Early Stage 1 Coordinator

Ms Marie-Claire Hawwa

Congratulations to all 2011 Kindergarten students who have grown in maturity and independence in the first term of this year. It has been a successful Term academically, socially and spiritually. The students are developing great phonemic awareness and have started to link the sounds to print in the world around them. The success of the Jolly Phonics program can be attributed to the fact that learning is made fun as the students are singing and doing actions. Also it is a program that caters for a variety of learners' needs.

The students have worked in a range of groups this term and have learnt how to collaborate and be a fair team member as well as providing great opportunity for the students to develop their English oral language. Most Kindergarten students have made new friends or are making friends and it has been a relatively smooth transition into the structure and rules of the school setting for most students. The students are experiencing a true Lenten journey by learning to watchful of theirbehaviours and intentions. They have a good understanding of Christian values and have been trying hard to give up something they love to make space for Christ in their hearts. It is truly inspirational to observe the Kindergarten students' profound love of praying and love for God.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the parent helpers who have shown such dedication assisting during Term 1. We are blessed to have your support and look forward to working with you next term. I pray that the Resurrection of Christ be an opportunity for each of you to surrender your hearts to God and allow Him to heal and renew your spirit. Have a Blessed and safe holiday.

Stage 1 Coordinator

Term 1, 2011 has been very busy and productive. Our photo is an example of your happy students. Years 1 and 2 classes 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 term will show the improvements needed.

As in past years, parent helpers are welcome in every classroom. We had lots of parents assisting in Reading groups throughout Term 1. All teachers thank them and hope their presence in the classrooms will continue. 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! 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. Term 2 ends with Report Day and it will be great if EVERY parent is happy with their child’s report.

As the holidays approach, keep reading with your children. Their learning does not take a holiday and there’s lots of reading to do whilst at play. Easter is occurring later than usual this year – we usually begin the holidays with Easter – and I wish everyone a happy, holy and safe Easter break. Remember the true meaning of Easter and talk about it with your children. We must not forget that Jesus died, was buried and rose again for us and for our salvation. I look forward to continuing success in all our endeavours.

Stage 2 Coordinator

Term 1 almost has come to an end. This term has been very successful due to the dedicated and hard working staff. Thank you all for your hard work and efforts. The students have settled in well and most have achieved satisfactory results so far.

Last week was a very educational and eventful experience for the Year 3 and 4 students who attended their first excursions for the year. Year 3 enjoyed their time at St Mary’s Cathedral and Centrepoint Tower for HSE as students have been learning about significant Australian landmarks. The Year 4 students went to the Powerhouse Museum to further enrich their learning on machines. Thank you to all the students who made their college and teachers proud as they displayed exceptional behaviour. A big thank you goes out to all the parents who helped us on the excursions. I wish you all a happy Easter and a refreshing and safe break.

Stage 3 Coordinator

Thank you to all Stage 3 teachers for their hard work throughout the course of the term and thank you to all Stage 3 students who have worked diligently to produce work that reflects their true potential. Portfolios will be sent home at the end of the first term. Please take the time to go through the different tasks with your children, as feedback is an important tool in the learning process. Stage 3 teachers have been meeting with parents continuously throughout the term but if you have a concern regarding your child’s progress, please make an appointment with the teacher concerned.

Congratulations to the first ever St. Charbel’s it’s Academic team who fared well in their semi-final game. Remember to watch the episodes as they are aired in the next few weeks, and feel proud to be a student at St. Charbel’s College. Again, thank you to Miss Candelori for her enthusiastic training of the students.

Students in Stage 3 enjoyed excursions to Imax, the Powerhouse Museum and to Kurnell as part of their Science units: Antarctica and An Ancient Land, respectively. Much learning and laughter were the order of the day on both excursions! Have a restful holiday and I wish you all a Happy Easter. God Bless.

ST CHARBEL’S COLLEGE
NEWS LETTER

Term 1, Week 10 - 8 April 2011

Issue 3

Rector’s Message
Rev Fr Antoine Tarabey

As Term 1 of this school year comes to an end, the days get shorter and colder and we know that winter is back. I commend all the students who have worked hard this term and I hope they continue to do so for the rest of this year. I also hope that all the students who have given their personal best in Term 1, will benefit from this long Easter break to re-energise and catch up on all their work.

Throughout this term, we saw the development of an Annual Improvement Plan for 2011 for our College as part of the Strategic Improvement Plan 2011-2013 that was developed in 2010. We have started implementing this plan at all levels in our College. As part of the plan, the College has taken initiatives to improve literacy and numeracy in the Primary and Secondary schools. We thank all the teachers involved in these programs and we hope to see this reflected in our students’ results.

It is with a great sense of pride and achievement that I inform you that the Multi-Purpose Hall at the College will be ready for students at the beginning of Term 2. The official opening and blessing of the hall will be held in September 2011.

Once again this year, the Western and Eastern Easterners coincide. In an initiative by all the neighboring churches and with the blessing of the Bishops of our different churches, the faithful from St Charbel’s Church, St Nicholas, St John the Beloved and St Demiana will all join in prayer to celebrate together the 2011 Palm Sunday on April 17. Processions from all the churches will gather at St Charbel’s at 12.30pm for the final prayers and the solemn blessing. We pray for Christian unity and this gathering is a witness to the profound bond that exists among us.

I would also like to invite all the families to partake in the Holy Week prayers and the Easter Triduum at our parish where, as Christians, we celebrate the saving work God has accomplished in Christ. On these days, we fix our eyes on the Holy Mystery of His cross and we fill our hearts and ears with the words of His Gospel. This year, St Charbel’s parish is holding the Good Friday Liturgy at 10.30am in Arabic and 3.30pm in English.

I wish you all a safe and relaxing holiday. May our Lord Jesus Christ, redeemer and risen Saviour bless you and your families.

Principal’s Message
Rev Fr Ronny Chaheen

It is hard to believe that we have reached the end of Term 1. This has been a busy Term for our College. In my first term as Principal of St Charbel’s College, I had the pleasure of getting to know the College students and teachers and especially the Leadership team for all their work during Term 1.

Over the last 2 weeks of Term 1, our Year 12 students sat their half-year examinations. We keep in them in our prayers as they progress through the most important year in their school life and we hope that the results would reflect their hard work and dedication.

I would like to remind you again that we are currently accepting enrolments for Kindergarten and Year 7 2012. Please pick up an enrolment package from the College front office as soon as you get the chance. Late applications will not be accepted.

As Term 1 comes to an end, I would like to encourage all the students to benefit from the Easter break to relax and prepare for Term 2 especially Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 who will be sitting the NAPLAN tests between the 10th and 12th of May. Extra classes have been organised for the Year 12 students over the break. We thank all the parents who will be using their own free time over the holiday to help the students and we hope that the students appreciate their teachers’ dedication and commit themselves to their studies.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff members and especially the Leadership team for all their work during Term 1. Finally, as Easter is fast approaching, may we prepare ourselves during the penitential season of Lent to celebrate the central event in the life of the Church: the sacrificial death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. The Church emphasizes three main religious practices during Lent - prayer, fasting, and almsgiving (giving to the needy). May we, through these practices, repent and reflect on the death of Jesus and its meaning. St Paul tells us in his letter to the Corinthians, “... if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.” (1 Corinthians 15:14) May we always follow and worship Jesus who saved us by His cross.

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Deputy Principal Secondary School
Mr Jaime Rodriguez

The last week of Term 1 is always a good time to stock-take what has been done for the last ten weeks. The introduction of our Annual Improvement Plan has given us an opportunity to focus our energies and our resources on ways we can improve learning at St Charbel’s College. We started at the beginning of the year with relevant professional development. Professor Chips Davison, Head of the School of Education at the University of New South Wales, conducted a workshop for our teachers on Assessment For Learning, one of the most effective ways to improve student performance. Further professional development is being organized throughout the year to ensure that we are everything in our power to improve excellence in the teaching offered at our college.

Excursion and incursions on academic and pastoral care matters have been organized for the benefit of our students. We are interested in the education of the whole person so the social aspects of our students’ growth has been at the heart of our efforts during this Term. As we prepare ourselves for the Easter season we remind you that we are hope-filled people. May the message of the passion of Christ fill your hearts with renewed energy. May the light of the risen Christ illuminate the path of your life. Happy Easter!

Deputy Principal Primary School
Mr John Klumpp

On Wednesday the 16th of March 2011 students from Years 11 and 12 Community and Family Studies visited the Big Issue in Reefield. Students participated in games to explore homelessness, discrimination and what it is to be marginalised in Australia. Students learnt how to break down the stereotypes surrounding homelessness and were encouraged to understand marginalisation. Students were also able to hear first hand from someone who has personally experienced homelessness. The guest speaker shared his story, focused on the challenges he faced and what has helped him overcome the challenges to get to where he is today. The guest speaker had a direct impact on a very personal level to students who attended the session. The excursion has made students appreciate what they have and have given them a real insight into homelessness in Australia. Enjoy your holiday and have a Happy Easter.

Library News
Miss Christine Golz

Dear Parents, please encourage your children to return the library books for the end of the term and continue to ensure your child brings their library card everyday to school to enable them to borrow books from the library.

A reminder that Holiday Activities are available at your local library Bankstown City Library and Information Service will once again present fun-filled activities for school-aged children during the School Holidays. Locations: Bankstown Council’s five libraries - Bankstown, Greendale, Padstow, Panania and Chester Hill

Wishing you a Happy and Safe Holiday.

Year 8 Medieval History Incursion

Year 8 Medieval History Incursion

Hear ye, Hear ye!

It was back in Week 2 when I had the chance to meet the 7 bright young stars of the future SCC Junior Girls Volleyball Premiers. They were excited, raw and a touch nervous, after the first loss in Round 1, the girls trained hard and continued the competition after week undefeated, sometimes winning by miles! They finished first in the competition and took home the Grand Final status! Not even the disastrous rain could stop them on their road to victory. Enormous congratulations to Sabine Charlton (c), Mary Rasy, Louisa Alen, Joavama Dagher, Amanda Mini, Ghiwa Charbel and Amanda Azzi for their win over Mary Mackillop College. Also, a thank you to all teachers and supporters who attended the match in support of the girls! St. Charbel’s College is very proud of you!

Junior Girls Volleyball Win

Miss J. Maatouk

Junior Girls Volleyball Win

Miss J. Maatouk (coach)

Year 8 & 12 Community & Family Studies

On the 16th of March 2011 students from Years 11 and 12 Community and Family Studies visited the Big Issue in Reefield. Students participated in games to explore homelessness, discrimination and what it is to be marginalised in Australia. Students learnt how to break down the stereotypes surrounding homelessness and were encouraged to understand marginalisation. Students were also able to hear first hand from someone who has personally experienced homelessness. The guest speaker shared his story, focused on the challenges he faced and what has helped him overcome the challenges to get to where he is today. The guest speaker had a direct impact on a very personal level to students who attended the session. The excursion has made students appreciate what they have and have given them a real insight into homelessness in Australia. Enjoy your holiday and have a Happy Easter.

Miss Belinda Whittle

Year 8 Coordinator

“We are not put on this earth for ourselves, but are placed here for each other” - Jeff Warner.

Lent is a time for reflection, deepening our faith in Christ and a time for giving. As we approach the end of Term 1, I would encourage all parents and guardians to take time to talk to their children and discuss with them the significance of this time of year.

Furthermore, I would like to remind parents that school begins at 8:30. Please ensure your child comes to school on time. Also, if your child is unable to come to school due to illness or any family emergency, it would be greatly appreciated if you could contact me on 9740 0999 to notify me of the absence.

Finally, I would like to wish all families a holy, safe and Happy Easter. God bless.

Primary REC Report
Mrs Mary Wells

Congratulations to all the classes on their presentations of the Mini-Paraliturgies as we celebrate the sacred passion of Our Lord. We are unaccustomed to our First Term break commencing well before the Holy Week has begun, so it is with some feeling of strangeness that we hold our Mini –Paraliturgies during these last weeks of Lent. Well done to the student body of the Primary School for their very attentive presence at these events. Everyone has been listening and watching like angels.

Mrs Patricia Moussa

Year 8 Coordinator

30th, Year 8 was fortunate enough to experience a very different style of learning. They were invited to spend the entire day experiencing life in the Middle Ages. The Monastery Hall was transformed into a Medieval arena filled with artefacts, knights armour, shields, weaponry and a skilled team of Medieval World specialists! Students had the chance to take part in an inquisition against a heretic, watch a real-life Medieval combat between two knights and even test their skills at Medieval dancing and archery! A huge thank you to all students for their exceptional behaviour and genuine interest!

Miss J. Maatouk

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 2011
Sun, 17 Palm Sunday Fit, 22 Good Friday
Sun, 24 Easter Sunday Mon, 25 Anzac Day
Wed, 27 Term 2 Commences - (Winter Uniform)
May 2011
Tues, 3 Primary Athletics Carnival
Mon, 9-Wed 11 Year 8 Camp
Tues, 10 Year 12 Report Card Evening
Tues, 10-Thurs 12 NAPLAN

NAPLAN

School Fees

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). Arrangements may also be made via Centrelink.

LOTE Coordinator–Secondary
Mr Melhem Kairouz

LOTE Coordinator–Primary
Mrs Marie Sandruissi

P & F Corner
Mrs Giselle Doumet-President

President

The P&F Committee would like to wish all students, parents and staff a safe break. A few highlights of Term 2 will be the Primary School disco on Friday 13th May and A Mother’s Day stall. We will inform you further of these events with a letter prior to the dates. The P&F Committee welcomes all feedback and support from all the parents and friends of St Charbel’s school community.

Have a Happy Easter. May God bless you all and keep you safe.

Mrs Patricia Moussa

Year 8 Coordinator

P & F Corner

2012 Kindergarten Enrolments

Enrolments for Kindergarten are now open. Please inform your friends and relatives who are interested in enrolling their children at St Charbel’s College.

2012 Year 7 Enrolments

Enrolments for Year 7 2012 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.

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