

"The whole of life
belongs to God."



St Columba's School

Engaging • Inspiring • Empowering

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Friday, February 12, 2021

Dear Families,

Another great week has almost passed and it has been another busy one. Our School Advisory Council (SAC) had its first meeting this week and along with welcoming our two new members Anna Ormrod and Jane McLeod, we also appointed new executive positions with Luke Cooper taking on the role of Chair, Kate Landry as Deputy Chair and Anna Ormrod as Secretary. We thank each of the members of our council for their efforts and time in the year to the year ahead. We also recognise Ethan Corfee (Chair) and Lisa Richardson (Secretary) who stepped down from the council at the end of 2020 and thank them for the significant contribution they have each made to our school. The SAC is currently exploring possible options for a school social gathering under the current restrictions and we will update families as we gain a clearer picture of what is possible.

We also celebrated our school opening mass, slightly differently to previous ones but it was a wonderful opportunity to gather in a different way as a whole school. We trialled live streaming to students in the classroom and whilst not 100% successful it is something we will continue to work on and potentially allow us to run school assemblies again. The central message of the mass was focussed on the concept of Community, and this is the schools key focus for this year.

Next Wednesday we will be joining parishioners in celebrating Ash Wednesday mass at the church. The school will be represented by our Mini Vinnies students and Mrs Hailey Eeles. It is wonderful to be able to once again celebrate mass as part of a larger parish community.

Yesterday we conducted a proactive audit with Worksafe Victoria into the school's Covid plan and practices. We are pleased to be able to report that they are highly impressed with the school's current and past efforts and commended the school on its efforts.

With the restriction to inside gatherings we are looking to different ways of communicating with our parent communities. The first change is moving Parent Teacher meetings to Term 2 when we may be able to gather differently. Normally in Term one we would conduct meet and greet sessions to get to know about each child from their family. To facilitate this in 2021, we will be putting out a survey letter to families and asking you to respond to a series of questions that will assist teachers to better understand your child.

In place of information nights, next Monday teams will be sharing recordings of what would typically be covered in these sessions with families, these will be sent through SeeSaw and our Facebook page. On Wednesday 17 February staff will hold live, online Q&A sessions for parents who would like further information or a chance to talk directly with staff. We will send links out for the meetings on the day. The meetings will be staggered to allow families with children across multiple year levels to attend all.

Times for live Q&A sessions:

6:15 pm - Foundation

6:30 pm - Year 1 / 2

6:45 pm - Year 3 / 4

7:00 pm - Year 5 / 6

Enrolments for 2022 Foundation opened on Monday, please direct anyone interested in applying to our [webpage](#) under the enrolments section for relevant information. School tours and a virtual information session will be conducted in the coming weeks for interested families.

If you have a sibling starting next year you **MUST** complete a CEB application form found at <https://ceob.edu.au/2022-foundation-enrolments/> by May 10 to secure your place.

Thank you to the families that have made adjustments to their pickup locations after school, this has helped ease congestion in Gregory Street. A strong reminder to families to please follow road rules when parking around the school to support keeping our community safe.

Regards,

Handwritten signatures of Bambi Afford and Shaun Mohr in grey ink.

Bambi Afford and Shaun Mohr
Co-Principals