



St Columba's School

27 January 2012

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From the Principal's Desk

We have completed our second week at school and are already into the swing of things and the children are hard at work in their respective grades.

As many of you understand we have been experiencing serious communication problems, as was posted on the School Communicator once we had our server connection repaired. On Friday 13 January a direct lightning strike caused serious damage at school. This damaged our computer servers, the telephone switchboard, the alarm systems, some of our computers, the electricity supply and a number of other systems at school. We had only started to get things up and running at the end of last week when more lightning caused further interruptions. The phones are at the moment up and running with a new switchboard, and the computer servers with the ADSL connection is in working order. The worst part of this was that someone trying to phone in heard the phone ringing continuously and assumed nobody was answering, while in fact everything was dead from our end. I do apologise for the inconvenience this has caused you all. If you experience similar problems in the future please try the school cell phone number: **071 421 0090**

Parents Information Evening

Thank you to all the parents who were able to attend. It is always heart-warming to see your support of your children and the school. We depend on **this support to ensure your children's education and happiness.**



Code of conduct

We are busy revising this in order to include **the school rules and the pupils' code of conduct** in one concise booklet. As soon as it has been printed each child will receive a copy.

Going Green

We have installed a water collection and **storage tank as a part of the school's effort** both to save costs and reduce our water usage.



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"Where children love to go to school."

Visit us on the web:

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Pre-Primary News

Time

"Minutes, hours, days, weeks and months are the fabric of our lives. Our attitude towards time – whether we value or squander it; can be changed" Avi Shulman.

How often don't you hear – "I don't have enough hours in the day"? Our lives are so busy and as parents you may feel that you are not spending enough time with your children. However it is not the amount of time that you spend with your child, but the quality of time that is important. A quick walk around the block, or through the park, riding bicycles and reading to your child are wonderful examples of how you can spend quality time with your children and so give them the attention they need. A meal around the table, without television or cell phones, discussing the day is another way in which you can spend quality time with your children.

Time spent wisely is never a waste...so give it a try. The benefits will be worth the effort.



"Never deprive someone of hope – it may be all they have."

What you do today counts

Our children all have good days and bad. Sometimes the good are so good it can put them on a high, like when they get a great test mark or are invited to party they desperately want to go to. On other days a low can drop them below the level of the floor boards, like being shunned by a friend or dropped from a sports team, or even when they land up hurting **someone else's feelings either accidentally or on purpose.** Life happens, **and it's not always predictable or as perfect as we, or they, would like it to be.**

We would be wise to counsel our children that every day brings us a new **beginning, a fresh start. Don't get caught up in the past and what might have been, but look to the future and all the possibilities that it brings.** Nobody can go back and start a new beginning, but anyone can start today and make a new ending because what you do today counts. I have put some thoughts into a

Very important!!! Please take note that the **Woburn Avenue gate** closes promptly at 8am and 2pm. This is for security reasons and we appeal that you leave before these times or you will have to walk around the outside of the school to get to your car via the main Bunyan gate.

Thank you for dropping your child at the class without lingering for a while. This makes the adjustment period so much easier for the children.

A reminder please to send a **photo** of your child to his/her teacher as we would like to do the birthday calendar.

A big **thank you** to: Luca Millard (Gr OB) for the donation of puzzles

Sarah Wijtenberg for the videos donated to the school

Mrs Virgili for the box of construction toys.

If you have old **desk pads** to donate to the school please could you give them to the Grade R teachers.

poem that you might like to share with your children:

What you do today counts
 Every smile you give out
 Every comment you make
 Every good deed you do or refuse to do
 Every thought that you have, positive or negative will influence you
 Better to feed your mind good stuff
 Just as a farmer feeds his soil so that strong, healthy plants can grow
 So strong, healthy thoughts, and actions will flow.

Every extra word or sum practiced will change your test results for the better
 Every problem you encounter is an opportunity for you to demonstrate your resilience, tenacity, perseverance and strength of character
 Learn from problems and rename them – challenges
 If you can see challenges as an opportuni-

Merits

Merits

Kgaogelo Gule, Shelby Prothero



Calendar of Events – Term 1

Wednesday 8 February	19:00	First Communion Liturgy
Saturday 18 February		Swimathon
Monday 20 – Thursday 23 February		Grade 7 Tour
Tuesday 21 – Thursday 23 February		Grade 5 & 6 Tour
Thursday 23 February		School closes at normal time for the Mid-Term Break
Tuesday 28 February	07:40	School opens

What you do today counts Cont.....

ty to grow, then you have turned a negative into a positive and you'll do well in life.

Your childhood is about learning about yourself and how to go about life
You can't learn this from a book, you simply have to try it out for yourself
 Greet every day like an artist with a blank canvas
 You can do with it what you like
 The choices you make today determine the picture on your canvas
 And tomorrow there will be a new one.

Choose wisely and learn well from both your successes and your mistakes
 Remember to let go of yesterday

Look to tomorrow
 And live, really live today
 Today is all you have
 And what you do today counts.

Nikki Bush

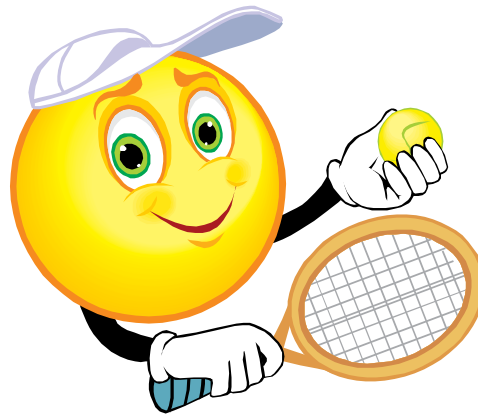
Creative parenting expert, inspirational speaker and co-author of *Future-proof Your Child* (Penguin, 2008), and *Easy Answers to Awkward Questions* (Metz Press, 2009)

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“There is no cosmetic for beauty like happiness”

Extra Mural Activities

It is wonderful to see how many of our children have committed themselves to one or more extra-mural activity. It is really **important to your child's development** both socially and emotionally that they **can feel they are "part of the team"**, whether it be a team sport such as cricket or a more individual sport like tennis. Taking part in the more cultural activities like choir and chess is also very good as your child will gain in confidence and skills as well as being an active member of a school activity. Please encourage and support your children in these activities. I realise that taking part in various club activities is also excellent but it cannot replace the growth that is experienced when it is an activity where your child can be a proud representative of St Columba's.



Tennis

Tennis has got off to a good start with many keen and enthusiastic children turning out.

Tuesday: Grade1S -13:45-14:15
Grade1J -14:15-14:45

Wednesday: GRADE 2 - 13:45 to 14:30
Wednesday: GRADE 3 - 14:30 to 15:15
Trials for Monday Squad tennis are taking place, and those players who make the squad, play at the Benoni Tennis club. The bus leaves at 14:15 and returns at 16:15.

The school has purchased a tennis ball machine, which will be a big advantage for our coaching.



Swimming

The swimming team participated in their first league gala of the season on **Wednesday at St Benedict's**. We competed against 4 schools, and were placed 3rd overall. We are very proud of our team.

A big thank you to our captains for doing a sterling job.

Our next gala takes place on Wednesday **1 February at St Dunstan's**.