Dear Parents,

What a great start to the school year, if I do say so myself. From the very first moment our families entered the school gates, to the final staff car leaving the school at the end of the day, there was something about the start to the year that was special. There were no builders on site, the new lawn is just magnificent, complimenting the new state of the art buildings and the smiles on the children faces, eager to get on with the real business of learning and catching up with their friends. It was also great to see all the current families back for another year as well as new families joining us for the first time.

(Cont'd Pg 2)

Parish Priest: Fr Minh-Thuy
Almondbury Street, Bayswater
Phone: (08)9271 1414
parish@stcolumbasbayswater.org.au

Parish Mass Times
Weekdays: 9:00 a.m.
Saturday—Mass 7.30 a.m. and 9.30 a.m.
Parish Youth Mass—Last Saturday of each month.

Term Dates: Mon 1 Feb—Fri 8 April
School Times: 8.30 a.m.—3.00 p.m.
Recess: 10.40 a.m.—11.00 a.m.
Lunch: 1.00 p.m.—1.40 p.m.

*PLEASE CHECK THE WEBSITE PLANNER FOR REGULAR UPDATES TO THE CALENDAR*
2016 is the Jubilee Year of Mercy. A jubilee year is a special year called by the church to receive blessing and pardon from God and remission of sins. The tradition started about 700 years ago and 26 jubilees have been celebrated since. Of those, only three have been “extraordinary” (including this Year of Mercy).

The Jubilee of Mercy began when Pope Francis opened the Holy Door of St Peter’s Basilica on 8 December 2015 (the 50th anniversary of the closing of the Second Vatican Council) and concludes when he closes that same door on 20 November 2016. Pope Francis says, "We need constantly to contemplate the mystery of mercy. It is a wellspring of joy, serenity, and peace. Our salvation depends on it. Mercy: the word reveals the very mystery of the Most Holy Trinity. Mercy: the ultimate and supreme act by which God comes to meet us. Mercy: the fundamental law that dwells in the heart of every person who looks sincerely into the eyes of his brothers and sisters on the path of life. Mercy: The bridge that connects God and man, opening our hearts to the hope of being loved forever despite our sinfulness.

At times we are called to gaze even more attentively on mercy so that we may become a more effective sign of the Father’s action in our lives. For this reason Pope Francis has proclaimed an Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy as a special time for the Church, a time when the witness of believers might grow stronger and more effective.

The motto for the year, Merciful like the Father, serves as an invitation to follow the merciful example of God who asks us not to judge or condemn but to offer love and forgiveness instead. To coincide with the Jubilee of Mercy, St Columba’s Mercy value for 2016 is Mercy.

May you all have wonderful and productive year at St Columba’s School.
Ash Wednesday Mass:
All families are invited to the Ash Wednesday Mass, scheduled for next Wednesday, commencing at 9.00am in the parish church.

Community Mass:
A reminder the Community Mass has been scheduled for next Sunday, 14th February, commencing at 9.30am. I would like our first community mass to be a special celebration, for all, as we prepare for the challenges ahead of us, hence I would like to see the church overflowing with students and families attending the celebration. Please mark the event in your diary and make a special effort to bring your children to the mass.

Waiting on the Basketball Courts:
Just a friendly reminder for all students and families to wait on the basketball courts until the 8.30am bells sound. I am aware the grass is so inviting to the younger children, but due to the fact that all teachers are in their classrooms preparing for the learning ahead, there is no active supervision during this time. Your support with the above is greatly appreciated.

Principal’s Report & Calendar Events:
As mentioned and introduced last year, the Principal’s Report will be included in the fortnightly newsletter. The calendar is updated daily hence please check the website regularly for updates.

Parent Information Evenings:
These have now been scheduled and uploaded to the school’s website calendar. If you’re unable to attend he meeting, please advise the classroom teacher who will give you a hard copy of the document presented during the session. Alternatively, please email the classroom teacher who will email you an electronic copy. If you’re unsure of your child’s teacher’s email address, please email Lisa Slocum who will email you their address.
2016 Parent/Teacher Information Sessions:
Pre-Primary: Monday 15th February. 6pm. Library
Year Two: Thursday 11th February. 6pm. Library
Year Three: Thursday 4th February. 6pm. Library
Year Four: Monday 8th February. 6pm. Library.
Year Five: Thursday 11th February. 7pm. Year Five classroom.
Year Six: Wednesday 17th February. 6pm. Year Six classroom.

St Columba’s Commissioning Mass:
The Commissioning Mass for our 2016 student leaders, new staff and new Board and P&F members will be held this Friday, 5th February, in the parish church at 9.00am.

Project Compassion:
Running through the six weeks of Lent each year, Project Compassion is an extraordinary, ongoing demonstration of the faith, love and generosity of caring supporters, all in the name of justice and peace.

The theme for Project Compassion 2016 is “Learning more, creating change”.

As Pope Francis says “Education is an act of hope”, so this year Project Compassion celebrates the power of learning, and the many ways in which Caritas Australia is working with local partners around the world to provide vital learning and renewed hope to children, women and men most vulnerable to extreme poverty and injustice.

At Mass on Ash Wednesday (Wednesday 10th February) all classes will be given a Project Compassion box to keep in the classroom. A small box will also be sent home with each family. Could the boxes please be returned to school by Monday 21st March.

Greg Martin
Principal
Welcome note from School Board Chair—Mar Hube

As a parent of a year three boy, I had both the pleasure and enjoyment to take my son on the first day of school. The atmosphere in the playground and around the school was full of excitement and eagerness, with children catching up with mates and parents exchanging experiences. It made me feel proud to be the Chair of the School Board and to know what an important role the school plays in our (Bayswater) Catholic community, in our lives, the education of our children, and making new friends.

At the end of 2015 I thanked the parents of the year sixes who would not be returning to St Columba’s Bayswater. Today, on behalf of the St Columba’s School Board, I welcome the new children to our school, their parents, guardians and family members.

As I wrote to the parents and children that finished their schooling last year, I hope that in part, our community has assisted you in raising and educating your child and developing the foundations for their graduation to high school, but more importantly, strengthening them as a young person to meet the challenges and awes of life.

I have great confidence that the wholesome education here at St Columba’s is fulfilling and fruitful and we all, children, teachers and parents are rewarded in knowing that we are contributing to growing and raising wonderful children and families.

Mar Hube
Board Chair
A very warm welcome to students and families commencing another year here with us at St Columba’s.

We hope you were able to spend time finding rewarding and connected moments with friends and family over the holiday period.

We especially would like to welcome new comers to our community! We hope that your children will learn with wonder and connect with warmth as they start their days in the classroom and playground this week.

Parenting is one of the most challenging adventures and this time of year brings particular concern as children change classes, schools and often friendship circles. Mums and Dads have a paramount role in helping children travel through these passages smoothly.

As in previous newsletter, we draw on the experience of well-known parenting expert Michael Grose from www.parentingngideas.com.au for useful parenting tips which you may like to embrace fully, partially or simply have a great discussion about!

Here is his welcome page from his recent Blog:

Hello All, from Michael Grose

Welcome to 2016! Everyone wants to be the best parent they can be, and a new year offers the chance for renewal and rejuvenation. Here are 10 HOT ideas to help you be on top of your parenting game this year.

1. **Put gender on your agenda.**
Gender matters so much. For instance, a recent Australian study into children’s separation anxiety found girls experience higher levels of anxiety than boys when they are 3, but it levels out by age 5. It’s refreshing to see so much research, such as this, now rightfully highlighting gender differences. So start nuancing your parenting to account for gender differences.

2. **Give the gift of restraint.**
At a time when kids receive so much it’s easy to forget that restraint is virtue. Just because you can afford to give kids what they want, doesn’t mean you do. Differentiate between a want and a need…..and encourage restraint, goal setting and saving in kids. It’ll help them to be successful at school and beyond.

3. **Build your developmental knowledge.**
Lucky you have two eyes, as you need to keep one parenting eye on meeting kids’ current needs and the other on preparing them for their next stage. If starting school or secondary is a year away then start thinking how you can make sure your child school-ready this year. Not all stages are so obvious so it helps to tune in to the minor changes in your child and as well as purposefully and intentionally building your developmental knowledge.

4. **Reinforce self-regulation.**
“You waited your turn! Great stuff!” “Thanks for packing away the toys without being told.” “Good on you for staying in bed when you woke up rather than come to our bedroom to wake me up.” A child’s ability to self-regulate behaviour (like the ability to self-soothe and self-occupy) is highly under-rated, and doesn’t come naturally to all kids. That’s where consistent parenting that’s use visual management and behavioural consequences comes in.

(Cont’d Pg 5)
5. Practise digital parenting.
The most tech-savvy current generation ever raised needs digitally aware parents. The Internet is fun and it’s here to stay, but it can pose risks for some kids. Digital parenting means providing guidelines for safety without limiting children’s opportunity to learn and communicate in the online world. It also requires you to understand the digital world that your kids inhabit.

6. Develop character strengths in kids.
Recent studies (most notably the work of US-based Angela Duckworth) have found that character, not cognitive ability, is the single most reliable determinant of how a person’s life will turn out. The traits associated with success include the inclination to persist at boring or difficult tasks (grit), the ability to delay gratification (self-control) and the ability to follow through with a plan (conscientiousness).

7. Roll down Redundancy Road.
The fundamental role of a parent is to make yourself redundant. Always has been. Always will be. There are three ways to do this—teach skills of independence, develop self-help skills and allow kids to learn from their mistakes. If your current parenting is heading toward Dependency Drive, it’s never too late to take a turn and head down a different road toward Redundancy.

8. Practice reciprocity.
The best families, like the most meaningful, communities are built around the principle of reciprocity. “We help each other out and we treat each other fairly” builds belonging and forges greater kinship between siblings.

One in three children are risk-adverse when it comes to meeting new people and entering new social situations. Social media removes risk for these kids, yet it’s not the answer. Use a variety of strategies ranging from scaffolding (baby steps), practising meeting and speaking to new friends and modelling social risk-taking yourself.
**Social Worker News (Cont’d)**

10. **Get a coach or mentor.**
The quickest way to get better at any skill is to get a coach or use a mentor to share their experiences and show you the way. *(I’ve got coaches and mentors for everything from speaking, writing and social media through to golf, scuba diving and my other interests.)* Parenting is no different. Draw on the expertise and experience of trusted sources to help you be the best parent you can be this year.

I am available to meet with parents and see children individually with your permission.

Please see my hours and days of work below.

Have a great year everyone!

---

**Jennifer Maughan**

*Social Worker*

*St Columba’s School Bayswater*

*Tues, Wed & Thursdays*

*P*: 9208 2704

*E*: maughan.jennifer@cathednet.wa.edu.au
Out of School Hours Care (OSHC)

For all enquiries and bookings please call 9208 2723, or email: oshc@stcolsbays.wa.edu.au

News from the Library

This year the library is trialling a new procedure for students to transfer/carry their library books to and from school. Years 2 – 6 may now use their green school homework folders as a library bag until further notice. Should students already have their own library bag, they are welcome to continue to use this.

Thank you
Rita Cuthbert
Library Officer

Sports News

Sport in 2016

There have been some exciting changes for St Columba’s in relation to our Interschool Sport competitions in 2016! Due to the increase in student numbers at our school, our leadership team has made an executive decision to accept an invitation to join an Interschool Association of similar sized schools.

What this will mean for our school is that we will have more opportunities to compete with other schools, of a similar size, at Interschool level.

The Faction swimming carnival details will not change, (involving Yr 3-6), however, the Interschool swimming competition will be held in Week 2 of Term 2 at HBF Stadium. This event will involve students from Years 4-6 (not Year 3).

Interschool Cross Country (Year 3-6), will be held in Week 2 of Term 3.

Faction (PP-6) and Interschool Athletics (Yr 3-6) will be held in Term 4.

In Term 2 our senior students will participate in Sacred Saints (netball, soccer and AFL competition), culminating in a lightning carnival. We will have a Super 8’s cricket day in Term 4 and possibly a basketball and tennis (Hot Shots) competition also.

The school calendar will be updated with the new details once these have been finalised by the Interschool committee.

Thanks to all the parents for your support in 2015 and looking forward to a great year of competition in 2016!

Regards
Mrs Jo McCluskey
Canteen

Please place all canteen orders online via www.ouronlinecanteen.com.au. And remember to include your child’s present class.

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This year the canteen will also be holding ‘Theme’ days once a term. Term 1’s theme is ‘St Patrick Day’ on Wednesday 16th March. Keep your eye out for canteen specials on this day.
Pastoral Care Raffle

Term rosters are placed on the classroom door and printed in the weekly newsletter for your to check when your child/children are due to donate the prize (one prize donated per child a year) for their class. The idea is to provide a small gift (eg book, puzzle, pencils etc) to the value of $5.

The child rostered to donate a prize is required to hand the prize to the class teacher on the morning.

Tickets are 20c each, with a maximum of 3 tickets.

Your participation and continued support is greatly appreciated.

To:
All those who celebrated birthdays over the holidays
AND

Emily Thoms
2W

Jamie Harris
2W

William Bonnett
Year 5

Amber English
3G

Lily May
2G

Holly Taylor
3W

Sergio Fontana
4G

Sebi Car
Year 5

Lauchlan Biddle
4G

Aleisha Biddle
4W

Kindy Green  Week
Kindy White  Week
PP Green  Week
PP White  Week
Year 1 Green  Week
Year 1 White  Week
Year 2 Green  Week
Year 2 White  Week
Year 3 Green  Week
Year 3 White  Week
Year 4 Green  Week
Year 4 White  Week
Year 5  Week
Year 6  Week
Community News

**Looking for Soul Food?** The Centre for Faith Enrichment is offering two short online courses in Term One.  
(1) **Encountering Jesus Anew in the Year of Mercy:** Tuesdays 16th February – 8th March, 12pm-1pm, $20;  
(2) **Dive Deeper: Exploring Faith:** Tuesdays 23rd February – 8th March, 8pm-8.30pm, $15. For more information or to register, visit [www.cfe.org.au](http://www.cfe.org.au) or call 9241 5221. These courses are a great opportunity to explore matters of the soul in a relaxed and friendly way, with no exams or assignments! ALL welcome!

Learn the game of hockey at Eastern Blades Hockey Club.

**Registration Day: Saturday 13th February 11am to 2pm**  
Altone Park Clubrooms, Benara Road Beechboro

**Hookin2Hockey (8 week) Programme commencing Thursday 28th April 5:30pm at Altone Park, Beechboro.**

Catering for primary school children aged 10 and under.

Enjoy a fun environment in which to learn the game of hockey and perfect the skills.

Registration fee $50 plus purchase of equipment pack containing stick, ball & shin pads  
Contact: Nick Seddon 0407 989 177
Classifieds

Advertising space available!

$50.00 per term for a business card-sized ad.

Contact admin@stcolsbays.wa.edu.au with your pdf and to arrange payment to the P&F.

Giving Back to the community.
As a past Parent of St Columba’s, I know how important Fundraising is.
The following is my way of giving back to the school.
I will donate $500 to St Columba’s Fundraising, upon the Settlement of each home that is listed with me through Parents, Friends or Family members.
I love my job as a Licensed Real Estate Agent
Kind Regards,
Dianne Sobjeck

Please contact Frank on 0455 922 472

Ben Silverman Property Consultant
m: 0487 727 054
p: 08 9378 3311
f: 08 9279 9388
e: ben@wellsteadteam.com.au

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Lisa Baker MLA
MEMBER FOR MAYLANDS
(08) 9270 3550
(fax) 9272 4291

MON-FRI .................. 7pm-11pm
SAT ......................... 2pm-10pm
SUN & P. HOL.......... 10am-10pm

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