Year 5 Leadership Day
In my January letter to all families, I indicated I would report early in the year on our Year 12 results for 2014. The results of our 2014 Year 12 students highlight once again that with focus, commitment and support our students are capable of achieving outstanding results. With approximately 120 students, each studying five Stage 2 subjects from a selection of twenty eight different subjects, there are an enormous number of impressive achievements of which their teachers and the College community are extremely proud. I hope, in this small ‘snap shot’ of the results, to do these successes full justice.

A striking statistic among our results is that St Columba recorded 100% SACE completion. This is 5% above the average for all schools across the state.

Our DUX for 2014 was Ashlee Taylor - achieving an outstanding Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) of 97·45. Ashlee is to be congratulated on her hard work and the dedication to her studies that is required to attain such an excellent result. In addition, eight of our students gained a total of ten A+ grades in six subjects in 2014 and were thereby awarded a Subject Merit by the SACE Board at a ceremony at Government House on Tuesday morning. A list of these students and the subjects in which they achieved a Merit are listed below:

- Mandy Abbott: Research Project
- Monica Heang: Visual Arts
- JungEun Kim: Mathematical Applications
- Jacqueline Milne: Society & Culture
- Dylan Rowan: English Communications
- Melissa Royals: Child Studies
- Ashlee Taylor: English Communications, Research Project & Society & Culture
- Jasmin Woll: Child Studies

When considering the enormous range of data provided by the SACE Board to describe the achievements of our students several other outcomes are worth noting:

- More than 64% of Achievement Grades were at a B grade or higher, identical to the state average.
- 97% of all grades were at a C level or higher, more than 8% greater than the state average. Obtaining a C- grade is the minimum ‘pass’ grade for SACE Stage 2 subjects.
- One in 5 students completing their SACE at St Columba in 2014 achieved an ATAR of 80 or more.
- An ATAR of 90 or more was achieved by 8% of Year 12 students in 2014.

Like many other school leaders in Adelaide, I am delighted to inform the community of our Year 12 results and to emphasise the role of teachers and families in supporting our students to attain the credit they deserve. Guiding students to achieve their full potential in any subject in Year 12 is a particularly demanding task and our students’ outstanding success is credit to the commitment of all their teachers. However, the accomplishments made at the end of Year 12 can too readily be attributed solely to the work of the final year and of those teachers in the previous years that laid the academic foundations for success.

Perhaps Middle School students may be questioning how this article impacts their learning and how it is more than just information about other students in the College. After all it is obvious that the better your Middle School grades are, the more likely your chances of success will be in the Senior School. But, is the Senior School success this article describes based entirely on grades? My response is an emphatic – NO. What successful Year 12 students bring to their learning is not measured in their grades, although it is fundamental to earning ‘top’ results. The mystery factor is attitude! What thoughts, emotions, outlook, mind-set, motivations and feelings each of us bring to our learning are significant contributors to our success. It is my belief that the Middle School is the breeding ground of these indicators of our ‘learning attitude’. It is where we develop, for example, our confidence to ask questions and to seek help, preparedness to take risks, resilience in the struggle, the drive to maintain our energies when interest fade, and so on. The Middle School provides a safe environment for students to learn how to be a successful learner and it is the task of Middle School teachers to guide and assist in this process.

So when drawing attention to the academic success of students in their final year it is impossible to avoid recognising that these achievements are partnered by the development of a strong and resilient ‘learning attitude’ whose growth begins in the Primary School, is tested and moulded in the Middle School and flourishes in the Senior School.

“Ability is what you’re capable of doing. Motivation determines what you do. Attitude determines how well you do it.” - Lou Holtz

Wayne Gladigau Principal
There was a buzz of excitement as children escorted their parents around the school at our Meet the Teacher sessions held on Wednesday, 4 February. Thank you to those families who were able to attend and spend time finding out about the various learning programs the children will be involved in at St Columba College this year. The feedback from families was positive in terms of the format of the sessions and the relevance of the information shared. For those interested in learning about ways in which you can support your child's learning, I recommend reading the article 'We're Engaged! Some Basic Tips To Support Your Child's Learning', which can be found via The Federation of Catholic School Parent Communities website: http://www.parentfederation.catholic.edu.au/__files/f/2884/We're%20Engaged.pdf

As senior leaders at the Primary School campus, our Year 5 students have the opportunity to engage in a variety of leadership building activities and roles throughout the year. This started with a Leadership Day held last Friday where all Year 5 students participated in a range of team-building activities focusing on cooperation. It was a credit to all students involved in the way they worked together and demonstrated not only cooperative skills, but skills of emotional resilience, organisation, confidence and persistence.

The students who have joined the Primary Choir - The Dynamics met for their first rehearsal this week. Next week will see the start of the new percussion ensemble Columba Rumba. Each of these groups provides additional opportunities for students to develop their playing skills, confidence, musical theory and performance abilities. We look forward to hearing these students perform at various events throughout the year.

Next week, we have an Indonesian Language Club commencing for interested students in Years 3, 4 and 5. The club will be held during lunch on Tuesdays and is a chance for students to practise a series of guided conversations on a range of topics.

We have been blessed with good weather so far this term which has made for a very comfortable start to the year. As with most summers in Adelaide, I'm sure we are due for some hotter days in the not too distant future. I encourage you to familiarise yourself with the College's Sunsmart Policy which is available on the College website: http://stcolumba.sa.edu.au/uploads/download/Sun_Smart_Policy.pdf

Warmest regards,

John Low Head of Primary School
Parents & Friends Association

Calling All Sports Carnival Volunteers!*

If you would like to assist please call or sms:
Colleen Boaden - 0417 812 628
Trish Pitman - 0449 655 950 or email p&f@stcolumba.sa.edu.au

*All volunteers are required to undergo a national police check. For more information contact the College Reception on 8254 0600 to receive a Volunteer’s Information Pack.

For College Families

Playgroup 2015

Playgroup commences this Friday, 13 February 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.
With the holidays now just a distant memory students and staff alike are well into the swing of things already this term, with students settling into daily routines in a positive and productive manner.

It was fantastic to see so many families attend our Meet the Teacher evenings on Monday and Tuesday nights. We appreciate the support of families for events such as these as we establish expectations that will impact significantly on your child’s learning throughout the year. Events such as these also help to strengthen the partnership that exists between school and home, as well as communicate to families the following:

- Middle School Mentor Program & the role of Mentor Teachers
- Lines of communication
- Academic progress
- Commitment to study as part of a balanced lifestyle and homework expectations
- Support structures
- Standards of behaviour and awards

Of these I would like to briefly highlight the importance of the Middle School Mentoring Program. This 25 minute period of time each morning allows mentor teachers to support students by focusing on specific elements of their learning; such as learning important organisational skills, reflecting on their learning and discussing issues relevant to themselves as both individuals and as students in a Christian learning environment. Throughout the course of the year all students will cover the themes of:

- Spirituality
- Effective learning
- The Global Community
- Personal Development
- Futures

We look forward to working with your child throughout the year with our exciting Mentoring Program in developing their academic, social, emotional and spiritual wellbeing.

Upcoming dates for your calendar:

- 18 February - Ash Wednesday
- 27 February - Academic Assembly
- 6 March - House Meeting

**Chris Spry** Head of Middle School

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**MIDDLE SCHOOL REPORT**

For **College Families**

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**Academic Assembly**

Semester 2, 2014 Awards

**Primary School**
Thursday, 26 February

**Middle School**
Friday, 27 February

**Senior School**
Monday, 23 February

9:00am, Middle School Auditorium
Foster Carers can be single, couples, people at home, working full-time, part-time or studying. Free training and ongoing professional support (including 24-hour assistance) is provided. Find out more at our upcoming information session:

Foster Care Information Session
Wednesday, 18 March • 6.30-8.30pm
Playford Civic Centre - 10 Playford Road, Elizabeth

For more information or bookings call Linda on 8131 3456 or visit www.anglicare-sa.org.au/foster-care
SENIOR SCHOOL REPORT

Week Three is behind us already and students have rapidly settled into the routine of the Senior School. Students can really be proud of the learning space created by their Mentor Teachers – it looks wonderful.

In the coming days, students will begin receiving their first major assessment tasks for the year. This can sometimes be a time of stress and it is important that students adopt a balanced and organised approach to their studies.

It is essential that students use their Senior School Planners to assist them in preparing for homework and to note due dates for assignments. Breaking major assignments into more manageable parts is one strategy which can be employed to minimise stress and maximise achievement. Leaving work to the last minute or rushing through an assignment the night before it is due will have the opposite effect, and in order to achieve at the highest possible level, students must effectively use all of time available to them.

There are considerable support mechanisms available to students and parents, which will be outlined to the Year 10 to 12s at the Senior School Meet the Teacher Night, to be held on Tuesday, 17 February, from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Year 11 and 12 students and parents will meet at the Senior School Campus; while Year 10 students and their parents, for whom the Night will begin at 6:20pm, will meet in the Middle School Auditorium. The focus will be on student learning; subject teachers will discuss subject expectations and overviews, and assessment overviews, including expected due dates. SACE and SATAC information will also be provided during the evening. I look forward to seeing as many parents and students as possible on the night.

The Senior School Academic Assembly will be held on Monday, 23 February, at 9:00am in the College Auditorium. During the Assembly, Academic Excellence Awards and Endeavour Awards for work completed in Semester Two of 2014 will be presented.

I look forward to working with the Senior School community to ensure the very best for the students in our care.

Louis de Jager Head of Senior School

YEAR 10, 11 AND 12

Meet the Teacher
Information Evening

TUESDAY, 17 FEBRUARY
6:00PM – 8:00PM
MIDDLE SCHOOL AUDITORIUM
Art in Focus

Year 6 Art

The Year 6 Art students are beginning the year studying the famous American Pop artist Roy Lichtenstein, best known for his boldly-coloured parodies of comic strips and advertisements.

Students have learnt several drawing techniques including stipple and hatching – a style inspired by comic strips. They have recreated the famous Lichtenstein painting *Wham!* based on an image from *All American Men of War*, published by DC comics in 1962.

Kelley Lewis Faculty Director of Art
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.

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.
Parents & Friends Association

Join the College
Parents & Friends

• Would you like to provide a voice for families within our College?
• Are you interested in supporting the College and assisting in fundraising activities?

Come along and become an active p&f member and a partner in the education of your child/children.

Annual General Meeting
Wednesday, 4 March
Commencing at 7:00pm

For more information: call or sms
Colleen Boaden - 0417 812 628, Trish Pitman - 0449 655 950
or email p&f@stcolumba.sa.edu.au

EFM Andrews Farm

5 weeks for $25*

Get Fit in 2015

Call Erin Muldoon
0431 474 537

efm.net.au/andrewsfarm
One of the ways in which the College Resource Centres are encouraging a ‘reading culture’ is through offering the students the opportunity to participate once again in the Premier’s Reading Challenge. We believe that reading is a life skill which assists us on the pathway of life-long learning and success.

The Premier’s Reading Challenge is now in its twelfth year of operation. All students from R-12 may participate in the challenge and in order to successfully complete it, they need to read twelve books before September 4th.

Mrs Sumner and the classroom teachers are supporting the R-5 students in their participation. For students in the Middle/Senior school, the reading challenge is supported by Mr Greenwood, Mrs Klaasman and the English teachers.

To achieve the challenge students need to adhere to the following guidelines:

- Yrs R-5 read 8 PRC titles and 4 free choice
- Yrs 6-7 read 8 PRC titles and 4 free choice
- Yrs 8-9 read 4 PRC titles and 8 free choice
- Yrs 10-12 read 12 free choice titles or any combination of free choice and PRC
- Students may also read books in a language other than English.

We encourage the Middle and Senior Students to continue with the commitment of participating in the Reading Challenge that they began in their primary years. For each year of participation the students receive a new award in November.

Already many of our students are eagerly reading in order to complete the challenge. They are reading a wide variety of books which include picture books, novels and non-fiction titles. Through reading, students are expanding their imaginations, widening their vocabulary, improving their spelling and having fun. They are also discovering new authors and titles which may well become favourites.

Ruth Sumner & John Greenwood
Library Coordinator & Library Administrator

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Angle Vale Football Club

Women's Football Team

Are seeking 12-18 year old girls for the SAWFL U18s Football competition.

Training on Monday & Wednesday from 6:30pm

Angle Vale Football Club - Fradd Road, Angle Vale

For more information: visit the Angle Vale Women's Team on Facebook, email avfc@hotmail.com or call Ainslie on 0438 774 840.
IMPORTANT DATES:
Term 1, 2015

FEBRUARY
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
19 Year 12 Tourism Excursion, Adelaide
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
4 Rec-5 Reading Information Session
4 P&F Meeting and AGM
5 Primary School House Meeting
5 Rec-5 Reading Information Session
5 Year 10 Art Excursion, Botanic Gardens & Art Gallery
6 Middle & Senior School House Meeting
8 Third Sunday of Lent
9 ADELAIDE CUP - PUBLIC HOLIDAY
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 Year 4 Excursion, Maritime Museum
18 Year 5 Educational Tour Parent Info Night
19 Year 11 Geography & Tourism Excursion, Glenelg
20 Primary School Lent Day
20 Year 11 Biology Excursion, Adelaide Zoo
22 Fifth Sunday of Lent
23 Primary School Parent-Teacher Interviews
23 SANTOS Athletics Carnival
24 Primary School Parent-Teacher Interviews
24 Primary School Lent Day
25 Year 11 & 12 Visual Art Excursion, SACE Art Show
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 Year 11 Road Safety Presentation
8 P&F Meeting
10 END OF TERM 1

Opening Times
For further information contact us on: 8254 0610

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

Uniform Shop