Dear Parents and Students

H O M E W O R K  A N D  H O M E S T U D Y:
There is ample evidence from research that homework increases learning and achievement, especially in literacy and mathematics. Parents play a vital role in building good homework attitudes and habits. Here are some tips to help your child make the most of homework this year. Remember:

1. Homework is just what it says—work at home. That means actually working so the conditions for work should be as close as possible to those at school.
2. When we are at work, personal phone calls, text messages, TV and radio are not usually allowed. The same goes for homework time.
3. Homework is not just work assigned by the teacher. It is the work the student has to do to ensure that the day’s lessons are absorbed, previous work is revised, preparation is made for new units of work and assignments are completed for assessment.
4. Students ALWAYS have homework so time needs to be put aside for it EVERY night. If you are concerned about the amount of teacher-assigned homework, discuss this with the school but don’t allow your children to avoid the responsibilities they have for their own learning and achievement.
5. Keep your home study area well-organised and well-equipped. If possible, use it only for homework. Keep study materials in one place. Make it a rule that during homework time, the computer is used solely for homework.
6. This is a work site so keep interruptions to emergencies only. Let your friends and family know they should not telephone during homework time. Let the

From the Principal’s Desk

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Important Dates*

Week 7
Friday 18 March
• Parish Mass: Yrs 3 & 6 (Penance: Yr 6) (9am)

Week 8
Thursday 24 March
• Assembly (Parish Hall): Yr 5 (2.30pm)

Friday 25 March
• Parish Mass: Yrs 2 & 5 (Penance: Yr 5) (9am)

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.

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

Parish Mass Times
Saturday—Vigil Mass 6.00 p.m.
Sunday—Mass 7.30 a.m. and 9.30 a.m.
Parish Youth Mass—Last Saturday of each month

Term 1 Dates: Wed. 2Feb.—Fri. 15Apr.
School Times: 8.30 a.m.—3.00 p.m.
Recess: 10.30 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

Newsletter

St. Columba’s School Core Values based on the values of the Sisters of Mercy, our founders.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>MERCY</th>
<th>JUSTICE</th>
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<th>COMPASSION</th>
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<tr>
<td>MERCY VALUE FOR 2011 IS MERCY</td>
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At St. Columba’s Primary we believe that Mercy is a core value that encourages children to walk together in a spirit of reconciliation and forgiveness.

Cont. page 2
From the Principal’s Desk (continued)

answering machine take all calls until homework time is over.
7. Make homework time quiet, focused and concentrated.

What can parents do to help?

Generally, teachers are keen for parents to support and help children with their homework. However, there are times when teachers will want to see what your children can do on their own. It is particularly important, as they get older, for your children to become increasingly independent in their learning.

Teachers generally take the view that children are likely to get more out of an activity if parents get involved—as long as they do not take over too much. If you are unsure about what your role should be, you should discuss it with your child’s teachers. They will be pleased that you are interested and will want to help you get the balance right. Foster a positive attitude to homework by making it an important part of the family routine.

You can give your child encouragement, praise, company, routine, space, quiet, support, interest—and, most of all, your good example.

What do children gain from homework?

1. **Responsibility:** Children learn good habits and attitudes from following routines, building good work habits and organising their work and their time. Even young children quickly learn to take a pride in completing their work and meeting their obligations.

2. **Self-Esteem:** A positive self-image is formed by making an effort and seeing the results. The extra time devoted to homework is proven to have results. The day at school is more rewarding when children can see the fruits of their efforts.

3. **Accomplishment:** Homework has a positive effect on achievement. Homework helps a student master the subject matter, develop effective work habits and understand the link between effort and achievement.

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**PETS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS:** No dogs are allowed on the school premises, including puppies. We are an allergy-friendly school and some of our students are allergic to animal hair. Some children are also afraid of dogs and I would seek your cooperation to minimize their anxiety in this regard.

**CHICKEN POX:** Last week we warned parents via the website of a case of Chicken Pox within our school community. I reiterate the advice to follow up any suspicious symptoms and to keep children with a rash home from school.

**PUPIL FREE DAYS:** A reminder that 18 and 19 April are pupil free days. Term 1 concludes on Friday, 15 April at 3.00 p.m. Please mark these dates in your diaries.

Greg Martin

GREG MARTIN
Principal
Uniform Shop News

The Uniform Shop will be open every Tuesday between 8.15 – 8.45 a.m.

Refer to the uniform shop section of the school website for uniform order forms. Winter uniform orders have now closed. A notice will be placed in the school newsletter when orders are ready.

We now have size 4 and size 6 sports shorts in stock for those who need them.

As always should you have any questions please contact Uniform Shop Coordinator, Pauline Moran (year 3 & Pre-Primary) on 0412 712 128, or alternatively Simone Dearle (year 5 & 3) on 0409 507 994. Thank you.

P&F News

To ensure that everyone in the school community is aware of happenings within the school, we need class representatives to attend P&F meetings and email information to the class.

If you have a child in Pre-Kindy or Year 3 and would like to take on this role, please contact the P&F through the email address: parentsandfriends@saintcolumbas.com.au.

If you would like to be part of the Fundraising Committee, please email the P&F on the above address.

Penny Pettit
Secretary

Hope to see you at the Picnic in the Park!

Sunday, 10 April
4.00 p.m. onwards
Macauley Park in Inglewood

BYO everything for a casual afternoon to socialise with both old and new friends.

Please remember to fill a jar with goodies for our LUCKY JAR stall at the Autumn River Festival by 28 March. Each class has a box for the jars. We are asking for one jar per family—for minimum effort we get maximum results! All monies raised will benefit our beautiful children!

Uniform Shop Hours

Tuesday, 22 March 2011
8.15—8.45 a.m.

Scholastic Book Club

Book Club order forms must be returned by Thursday, 17 March, please. NO LATE ORDERS WILL BE ACCEPTED!

Some items from Issue 1 are on backorder at Scholastic. Please contact me if anyone is still awaiting an order.

Susan Moran
Book Club Coordinator
9272 4972

School Banking

Remember to encourage your child to continue making deposits each Tuesday morning. Sound financial habits established now will hold them in good stead for their future.

If any parents wish to open an account for their children, please see me in the canteen on Tuesday mornings before school.

Marcia Mackenzie
School Banking Coordinator
0439 827 434
Lucky Jars collection

Autumn River Festival Update

It's great to see that the “Lucky Jars” have been coming in and many classrooms have their boxes brimming with jars. If you would like to donate a jar filled with an item to the value of $5, we are still seeking more and your contributions are greatly appreciated. You have until 25 March to do so. We are also seeking volunteers to help run the “Lucky Jar” stall at this year’s Autumn River Festival on Sunday 3 April. A roster has been placed in the canteen area where there are half-hour time slots to be filled. Again, your help is greatly appreciated in raising much-needed funds for our school in 2011. Please contact Amanda McLaughlin on 0417 454 842 if you require further information.

Head Lice is an ongoing problem in our school. Please ensure you check your child’s hair regularly for lice and treat accordingly.

“Hit them for 6” is an effective treatment available from your local chemist. And if you have any great home remedies—for PREVENTION, or cure, please email them to marknpn@bigpond.net.au and they will be printed in next week’s newsletter.

2 preventatives are:

TRY SPRAYING DILUTED EUCALYPTUS OIL IN YOUR CHILD’S HAIR EVERY DAY

MOROCCAN OIL, available from Priceline, WORKS A TREAT
Canteen News

Families are reminded to please keep your account in credit.

The canteen celebrated St. Patrick’s Day on Wednesday, 16 March. Thank you to those who helped with cooking and serving on the day.

SHERYL MILONAS

Week 7-8 Roster

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Fri. 18 Mar.</td>
<td>Help needed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon. 21 Mar.</td>
<td>Help needed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed. 23 Mar.</td>
<td>Help needed</td>
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<td>Fri. 25 Mar.</td>
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Parish Cleaning Roster

VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY REQUIRED!

Volunteers are urgently required to assist with the Parish Hall Cleaning. The hall is used by all our children, so please support the Saint Columba’s community and volunteer your time. By contributing 1-2 hours twice a year you can do your bit for the school!

Thank you so much to everyone who has volunteered their time this year and in the past.

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.

Thank you to those who have volunteered their time. If the date allocated does not suit, please call another team to arrange a date swap.

JILL BRAZIL

Pastoral Care

The Term 1 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!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kindy White</th>
<th>Lily Endersby</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kindy Green</td>
<td>Ben Rochford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-Primary</td>
<td>Liljana Zino</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Stella Ashley</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Gabriel Naylor</td>
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<td>Year 3</td>
<td>Kyle Dixon</td>
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<td>Year 4</td>
<td>Rachel Pratt</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>Calvin Pham</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>Kaela Andrijich</td>
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Happy Birthday!

Wishing a very happy birthday this week to:

Emily Savage (Yr 1)
Chelsea Rochford (Yr 2)
Sophia Vinciullo (Yr 4)
Zoe Palmer (Yr 5)
How to talk to a child

I figured out a simple formula for talking to kids. It holds for adults too, but if you can do it with a child, you can do it with anyone. (*The only difference is in the timing. You can hold an adult’s attention much longer than you can a child’s …… or can you?*)

But you can use the same type of voice, with the same pacing, and the same amount of colour and expression for both children and adults.

Here’s the winning formula for talking with a child or young person:

**You need to be interesting.** You can hold a child’s attention if you have something of interest to say, or say it in an interesting way. ‘*How was your day?’ is not interesting. “*You’ll never believe who I ran into today?” kind of perks up their interest. **Tip:** *It helps to reveal a little of your world, if you want them to reveal something of theirs …… and make it interesting!*  
So don’t be plain vanilla when you talk with kids. That’s boring! There are so many interesting flavours you can choose from.

**You need to be interested.** You can hold a child’s attention if you can talk about the stuff that they are interested in, but only if it’s done in a genuine way. Not one that talks down to or patronises them.

So what’s your child interested in right now? Who are their heroes? Who are they listening to?

I know a bloke who gave his teen son a copy of some music he overheard him listening to. His son upon hearing the same song on the radio said, “*Hey dad, they’re playing our song.*” **That’s pretty nice.** But it only happened because this dad was interested in his son’s music, rather than just ignoring it or asking him to turn that &*%$ down!

Be interested in their world; ask them to show you what they are doing; ask them to show you how to set up a Facebook account (if they are a teen); ask them to explain the game they are playing or tell you about their friends. **Just be interested.**

So there you have it.

**Be interesting** and **be interested** and you’ll be in the best possible position to talk to a child or young person.

Extract from *Happy Kids* newsletter by Michael Grose  
Bayswater Primary School

Fete
10 April 2011
10 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

We would like to extend an invitation to all parents, teachers and students of St. Columba’s School. There will be some great attractions, including the Raddrock Climbing Wall & Extreme Air Bungee, Old MacDonals Travelling Farm, Balleroo Riding School Ponies & Jumping Jays Bouncy Castle. There will be a vast array of stalls, Crafts, Plants & 2nd Hand Toys, books, Games & Clothes. There is a SideShow Alley which will feature lots of games and activities for all ages. We will have an Auction and Raffles. There will be a 42’ LG Plasma that will be raffled on the day. It has been kindly donated by The Good Guys Discount Warehouse Belmont.

We hope to see you all there.

Every child has unique gifts.
Find out how our staff and students can help your child discover theirs:

Aranmore Catholic College
Open Morning
Tuesday, 29 March 2011, 9am—11am
Register at wwwaranmore.wa.edu.au
before 24 March
and win one of three $100 gift vouchers

Riverside Multi Sports at Trinity College

Riverside Multi Sports are hosting a sports programme for all students aged 6-14 at Trinity College from Wednesday 27th April to Friday 29th April. Each day will commence at 9:00 a.m. and conclude at 12:30 p.m. with the focus being on a wide range of sports guided by experienced primary and secondary trained Physical Education Teachers. To secure a place on this exciting programme or for more information, email riversidesports@live.com.au or call Jonika on 0433 540 465.

Athena Calisthenics Club – TWO FREE TRIAL CLASSES.

Recreation and competing classes offered in Mirrabooka and Girrawheen. Now is the best time to come along and try calisthenics no matter what your age. The sport teaches children discipline, team work and confidence as well as coordination and physical fitness. Athena prides itself on the strong team spirit, team work and fun atmosphere of its classes.

Contact Stephanie 9249 2533 for more details or visit our website www.athenacaliclub.com.au

Tiny Tots Tennis & Mega Tennis

Weekly Classes ● Holiday Programmes
Lessons for 3-4 Years; 5-6 Years; 7-9 Years and 10-12 Years
Ring now for your “Trial” lesson
At Bayswater Tennis Club
tinyytotstenniswa.com.au
9471 8491

Lisa Baker MLA
MEMBER FOR MAYLANDS
(08) 9370 3550
(fax) 9272 4291
Primary School Teachers, Parents & Students

Balcatta Senior High School, together with DET’s Gifted & Talented Branch, offers a Visual Arts Scholarship for students

APPLICATIONS CLOSE NOON Monday 21st March 2011

Interested students/parents can apply online at www.det.wa.edu.au by following the links to ‘Gifted & Talented’

Younger students/parents should register their interest online by looking up ‘Gifted & Talented’ on the Department’s website

Come & see our students in action!

OPEN DAY

Saturday the 19th March 9.30am -12 Noon

Follow the signs at 31 Poinciana Street, Balcatta to our Art Gallery

More information including links to the Gifted & Talented website can be obtained by sending an email to nathan.setzinger@det.wa.edu.au

We look forward to meeting you soon

Graphic Design   Sculpture   Photography   Drawing & Painting   Manga
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.