Early Stage 1 Coordinator
Ms Paras Luca

Term 1 has been a busy and fun filled time for Kindergarten. The students are enjoying the Jolly Phonics program which introduces the students to single sounds and blends. The program is used to guide the children’s learning in Reading and Writing. Please help your child to learn the symbols, actions and songs to further develop their learning in literacy.

We have introduced the De Bono Thinking Hats as a means to teach critical thinking. The children respond to the concept of attributing a colour to thinking. They especially love thinking with their green hat, the creative hat.

"It took me 4 years to paint like Raphael, but a life time to paint like a child.” Pablo Picasso

Please feel free to visit your child’s classroom to view their artwork.

The children have made Lenten Promises and are doing their best to keep them. They have made great progress, take a bow Kindergarten!!

Stage One Coordinator
Ms Sue Durhan

Once again our children experienced the wonderful anti bullying role plays presented by the Stans Productions Theatre in Schools. Years 1 and 2 learnt about recognising bullying, be it physical, verbal or visual and their play showed how to react with peer support, understanding and friendship. Years 3 to 6 learnt about resilience with the emphasis on ‘I Have, I Am and I Can’ and how the developing of trusting relationship, pride in self, problem solving and autonomous choices and behaviour can help stamp out bullying. A great time had by all as our photo shows and lots of lessons learnt in how to deal with the very anti social behaviour of bullying.

In Sport this term Years 1 and 2 are involved in a tennis program aimed at developing not only tennis skills but the skills of hand-eye coordination. How the kids love Mondays! The whole school is participating in ‘Jump Rope For Heart’ this year which is a fund raising activity organised by the Heart Foundation. Sponsorship forms have been sent home so please be enthusiastic and support your children in raising money for this very important cause. The children will gain plenty physically as they skip their way to fitness.

The term is winding down and Easter will be here soon. We will return for a little while after the short Easter break and then holidays. Until then, plenty of work to be done!

Stage Two Coordinator
Mrs Mary Anton

As part of the Active for Life unit, Year 10 PDH and PE students have joined forces with Year 4 to create a Jump Rope for Heart routine using skipping ropes and movement. The aim is to promote leadership, teamwork and an active lifestyle. The students are enjoying the challenge immensely.

"It’s good exercise and we get to learn more skills,” says Erica. "We get to learn different skipping skills like criss cross,” says Samuel.

Please support the students by completing the Sponsorship Form sent home last term. This program has been organised through the Heart Foundation in partnership with the College. We look forward to the presentation of the routines towards the end of the term.

Stage Three Coordinator
Ms. Marie Claire Hawwa

Stage 3 students are progressing successfully in Term 1, the key focus for this year being learning to be responsible and independent learners and learning to be organised. These are very important tools to assist the students in preparation for High School. These were discussed further at the Stage 3 Parent Information night on the 13th March.

The Stage 3 students are thoroughly enjoying sports at Roberts Park this Term. The SRC are getting use to their delegated roles and I hope to see the students showing more initiative and presenting great ideas to make the College a better place. Year 6 students had a great time at camp, which was from the 18th to 20th of March. Please keep the students and teachers in your prayers as they grow and develop stronger relationships.

Before we know it we will be celebrating the Resurrection of Our Lord and I therefore remind all students and parents that Lent is a time for self-reflection, repentance, alms giving and love. Make time in your week to pray together as a family.

Primary REC Report
Mrs Mary Weils

Our Lenten journey continues in St Charbel’s Primary with the Students doing a variety of activities to focus on the preparations for the Passion and Easter. Stage Two students are making the Stations of the Cross each week and Year Three students are meditating. During the past two weeks we have had additional helpers from the High School, who are leading Years Three to Years Six in a short reflection at the end of lunch on Thursdays, following this up with classroom support during the Grade Three Christian Education Classes.

Our Mini-paraliturgies have begun with Kindergarten and Grade Three presence in the Church. Others will follow during Holy Week each morning before lessons. They will be on the Stage on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings. I wish you all a Happy Easter.

Rector’s Message
Rev Fr Antoine Tarabai

As we prepare for our short Easter break, I would like to congratulate the students for their application to their studies so far and I hope that this continues throughout the year.

The first 8 weeks of this school year have been filled with activities and events for our College and the wider Catholic Church.

On 13 March 2013, the Cardinals of the Catholic Church elected Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio S.J, Archbishop of Buenos Aires, to the Papacy. Cardinal Bergoglio has chosen the name Pope Francis. We keep our new Supreme Pontiff in our prayers asking the Lord to be with our Holy Father now, as he embarks on a great undertaking, shepherding, stewarding, and renewing the flock.

Over the coming 2 weeks of Term 1, our Year 12 students will sit their half-yearly examinations. We hope they come prepared and achieve good results in this important year for them.

We are currently accepting enrolments for Kindergarten and Year 7 2014. Please pick up an enrolment package from the College front office as soon as you get the chance. The deadline is 10 May 2013. Late applications will not be accepted.

In this season Holy Week, as we prepare to celebrate the event of the Cross and Resurrection, in which the love of God redeemed the world and shone its light upon history, I would also like to invite all the families to participate in Holy Week prayers and the Easter Triduum at our parish. Over the coming days, we fix our eyes on the Holy Mystery of the Cross and we fit our hearts and ears with the words of the Gospel. This year, St Charbel’s parish is holding the Good Friday liturgy at 10.30am in Arabic and 3.30pm in English. The Stations of the Cross will commence at Roberts Park, Greenacre at 9am on Good Friday.

Finally, I hope that this is a time of rekindling our faith in Jesus Christ, so that we become united to our brothers and sisters and reflect the face of Jesus to all those we encounter in our lives. I ask our Lord to bless your families and loved ones and I wish you a Happy and Blessed Easter.

2014 Kindergarten Enrolments
Enrolments for Kindergarten 2014 are now open until Friday, 10 May 2013.
Please inform your friends and relatives who are interested in enrolling their children at St Charbel’s College.
2014 Year 7 Enrolments
Enrolments for Year 7 2014 are now open.
Our college’s capacity has increased due to 4-streaming in Year 7.
Please inform your friends and relatives who are interested in enrolling their children at St Charbel’s College to do so as soon as possible.

Principal’s Message
Rev Fr Ronny Chaheen

With all of the events that have been occurring this term, we are well and truly into a new school year. I have been enjoying getting to know new students and their parents as this term progresses.

The teachers in both the Primary and Secondary school have been busy preparing and presenting each year groups’ information evenings. This is a wonderful opportunity for parents/guardians to meet with teachers and other parents to gain a variety of useful information to help in your child’s educational success throughout the year.

On Tuesday 19th February I took part in the HSC High Achievers Ceremony. It is always a proud moment for our school when we see a number of former Y12 students receive this award. I would therefore like to congratulate those students again for their dedication towards their studies and to the teachers and staff who supported them along the way.

On Friday 22nd February, our Secondary students participated in the High School Swimming Carnival. Once again our students competed well and showed a wonderful sense of team spirit and sportsmanship. Thank you to all the teachers, staff and parents who helped to make the day run so smoothly.

The Primary and Secondary students have also started enjoying some of the wonderful incursions and excursions. Year 6 students had their camp on Monday 18 March at Stanwell Tops. It was a great camp and a good time, mixed with learning experiences and relationship building was had by all. It is always a pleasure seeing the students participate in interactive group activities that help to strengthen them as a year group, especially since this will be their final year group experience.

Now that Easter is fast approaching and for many of us this continues to be our time of Lent, I ask that you reflect on this time and enjoy it with your family. It is also wonderful to see a number of students attend Rosary with either myself or Fr Danny on Mondays during their lunch break.

“Easter tells us that God never leaves us in our pain and often brings good out of evil.”

Pointers: “When attending your child’s year group Info Evenings, take the time to consider these three questions: What skills can my child master this year? How will my child’s progress be evaluated? What can I do to support my child’s learning?”

“Using the Internet is part of school life for our children. Make sure to also create rules to using the Internet. Helping your child to safely use the Internet will assist them with their homework and school assignments.”

ST CHARBEL’S COLLEGE
NEWSLETTER
Term 1, Week 9 March 2013
Issue 2

ST CHARBEL’S COLLEGE
NEWSLETTER

142 Highclere Avenue, Punchbowl NSW 2196
Website: www.stcharbel.nsw.edu.au Email: info@stcharbel.nsw.edu.au Tel: 9740 0999 Fax: 9740 0900
Dear Parents, we have had a very busy start to the New Year and it is with pleasure that I inform you of the wonderful progress your children are making at our school. All the teachers as well as myself are really pleased with the way the children have settled in with daily routines and tasks. I would also like to mention that I very much appreciate your assistance and support with the changes made so far. Additionally, all the teachers as well as myself are really pleased with the brilliant way the children have been working and learning.

On another note, I have changed the daily timetable to incorporate a short reading session each day. I think it is vital that our children have a 10 to 15 minutes on a daily basis starting at about 9am. Interested parent helpers please ring the school to register your visit at the College reception. In addition, parents need to remember that it is not appropriate to come into the school grounds without registering your visit at the College reception. If you need to see a teacher, parents must make an appointment. Furthermore, parents need to remember the importance of respectful dialogue when speaking to College staff. It is not acceptable to shout at teachers or other staff members. Aggressive and disrespectful behaviour towards College staff is not conducive to resolving issues and it cannot be tolerated.

As a Catholic community we need to remember the importance of respect in fostering positive relationships. I would appreciate your cooperation in this matter. Do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss this or any other matters. I hope the coming Easter season brings hope and peace to your lives. May the spirit of the risen Christ reign in your home and in your heart. Happy EASTER!

Deputy Principal Primary School
Mrs Tina Harb

Dear Parents, we have had a very busy start to the New Year and it is with pleasure that I inform you of the wonderful progress your children are making at our school. All the teachers as well as myself are really pleased with the way the children have settled in with daily routines and tasks. I would also like to mention that I very much appreciate your assistance and support with the changes made so far. Additionally, I am looking at introducing a structured reading program in Term 2 and would love parent helpers to listen to a small group of children read. This will make it easier for you to notice improvement and will in time assist children in developing good habits while enjoying reading. Going to church together and choosing a really great book to read is a great way to develop good routines with reading.

On Tuesday, 5 March 2013 we attended the 2013 Student Leaders Awards Ceremony at the Roselands Community Centre. It was a momentous occasion where some inspiring speeches were given by Mr. Tony Burke, as well as the Minister for Education, Mr. Peter Garrett. We learnt that as Student Leaders we play an important role within the wider community as well as the school community in order to lead others. Overall, it was an enjoyable experience, one that would not be forgotten!

Celine & Patrick - School Captains

Deputy Principal Secondary School
Mr Jaime Rodriguez

The academic year is in full flow. All year groups are working very hard and assessment tasks and Year 12 are preparing for their up-coming Half-Yearly exams. We have had a chance to celebrate with our High Achievers from 2012 and we rejoice in their achievements. We have welcomed our new Year 7s to the High School and look forward to a productive journey of learning. The College held its Swimming Carnival for the year. Congratulations to St Rafqa House who were the winners of the Carnival.

I must remind parents of the importance of complying with our College’s expectations. Punctuality to school, Grooming, wearing the school uniform are all matters of importance and we expect that your child chooses to send your children to our school is a choice to comply with these expectations. In addition, parents need to remember that it is not appropriate to come into the school grounds without registering your visit at the College reception. If you need to see a teacher, parents must make an appointment. Furthermore, parents need to remember the importance of respectful dialogue when speaking to College staff. It is not acceptable to shout at teachers or other staff members. Aggressive and disrespectful behaviour towards College staff is not conducive to resolving issues and it cannot be tolerated.

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Parent Corner

What to do with young children at Mass?

More often than not, parents shy away from taking their children to Mass because they can be distracting and very quickly become a source of distraction!

Some tips for before Church preparation.

Before Church

- Make sure children have eaten right before Mass. Avoid taking snacks into the pew. It can be distracting for them and those around them.
- Dress them in some special clothing that they wear only for church or other special events. This does not have to be expensive and can be as simple as a nice pair of shoes. It helps them to identify what we do at Mass as different from everyday activity.
- Consider including a small toy or book that your child enjoys so that they do not distract those around you from their prayer while they are being played with or in case they are distracted.

Stay tune for more tips in the next Newsletter!

P & F Corner

Mrs Zena Khali – President

Thank you to all those who attended our spiritual day to Appin. All were present spiritually nurtured by Frs Peter & Paul. Proceeds raised were donated to St Neemilthah. The day was enjoyed by all.

Upcoming events
- Easter Showbags for Primary students - all notes & money should have been returned by now.
- Uniform Shop open every Friday 2:30-3:30. (Excluding school holidays). Cash only.
- Anyone interested in becoming a P&F class representative can contact me on 0400098873 as we need more parent involvement within the college. Thank you for your support.

School Fees

On first instalment for school fees is now due. Payments may be paid in cash, cheque, EFTPOS, credit card or directly into our bank account.

(Please family code must be included otherwise your account may not be adjusted).

Arrangements may also be made via Centrelink.

School Chaplain
Father Dany Akiki

Let us rejoice, we have a new Pope! To all Christians around the world we have a new Spiritual Father. Our new Pope has taken the name Pope Francis. In after St Francis who said to encourage us all, “If God can work through me, he can work through anyone” St Francis of Assisi.

The season of Lent is a time of retreat, a time for self-reflection and spiritual growth. It is special time for us all to come closer to God and closer to one another in need. I hope you are all looking forward to Easter and spending time with loved ones. On Tuesday 19th March and Saturday 23rd March we celebrated St Joseph’s Feast Day and St Rafqa’s Feast Day respectively, marking two important days before Easter.

This term I am enjoying being available every Tuesday and Friday to see students, teachers and parents for spiritual guidance as it is also giving me the opportunity to be a regular presence in our ever expanding school community.

“If God can work through me, he can work through anyone” St Francis of Assisi

Please ensure your child brings their student card every day to school to enable them to borrow books from the library and print.

A reminder that our library is open before school from 8.00 and after school till 4.30 o’clock every day. We are also open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday lunchtimes for Primary & High School, Tuesday and Thursday lunchtimes for Infants, Wednesday lunch for Year 11 & 12, Happy Reading.

The College has a range of sporting activities available to students from the start of Term 1. Along with the regular school buses, the College buses will transport students to their sporting events.

The Brothers, the Supportive Families and the College Chaplain will be on hand if you need any spiritual support.

Counsellor’s Corner
Mr Ramsey Andrews

Hello my name is Katrina Thomley and I am delighted to be joining the counselling team at St Charles’s College. I am a registered psychologist and have spent the past few years working in schools as a student counsellor. My role here at the College will include running workshops for students, parents and teachers, covering mental health topics at school assemblies and providing teachers with a range of resources. I am extremely excited about the role and look forward to working with you at the College.

COACHING AVAILABLE 7 DAYS

BEGINNERS TO ADVANCED

BOOK YOUR CHILD IN TODAY

LIBRARY NEWS

Ms Christine Goltz

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VOICE OF CHARITY - CHRISTIAN RADIO 1701AM

Presents: A Family Spiritual Evening with Jesus Concert. Arabic and English songs and dances taken from Maronite People Parishes and Schools for all ages

At: The Riverside Theatre-Panannia
On: Monday 6 & Wednesday 8 May 2013 at 7.30pm
Tickets $50 Front seat $100

Maria: 0414 690 899 (Inner City) Gloria: 0410 187 841 (Mt Druitt)
Mary: 0409 600 600 (Guildford) Nelly: 0410 972 376 (Blacktown)
Michael: 0420 404 054 (Panannia) Minara: 0412 830 800 (Punchbowl)
Joumana: 0423 881 023 (Strathfield)

March 2013:
Thurs, 28 Holy Thursday
Fri, 29 Good Friday
Sun, 31 Easter Sunday

April 2013:
Mon, 1 Easter Monday
Tues, 2-12 Year 12 Halt Year Examinations
Fri, 12 Last day of Term 1
Mon, 22 Term 2 Commences (students must wear winter uniforms)