PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

On behalf of the staff of St Columba College it is my pleasure to welcome all students and families to the 2015 school year. I hope that everyone had a wonderful Christmas and New Year break and that all of our students have returned with a genuine sense of excitement and enthusiasm for the year ahead.

I offer a special welcome to all of those students and families who are joining our College community for the first time. For most of these new students their relationship with St Columba has commenced at a significant ‘milestone’ of a child’s learning journey. The 100 new Reception students are almost matched in number by our new Year 8 students. They join new enrolments at many other year levels across the College, all of whom I wish the very best as they begin what I hope will be a very fulfilling and rewarding learning partnership with us.

In a large school such as ours each new school year is also enriched by new teachers and support staff as well as by staff returning from leave. This year is no different and it is my absolute pleasure to welcome all of the staff members listed below to St Columba. I’m sure parents and caregivers will quickly be informed if their children are being taught by any of our new teachers.

Jenny Bartold..................MSS Indonesian
Clara Booth.....................MSS Science
Jodieann Cocks................Year 3
Samantha Eccles...............MSS English
Nicola Fotheringham.........MSS Mathematics
Paula Golding-Aphap.........MSS Indonesian
Michelle Hall...................MSS English
David Hannan...................MSS Physical Education
Alessandra Lawrence.........MSS ICT
Rev Stuart Langshaw........College Chaplain
Steve McLoughlin............Year 1
Melanie Robinson............MSS Counsellor
Steve Sakovits................Director of Mathematics
Alison Slater..................Director of Religious Education
Linda Sloan....................MSS Physical Education
Emma Thorpe..................MSS Science
Jamie Varacalli...............MSS English
Amelia Vogelsang.............MSS SOSE
Michelle Warner...............Year 5/Playgroup Coordinator

The beginning of the year is a time of considerable hope and expectation. As the first term unfolds there will be opportunities for new directions to be taken, new possibilities to be considered and new friendships to be formed. New teachers will bring fresh ideas; different and exciting ways with which new concepts and skills will be introduced and practiced. The start of the year is an ideal moment for all students to re-set their goals and attitudes for the year ahead. It is a time where optimism, expectation, anticipation and i imagine for many, some apprehension, are at their peak. I encourage all students to draw on the energy of these emotions at those moments during the year when the task of learning is challenging and to use them to drive them to do their very best. I can assure all families that they will have the full support of all teachers to guide and support the students throughout the academic year we have begun this week.

As we begin the 2015 school year I would like to introduce you to my peers on the College Executive:

- Mrs Kimberley Shean  - R-12 Deputy Principal
- Mr John Low  - Head of the Primary School
- Mr Chris Spry  - Head of the Middle School
- Mr Louis de Jager  - Head of the Senior School
- Mr Steve Brombal  - Business Manager

This team is committed to working together to guarantee that all activities within the College are skillfully administered in line with our policies and guidelines and in accordance with the Christian foundations of the Anglican and Catholic Churches. We share oversight of and responsibility for all aspects of curriculum and learning and for the academic, spiritual, emotional, mental and physical well being of all the students in our care. We are determined to ensure that each child is provided with a learning and teaching program of the highest quality and that each student is guided towards achieving excellence in a safe, encouraging, friendly and well-resourced environment.

To finish, I would like to reaffirm the partnership between school and home that we strongly believe is fundamental to the success of our students. The Executive and I look forward to working with all families to continue building this relationship, working together to realise a common vision and purpose – the fruits of which we aim to be evident in the outstanding achievements and character of all our students. Please feel free to make yourself known to the members of the Executive and to make contact with them if you are experiencing any difficulties.

Kindest Regards

Wayne Gladigau Principal
It is with great pleasure that I welcome our Primary School families to the 2015 school year. I'd particularly like to acknowledge and welcome those families who are joining the College for the first time. I hope that this is the beginning of a rich partnership that promotes a strong foundation for developing ‘lifelong learners’.

As a new member to the College this year I am looking forward to working with staff, students and parents in ways that ensure the best possible educational, social and spiritual outcomes for each child. My background in education has spanned twenty years and three continents. Born and raised in Adelaide, my early working life saw me spend much of my time teaching overseas in the United Kingdom and Japan. Having returned to Adelaide ten years ago, I found a home working for Catholic Education and have since held a variety of positions including primary classroom teaching, language and music specialist teaching, educational consultancy and school leadership.

The Primary staff have been hard at work preparing for our students’ return, planning a learning program that promises to be rigorous, holding each student to the highest of expectations across all areas of College life. I commend the commitment and passion of all staff in ensuring that every child’s first day was as smooth as possible. This was clearly evident as I visited each of the classes and saw the happy smiling faces of students already engaged in learning.

As always with new beginnings, there will be new routines and practices to establish and so below are a couple of reminders to support your familiarity with some of these.

**Uniform**

All children will be checked daily by their teacher to ensure they are in full correct uniform. Should your child present out of uniform without a diary or communication book note, a note will be sent home to inform you. It is a requirement that this note is acknowledged by being signed and sent back. I thank you in advance for your support in this very important element of our College standards.

**Communication Books / Diaries**

A communication book or diary will be used by every child in every class and it is a requirement that this book is also sighted and signed daily. This is an important practice in maintaining clear communication between home and school.

Finally, I encourage you to make yourselves known to your child’s class teacher. Do not hesitate to write them a note or make a time to see them should you have any concerns.

With best wishes for a peaceful and happy beginning to the year.

*John Low* Head of Primary School

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**Primary School Notice: Library Bags**

Dear Parents / Caregivers,

Primary students (R-5) are required to have a sturdy library bag to transport their library loans between school and home. Library bags protect books from food, dirt, drinks, pets and wet weather.

If your child / children forget their library bag and/or books on their usual library day please feel free to return the books or send library bags on the following day where children will be able to visit the library to borrow new library items.

Library bags are available in various colours, at the cost of $12, from the College Uniform Shop.

*Ruth Sumner* Primary Library Coordinator

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**Primary School Meet the Teacher Information Sessions**

**Date:** Wednesday, 4 February

**Session 1:** 3:30 - 4:15pm

**Session 2:** 5:30 - 6:15pm

Students and siblings are welcome to attend. Refreshments will be available from the Canteen.

Commencing in the Performing Arts Centre
Welcome to the start of the school year! For the Church, the year began last December at the beginning of Advent, so we are already well underway with the liturgical year. The next major feast day for both the Anglican and Catholic churches is on Monday, 2 February when we celebrate The Presentation of Christ in the Temple or Candlemas.

In Jewish law, the firstborn male child belonged to God, and the parents had to "buy him back" on the 40th day after his birth. They offered a small sacrifice depending on their wealth – in Luke’s gospel we read that it could have been "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." On that same day, the mother would be ritually purified, again a requirement of the law at the time.

We will be having liturgical celebrations of Candlemas at the College and everyone is welcome to attend.

**Primary School**  
Monday, 2 February - 9:00am, PAC

**Middle School**  
Tuesday, 3 February - 9:00am, Auditorium

**Senior School**  
Tuesday, 3 February - 9:00am, PAC

I wish you a blessed and peaceful year.

Jane Bailey, Director of Spirituality
It is with eager anticipation and excitement that I welcome you to the 2015 school year. I hope you all had a festive and holy Christmas and enjoyed the time with family and friends. Speaking to many students over the last few days it seems many were ready to return to school and have returned refreshed and ready for another busy year.

The Middle School will take on a slightly more youthful look this year, with the Year 6 students returning after several years located on the Primary campus. We also welcome our Year 7 students, plus our three new classes of Year 8 students who join us for the first time. We also have many new teaching staff joining the Middle School. I hope all new students and staff can settle in quickly and feel welcomed and affirmed by the St Columba College community.

I look forward to speaking with you all at our year level information evenings in Week Three. The Meet the Teacher evenings will provide a wonderful opportunity for you to meet your child’s mentor teacher(s) and discuss their learning needs. Information will be shared about the learning program, homework expectations, support structures and our continuing mentor program.

I spoke to all Middle School students at our opening Assembly about the fantastic opportunity that has been provided to all of them by attending St Columba College. I reminded students that all have the potential to achieve success in their lives, but it takes commitment and application to study, both at school and at home, as well as developing effective routines that will allow them to unlock their full potential. Taking pride in oneself, whether it be wearing the College uniform with dignity or how they conduct themselves in class and in the yard, are important fundamentals for each student that they are solely responsible for. I challenged all students to reflect on these values and maintain the high standards we set at St Columba. We are fortunate here to have dedicated teaching and support staff who are determined to see your son or daughter achieve success. I encouraged all students to seek out and utilise the experience and knowledge of all staff, whether it is their mentor or subject teachers, coordinators or the wider support staff network. Students also heard about our community being a positive and respectful one, based on Christian values.

I remind parents and caregivers that subject teachers are the first point of contact for any questions you have with your child’s learning. They can be contacted via a note in the diary or a phone call to the College. Any general issues or questions can be raised through your child’s mentor teacher who will communicate with other relevant staff at the College as required.

Personally, I look forward to reacquainting myself with all of the families I have met during my time in the Primary, as well meeting families new to the St Columba Community over the last few years. I hope that 2015 is a successful year for your child/children in the Middle School.

Chris Spry  Head of Middle School
Stage 1 Visual Art

Stage 1 Visual Art students of 2014 created and completed their Final Practicals at the end of Semester 2. Using a wide variety of themes and media, these works are now on display in the Middle School foyer for the first exhibition in 2015.

Kelley Lewis Faculty Director of Art
We have had a great start to the academic year, and our Senior School students have begun to settle in. It is lovely to see all the healthy happy faces of our students after a sunny summer holiday.

I would especially like to welcome all of the students who have joined us – from across the road in the Middle School – in the Senior School this year. We are delighted to have so many new students.

Our Mentor Teachers play a key role in supporting your children throughout the year. I would invite all parents to contact your child’s Mentor Teacher if there are any concerns or circumstances which staff should be informed of. I would like to introduce the Year Level Coordinators in the Senior School for 2015: Mrs Deirdre Walters will look after Year 12; Miss Emma Baldock will look after Year 11; and Mr Thomas Blake will look after Year 10. These teachers bring a wealth of experience and look forward to working with you and your children this year.

As always, study in the Senior School brings with it many challenges as students strive to achieve their goals. Success comes with a committed approach to study, support from families and working closely with teachers. We look forward to a successful year for all students in the Senior School.

Louis de Jager  Head of Senior School
**Dentistry**

**School Dental Service**

All babies, children and young people under 18 years are welcome to attend the School Dental Service. Dental care is FREE for most children.

SA Dental Service participates in the Child Dental Benefits Schedule. A small fee may apply for children who are not eligible for the Child Dental Benefits Schedule.

**All dental care provided is FREE**

for preschool children.

School Dental Clinics are located across Adelaide and regional SA. The closest clinic for St Columba College students is the Elizabeth GP Plus Dental clinic located on Playford Boulevard and the corner of Oxenham Drive. To contact the clinic phone 7485 4000.

For more information about the Child Dental Benefits Schedule visit [www.sadental.sa.gov.au](http://www.sadental.sa.gov.au)

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**Virginia Catholic Parish**

**Sacramental Classes**

**Enrolment for:**
Pre-Reconciliation, Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Holy Communion

**Sunday, 8 March 2015**
Following the 10:00am Mass at Our Lady of the Assumption Church Penfield Road, Virginia
(Classes will commence at 9:45am - 11:45am)

Contact: Parish Priest on 8380 9029 or Dianne, Parish Secretary, on 0417 062 605 for an enrolment form or further information.

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**South Gawler Football Club**

**Registration Day**

**Sunday, 15 February 2015**
10:00am - 12noon

An open invitation to anyone interested in joining a great family friendly club for the 2015 football season.

Junior Registration Day for teams Under 9, 11, 13, 15 and 17.

Come along and sign up and receive a FREE Pair of SGFC Socks when payment in made on the day.

Contact: Russell Smith on 0438 011 955 or Terry Pagington on 0414 818 129.

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**Uniform Shop**

For further information contact us on: **8254 0610**

**Opening Times**

Monday 8.15 am - Midday
Tuesday 1.00 pm - 4.00 pm
Wednesday 8.15 am - Midday
Thursday 1.00 pm - 4.00 pm
Friday 8.15 am - Midday

**SHOP CLOSED ON MONDAY, 9 FEBRUARY**

**DRY CLEANING SERVICE AVAILABLE**
Introducing our New Playgroup Coordinator
Michelle Warner

After completing her Bachelor of Education with Honours at the University of South Australia, Michelle first joined the College in 2013 as a Year 3 teacher. This year we see Michelle teaching a Year 5 class, two days per week, and stepping into the exciting role of Playgroup Coordinator.

Her aims for Playgroup in 2015 are to provide a fun and educational environment where children and carers can play and learn together. The activities provided will ensure that children of all developmental levels will have the opportunity to participate and develop their skills in a wide range of areas.

In addition to her education and experience in primary schools, Michelle is a mother of three young children aged between 5 months and 6 years of age. Therefore, Michelle is aware of the varied needs and interests of children of all ages.

Playgroup 2015

Playgroup will now be held on FRIDAY, in the Primary School Performing Arts Centre, from 9:00am - 11:00am.

Would you like to join?
Contact Michelle Calleja, PA to the Head of Primary, on 8254 0614 or e-mail michelle.calleja@stcolumba.sa.edu.au for more information.

Get Fit 2015

Was your New Year’s resolution to get fit in 2015? EFM can help you!

5 Weeks for $25

EFM Andrews Farm operates from the College Gymnasium.

Call Erin Muldoon on 0431 474 537 or visit efm.net.au/andrewsfarm
**FEBRUARY**

2 Primary School Candlemas Liturgy
3 Crossing Monitor Training
4 Primary School *Meet the Teacher* Evening
5 Reception, Middle & Senior School Student ID Photos
6 Year 5 Leadership Day
9 Year 6 & 7 *Meet the Teacher* Evening
10 Year 8 & 9 *Meet the Teacher* Evening
11 P&F Meeting
12 Reception, Middle & Senior School Student ID Photos
13 Anglican Schools *Taizé Pilgrimage of Trust*
17 **Shrove Tuesday**
17 Year 10, 11 & 12 Information Evening
18 **Ash Wednesday**
18 Ash Wednesday Liturgies
18 Senior School Local Parish Visit
19 Primary School Leadership Assembly
20 Middle & Senior School House Meeting
22 **First Sunday of Lent**
23 Senior School Academic Assembly
24 Middle School Alpha Company *Cinderella* Performance
26 Primary School Academic Assembly
27 Middle School Academic Assembly
27 Year 12 Prefect Leadership Day

**MARCH**

1 **Second Sunday of Lent**
5 Primary School House Meeting
6 Middle & Senior School House Meeting
8 **Third Sunday of Lent**
9 **ADELAIDE CUP - PUBLIC HOLIDAY**
11 P&F Meeting and AGM
12 Primary & Middle School St Columba Sports Carnival
12 Year 12 Drama Performance, Her Majesty’s Theatre
13 Senior School Sports Carnival & R-12 Finale
15 **Fourth Sunday of Lent**
17 Year 8 Immunisations
17 Primary School Lent Day
20 **Fifth Sunday of Lent**
22 Primary School Parent-Teacher Interviews
23 SANTOS Athletics Carnival
24 Primary School Parent-Teacher Interviews
24 Primary School Lent Day
29 **Palm Sunday**
30 Middle School Parent-Teacher Interviews
30 Palm Monday Liturgy
31 Middle School Parent-Teacher Interviews
31 Year 12 Kayaking Practical, West Lakes

**APRIL**

1 Year 12 Kayaking Practical, West Lakes
2 Year 12 Kayaking Practical, West Lakes
2 Year 6-12 Holy Thursday *Passion Play* Performance
3 **GOOD FRIDAY - PUBLIC HOLIDAY**
5 **EASTER SUNDAY**
6 **EASTER MONDAY - PUBLIC HOLIDAY**
7 Easter Sunday Liturgy
8 P&F Meeting
10 **END OF TERM 1**