ASH WEDNESDAY

Tomorrow is Ash Wednesday. As a school community we will gather together and share the start of Lent by celebrating Mass. Lent is a time of fasting, giving generously [alms] and praying.[Matt 6:1-6, 16-18]

It’s easy to give things up for Lent. And most times it’s also beneficial to our health and wellbeing. Nowadays though, the emphasis is not on the giving-up but on the taking-on. And that’s much harder!!

What extra can I do to make me a transformed person?
What extra can I take on so that by Easter I am a changed person?
I can give extra to Project Compassion. I can improve my prayer life. But the giving of time to, or for someone who asks for something - that’s hard!

Perhaps this excerpt from the writing of Christine Sine says it best:

We have chosen to fast
Not with ashes but with actions
Not with sackcloth but in sharing
Not in thoughts but in deeds
We will give up our abundance
To share our food with the hungry
We will give up our comfort
To provide homes for the destitute
We will share where others hoard
We will free where others oppress
We will heal where others harm
Then God’s light will break out on us
God’s healing will quickly appear
God will guide us always

Last Thursday we celebrated a beautiful Mass to give thanks for the beginning of the school year. The Year 6’s are to be commended for demonstrating great responsibility in taking care of their Prep buddies and leading them to accept their guardian angel pins. The Prep children showed great respect at their very first school Mass and should be very proud of themselves.
Dear Parents

It was a great opportunity for us to gather as a Parish Community last Thursday as part of the Opening School Year Mass. Thank you to everyone who was able to join us for the celebration. It was an opportunity to welcome new families to our community as well as welcome back existing families. We were also able to acknowledge some of the different leaders within our school. This week at the assembly we will also be acknowledging Year Six children who have committed themselves to being leaders in the areas of Social Justice, Arts, Maths, ICT, Junior leader and assemblies. PLEASE REMEMBER OUR ASSEMBLY TIME HAS CHANGED TO 2.30PM. We ask that parents do NOT PARK IN THE SCHOOL GROUNDS due to the fact the school will finish not long after the Assembly has concluded (3.30pm) and we don’t want children and cars exiting from the same areas.

Although it has been only a couple of weeks since they began, our Prep children have done a wonderful job of settling into school life. Already they are getting familiar with the different processes and procedures which the school has in place and their parents and teachers have done a terrific job of supporting them in transition to school life. We look forward to hearing of their continued successes.

To ensure all children’s safety I would ask that everyone dropping off or picking up by car observe the 2 minute zone both in Woodland Street and Rosebank Avenue. When people do follow these requirements the system operates effectively and safely. Please help us to ensure the wellbeing and safety of all children by abiding by the rules.

This Friday the BBQ for new families, Prep families and Year 6 families will be held in our school grounds. The event begins at 6.00pm and the Parent Association will be providing sausages/burgers. We ask families to BYO drinks, picnic rug/chairs. We would encourage all new/Prep/Year 6 families to attend the event as part of our first social event for the year.

THE RECONCILIATION PARENT MEETING IS THIS THURSDAY 19TH FEBRUARY AT 7:30PM IN THE HALL

RECONCILIATION

ASH WEDNESDAY MASS TIMES

This Wednesday 18th February the school will be celebrating the beginning of Lent at 10.00am and at 7.00pm. Ashes will be distributed at each of the Masses as we commence the season of Lent in preparation for Easter. ALL PARENTS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND

STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT

On the Friday’s of Lent you are invited to share a reflection on The Stations of the Cross at 7.00pm in the Church.

THE SEASON OF LENT

The Season of Lent, commencing on Wednesday, has a twofold character:

* It recalls our Baptism and the promises undertaken.
* It stresses a penitential spirit.

Lent is a time of penance, when we are exhorted to devote ourselves in a special manner to prayer, to engage in works of piety and charity, and to deny ourselves.

By these means especially, Lent readies us for celebrating the Paschal Mystery (Easter) after a period of closer attention to the Word of God, and prayerful reflection.

ASH WEDNESDAY AND GOOD FRIDAY ARE DAYS OF FASTING AND ABSTINENCE FROM MEAT.

All who have completed their 18th year and have not begun their 60th year are bound to fast.

All who have completed their 14th year are bound to abstain.

On all other Fridays, the we are called to perform one of the following:

Prayer: For example: - Mass attendance, family prayer, making the Stations of the Cross.

Self-denial: For example: - not eating meat, not eating sweets, giving up entertainment, limiting food and drink, supporting Project Compassion.

Helping Others: For example: - special attention to those in need, sick, poor, elderly.

Project Compassion Boxes and Envelope Packs are available, for our use during Lent, in the porches of the Church. Another way of making a sacrifice during Lent.
AWARDS INFORMATION
Please find listed below the names of those children receiving awards **THIS FRIDAY 20th OCTOBER**
in the Hall at 2.30pm

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PREP BLUE</th>
<th>Milla Horvat</th>
<th>Harrison</th>
<th>THREE GOLD</th>
<th>Madeleine</th>
<th>William Harrington</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PREP GOLD</td>
<td>Jessica Draper</td>
<td>Ronan McIlDowney</td>
<td>FOUR BLUE</td>
<td>Hannah Swift</td>
<td>Owen Whelan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PREP GREEN</td>
<td>Ava Szauer</td>
<td>Eden Murphy</td>
<td>FOUR GREEN</td>
<td>Michael Anthony</td>
<td>Alice Hengel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONE BLUE</td>
<td>Tess Barretson</td>
<td>Martin Wooden</td>
<td>FOUR GOLD</td>
<td>Laura Overman</td>
<td>Christian Stone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONE GREEN</td>
<td>Carla Passalaqua</td>
<td>Christian Dugo</td>
<td>FIVE BLUE</td>
<td>Gabriella Morabito</td>
<td>Daniel Nettleton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONE GOLD</td>
<td>Clayton Foster</td>
<td>Aleisha Zammit</td>
<td>FIVE GOLD</td>
<td>Nickola La Bruna</td>
<td>Kael Ravenhill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TWO BLUE</td>
<td>Sienna D'Andrea</td>
<td>Benjamin Murphy</td>
<td>SIX BLUE</td>
<td>Jules Caran</td>
<td>Isabella Bleazby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TWO GREEN</td>
<td>James Staropoli</td>
<td>Scarlett Ravenhill</td>
<td>SIX GOLD</td>
<td>Simone Cooke</td>
<td>Ben Mastromanno</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TWO GOLD</td>
<td>Matthew Nesci</td>
<td>Caitlin Galliott</td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>THREE BLUE</td>
<td>Rachel Wooden</td>
<td>Christian</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PREP ENROLMENT FOR 2016**
Preparation is now underway for enrolment for Prep in 2016. It is very important for existing families that they collect the enrolment package **NOW AVAILABLE AT THE OFFICE** and return with all necessary documentation by Friday 20th March.

**PARISH NEWS**

**RECONCILIATION:**
Parent meeting: Thursday 19th February at 7.30pm
Family Mass: Saturday 21st February and Sunday 22nd February
Celebrations: Wednesday 14th March and Thursday 12th March at 7.00pm

**CONFIRMATION:**
Parent meeting: Thursday 23rd April at 7.30pm
Family Masses: Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd May
Celebrations: Friday 29th May at 7.00pm and Saturday 30th May at 6.00pm

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:**
Parent meeting: Thursday 30th July at 7.30pm
Family Masses: Saturday 1st August and Sunday 2nd August
Celebrations: Saturday 29th August, Sunday 30th August, Saturday 5th September and Sunday 6th September
FR PETER’S IMAGES AROUND THE SOUTH TIROL
Fr Peter will show images, in the Parish Centre from his visit to the South Tirol, North Italy taken during his recent visit:
On Friday 27th February after the 10.00am Mass
On Thursday 5th March at 7.30pm
All are most welcome to attend either session, please bring a small plate to share.

ARE YOU ABLE TO HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN ST VINCENT DE PAUL’S
Today I’m inviting you to help make a difference within our Parish. There are many ways you might like to offer your support.
I am inviting you to offer your support to help make a difference, to support our community and to support each other. I’m most appreciative of the assistance of many over the years. Many our older parishioners have for many years given many hours generously. To our younger parishioners I ask you to consider continuing their generosity by offering your support.
All of us we might ask - “What makes a difference?” How might you support each other?
Please return the Ministry Form to the boxes in the porches of the Church, the School Office or Presbytery as soon as possible.

You are most welcome to talk with me about any of these ministries. Fr Peter

WORK AROUND THE CHURCH
Currently there is work taking place around the church. Drains are being replaced which has involved using heavy machinery and much digging of holes and trenches. To ensure everyone’s safety could you please avoid areas which have clearly been marked by flags and witches hats.

UPDATE CONTACTS
Your child’s verification report was sent home yesterday.
As part of our school’s duty of care, it is imperative that all student records are accurate and up to date. Could you please check that all information we have on file is correct and make any changes in RED and sign the report. The address is not required for the emergency contacts, only the phone number. If there are no changes could you please sign the form and return to your child’s class by Friday 20th March 2015.

SPORTS NEWS
SWIMMING
Congratulations to all the Year 4, 5 and 6 students who competed in the school swimming trials. A morning of excellent swimming.
The SVDP swimming team will complete in The District Trials on Monday 3rd March.
We wish them luck!
Thank you to the parents who helped support the students on the day.

HOCKEY
Last Friday Year 3 and 4 students participated in a Hockey skills session organized by Hockey Victoria.

What I liked about the hockey session was that the teachers were really friendly. It was a hot day and they still manage to teach the class a lot of hockey skills. Martine Kearney

NEWS FROM THE ART ROOM
The students have made a great art start to the year. We have begun hearing stories about Gallipoli and students will be creating art inspired by these stories. Thank you to the Watson families who have sent us a wonderful story and pictures about their Great Grandfather. You can read it on the board in the corridor.
This year is also an art show year. This will take place on Thursday 10th September. Closer to the time I will be asking for volunteers to help set up the show. Please do not be concerned if students are not bringing their art work home as I will be storing it in preparation for the art show. Students will choose which pieces of their work they would like to display.
If any parent would like to help out in art sessions you are very welcome, especially if you are good at washing brushes! Please let me know a day and a time you would like to help so that I don’t have too many people in a session.
Thank you for the donations of paper towel (we use a lot), containers and interesting bits and pieces.
Frances Williams
Visual Arts Teacher
CAMP QUALITY EDUCATION PROGRAM 24TH FEB
Next Tuesday Camp Quality will be working with the children in our school. The program has been running for over 25 years and has transformed thousands of schools by helping children and teachers learn how to create a supportive school community for children affected by cancer, whether they are living with cancer themselves or have a family member living with cancer. The program consists of a live, educational performance focusing on cancer education, optimism, friendship and tolerance.
The children in Prep-2 will attend their session at 9.30am and the Years 3-6 will attend their session at 10.15am in the hall. Parents are invited to attend.

INTERCHURCH COUNCIL EASTER EVENT 16TH MARCH-19TH MARCH 2015
This event is conducted by the Strathmore Interchurch Council and held every two years. Over the 4 days local primary school children in Year 3-4 are given a 60 minute presentation on the real meaning of Easter. Year 3 & 4 students from our school will be attending.
We have been approached by the Parish to help with this event for the following: making sandwiches and biscuits and helping serve the children a drink and biscuit. Additionally, any parents of year 4 students are invited to join in the presentation by performing as an apostle. A number of helpers are required as this is a big event. If you can help in any of these ways, please contact Karen Montgomery on 0422132534.
Recipe for the biscuit can be collected from the office.
Thank you

CHESS CLUB
Chess club began today for those children who had brought back their forms to register. If your child is interested, the registration forms are available on the carousel near the front office. The classes run at lunchtime on Tuesdays.

ST VINCENT NETBALL CLUB VACANIES
We currently have positions available in both our Under11’s teams and our Under 13’s teams.
If you are interested, please contact the club immediately on admin@stvincentsnetball.com.au for further information.
We need to submit our team by the 22nd February, so if there is any interest then we would need to know soon.
St Vincent’s Netball Club plays in the VBSSACNI associations, which play at Aberfeldie Primary School on Saturdays between 1.00pm to 4.00pm.
Training takes place at St Vincent’s Primary School grounds after school.

JUNIOR BASKETBALL CLINIC
St Christopher’s Junior Basketball Club are running a basketball clinic to introduce girls and boys to basic fundamental basketball skills. It will prepare those interested in playing competitive basketball.
VENUE: St Christopher’s Primary School Gym, Roberts Rd, Airport West
COST: $5 per child per session
DAY & TIME: Thursday 4.00pm – 5.00pm sharp during term 1 only
AGE: Any school aged child is welcome

Parents are responsible for supervision of their children prior to the clinic commencement. Children are NOT allowed to be left in the hall unsupervised. The clinic finishes at 5pm Sharp! If interested, simply come to the St Christopher’s Primary School Gym at 4pm on Thursday during term 1. Any further question contact Tyson Harrington on 0412 416 076.

WINTER 2015 BASKETBALL SEASON
St Christopher’s Junior Basketball Club is now preparing for the Winter 2015 season which commences in Term 2. If your child is interested in playing competitive basketball then register them now! To register a player to our waitlist, complete the new player enquiry form found at this link: https://reg.sportingpulse.com/v6/regofrm.cgi?formID=34582
Winter 2015 teams will be finalised over the next few weeks.
Any further questions contact Patricia Noonan on 0400828 369.
TOURS OF THE COLLEGE FOR 2015 ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Thursday 19th February, Monday 23rd February, Tuesday 24th February, Wednesday 4th March, Tuesday 10th March, Monday 16th March, Tuesday 24th March, Monday 13th April, Wednesday 15th April, Thursday 30th April, Friday 1st May, Wednesday 6th May, Friday 15th May, Tuesday 19th May, Wednesday 27th May, Tuesday 2nd June, Wednesday 10th June, Monday 15th June, Tuesday 21st July, Wednesday 22nd July, Wednesday 29th July.

Each tour commences at 9.00am. **BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL – TELEPHONE 9289 1103.** For further information please contact the Registrar on 289 1103.

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**YEAR 7 2016 ST COLUMBA’S COLLEGE APPLICATIONS FOR ENROLMENT**

Applications for Year 7 2016 at St Columba’s College can be lodged by contacting the College Registrar, Josie Zanic, on 9331 9128 or zanicj@columba.vic.edu.au to request that an application form be sent. Applications can also be downloaded from the College website at www.columba.vic.edu.au

Applications for Year 7 2016 close on Friday 27th February 2015.

**School Tours**

Bookings for School Tours can be made via the website or contacting the Registrar.

**YEAR 7 2016 SCHOLARSHIPS**

St Columba’s College is offering a limited number of scholarships for prospective Year 7 2016 students. Details and online application are available on the College website at www.columba.vic.edu.au Application closing date 6th March 2015.

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**Ave Maria College Enrolment Applications 2016**

Applications for Enrolment for Year 7 2016 are currently being accepted by the College. All families, including families with another daughter currently enrolled at the College, must submit an Application for Enrolment. All applications are considered according to the criteria listed in the College Enrolment Policy.

Applications for Year 7 2016 close on 27 February 2015. Late applications are considered in order of receipt.

To organise a copy of the College Prospectus, organise a College tour or for further information, please contact the College Registrar, Ms Carmel Brewster on 9331 9308.

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**MOONEE VALLEY Art Show**

**Venue**
The Historic St Columban’s Mission
"North Park Mansion"
69 Woodlands Street, Essendon

**Gala Opening Review**
Friday 27th February, 2015 6:30pm - 11:30pm
Dress code - Cocktail,

**Ticket Prices**
- 1 Ticket - $175 (inc 1 Adult day pass)
- 2 - 4 Tickets - $150 per ticket (inc 1 Adult day pass per ticket)
- 5+ Tickets - $125 per ticket (inc 1 Adult day pass per ticket)

Includes gourmet finger food, wine, beers & entertainment and the great opportunity to view and buy the superb artwork on display.

**Public Exhibition & Sales**
Saturday 28th February - 10:00am - 5:00pm
Sunday 1st March - 10:00am - 3:00pm

**Admission Prices**
- $20 Adult Admission - 2 day pass $30
- $40 Family Admission - 2 day pass $60
- $10 Concession Entry - 2 day pass $15
- $5 Children Under 15 years for 1 or 2 days

Food and drinks available

Tickets available online at [http://www.trybooking.com/GQTR](http://www.trybooking.com/GQTR)
1 Day & 2 Day passes available at the gate.
ST VINCENT DE PAUL PRIMARY SCHOOL – 2015 CALENDAR

FEBRUARY
16th Ash Wednesday Whole School Mass 10.00am
Prep Testing
19th Reconciliation Parent Meeting 7.00pm – 8.00pm
20th Assembly Year Six (Hall 2.30pm)
Prep and New Families BBQ
21st Year Three Family Mass
22nd Year Three Family Mass
25th Prep Testing
Year Three Mass (10.00am)
26th Whole Swimming Day Oak Park Pool
27th District Tennis Trials

MARCH
3rd 2015 School Photos
4th Year Two Mass (10.00am)
Gala Day – Year Five
6th Assembly Year Four - 2.30pm Hall
9th LABOUR DAY HOLIDAY
11th School Tours
Year One Mass (10.00am)
Reconciliation (7.30pm-8.30pm)
12th School Tours
Divisional Swimming Oak Park
Reconciliation (7.30pm-8.30pm)
13th Gala Day – Year Five
Prep Family Mass
14th Prep Family Mass
17th Year Six Camp
18th Year Four Mass
19th Easter Event Year Three and Four
20th Year Six Camp Return
Assembly Year Five - 2.30pm Hall
24th Regional Swimming
26th Stations of the Cross – 11.40am
27th END OF TERM ONE – STUDENTS DISMISSED AT 1.30PM

APRIL
13th TERM TWO BEGINS
22nd Year Five Mass
23rd CONFIRMATION PARENT MEETING- (PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE)
24th Assembly Year Three – 2.30pm Hall
Winter Sports Begin
25th ANZAC DAY
29th Year Four Mass

MAY
2nd Year Six Family Mass
3rd Year Six Family Mass
6th Year One Mass
District Cross Country
8th Assembly Year Two – 2.30pm Hall
12th NAPLAN
13th NAPLAN
Year Prep Mass
14th NAPLAN
20th Year Two Mass
22nd Assembly Year One – 2.30pm Hall
27th Year Three Mass
28th Divisional Cross Country
29th Confirmation
30th Confirmation

JUNE
3rd Year Five Mass
5th Assembly Year Prep – 2.30pm Hall
8th QUEENS BIRTHDAY
11th Regional Cross Country
13th Year One Family Mass
14th Year One Family Mass
17th Year Four Mass
19th Assembly Year Six - 2.30pm Hall
24th Year Three Mass
28th END OF TERM TWO – STUDENTS DISMISSED AT 1.30PM