

# Shine at Columba

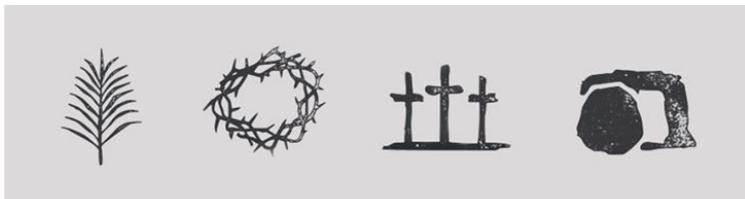
Volume 24 - Edition 5 | Date 1 April 2021



Dear Columba Families,

As we prepare for our Easter holidays, there is much to celebrate including the Secondary and Primary Cross Country events; and the various campus based clubs including Cattle Club, Art, Drama and the auditions for Mamma Mia the Musical. Congratulations to all students in trying their best in class and getting involved in all that Columba affords them in co- curricular opportunities.

The season of Lent and the beginning of Holy Week is a special time for us as a Catholic School. The way of the cross and the death and resurrection of Jesus is our hope for leading better lives and being the best people we can be, regardless of past wrongdoings.



Our College Captains - Olivia Stevenson and Lawsen Ford - have reignited another initiative of Columba Pride, with an initiative where parents, friends and students can share the successes of students across their many areas of their gifts and talents with our community. We have established a dedicated email address for our community to communicate this to us. I have been conscious that our students do so in many wonderful things, and that due to the sheer nature of successes across the College, we sometimes do not fully capture them all! So, I invite and commit you to let us know any student successes, including those who try their very best at anything across the year, so we can celebrate them.

## CELEBRATE COLUMBA!

Use this email address - [celebratecolumba@columba.catholic.edu.au](mailto:celebratecolumba@columba.catholic.edu.au).

We will acknowledge students across the term for their varied achievements. Let's start this initiative with energy in Term 2.

I farewell staff who are leaving this term across the College and I thank them for their many gifts of knowledge, care, patience and dedication over their time at Columba. We farewell Jill Allison from our household staff as she enters retirement; Mrs Wright, Mrs Smythe, Mr Sanusi and Mr Gowreah (replacing Mr Champion who returns from leave in Term 2), from Mt Carmel campus as they all return to their families. I also thank Mr Dempster for stepping into the Year 11/12 Pastoral Leader role while Mr Champion was on leave. His calm, proactive yet assertive approach was greatly appreciated. In residences, I farewell Janine Neville and Toni Williamson from Girls' Boarding and Pauline Muston and Aazim Munif from Boys' Boarding.

I will announce our new staff to you in Term 2, and many have already joined the Columba staff to fill these Term 2 positions. Finally, I wish each of you a blessed Easter season and a restful and joyous holiday break. I will communicate to you any COVID -19 changes impacting us across the break, so you are up to date with what is occurring for your children regarding the commencement of Term 2 on Monday 19 April.

Best wishes.



Candi Dempster  
PRINCIPAL

# COURAGE | COMMITMENT | COMPASSION

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# MEET OUR STAFF



Name:	Riley Wagner
Hometown:	Toowoomba
Subjects taught:	Maths, Science
Favourite Foods:	Caramel Tart, Pasta
Hobbies:	Rock climbing, touch football, running, guitar

## SM CAMPUS AWARDS

### WEEK 8 - KEEPING MY WORKSPACE ORGANISED, CLEAN AND TIDY

Prep	Lucas Truscott
Year 1	Grace Shaw
Year 2	Georgia Stout
Year 3	Evelyn Bennetto
Year 4	Jack Hedges
Year 5	Sam Flood
Year 6	Connor King

### WEEK 9 - TAKING CARE OF THE GROUNDS AND FACILITIES IN THE SCHOOL

Prep	Mackenzi Carnes
Year 1	Jack Maltby
Year 2	Luis Yeo
Year 3	Lincoln Kerr
Year 4	Jeswin Thomas
Year 5	Isabella O'Sullivan
Year 6	David Cassy

## COMPASS

Columba Catholic College uses the student management system called 'Compass'. An important component of this software is the Compass Parent Portal. The Parent Portal is our main point of contact with parents. Each parent is issued with an individual login name and password for the Parent portal.

The Parent Portal allows you to:

- view your child's timetable and the school calendar
- view up-to-date attendance information for your child
- enter details of upcoming absences or explain past absences or late arrivals for your son or daughter
- access your child's Semester Reports
- make bookings for Parent Teacher Interviews
- view the news feed of school announcements, alerts and updates
- communicate by email with your child's teachers
- update your contact details (email and mobile phone number)

Parents and Caregivers will need to access Compass to receive your child's Year 7-12 Term 1 Progress Report and book P-12 Parent Student Teacher interviews.

## PARENT/STUDENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Prep - Year 12 Parent/Student/Teacher Interviews will be held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April from 3.30pm – 6.30pm. P-6 Interviews will take place on the St. Mary's Campus and Years 7 - 12 interviews will take place on the Mt. Carmel Campus in the Dining Room and Kelly Block. Please allow time to travel between campuses when booking interviews.

Students are requested to attend Parent / Student / Teacher interviews in their day uniform. This will provide students with an opportunity to express their needs and set goals in partnership with parents / caregivers and teachers for Term 2.

Parents / caregivers of boarders who are unable to attend the interviews can request a phone interview with teaching staff. Please book an interview time with the teacher/s you would like to meet with **and then email the office ([office@columba.catholic.edu.au](mailto:office@columba.catholic.edu.au)) to let the College know you would like a phone interview and provide us with the time booked and best phone number to contact you on.**

Bookings can be made from Thursday 1 April until Friday 16 April 2021. Parents and Caregivers will be able to book Parent Student Teacher Interviews in the **Compass Parent Portal**.

# FROM THE ASSISTANT TO THE PRINCIPAL - RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - MC CAMPUS

As I write this article, we are in Holy Week – a time of devotion to the Passion (suffering) of Jesus Christ. From Palm Sunday (last Sunday) through to Easter, Christians recall the events leading up to Christ's death by crucifixion and his resurrection. The three days prior to Easter are important for Catholics, but do we know why?

**Holy Thursday** is typically when we re-enact the Lord's Last Supper, the meal that He shared with his apostles on the night He was betrayed and arrested. Like Jesus did with his apostles, our priests usually wash the feet of 12 worshippers (pre-Covid, of course!). At the Last Supper, Jesus instituted the Mass (Eucharist) and we are reminded of this.

**Good Friday** is the day of Jesus' crucifixion and death, and it is a time when we venerate (honour and respect) the Cross. This service is held at 3pm (the hour at which He is believed to have died), we go forward and kiss the Cross (in pre-Covid times) and in doing so show our profound respect for Christ's sacrifice for us. Many parishes have ceased including the Rite of Communion in their celebration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday. In other parishes, parishioners will receive Communion (usually from the tabernacle) that was consecrated the night because there is no consecration of the Eucharist on Good Friday.

**Holy Saturday** is a vigil (at night fall) when we keep watch for the rising of Our Saviour. It is known

as the day He went down into the netherworld in order to bring back up with Him into heaven those who had died before His coming. Up to this time, the gates to heaven were closed and no one could go there because of the original sin of Adam. Jesus changed all that. By paying the price for our sins on the Cross, He gained for us eternal salvation and heaven was opened up once more

<https://www.catholiceducation.org/en/culture/catholic-contributions/the-meaning-of-holy-week.html>

If you are in Charters Towers and able to join us at St. Columba's Parish, the times are as follows:

**Holy Thursday** – The Supper of the Lord (6pm);

**Good Friday** – 3pm;

**Holy Saturday** – Vigil Mass (7pm);

**Easter Sunday** – The Resurrection of the Lord (9am).

Wherever you are and whatever you are doing, spending quality time with family, friends and others – loving one another – is actively living out Jesus' second greatest commandment.

Below is an outline of some of the initiatives and achievements in both the Religious Education and Religious Life of the School for Term 1:

**Caritas' Project Compassion:** During Lent, we have been encouraging our students and staff to 'Be More' and transform lives through the Caritas Project Compassion campaign. Each week, we've shown them the Project Compassion videos that highlight the stories

of people whose lives have changed through funding and education from Caritas. Empowered by an understanding of the 'how' and 'why', students and staff have given whole heartedly to this cause through a range of initiatives including the selling of pikelets on Shrove Tuesday, a green-themed free dress day and bake sale on St. Patrick's Day and an Easter raffle. In addition, we've also donated money to this worthy cause, filling many Project Compassion boxes to help those in need.

**St. Vincent de Paul Teen Vinnies' Group:** Teen Vinnies at Columba is passionately dedicated to social justice and community service in our College and the wider community. While many members have continued on from previous years, we warmly welcomed new members at the beginning of the year. New members are welcome to join at any time. The following students were nominated and accepted office bearer roles for 2021: President – **Emmanuel Boref**; Vice-President – **Olivia Stevenson**; Secretary – **Lily Duddy**.

During this term, Teen Vinnies' members have assisted with selling pikelets on Shrove Tuesday (thank you to **Miss Leech** and her class for cooking the pikelets) and running a free dress and bake sale on St. Patrick's Day. This week, Teen Vinnies' members will deliver a basket of Easter goodies and cards to the elderly at Dalrymple Villa. More good works are planned for Term 2 and beyond!

**MC Student Representative Council:** This group is chaired by College Vice Captains **Elle Beare** and **Bailey Bliss**. Students in Years 7-11 were nominated by their peers and voted in to represent their cohort on this committee. All SRC members then elected which sub-committee they wanted to be part of, including: Mission and Liturgy, Spirit and Engagement, Social Justice, Academics and Learning, and Indigenous Culture. Each of these sub-committees is supported by staff members and meet prior to the actual SRC meeting to formal two key goals for the term. Projects for Term 1 include (but are not limited to) Interhouse soccer, the SRC Breakfast Program, the CCC Recycling Club, Interhouse Scrabble, lunchtime tutoring, and a special Columba Acknowledgment/Welcome to Country.

This innovative group comprises: **Jet Ives** and **Ella MacPherson** (Year 7), **Callum Bartschat** and **Hannah Hopkins** (Year 8), **Chelsea Turnbull** and **Clarice Young** (Year 10), **Jessica Rose** and **Imogen Ruyg** (Year 10), **Cassandra McIntosh** and **Regan Burgoine** (Year 11), **Bailey Bliss** and **Elle Beare** (College Vice Captains and Chairs of the SRC), **Lawsen Ford** and **Olivia Stevenson** (College Captains), **Lily Duddy** (Mission and Liturgy), **Kieran Burns** (Spirit and Engagement), **Emmanuel Boref** (Social Justice), **Kolby Amos** (Academics and Learning) and **Naveah Ambrym** (Indigenous Culture).

**The Colour Fun Run:** This week we have launched the 2021 Colour Fun Run. This is our College's major fundraiser for the CSPA and the Immersion Trip. All parents/guardians received a

letter on the Monday of this week containing details about how to set up an online profile. Our goal is for all students to create a profile and we'd like to raise \$30 000 (which is slightly above the \$26 000+ that we raised last year). There are great prizes to be won! Every child who raises \$10 will receive a prize. The Colour Fun Run will be held on Founders' Day which is **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> June** this year.

**2021 EREA Student Leaders' Conference:** In January 2021, the Edmund Rice Education Australia Student Leaders' Conference was online rather than inter or intra state. Our College Captains, **Lawson Ford** and **Olivia Stevenson**, participated in this brilliant faith-based leadership opportunity. The theme of the conference was leadership and ecology, caring for our country, caring for our common home. The focus of some of the sessions included: images of leadership, caring for country and our common home – everyone and everything is connected. Some specific areas they focused on included their motivation to accept leadership, what being a leader looks like, how leaders can work together to make change, and how we can all care for our common home.

**Lenten Program:** College staff and Parish members have participated in a 6-week Lenten program titled 'Comfort', which Ryan O'Connor and I have led on both campuses. This program focuses on enabling participants, through the reflections, to experience the continued grace of the Paschal Mystery through which God has revealed to His great love for us. During the busyness of the term and in the lead up to Easter, it has been deeply refreshing to journey with the participants, sharing the Good News, and getting to know one another's stories through our faith commitment.

**Year 12 Retreat:** Earlier this term, Year 12 students, together with **Mr Dempster, Mr Sanusi, Mr Marty, Mrs Michaelis** and I attended the Year 12 Retreat at the Apex Club on Magnetic Island. The theme of this Retreat was 'Chosen to be Disciples: Following in the Footsteps of Jesus'. Students participated in a range of religious-based activities, including creating a beautiful banner and framed picture that will be used as part of their Graduation liturgy. The highlight of the Retreat was the liturgy on Thursday night when the students' fantastic singing and respectful participation signalled that their faith is truly alive!

**CCC Youth Group:** The CCC Youth Group meets once a month in the Parish meeting room at St. Columba's Parish. Each meeting is led by Secondary and Primary students and involves a liturgy, games and activities on a student-related religious or social justice theme. The dates for Term 2 are: **Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> May** and **Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> June**. New members are always welcome to join us!

God Bless.



Christine O'Sullivan  
APRE – MC CAMPUS

## PROJECT COMPASSION 2021

### HOLY WEEK

As we enter Holy Week, we continue to reflect on the lives of people vulnerable to extreme poverty and injustice and how we can respond through supporting Caritas Australia's Project Compassion appeal.

Let us take time to remember the life and teachings of Saint Oscar Romero. His many lessons include: live a simple life, commit to bringing peace to the world, speak the truth and of course aspire not to have more, but to be more. Some words from what has become known as the Oscar Romero prayer; "We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that. This enables us to do something, and to do it very well. It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest."

Thank you for supporting Caritas Australia's Project Compassion Campaign. Your generosity will work for the freedom of those living in poverty, challenge unjust structures, and empower people to work for a sustainable way of life.

**Please return all Project Compassion boxes and envelopes to the school office by Friday 28th May or donate online via the Caritas website at [lent.caritas.org.au](http://lent.caritas.org.au)**



# MEET OUR BOARD



**Name:** Rohan Dixon - Board Chair

**Occupation/Position in the Community:** Senior Business Analyst (Energy Queensland)

**Connection with the College:** My family have a long standing connection to the College. I am a past student and my sons both attended and graduated from Columba as fourth generation students.

**What is your motivation to be a Board Member?** I have a passion for what Columba can offer as an all-round educational and life experience. Nothing gives me more satisfaction than past students giving back to their respective communities in whatever path they choose in life. Our future as a College is therefore important to me.

## NAPLAN

### NAPLAN 2021: INFORMATION FOR YEARS 3, 5, 7 & 9 PARENTS

Columba Catholic College students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 will be undertaking NAPLAN testing online in May this year.

The 2021 NAPLAN online test window starts on the 11 May and finishes on the 21 May 2021. All students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 are expected to participate in NAPLAN tests and it is important they attend schools on these days.

On Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 participated in online NAPLAN practice tests. Students completed these tests to familiarise themselves with the tests and the online platform.

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) assesses literacy and numeracy skills. NAPLAN is a point-in-time assessment that allows parents to see how their child is progressing in literacy and numeracy against the national standard and compared with their peers throughout Australia. At the classroom level, NAPLAN provides additional information to support teachers' professional judgement about student progress.

Parents and caregivers of students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 need to be aware of important information relating to privacy, which can be found on the NAPLAN Online Queensland website's parent information page (<http://nap.edu.au/naplan/privacy>) as well as the information in the fact sheet about NAPLAN Online – Information for Parents and Carers. (<https://www.nap.edu.au/naplan/parent-carer-support>)

More information about NAPLAN Online can be found on the following website: (<https://www.nap.edu.au/home>).

If you require any further information, please contact Joanne Andrews or Maria Peck.

Maria Peck

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL - ADMINISTRATION



## BOARD SHORTS

Recently, Mrs Dempster, Mrs McCabe, Father Emmanuel and I attended the Townsville Catholic Education Office School Formation Day in Townsville. The day always serves to reaffirm the role the College Board plays in supporting Columba. Bishop Tim was a key speaker on the day and sent a strong message regarding the future direction of all our schools in North Queensland. The gathering also provides a great opportunity to network with other school board members and Principals. We look forward to implementing some of the learnings from the day into your Board's focus and direction this year.

Rohan Dixon  
BOARD CHAIR



*Shine at Columba*

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



## SPORTS SHORTS

### Term 1 in a Nutshell

Sports for Columba has been an action packed 10 weeks. Throughout the term students have participated and excelled in a number of different sporting environments. I would just like to make mention of a few highlights from the last ten weeks. **Week 1:** A three-day school week to start the year and sport was already underway with swimming trials! **Week 2:** On Friday the 5<sup>th</sup> February we had our annual interhouse swimming carnival at the town pool which was taken out by Rice house. **Week 3:** Interschool swimming training started with Lachie Harrison at the MC pool. Interschool Mixed Tennis started for the first time (U13s, U14s, U15s 2nds and 1sts). **Week 4:** Round 2 of the Interschool Mixed Tennis. Charters Towers trials commenced for U15s and Opens Rugby League and Netball. Columba had a number of successful students (list below). **Week 5:** Round 3 of interschool sport. Columba hosted the Charters Towers Secondary School swimming carnival and took home the silverware for the first time in a number of years. **Week 6:** Round 4 of Tennis. Town Netball commences for U13s – 1sts. Columba hosted the Catholic School Carnival and placed first in Rugby League and second in Netball. We also competed very respectably in debating. Start of our interhouse lunch time soccer competition. **Week 7:** Round 5 interschool sport. A number of students attended NQ trials in Townsville for U18 Rugby Union and Touch. **Week 8:** Round 6 of tennis. A number of students attending NQ Rugby League trials in Townsville. **Week 9:** Make up games for tennis against BTC due to a round 2 wash out. Interhouse Cross Country at the Charters Towers airport reserve which was won by McAuley. Finals for our interhouse soccer competition were played with McAuley taking it out overall **Week 10:** Rest and recover in preparation for a massive Term 2!

#### Special Mentions.

Congratulations to the following students who were selected to represent Charters Towers for their respective sports.

- U15 and Open Netball: Maddi Knuth, Bridie Shun, Morgan Day, Kijuana Ambrym and Boesha Moore-Reid.
- U15s and Open Rugby League: Angus Ford, Cooper Nibbs, Max Campbell, Kelly Muke, Naqarne Oui, Bailey Bliss, Bailey Ernst, Zane Ernst, Campbell Burton, Kyle Pacey, Lawsen Ford, Ben O'Neill, Preston Ah Wing and Charlie Kruger.

#### Northern Representatives

The following students have been selected to represent North Queensland for their chosen sport. We, as a College, are incredibly proud of their efforts and commitment to training and competition which has resulted in their selection.

- Charlie Kruger – Opens Water Polo. Competing on April 29th
- Bailey Bliss – Opens Rugby League and Rugby Union (withdrawn). Unfortunately, due to commitments, Bailey has withdrawn from Rugby Union but will still represent NQ for Rugby League on the 22nd of May.
- Beau Lavery – North Queensland Golf. Competed at Royal Pines on the weekend of the 27/03/21
- Dallas Douglas – North Queensland Golf. Competed at Royal Pines on the weekend of the 27/03/21
- Tyler Thompson – U18s Cricket. Tyler represented North Queensland in March and was rewarded for his efforts. The NQ team did incredibly well, placing third in a weather reduced event. Tyler also was the second top run scorer for the Northern Team and displayed some incredible batting in his time at the crease.

Congratulations to all of these athletes on their wonderful achievements and good luck for those yet to compete.

Jordan Marty

**SPORT PROGRAM LEADER**

## YEAR 7-12 TERM 1 PROGRESS REPORTS

Year 7-12 Term 1 Progress Reports will be available in the Compass Parent Portal on Tuesday 6 April 2021. I encourage you to discuss your child's Term 1 academic progress with them and set academic goals and targets for Term 2.

## QCE REFERENCE GROUP

### NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR QCE REFERENCE GROUP

The Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA) is calling for students to nominate for the new myQCE Student Reference Group. The group gives students the chance to have their say about the QCE system processes and senior schooling.

All Queensland students in Years 10, 11 and 12 are eligible to apply. Regardless of where you live, the school you attend, or the subjects or courses you're studying, you can apply to become a member.

Students will need to be a good communicator and actively participate in group meetings and discussions and you will have to be dedicated, as your membership will continue until you graduate from Year 12. The group will meet up to four times in 2021 and up to six times from 2022. Nominations are open until Monday 19 April.

For more information and to nominate, visit the myQCE website at <https://myqce.qcaa.qld.edu.au/get-involved.html>

Maria Peck  
**DEPUTY PRINCIPAL - ADMINISTRATION**

## HPE NEWS

As we begin to make the transition to the Easter Holidays, it is important to reflect on the progress and achievements of our students this term in Health and Physical Education. It was a big term for our year 7 students who were experiencing high school for the first time. Without hesitation our youngest members of the College dove right into swimming for their practical, focusing on technique development and enjoyment. The theory lessons allowed students to engage in conversations about adolescence and the changes that are occurring in their personal lives, as well as how they can better support one another. Year 8 students also started the year on the fly, developing an understanding about our body and bones. This theory unit allowed them to develop a greater knowledge of the bodies skeletal system and how our muscles and organs support our everyday activity. In their practical lesson students engaged in one of the all time favourites, netball. They developed body and movement concepts throughout the term which allowed teachers to notice progression right from week 1. Year 9 students had the pleasure of bouncing around the courts as well in their practical lessons but not for netball. This time, the students were asked to transfer their skills learnt last year to basketball. A sport that doesn't come naturally to a lot of North Queenslanders the students were eager to learn and improve. It is wonderful when the skills that they work hard on during lessons start to pay off towards the end of the term when some very competitive games taking place. In the classroom the Year 9 students investigated performance enhancing drugs in sport. Not only were they able to identify the impact these drugs have on the human body they understood the repercussions on personal and professional lives. In Year 10, students developed their own personal training programs that they applied to the practical component of swimming. Students had to be able to identify strengths and weaknesses in their performance and create a program accordingly. The development of our junior HPE students across the term is evident and is a testament to the HPE staff.

In Senior PE, our students have been busy since day 1. The new ATAR system requires blocks of work to be done with efficiency and determination. Our senior class engaged heavily in Touch Football for their practical component, identifying, analysing and evaluating their performance against criteria. Throughout the unit we developed an understanding of Sports Psychology and how we can use this interesting topic of study to better develop our own performance. In Year 11 and 12, Sport and Recreation students either began or continued to work their way through modules. Learning about the Sport, Fitness and Recreation industries requirements and beginning to develop programs of their own which they delivered in their class environment.

I am incredibly thankful to be involved in this learning area and want to encourage all of our students to strive to achieve their personal best in practical and theoretical lessons.

Jordan Marty  
**CURRICULUM LEADER - HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

## ENGLISH NEWS

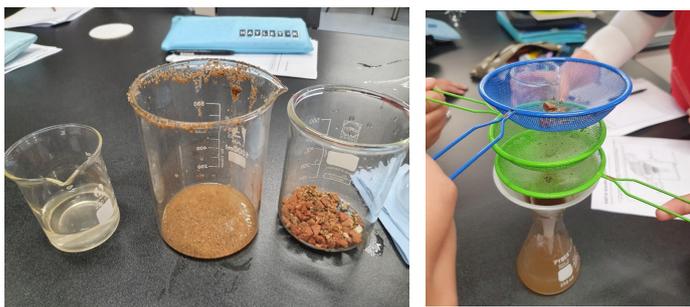
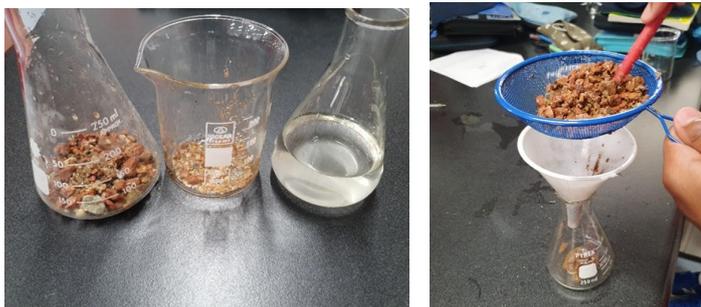
Term 1 has been a very creative and busy term for students across all years in English in 2021. Year 7 began with a creative short story, sharing ideas from their lives or deciding to write a narrative based on people of their choice that could realistically have occurred; teachers have seen some very thoughtful responses to this task. We have been very lucky to be able to read some excellent creations of graphic novels from the very talented Year 8 students who worked with the novel, *Parvana*, to recreate their own version of a chapter: they worked with panels, creative language choices, and purposeful selection of images to ensure their new text appropriately represented the original. There was more transformational, creative writing in Year 9, as they filled a gap in the memoir *Lion* by Saroo Brierley, interpreting his life events from the first-person perspective of another character. It was Year 10's turn to begin with an analytical piece of writing based on a documentary they had studied, working through the director's decisions and how this links to audience engagement. Both Year 11 and 12 students have had a chance to analyse novels and films, as well as explore representations in society, of characters, and even some extended spoken vlog tasks too. We are very excited to see what wonderful work they come up with next term.

In the English department over the next term there are many competitions in the areas of reading, public speaking, and writing – poems, short stories, or non-fiction texts, so please encourage your child to get involved! We would be thrilled to support them and help them to grow in confidence across the skills of reading, writing and speaking. We also have inter-school debating coming up in Term 3, so we will begin coaching sessions for this in Term 2. Details will be coming through about the specific dates and times at the start of next term, so look out for that.

Marie Coleman  
**CURRICULUM MIDDLE LEADER - ENGLISH**

## SCIENCE NEWS

The focus this year for Science will be practical experiments with fun laboratory experiences; and the department has started very well. This term, Year 7 studied “mixtures” and how to separate them into pure substances. This involved students investigating a variety of techniques such as filtering and evaporating, with the student experience culminating in their Term 1 assignment. Their task was to separate a dirty mixture of water using all the techniques they learnt in class. As the pictures shows most student achieved tremendous success ending up with clear water. The students also had fun working together to solve this problem. They also made sure to clean up any mess afterwards!



Year 8 studied “matter and properties” with exciting practicals organised by their teachers at least once a week.

Year 9 studied “homeostasis” and how the body responds to change. Their assessment was an in-depth study of how the human body responds to exercise, with students selecting an exercise to complete and collecting data on heart rate and body temperature.

Finally, Year 10 studied DNA and evolution with a practical modelling of natural selection using marshmallows. This was a strong favourite for students.

### Year 12 Field Trip to Fletcher Creek

Year 12 Biology students went out to Fletcher Creek to complete a field study on the biodiversity of that area. The weather was simply perfect and we couldn't have asked for a better day!

Students put the skills of what they learned in the classroom to good use, investigating the different species of plants and creating an ecological profile of the creek. This involved using professional

techniques such as Transects and Quadrats and determining the biodiversity of the flora using Simpsons Diversity Index (SDI). The real world data they collected will be used in their QCAA Experiment Report assessment and I am confident the experience has been helpful in developing their reports. It was fantastic to see students completing the task to such a high standard and it was easy to see future as professional ecologists, should the students choose to pursue that career. Students all described the experience as rewarding and helpful as it brought all their learning to “life”.



Telfer Robertson  
CURRICULUM LEADER - SCIENCE

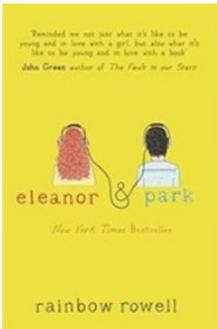
# A TEAM TUITION NEWS

## Must Read Books For Your High Schooler These Holiday

### Andrena Kandiah, Academic Personal Trainer at A Team Tuition

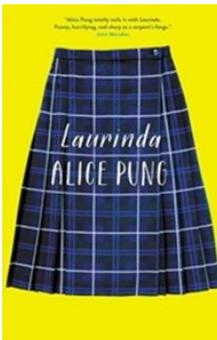
The days spent inside during the school holidays can go by really slow. Your child will most likely be bored out of their mind, or they'll slowly begin to spend double digit hours playing video games. I, too, was one of those kids growing up, but then I discovered my love for reading, and I never looked back. Here are some books that I recommend for high schoolers to pick up over the upcoming break.

### Eleanor & Park by Rainbow Rowell



For those kids who enjoy music and a sweet and simple love story, this book is for them! Eleanor & Park's simple love story has warmed the hearts of children for a long time. Eleanor and Park, two kids from Nebraska, who share a love of comic books and mixtapes of music from the 80s, slowly begin to care and fall in love for each other. Rowell's sweet and caring voice divulges into serious and intense issues that plague many teenagers. Eleanor and Park's self growth during the novel is one that your children can empathise with as well, as they journey in both Eleanor and Park's high school life and their own. There is also a playlist they can listen too as they read!

### Laurinda by Alice Pung



In the form of letters, Pung's acclaimed novel is centred on Lucy Lam, who has won a scholarship to the prestigious Laurinda Ladies Academy in Melbourne, Australia. The timid eyes of Lucy are taken on a new journey when a trio of girls in her new grade, known as the Cabinet, take her under their wing, and attempt to help her settle into her new school. I bought this book on a whim and empathised with it wholly, from the Asian background of Lucy, to the class differences between her and her fellow classmates and so on. Lucy's initial timid voice, which grows to

be strong, proud and layered, is a journey that your child will engage with wholeheartedly and the brave efforts of Lucy to find her identity in a world so different to hers is truly a remarkable feat. This novel suits those who enjoy a simple but empowering story.

### The Hunger Games Trilogy by Suzanne Collins



If your high schooler hasn't started this series yet, it is definitely one they won't be able to put down over the next couple of weeks. Suzanne Collins' riveting science fiction trilogy took the world by storm when it was released and still holds a special place in the hearts of many young adults around the world. Set in a dystopian future, the novels follow Katniss Everdeen, as a competitor in the annual Hunger Games, where tributes from the 12 districts of the nation are put up for sacrifice. Katniss taught me and will teach your children, the value of courage and strength, how important relationships with your friends and family are, and to fight for what's right.

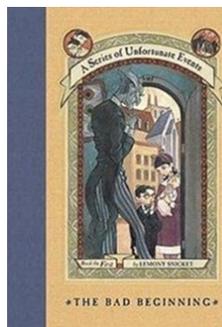
If you enjoy different and dystopian novels, this book is for you!

### Throne of Glass Series by Sarah J. Maas



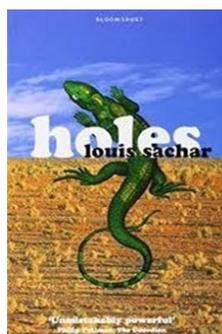
Fantasy is such an excellent genre for your child to escape to during the holidays! The Throne of Glass Series follows female assassin Celaena as she uncovers discoveries and secrets whilst working in a corrupt kingdom under a tyrannical ruler. Celaena's strong-mindedness and resilience in the face of obstacles, particularly when there seems to be no positive light or outcome in problems that she faces, is admirable, and something that I found myself wanting to build upon whilst reading the book. In particular, Celaena's resilience aligns with the A Team I.N.S.P.I.R.E acronym, which APTs continually reiterate in their lessons with students, and will be a fantastic option for your child to relate to! For those who love escaping to other fantastical realms and worlds, this book is for you!

### A Series of Unfortunate Events by Lemony Snicket



Despite the melancholic title and artworks of the novels, Snicket's magnum opus profoundly touches on philosophical, ethical and moral values, themes which you might not expect in young adult fiction. This series is fantastic for those who like tales of perseverance and enjoy being entertained. The series follows the Baudelaire children, who after a fire which has killed their parents, are bounced around to different foster parents, however are continually hunted down Count Olaf who is after the Baudelaire fortune. Snicket's own contributions to the events of the novels and the sheer resilience of the Baudelaire children as they are plagued with 'unfortunate events' one after another, makes for an incredible piece of fiction, and will encourage strong morals, values and character in your child, as they did for me.

### Holes by Louis Sachar



Holes is great for those who love family stories and histories, as well as kid's who can understand layered plots and characters. Louis Sachar introduces us to the beloved literary character of Stanley Yelnats, whose palindromic name was only the beginning of the many things that readers would love about the character and novel. Stanley, who has recently relocated to a juvenile detention centre, Camp Green Lake, finds out that he has distant familial connections to the Camp, and grows from being a brash and rude child, to a mature and accepting young adult. The layers of the plot, the variation in types of characters, and representation of people of colour was truly outstanding, and to this day, remains one of my favourite books because of these factors. The ability of Sachar to touch on adult themes of racism, illiteracy, arranged marriages and homelessness in a childlike manner, will open your child's eyes to the issues around them, and encourage them to be more aware and kind to people around them.

 TEAM TUITION

## SECONDARY INTERHOUSE CROSS COUNTRY

On Tuesday the 23<sup>rd</sup> March Columba students eagerly arrived at the Charters Towers airport reserve for the 2021 Interhouse Cross Country. As the sun rose over the airport and the dew dried out, the Opens made their way to the starting line, some for the final time. The crack of the starters gun filled the air and the Open boys started on their 6-kilometre run. Like clockwork the deafening crack could be heard every five minutes signifying the start of the other age groups. With each race the enthusiasm grew, particularly for our junior students who had been training frequently at Scrambled Legs throughout the term.

Rice house, the defending premiers, were first and second across the line for the carnival with Maria Wilson and Boesha Moore-Reid leading the way for the Opens girls. The morning was full of strong individual performances (full list of Age Champions and Runners up below), however, it was certainly a team effort when it come to overall points. Despite the multitude of houses receiving Age Champions or Runners up, McAuley house worked hard to get as many runners across the line as possible and in the end won both the girls' and boys' divisions. Congratulations to McAuley and to all of the runners on the day who battled it out over 3km, 4km and 6km respectively.

### Girls' Age Champions and Runners Up

Age Group	Age Champion	Runner Up
12 YEARS	Sally Sproat (Rice)	Anastacia Johnson (Polding)
13 YEARS	Ella MacPherson (Polding)	Stevie-Lee Taylor (McAuley)
14 YEARS	Erin Day (Polding)	Bella Duddy (Polding)
15 YEARS	Leah Bethel (Benjamin)	Bridget Wosomo (McAuley)
15 YEARS Multiclass	Tayla Cullen (Polding)	
16 YEARS	Reagan Butler (McAuley)	Holly McHugh (Benjamin)
16 YEARS Multiclass	Scarlet Pickering (Benjamin)	
OPEN	Maria Wilson (Rice)	Boshea Moore-Reid (Rice)
OPENS Multiclass	Jemima Nielsen (Polding)	

### Boys' Age Champions and Runners Up

Age Group	Age Champion	Runner Up
12 YEARS	Denan Palmer (Rice)	Lawsen Day (Polding)
12 YEARS Multiclass	Azariah Hunter (Benjamin)	
13 YEARS	Jackson Walsh (Benjamin)	Tyla Osborne (McAuley)
14 YEARS	Cooper Thomas (McAuley)	Lockie Zadow (McAuley)
15 YEARS	Naqarne Oui (McAuley)	Jeremy Singleton (Polding)
16 YEARS	Assariah Lenoy (Polding)	Beau Lavery (Polding)
16 YEARS multiclass	Blake Jackson (Benjamin)	
OPEN	Bailey Bliss (Polding)	Charlie Kruger (Rice)
OPENS Multiclass	Conner Smith (Rice)	

#### Girls' Division

1. McAuley 120 pts
2. Polding 100 pts
3. Rice 95 pts
4. Benjamin 75 pts

#### Boys' Division

1. McAuley 120 pts
2. Rice 110 pts
3. Polding 105 pts
4. Benjamin 55 pts

#### Overall Trophy

1. McAuley 240 pts
2. Polding 205 pts/Rice 205 pts
3. Benjamin 130 pts

Jordan Marty

**SPORTS PROGRAM LEADER**



## YEAR THREE NEWS

Year 3 commenced the 2021 school year with energy and enthusiasm. Mrs Christensen and Mrs Martell have been very impressed by the children's eagerness to learn.

We have been reading about some of the stories of the Old Testament and God's relationship with his people in Religious Education lessons. Our journey took us through the book of Genesis and the book of Exodus.

Writing lessons have been a 'hive of activity' with students constructing Expositions and Narratives. Many students are really developing their abilities to persuade and to entertain their audience.

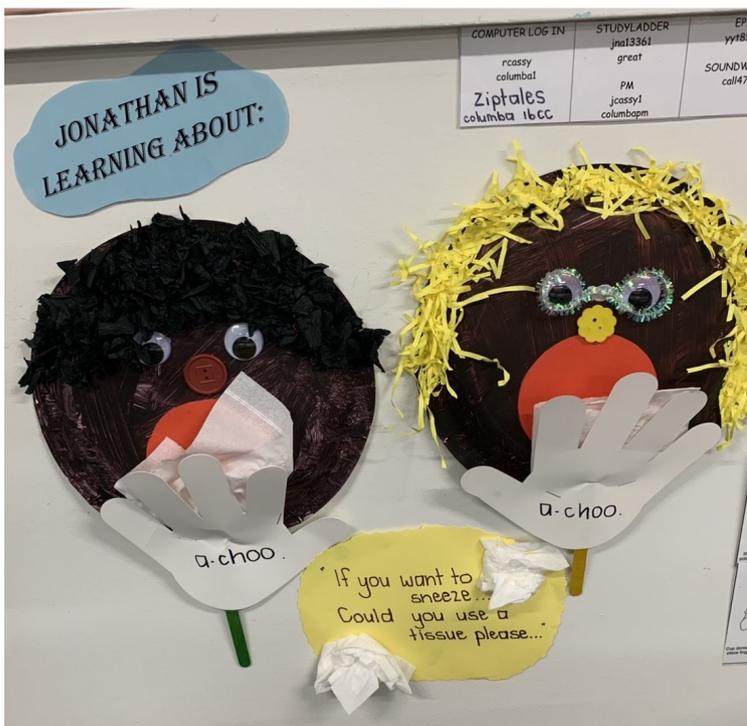
In Mathematics, students have been exposed to a range of concepts across all strands of the Mathematics curriculum. The students have also been enthusiastic scientists this term! We have been looking at different heat sources and what makes a good conductor and insulator.

Our Health lessons have centred around Sun Safety and being great friends to one another. We have been focusing on building supportive friendships.

The class shares a great interest in the past. HASS lessons have explored our Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander connections to the land as well as the arrival of European settlers.

Preparations for NAPLAN have begun and Year 3 are becoming acquainted with the format, styles and range of questioning that they are likely to encounter later in May. Time flies when you are having fun! **Now it is time for a holiday!!**

Mrs Christensen and Mrs Martell  
**YEAR THREE TEACHERS**



## PRIMARY NETBALL

How thankful we all are to be back on the courts this year!

The Primary Interschool Netball consisted of Chloe Archer, Tyla Kerr, Baylee Kerr, Bailey McGuire, Bobbi Jenkins, Bridie Mitchell, Ruby Thomas, Bella Casella, Rachel Williams, Grace O'Connor and Ava Ramm.

The first week's round was played against RHSS where we were defeated 3-1 and in the second game against ASSG we came away with another loss of 7-1. We faced CSS in the second week and had our first win of 12 - 0 followed by another great win against BTC of 6 - 0.

The 3rd week of rounds was played against MSS where we went down 8 - 6 followed by an uplifting win against RHSS of 4-3.

Gala Day came around quickly and this excited bunch of girls showed just how far they have come both as a team and individually. The girls confidently won the first 3 rounds which put them into the Quarter finals, placing them 3rd overall for the season.

The girls were always keen for training and learning new skills. It's been a pleasure to coach you this season and I hope you continue to play with great sportsmanship and determination as shown throughout this season.

Thank you to all the parents that have watched and cheered the girls on. It is always appreciated.

Larrissa Crowley  
**COACH**



## PRIMARY RUGBY LEAGUE - UNDEFEATED PREMIERS

The Primary Interschool rugby league season commenced 4 weeks ago and culminated in a Gala Day last Friday. The boys had a terrific season considering many were playing rugby league for the very first time and finished the season undefeated and retained the Gala Day Shield for the 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year.

Results for the weekly Friday round games were:  
Columba defeated All Souls 48-12  
Columba defeated Richmond Hill SS 24-12  
Columba defeated Central SS 24-8

Gala Day was held at Bill Lewis Oval. The boys played terrific football throughout the day, with the boys playing well as a team and showing so much enjoyment in playing with their mates. During the Grand Final, the team had to come from behind, for the first time all season, to defeat Richmond Hill State School in what was an entertaining and exciting game of rugby league.

Results for the Gala Day were:  
Columba defeated All Souls 24-8  
Columba defeated BTC/Millchester SS 24-0  
Columba defeated Richmond Hill SS 16-8  
Columba defeated Central SS 12-4  
Columba defeated Richmond Hill SS 12-8 Grand Final

Six of our players made the Charters Towers team with some other players unlucky to miss out. The players selected were James Uren, Nathan Purcell, Connor King, Aaron Murray, Zander Murray and Billy Shun.

I'd like to thank all the parents and grandparents who came along every week to cheer along the team and Mr O'Connor for volunteering as a referee.

Gerard Webber  
**COACH**

