Dear Parents and Students

Homework – Do We Really Need It?: They say they haven’t got any homework……but believe it or not, homework does have a purpose and place in helping young people to become responsible. Reinforcement of learning is an essential learning aid and helps develop memory skills. Bringing home written, oral or practical work is a way of developing self-motivation (or showing the lack of these skills!) (Julie F. Mathews, 2002, A Listening Guide for Parents – Hear What They Say). For a student to do homework each night is a big task! Who could blame them for their displeasure at the sound of this word? They have been at school for over six hours, and for all but roughly one hour, they have been involved in various learning environments that require certain degrees of concentration, understanding, application and skill to ensure their day in the classroom is productive and meaningful. One can definitely understand why the last thing a child wants to do when they get home is homework, however, there are a few benefits to completing homework, which are quite relevant to a student’s learning and success at school.

Homework is usually a continuation of the class work from the day. It is set by teachers to help students achieve lesson outcomes, one being to help a child establish sound study habits and attitudes to schoolwork, as well as teaching the child the merit of self-discipline and responsibility. One could argue the benefits of establishing these routines, at a primary school level, may have positive impact on a student’s potential to cope with homework at a secondary level.

Homework should be relevant, and the tasks to be accomplished should be carefully and clearly defined for the students. Completing daily homework is a crucial building block for a child’s academic success at school, regardless of their ability level. Children will work at their level, and parents in most instances, are very aware of their child’s capabilities and know what to expect from their child, as are the class teachers. Nevertheless, from an early age, it is important that sound study techniques and work habits are established and developed. By assisting your child with these skills it not only enables a student to have increased success at school, but also teaches them the value of ‘learning to learn.’ It is essential that parents support the classroom and specialist teachers in the expectation that homework is important and must be completed’. Of course, there are going to be exceptions to this and commonsense prevails, but we must try not to make this a regular occurrence. It is imperative that as parents we instill in our children the value and rewards associated with completing set homework. Give praise whenever possible and appropriate. A sincere expression of pride in your child's academic accomplishments can go a long way toward making studying a habit.

If your child is experiencing difficulties with homework, please communicate your concerns to the classroom teacher.
St. Columba’s Annual General Meeting: All members of the St. Columba’s School community are invited to attend the School’s Annual General Meeting, on Wednesday 26th November, in the school library, commencing at 7.00pm. Attached to this newsletter is a flyer explaining the roles of the School Board and the Parents & Friend’s committee. Parents interested in nominating for the School Board or P&F are requested to complete the tear off slip, at the end of the newsletter, or on the attached ‘Annual General Meeting Information Flyer’. A reminder that the AGM is an opportunity for the Executive Members of the Board and P&F to present their reports and is not an open forum. Nominations will not be called from the floor. Looking forward to seeing you all at the community meeting.

Parish School Mass: A reminder to all families that the parish school mass will be celebrated this Sunday, commencing at 9.30am. Remember daylight saving commences this Sunday so don’t forget to wind you clocks forward an hour. I invite all families, within our school community, to attend the celebration. Morning tea will be served straight after Mass and we request parents to assist with the cleaning up. The students in the choir are to wear their summer uniform and as a reward may wear free dress on the Monday. Looking forward to seeing you all at the Parish School Mass this Sunday, commencing at 9.30am.

School’s Website – Calendar of Events: The school’s website calendar of events has been updated with the term’s events uploaded last week. Parents are requested to check the website’s calendar regularly for updates and amendments made to the term planner sent home to all families last week. In 2009, and to reduce the paper trail within the school, term planners will not be sent home. Parents will be requested to view the planner on the school’s website and take note of the scheduled events. Those families who do not have internet access may request a hard copy of the term planner. Please note the following errors on the Term Planner sent home last week: The Parish mass will commence at 9.30am and not 9.00am as stated in last week’s newsletter. The AGM on the 26th November will commence at 7.00pm and not 7.30pm as stated.

Food Allergy Awareness at School – Information Flyer: Attached is the updated Food Allergy Awareness at School Information Flyer. I request all parents to the read the flyer and to take note of the foods which affect a number of students. Over the next few weeks, the Safe School Committee will be updating the school’s ‘Allergy Free School Policy’ and when completed, will be distributed to all families.

Active After School Sports: The Active After School Sports has commenced this Wednesday with both the junior and senior students being active as a combined group. Friday’s afternoon session has been cancelled. The program will run for 8 weeks and will conclude on Wednesday 3rd December. For further information, please liaise with Caroline Brewer.

Assistant Principal Appointment – Frank Colangelo: Congratulations to Mr Frank Colangelo who has been appointed as the Assistant Principal (Religious Education) at Infant Jesus Catholic School, in Morley. Frank will take up the appointment as from the 1st January, 2009. We wish Frank all the best as he travels along his professional journey. His charisma and dedication to our school community will be sadly missed. The Assistant Principal’s position will be advertised in the near future and a suitably qualified applicant will be appointed to commence in 2009.

Trish Dawson’s Retirement: Trish Dawson has informed me recently that she will be retiring at the end 2008. Trish has given over 30 years service to a number of Catholic School Communities and she is going to be sadly missed at St. Columba’s School. We wish Trish all the best in her retirement and we look forward to having her back in 2009 as a relief teacher.

Rosemarie Genovese’s Resignation: Rosemarie has decided to extend her working holiday in England and has resigned from her teaching position at St. Columba’s School. We wish Rosemarie all the best as she embark on her travels in the future.

Kaye Bell’s Resignation: Kaye has resigned from her position as Social Worker, effective 31st October 2008. Kaye has indicated she would like to pursue other interests and we wish her all the best in her new future positions. Kaye has been a loyal servant to the members of our school community for over eight years and she is going to be sadly missed. A suitably experienced social worker will be appointed in 2009.

Appointed Music Specialist, Coordinator & Teacher: We welcome Ms Naomi Martin (no relation) to our school community, in 2009, as the appointed music specialist, coordinator and teacher. Naomi has over 25 years experience as a music specialist in a number of Catholic schools and in servicing a number of mission groups in third world countries. Ms Martin will be coordinating the school’s music program next year, which will include school masses, sacramental celebrations, choirs and eventually a school band. We look forward to having Ms Martin on staff in 2009.

Gifted and Talented Testing: St Columba’s School provides an Enrichment program for students from years 4-7 who demonstrate high levels of ability and interest. Eligibility for the Enrichment program is based on results achieved by students from standardised testing. The tests will take place on Monday 27th October 2008. All students in year 3 and any new students from Years 4 - 6, who commenced at St Columba’s this year, will be tested. Any queries regarding the testing can be directed to Jennifer Scott, via the office.

St. Columba’s Tabloid Sports Day: Please note that the St. Columba’s Tabloid Sports day, scheduled for Wednesday 29th October, has been rescheduled to Friday 31st October. The program will run from 1.20 – 2.50pm (weather permitting). If any parents are able to assist with the running of the games, please liaise with Alison Martin.

Assembly Cancelled: Due to the tabloid sports being rescheduled, next week’s assembly (Friday 31st October) has been cancelled. Please check the calendar of events on the school’s website for up to date scheduled events.

Enjoy the rest of the week.

Greg Martin
Principal
UNIFORM SHOP NEWS - NEW OPENING TIME:
The warm weather has made an appearance and we have to start thinking about summer uniforms. Children should be wearing summer uniforms at the commencement of Term 4. We have all uniform items available at the Uniform Shop now. The Uniform Shop is open on Friday mornings from 8.45am. Any enquiries to Fiona Smith on 92714670 or 0417941557 or Caroline Morgan on 0410857688 - Thanks.

PASTORAL CARE 2008
Thank you to everyone who sent along raffle prizes last Friday at very short notice! We usually have a raffle-free week at the start of term so that families have a bit more warning. There are not many weeks left of raffles as almost all students have had their turn - thanks again for your ongoing support. Here are names for this week’s raffles and next week’s raffles.

Week 2
Thursday Oct 23 Kindy Allison Naylor
Friday Oct 24 PP Allisson Lo
Yr 1 Ethan Marrapodi
Yr 2 Amber Georgiou
Yr 3 Francesca De Nuccio
Yr 4 Joshua Naylor
Yr 5 No Raffle
Yr 6 Olivia Soebeko
Yr 7 Ryan McCracken

Week 3
Thursday Oct 30 Kindy Piper Searle
Friday Oct 31 PP Madelein Maiden
Yr 1 Samual Marrapodi
Yr 2 John Le
Yr 3 Cooper Gillam
Yr 4 Aaron Siroen
Yr 5 No Raffle
Yr 6 No Raffle
Yr 7 Julian Okamoto

Kindy to Year 3 book prize to the value of $5.00. Year 4 to Year 7 cake and biscuit prizes to the value of $5.00.

Conratulations Olivia and Taylah Stewart:
Both Olivia and Taylah competed in the 2008 Australian Cheerleading Championships, held at Olympic Park, in Sydney. The students were both awarded the Silver Medal (2nd) for the Junior Stunts Team - Level 1 "Cometz". Olivia was awarded Gold (1st) for the Senior Stunt - Level 3 "Hurricanes". Congratulations to both girls.

PARISH CLEANING ROSTER – TERM 4, 2008

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Contact Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FRIDAY 24th October</td>
<td>McCracken Family</td>
<td>9272 7065</td>
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<tr>
<td>FRIDAY 31st October</td>
<td>Kim Mills</td>
<td>9271 5865</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Christina Bormolini</td>
<td>9371 6990</td>
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<td>FRIDAY 7th November</td>
<td>Renae Dixon</td>
<td>9272 3451</td>
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<td>FRIDAY 14th November</td>
<td>Catherine Breen</td>
<td>9271 5865</td>
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<td>FRIDAY 21st November</td>
<td>ART EXHIBITION AND DISCO</td>
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<td>FRIDAY 28th November</td>
<td>Sharon Urlich</td>
<td>9370 1273</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Samu Carbone</td>
<td>9370 2272</td>
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<tr>
<td>FRIDAY 5th December</td>
<td>Sherly Milonas</td>
<td>9271 0709</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lee Bowen</td>
<td>9276 8088</td>
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<td>FRIDAY 12th December</td>
<td>YEAR 6 GRADUATION DINNER</td>
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<td>FRIDAY 19 December</td>
<td>YEAR 7 GRADUATION DINNER</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Catherine Hunt</td>
<td>9471 1551</td>
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The key to clean the parish is allocated at the school office. The key to the office is allocated at the school office. If you have finished cleaning please remember to lock the hall and return the key to the office. If you are unable to do your roster on the day allocated, please swap with someone or contact me at the numbers listed below. If your contact details are incorrect, please contact me. Thank you for volunteering your time, it is greatly appreciated.

Kind regards Catherine Hunt. Ph: 9471 1551 MOB: 041 795 1428 EMAIL: mathunt@bigpond.com

CA肯EEN ROSTER
Week 2
Friday 23rd October: HELP NEEDED!

Week 3
Monday 26th October: HELP NEEDED!
Tuesday 27th October: Samantha Carbone
Wednesday 28th October: Jo New
Thursday 29th October: HELP NEEDED!

Other School News
Kiss ‘n’ Drive Procedures

HOW DOES IT WORK?
This is a NO PARKING area: 8.15am – 8.40am 2.45pm – 3.15pm

Picking Up:
1) Make prior arrangements with your child to be waiting at the designated safe point where they can see you arrive.
2) Allow time for them to collect their belongings and meet you at the Kiss ‘n’ Drive zone.
3) If your child is not there when you arrive DO NOT wait, move on and park in a designated bay or do another circuit of the block and re-enter the Kiss ‘n’ Drive zone. This takes only a couple of minutes and is essential to the effective operation of the Kiss ‘n’ Drive.
4) Always ensure that your child/ren get into vehicles on the kerb side & that seatbelts are on before moving off.
5) NEVER do a U-TURN out of the Kiss ‘n’ Drive – make use of the Roberts/ Murray Street roundabout if necessary.

Thank you for your assistance
Safe School Committee

SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Emergency Evacuation/Lock-Down Procedures

Evacuation Signal: Evacuation Siren through the P.A. system.
Lock Down Signal: The Playing of

Music through the P.A. system.
* The evacuation of students from potentially dangerous situations is to be planned to ensure speedy and efficient operation. Standard procedures cannot cope with every possible event. The prime concern is for the safety and care of lives over property.
* A practise Emergency Evacuation/Lock-Down will be carried out each school term.
* All Parents and Visitors, during an Evacuation/Lock-Down drill must respond to staff instructions. All people within the school grounds come under the jurisdiction of the school personnel.
* These people will be advised by the class teacher or office staff to follow the procedures in place.

Thank you for your Assistance Safe School Committee
P&F News

Art Night Sausage Sizzle

Assist the P&F with the catering and save some money by pre-ordering before the night.
Prices for pre-ordering a sausage and bun will be $2.50 and on the night the same item will cost you $3.00. Drinks will be $2.00 on the night.

St Columba’s Sausage Sizzle
Pre-Order Form

FAMILY NAME: __________________________
OLDEST CHILDS YEAR: __________________

I would like to order: ___________ x sausage and bun @ $2.50 each
I would like to order: ___________ x Combo’s @ $4.00 each

Please fill in and return the order form with the correct amount due and place in the P&F box in the canteen in a sealed envelope by the Friday the 7th of November.

Tickets will be given out to the eldest child in your family on Friday the 14th of November. Queries to Angela Shah 9272 2003

ST. COLUMBA’S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY 26 NOVEMBER at 7.00PM – SCHOOL LIBRARY

Please stay and join us for drinks and nibbles after the meeting

NOMINATION FOR ST. COLUMBA’S SCHOOL BOARD

YES ☐ NO ☐

Name: _________________________________ Tel: (H) ______________________
E-Mail: _____________________________________________ (W) ________________

NOMINATION FOR ST. COLUMBA’S SCHOOL BOARD
PARENTS & FRIENDS’ ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE

YES ☐ NO ☐

Name: _________________________________ Tel: (H) ______________________
E-Mail: _____________________________________________ (W) ________________

Please complete this form and return to the school by Friday 21 November

No nominations will be called from the floor on the night of the meeting.