Welcome back to school for the 2012 school year. Each new school year brings a sense of excitement as we continue to provide an education for life where every student is needed and every student is important. I would like to thank you for your patience and support as we continue our school improvement plan and work to ensure the best days for St Charbel’s College are ahead of us.

I would like to announce the appointment of Ms Hawwa as acting Deputy Principal Primary School for Term 1. Ms Hawwa is an experienced and capable teacher and coordinator who will bring, I am sure, a wealth of enthusiasm and expertise to the position.

A note about changes to emergency forms. It is the parent’s responsibility to update any changes during the year with regards to the student’s medical emergency form. These forms will be used for any necessary changes.

I look forward to your collaboration in 2012. We will strive together, for excellence in our pursuit of individual, school and community goals. Through our faith, we will strengthen our core values: Loyalty, Fairness, Honesty, Dignity and Respect, Personal and Communal Growth and become lifelong learners.

The first weeks of Term 1, 2012 have been very busy and productive. Year 1 and 2 classes have settled in well, with most students busily showing their new teachers good work habits. A minority of students however, are still developing satisfactory habits and it is hoped that the coming weeks will show the improvements needed. Our photo is an example of how happy we all are to be back at school! As in past years, parent helpers are welcomed in every classroom. If any parents, mums or dads, are able to assist with reading groups, writing, art lessons (or absolutely anything) please let teachers or myself know and we will certainly be grateful and put you to work! It doesn’t matter if you think your English isn’t good enough, your presence can well assist children’s learning in lots of areas. A parent workshop will be run commencing on Tuesday 6th March 2012. Please see me for more details.

Home can help all students to realise their potential. Please work with the class teacher and ensure that your child completes homework and has the necessary materials for classwork. Show an interest in his/her schoolwork and praise and encourage efforts.

I welcome back all teachers, staff and parents who have been a part of St Charbel’s progress in years gone by and offer a warm welcome to our new families who have become a part of our school community. I look forward to continuing success in all our endeavours.

Welcome back to school for all our students, teachers and staff! I hope you all had a restful and relaxing break and are ready for another busy year ahead for all of us. A special welcome goes to our new students and families. We hope your journey at St Charbel’s College will be a fruitful one during which you will grow in knowledge and wisdom.

As most of you are aware by now, the College has developed a Strategic Improvement Plan for 2011-2013 during a long and thorough process that involved all members of the school community. Every year, an Annual Improvement Plan (AIP) is prepared to focus on certain areas specified in the Strategic Improvement Plan. The 2012 AIP has been set and is available on our website. The main focus of the year will be the integration of ICT into teaching and learning.

At the end of the 2011 school year, the College received great accolades for the excellent results of the HSC students. The results are the best the College has seen since its foundation in 1984. As you all know, success is not a coincidence. It is the fruit of many factors including the high academic standards set by the College, the hard work of the teachers and the students and the adequate atmosphere and support provided at home. So a big congratulations to all our school community, especially our high school students, whose brilliant results for 2011 which placed St Charbel’s College in the top 100 schools of the state. Special accolades go to Matthew Harb, our 2011 Dux who achieved an outstanding ATAR of 99.9.

The Australian Catholic Bishops’ Conference proclaimed a Year of Grace for the Church in Australia, to begin on Pentecost 2012 and end on Pentecost 2013. This is an invitation to all Catholics to join in prayer and to refocus our hearts, our lives and our actions on Jesus Christ. During this year, I encourage every family to obtain a good Catholic Bible and make an effort to read it together. It is by praying together, learning more about our faith and looking up to the Family of Nazareth that our families remain blessed, strong and united.

I wish you all a rewarding school year and ask the Lord to send you His blessings, through the intercession of St Maroun and St Charbel.

Welcome back to what is going to be a term of learning, of growing and of huge discovery. Feel free to make an appointment with your child’s class teacher or indeed me, should you have any queries or concerns. “It takes a whole village to raise a child,” and communication in the village is vital.

Rev Fr Ronny Chahen
Principal’s Message

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Mr Jaime Rodriguez
Deputy Principal Secondary School

Welcome back to a new academic year. The celebrations of our college’s achievements in the year 2011 still linger at the beginning of our operations this year and we will continue to celebrate and acknowledge the efforts of teachers, students and their families. As we begin this new year I'd like to welcome all the families new to our school and to our community. I hope that your experience amongst us will be an enriching and long-lasting one. We hope to live up to your expectations and also to count on your support of our efforts to provide students with the best possible learning environment.

Creating an environment conducive to learning requires all to clarify our goals, understand our strategies to achieve those goals while having continuous evaluation of our progress in that process. This applies to all of us. Parents can help us make a significant difference to the improvement of our operation at school by being aware of our process and expectations.

I remind all families of the high expectation of behaviour, application, and overall presentation of our students. We are interested in developing a school of excellence in all aspects of our work. Please be mindful of our uniform expectations. Help us instil pride in our children as they wear their uniform. Be aware of the consequences that follow when students fail to comply with uniform expectations. Please be punctual to school. Students should be in the Homeroom class by no later than 8.30am. Lateness also carries with it consequences.

For your information, a fair amount of time has been spent on organising our class groups in a way that keeps the best interest of the child in mind. Our school uses a variety of grouping approaches depending on the subjects or course students study, social and behaviour issues, special support needs by some students, etc. The driving force behind what we do is to provide every student with opportunities to improve their learning and their development. At various points during the year there may be a need to make some adjustments to these groupings but the bottom line does not change: we have the best interest of our students in mind. I ask parents to trust our professional judgement on these matters.

I encourage you to contact us in doubt about school matters. I appreciate your constructive feedback. I most definitely look forward to working in partnership with all of you throughout the year 2012. May God Bless you.

Ms. Marie Claire Hawwa
Acting Deputy Principal Primary School

It is a great honour for me to accept the role of Acting Deputy Principal for Term 1 at St Charbel’s College. This new position comes at the commencement of my eleventh year of teaching in the College. While I have spent four years in the role of Early Stage 1 Coordinator, I feel motivated and determined to rise to the challenges and opportunities for professional growth that will accompany the position. The support I have received has been overwhelming and I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

I read a quote recently that stated ‘man cannot discover new oceans until he has courage to lose sight of the shore’. I am passionate about Education and this quote summarises for me some core beliefs I have about life and learning. Learning and growth can only happen when we have the courage to face our weaknesses and make necessary changes, faith that God is with us even in tough times or unfamiliar situations, hope that we will discover new paths and new dreams by taking risks and being loving in all we say and think.

I thank St Charbel for guiding my life and keeping me in service to his children and his community. I look forward to working in partnership with all of you throughout the year 2012. May God Bless you.

Ms Claire Hawwa

Mrs Zena Khalli – President
P & C Corner

I hope you all had a safe holiday and are ready for a year filled with many great events. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Giselle Doumet and her team last year for all their hard work raising a total of $14,518 which will be donated towards the purchase of a smart board and sound system for the Multi-Purpose Hall.

Last year during November, the P&F elections were held and unfortunately the only parents who attended were those already on the committee as a result. This year, we are the same committee but the positions have been reshuffled. I would like to thank all those on the committee for their time, generously and service to St Charbel’s college especially as many of us have been on the committee for several years.

Our meetings will be held on the first Tuesday of every month at 7.30pm in the Monastery. All are welcome to attend. It should be noted that the P&F meetings are not a forum to raise complaints. These should be addressed by teachers and coordinators. However we are always open to new ideas and suggestions.

The Recycled Uniform Shop will be open every Friday (excluding school holidays) from 2.30-3.30pm. Any uniforms in good condition can be left at the office. (no shoes or socks)

Mr Ramsey Andrews
Counsellor’s Corner

Welcome to the start of the 2012 school year! Below are some tips for parents of children who have just entered Kindergarten.

Try not to be late - picking your child up from school, a few minutes can seem like a long time for a young child.

Continue to support your child’s learning by being encouraging and taking an interest.

Listen – don’t ask a lot of specific questions - children will talk about their day when they are ready. Give them general prompts e.g. “What did you learn today?”

Be flexible and patient in the early days of school as children will be tired and grumpy and need time to settle in.

Pack a healthy snack to pick your child up from school as children often report to be ‘starving’ after school.

Pack an extra pair of pants as it is normal for some children to wet their pants in early months. Encourage telling the teacher when they need to go to the toilet.

Keep to routines that allow time for rest and play. Don’t plan too many activities after school or too many errands.

Invite your child’s school friends and their parents over. This gives you a chance to share experiences, ideas and feelings with other parents.

Talk to your child’s teacher if your child is upset or if you are worried that bullying/teasing is occurring.

Mrs Zidros, Maths Department