



## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Columba Parents and Friends,

The past fortnight has been filled with significant events and learning successes.

The 2020 Opening Liturgy and Induction of Student Leaders, was a fitting occasion, with St Mary's undercover area full with students, staff, parents and friends. Our theme this year is **'You are the Salt of the Earth and Light to the World'**. Our College motto **"Light To The World"** comes from Matthew's Gospel 5:13-16:

*"You are like salt for all humankind. But if salt loses its saltiness, there is no way to make it salty again. It has become worthless, so it is thrown out and people trample on it. **You are like light for the whole world.** A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one lights a lamp and puts it under a bowl; instead they put it on the lampstand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine before people, so that they will see the good things you do and praise your Father in heaven".*

I reminded students of this, as the Opening Liturgy - "You are the salt of the earth". You are the one who flavours the life of our College community. You are a wonderful creation of our world. The world needs YOU to be part of its story. This College community is enriched and enhanced by what YOU bring to this community. *"You are the light of the world". You are the one who lights and warms this College community. You are a wonderful creation of our world. The world needs your luminous heart to guide the path for others. This College is enlightened and illuminated by what YOU bring to this community.*

### *Parent Partnership and Communication*

So too, we in partnership ask parents and families to empower students to take up all academic and co-curricular challenges and opportunities with courage and commitment. You would have received last week, the Term 1 Co-curricular calendar for the College and Years 7 to 12 assessment calendars. These can be found on the College website under the Mt Carmel Tab - Co-curricular Life and Academic Life and St. Mary's Tab - Co-curricular Life. St Mary's parents already have access to the Prep to Year 6 curriculum overviews for the term on the College website under the St Mary's

tab - Academic Life. One of the areas for improvement that we identified in 2019, and have put in steps to progress this year - is timely and effective communication with parents, in areas of academic progress, successes and challenges; of events and communication home in student diaries (for students in Years 5 to 12), phone calls or follow up emails. There is little doubt that teaching and residential house parents are committed to creating the best environment and opportunities for your children.

### *Student Opportunities*

Our camping and retreat program commences this week, with Year 12 attending their much loved Year 12 Retreat and Year 7 attending their outdoor education and get to know you camp. Interschool Sport also begins, with Rugby League and Netball at St Mary's and Tennis and Cricket at Mt Carmel. The exceptional take up of Instrumental Music and Choirs, sees the growth of the program, that began last week. St Mary's STEM Club, MacqLit groups across the College have begun and quality teaching and learning in classrooms is occurring across the College, with many students already experiencing successes in growth in understanding and achievement across subject areas. It really is wonderful to see so many students taking up opportunities to be learners as well as be part of teams, clubs and activities.

### *Staffing*

We welcomed to the staff, Ms Neelam Raj, who began teaching this week on Mt Carmel Campus in the areas of English and HASS and Ken Redgwell to the Boys Residential House Parents team.

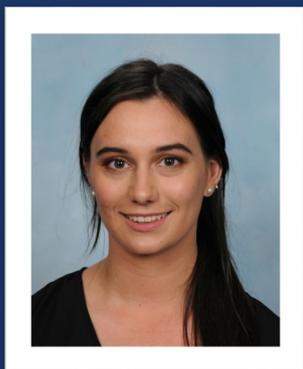
Best wishes for the fortnight ahead.



Candi Dempster  
PRINCIPAL

**Courage Commitment Compassion**

# MEET OUR STAFF



**Name:** Rebekah Skrinis

**Hometown:** Bendigo

**Subjects Taught:** Health & Physical Education

**Favourite Foods:** Chinese Food and Chocolate

**Hobbies:** I enjoy playing any sport. Before I moved to Charters Towers I played Netball and Basketball. I also enjoy reading and watching movies.

## SM CAMPUS AWARDS

**WEEK 2 - I AM A COURTEOUS LISTENER AND ALLOW OTHERS TO LEARN.**

Prep: Harry Webb  
Year 1: Louis Bennetto  
Year 2: Jessica Truong  
Year 3: Jack Hedges  
Year 4: Toby Blackley  
Year 5: Charli Hedges  
Year 6A: Caleb Fagan  
Year 6B: Jackson Walsh

**WEEK 3 - CHOOSING TO USE LANGUAGE THAT IS KIND, TRUTHFUL AND CARING OF OTHERS.**

Prep: Alyssa Jeffries  
Year 1: Chayse Taylor  
Year 2: Clancy Hodgetts  
Year 3: Lilly Lavery  
Year 4: Mary Sproat  
Year 5: Ella Simshauser  
Year 6A: Ella Macpherson  
Year 6B: Grace Scholes

## MC CAMPUS AWARDS

**WEEK 3 - RESPECT FOR OTHERS**

Year 7: Tyla Osborne  
Year 8: Chase Guy  
Year 9: Reagan Davidson  
Year 10: Dexter Wagambie  
Year 11: Lawsen Ford  
Year 12: Neeve Gallagher

**WEEK 4 - RESPECT FOR LEARNING**

Year 7: Tom Kirkwood  
Year 8: Ananya Pujar  
Year 9: Ron Denton  
Year 10: Jesse Nibbs  
Year 11: Sebastian Sorce  
Year 12: Moaranni Sam

## CSPA NEWS



The CSPA AGM will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March at the St Mary's Campus Staff Room at 7pm. All positions are to be vacated so anyone wanting to stand for one of the four positions, President, Vice President 1, Vice President 2 and Secretary can fill out a nomination form. This will be followed by a general meeting. All are welcome.

Please come along and be a part of helping make our school the wonderful place it is for our children.

## RICE HOUSE COLLEGE SUPPORTED MASS

Students and staff will support the 6.00pm Parish Mass on Saturday 29th February at St Columba's Church. All P-12 students, parents and staff are invited and encouraged to attend.

Prep students are to wear their Sports uniform, Year 1-6 students their Day School uniform and Year 7-12 students their Formal uniform. After Mass there will be a BBQ. All funds raised will be donated to the Parish.

Please join us.

*Shine at Columba*

[www.columba.catholic.edu.au](http://www.columba.catholic.edu.au)



# FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL - ADMINISTRATION

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome to the 2020 school year. Staff and students on the Mt Carmel Campus have begun the year with great excitement and enthusiasm.

This year will see a number of changes happening for many students, especially our year twelve students. The 2020 year twelve cohort will be part of the most significant change to education in Queensland in over two decades with the introduction of a new Queensland Certificate of Education. These students will be the first cohort to receive an Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank (ATAR) and complete external assessment. Important updates and information for parents and carers of both year eleven and year twelve students occurred at the Year 11 and 12 Parent Information evening on Thursday 6 February.

The Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC) has an extensive range of new resources available for parents and students if you would like to find out more about the ATAR. If you would like an overview of how the ATAR is applied in Queensland there is an "All about Your ATAR Guide". "Calculating the ATAR in Queensland" guide provides an end to end breakdown of the ATAR calculation process. Please use the following link to access these resources.

<https://www.qtac.edu.au/student-resources/atar>

It is essential that students capitalise on the new beginnings of the 2020 academic year by focussing on the importance of attendance and its impact on academic success. Having high attendance means that students do not miss key learning experiences and feedback about upcoming assessment. Feedback is another critical component to improving student outcomes. Teachers provide students with feedback via both summative and formative assessment, and it is the latter that will help students achieve well. Starting the year with the right frame of mind regarding attendance will advantage students in the future.

Homework is another dimension that has an impact on student success. Homework may consist of many forms depending on the requirements of the subject and the stage of the semester and academic cycle. Examples of homework include completing work set by the class teacher, assignment work, study and revision, and preparing for the next day (packing bag, printing work etc). The amount of time that should be spent completing homework each night will depend on the student's year level.

All Year 7-12 students have received a College Diary. All homework for each subject will be recorded in the diary each day. Please ask to see your child's diary to check what work they have to complete and use it as a means of communicating with their teacher by writing notes in it.

Assessment Date Planners for Semester 1 were emailed to all students, parents and care givers last week. A copy has also been uploaded on the College's web page. It is recommended that this planner is printed off and kept in an easily accessible place (eg. on the fridge) so that both students and parents can refer to the assessment planner regularly. It is recommended that students record all of their assessment dates in their Diary.

The Library on the Mt Carmel Campus is open every morning before school (8.00-8.25am), during the second half of the lunch break (1.10-

1.30pm) and after school for students to print their assessment. It is important that students are organised and plan ahead to print off any assessment items due prior to their lesson.

Communication between students, parents and teachers is vital to ensure the academic progress of all students. Parents are encouraged to make contact with your child's teacher if you have any concerns. Contact can be made by ringing the College on 4787 1744 and asking to speak to the teacher. Alternatively teachers can be emailed. Teachers will return your phone call or respond to your email as soon as possible after you make contact with them.

Each subject area has an assigned Curriculum Leader. The Curriculum Leader, in consultation with subject teachers, is responsible for developing the curriculum and assessment for their particular subject areas. Curriculum Leaders should be contacted after you have discussed any concerns with the subject teacher. Please note the email contact details for the 2020 Curriculum Middle Leaders.

#### English:

Dr Alison Clifton ([aclifton@columba.catholic.edu.au](mailto:aclifton@columba.catholic.edu.au))

#### Mathematics:

Ms Sophia Michaelis ([smichaelis@columba.catholic.edu.au](mailto:smichaelis@columba.catholic.edu.au))

#### Humanities and Languages

Mr Michael Ku ([mku@columba.catholic.edu.au](mailto:mku@columba.catholic.edu.au))

#### Science / HPE / Technologies / Senior School Program Leader:

Mrs Kristal King ([kking1@columba.catholic.edu.au](mailto:kking1@columba.catholic.edu.au))

#### The Arts and Culture / Learning Enhancement Program Leader:

Mrs Gina Porter ([gporter@columba.catholic.edu.au](mailto:gporter@columba.catholic.edu.au))

#### Religious Education:

Ms Christine O'Sullivan ([cosullivan@columba.catholic.edu.au](mailto:cosullivan@columba.catholic.edu.au))

#### VET Project Officer:

Fiona Williamson ([fwilliamson@columba.catholic.edu.au](mailto:fwilliamson@columba.catholic.edu.au))

I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate the 2019 seniors on their results. Every student in the cohort was successful in receiving a Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE). Ninety-five percent of students were successful in completing a VET certificate and seventy-five percent of students obtained an OP between 1-15. Well done to the class of 2019 and all those who supported them.

I wish all parents, caregivers and students the best for the upcoming year and should you have any questions, please contact me.



Maria Peck  
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL - ADMINISTRATION

# SECONDARY INTERHOUSE SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Temperatures soared as students made a splash at this year's Interhouse Swimming Carnival. The Kennedy Regiment Memorial Pool was once again host to a wonderful day. With each team eager to claim the title for 2020, it was Benjamin who had the most to lose as they entered as the reigning champions.

Some dominant individual performers for the mighty Benjamin house got them off to a good lead but it was the eagerness of the whole team in the standard races that made them stand out. It was evident that retaining the title was in the forefront of their minds. Even though Rice house were eager to win back their title they just fell short to a dominant Benjamin. A full break down of the aggregate points are below.

Another trend continued this year with Jasmine Thompson breaking multiple records again. Her achievements are a result of hard work and dedication to training and a desire to achieve her personal best. Congratulations Jasmine!

The annual staff verse student relay was a spectacle to say the least. This year an understrength staff team took on a heavily stacked student team. Unfortunately for the staff the students finally got the better of them and they swam away with bragging rights this year.

The Columba team is ready for the challenge of the interschool carnival this year. With Captains Sam Wilson and Jasmine Thompson ready to lead from the front. Our Captains are supported by an incredibly motivated and competitive ensemble of athletes and I wish them all the best for the interschool carnival.

**Aggregate Trophy:**

<b>Benjamin</b>	627 Points
<b>Rice</b>	533 Points
<b>Polding</b>	441 Points
<b>McAuley</b>	423 Points

## Records:

Open girls 100m Free - Jasmine Thompson 1.05.05  
 Open Girls 50m Free - Jasmine Thompson 29.06  
 Open Girls 50 Backstroke - Jasmine Thompson 35.78  
 Open Girls 50m Butterfly - Jasmine Thompson 33.00

## Age Champions and Runners up

AGE GROUP	BOYS	GIRLS
12 Years Runner Up	Harry Pickering	Violet Berney
12 Years Age Champion	Will Fuller	Stevie Williamson
13 Years Runner Up	Patrick Rose	Jessica Braes-Polke
13 Years Age Champion	Braydon Wallis	Layla Ford
14 Years Runner Up	Chase Guy	Giorgia Groves
14 Years Age Champion	Riley Amos	Chloe Girdler
14 Years Multi Class Age Champion	Blake Jackson	
15 Years Runner Up	Jasper Guy	Imogen Ruyg
15 Years Age Champion	Isaac Neilson	Hannah Wilson
15 Years Multi Class Age Champion	Connor Smith	Scarlett Pickering
16 Years Runner Up	Bailey Bliss	Makayla Godier
16 Years Age Champion	Charlie Kruger	Kolby Amos
OPEN Runner Up	Lawsen Ford	Bree-Anna Meehan
OPEN Age Champion	Sam Wilson	Jasmine Thompson
OPEN Multi Class Age Champion		Jemima Neilson

Jordan Marty

SPORTS MIDDLE LEADER



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# SECONDARY INTERSCHOOL SWIMMING CARNIVAL

**Wednesday 26th February**  
**Kennedy Regiment Memorial Pool**

**First Session:** 8:00am – 11:30am  
**Lunch:** 11:30 – 12:00pm  
**Second Session:** 12:00pm – 3:00pm

### Attendance and arrival:

All swimmers and Year 12s will attend for the full day. Please arrive at 8:00am for a 8:30am start. The program should conclude at approximately 3:00pm.

**ALL students will attend Wednesday afternoon.** Normal classes until 12:50pm. Non-swimmers will be bused from the Mount Carmel Campus to the Town Pool for the afternoon sessions.

The pool will be available for warm ups from 7:45am. Marshalling will begin at 8:15am.

If arriving after 12pm, **DO NOT ENTER THE POOL OR MAKE NOISE OUTSIDE THE POOL** if a race is starting. Wait until you hear the gun, enter the pool, and make your way quickly to the CCC stands.

All students will attend until 3.00pm. If you are required to catch a bus from the MC campus in the afternoon you will be taken back to school at 2:50pm. Students are asked to make staff aware of this prior.

Students are to be collected from the Kennedy Regiment Memorial Pool.

**Uniform:** Please organise the correct uniform, including togs now.

**Swimmers** need to wear College togs, OR plain blue or black racing togs for girls, or plain blue or black skins for boys. Sports Uniform or College Tracksuit and sports shoes, NOT thongs. Swimming caps will be supplied and must be worn.

**Spectators / non-swimmers** SHOULD WEAR THE COLLEGE SPORT UNIFORM. You are attending a school function and therefore need to be in uniform.

**Senior students ONLY** may wear their Senior Jersey and lead cheering from the front.

All students are reminded there will be **NO TINSEL, NO BODY PAINT, NO COLOURED ZINC, NO GUM, NO NAIL POLISH and NO EXTRA JEWELLERY.**

*Shine at Columba*

## YEAR 4 NEWS

Year 4 have hit the ground running in what has been an extremely busy start to the school year. Students have been eager to engage in activities and learn new concepts. We welcomed Mary Sproat and Saylor Whitby to our class to start the year.

In English, the students have been learning how to write an effective recount using the correct structure and language features. Later in the term, students will also be writing different forms of poetry. Reading groups have started and we are fortunate to have Joan Cox and Jenny Stevenson volunteer their time each week to assist the student's oral reading skills. Students have also been encouraged to do as much oral reading at home as one part of their homework.

During Mathematics, the class has been focussing on the Number strand in the curriculum and revising concepts from last year. The class are also busy learning and improving their recall speed of times tables and division facts.

Religion lessons have a strong focus on the history of the Catholic Church in the early years of Australia.

The class is working through the History strand of HASS and learning about early sea explorers and navigators of Australia. The class have learnt about Portuguese and Dutch explorers in the 1600's and will soon move onto learning about Abel Tasman, Captain Cook and Matthew Flinders.

Science lessons have involved exploring the facets of force and motion and the effects of friction and gravity on the movement of objects. The class will also take part in a number of experiments later in the term exploring these concepts further.

HPE swimming lessons started this week and I would like to remind parents to ensure all items coming to school are clearly labelled. During Health lessons, the students are learning the importance of a nutritious breakfast and lunch to have a balanced diet.

Some of the students have started learning piano or guitar with Mr O'Connor before and after school last week and we look forward to seeing and hearing their progress throughout the year.

I am sure the second half of this term will be just as busy as the start to the school year.

Gerard Webber  
**YEAR 4 TEACHER**



## YEAR 2 NEWS

We have had a great start to the year in Year 2. It was fantastic to see everyone return from the holidays, and we welcomed our new friend, Brodie, into our classroom. Year 2 have worked really hard to get straight back into our routines and expectations.

In English, students are learning what a recount is and how to write one. We are realising that recounts have certain sequential words in them, to help order events. Year 2 are continuing to write strong sentences, while practising our editing and proofreading skills.

We have been busy in Maths, revising two and three digit numbers. We had fun learning about doubles and near doubles as well as other number facts. We have done some investigating, and realised that when we group items and skip count, we are actually doing multiplication! That was exciting.

In Science lessons, we have begun to investigate what materials are around us and what we use these materials for. We also now know that materials also have properties, which means they might look and feel different to each other.

We have revised the difference between the Old and New Testament in Religion, and are having fun reading different stories like Noah's Ark and God's Promise to Abraham. It can sometimes be a little difficult to figure out the morale of the story, but we are getting there.

On Friday afternoons we have started our Visual Art unit, which explores the different types of Aboriginal art. We are also very excited to start swimming with Mr O'Connor in Week 4!

Congratulations Year 2, on a fabulous start to our year!

Toni Pilcher  
**YEAR 2 TEACHER**



## CAREERS CORNER

### DEFENCE CAREERS NIGHT - TONIGHT – THURSDAY 20 FEBRUARY

A Defence Careers Night will be held at Pepper's Cafe between 6.00 - 7.00pm on Thursday 20 February 2020. This is a fantastic opportunity to find out more about the career options available. Please use the link below to find out more information and register your attendance. Link: Charters Towers Info Session for Parents & Teachers: ADF Careers



### YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE – TERM 2 WEEK 10 (22 – 26 JUNE)

All Year 10 students will partake in Work Experience during the last week of Term 2 (22 -26 June). Work experience is part of the schools' educational program providing students with an invaluable opportunity to experience working life, often for the first time. It is the short term placement of secondary school students with employers, to provide insights into the industry, and the workplace in which they are located.

Last week, all Year 10 students were informed about the process of Work Experience and received a Work Experience Application Form.

**This form was also emailed to parents and is due back by Monday 24 February.**

#### Benefits -

- Work alongside adults as part of a team gaining an understanding of work
- Develop and practice a range of new skills
- Become more independent and confident
- Relate the school curriculum to the workplace
- Increase motivation to continue their study and/or undertake further training
- Explore career options
- Students may get offered a School Based Apprenticeship or Traineeship

Work Experience must be organised through the College by the Careers Coordinator at the College. A Work Experience Contract (Legal document) is required to be completed and signed by the student, parent/guardian, employer and the principal (prior to the student commencing work experience) for this to be effective. Year 11 and 12 students are encouraged to organise Work Experience, but this must be organised during holiday time. This also must be organised within a timely manner to allow enough time for all parties to sign the contract. This is a legal document and only then is the student covered under the College Work Cover Insurance.

### SCHOOL BASED APPRENTICESHIPS AND TRAINEESHIPS

When a student secures a School Based Apprenticeship/ Traineeship, a training agreement, which is a legal document, is signed by the student, parent, employer and principal. The training agreement lists all relevant information, including the agreed release day for the student to attend the workplace. Any changes to this original agreement such as sick days, extra training days or the agreed release day is changed or altered, must be approved by the principal prior to this being actioned.

Congratulations to Year 12 student, Lindsay Muston on his recent School Based Apprenticeship - Diesel Motor Mechanic, with Hammer & Co Earthmoving.

Congratulations to Year 10 student, Remi Seesink on her recent School Based Traineeship – Certificate III in Retail, with McDonald's Charters Towers.



### SAVE THE DATE – YEAR 10, 11 & 12 STUDENTS AND PARENTS

The Columba Careers Networking Night is being held in Term 2, on Monday 27 April (Week 2) from 6.30pm in the Mount Carmel Dining Room.

There will be over 30 industry qualified people attending the Careers Networking Night this year. This will be a wonderful opportunity for students and parents to ask industry focused questions pertaining to qualifications, work ethics and values, required for a diverse range of careers, apprenticeships/ traineeships and university courses.

Yours in careers

Leesa Stevenson  
**CAREERS CO-ORDINATOR**

*Shine at Columba*

# OPENING CELEBRATION OF THE WORD & INDUCTION OF STUDENT LEADERS



# SCRAMBLED LEGS

Regular physical activity is beneficial to health and wellbeing. The positives go far beyond physical fitness, to encompass mental health, sleep patterns, and academic performance. Activity encourages the production of certain proteins necessary for the health and growth of brain cells and the connections between them. It releases chemicals that are the natural enemies of anxiety and depression. In short, regular exercise means a healthy body and a healthy mind. What's not to love?

**All members of the Columba community are welcome to attend Scrambled Legs sessions.** This could be an excellent opportunity for parents to encourage healthy behaviours in their children, while enjoying the health benefits for themselves. Please consider becoming a Scrambled Legs regular, and please encourage and support your child to attend.

**Students from the SM campus are welcome, but must be attended by a parent or older sibling until their running level is assessed.** Club singlets will be available to those who attend regularly.

## Programme for Term One:

**Monday: 6:00am:** from SM boarding gate

**Wednesday: 6:00am:** from SM boarding gate

**Friday: 6:00am:** from SM boarding gate

Kristal King

MIDDLE LEADER: SCIENCE & DESIGN TECHNOLOGY, HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

SENIOR SCHOOL PROGRAM LEADER

# RUN SAFE

## Leave word.

Write your name down on the Scrambled Legs running roll, and tick it off again before you leave. That way, we will know that you are back safe.

## Make contact.

Carry your mobile phone with you in case you need it.

## Pretend you're invisible.

Don't assume a driver sees you. In fact, imagine that a driver *can't* see you, and behave accordingly.

## Face traffic.

It's easier to see, and react to, oncoming cars. And cars will see you more clearly too.

## Make room.

If traffic gets heavy, or the road narrows, be prepared to move onto the sidewalk or shoulder of the road.

## Be seen.

Wear high visibility, brightly coloured clothing. Reflective materials are also good.

## Watch the hills.

When they crest hills, drivers' vision can suddenly be impaired by factors like sun glare or backdrops.

## Watch for early birds and night owls.

At odd hours be extra careful. Early in the morning and very late at night, people may be overtired and not as attentive.

## Mind your manners.

At a stop sign or light, wait for the driver to wave you through—then acknowledge with your own polite wave. Use hand signals (as you would on a bicycle) to show which way you plan to turn.

