Celebrating 20 years
Dear Families

Welcome to 2016. I am excited to be joining the College and beginning the new school year. A new year or a new start brings the opportunity for fresh ideas and thinking about how we can improve on what we have done in the past here at St Columba College. I want to continue to foster our Anglican and Catholic College to be the catalyst for building community, akin to a family based on Gospel values. I deeply believe that the child or young person we teach is at the heart of what we do at St Columba and that our role is to support our parents to educate their child/ren.

Starting the new school year can be a little daunting for all children as they are getting to know teachers, timetables, routines and their classmates. For the year to be successful, I want to assure you that you can always contact your child’s class or mentor teacher if you have any questions, queries or if you are just not sure about something. Please know too, you can always contact their Head of School, should you have more serious concerns. I know our staff are committed to each child and will communicate with you and about any concerns regarding your child’s progress.

In the next two weeks, Parent Information Nights will be held for all year levels with information to be sent home to families regarding the format of the evenings. In the Primary School, parents and caregivers have the opportunity to visit between 6:30pm and 7:30pm. In the Middle and Senior Schools, the evenings will consist of two sessions each, starting at either 6:00pm or 7:00pm.

**Year 6-7**
Monday, 15 February, 6-7pm & 7-8pm

**Year 8**
Tuesday, 16 February, 6-7pm & 7-8pm

**R-5**
Thursday, 11 February, 6:30-7:30pm

**Year 9-10**
Monday, 22 February, 6-7pm & 7-8pm

**Year 11-12**
Wednesday, 24 February, 6-7pm & 7-8pm

All parents are expected to attend these evenings to hear more about the year level and how they can support their child this year.

This year, our College celebrates 20 years in education. This is a significant milestone in the College’s history and we plan to celebrate in a variety of ways throughout the year, with further information available via the College newsletter. We communicate with you regularly via the Coracle newsletter which is available every fortnight, on a Friday afternoon, from the College website www.stcolumba.sa.edu.au. The newsletter is an excellent snapshot of the life of the College and a useful reminder of significant events in our calendar. I encourage you to take the time to view it regularly on our website.

I pray for a positive and successful year for each young person and I look forward to an exciting year at St Columba.

With best wishes,

**Ms Leanne Carr** Principal
Leanne Carr (DipT, B Ed, Grad Cert, M Ed Teacher Development) was born in Sydney and grew up in Adelaide. She comes from a large family and is married with two adult children.

Upon completing her Diploma in Teaching in 1979 Leanne began teaching at Salisbury North Primary School. Leanne embarked on further part-time study completing a Bachelor of Education in 1996. Her teaching career continued at Robertstown Primary and St Paul's College where she worked for eight years and held the position of Primary School Coordinator.

Leanne moved to an education consultant role in 1995 working across the four education sectors (Catholic, Independent, Government and Tertiary) in South Australia and interstate in the following areas: school administration, teacher professional development, research into teaching methodologies and project management. This work involving principals, teachers, students and parents provided an excellent platform to move into the school leadership position at St Joseph's School at Hectorville in 2005. Leanne thoroughly enjoyed her role as Principal at St Joseph's for 11 years. During this time she was seconded to take on the role of Principal Consultant for Catholic Education SA in 2012. This position involved supporting 18 Principals across the sector.

Leanne has been an educator for over 35 years. She thoroughly enjoys her work and is honoured to be taking on the role of Principal of St Columba College in 2016. Leanne is looking forward to being part of a school community that has a strong and deep commitment to the Gospel and to each young person in its care.
The staff of the Primary School would like to welcome you back to a new school year. We thank you for the enormous trust you place in us, by sending your children to St Columba College, and we look forward to working in collaboration with you so as to ensure they have a successful 2016! We would like to welcome our new families, our new staff, and particularly our new St Columba College Principal, Ms Leanne Carr.

This year, we aim to better develop the well-being of our students. This will involve developing skills to promote students’ mental health, understanding their own strengths, fostering strong relationships with others and the importance of a healthy lifestyle. An example of a well-being focus will be a themed day planned by the Year 5 students in Week 2, revolving around the theme of ‘My Year to Sparkle’. Not wanting to steal their thunder by giving too much away, the day will include a construction activity involving food, critical thinking around a hypothetical social problem and, most importantly, fun teamwork activities.

Throughout the year, the College will provide parents with links to great websites, tips, College updates and photos of learning and activities throughout each class as a means of communication. As the year progresses, we will introduce families to some fantastic tools to keep our lines of communication open.

Our learning this year continues to focus on Literacy and Numeracy. Teachers will assess our students so as to understand their current skills and knowledge and to better inform them where learning will continue in the future. Effective learning takes place when teachers and parents are in continual collaboration with each other. Teachers will inform you of your child's progress during scheduled formal Parent-Teacher Interviews. It is important that teachers and parents contact each other if there are any concerns about their children.

Next Thursday, 11 February, is Meet The Teacher Night themed around ‘St Columba's Travels’. The intentions of the night are two-fold. Firstly, for you to meet your child’s classroom and specialist teachers in an informal manner. No sit-down meetings are scheduled for this night. It will involve your children proudly guiding you around St Columba, visiting the teachers that are part of your child’s learning journey. Your travels may begin by visiting any of the classrooms which your children are part of and the teacher in that classroom will then sign or stamp your passport. Once your passport is fully stamped, there will be a treasure to claim. Secondly, the night’s focus is to allow the children to show you their learning environments, what they have learnt in these environments so far and further foster their love of learning by taking pride in their school and their achievements. A free sausage sizzle will operate during the night and provide each member of your family with a sausage sandwich.

It is an expectation that each student attend this night and they will need to be in their Summer uniform. This is a wonderful opportunity for both families and teachers to meet with each other and we look forward to seeing you all on the night.

The teachers and families of St Columba have always worked together to instil positive habits in students. One of these habits is punctuality. Children begin their day in class at 8:40am. Whilst issues arise that cause children to be late from time to time, some children are habitually late. If you have any difficulties in the punctuality of your children's arrival, please take the time to address your concerns with your child's teacher.

Another factor in which the school and families promote a positive mindset is the school uniform. Our feedback from families is that children have great pride from wearing this uniform in the community. You can appreciate our school community's need to ensure that all our students wear the uniform in a similar manner otherwise our standards just...
Welcome to a new school year! The first term of the year is always a busy one and is no different in the church calendar. Our first liturgy was on Friday morning to celebrate the Feast of Candlemas, or the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple. It was part of the Jewish tradition to "present" babies before God when they were about 6 weeks old, so Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the temple, as all Jewish families would have done. It was at this time that Jesus’ true identity as the Messiah was revealed. Our Candlemas liturgy was led by 5McLoughlin and proved to be a joyful and rousing start to the year. Classroom candles that are used for Morning Prayer by the students were taken from this liturgy as a symbol of taking the light of Christ out into our community.

Other liturgies that are coming up are Ash Wednesday, at 9:00am on Wednesday, 10 February, marking the beginning of Lent. We will also be having Holy Week Liturgies on Monday, 21 March, Wednesday, 23 March and Thursday, 24 March to celebrate Holy Week. Holy Week and Easter are very important times in the Church’s year and commemorate the last week of the life of Jesus and his awesome resurrection.

Parents and families are most welcome to come and take part in all of our liturgies. More details regarding times and locations will be made available in the coming weeks.

Jane Bailey Director of Spirituality R-5

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 $14, from the College Uniform Shop.

Ruth Sumner Library Coordinator R-12

Liturgies in the Primary School

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Jane Bailey Director of Spirituality R-5
Welcome to the 2016 school year. It has been fantastic to see students return from the summer holidays eager, enthusiastic and ready to launch into what will no doubt be an exciting year ahead.

I would like to offer a special welcome to our Year 6 students, our new cohort of Year 8 students and new students from the remaining year levels as they begin in our Middle School. This warm welcome also extends to parents, caregivers and families of our new students. I hope you feel both welcomed and affirmed by the St Columba College community. We are also fortunate to welcome to the College a number of new staff who I look forward to working alongside throughout the year.

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. Students also heard about our community being a positive and respectful one, based on Christian values. 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.

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 your child’s 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.

There will be an opportunity to meet and speak with you all at our Meet the Teacher evenings in Week Three. These meetings will provide a wonderful opportunity for you to meet your child’s mentor teacher(s) and Year Level Coordinator as well as share information relevant to your child and their learning. Information will also be shared about the learning program, work expectations, support structures and our continuing mentor program. I look forward to seeing you on the evenings.

Mr Christopher Spry  Head of Middle School
ST COLUMBA COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

1st Day of School 2016

Opening Times

Uniform Shop

For further information contact us on: 8254 0610

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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
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Celebrating Candlemas in the Middle & Senior Schools

On Tuesday, 2 February, the Christian Church celebrated the Feast of The Presentation of the Lord, remembering the occasion when Mary and Joseph presented the infant Jesus to God in the Temple in Jerusalem, thereby fulfilling the requirements of the Jewish Law. There Jesus was recognised by Simeon and Anna, who joyfully proclaimed him Christ their Lord.

This feast day is also commonly called Candlemas. It traditionally brings to a close the season during which the Church celebrates the Christmas festival of light. Candles are blessed and carried in procession to welcome Christ our light – the light to enlighten the Gentiles, the light that is the glory of God's people.

Today, we held our own celebration here at St Columba. This officially marks the beginning of our year of prayer in this community. During today's liturgy, Reverend Jo Smith blessed the class candles and representatives from each home room received a candle lit from the College Candle on behalf of all the students.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday is the day Lent begins. It occurs 40 days before Good Friday where we make more of an effort to pray, fast and do acts of good works as we prepare for the resurrection of Our Lord at Easter. On this day, we have ashes placed on our foreheads marked with the sign of the cross, this symbolises that we belong to Jesus Christ who died on the Cross. Ashes are a biblical symbol of mourning and penance. In Bible times, the custom was to fast, wear sackcloth, sit in dust and ashes and put dust and ashes on one's head. While we no longer normally wear sackcloth or sit in dust and ashes, the customs of fasting and putting ashes on one's forehead as a sign of mourning and penance have survived to this day.

Eugenia Stopyra Director of Spirituality 6-12
Inclusive Education

RISK-TAKING ADDS VALUE TO THEIR LEARNING

Intelligence has often be thought to be the best predictor of success, but research over the past several years has revealed that determination, resistance and the ability to 'stick' to long term passions is actually a much better predictor of success. This involves giving students opportunities to turn mistakes into success and letting them know that we learn valuable lessons through mistakes.

Albert Einstein is considered a genius even though he did not speak fluently until the age of six; he was expelled from school because of his unruly behaviour; and he failed his university entrance exam several times before finally passing it. Einstein did not allow these failures to deter him from pursuing his passion as a physicist.

‘Mistakes’ with a mathematics test for example, allows the teacher to ascertain what the student still needs to learn and ‘recover from.’ From an Inclusive Education perspective, we support teachers with differentiating the curriculum and offer in-class support. As a parent or caregiver, your encouragement and positive approach also plays a critical role.

AUTISM SA

Over the past years, Autism SA has offered significant support to the children at St Columba and their input is always valued. In Term One, they will work with teachers to support small cohorts of children achieve their social and emotional goals.

Below are up-coming workshops, delivered from the Autism SA headquarters, that you may be interested in attending:

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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>An Introduction to Autism Spectrum Disorder for Families and Carers</td>
<td>Tuesday, 16 February 2016</td>
<td>10:00am - 12:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Helping Children on the Spectrum Manage Anxiety</td>
<td>Tuesday, 23 February 2016</td>
<td>10:00am - 12:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>ASD and social skills</td>
<td>Wednesday, 16 March 2016</td>
<td>10:00am - 12:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Acceptance and Commitment Therapy - an introduction</td>
<td>Wednesday, 6 April 2016</td>
<td>10:00am - 12:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Information and activities for siblings of children with ASD</td>
<td>Friday, 29 April 2016</td>
<td>10:00am - 12:30pm</td>
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Mary Woznitzta  Director of Inclusive Education

Elizabeth Catholic Parish

Sacramental Program

Commencing Saturday, 20 February

The preparation for students to celebrate their Reconciliation (Confession), Confirmation and Eucharist (Holy Communion) is about to begin. The first family workshop will be commencing in a fortnight.

All parents/caregivers who are interested in the program for their children are to register. Forms will be available from student services and main administration on all campuses. All children seven years and older are welcome to register.

Time: 3:30 - 5:00pm

Where: St Thomas More Church, Laverstock Road
Elizabeth North

Registration: Miss Eugenia Stopyra, St Columba Director of Spirituality 6 -12, on 8254 0608 or email eugenia.stopyra@stcolumba.sa.edu.au

Enquiries: Edna Dumbrell, Sacramental Co-ordinator
Elizabeth Catholic Parish, 8255 1191 or 0415 369 179

Volunteer Induction Workshops

For College Families

Monday, 7 March | 6:15-7:30pm
Lecture Theatre, Middle School

Tuesday, 12 April | 9:00-10:15am
Lecture Theatre, Middle School

If you are a current Volunteer or would like to become a Volunteer, the College requires you to participate in mandatory child protection training. The training entitled ‘Responding to Abuse and Neglect’ is a compulsory induction program for all workers in schools.

Due to the sensitive nature of the Responding to Abuse and Neglect training that occurs in this session, please arrange to attend the session without your child/ren.

Bookings: admin@stcolumba.sa.edu.au
Welcome to the 2016 school year. I extend a special welcome to all those students and families joining the Senior School for the first time. We look forward to sharing an exciting and successful journey with you over the next few years, focused on supporting your child to experience outstanding learning. I am delighted to see our students returning to school with such enthusiasm for learning.

Outstanding classroom support provides opportunity for all students to build upon their successes and to focus on their learning. Teachers are responsible for providing high quality learning experiences and supporting students to enthusiastically engage in their learning.

I invite parents, especially in the Senior School, to continue to develop positive and regular communication with your child’s teachers. Staff will be glad to arrange time to speak with you if you need to clarify issues or discuss any aspect of your child’s educational progress.

I would like to introduce the Year Level Coordinators in the Senior School for 2016:

- Mrs Deirdre Walters - Year 12
- Ms Emma Baldock - Year 11
- Mr Thomas Blake - Year 10
- Mr Shane Dowling - SACE and VET Coordinator.

These teachers bring a wealth of experience and are looking forward to working with you and your children.

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, working closely with teachers and support from families. We look forward to a successful year for all students in the Senior School.

Mr Louis de Jager  Head of Senior School

For College Families

Student ID Photographs

Thursday, 11 February

Student ID photographs for all students, Reception to Year 12, will be taking place at the College on Thursday, 11 February.

Photographs will then be used for St Columba internal administration and for the production of a Student ID card for College photocopying and library borrowing, external concessions and proof of age.

Congratulations Young Citizen of the Year 2016

Congratulations to Year 12 Graduate Liam Goodrich for receiving this year’s Young Citizen of the Year Award from Playford City Council.

Liam shared the title with Jordan Hawkey as part of the Australia Day celebrations and Playford Council’s recognition of the passion and commitment of some of its residents.

A 2015 graduate of St Columba College, Liam is a member of the City of Playford’s Youth Advisory Committee, has volunteered at Youth Week and Carnival in the North Events, and worked on projects to assist the homeless.

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The 2015 Year 10 Art and Stage 1 Visual Art students worked very hard throughout last year. In this issue of the Coracle, we are celebrating their work along with a combined year level exhibition in the Middle School foyer. All works were produced in Semester 2 of 2015.

The Year 10 final artworks were created as part of the Themed study unit. The students were able to pick from a range of topics and themes.

The Stage 1 Visual Art students created their final practicals by choosing their own theme and use of media.

Kelley Lewis Faculty Leader of Visual Art
IMPORTANT DATES: Term 1, 2016

*dates are subject to change and are correct as of 5 February 2016

FEBRUARY
8  Crossing Monitor Training
9  Shrove Tuesday
10 Ash Wednesday
10 Senior School Holy Cross & Thomas More parishes visit
10 Parents & Friends Meeting
11 Reception, Middle & Senior School Student ID Photos
11 Primary School Meet the Teacher Evening
12 Year 5 Leadership Day
12 Middle School Assembly
15 Year 6-7 Meet the Teacher Evening
16 Year 8 Meet the Teacher Evening
18 Reception, Middle & Senior School Student ID Photos
19 Senior School Assembly
22 Year 9-10 Meet the Teacher Evening
24 Year 11-12 Meet the Teacher Evening
26 Middle School Assembly
29 R-5 Phillip Green Aboriginal Survival Tech

MARCH
1  R-5 Phillip Green Aboriginal Survival Tech
1 Primary School Reading Workshop for Parents
2  Middle School Academic Assembly
3  Primary School Academic Assembly
4  Senior School Academic Assembly
7  Volunteer Induction Workshop
9  Parents & Friends Meeting
14 ADELAIDE CUP, PUBLIC HOLIDAY
16 Primary School Lent Day
17 St Columba Sports Carnival - Middle & Senior
18 St Columba Sports Carnival - Primary & R-12 Finale
21 Palm Monday Liturgy
22 Year 8 Immunisations
24 Holy Thursday Liturgies
24 R-12 Student Dismissal at 1:00pm
25 GOOD FRIDAY, PUBLIC HOLIDAY
27 Easter Sunday
28 EASTER MONDAY, PUBLIC HOLIDAY
29 Easter Sunday Liturgy

APRIL
1  Senior School Assembly
4  Year 8-12 SANTOS Athletics Carnival
5  Primary School Parent-Teacher Interviews
6  Primary School Parent-Teacher Interviews
6-8 Yr 12 PE Kayaking Practical
8  Middle School Assembly
11 Year 10-11 Tertiary Studies & Careers Expo
12 Volunteer Induction Workshop
13 Parents & Friends Meeting
15 Middle School Assembly
15 END OF TERM 1 - Reports Distributed