St Charbel’s parish hosted the WYD Cross and Icon during its Good Friday ceremony. We were honoured with the presence of His Eminence Cardinal George Pell, His Excellency Bishop Ad Abikaram, the Most Rev Abbot Boulos Naamon and many special guests. It was a huge success and I thank everyone who took part in making it so.

It was a true community event and I was gladdened to see so many representatives from our College attend. Thank you to all our staff members, students and families who took the time to come and share in this momentous occasion, and especially those who answered our call for help and assisted with some tasks.

Faithful Brave the Cold Weather to Celebrate Good Friday

The Cross and Icon finally arrived at St Charbel’s in Punchbowl to be welcomed by thousands of faithful Maronite Catholics who braved the cold weather during Good Friday.

The Catholic Archbishop of Sydney, Cardinal George Pell addressed the estimated crowd of 15,000 tand spoke of the meaning of the Cross, finding peace and love in the Virgin Mary, and invited people to renew their faith in our Lord.

Students from St Charbel’s College re-enacted the Stations of the Cross lead by Rev Fr Joseph Sleiman, planting 14 wooden crosses at Roberts Park in Greenacre to represent each station, before forming a procession from the park to St Charbel’s Church. Cardinal George Pell, Bishop Ad Abikaram and Abbot Boulos Naamon also took part in the procession.

The choir composed of 30 Arabic and English singers conducted by Rev Fr Challita Boustany set a spiritual mood and made a tremendous impact on the day. The whole ceremony was broadcast live through a local radio station (Radio Tomorrow) in Sydney.

Revamped Website

I would like to invite you to visit our newly revamped website at www.stcharbel.nsw.edu.au. After many years, our website was due for a change and with the generous assistance of Mr Anthony Alam, we are able to present to you an easy navigable site for College information.

Now available online are: School Event Dates, Upcoming Events, Latest Articles, Photo Gallery, P&F News, Policies and Forms, Newsletter, Annual Report, Strategic Plan 2006-2010 and Useful Links. Online subscription to our College Newsletter is also now available.

Once again, so soon after our return from the Easter break, I bid you a safe and restful time away during the term break. May the blessing of Our Lord Jesus Christ and the intercession of Saint Charbel be with you during this holiday.
Term One has been a good start to the academic year fresh from the success of last year’s HSC results. We have been emphasising the importance of students accepting more responsibility for their own learning whilst continuing to develop in them a greater “sense of others” when it comes to their behaviour. In general our students understand and appreciate this approach whilst others continue to attempt to interrupt the learning of others. As the year progresses we will be having more contact with the parents of students who fail to listen to our warnings!

This newsletter highlights many of the enrichment opportunities our students receive in activities such as liturgies, excursions, academic and cultural competitions, and sporting activities. Learning is something that our students need to come to enjoy and be challenged by if they are to reach their full potential. As we have discussed at the Parent Information Nights during this term it is important to encourage everyone to discover their gifts and to strive to achieve their personal best (‘PB’). Hopefully these activities have helped some of our students to be motivated to find out more about what most interested them during these learning opportunities.

I hope you enjoy the company of your children during the holiday break. Please get them to read a book!

The 2008 SRC was presented to the College. On Tuesday, 18th March Student Leaders participated in a training day where they discussed:

* Identifying the Behaviours and Characteristics of Leaders

School Leaders

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Head of School

Chris Smyth

I pray that everyone in our community enjoyed a happy and Holy Easter season. The events of Good Friday that the students and community took part in were a wonderful way to commemorate this special occasion. I congratulate the students who took part in the Stations of the Cross and Mrs Wells for work in organising this work.

Congratulation also to the students of Years 4 & 6 and Miss Rahme, Mrs Aynajian, Mrs Sandrussi, Miss Alkan and Mrs Anton who took part in the opening of the renewed town centre at Greenacre. A job well done.

Special congratulations to two of our Year 6 students; Sonja Khoury for her selection in the Sydney Region Team to compete at the MacKillop Soccer trials in Canberra and Elie Azzi who was declared Open Boys Champion at the recent Cook Cluster Swimming Carnival. Excellent results for two talented and very responsible students. Well done!

Head of Secondary

Jaime Rodriguez

* Developing the Leader’s Role Within the School
* Managing Friendships, Peers and Leadership
* Becoming a Visionary Leader.

We are confident that these students will make the College community proud as they lead the way on initiatives to improve the life of the school.

Year 7
Nicole Inati
Anthony Nohra
Ashley Saba

Year 8
Jean-Claude Attieh
Josephine Ayoub
Emile Fadel

Year 9
Therese Dagher
Jason Nassour
Patrick Semaan

Year 10
Amanda Azzi
Marina Sara
Marc Nehme

Year 11
Nathan El-Hosni
Loui Daoud
Stephanie Azzi

Year 12
Wadad Seklawy (Captain)
Charly Daher (Captain)
Josephine Sara
Amanda Abboud
Joyce Zeitouni
Joseph Wakim
Jennifer Habib

Head of Primary

John Klumpp

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1. **End of Term Primary Disco** - Friday, 11th April 2008 - in the school grounds - 6.30pm to 9.30pm

   $10 entry for all (includes Hot dog + Drink)

   No child under 9 admitted without adult supervision  (Security)

2. **Mother’s Day Stall** - Wednesday, 30th April - The P & F will be holding a stall at lunch time where students will be able to purchase gifts for $5 & $10 and Mother’s Day Cards for $1 for their mums. A reminder will be sent home with your child.

3. **Mother’s Day Mass & Morning Tea** – Friday, 2nd May 2008. Students along with the P & F Association extend a welcoming invitation to our mothers for a Mass starting at 8.30am followed by morning tea in the Monastery Hall.

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**Body Image Workshop for Girls Yrs 7—10**

*Helena Paras*

“The average person sees 500 commercials a week”

This workshop is designed to educate young women about body image and becoming “media literate”. It is a preventative programme with the objective of providing participants with a safe environment to holistically reflect on their personal identity and build self-esteem and personal coping skills that can be incorporated into everyday life. The Body Image Workshop has also featured in the Sydney Morning Herald's Health and Science section.

The extensive programme, consisting of one three hour session, includes topics such as:

- Developing a self-esteem on strengths and qualities rather than physical appearance
- Becoming media literate - learning strategies to challenge unrealistic images of women presented in the media & the art of ‘photo shopping’
- How genetics, lifestyle choice, attitudes of friends and family, culture ideals & self esteem impacts on body image
- Self-esteem and positive attitude strategies – how to feel good about oneself and others.

For further information please see the School Counsellor—Ms Helena Paras

**Venue:** 255 Rocky Point Road, San Souci, NSW, 2219

**Cost:** $100 - Prices include all materials necessary for participation in the group and refreshments

**Date:** 14th April 2008

**Time:** 1.00pm—4.15pm (short recess)

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**National Youth Week**

Celebrate National Youth Week in Bankstown!

5 – 13 April 2008

This Year’s Events Include:

- The Autumnated Music Festival
  05 April at Bankstown City YMCA
- Bocce & BBQ / XGEN Ball
  06 April at Paul Keating Park & Bankstown Town Hall
- Revesby Skate Park Launch
  08 April at Amour Park, Revesby
- "Mente Sana in Corpore Sano" Mural Launch
  09 April at The Corner Youth Health Service
- Sunset Sounds / BanXtown BeatZ
  10 April at Paul Keating Park
- ‘B’ In Bankstown Skate Party
  11 April at The Roundabout Youth Centre
- Yagoona Autumn Fair / EcoFashionista
  12 April at Gazzard Park Yagoona
- Bring it On! Shuttle Service
  13 April Departing Bankstown for Fairfield and back again

All events are Drug and Alcohol Free!

For more information visit www.bankstown.nsw.gov.au or contact Thom on 9707 9605
The boys who participated in the chess tournament absolutely enjoyed the competition and are looking forward to next term’s tournament where they can pit their talents against Sydney’s finest.

Sean Boustani was the highlight with 4.5 wins out of 8 games.

What’s Going on in Stage 3?

Elizabeth Woodin

Peer Support: Kindy, Year 3 and Year 6 students participated in various activities to help Kindergarten students adjust to life in “Big School”.

Year 6 students simulating a cyclone in their CSIRO Workshop.

The Winners of the SRC’s Stage 3 Easter Colouring-In Competition:

- Govana Dagher (Year 4)
- Gabrielle Zeitouni (Year 5)
- Jascinta Chehade (Year 6).
Yr 1 Excursion: Sydney Aquarium & Wildlife World

Melissa Goaley

On Monday, 17th March, Year 1 went on their first excursion to the Sydney Aquarium and Wildlife World as part of their science unit “I am alive”.

At the Aquarium the students explored the touch pools and viewed seals and crocodiles in their natural habitat. The exciting underwater tunnels allowed them to have a close-up look at a variety of fish, sharks and sting-rays. At Wildlife World, they met some of Australia’s unique native wildlife and they really loved exploring the butterfly sanctuary.

We would like to thank the parent helpers who gave their time to assist us on the day.

On Friday, 22nd of February, Years 1 and 2 had their Swimming Fun Day at Hurstville Aquatic Centre.

Stage 1 Swimming Fun Day

Melissa Goaley

The students were able to swim in a number of different sized pools, have fun on the water fountain and water slides and they even managed to find time to jump on the Finding Nemo Jumping Castle!

The students had a wonderful time participating in all of the different activities and it helped them gain their confidence in the water.

Library

Christina Golz

Please encourage your children to return library books before the end of the term.

Please also continue to ensure your child brings their library card everyday to school to enable them to borrow books from the library. If a card is lost replacements can be purchased from the library.

A reminder that our library is open:
• Before school from 8.00am
• After school till 4.00pm every day.

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday lunchtimes for Primary.
Tuesday and Thursday lunchtimes for Infants.

High School Sport

Frederick Zalloua

This year all representative sport teams, boys (basketball and cricket) and girls (cricket, volleyball and touch) have displayed great sportsmanship, effort and a positive attitude. When we do come back from the mid-term break we are confident that we will see several teams competing in the finals.

I wish to highlight the efforts and achievements of both our boys and girls swim teams. There were several great results namely the Nader siblings, Issa (Yr 9) and Natalie (Yr 7), Elias El-Indari (Yr 11), Georgina Chouefati (Yr 10) and Melissa Chahine (Yr 7).

We should also highlight the great successes of the AFL (Aussie Rules) Program, the Adopt a School Program with Fitness First and the Swim Program that we have implemented for Year 7 boys and girls.

Year 11 Physics

Mary Paull

Year 11 Physics class have completed their first assessment task by making a mouse trap car.

Students used a mousetrap and other household items to build some fabulous and creative mousetraps cars. Students learnt about kinetic and potential energy.

Senior Girls Volleyball (2007 SCC Grand Final Winners)
Monday Co-curricular is an important part of the sporting curriculum, where students set out to participate in a number of challenging and exciting sports.

This term Year 4 are involved in a Learn to Swim Program at Hurstville Aquatic Centre. Fully qualified swimming instructors who aim to maximise student participation and learning run this program. Year 3 are also at Hurstville Aquatic Indoor Centre. This program allows the children to be involved in basketball, volleyball and soccer. The program is set up in a round robin competition where the students are encouraged to work as a team.

I hope all students are getting the most from the programs and look forward to informing you on upcoming sporting programs.

Primary School Silver Coordinator’s Award

Two students from each class in the primary school who displayed characteristics of being an excellent citizen through their actions and attitude in the classroom and in the playground were awarded a Silver Coordinator’s Award this term.

The following students were selected:

KH Bradley Moussa Gisele Karam
KB Annabelle Saad John-Paul El-Azzi
KS Chaneile Hazim Antonio Azzi
1A Angel Chidiac Christopher Ters
1M Sara Jo Said Brendan Azzi
1G Jacinta Chalhoub Romeo Mitri
2A Angela Rassy Joseph El-Azzi
2S Paloma Darjani Rodney Alam
2C Mark Khodair Tia Maria Azzi
3A Anthony Ayoub Melissa Matar
3G Melissa Nassour David Moubarak
3C Jeremy Zoghaib Mariam El-Azzi
4A Mario Kazzi Monica Ayoub
4R George Karam Rachelle Nohra
4L Vanessa El Hosri Ashlee Massaad
5W Camelia Nehme Charlie Ayoub
5E Patrick Jawaro Nicole Ters
5C Andrew Boustani Gabriella Gabriel
6W Sayed Farah Charbel Chidiac
6B Emil Saidi Lucinta Gerges
6A Elie Azzi Jascinta Chehade

Year 4 Excursion

During Term 1, Year 4 stepped back in time to learn about what life was like in Australia in the past.

This HSIE Unit, Places: Then, Now and Tomorrow, allows the students to learn about how life has changed over time (prior and post British Colonisation). An emphasis has been placed on the people who lived in the Bankstown and Sydney districts, and how the introductions of new technologies have affected people’s lives in Australia.

On Tuesday, 4th March 2008, Year 4 departed school at 8:30am on a coach bound for Sydney. On this excursion students visited a Merchant’s House and participated in The Rocks Discovery Museum Tour.

Year 11 Ancient History Excursion

On Tuesday, 4th March, the Year 11 Ancient History class, as part of the introductory unit on “Investigating the Past: History Archaeology and Science” visited the Nicholson Museum at Sydney University.

The first session involved an archaeologist instructing the group about artefacts from the Ancient Societies of Egypt, Greece and Rome with the highlight being the display of several authentic Egyptian mumified bodies and animals like cats and crocodiles. In the “hands on session” the students were encouraged to handle and interpret a range of artefacts from the above periods of Ancient History.

SCHOOL FEES

First instalment for school fees is now due.

Payments may be paid in cash, cheque, EFTPOS or credit card.