Dear Parents and Students

One of the most enjoyable aspects of holidays is looking forward to them and, for children, the prospect of the Christmas holidays offered a large amount of enjoyment. So, here we are at the other end of those holidays, wondering whatever happened to them. Fortunately, coming back to school is a little like coming to “home away from home” for we reunite our family with the broader family of the school community.

Helen Rowland described home as “any four walls that enclose the right person”, and an unknown person once described a school as “a room with four walls, with tomorrow inside”. Both descriptions have more than the “four walls” as a common element; each suggests that what’s inside the walls is the real essence of what makes a home or a school and that is its people. All schools are a community of persons. All schools have a primary function to educate children. What then, makes Catholic schools, in general, and our school, in particular, different to other schools in the area?

We believe that St. Columba’s School is a true community of persons. It may borrow good administration models and practices from secular schools but it is not merely a business that produces an educational product. This school endeavours to provide the opportunities for students to explore, reflect and integrate a Christian understanding of nature, self, society and God to manifest this in their life through behaviours based on love, care and forgiveness. This school wants to assist each of its students to develop a strong, positive self-concept by providing a continually friendly, 

From the Principal’s Desk

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Be Allergy Aware!

Families are reminded that St. Columba’s is an Allergy-friendly school. Please DO NOT bring nuts or nut by-products onto the school grounds. Some of the foods to avoid are Muesli Bars with peanuts, Nutella products, peanut butter and any other foods containing traces of nuts.
supportive environment based on respect for the person and sensitivity to individual differences. It wants to provide its students and parents with the experience of a Christian community at work and play.

Though parents are the prime educators of their children, the education of a child is not the sole responsibility of the parent or the school; it is a happy and informed combination of both. So it is vital that parents are one with the school as it endeavours to foster each student’s growth in personal relationship with Christ. This, it strives to do by the teaching of Catholic truths and the introduction of students to the Sacraments within the experience of their Christian community. One of the exciting things about a school is that its ‘life’ never grows old; it undergoes a transfusion or replenishment of youthful innocence at the beginning of each year.

May a spirit of generosity and goodwill prevail in our school throughout the year, so that the Catholic education that occurs here is truly an expression of the mission of Jesus to his Church. May the special character of our Christian Community be of benefit to the broader community around us all.

Ash Wednesday: A reminder to all community members that Ash Wednesday will be celebrated next Wednesday in the Parish Church. I look forward to seeing you all at the celebration.

School Routines: I would like to congratulate all the students for their efforts during the week and at the weekend parish/school mass. It was pleasing to see the children return to school procedures and formalities with such ease.

The participation and reverence displayed by the students at our Commissioning Prayer Service and weekend Parish/School mass was most commendable. It was also wonderful to see quite a number of parents in attendance. This representation is tremendous as it is vital that our children see the importance that mum and dad place on these celebrations. There is no doubt the students appreciate having their parents in attendance whenever possible.

Before School Supervision & Playground Equipment: At the recent staff meeting, staff members raised their concerns about the children playing on the oval and playground equipment before school. Concerns were raised about the children’s safety playing in an unsupervised environment. It is school policy for all parents and students to wait on the basketball courts, until the first bell is rung at 8.30 a.m., and that the oval and play equipment are out of bounds to all students, including toddlers. A staff member is always on duty on the basketball court between 8.15–8.30 a.m. to supervise the students. In the best interests and safety of all the children, I request you support the school in ensuring that you all wait on the basketball courts until 8.30 a.m.

The School Library is open at 8.15 a.m. and students are permitted to proceed, through the old canteen entrance, to the Library to exchange books at this time.

2012 NAPLAN Testing of Year 3 and Year 5 Students: Parents are reminded that National testing of all Year 3 and Year 5 students will take place on 15-18 May 2012. Please ensure that these students are well-rested and in attendance at school for this week.

Greg Martin

GREG MARTIN
Principal
Uniform Shop News

Thank you to all the parents who completed their order forms and handed them in on time. A huge thank you to Sue Moran and Janine Prowse who provided such cheerful and efficient assistance. It will take some time for the school community to adjust to the changes to the uniform orders. Just to recap – we no longer have a shop. Instead we have 2 order days – one for summer items and one for winter items. Your winter orders are now being collated. In preparation for our next ordering day we are seeking a volunteer to take over the co-ordination of uniforms for the Pre-Kindy, Kindy and Pre-Primary classrooms. Pauline will continue to co-ordinate uniforms for Years 1-6 and will assist the new volunteer/s. If you are able to take on this role we would love to hear from you.

Several parents have had difficulty coming to the uniform shop on a Tuesday to collect their hats which were ordered last year (on the summer order day).

These hats have now been given to the office and you can collect yours there. Please note these are not for the people who may have ordered a hat on the recent winter order day. Your hats will be arriving shortly.

Should you have any questions please contact Uniform Shop Coordinator, Pauline Moran (year 4 & year 1) on 0412 712 128. Thank you.

Parish Cleaning Coordinator

We are looking for a Parish Cleaning Coordinator for 2012.

Jill Brazil has completed a wonderful job over the last two years and is now ready to hand over the reins to the next person. Jill has indicated she is happy to pass on her templates and explain the process undertaken over the last two years.

If you would like to support the school and parish and are interested in taking on the role in 2012, please contact Sheryl Milonas on 9271 7181 or email at admin@stcolsbays.wa.edu.au. Your support in taking on this role is greatly appreciated.

I take this opportunity to sincerely thank Jill for her efforts and hard work over the last two years. We greatly appreciate her commitment to both the parish and the school.
Parish Cleaning Roster

THANK YOU!
Thank you so much to everyone who has volunteered their time. To those of you who are continuing on the roster this term, thank you for your on-going support. To the new volunteers, thank you for your very welcome help.
The parish hall cleaning takes about 1.5 hours or less if you have 2 people working together. The hall can be cleaned after school on Friday or on Saturday before 4pm. Please contact Jill Brazil on 0411 592 234 or jbrazil@iinet.net.au for further information.
The key to clean the parish hall is located at the school office and can be picked up on Friday afternoon. Once you have finished cleaning, please remember to lock the hall and return the key to the office on Monday morning.
If the date allocated does not suit, please call another team to arrange a date swap.

JILL BRAZIL

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JILL BRAZIL

REMINDER: We desperately need somebody to take on the role of Roster Coordinator!

Canteen News

Would families please ensure that your account is kept in credit.
We are trying to complete the Canteen Roster for the year.
Please help where you can.
Thank you.

SHERYL MILONAS

Pastoral Care

The Term 4 Roster is up on the classroom door for you to check when your child/children are due to donate the prize for their class. Kindy to year 4 provide a small gift (e.g. book, puzzle, textas etc.) to the value of $5. Year 5 and Year 6 provide a cake. Please remember the nut-free policy when sending in baked goods. Tickets are 20c each, with a maximum of 3 tickets. Thankyou!

Kindy Green Piper Anderson
Kindy White Roman Hube
PP Green Amy Dancewicz
PP White Ruby Shanahan
Year 1 Benjamin Goodlich
Year 2 Jett O’Rourke
Year 3 Carys Kelly
Year 4 Cody Revell
Year 5 Sophia Vinciuulo
Year 6 Lauren Wolters

Happy Birthday!
Wishing a very happy birthday this week to:
Stefan Zirojevic (PP Green)
Anthony DiAngelo (Year 1)
Jasmine Dillon (Year 3)
Jonathan Pincus (Year 5)
Anniversary Wall

We are pleased to advise that the Anniversary Wall will be built over the April school holidays!

This is your last chance to order a brick (really, last chance!). Please contact Sue Grant (0400 793 384) or Penny Pettit (0438 714 535) if you would like to order a brick or paver.

Swimming Carnival Parents’ Race!

Attention parents! With approval from the relevant authorities, we will be staging a parents race at the swimming carnival next Tuesday! In order to minimise fuss on the day and ensure that everyone is togged up and ready to go, we are taking expressions of interest this week in the lead up to the big event. If we get enough participants, we will organise a relay in place of a single race. So dust off your goggles and let’s show our kids what we’re made of! Please email either Sarah Klass (sarah@sarahklass.com) or Rebecca Gotti (bec66@iprimus.com.au) by Monday 20 February to indicate your interest in taking part.

Parents & Friends Committee

All parents are welcome to join the P&F. There are a couple of meetings held each term (held at 7.30 p.m. following the School Board Meetings) in the meeting room attached to the new library. It is a great way to contribute to the school and to be involved in the school community. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 13 March. We are seeking Class Representatives for years 6, 4, 3, Kindy Green and Pre-Kindy. The role of the Class Rep is to organise a class contact list (parent contact details) and to disseminate the P&F information to their class group. If you already have a class rep, you are still welcome to attend the P&F meetings. Please see Leesa Vincuillo (President) or Tara Savage (Vice President) if you have any queries.
Financial Matters

School Fees: Fees for the full year have been invoiced and are payable on invoice. Should you not be able to pay the fees in the one payment, please complete the proposed payment schedule below and return to the office by Friday 17th February.

Direct Debit Authority: ALL families utilising the Direct Debit facility are requested to complete a new form to recommence Direct Debit payment of school fees. Forms are available at the office.

Health Care Card / Government Concession Card: Please ensure that the Office has a copy of your CURRENT Concession Card in order to be eligible for HCC discounts on tuition fees. New forms will need to be completed for this year. Please enquire at the front office.

Cash Payments at the School Office: Parents are advised that the office does not maintain a cash float. You are welcome to make cash payments at the office. However, please ensure you have the correct change.

Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT): St Columba’s School bank account details are available at the front office.

Karen Meleca
Finance Officer

St Columba’s School
2012 School Fees

FAMILY NAME:_______________ ELDEST CHILD’S CLASS :_______________

I wish to pay my fees by the following option (Please circle a payment option)

Monthly    Semester    Annually    Direct Debit    EFT

Signed: ___________________________ Date: ___________________________
**School of Music UWA**

**Young Voices Choir**

From February 2012, Junior Music School is offering enthusiastic young singers in Years 5 - 8 an exciting opportunity to join a new choir dedicated to high quality choral singing.

The Young Voices Choir is for children aged 9 to 14. The choir will be led by Celia Christmass - an outstanding choral director and music educator with extensive experience teaching and conducting young people at local and national levels. Rehearsals will be held weekly on Saturday from 1pm - 2pm in the beautiful surrounds of The University of Western Australia. Occasional vocal day "camps" will be held at UWA as part of this ambitious innovation for young voices.

Further Information
Email: junior-music@uwa.edu.au

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**Bayswater Morley Junior Football Club**

**Junior Players WANTED**

Pre-Primary to Year 7

Contact Registrar Dan Kerrigan on 0421 720 783

Home Ground: Houghton Park, Purley Street, Bayswater

Registration Day: Sunday, 26 February from 12 noon to 3 p.m.

SCHOOL FUNDRAISER

$5.00 will be donated for each child from your school that joins Bayswater Morley Junior Football Club for 2012!

(BRING A FRIEND!)

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**Bayswater Lacrosse Club**

**Summercrosse**

Summercrosse is a fun way to have a try at the sport of lacrosse. It is open to all ages from the young to the old. All ages are combined within the teams. The rules are modified and with no contact. The objective is to try the sport and have fun.

Equipment will be supplied.

Starts: 17 February to 9 March 2012 from 6.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m.

Where: Halliday Park, Coode Street, Bayswater (near the subway)

Cost: $10.00 (covers the four weeks)

Come along and have a go!

For further information contact Maryanne Stirling on 9272 2082 or 0408 950 865, or email at civiclandscapes@westnet.com.au

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**Community Minded People**

Student Exchange Australia New Zealand Ltd is now recruiting Community Coordinators in your area. We are looking for men and women who believe that international student exchange is a life-changing experience for young people and for the host families in their local community. As a Coordinator, you will interview potential host families and provide ongoing support to both families and students to ensure that the exchange experience is a success for everyone and you’ll interview local students wishing to study overseas.

You’ve got questions?... contact us on 1300 135 331 (Australia) or 0800 440 079 (New Zealand)

Student Exchange Australia New Zealand Ltd is a not-for-profit company registered as a secondary exchange organisation with education authorities in Australia and New Zealand. Our Mission is to offer the unique experience of living and studying in another culture and to enable young people to develop the skills and awareness that will enhance their future potential. Experience is everything™.

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**YMCA Morley Sport and Recreation Centre**

Morley Sport and Rec Centre are now taking enrolments for Term Programs for 5–12 year olds in activities like Netball, Soccer, Basketball, Cheerleading, Singing, Hip Hop, Jazz ballet, cooking classes, and our new program Drama for Kids and many more. Please call 93753529 or visit our website on www.morley.ymca.org.au for more information.
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.