of car spaces to ensure the safety of all children.

NEW TIMETABLE

This year we have introduced new bell times. The bell times are now as follows:

8.45	First bell
8.50	Second bell – all students must be in classes
10.50 – 11.20	First break
11.20-11.30	Students eat lunch in classrooms, supervised by their teachers
1.30-2.10	Second break (students eat their snacks out in the yard)
3.15	Dismissal

A reminder that ALL children need to bring to school a healthy snack (Munch 'n' Crunch), consisting of fruit, vegetable or cheese. Food needs to be in bite sized pieces for children to snack on during their morning learning time. Children will need to eat during the morning block as it is a long time between breakfast and when they eat lunch.

SPORT DAYS

Children will need to wear their sports uniform to school on the following days:

Preps:

LG13 Thursday, LG14 Tuesday

YR1/2 Wednesday

YR 3/4 Tuesday

YR 5/6 Thursday

SCHOOL DIARY

Each child has received a school diary. We ask that this is used by parents and students as a way of communicating with the classroom teacher. Diaries will be checked on a daily basis and returned home. Parents, please encourage your child to use the diary to assist with their organisation and to return it to school every day.

PREPS REST DAY

A reminder that Wednesdays during Term One are Rest Days for the Prep students unless there is another non-school day in the week. Prep students will be required to attend school on Wed 11th March due to the Labour Day holiday on Monday 9th March.

FEES AND LEVIES 2015



Fee Statements will be sent home next week. The account will contain all fees and charges for the year (with the exception of keyboard fees which are charged termly).

We offer a number of payment methods (as outlined in documents sent to families in November of last year) to families including: cash, cheque, credit card payments, direct debit and you are able to set up EFT payments from your own online banking service. The school does **not** have an eftpos facility.

Existing fee balances from 2014 will carry forward to this year's fee statement. Families who foresee any difficulty in meeting payments should contact Kim Butler to discuss. We may be able to offer Family Fee Assistance support provided by the Catholic Education Office. However, we must receive notification of your circumstances before anything can be initiated.

Help your kids manage their asthma Checklist for Parents



	<p>Does your child have an up to date Asthma Action Plan (Asthma Care Plan)?</p> <p>The Asthma Care/Action Plan tells the school how to manage your child's asthma and what to do if their asthma gets worse. This should be updated & signed by the doctor on an annual basis.</p>
	<p>Does your child carry their reliever puffer and spacer with them at all times? Or is it readily available to their Carers?</p> <p>Medication needs to be available wherever your child may be (school, child care, sporting field, home)</p>
	<p>Are you and your child aware of their asthma triggers?</p> <p>Do you take steps to avoid these triggers? Are the Teachers aware of these triggers?</p>
	<p>Do you listen to what your child says?</p> <p>They will be aware of their asthma symptoms and should be able to tell you when they need their medication.</p>
	<p>Does your child take their asthma medication correctly?</p> <p>Good technique allows more medication to get into the lungs where it is needed. Talk to your doctor or pharmacist if you would like to check your device technique.</p>

St Columba's R.E. News

Welcome back to our 2015 school year! I hope you have all enjoyed a restful time with your children over the holidays. I would like to pass on the thanks and gratitude expressed from those in our parish who received hampers for Christmas last year. Also the members of St. Vincent de Paul group were overwhelmed by the number of Christmas presents donated from members of our school community for those in need. It is wonderful to belong to such a generous and giving community!

Prayer for the Beginning of the New School Year

Dear Lord, as we begin this new school year, we gather once again as your community of believers. Let this year be marked by enthusiasm and love so that, with the inspiration of your Spirit, we may continue to grow in our faith. Help us to fulfill your hope for us with honest intentions and works of faith. Let us be gentle with ourselves and bring laughter, joy and love to others. We ask this in your name. Amen.

Important celebrations

We have many celebrations as a school community during this term. Next week on Friday 13th December at 9.15am we will gather in St. Columba's Church to celebrate the Beginning of the Year Mass together. At this Mass we will recognise many important people in our community- the students, parents and staff as we prepare for the year ahead. We will especially acknowledge the Prep children who will process into the church with their Grade Five buddies. They will also sit with their buddies at the front of the Church. The Grade Six students will be acknowledged for being the leaders of our students and each Grade Six student will be presented with their Grade Six badge. We welcome all families to celebrate this special occasion with us.

We will be holding a special commissioning service for the staff, a representative of the school Advisory Council and the Parents and Friends on Saturday February 14th at the 6pm Mass at St. Columba's Church. The 2015 School Captains and Vice captains along with the Sports or House captains will also be recognised at this Mass. We look forward to this special celebration.

Sacramental Preparation- Senior Reconciliation

Preparation for the sacrament of Senior Reconciliation (Year 5) is commencing this week. Those wishing to be a part of this programme will be required to complete an enrolment form which can be obtained from the school office. The children will be required to attend the a weekend mass on the following weekends-

- Saturday 7th Feb at 6pm, Sunday 8th Feb at 10am
- Saturday 14th Feb at 6pm, Sunday 15th February at 10am
- Saturday 21st Feb at 6pm or Sunday 22nd February at 10am

The celebrations will be following the 6pm Mass on Saturday 28th February or Sunday 1st March following the 10am Mass.

There is an information meeting for parents to be held next Tuesday night (February 10th) at 7pm in the school hall. Fr Barry will be hosting this meeting.

We will be having a learning focus on Reconciliation throughout all levels of the school during these first four weeks of term. If you have any concerns or queries please feel free to contact me.

Liturgy of the Word for Children

Liturgy of the Word for children will commence this Sunday at the 10am Mass. Each Sunday of the school term members of our parish lead children in activities to develop a greater awareness of the readings, which is aimed at the children's level of understanding. We invite children from the age of four to grade four to participate. The children meet the leader in the foyer of the church at the beginning of Mass. This is a great opportunity for the children to meet others from our parish. All are welcome.

Passionist Family Group Movement - New Members Welcome

Parish Family Groups are a great way to build connections with our local community and for your children to build their own network of friends. Family Groups arrange social get togethers a few times a year as well as supporting each other throughout the year. They are also a great way to be more connected to the Parish. Several current family's at St Columba's are involved in a Family Group. If you'd like to know more, information brochures are available at the office or please call Troy Severino on 0402 349 591 or Lisa Kennedy on 0422 404 118 (outside school hours) to discuss joining a group.

I hope you have a great week,



Alison Thorpe - Religious Education Leader

Dear St. Columba's Faculty and Community,

I would like to say a really big thank you. This last year has been very difficult for the girl's and I with the loss of Mum, Karen and the girl's great uncle, the depth of warmth was overwhelming. I would like to thank everyone that has helped us in any way that you have, we really appreciate it in a big way. The care packages went a long way and were a great help, thank you. I won't single out those in the community that have been a huge help this year as you know who you are, but I would like to thank Kim, Whitney and Cathy. We all, the Whittaker's and Hogan's thank you all so so much. We hope that you all have a great new year, you are forever in our hearts.

With sincerity and heartfelt warmth, Ottis, Emily and Claire Whittaker

St Columba's Parish News

Passionist Family Group Movement - New Members Welcome

Parish Family Groups are a great way to build connections with our local community and for your children to build their own network of friends. Family Groups arrange social get togethers a few times a year as well as supporting each other throughout the year. They are also a great way to be more connected to the Parish. Several current family's at St Columba's are involved in a Family Group. If you'd like to know more, information brochures are available at the office or please call Troy Severino on 0402 349 591 or Lisa Kennedy on 0422 404 118 (outside school hours) to discuss joining a group.

2015 SYNOD ON THE FAMILY

Bishop Paul Bird has sent all parishes a Questionnaire in preparation for the 2015 Synod on the Family, seeking parishioner's feedback.

Please find attached a copy of the questioner at the end of the newsletter and discuss at home or in groups. Bishop Paul Bird would greatly appreciate your feedback to either all or some of the questions given. You can email your answers to bishop@ballarat.catholic.org.au or post them to Bishop Paul Bird, 5 Lyons Street South, Ballarat. You are also welcome to leave them in an envelope at the school office.

Your response would be appreciated by Thursday, 12th February.

Middle Learning Community News - YR 3/4

Next week the 3/4 children begin their 6 weeks of swimming and gymnastics, which will happen on Fridays. We would love some parent helpers and particularly need a couple of males each week to help with the boys. If you can help us out, even if it's just once, please let your child's teacher know! Thank you, Wayne, Clare, Ruth and Kelly.

Junior Learning Community News

Prep News

Yesterday we welcomed our new preps here is what they had to say about their first day at school:

"I played in the sandpit" Blake LG14

"I played on the playground outside" Evie LG14

"I played outside" Piper LG14

"I drew everyone at the beach in my family, it was the best beach ever" Isabella LG14

"At play I talked to Wilby" George LG13



" I am making mummy and daddy and Ella and Jack" Lucy LG13

" I wrote people's names"

Kate LG13



Sport News -

Mrs Russell

Welcome back everyone to a very busy and exciting year.

Just a reminder to the children to put on sunscreen at home on their sports days and we will reapply at school. The children need to wear well fitted sneakers, hats and bring a drink bottle to sports lessons. If your child's sport is during the first block there will be time for them to eat their healthy fruit or vegetable snack.

School Sports:

Is on Tuesday 24 March, parents please consider helping on the day, it is not only very rewarding but it also assists the school in running a successful sports day. If you have a current working with children card and can help, please email me or the school. (Please make sure the office has a copy of your WWCC).

Swimming

There are two sports events for primary school age children.

"Primary Schools encouragement swimming sports, Primary 9 years and under 25metre events" and "Primary Schools Swimming Sports, 50 metres Events and Relays".

"Primary Schools encouragement swimming sports, Primary 9 years and under 25 metre events"

This is being held at the Ballarat Aquatic centre on the Wednesday 25 February.

Age groups are under 7, 8 and 9 years. Age of swimmers is at 31 December, 2015.

25 Metres backstroke and 25 metres freestyle.

Entry fee per event: \$4.

Ribbons will be awarded to the first three places. Medals for the first three places of the age group.

All 25 metre events will start in the water.

"Primary Schools Swimming Sports", 50 metres Events and Relays.

Sunday 22nd February, 2015, Eureka Swimming Pool

Ages 10 years and under. 11 years and under, 12/13 years and under

Events Freestyle, backstroke, medley relay and freestyle relay.

More information is found on your child's classroom communication board.

All entries need to be placed in an envelope with the appropriate money enclosed, and given to the office by, Tuesday 10 February.

Including the following:

Child's Name:

Learning Group:

Age (on the 31 December 2015)

Date of Birth:

Events wishing to enter:

Money included

Cricket

Nominations for the School Sport Victoria 12 and under Cricket Teams are now open. Our school has been invited to nominate suitably skilled students to participate in the trial process. Nominations shall only include children born in 2003, 2004 or 2005. If you know your child has the interest and skills to participate in this process please encourage them to contact me. Please note that I can only nominate three boys and three girls for these trials.

BALLARAT FUTSAL CENTRE

Competitions for all ages starting NOW!! Action packed and exciting sport for all abilities.

Term 1 and 2 season kicks off soon!!

Contact corey@australianfutsal.com or 0437935991 for details

Parents & Friends

Our first P&F meeting for 2015 will be Monday February 9, at 7.30pm in the staffroom. All welcome to attend and we would love to see some new faces and bring along some new ideas. We look forward to another productive year ahead.



The P & F welcomes all families back to school for 2015. We hope you all had a lovely break. Also welcome to all our new families who have joined the school, we hope everyone is settling in nicely.

Icypoles

Icy poles will commence each **FRIDAY** lunch time in **Term 1** for **\$1**. Grade Prep, and Grade 1/2 orders will be taken in their classrooms on Friday mornings and their icy poles will be delivered to their rooms at lunch times. All other years line up to be served at the serveries in the Hall kitchen (after 1.30pm).

Volunteers required: We require parent helpers to assist in selling icy poles on Friday lunch times. Helpers will need to be available from 1.15pm to 1.45pm. Each volunteer will only be required once or twice over the term. **We welcome new parents and will partner them with experienced helpers.** If you are able to help, please leave your details at the office. If you were on the roster for Term 4 you will be kept on for Term 1 unless you advise otherwise. Thank you, your help is much appreciated.

Volunteers for Friday Feb 6 – Rebecca Jolly & Wendy Chennell

Uniform Shop

The uniform shop 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.

This week's volunteers are:

Tuesday February 10 – Lisa Kennedy & Jane Bowman

Uniform Shop Volunteers

Thank you to all our volunteers who help run our uniform shop, we couldn't do it without you! A roster for term one will be forwarded to you shortly.

We are looking for new volunteers to assist this year and invite any expressions of interest. Please contact Kate O'Hehir on 0407 844 224 or kateohehir@live.com.au with your name, mobile phone number and email address. You can also leave your details on our school App

A training session will be held for all new volunteers and you will be paired with an experienced volunteer during your first few days on the roster. All welcome.

We are waiting on a number of items that are still on back order. We will advise once this stock has arrived.

Please fill in the slip and return it to the office.

Yes, I am interested in helping in the uniform shop this year.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Preferred day (please circle): Tuesday 8:30am-9am Thursday 3pm-3:30pm either day.

BUNNINGS BBQ

Our BBQ at Bunnings will be held on Saturday, February 21st. Please advise if you are able to assist with setting up, cooking etc. please email scparentsfriends@gmail.com with your availability or let the office know.

Lunch orders

Lunch orders will commence again every Friday starting tomorrow. Please find attached the 2015 lunch order menu to the newsletter you can also find it on the website or get a copy from the office.



Please write your child's name classroom and order on front of a brown paper bag only and place the correct money inside. There is a lunch order tub in your child's room, place it in there and it will be collected from the office. Please **do not let junior children** write on the bag. If the shop can't read it, it won't be filled. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Our Facebook page and App are ready!

I'm pleased to announce that our St Columba's App and Facebook page are ready.

We believe these tools will improve how we share information and enable us to better keep in touch with you. We encourage you to download our App and 'like' our Facebook page.



1. Our App 'St Columba's, Ballarat North' is powered by SkoolBag and provides access to a whole range of information at the touch of a button on your smart phone and/or tablet. We encourage you to download and explore. We will continue to build content. Please ensure you request 'push notifications'. We will be using this format to send important messages.

Instructions to download:

For iPhone and iPad users:

1. Click the "App Store" icon on your Apple device.
2. Type St Columba's Ballarat North in the search window.
3. If iPhone, you will see your school appear, click "Free" then "install".
4. If iPad, change the drop list to "iPhone Apps", your school will then be visible, click "Free" then "install".
5. When installed click "Open"
6. **Select "OK" to receive push notifications, when asked.**
7. Click the "More" button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup".



8. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you.

For Android users: You must first have signed up with a Google Account before installing the app.



1. Click the "Play Store" button on your Android Device
2. Click the magnifying glass icon at the top and type in your school name, using suburb name will help.
3. Click the school name when it appears in the search.
4. Click the "Install" button.
5. Click "Accept" for various permissions (please note, we do not modify any of your personal data on your device).
6. Click "Open" when installed.
7. Click the "More" button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup".
8. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you.

facebook

2. Our Facebook page will allow us to post information in real time, share celebrations and create an online community for those who can't always make it into the school grounds.

We recognise that not everyone uses Facebook, but following the positive experiences of other schools in our region we feel it's a great opportunity to share stories and communicate with each other in a new way.

To start following our facebook page:

1. If you don't already you will need to set-up your own Facebook account
2. Type St Columba's Ballarat North in the search window.
3. Click on 'Like' our page
4. You will then receive our posts in your newsfeed.
5. We encourage you to share, like and comment on our posts, but please no tagging. A full list of guidelines is attached.

If you haven't already can you please return the 'Social Media' approval form, advising if you are happy for your child or children's photo to appear in Facebook posts. No names will be used in any posts.

We hope you embrace this new way of communicating and respect that positive online behavior is expected at all times.

We appreciate that not everyone can or would like to download the App or use Facebook and we will therefore continue to prepare and publish the weekly newsletter. However, we will in time, review how the newsletter is being received and assess if it is still required in its weekly format.



St Columba's Primary – Facebook Guidelines

Our aim is to ensure that this is a safe and enjoyable Facebook community for all and have therefore set up these guidelines for our parents and community. Accessing and commenting on the St Columba's Primary Facebook page indicates that you have read, understood and accepted our Facebook Page Guidelines as set out below.

St Columba's Primary School Page Guidelines:

1. This page has been set up to share details about what's happening at St Columba's Primary and to celebrate our school community. We aim to keep our parents and community informed in an inclusive way and to create a social page that all can access. To ensure that this page is an enjoyable place for all of our parents and community to visit and connect we ask that you respect our Facebook Page Guidelines which must be adhered to should you choose to participate.
2. Facebook users who have 'Liked' our page are able to comment on the school's posts and events and on comments by other users. Users are not able to author a post of their own or load media such as video or photos.
3. We do not endorse children under the Facebook age threshold of 13 years creating their own Facebook accounts. We encourage parents to share our page with their children through their accounts and to use our Facebook page as a role model for communication through social media.
4. We encourage you to provide feedback and comments however we ask you be respectful and contribute in a positive and constructive manner. Should you wish to bring a concern to the school's attention this should be done by contacting the school directly to ensure we are able to deal with this matter in a timely and appropriate manner.
5. The St Columba's Primary School Facebook Page is monitored regularly; however the school will not respond directly to requests or messages on Facebook. If you need to contact the school, please call 5332 4894 or email principal@scballarat.catholic.edu.au
6. You may use names in posts when you wish to acknowledge someone's great work or contribution. We wish our Facebook page to be used to build spirit and for 'patting someone on the back' publicly as we believe it goes a long way towards building a positive school and community. Where students are named they should be referred to by their first name only.
7. As the page administrators we reserve the right to remove any content which we deem to be in breach of these Facebook Page Guidelines. This includes discriminatory, illegal, obscene or misleading/fraudulent comments, spam or any content which may break intellectual property laws.
8. Please don't hesitate to contact St Columba's Primary School on 03 5332 4894.

Enrolment @ St Patrick's College, 2016 Year 7

2016 Year 7 Enrolment Applications are now being accepted. To receive a 2016 Enrolment Package please contact Ms Caitlin Bennett on 53 311688 or cbennett@stpats.vic.edu.au or please download the College prospectus and Enrolment application from the College website at: http://www.stpats.vic.edu.au/request_information_1.php Interviews for all students applying for a place for 2016 will be conducted during Term 1 by a member of the Leadership team.

Please note that 2016 Year 7 Enrolment closes on Friday February 13, 2015.

Scholarships @ St Patrick's College, 2016 – Saturday February 21, 2015

To encourage and recognise the pursuit of excellence in all areas of school life, St Patrick's College offers scholarships for Year 7, 10 and 11 entry level in the categories of academic excellence, art, performing arts, music, sport, leadership and general excellence. All categories have an academic component and boys must sit a scholarship test conducted by the Australian Council for Educational Research at the College on **Saturday February 21, 2015 at 9:00 am**. Registration is \$93 and payable at the time of registering. Interested families are to apply via the College website at the following link

<http://www.stpats.vic.edu.au/scholarships.php>

Please download the 2016 Scholarship flyer here

College Open Mornings

Each Friday morning in Term 1 the College conducts tours for prospective students and their families. This is an ideal opportunity to see students and staff in action in a wide range of learning areas. Current parents are also most welcome to attend. To book a place on a tour please contact Ms Caitlin Bennett on 53 311688 or cbennett@stpats.vic.edu.au



Damascus College Enrolment Information

Damascus College warmly invites all families to attend our upcoming open mornings on Thursday 5th February and Thursday 12th February from 9am to 10.30am.

Enrolment Applications for Year 7, 2016 close at 4pm on Friday 13th February 2015.

Damascus College 20 Year Celebrations

Friends of Damascus College are invited to join us for our 20 Year Anniversary Dinner on Saturday 21st March in the John Shannon Centre. Tickets are \$50 per head, which includes a 2 course sit-down meal, and can be purchased from the Damascus College website until the end of February.

NORTH BALLARAT JUNIOR FOOTBALL & NETBALL CLUB

Registration day for all of our junior grades is on the 8th of February, 2015 at the North Ballarat football club rooms located below the North Ballarat Sports Club from 11.30 to 3pm.

Junior grades for netball include U/11, U/13, U/15 and U/17 and in football junior grades are U/10, U/12, U/14 and U/16.5.

Come along and meet the coaches, tour our great facilities and enjoy a BBQ lunch (gold coin donation).

For further information contact lee.northcity@theroosters.com.au or on 0427 896 642

LAKE WENDOUREE JUNIOR NETBALL FOOTBALL CLUB

Registration Day Sunday 15th February 2015 for all junior footballers from 4pm to 5.30pm at the Lakers Clubrooms, Norman Street, Wendouree. (Note EFTPOS available)

Seeking new under 10 players only, and request that all existing attend to pay fees.

Please check our website www.lwfnc.com.au for training details updates and regular news.

Should you have any queries please contact Neil McKechnie [0419 870 957](tel:0419870957) and Natalee Mc Kay on [0400 681 870](tel:0400681870).

St Columba's

Lunch Menu 2015 Fridays

Fairdinkum Fish & Chips

Hot Foods & Snacks	Sandwiches & Rolls			DRINKS
Pies 4.00	Vegemite 1.50	<u>sand</u>	<u>roll</u>	Juices Prima—
Pasties 4.00	Vegemite & cheese 2.00			orange, 1.50
Sausage rolls 2.70	Cheese 2.00			orange & mango
Tomato Sauce .30	Cheese lett tom 2.50			Apple,
Party pies 1.30	Ham 2.50			Tropical,
Party sausage rolls 1.30	Ham/Cheese 3.50			apple/blackcurrant
Party Quiche NEW 1.50	Ham/lettuce tomato 3.50			orange/passionfruit
Single Pizzas - 3.00	Chick breast 2.50			Apple/raspberry
1/2 serve Single Pizza 1.50	Chick lettuce mayo 3.50			Water 600ml 2.80- now 1.80
Hot Rolls	Chick lettuce tomato 4.00			300ml new 1.60
Chick Roll 4.00	<i>Extra's for Sandwiches & Rolls</i>			Small Flavoured long life 2.30
Chic Roll Half 2.00	Beetroot			Choc
Chicken & gravy roll long 4.00	cheese sliced 50c			straw
Chicken & gravy roll (half) 2.00	cheese grated ea			600ml flavoured milk 3.70
Chicken & mayo roll 4.00	Lettuce / tomato item			choc
(hot or cold)	mayo			strawberry
Chicken & mayo roll half 2.00				ice coffee
Bits & Pieces				banana
Nuggets each 1.00				
Nugget 3 Pack 2.70				
Dim Sims Steamed soy .90				
Dim Sims Steamed no soy .90				
Steamed Veggie dim sim 1.60				

Note to parents:

Thank you for the last 4 years and we look forward to serving the St Columbus school children for another year.

Just a few notes to help 2015 run smooth

SAUCE IS 30C NOT FREE. 😊 SMALL FLAVORED MILK IS \$2.30 (NOT \$2) AS OF END OF 2013

When you have a family of more than one child having a lunch order (2 or 3 children) we are requesting that money be place in each bag rather than just one of the bags. Some Fridays we have 2 to 4+ families doing this and it can become rather confusing as to which child belongs to who. Sometimes there were no instructions or surnames on a bag or what bag had the money in.

For 2015 money is to placed in each bag, the correct change is not necessary.

Can parents please write out younger children's bags as sometimes we can't read what is written or we misunderstand what is written. They can still draw a picture or decorate the bag

Questions in preparation for the 2015 Synod on the Family

1. Does the final Synod Document offer an adequate account of marriage and the family or does more need to be said?
2. What is being done to help families cope in the midst of great social changes? What more could be done, especially in helping them to understand those changes?
3. What is being done to ensure that governments support marriage and the family in every way possible? What more could be done?
4. What is being done to support strong families? What more could be done?
5. What is being done to help families in trouble? How might troubles be prevented? How effectively is pastoral care being offered to families “on the periphery”?
6. How can we help individuals and couples grow in affective or emotional maturity?
7. What needs to be done to equip ordained ministers and others to work effectively in the area of marriage and the family?
8. Does the encounter with Christ shape pastoral care in the area of marriage and the family? How well is Scripture used in the pastoral care of couples and families?
9. What values are in fact most important in the area of marriage and the family in the eyes of young people and married couples? What counter-values are evident?
10. How can couples living together before marriage or in *de facto* relationships be encouraged to choose marriage?
11. What is being done to help people understand the greatness and beauty of the indissolubility of marriage? What more could be done?
12. How can we help people understand better the power of a relationship with God in marriage and of the grace of the Sacrament in their lives?
13. How can we help people understand better that marriage is a key part of God’s original plan and is therefore a way of fulfilment not confinement, joy not sorrow?
14. How can the family be helped to become “the domestic Church” with a missionary vocation? How can we help develop a family spirituality?
15. What can be done to provide an effective and comprehensive catechesis of marriage and the family, starting in early life and involving life-long formation?
16. Do we need to shape a new language in the area of marriage and the family? If so, how?

17. How effective is the marriage preparation that is being offered? How might it be more effective?
18. Do we need to do more to support couples in the early years of married life? If so, what?
19. What place do marriage and the family have in the RCIA?
20. What movements and associations are there in the area of marriage and the family? Can these contribute more broadly and effectively?
21. What are the challenges of mixed marriages and interreligious marriages? How can we meet them more effectively?
22. Apart from sacramental marriage, what can be done to foster appreciation of “natural marriage”?
23. How can we respond compassionately to people in irregular unions while remaining faithful to the teaching of Christ and the Church?
24. Does the process of declaring nullity need to be simpler, less difficult and less costly?
25. How can we respond better to people of same-sex attraction and their families?
26. How can we communicate more effectively the Church’s vision of married love and the beauty and dignity of parenthood as presented, for example, in *Humanae Vitae*?
27. What more can be done to promote a sense of parenthood as divine vocation? What more can be done to help parents in their educational mission, especially in transmitting the faith to their children?
28. How can we encourage adoption and foster-parenting as signs of fruitful generosity?
29. What more can we do to prevent abortion and foster a genuine culture of life?
30. How can we help all people see that no-one is beyond God’s mercy?

ST COLUMBA'S PARISH BALLARAT NORTH

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION 2015

The Sacraments are ordered sequentially:

BAPTISM, CONFIRMATION, RECONCILIATION(part 1)

EUCHARIST, RECONCILIATION(part 2)

We invite you as parents/guardians to enrol your BAPTISED CATHOLIC child into the family-based (and Parish co-ordinated/ Parish school supported) Sacramental Program 2014.

RECONCILIATION

Baptised CATHOLICS IN YEAR 4
or older

Part 1 (Junior)

PARENT EDUCATION SESSION:

CELEBRATION DATE:

*Not applicable this year

Part 2 (SENIOR)

PARENT EDUCATION SESSION

Tues 10th Feb Iona Wing
7pm

PREPARATION COMMENCES

Wk1 2nd Feb Wk2 9th Feb

Wk3 16th Feb Wk4 23rd Feb

Celebration Date:

Sat 28th Feb/ Sun 1st March

EUCHARIST

In or around YEAR 4 who have been CONFIRMED and have celebrated RECONCILIATION

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES FOR 2016

Grade 3 will be presented to the parish (date below) to acknowledge their faith journey has commenced.

PRESENTATION DATE:

Feast of Body and Blood of Christ Sunday
7th June 2015 10am Mass.

(Please note that the 2015 grade 4 children made the sacrament of Eucharist last year in grade 3. Eucharist preparation will occur in 2016)

SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION

CONFIRMATION

Baptised CATHOLIC and in YEAR 3 or older .

PARENT EDUCATION SESSION

Tues 21st April Iona hall 7pm

WK1 20th April Wk2 27th April

Wk3 4th May Wk4 11th May

CELEBRATION DATES

Sat 18th May

Sat 23rd May/ Sun 24th May

For further information contact

St Columbas Parish Office

306 Gregory St Ballarat North

Wed-Thurs 8.30-5.30

Phone: 5331 71 31

THE CATHOLIC SACRAMENTAL JOURNEY EXPLAINED.....

The Sacraments are ordered sequentially:

BAPTISM, CONFIRMATION, RECONCILIATION(part1, EUCHARIST, RECONCILIATION(part2)

