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Monday 2nd March
- HRIS Hockey Gala/Trial
- Marine & Aquaculture Tech First Aid Course
- Kindy Parents Afternoon Tea
- Clean Up Australia Day

Tuesday 3rd March
- Year 12 Parent/Teacher Evening

Wednesday 4th March
- Year 7, 11 & 12 Immunisation Clinic

Friday 6th March
- K-2 Hockey Clinic

Monday 9th March
- HSC Music Encore
- On Campus Uniform Shop opens
- Year 2-6 Basketball Competition

Wednesday 11th March
- VA/Textiles/D&T Excursion

Thursday 12th March
- AICES Swimming Secondary

Friday 13th March
- Year 11 Society & Culture Excursion
- Year 7-12 Youth Group Iona Centre

A detailed list of school activities is available on the Calendar tab of the Parent Lounge.

If you need assistance logging in to the Parent Lounge, please email us at secretary@scas.nsw.edu.au
NAPLAN: BIG DEAL??

Mr Terry Muldoon
Principal
principal@scas.nsw.edu.au

First, What is it?
NAPLAN is the measure through which governments, education authorities, schools, teachers and parents can determine whether or not young Australians are meeting important educational outcomes in literacy and numeracy.

Why have NAPLAN?
NAPLAN was designed to gauge progress/shortcomings in literacy and numeracy.

"Good literacy and numeracy levels are fundamental rights and if a child isn’t going as well as they should in these areas, then adults need to be aware of this as soon as possible." ACARA General Manager Dr Stanley Rabinowitz

It gives parents and teachers a measure of literacy and numeracy skills against which they can compare their own judgements of a child’s ability.

It gives schools highly detailed and useful data about their strengths and weaknesses, and allows them to tailor their teaching programs accordingly.

It gives governments and other education authorities information about the fundamental outcomes of education across systems.

What is the Problem?
Some of the concerns are:

The national results are made public and schools, worried about their academic status in the community, can put undue influence on the results, leading to teaching to the test and fear that some students can “pull down” their results.

Sometimes schools, worried about their community’s reaction to low results can actively encourage students not to sit for the tests.

"As reported this week in the Daily Telegraph, some parents have reportedly been encouraged by teachers to keep their child at home during NAPLAN to enhance the school’s results. One parent said: “It is sad indeed my little boy was asked to stay home so as not to sit it and lower the average.” The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) has responded to recent reports of record withdrawals from the literacy and numeracy test. Withdrawals from NAPLAN have increased by about 1000 students in each of the four year groups, with critical parents being blamed for the increasing number of students being deliberately kept from sitting the test."

Parents believe that their child will be categorised permanently by their NAPLAN scores.

Competitive parental concern that exerts undue pressure on children so parental egos can be assuaged.

The way NAPLAN is implemented and interpreted is not clear to most parents and students

Education lobbyists have claimed the tests are “too stressful for children” and does not accurately assess skills.

The result is that NAPLAN now is branded with a level of importance that was never intended.

What is the SCAS attitude to NAPLAN testing?
A student isn’t going to be stressed about NAPLAN if there’s an appropriate response to it from home and school.

Some classes can actually look forward to practising and participating in the tests because of the manner in which the teacher approaches it.

Children don’t progress through schooling based on their NAPLAN results, so let’s place NAPLAN into context for children and get rid of the stress.

Placed in the context of 13 years of schooling, NAPLAN represents about 16 total hours of testing across all those years.

NAPLAN is useful for identifying students with additional learning needs and if this is then paired with additional funding to address the learning needs it benefits the student.

In the end, if NAPLAN is used the way it was designed - to identify areas for improvement in teaching and learning - it is a useful (though possibly flawed) instrument.

I know that our school welcomes the NAPLAN results because it is an opportunity to “test” our understanding of our students’ learning against a national benchmark. There are seldom any real surprises for our teachers as we are usually aware of the progress of our students and NAPLAN is just one more way of assessing the effectiveness of our work in two specific areas.
A few parents have asked for more information in regard to the Compulsory Camp, Activity and Resource (CCAR) Levy.

This levy is an annual one-off charge introduced this year to cover all of the common charges for compulsory activities for each year group that parents would normally have been charged for throughout the year in previous years. These common charges include year group camps, excursions, local activities, sports carnivals and co-curricular activities such as bands, choirs etc. and are considered compulsory to the core academic and pastoral curriculum of the School.

It was our intention when considering this initiative that the upfront charge would give parents greater certainty as to the annual costs of their child’s education, and reduce the need for parents to find extra funds throughout the school year.

Any parents who have questions regarding the introduction of the Levy, or who would like a breakdown of their child’s activities and charges, are very welcome to contact me via email and I will be more than happy to forward you further information.

Extended Absences from School

Parents and guardians are reminded that any proposed absence from school of five days or more should be made in writing to the Principal on the appropriate form. This form “Application for Exemption from Attendance at School” is available from the School front office, or on the Parent Lounge under the School Links > Report a Student Absence tab.

Once received the Principal will forward a letter to parents/guardians in regard to the request, along with a Certificate of Exemption document, which must be produced if requested by authorised school attendance officers.

Parents of students who have a valid reason to be absent during the upcoming Camp Week are reminded that they must complete the Exemption from Attendance form, and that the CCAR Levy is still payable. It is the School’s policy that no refunds will be made on any portion of the CCAR Levy, except under exceptional circumstances and only with the approval of the Principal. All applications for refunds must be made to the School in writing, and if approved any refund will not be processed until the end of the school year.

Enrolments for 2015 and Beyond

A reminder to our community that there are extremely limited places remaining for entry into classes from Kindergarten to Year 7 in 2016 and 2017, with some levels closed and with waiting lists in place.

Families with siblings or friends who may have students looking at entry into these year levels are asked to download application paperwork from the school website at their earliest convenience to avoid disappointment.

Please note that our current Year 6 students will receive automatic progression into Year 7 2016, and no paperwork is required.

For more information regarding enrolment at SCAS, please email our enrolments team at enrolments@scas.nsw.edu.au, or phone the school on 6581 4188.
What’s New in the Primary School

Progressive Online Reporting:
2015 brings excitement and challenges for staff, parents and students. 2015 sees the introduction of the new form of Teacher to Parent reporting on students. Each newsletter will contain information to help keep you informed as to what you can expect. The Primary school and Secondary school are both bringing in this new form of reporting but the Primary school will not have all of the same aspects of the cycle as the Secondary school. Keep an eye out for the Primary Parent Guide that will be sent home via the Parent Lounge and a Parent Information session to be held later in the term.

Each Newsletter will now feature a section called “Curriculum Corner”. This section will give a small glimpse into two year groups and what they are up to in class. It may cover Visual Arts, History topics, Science discovery units or Mathematics investigations. This newsletter features Year 2 and their Science unit on Life Cycles and a selection of Year 4 Visual Arts.

“Curriculum Corner” will also include a section called “Curriculum Developments.” Each newsletter will highlight changes to our Primary curriculum or educational discussions in the field of Primary education and change in the 21st Century.

Curriculum Developments
The introduction to the new Australian curriculum had led to many changes in our classrooms. Over the last two years NSW schools have implemented or started to implement the new Syllabus in English, Mathematics, History and Science. This year you may notice more Science units being taught involving more hands on engaging weekly group and individual investigations. More on the introduction to History and Geography in the next newsletter.

What’s on in Year 2!
Year 2 have written some lovely stories about what they have done on their Christmas holiday and 2B have set some goals for the year. Here is a sneak peak.

What’s on in Year 4!
Year 4 has started the year by adding some colour to their rooms. It is a great way to get to know the students and freely chat about what they enjoy about school. Below are some photographs - 4R had beautifully coloured pattern work, 3/4K had made wonderful personal puzzle pieces and 4GB had created personal portraits using bugs and creatures as their facial features.
I am honoured to have been asked to join St Columba Anglican School community as a teacher of both junior and senior Geography. I have a Bachelor of Applied Science in Protected Area Management from the University of Queensland and a Diploma of Secondary Teaching and Learning from the University of Southern Queensland. My working background has seen me work practically within the Environmental Science and Natural Resource sector for nearly ten years, working for Greening Australia and Aquasonic (the largest aquaculture research and supply company in the Southern Hemisphere). My teaching career started at St Paul’s High School Port Macquarie in the Marine studies and HSIE faculty, where I then moved to Port Macquarie High school last year to introduce Oceanography as a new subject under the school’s HSIE faculty. I continue to work professionally in the music industry as a performer and recording artist. My original music ranges from traditional folk/country music drawing influence from artists such Nick Drake and James Taylor, to World music and devotional Sanskrit mantras of Buddhist and Hindustani tradition. I am extremely passionate about sustainable land and ocean management, threatened species conservation and the principles of permaculture. I spend much of my free time tending my home food forest, observing and looking after my 6 wonderful egg producers and trying to surf as much as humanly possible.

My most recent good news is that I asked my girlfriend of four years to marry me and to my humble pleasure she said “Yes”. Penny is a secondary teacher of food tech and sewing at St Paul’s. On behalf of Penny and myself, I would like to thank St Columba for welcoming me so warmly into your school community and I look forward to meeting and teaching the many gifted and unique students within the school.

Dance News

Yet another successful event for our dancers. Recently our SCAS dancers and our dancers from our Distance Ed class from St Phillips Christian College, had the opportunity to meet each other, interact and learn together, along with other HSC Dance students from across the State at the Seymour Centre, Sydney.

Students undertook a three hour performance, composition and improvisation workshop, followed by watching “Callback”, the showcase of exemplary works from 2014. Two St Columba dance works were featured: Madeleine Hawkins’s Major Comp based on the wives of King Henry VIII and Roxanne Montgomery’s dance doco film about Pompeii. Our dancers, Amber Jenkins, Grace Caldwell and Rosie Laird, performed sensationaly.
Miss Watters  
Co-ordinator of Student Leadership

I was privileged to attend the launch of the 2015 Luminosity Youth Summit earlier this week at a breakfast at Rydges, Port Macquarie. Aneeka Brownsberger and Michael Dimuantes from Year 12 represented the School at the launch and Michael gave an address to the group, which included important local business people and political figures. Both students were great ambassadors for the School.

More details will be provided to students in the forthcoming weeks regarding registration for the Summit.
Last Wednesday, 18th of February, St Columba Anglican School hosted leadership representatives from Mackillop Senior College, St Pauls High School, St Joseph's Regional College, Port Macquarie High School, Westport High School, Camden Haven High School and Heritage Christian School at a combined leadership afternoon tea in the School’s Trade Training Centre.

These school leaders were invited to come and join in a friendly discussion regarding ideas within the local community. The aim of this meeting was to continue to build on the connections formed between the school community last year. The event allowed each member of the leadership teams to form friendships and to discuss upcoming events which will further the interactions of the schools, including the organisation of the Battle of the Bands event.

Overall the afternoon was a wonderful success as the connections made during discussions and interactive games is something that has continued afterwards, with regular conversations on the planning of the upcoming event Battle of the Bands and the growing of friendships. We are all very excited to continue working with such enthusiastic and passionate leaders of our community to create this event and help each other excel in our leadership roles.
**Uniform News**

**New Uniform Shop Opens 9th March 2015**

Our new school uniform supplier, Noone Imagewear, will be opening our on campus shop on Monday, 9th March 2015.

The new shop will be situated in the Iona Centre, in the room at the front of the Centre to the left of the main entrance. The shop will be managed by fully trained senior staff experienced in customer service, professional fitting and who have registered with “Working with Children”. The shop will be fully equipped with the latest in store design, point of sale technology, eftpos and lay-by facilities, and will also offer telephone and internet sales. A link to the on-line shop will be available on the School's website once it is set up and ready for operation.

Uniform shop opening hours will be Mondays from 11.00am to 4.00pm, Tuesdays from 8.00am to 12.00noon, and Thursdays from 1.30pm to 4.30pm. During busy periods, such as the Christmas/New Year period prior to back to school, and in the changeover period from summer to winter uniform, the Shop will open additional hours, and some Saturdays.

As a school we believe it is important for us to provide our families with quality products, value for money and a high standard of service and professionalism, and we are confident that our partnership with Noone Imagewear will exceed these expectations.

As part of the changeover to our new supplier, Noone have agreed to purchase all existing stock from our current provider, Coast2Coast, and as these stocks are depleted they will be replacing items with Noone stock. It may be the case that some items will take some time to change over to the Noone stock, whereas other items will be replaced almost immediately.

Noone will be providing our families with the full range of SCAS uniform items at a comparable price to our current provider, and in some cases at a reduction in current pricing. As an official uniform supplier, Noone Imagewear guarantees to have the full school uniform available for purchase all year round. The new Noone pricelist will be available to parents next week.

Sales of new House shirts and black Performing Arts shirts will also move across to the new on campus shop, and will no longer be sold through The Hope Shop.

All second hand uniform items will continue to be sold through The Hope Shop at 3 Milton Circuit Port Macquarie, or via the schoolxchange.com.au website. More details are available on the school website.

If you have any questions regarding the changeover to our new supplier, or the school uniform in general, please do not hesitate to contact the School.

**Uniform Information Update**

**AKUBRA AND NATASHA HATS IN THE SECONDARY SCHOOL**

Parents are reminded that the Akubra and Natasha hats are a compulsory item for all students in Years 11 and 12, and are worn on all formal occasions throughout the school year, along with the School Blazer.

Students in Years 7 to 10 are also welcome to wear the hats, although they are not compulsory in these year groups. The School Blazer is also an option for Year 10 students.

**GIRLS SUMMER UNIFORM**

A reminder that girls in Years 7 to 10 have the option in summer of either the grey skirt and white shirt with tie, or the blue checked summer dress with pointed collar. These are available from the Uniform Shop.

**CHANGEOVER TO KNITTED JUMPERS IN UPPER PRIMARY SCHOOL**

As advised to parents last year, over the next two years we will be phasing out the current navy fleecy windcheater for students in Years 3 to 6, and replacing it with the knitted jumper currently worn by Secondary students. Stocks of these knitted jumpers are now available for purchase in sizes 8 and up. Students in Kindergarten to Year 2 will continue to wear the fleecy windcheater.

For a full list of uniform items, please see the School website, [www.scas.nsw.edu.au/community/uniform-information](http://www.scas.nsw.edu.au/community/uniform-information)
Are you looking for your *Duke of Ed - Service* Opportunity?

“Trinity Youth” the newly formed Trinity Anglican Church Youth Group seeks volunteers to assist through its fun, popular and rapidly growing Friday night gathering for guys and girls in years 7–12 at high school.

We invite you to consider volunteering and having fun while meeting the criteria for your Duke of Ed “Service” component.

**Trinity Youth Meets.........**

**Time:** Friday evenings from 7 to 9pm

**Where:** St Columba Anglican School, Iona Centre

Through volunteering with Trinity Youth you will:
- Make a real difference
- Connect with people and make new friends
- Achieve a personal goal while having fun
- You can volunteer with your mates
- You will feel great
- You will learn new interpersonal skills
- You may learn a lot about yourself

Volunteer tasks might include:
- Assisting with Games
- Musicianship duties
- Leadership duties
- “Trinity Dusk” 5pm Sunday Youth Church Service duties
- Canteen duties
- Communications
- Fund Raising

If you are willing, we will be sure to find a task especially for you.

**Come along to Trinity Youth any Friday to discuss your Duke of Ed option, or contact Mr Hodge personally or via email p.hodge@scas.nsw.edu.au at SCAS.**

[www.trinityanglicanchurch.org.au](http://www.trinityanglicanchurch.org.au)

Facebook.com/groups/trinityyouthpm
SCAS P&F presents

CAMP WEEK SOCIAL
Thursday March 26, 6-8pm

Enjoy a glass of wine or craft beer and tasty nibbles with other SCAS parents/staff at Black Duck Brewery.

This casual social event is timed to coincide with Camp Week & Sleepover events.

Tickets $25 MUST be pre-purchased (includes one wine/beer on arrival plus delicious canapés)

Tickets available from:
- Grumpy’s Butchery, Lake Innes Shopping Village
- Bels Bakery, 128 Gordon St Port Macquarie
- OR pay online - email admin@scasbusinessdirectory.info for details.

Why not relax for an hour or two with other SCAS people!

No BYO  For more info phone Jan Dennis on 0412740518  Guests must be 18yrs.
Black Duck Brewery is at 6 Acacia Avenue, Port Macquarie
Musical Magic at Bago....

A whole school welcome hosted by the Friends of Music

Sunday, March 22 2015

Featuring Primary and Secondary school ensembles!

At Bago Vineyard

Gates open 10am
Music from 11am
Food and Coffee available from SCAS BBQ and Bago Jazz Cafe

Enjoy a cupcake from the famous Cupcake Stall

$20 per car - pay at the gate
Entry to maze $7 kids & $10 adults

contact: pace@scas.nsw.edu.au
Columba Cottage offers an extensive and enjoyable Out of School Hours Care service that caters for all primary school children in the Port Macquarie area. University trained and qualified educators present and lead the program, incorporating a range of sports, craft, science and cooking experiences.

Before School Care is available mornings from 6.45am, with a drop off service to other schools, at a cost of $15 per session.

After School Care is available from 3.15pm until 5.45pm, with a pick-up service for other schools, at a cost of $20 per session.

Our service is CCB and CCR approved, which can significantly reduce the overall cost to parents.

Vacation Care is offered during School Holiday breaks and is open from 7.45am until 5.45pm, 10 hours a day, Monday to Friday at a cost of $55.00 per day.

Excursions to attractions in the local Port Macquarie area are provided including Billabong Zoo, Hydro and Putt Putt Golf, Centre of Gravity, Wow Fun Park and Timber Town.

For all enquiries please contact our friendly staff at Columba Cottage on 6581 4433 or email ccelc.oshc@gmail.com

Programs for the 2014/15 Vacation Care Period are now available. Contact the Columba Cottage staff for more details.
make it happen

Cocktail Party

DATE: Friday 6 March 2015
TIME: 6-9pm • COST: $45
WHERE: St Columba Anglican School
3 Iona Ave Port Macquarie

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
The Hon Bronwyn Bishop MP
Speaker of the House of the Representatives
Member for Mackellar

Tickets include a complimentary drink on arrival,
light dinner and inspiring guest speakers.

More than $4000 worth of raffle and lucky door prizes
are up for grabs with proceeds from the event going to:

Book your tickets at HBWN.com.au