God's mercy can make even the driest land become a garden, can restore life to dry bones (cf. Ez 37:1-14). ... Let us be renewed by God's mercy, let us be loved by Jesus, let us enable the power of his love to transform our lives too; and let us become agents of this mercy, channels through which God can water the earth, protect all creation and make justice and peace flourish. 

Pope Francis.

Dear Parents and Children,

Staffing News

We welcome Mr Sam Kerlin to the staff of Our Lady of the Nativity School. Sam has recently returned from teaching in London and has been appointed as Year Five teacher. Sam received a very warm welcome from the children in his new class and both Sam and the children are looking forward to learning together for the remainder of the year.

Thankyou

A huge thankyou to all who provided food for the afternoon tea following Father Spillane’s funeral last week. We are indeed fortunate to have such a generous, supportive community and I'm sure the combined efforts of all would have brought a smile to Father Spillane’s face! To those parents who helped set up, serve and clean-up – particularly Cathy Draim, Marguerite Portelli, Shannon Port, Heather McIntyre, Trudy MacGregor, Trina Saxton, Loretta Sheehy, Jo Hughes and Janine Potter - many thanks for giving so generously of your time.

Father Spillane’s funeral was a beautiful service. The concelebrated mass was attended by over thirty priests with the main celebrant being Bishop Terry Curtin. It was a tribute to Fr Spillane that the church was full with all ages represented. It was great to see former students of Our Lady of the Nativity in attendance who had fond memories of Fr Spillane through his commitment to the school. The current students who attended – members of Fr John Spillane house and children whom he had baptised – formed a guard of honour at the conclusion of the mass. Fr Greg Burke, who gave the eulogy, summed up Father Spillane when he said that he loved and trusted his God and showed this love to others in a gentle, inclusive way.

Rest in Peace Father John.
Playground works
Thanks to the fundraising efforts of the Parents and Friends work has begun to resurface the senior adventure playground. The tanbark has been dug out and will be replaced by a base of crushed rock, rubber padding and synthetic grass. The new surface will be aesthetically pleasing, will eliminate the need for constant maintenance and will most importantly be safer for the children. This project is costing in excess of $30,000.00. Your continued support of fundraising initiatives of the Parents and Friends enables such projects to be undertaken for the benefit of the children.

Student Leaders
All classes in the school have elected class leaders for the year. Congratulations to the following students:
Prep A: Ava Bloomfield  Prep B: Noah Abdelmeseeh
One G: Grace MacGregor  One H: Alana Zammit
Two J: Tyson Gilbert  Two M: Liam Singleton
Three K: Danielle Condron  Three M: Alessandro Di Santo
Four R: Tara Ganci  Four S: Alyssa Cristalidis
Five B: Anthony Gennaccaro  Five P: Massimo Fichera
Five “Classified -TBA” Alexandra Tucker
These class leaders will be presented with the badges during Monday’s assembly commencing at 2:30pm.

School Photos
Next Monday is Photo Day. For photos, children are to wear their correct summer uniform. Long hair (over shoulder length) must be tied back as per a normal school day and hair ties must be school coloured (sky or navy blue, white or checked).

Sacramental Evening
A Parent Meeting focussing on the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation will be held next Thursday evening, 25th February, in the Fr John Spillane Hall beginning at 7:00pm. An adult representative of each Year Three student is expected to attend.

Prep BBQ
Our Parents and Friends Association is hosting a barbeque for Prep students and their families on Tuesday evening commencing at 6:00 pm. Thanks in advance to our Year One parents who are providing salads and sweets for the evening.

Clean Up Schools Day
This annual event will be held Friday 4th March. Children are to wear their sports uniform and, where possible, bring gardening gloves. Any parents wishing to attend and help out will be most welcome. Please note that a Working With Children Card is essential. As the children usually do such a great job of cleaning up the school Saturday morning’s working bee is cancelled.

Have a lovely weekend
Peace and all good
Anne Doherty
Principal

ROAD TRAFFIC SAFETY
It has been brought to our attention that one of our children has/is crossing Fawkner Street without using the pedestrian crossing. This is a very dangerous action and we ask that you discuss road safety with your child/ren to ensure that they are using the crossing when coming to school and leaving school every day. Thank you.
Morning Maths Parent Meeting

When: Tuesday 23rd February
Wednesday 24th February
Time: 8.50 am (Coffee/tea and morning tea provided)
Where: Hall. (toddlers welcome)

Come along and see just what great things we are doing in our morning maths sessions.
Find out how you too could be a helper.

If you can spare 15 minutes once a week we would love to have you on board!

If you would like to hear about the program or learn about ideas for helping your child at home this meeting is for you.

Look forward to seeing the old and new faces

Colleen Monaghan
Maths Leaders

SCHOOL FEE PAYMENT
A payment of school fees ($2500) has been direct debited into the school account on 2nd February, 2016. This transaction has no reference number or surname and unfortunately can not be credited to the correct family account.
If this payment relates to you, please come to the Office with evidence of the transaction.

Applications for enrolment at St Columba’s for Year 7 2017 close Friday 26 February.

School Tours
Bookings for School Tours can be made via the website or email registrar@columba.vic.edu.au
Special tours are being conducted by the Principal on 20 February at 9am & 10:30am.

Stations of the Cross
As part of the Lenten discipline you may wish to participate in the devotion of the Stations of the Cross. This is where we join with Jesus on his road to Calvary as pilgrims who seek eternal life. Each Friday of Lent at 7:00pm we gather in the church for the Stations as it is through the cross that we die in the hope of rising with Jesus.
The proposed building plans are up on the wall in the narthex (Church foyer). There is one version for the Church refurbishment and two for the proposed alterations to the building. Please feel free to look over the proposed plans and give it your prayerful consideration. We welcome your feedback. In addition, there will be an afternoon gathering where the architect will discuss the plans with us to help unpack what is being proposed. This gathering will be advertised in the bulletin in the coming weeks. Stay tuned!
ST BERNARD’S COLLEGE  
41 Rosehill Road, Essendon, 3040.  
ENROLMENT APPLICATIONS  

YEAR 7, 2018  
ENROLMENT APPLICATION MEETINGS  

FAMILY SURNAMES A – K  
(New and Current Families)  
TUESDAY, 15 MARCH 2016  

FAMILY SURNAMES L – Z  
(New and Current Families)  
WEDNESDAY, 16 MARCH 2016 at 7.30 PM in  
COLLEGE AUDITORIUM  

Application Forms are distributed at these meetings and need to be returned to the College by Thursday, 14 April 2016. Application Forms requested after these meetings may be classed as a Late Application.  

The meeting is for Parents/Guardians only.  

2016 TOURS of the College are as follows:  
15 February, 16 February, 22 February, 23 February, 1 March, 3 March, 8 March, 22 March, 12 April, 14 April, 18 April, 19 April, 21 April, 26 April, 29 April, 3 May, 6 May, 13 May, 17 May, 19 May, 24 May, 27 May, 31 May, 9 June, 10 June  

Commencing at 9:00am. Bookings essential Telephone 9289 1182.  

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:  
COLLEGE WEB SITE: www.sbc.vic.edu.au  
or Telephone: College Receptionist - Jenette Nicholl on 9289 1182  

Mowing Roster  

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For any enquiries, please feel free to contact us:  

- Email: enrolmentsmp.com.au  
- Phone: +61 3 9464 7231  
- Fax: +61 3 9464 7232  
- Website: www.sbc.vic.edu.au  

**TERM 1, ISSUE 2**  

**SAY CHEESE**  
School Photo Day is 22 February 2016  

Have your child’s school memories captured forever  

Please take time to read the relevant information on the MDP Photography payment envelopes and remember these helpful points:  

- Don’t seal envelopes inside each other. You can pay for all children in one envelope however each child needs to have their own envelope on photo day.  
- Family envelopes are available at the school office upon request.  
- Please enclose correct money as no change is given. Payment options are cash, credit card and on line.  

For any enquiries, please feel free to contact us:  

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- Website: www.sbc.vic.edu.au  

**REGISTER NOW**  

This Summer come and join your local Tennis Club.  

OUR Tennis Club  
20 Fawcett Street  
West Essendon  

Our Club offers:  
- After School Group & Private Lessons  
- Recreational & Lunch Time Lessons (all year round)  
- Group Tennis Squad Sessions  
- Adult Lessons available during school hours  
- Cardio Tennis (Wed mornings & evenings)  
- Friday night & Saturday evening Junior Singles & Doubles competition  

TCA Club Professional Coach  
Doug Hamilton  
0438 566 588  

www.showcourttennis.com.au  

**MOWING ROSTER**
Performing Arts News!

We've got off to a great start in the performing arts room this term. Each lesson, students participate in the activity, 'Listen! What do you hear?', in which they watch a clip of a musician from somewhere around the world performing. This activity gives students the chance to be exposed to a wide variety of music they might not have heard before. Class discussions and a listening diary help children to develop musical vocabulary to describe what they hear.

This week we listened to a performance by the Gondwana Children’s Choir, singing Sesereye, a Torres Strait Islander song. Some of the Grade 4s even enjoyed dancing and singing along! You can listen at home here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t2JxKnVJBqQ

As you listen, you might like to ask your child 'What do you hear?' - or even have a dance, if you feel inspired!

Happy listening!

Mrs Coleman

Our Lady of the Nativity
29 Fawkner Street
ABERFELDIE VIC 3040
2017 PREP
ENROLMENTS

Enrolment Forms for 2017 are now available at the School Office.

Enrolments for Prep 2017 will close on Wednesday 23rd March, 2016.

A $50 non-refundable enrolment application fee is payable with each enrolment.

THE UNIFORM SHOP IS ONLINE!

Families have the opportunity to purchase uniform items online via the ouronlinecanteen website.

If you are already registered with an account, once you go in you can simply click on the Uniforms tab at the top of the page. There you can order your required items and the Uniform Shop will fill your order and deliver it to your child’s classroom the following Monday.

You can also access the website by using the UNIFORM ORDER button on the tiqbiz app. The price list is still available with the UNIFORM LIST button.

If you are not registered, just go to www.ouronlinecanteen.com.au and follow the prompts to set up your own account…it’s super easy!

Happy online Shopping!

24 Hours for the Lord—Adoration and Confession

Pope Francis has asked that Friday 4th and Saturday 5th March be set aside for ‘24 Hours for the Lord’ in churches across the world!!!! WHEN: Starting Friday 4th March, 5pm and concluding Saturday 5th March, 5pm. WHERE: Our Lady of the Nativity, 31 Fawkner Street, Aberfeldie. Please place your name down on the sign up sheet in the narthex in the allocated hour nominated. To make this viable, we require a minimum of two people per hour to be with the Lord. Confession times will be advised. There will be a security guard on duty who will escort people back to their cars if needed.