



ST. COLUMBA'S PARISH PRIMARY SCHOOL, ELWOOD



The Little School with a Big Heart

NURTURING EACH OTHER TO GROW, LEARN AND ACHIEVE

Prospectus 2021

LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

January 2021

Dear Parents,

On behalf of Father John Petrulis, the staff, parents and students, I warmly welcome you to St Columba's School.

St. Columba's is a Catholic school, which holds Jesus' teachings as central to our lives. The school aims to inspire the hearts, minds and souls of our students to be the best people they can be, academically, socially and emotionally, physically and spiritually, and to enable them to become life-long learners. We look forward to working with you in our supportive community, sharing our beliefs, our expertise and skills, and our friendship.

This booklet presents some important information about our school, and the Religious Education, Student Wellbeing, PYP, Innovation and extra-curricular programs on offer here at St. Columba's.

Please do not hesitate to contact me on 9531 6560 for any enquiries. Additional information is available on our school website at <http://www.stcolumbasprimary.org/>

Yours Sincerely,

Ms Daniella Maddalena
Principal



St Columba's – A School for the Future

Where we have come from

St Columba's has served the Elwood and St Kilda communities since the school was opened in 1918 by the Presentation sisters. St Columba's has always seen itself as a vital and vibrant part of the community around it. The school has seen many changes in demographics and has responded accordingly to the needs of the community.

Where we are today

Our motto, 'The little school with a big heart' represents St Columba's unique culture of care, empathy and respect for diversity. This emanates from parish life and our unique association with Sacred Heart Mission, which embody these core values as their central tenets.

As a Catholic school, we are called to act with compassion and empathy, to respect and care for our world and for the most vulnerable and to promote inclusion and provide community.

It is the village feel that captures the hearts of those who choose to enrol their children into St Columba's. The warmth and genuine nurturing environment that they see and feel as they enter permeates throughout the school and well into our community.

Where we are going

Now as we enter this next chapter of our school's history we see ourselves as a *school for the future*:

- A school that has a rich, relevant and engaging approach to learning and teaching while maintaining its tradition of care and wellbeing.
- A school where children truly flourish both academically and socially emotionally.
 - A school that works together with its community as partners in education.
 - A school where the 21st century is seen as an exciting new frontier where opportunities abound for each child in our care.
 - A school that leads the way with sustainable practices and actions.
- A school that keeps at its heart the foundational tenets that it and the parish has been built upon respect, community, inclusion, care for our world and for the most vulnerable.
- A school that clearly sets its sights on providing learning that is engaging, rigorous, purposeful and meets the needs of learning for the future.
 - A school that understands its place within the bigger global context and acknowledges and accepts the responsibility and challenges that come with this.

Our history is very much a part of who we are today and as we move forward we will strive to honour our past whilst embracing the challenge and excitement that 'St Columba's- a school for the future', promises our community.

Student Wellbeing and Pastoral Care

This school community is committed to the safety, wellbeing and protection of all children in our care.

We believe that a supportive, positive learning environment contributes to the development of a student's sense of self-worth, enthusiasm for learning and optimism for the future. We pride ourselves on developing respect and understanding of individual differences, and the inclusion of students with disabilities.

Our wellbeing program is structured around the implementation of a Social Emotional Learning strategy, which includes such learning experiences as:

- Bounce Back (P – 6 resilience program)
- Circle Time
- Buddy Program (Preps and Year 6 students)
- St Columba's Kids (Peer support program mixing children from Prep – Year 6)
- Student Leadership (all Year 6 students) and SRC (years 1-6)
- STEM Leaders program (Year 5)
- Eco Warriors – sustainability leaders all Year 3/4 students
- Orientation to school (for new Preps and children entering other levels)
- Buddy program for children and families new to the school at all levels
- Transition to Secondary School (Year 6)
- Transition to Year 6 (Year 5)
- Wellbeing student leadership team



Our Student Wellbeing Leader, Bern Bradley, works with the staff, parents and outside agencies to ensure the best possible experiences at school for students. The Student Wellbeing Leader monitors the learning, social and emotional needs of students by:

- Supporting students experiencing difficulty at school in areas of behaviour, learning, social and emotional development
- Supporting teachers by generating information, strategies and ideas
- Supporting parents to assist students at home and communicating programs and strategies employed at school
- Recommending coping strategies to build resilience in students
- Recommending and facilitating referrals to services outside school when appropriate and approved by parents
- Ensuring that 'at risk' students are monitored regularly and reviewed consistently according to their Personal Learning Program
- Promoting a positive school climate and consistent approach to student management
- Providing curriculum support where necessary
- Peaceful Kids – A mindfulness and positive psychology-based program to lessen anxiety and stress and increase resilience in children
- SEL – Social Emotional Learning (explicit teaching about developing the ability to care for others, making responsible decisions, establishing positive relationships, and handling challenging situations).

Individual Student Educational Needs

Although students are grouped into classes, we know that children develop and progress academically at different rates. Teachers differentiate to meet the individual needs of students. They monitor students continually to ensure children are making progress and keep parents informed about that progress.

To assist with this process, Differentiation Support Team meetings are held twice a term between the classroom teachers and Differentiation Team. This ensures regular monitoring of each student allowing small group intervention/ extension to occur where necessary. These groups are fluid and are based on regular record keeping and close observation of the child's performance in group work and individual independent work.

Some students receiving funding through the National Consistent Collection of Data (NCCD) will also have a Personal Learning Plan and regular Program Support Group meetings. This structure enables teachers, student wellbeing and inclusion leader, principal and other professionals to care for the total well-being, academically and social emotionally, of the individual student.

Student Management Policy - Discipline

The school's discipline policy focuses on developing self-discipline, growth in responsibility, resilience and self-respect in all within our school – students, teachers and parents. Our discipline procedures draw on the philosophy of assertive discipline promoting positive interpersonal relations between students and staff. Our discipline policy is based on fairness, using clear consequences for inappropriate behaviour, and does not include corporal punishment.

Good role modelling aims to prevent bullying and harassment at school. Bullying is unacceptable and not tolerated. The absence of bullying is essential in providing a safe, secure and happy environment for all members of the St. Columba's school community.

Beliefs

- Every student has the right to learn and play in a happy and safe environment
- Every teacher has the right and responsibility to educate his/her students
- The learning of other students must not be affected by the discipline strategies implemented
- When everyone knows the limits and expectations, and the benefits of operating within them, learning will be an enjoyable and enriching experience for all
- Students can take action to make the school a safe and happy place by talking to a teacher or other responsible person when they have concerns
- Every instance of bullying needs to be addressed

Code of Behaviour

1. Respect the right of teachers to educate and the rights of students to learn
2. Observe school, classroom and playground rules
3. Respect the belongings of others
4. Respect each other's personal space
5. Use respectful language
6. No Bullying – our school is a No Bullying Zone.

ST. COLUMBA'S – A LEARNER-CENTRED SCHOOL

St Columba's Primary School is a candidate school for the PYP. This school is pursuing authorization as an IB World School. IB World Schools share a common philosophy- a commitment to high-quality, challenging, international education- that we believe is important for our students.*

** Only schools authorized by the IB Organization can offer any of its four academic programmes: the Primary Years Programme (PYP), the Middle Years Programme (MYP), the Diploma Programme (DP), or the Career-related Programme (CP). Candidate status gives no guarantee that authorization will be granted.*

For further information about the IB and its programmes visit <http://www.ibo.org>.

Contemporary Learning and Teaching

At St. Columba's, the curriculum is designed to ensure that all students gain the knowledge, skills and deep understandings required for success in a 21st Century society. This includes a range of skills that enables our students to participate fully in their school, parish and local communities today, and to be active members of their communities tomorrow. Skills of:

- innovation,
- collaboration,
- problem solving,
- self-direction,
- self-regulation,
- the capacity to relate to others and
- the capacity to manage change



are embedded throughout the curriculum, in ways that consider the stages of a child's development from Prep through to Year Six.

IB learner profile

The International Baccalaureate (IB) learner profile describes a broad range of human capacities and responsibilities that go beyond academic success.

They imply a commitment to help all members of the school community learn to respect themselves, others and the world around them. The profile aims to develop learners who are:

- Inquirers
- Knowledgeable
- Thinkers
- Communicators
- Principled
- Open-minded
- Caring
- Risk-takers
- Balanced
- Reflective



At St Columba's we connect learning across all areas of the curriculum through an Inquiry approach. We explore big ideas and concepts to engage our students to real life issues. We have a strong focus on merging STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) within our curriculum and providing opportunities for our children to become animated learners by embracing technology.

At St. Columba's we realise that students require appropriate learning and teaching experiences directed toward their particular stages of development and which take into account what they know and can already do.

Our curriculum is designed to engage all students in learning. It uses a mix of active hands-on investigation and inquiry, alongside group times, personal reflection times, small group explicit instruction and other learning experiences. Listed below are a number of the key elements of the curriculum:

- Children's prior knowledge and interests are used as the predominant means for learning experiences
- Children's interests are expanded and supported as a means of ongoing engagement in particular learning areas
- Standards from *the Victorian Curriculum* and school level are used to inform planning
- A constructivist approach to learning is used alongside explicit instruction
- Learning experiences promote curiosity, creativity, imagination and scope for the child to invent and create
- The learning experience emphasizes active engagement. They provide children with opportunities to explore processes not just end products and encourage children to pursue some of their learning experiences into ongoing inquiries



Inquiry Learning

"Tell me and I forget, show me and I remember, involve me and I understand."

This quote sums up the essence of inquiry learning and is an important aspect of a contemporary learning environment.

Inquiry learning involves students deeply in what they are learning about. An inquiry-based classroom is a place where students:

- are encouraged to show curiosity
- ask questions and search for answers to questions
- use technologies that take them beyond the walls of the classroom
- develop deep understandings of the ideas and concepts embedded within the curriculum.



Teachers plan and implement units of inquiry, centred around broad concepts and understandings that come from the following learning areas: Religious Education, Health, Science, Humanities, Technologies and the General Capabilities. These require students to develop higher order thinking and the skills required for lifelong learning.

LEARNING AREAS

The Victorian Curriculum identifies English, Mathematics, Humanities, Technologies, Science, Languages, The Arts, Health and Physical Education as the learning areas for the curriculum from Prep to Year Six and beyond.

English

At St. Columba's we believe that the study of English is central in developing students who are confident communicators and informed citizens. It is through the study of English that individuals learn to analyse, understand and interact with others and the world around them.

The focus in the first three years of literacy learning at our school is on developing strong foundations for reading, writing, speaking and listening. Teachers structure the class into small groups and focus their instruction on the individual and group needs of the students, constantly monitoring their progress. Children read, write, speak, listen, draw, think and discuss throughout the day, in all areas of their learning.

The focus for Prep to Year 2 students is to:

- learn how sounds in English are represented alphabetically
- learn to read to obtain meaning from print
- practise reading different kinds of texts to achieve fluency and gain control over strategies for comprehension and repairing misunderstandings
- begin to gain control over the process of writing through creating their own texts
- develop an appreciation of the ways language provides opportunities to acquire knowledge, explore ideas, express opinions and listen to the opinions of others



In Years 3 and 4 students:

- deepen their understanding of the purpose and function of different text types
- begin to explore grammatical structures and technical language in text extend their use of language for a variety of purposes in composing and responding to print and non-print texts
- expand their spoken and written vocabulary
- enjoy opportunities to engage with a wide variety of literary and factual texts, and make connections with their own experience.

In Years 5 and 6 students consolidate and build on their knowledge and skills as independent readers and writers who are ready to take more responsibility for their learning. During this stage, students:

- learn how to use informal and formal language appropriately in a range of social contexts and for a range of purposes
- develop and understand the terminology (grammar) to talk about and describe structures and features of language
- read, view, write, speak and listen to a range of texts that present challenging ideas and issues
- compose, comprehend and respond to literary and media texts in increasingly thoughtful and critical ways
- present their own ideas and arguments in spoken and written language and through other modes
- make connections between their own experiences and ideas and the experiences and ideas they encounter in texts drawn from many contexts.

The rich diversity of language experiences students engage in at home and in the community extends their literacy skills.

Prep-Year 2 enjoy two hours of uninterrupted literacy learning each day. One hour is dedicated to Reading and while the other hour focuses on Writing. The Reading hour is devoted to teaching and practising reading skills and strategies with an emphasis on reading to self, reading to others, phonics, word work and comprehension. This gives children the opportunity to develop fluency and expression and appreciate the richness of language. The writing hour introduces the children to the different aspects of each writing genre and focuses on the teaching of writing skills and strategies. Spelling, Grammar and handwriting are incorporated into this hour. Spelling instruction at the school is systematic using a synthetic phonic approach whilst also developing students morphemic and etymological knowledge.

The focus in Years 3-6 builds upon the foundations established in the earlier years. They consolidate and build on their knowledge and skills as independent readers and writers who are ready to take more responsibility for their learning. Developing comprehension is a major focus in these years with children being challenged to “read between the lines” to become critical readers.

Mathematics

Mathematics at St. Columba’s seeks to give students opportunities to use Maths in real world contexts. This is achieved through:

- the development of number sense and mental computation skills, and
- engaging in mathematical investigations and problem-solving activities, individually and in small cooperative groups, to find solutions to everyday problems



Students are encouraged to question, seek better methods for answering questions, use concrete materials first before formulating abstract ways of recording and over time, develop generalizations leading to learning set formulaic methods.

Students have many opportunities to develop their mathematical thinking skills; this includes regular opportunities to reflect on their learning and discover their own errors.

Differentiation

Students are monitored throughout their schooling through ongoing formal and informal assessment.

Regular monitoring of each student allows small group intervention to occur where necessary. These groups are flexible and targeted specifically to the needs of the children. They are based on regular record keeping and close observation of the child's performance in group work and individual independent work. This enables extra support or extension to be given when needed.

Differentiation support teachers works alongside classroom teachers to differentiate learning experiences in literacy and numeracy, utilizing explicit targeted instruction that caters for both support and extension needs. There is close liaison between these teachers to provide feedback on children's progress, which informs future planning.

Humanities (Civics & Citizenship, History, Geography, Economics & Business)

The Humanities in Prep to Year 6 involve the study of history, geography, human societies and environments, people and their cultures in the past and the present.

The Humanities take as their subject matter human behaviour. They provide unique ways to understand how and why groups of people settled where they did, organized their societies, developed means of generating and distributing wealth, developed codes, laws and belief systems, related to other groups of people and interacted with their physical environment. At St Columba's the humanities is incorporated into our inquiry units.



ICT & STEM

Learning technologies play an important role at St. Columba's, enabling learning to occur beyond the boundaries of the school and the conventional school day. Each student has access to digital resources:

- Coding resources
- MacBooks
- iPads
- Interactive TVs
- Robotics
- Chromebooks
- 3D printers



Learning technologies are seen as tools that engage students in their learning.

As a school, we continually focus on developing opportunities for students to connect with one another and with communities beyond our school, and to have easy access to a range of multimedia tools that not only assists in the creation and presentation of their work but also enhances learning.

Science

Science education develops students' ability to ask questions and find answers about the natural and physical world. It provides insights into the way Science is applied and how scientists work in the community. Science is taught at all year levels and incorporates biological sciences, earth and space sciences and physical sciences. The hands-on investigations are an enjoyable and challenging way to develop critical thinking skills. At St Columba's Science is a focus for many of our inquiry units.



The Arts

At St. Columba's we have a strong focus on the Arts with an aim to bring out the individual creative talents in each child. The Arts are unique, expressive, creative and communicative forms that engage students in critical and creative thinking and help students to understand themselves and the world. In 2021, students will have weekly specialist teaching in Visual Arts as well as their own classroom art projects. The opportunity to also participate in music classes with a specialist music teacher focusing on music making and creating occurs regularly throughout Terms 1, 2 and 4. Our School Musical production will take place in Term 3 of 2021. Every child from Prep – Year 6 is involved in the musical; participating in dance, drama and music. Not only does this experience allow students to develop their skills and understandings within the Arts but it also builds confidence and an appreciation of teamwork.

Our Community Arts program takes place every other year (the next one being 2022) and focuses on all aspects of the arts including drama, dance, music and media arts. The children have the chance to nominate a particular area of interest and participate in 'master classes' within that field. The program concludes with our Community Arts Expo.

During the year students from Prep to Year 6 participate in some form of performance. This might be during assemblies, liturgies, masses or other special occasions.



Health and Physical Education

Educating students in Health and Physical Education promotes a wide range of understandings including: food and nutrition, healthy bodies, safety, drug education, conflict management, physical activity and movement. Standards for learning and assessment are drawn from the Victorian Curriculum standards.

Through St. Columba's Physical Education and Sports program, students are encouraged to develop sound physical skills and understandings for successful participation in formal sports and positive attitudes to fitness for life. With weekly PE lessons with a specialist teacher, sport lesson with the classroom teacher, and sports activities, as well as the swimming program, interschool sports, cross country running, tennis, basketball, soccer, sailing and other sports,

we provide a broad range of activities for healthy minds and bodies. Children in Prep participate in a weekly session of PMP – Perceptual Motor Program it combines both physical and mental challenges in a fun, engaging way.

The annual Sports Carnival provides opportunities for students to practise what they have learned through participation in team races, games and challenges. In addition to this we hold a house tabloid sports day at the end of term 2 and other house events throughout the year.

We also participate in the Walk/Ride to school program and host healthy breakfasts once each term.

Language - Mandarin

In 2021, students in Prep - 2 will have two 30 minutes Mandarin sessions per week while students in Year 3-6 will participate in a one-hour Mandarin session. Our specialist language teacher is a native speaker and encourages language acquisition from the early years, as well as focusing on cultural experiences. As a school, we celebrate important events such as Chinese New Year, Dragon Boat Festival, and Lantern Festival.



Library

St. Columba's has a wonderful Open-Learning space that also serves as our Junior and Senior Library. Specialist Library lessons at our school, occur weekly and focus on developing a knowledge of Library systems and care of books. They also emphasise quality literature and promote a love of reading. Within Library sessions, students also use literature to better understand the concepts within their units of inquiry. They engage in a study of authors which assists them in their writing. All students are able to borrow books on a weekly basis for home and which they are able to place in their book boxes within the classroom.

Religious Education

St. Columba's school works in partnership with the Parish and parents to nurture the religious identity of each child.

We encourage children in the development of their relationship with Jesus through scripture and through both formal and spontaneous prayer. The experience of a variety of prayer forms and liturgical celebrations are essential to the child's growth in faith and the children have many opportunities to come together to celebrate as either a school community or with the parish.

Across all areas of the curriculum our Catholic faith, traditions and Social Justice are seen as central to our learning. As such Religious Education is not taught in isolation, instead it is linked to our units of inquiry with a strong emphasis on the Catholic Social Justice teachings. Our parish includes not only St Columba's but also Sacred Heart St Kilda West and each year level at our school is aligned closely with the work of Sacred Heart Mission, thus providing our students with rich learning opportunities that endeavour to make meaningful connections between our faith and how we respond to the world around us.

Preparation for the Sacraments

The preparation for sacraments is parish based, with parents encouraged and supported by the Parish Priest, the Parish Pastoral Associates, the Religious Education Leader and staff to assist the children to prepare for these sacred moments in their lives.

- **Year 3** students receive the Sacrament of Penance by making their First Reconciliation (Confession)
- **Year 4** students make their First Eucharist (Communion).
- **Year 6** students receive the Sacrament of Confirmation each year.

During the preparation times for Sacraments, families are encouraged to attend weekend Mass with their children as well as the family preparation nights.

Extra-Curricular and Community Activities

Apart from the areas of learning taught as part of the curriculum, the school makes provision for a number of extracurricular activities including:

- Swimming (Prep to 2 and Year 6 Water certificate)
- Lifesaving Victoria Beach Program (Years 3-6)
- Fire Safety Education (Prep)
- Instrumental music (fee paying)
- Lunchtime Clubs including Lego, chess, STEM, library and choir
- Year 5 STEM Leaders run a STEM activity once a week for all interested students
- Before School Fitness program
- Interschool sports program for Years 3-6
- School production biannually
- Community Arts - term long visual and performing arts projects in each alternate year
- Running Club
- Sailing Program Year 5
- Snow Team participation in the Victorian Schools Snow Sports Competition
- Year 3/4 Eco Warriors – maintaining our 5star Resource Smart School status
- Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program
- Social Justice initiatives - each year level works with an aspect of Sacred Heart Mission to raise awareness in the community, Caritas-Project Compassion, Mission month in October, the Brigidine asylum Seekers, St Vincent de Paul and supporting other community or global causes.



School Camp Program – Year 3 to Year 6

Our school camp program is sequentially developed, with each year building on the experiences and skills gained in the previous years. It is expected that all students will attend these activities. The focus of the program is:

- to take children out of their comfort zones,
- to build relationships,
- to develop responsibility,
- to promote self-reliance, self-esteem, resilience and team-work.



Years 3 and 4 - One night stay over at Camp Rumberg 2021 and Camp Wyuna Queenscliff in alternate years.

Years 5 and 6 – Canberra Tour in 2021. Three day/two night Adventure camp in the alternative year.

The cost of the camp is additional to the school fees for the particular year.

Sustainability

We have a parent and staff Green Team and a student Green Team lead by our Year 3/4 students (our Eco-warriors). In 2018 we were awarded our fifth star, making us a 5 star Resource Smart School. In 2020 Stephanie Young, our sustainability leader, was awarded Teacher of the Year and our parent Green Team was awarded Volunteers of the Year at the 2020 ResourceSmart School awards. In 2016, we were awarded the Port Phillip Green School of the Year Award, in 2017 the Water Warriors award and in 2018 & 2019 the Port Phillip Bay Keepers award.

As part of that initiative Nude Food lunchboxes are encouraged so that children do not need to dispose of lunch wrappers and other food wrappers at school. All food scraps are collected and composted using our composter Clo'ey. The compost is then used on our Stephanie Alexander Kitchen garden.



Parent Involvement

We believe that a strong partnership between parents and teachers assists in a student's education. Parents are invited to participate in their children's education through a wide range of activities. The school community encourages and depends on the talents of parents to successfully implement these initiatives.

Parents and grandparents can be involved in many ways in the daily life of the school:

- Literacy classroom helpers
- Numeracy support
- Parents and Friends Association
- Excursions
- Library – shelving and covering new books
- Assemblies and other special events
- Liturgies and masses
- School sports
- Parish Education Board
- Green Team
- Community Arts
- School Production
- Inquiry ‘primary sources’



The Parish Education Board

St. Columba’s Parish Education Board provides support to the parish priest and principal in realizing the vision of St Columba’s school. It acts as an advisory body on matters concerning the delivery of education in the school, which have been referred to it by members of the educational community and also promotes the role of community and parish in the life of the school.

When a Board member steps down current parents are asked to express an interest in joining the Board. A member is appointed for a term of two years with the option of a second term.

The Board meets 7 to 8 times a year – usually twice a term – which includes the AGM.

Parents and Friends Association

The Parents and Friends Association holds a central place at St. Columba’s school. Its foremost role is in creating community, by bringing parents together to socialise and celebrate at times throughout the school year, and to fundraise. The PFA holds regular monthly meetings to organise social events and other events, which raise funds for new resources for our school.

Each level has four parent representatives who contact all parents of children in the class, inviting them to events and providing information about PFA matters. All parents are encouraged to join the PFA and be involved in fundraising and social events.

Communication with Parents

The school makes every attempt to ensure a wide range of communication methods are in place so that parents know what is happening at school and how their children are progressing. These are the main methods:

- Open Learning Days
- Written reports in July and December
- Parent / Teacher Exchange days in February
- Parent/ Teacher Interviews in August
- School newsletter
- Website <http://www.stcolumbasprimary.org/>
- SkoolBag app
- Student diaries
- Assemblies – Friday mornings at 9:00am
- Informal chats with teachers
- Seesaw app

The principal and deputy principal - student wellbeing leader are available to speak with parents when issues arise that cannot be dealt with by the classroom teacher.

Facilities and Services

St. Columba's School is a small school committed to the planning and provision of high-quality resources and facilities to support the full range of programs offered.

- Art room
- Classroom library and library resources accessible at all times
- Interactive TVs in all classrooms and open learning area
- Computers, Mac laptops, Chromebooks, iPads and 3D printer
- Bright, comfortable, open plan learning spaces
- School hall
- Separate before and after school care
- Safe and secure playgrounds
- Adventure playground, nature play areas and cubby house
- Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden
- Well maintained, clean and orderly learning and playing environments
- Safe and secure – locked gates, high fences and secure front entrance.

Andy's Before and After School Care (Andy's BASC)

St. Columba's has a wonderful before and after school care program. The program operates each school day – before school from 7am to 8:30 and after school from 3:30 to 6:30. Special all day programs are run on school closure days (depending on numbers) except the Monday before Cup Day. The program is operated in the BASC centre located at the back of the school hall. The children participate in a range of fun activities as well as breakfast and afternoon tea. Enrolment forms are available from the school office or from Andrea Szkibik our BASC Co-ordinator. For further information phone: 0407 558 316.

Enrolment Procedures and Orientation Program

Beginning in February of the previous year to your child starting school, we advertise our open days and school tours, which are held throughout the year. During this time, we take enrolments for the following year. Offers of a place are made by the start of May. On acceptance of a place an appointment is made with each family to meet formally with our Principal – Daniella Maddalena and Deputy Principal – Bern Bradley.

Parents are asked to pay the yearly curriculum levy to complete the enrolment process.

As part of our transition to prep program we invite you and your child to come along and participate in a range of events throughout the school year. These include events and activities such as informal art and story time experiences, Book week, Grandparents and Special Friends Day, the school production/ Community Arts Expo and Carols night. In Term 4, the children are invited to three formal orientation sessions with their teacher for the following year. We hold a Welcome Mass for families in fourth term before your child starts school, to welcome the whole family to the St. Columba's community.

For children entering at other year levels, we ensure our new families have a 'buddy family'. We encourage all new students to spend time with their new class prior to their start day where possible. Children are welcome to spend a day or half day with their new class. When starting the following year, children are invited to participate in 'Step Up Morning', where they have the opportunity to meet their new class and teacher for the following year.

School Uniform

St. Columba's school uniform is valued by the school community and it is therefore an expectation on enrolment at the school that all students will wear the uniform proudly.

For boys:

Summer

Navy Shorts
Pale blue short-sleeved shirt
Maroon school jumper
Blue socks
Black leather shoes

Winter

Navy Pants
Blue shirt
Maroon school jumper
Navy socks
Black Leather Shoes (not runners)

For Girls:

Maroon check dress
Maroon school jumper
White socks
Black leather shoes

Navy/ blue check tunic
Blue shirt & tie
Navy tights or socks
Black Leather shoes

Sport Uniform

Navy track pants
Navy shorts
Blue polo shirt
School Rugby top
White socks & runners

Fees and levies 2021

The following is the 2021 fee structure –

No of Children	Tuition Levy
1 Child Family	\$3040
2 Child Family	\$3,580
3 Child Family	\$4120

Curriculum levy (per child) \$710

Parish Thanksgiving Levy (paid directly to the Parish voluntarily) \$200

Building Fund (tax deductible) (voluntary donation)

All families are asked to pay the curriculum levy, which covers resources, excursions and technology.

In situations where paying the school fee causes difficulties for families, assistance and/or fee relief, is available by contacting the principal.