



Parents and Friends

Principal Report

8 September 2026

I am pleased to share recent highlights from our school community.

Accreditation Day – Laudato Si'

Staff participated in a faith formation and professional learning day focused on *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis' encyclical on care for our common home. The day provided an opportunity to deepen understanding of Catholic Social Teaching and reflect on our collective responsibility to promote environmental stewardship, sustainability, and social justice. This important formation experience supports our commitment to nurturing students who understand their role as stewards of creation and people of hope.

Sacrament of Confirmation

We congratulate our Year 6 students who recently received the Sacrament of Confirmation. This significant milestone in their faith journey was celebrated with reverence and joy. We thank our Sacramental Team, Leesa and Year 6 Staff and Fr Mark for their support in preparing our candidates for this sacred occasion.

Catholic Performing Arts Festival

Students have proudly represented St Columba's at the Catholic Performing Arts Festival across a number of categories. A highlight was the outstanding performance of our school choir, led by Mrs Karen Gonsalves, whose dedication and passion continue to inspire our young performers. We are equally proud of all students who participated as individual entrants, confidently showcasing their diverse musical talents and representing the school with excellence. Achievement certificates will be presented at a forthcoming assembly, where we will celebrate their efforts and accomplishments. Certificates will be provided at the end of the Festival and presented at an assembly.

Book Week Celebrations

Book Week once again proved to be a highlight on our school calendar. Students embraced the opportunity to dress as their favourite book characters.

Staff embraced the opportunity to dress as a variety of nursery rhyme characters, bringing much-loved stories and rhymes to life for our students. The event provided a wonderful reminder that a child's reading journey begins long before they can

independently read a book. It starts with listening to stories, hearing language modelled by adults, and joining in familiar and rhythmic nursery rhymes.

These early literacy experiences are invaluable in developing the foundations of reading. Through shared reading, children learn key concepts about print, understand that written symbols carry meaning, and begin to connect spoken and written language. We encourage all parents to read regularly with their children, as sharing books, stories and nursery rhymes builds vocabulary, comprehension, imagination and a lifelong love of reading, laying the groundwork for future literacy success.

Donut with Dad

Thank you to our wonderful P&F Executive and Sub Committee for organising such a memorable Father's Day Breakfast. It was fantastic to see so many fathers, grandfathers and special father figures enjoying quality time with their children over a delicious Donut with Dad, while the Paper Plane Competition brought plenty of fun, creativity and friendly competition.

Thank you also to our Pastoral Care Team for coordinating the raffle and adding to the excitement of the morning. We are incredibly grateful for the time, effort and generosity of all our volunteers who helped create such a special community event for our families.

Thank you to all families who could also attend the Mass that followed.

Pre Primary Liturgy

A special mention to our Pre-Primary Liturgy held today for our PP to Year 2 students as we celebrated the birthday of Mary, the Mother of Jesus. The joyful and enthusiastic singing from our youngest students filled the space with reverence and happiness, making it a beautiful celebration of faith. Thank you to our students and staff for making this such a meaningful occasion.

In gratitude,

Gina Burns.