

"The whole of life
belongs to God."



St Columba's School

Engaging • Inspiring • Empowering

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Thursday 18th February

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to everyone! It's certainly a relief to know that the lockdown period was not extended and it's wonderful to once again have our students back onsite today. We are also grateful that we have been able to celebrate and Ash Wednesday mass with the parish today with a slight delay, as the beginning of our Lenten season, a time when we reflect on our own lives and what we can do for others. We are asking students to consider their 'community' this year and rather than giving something material up, consider ways they make their community a better place, how they can 'reach out with kindness'.

We have included today's reflection led by the students, and invite families to take a moment in their day to stop and come together.

During this season of Lent, our loving God asks us to look closely at our lives so that we can see how to grow as children of God. Let us take a few minutes to think about how we have missed opportunities to help others and to love and serve them when we could. We pray that the love and guidance of Jesus will help us to open our hearts to others.

To ensure the continued safety of all, we ask that our community continue to adhere to social distancing requirements, particularly at drop off and pick up times. Masks are still required indoors and hand hygiene procedures continue to remain in place.

Sacramental Program

Please be aware that Confirmation dismissals will take place as scheduled at St Columba's Parish Masses, beginning this weekend the 20th February, at 5:00 pm for (Group 1)

Parents will receive an information pack regarding Confirmation as a substitute to the information session that was cancelled last evening due to the COVID Lockdown

This information will be sent out by the Parish via email by the end of this week. The information provided will advise you of which dismissal group your child will attend and provide important information you would have received at the information session.

School Excursions

School excursions and camps are once again able to be undertaken, please be assured we have strict COVID risk assessments and controls in place for these events. Whilst these provide valuable learning opportunities outside the school grounds, we understand there is a heightened risk involved and alternative learning/supervision will be made available for students not attending excursions at a family's request.

Please also be aware that due to rapidly changing COVID requirements changed dates and cancellations of excursions may happen at short notice. We will notify families as soon as possible whenever we have to make these adjustments, you will not be required to complete a separate permission form should a date change be made.

Athletics Day Tuesday 30th March

To ensure this event can run smoothly, we are calling for parent helpers to assist on the day. Parents who have a valid Working with Children check (WWCC) who are keen to support us supervising events are asked to email Mr Wayne Lynch directly to express their interest.

wlynch@scballarat.catholic.edu.au

At this stage we do not know conditions around parent attendance at the Swimming Carnival on Friday. If/when we are notified we will put information out for families

PSGs

The PSGs that were cancelled this week will be rescheduled to another time(Thurs 4, Tues 9 and Wed 10) Once we have confirmed teacher availability on these days we will put another booking out to families affected.

Kind regards,



Bambi Afford and Shaun Mohr
Co-Principals