Welcome to Catholic Schools Week. It is a special time in the year when we celebrate and give thanks for Catholic schools, especially our own school, St Columba’s. It is a time to give thanks for the daily learning and teaching that takes place each day and to acknowledge all who work together in service of Catholic education. Our special activities will take place next week to celebrate the feast days of two significant saints.

May the God of community walk with us and beside us, sharing our journeys, listening to our stories, embracing our pain, rejoicing in our triumphs. May God continue to bless our efforts to grow into a strong and vibrant community one marked by concern, openness and trust. May God, the source of all being, Jesus the eternal Word and the Spirit who is the life-force bless us now and forever. Amen

St Patrick’s Day
St Columba’s will celebrate St Patrick’s Day next Tuesday 17th March with a number of activities. Below is an outline of the day’s events. Parents are most welcome to join in any of the celebrations throughout the day.

Students to wear green casual clothes (a little or a lot of green)

9.00am - Book Fair in the library
9.30am – St Patrick’s Day Prayer Service
10.00am – Quiz
11.15am – Patrick V MacKillop for fun & games at the Yeoval Pool. Students to take a packed lunch and their swimmers.
1.30pm – Return to School. Treats for sale (supplied by teachers) at 20c per piece.
2.00pm – Art/Craft

St Joseph’s Day
St Columba’s will travel to Manildra next Wednesday for St Joseph’s Day. Attached to today’s newsletter is a separate note regarding St Joseph’s Day.

Student of the Week
Annabelle Englert
For her genuine care and concern for all.

Merit Awards – Week 7
Congratulations to the following students who received Merit awards this week:

Primary: Jorja Lees, Beau Peacock
Infants: Brodhie Crain, Nick Goard, Patrick Vaughan

Brodhie Crain – 11/3/2015 (7)
Easter Raffle
St Columba’s will again hold its annual Easter Egg Raffle. All families are asked to donate good quality chocolate eggs for the raffle which will be drawn on the day last of this term. With generous donations in years past we have been able to draw up to 15 prizes. This is an easy fundraising activity for the school. Your cooperation and support is greatly appreciated. Please send in your donations of eggs. Raffle books will be sent home next week.

St Patrick’s Facts

1. St. Patrick's was a dry holiday in Ireland until 1970.

2. St. Patrick's Day in the US has a strong political history.

3. There are more Irish in the USA than Ireland.

4. The Shamrock is not the symbol of Ireland.

5. Patrick's colour is originally blue.

6. Legend says St. Patrick drove all the snakes from Ireland.

7. St. Patrick used the shamrock to preach about the trinity.

8. St. Patrick was a slave.


10. March 17th is when Patrick died.

Bonus Fact: Your odds of finding a four-leaf clover are:

About 1 in 10,000.

Kind regards

Glen Brown
Principal
St Columba’s P&F General Meeting Minutes

Date: February 16 2015
Opened: 6:25pm

Present: Ethel Pastor, Jhing Pastor, Yenda Kerin, Alana Kerin, Julia Englert, Kate Brown, Glen Brown, Pip Job, Dave Kiel, Kylie Bunning

Apologies: Nicolette Vaughan, Phil Hunter, Katie Keady, Mel Kiel, Fr Carl Mackander
Motion: That apologies be accepted.
Moved: Alana Kerin
Seconded: Yenda Kerin

Minutes from Previous General Meeting:
Read by Dave Kiel
Motion: That minutes from the previous P&F general meeting held on Monday November 3rd 2014 be accepted as true and accurate record.
Moved: Julia Englert
Seconded: Yenda Kerin

Business Arising from the Minutes:
Step: work in progress. Tony Nailand does work at pre school. A ramp is to be installed. Glen to follow up.

Phone Book: in production. $5 for smaller size; $200 made so far.
Moved: Glen Brown
Seconded: Kate Brown
Thanks to Mel Lees for the work and proof reading by Julia Englert.

Presentation Night: everyone happy with new food arrangements
Debit Visa Card: Glen has it. It will remain at school. PIN operated; usage booked at school. Receipts must be kept.

Kate Brown reported that Electrolux have donated a freezer to Junior Joeys.

Correspondence In:
Correspondence Out:

Treasurer’s Report:
As presented by Julia Englert (presented by Julia, copy attached).
Motion: That Treasurer’s report be accepted.
Moved: Yenda Kerin
Seconded: Julia Englert

CSU Community Grant for vegie garden
$800 raised for chocolate wheel / 100 Club; didn’t sell all the tickets
$755 account due to AgnVet. Dave was originally told the travel wouldn’t be charged. Dave will ring and follow up. Julia will hold off paying account.

Principal’s Report:
As presented by Glen Brown (verbal report presented by Glen).
Motion: That Principal’s report be accepted.
Moved: Glen Brown
Seconded: Dave Kiel

Current enrolments:
Infants: total of 17 (14 are boys)
Primary: total of 14 (6 are boys)
Junior Joeys Friday lunch has started. Money raised will go towards IT for a school in Vanuatu.

New outdoor “stuff” creative play, aimed at boys. Girls are enjoying this too. Will introduce something new each week.

Treats 1/wk terms 2 & 3: families rostered to provide treats. Kids pay 30c to buy.

Opening School Mass this Sunday; P&F to support with egg and bacon.

Major focus for 2015:
- Development of professional learning community
- Learning focus on students
- Collaboration between teachers
- Data collection – on student outcomes
- Chrome books: 10 purchased; kids doing well.

Workplace Health and Safety Concerns:

General Business

**Shade Structure**: (Glen Brown)
Motion: Allocation up to $600 to spend on a pop up tent with a bag.
Moved: Pip Job
Seconded: Rana Hunter

Alana will research.

**Chook Garden / Veggie Patch**: Parents in favour.
Have $1000 grant to use. Working group to be formed.

Sand for sand pit (needs a top up): Dave thought $28/t from a quarry at Dubbo or Kylie thought $40 for a cubic metre builders sand. Kylie Bunning will get the sand.

**Working Bee**:
Rubble from the drain needs to be removed. Could be used for base in veggie gardens; wait to see what happens with veggie gardens.

**Repairs works**:
Broken down pipe. Hole in pipe – major issue in storm water.

Overflow on roof – Eddie Owens (plumber) has looked at and thought $2,200 – 2,400 to resolve issues. Not enough downpipes for roof catchment area.

Pip mentioned the “School bag” app as a way of communicating info. Glen will look into it. Other option is email. All info is on website.

**Yeoval Show**: this year is May 5th

Dave made special thanks to Julia for her service to P&F as Treasurer. Applause received.

Next P&F General Meeting / 2015 Meeting Schedule:

Week 4 of each term: Monday 6pm
Term 2: Monday May 11th
Term 3: Monday August 3rd
Term 4: Monday October 26th

Meeting Closed: 8:05pm