Dear Friends

Our St Patrick’s Day activities on Monday were a perfect way to end our Catholic Schools Week Celebrations. It was wonderful to see so many parents at school on Monday. Many thanks to all for supporting the Book Fair in the Library and joining for morning tea. The large number of book sales has enabled us to select a number of free books for our library. (more photos at www.stcolumbasyeoval.catholic.edu.au)

Today is St Joseph’s Day. On March 19, the feast of St. Joseph, Catholics honour him with an age-old tradition called St. Joseph’s table. History has it the tradition began on the Italian island of Sicily. There was a drought that ruined harvest and caused a famine. The Sicilians prayed to Saint Joseph, the Patron Saint of the family and prayers were answered when the famine and the drought receded. In the finest Italian heritage, homage to St. Joseph comes in the form of food and celebration.

Everything we know about the husband of Mary and the foster father of Jesus comes from Scripture and that has seemed too little for those who made up legends about him. We know he was a carpenter and a working man. Despite his humble work and means, Joseph came from the royal lineage of David.
Joseph is the patron of the dying because, assuming he died before Jesus' public life, he died with Jesus and Mary close to him, the way we all would like to leave this earth. He is also patron of the universal Church, fathers, carpenters, and social justice.

There is much we wish we could know about Joseph -- where and when he was born, how he spent his days, when and how he died. But Scripture has left us with the most important knowledge: who he was -- "a righteous man" (Matthew 1:18)

*Saint Joseph, patron of the universal Church, watch over the Church as carefully as you watched over Jesus, help protect it and guide it as you did with your adopted son. Amen*

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** - Simon Brown (7) 19th March

**Joke of the Week...**
*Student* – *Sir, would you punish someone for something they didn’t do?*
*Teacher* – *No, of course not*
*Student* – *Good, because I didn’t do my homework!!*

**Student of the Week**

*Phoebe Englert*  
For her leadership qualities

**Week 8 Awards**

Congratulations to the following students who received Awards this week.  
**Merit**  
Primary: Jack Job, Jorja Lees  
Infants: Nick Goard, Tyler Simister

**Mathletics**  
Tom Kerin, Tyrone Antaw, Dominic Antaw, Sara Kiel, Chayanne Bunning, Annabelle Englert, Phoebe Englert

**Life Education Van**

Many thanks to all who have returned the permission note with payment for the Life Education Van visit next Monday 24th March. There will be a small amount of merchandise available to purchase on the day if students wish.

**School Photos**

St Columba’s will be having school photos taken on Tuesday 8th April (last week of this term). Students will wear their Summer School Uniform on this day. Attached to today’s newsletter is an order form for individual photos and a separate order form for sibling photos.

**Friday Sport**

All students (K-6) will be participating in cricket skills each Friday for the remainder of the term.

Kind regards

Glen Brown  
Principal