Welcome to the first edition of our newsletter for the year. As you will have noticed, we have updated our look and for the first time have printed in colour!

This combined K-12 newsletter will be issued three times a term and will feature current events, teaching and learning, excursion reports and religious activities, which will be accompanied by photos. The newsletter will of course be available online through our website at www.stcharbel.nsw.edu.au.

Opening Mass & HSC High Achievers Award

Thank you to everyone for a very successful Opening Mass & HSC High Achievers Awards. It was a great celebration of the achievements of our students and teachers. The students’ success is a credit to you all. You can be deservedly proud of their achievements, as they are also yours.

Congratulations to all our award recipients, particularly:

- Stephanie Obeid, our Dux of the year, who received a mention in the Board of Studies Merit List as well as a recipient of the Premier’s Award.
- Elijah Akouri's Year 12 Major Work chosen for exhibition in Art Express at Hazlehurst Gallery, Gymea, and was awarded the “Sponsor Award” at the opening night (see page 3 for more details).
- Waddad Seklawy who received a Band 6 in 2 Unit Mathematics as well as 1 Unit Mathematics Extension 1.

Lenten Season

Reconciliation and forgiveness are essential to renew our spiritual life, our relationship with others and our faith in God. Let this Lenten season produce many spiritual fruits such as a stronger faith, unity, forgiveness, true love and understanding in all of us.

May God Bless you and your family.

New Titles for the Leadership Team

As you may have noticed in some of my correspondence, I have started using the title Rector at the College rather than Superior because in my mind, the word Rector is more appropriate for the role which I perform. According to the Macquarie Dictionary, the definition of Rector is:

“Roman Catholic Church: an ecclesiastic in charge of a college, religious house or congregation.”

In addition, the Assistant Principal Senior School will now be known as Head of Secondary, and the Assistant Principal Junior School will be Head of Primary.

UPCOMING EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb 27</td>
<td>Stage 3 Info Night</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 28</td>
<td>Student Leaders meet Archbishop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 29</td>
<td>H/S &amp; Primary Swimming Carnival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 3</td>
<td>CBSA Swimming Carnival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 4</td>
<td>Stage 2 Info Night</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 12</td>
<td>Yr 11 Info Night</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 19</td>
<td>Holiday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 20</td>
<td>Holy Thursday (Holiday)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 21</td>
<td>GOOD FRIDAY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 24</td>
<td>EASTER MONDAY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 26</td>
<td>Year 7 Info Night</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 28</td>
<td>Yr 7 Retreat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 30</td>
<td>End of daylight saving</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

142 Highclere Avenue, Punchbowl NSW 2196
www.stcharbel.nsw.edu.au
Tel: 9750 8455 Fax: 9750 8443
Welcome back to school for 2008. It is with pleasure that we welcome the following staff (see photo) to our College for 2008:

- Mrs Aynajian (4L)
- Ms Shoufani (Arabic)
- Ms Andreou (6A)
- Miss Chan (2C)
- Miss Azzi (1M)
- Miss Germanos (3G)
- Miss Candelori (5C)

We look forward to having them at the College and working with all of them.

We also welcome all the new students to the College, especially the students of Kindergarten. May their time here be safe, enjoyable and educational.

Look forward to seeing everyone throughout 2008.
Welcome Kindy Students

Welcome to the Kindergarten students and their parents for 2008. The Kindergarten students have successfully settled into their classes. They are adjusting to the daily routines of school life and have become champions at lining up. The Kindergarten teachers are proud of all students for being so brave in leaving the bonds of home life to venture into the classroom and discover a whole new world of class rules and procedures. The students are responding with enthusiasm as they journey daily to Letterland to learn about the world of letters and sounds. They thoroughly enjoy rote counting and sharing their news.

The focus for the coming weeks will be social development particularly by encouraging the students to become confident in making requests, using manners, keeping clean and tidy, asking questions and making friends.

We are also looking forward to a visit from Healthy Harold late this Term.

Thank you to all teachers and parents for their invaluable support particularly Miss Monique Sammut, Miss Krystle Borg, Mrs Marie Sandrussi, Ms Katherine Anderson, Mrs Nada Kazzi, Mrs Susan Harb and Mrs Nadia Shoufani.

Year 7 Transition

2008 marks the beginning of a new academic year. The transition of 92 Year 7 students began at the end of last year when these students were introduced into the High School environment. From then on, we have seen a very settled year group. The first few weeks saw students getting used to using their lockers, attending Thursday sport, participating in pastoral care lessons and learning at least eight different subjects.

This year we have been able to reduce the number of different teachers for the Year 7 cohort. This has proven to be very positive as the students were able to establish a more effective relationship with their teachers.

It is a pleasure for me to announce the SRC members for Year 7: 7 Red: Ashley Saba, 7 White: Anthony Nohra, 7 Blue: Nicole Inati. I congratulate these students on their election and wish them well in their forthcoming duties.

The Peer Support Program will begin in Week 5, where students from Year 10 will be working closely with groups of students from Year 7, taking them through issues such as resilience and bullying. This program will hopefully be another strategy that St Charbel’s College has implemented which will provide a conducive learning environment that is both safe and enjoyable.

Please ensure that your child is using their diary every evening for the next day as a means of communication between the school and home.

Organisation is the key!

Art Express

ART EXPRESS is an annual exhibition of artworks created by students from government and non-government schools for the Higher School Certificate Examination in Visual Arts.

The artworks demonstrate exceptional quality across a broad range of subject matter, approaches, styles and media including painting, photography, drawing, printmaking, sculpture, documented forms, textiles and fibre, ceramics, digital animation, film and video, and collections of works. It is a very prestigious exhibition which represents the high standards and diversity achieved by Year 12 Visual Arts students in New South Wales schools.

We were therefore delighted when our Year 12 student Elijah Akouri’s artwork was selected to be shown at Art Express this year. At the opening night of the exhibition at Hazelhurst Gallery in Gymea, Elijah’s work was selected from the 57 artworks on display for the only award made on the night (“The Sponsors Award”). It was indeed a great honour for our Year 12 student and for St Charbel’s College to have such an achievement recognised for the first time in the school’s history.

Elijah Akouri with his parents
“Take up your Cross and follow Me” (Mark 8:34)

The parish and school of St Charbel’s Punchbowl are honoured to be hosting the WYD Cross and Icon that is touring Australia in the lead up to the July 15th opening.

Good Friday will be a day of both commemoration and celebration, when parishioners and students will participate in a solemn service concelebrated by His Eminence, Cardinal George Pell, including veneration and procession of the Cross, beginning at 9:30am at Roberts Park, Greenacre.

All Students and their families are invited to join in this once in a lifetime event, in which we are called on this day to commemorate Christ’s Passion and be enlightened by His Spirit whereby: “you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you: and you will be My witness.” (Acts 12:8)

Parents & Friends Committee

We welcome all new students and parents to the College and hope to see you at our events. The Parents & Friends Committee’s role in the College is to support and encourage the social development of school life. Having already put forward our agenda for 2008, this year promises to be full of many different events: social, spiritual, educational and fundraising, all of which, we hope, will benefit our College. Therefore your support for P&F activities is of utmost importance. Last year was very successful and we hope 2008 will be a better and bigger year.

We would like to stress that the Committee is not qualified to answer individual student’s needs and educational queries. We can, however, guide parents to the relevant teachers or coordinators who are better equipped to handle these issues. So please feel free to approach any member of the Committee for assistance.

We are always in need of a helping hand at our events, so if you can assist, please contact one of the Committee members. This should be easy as there are now 13 committee members. Remember you do what you can and God will do the rest!

Noticeboard

Arabic Classes For Children
Friday 4.30pm—6.30pm  Saturday 8.30am—10.30pm

Adult Classes
Friday night only  6.30pm-8.30pm

For further information please contact
Mrs Fadia Aoun  on  9750 8455

KINDERGARTEN ENROLMENT 2009
is now open

Please contact the College Office for Enrolments Forms

Applications close: Wednesday 26 March 2008

SCHOOL FEES

First instalment for school fees is now due.
Payments may be paid in cash, cheque, EFTPOS or credit card.

Hope to see you all soon in the Accounts Office