Early Stage 1 Coordinator
Ms Marie-Claire Hazeva

We are past the half way mark for Term 3 and the Kindergarten students have made excellent progress in their reading skills. Reading Groups this Term have been across the Stage, which has diversified the students’ social interactions and confidence in their reading ability. The language focus for this Term has been phonemic awareness which is the awareness of hearing sounds in words. We are encouraging the students to listen and count the number of sounds they HEAR in words using their fingers not the number of letters. Consequently the students are starting to identify middle and end sounds of words. A big thank you to all the mothers who assist in reading groups on a weekly basis, we couldn’t do reading groups on a stage level without you! This Term in Health, we have been focussing on the values of honesty and the importance of telling the truth and the students are learning to relate these values to everyday situations!

Stage 1 Coordinator
Ms Sue Durham

The last 2 weeks have been full of new learning experiences for our students in Years 1 and 2. As part of their “Workers in our Community” unit, Year 1 had a visit from the Bankstown Fire Brigade and they were very excited when a fire engine came into their playground. Four firemen talked to the students and demonstrated safety procedures such as “get down low and go, go, got” and “drop and roll!” Children watched a fireman put on his fire suit. They sure do have to put a lot on to protect themselves! Every child had a turn at spraying the large hose and then they were able to inspect the engine with some being able to climb inside. I’m sure that we now have a lot of aspiring firefighters as our photo here shows. Year 2 had an in-school excursion from Make a Bear as part of their “Toys” unit. A great time was had by all as each stuffed a teddy bear and put a little heart inside. Children named their bears and were given a certificate of ownership. Excited children took their bears home and lots of fun and hands-on learning was had by all. Our children are very fortunate to have teachers who take advantage of the great teaching experiences available in Sydney.

A sports day at Homebush Bay is next on the agenda for both grades and all are looking forward to an energetic day, hopefully, in the sun. On a different note, the Canteen now has special lunch order bags which can be purchased from there for $1 for 10 bags. The use of these bags would assist the canteen staff as they are receiving orders on scrap or scrunched up papers which are hard to read. Please consider.

Stage 2 Coordinator
Mrs Mary Anton

On Thursday 12th August Year 3 enjoyed their incursion with the Aboriginal guest speaker, Sean Ryan. He spoke about the Aboriginal lifestyle and their spiritual beliefs. Sean demonstrated a variety of musical instruments and hunting tools. Year 3 had so much fun creating their own story using traditional Aboriginal symbols that we were inspired to paint our own symbols on shoes, thus creating a unique piece of art.

UPCOMING DATES:
Year 4 Excursion September 1st 2010
Spiritual Retreat - Friday 3rd September 2010 at Appin
* Healthy Harold visiting our school on the 7th September 2010
* Communion Day - Sunday 12th September 2010

Stage 3 Coordinator
Miss Elizabeth Woodin

Year 6 Excursion to Chinatown and the Chinese Gardens was a tremendous success!

Year 5 Excursion to Imax and the Sydney Opera House was an exciting time for all students.

Thank you to all students for their exemplary behaviour and participation in the excursions. A special thank you to the Stage 3 teachers for organising and facilitating the rich educational experiences. More to come!!

Rector’s Message
Rev Fr Antoine Tarabay

As we enter the second half of Term 3 of this school year, we note the changes in nature which are beginning to give evidence of new life and that the cold days are almost gone.

In my previous message, I mentioned that our college is in the process of undergoing Strategic Improvement Planning for 2011-2013. A committee has been formed to assist with the process but planning for the future of our College is a collaborative process requiring the involvement of all members of the school community: staff, parents and students. The College will keep you updated about the progress of the work and you will be invited to help us reflect and evaluate our current practices and set new targets and goals for the coming years.

On this note, I believe that planning the future of our school together can help us all develop a deeper sense of belonging and a community spirit. The values we instil in our students, the level of teaching and learning and the constant development and improvement to the facilities available should make us all proud to be part of St Charbel’s College.

On the occasion of the Feast Day of Blessed Estephan Nehme on the 30th of August, a mass will be celebrated at St Neemtallah Centre in Appin on the 29th of August 2010 at 11am. Following the mass, food and drinks will be available for the families who would like to spend the day there.

It is also the time of the year when St Charbel’s community is preparing to receive the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist for the first time at their First Holy Communion celebration on Sunday 12th September 2010. We keep them in our prayers as they prepare to receive the greatest of the sacraments- where the Lord becomes food for the soul under the appearances of bread and wine.

Finally, I would like to inform all parents that I will be travelling to Lebanon for the General Chapter of our Order in mid-September. During my absence, Mr John Klump, Deputy Principal for the Primary, will be Acting Principal.

As we near the end of the month of August dedicated to The Immaculate Heart of Mary, we turn our gaze to the Mother of our Lord, our advocate in heaven asking her to bless our community, our families and our country.

Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, our life, our sweetness and our hope!

Principal’s Message
Rev Fr Joseph Sleiman

Term 3 is always one of the busiest of the scholastic year, and in a blink it seems like it’s complete. Here is a snapshot of some of the College activities over the last few weeks.

Year 8 and Year 10 Information

Elections were held. These elections were of utmost importance to all students and parents as the Heads of Departments provided orientation to the students on the different subjects offered at the College as an introduction for their subject selection for their School Certificate and Higher School Certificate respectively. We thank all the staff members who organised these elections.

On Friday 20 August, our Year 10 students enjoyed a Spiritual Day in Appin. Our appreciation goes to the Religious Education Department who planned the day.

The Year 10 Drama presented their first performance for the year “Raguzell’s UNO” on Tuesday 24 August. We applaud the efforts of the Drama club led by Ms Kathy Dell Orefice. Once again this year, Book Week, under the theme Across the Story Bridge, was a successful initiative thanks to the efforts of the library staff. Mrs Golz, Mrs Wakim and Mrs Haddad and to all the teachers. The students produced excellent displays and competition entries. The Book Character parade held on Wednesday 25 August was a very entertaining day as students and staff came dressed as their favourite book character.

Our Year 3 students, under the guidance of their teachers, are preparing to receive the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist for the first time at their First Holy Communion celebration on Sunday 12 September 2010. We keep them in our prayers as they prepare to receive the greatest of the sacraments- where the Lord becomes food for the soul under the appearances of bread and wine.

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Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, our life, our sweetness and our hope!
One of the most satisfying things about a career in education is when our students produce work that shows their learning, their skills and their talents. Our Year 12 students are in the process of finalizing their major works in the various courses of the HSC. I have walked around their classroom and have seen the work of our Visual Arts, Wood Work, Textiles, Extension 2 English students, and others. Their continuous hard work has turned into great pieces of work of which they should be very proud. I know that their teachers have felt a great sense of pride at the quality of our students’ work. We’ve included some photographs of our artists for your delight. I congratulate the students and commend teachers for their time, effort and enthusiasm they have brought to their job.

All Year 12s are in the process of receiving their results from the Trial examinations. Although there may be some who may be disappointed, they should know that there is still time for revision and consolidation of knowledge. There is still time to get as ready as possible for the HSC exams.

Year 10 Drama have been very excited about their production this week. They presented a snippet of their play to the whole Secondary school during assembly. Students and their teacher have put a lot of time and effort into this project and they should be very proud of themselves.

Year 8s had their Information Evening on Tuesday 24th. They have to make decisions about the subjects they will be doing for the next couple of years. I remind parents of the need to continue in our efforts to keep high standards and high expectations at the front of our endeavours. This applies to everything we do, including the wearing of the school uniform. Please help us at home to ensure that students come to school wearing the correct uniform every day. We appreciate your support. May God Bless you.

"It is books that are the key to the wide world; if you can’t do anything else, read all that you can." – Jane Hamilton

Every year we celebrate Book Week in our College and every year we find something different to celebrate. This year the children have been very involved in the Book Week theme: Across The Story Bridge. A big thank you to Mrs Goltz, our energetic librarian, and the staff in the library for their planning and work for this week. We had a massive response to our invitation to join in with our Active After-school Communities program. So much so that we have a waiting list of over 50 children for next term. Thank you to all the children taking part in Term 3 and the coaches and supervisors Miss Saad, Miss Candler and Miss Whitte. The program is aimed at encouraging children to be active and to provide access to sporting activities outside of school hours.

NAPLAN results will be available very soon and we are looking forward to getting these so that the data can be used to better plan our Literacy and Numeracy programs. Individual children will receive their results and parents will be able to identify their children’s strengths and where they can improve. Just remember that it is only a test of what the children could do on the day and in the conditions provided. The students true strengths we can measure over the long term during the year.

Finally, we are coming up to one of our most anticipated events of the year; First Communion for the students in Year 3. A lot of time goes into planning and preparing the children for this sacrament and we look forward to the celebration on Sunday 12th of September.

Talking to your child about not smoking

Even though you may feel like your teen isn’t listening to what you’re saying, research shows that parents are a strong influencer on their teen. It can be hard to say no to friends, but that it’s important to stand by your values and beliefs.

Put consequences for smoking into place and let your child know that you will follow through on them.

For further information, please contact Rebecca on 9740 0999.

Library News

Ms Christine Golz

* Advance Notice: Shortly Year 12 textbook order forms will be distributed to Year 11. If you would like to purchase textbooks from Yorke, please fill in the order form and return to the library WITHOUT MONEY by Thursday the 23rd of September. On Tuesday the 12th of October Yorke books will be selling Year 12 textbooks to students in the Library Seminar room. Please do not enclose money with orders.

Counsellor’s Corner

Ms Rebecca Arida

Talking to your child about not smoking

Even though you may feel like your teen isn’t listening to what you’re saying, research shows that parents are a strong influence on whether teens smoke. The following tips about talking to your child have been extracted from the Parent Further website:

Talk about your values, even when your children are young. Tell your kids why you disapprove of smoking and that you will be disappointed if they pick it up.

Focus on short-term consequences. Even though adults know that smoking has horrible long-term consequences, teens may be more affected by the idea of the short-term ones, such as bad breath, foul-smelling clothes, or stained teeth. Explain what is found in cigarettes such as chemicals found in rat poison.

Talk about peer pressure. The best way to address peer pressure is to talk about it directly. Let your kids know that you understand how difficult it can be to say no to friends, but that it’s important to stand by your values and beliefs.

Put consequences for smoking into place and let your child know that you will follow through on them.

For further information, please contact Rebecca on 9740 0999.

Primary REC Report

This past week the Primary Students have been honouring the feast day of the Assumption in a special way with prayer at all the masses with the students themselves leading the prayers.

Primary classes have been attending some very successful Masses and Paraliturgies prepared by the students and teachers and all are congratulated for their efforts.

Students of Grade Three are now looking forward to the Retreat in Appin where they will receive Reconciliation in preparation for the great day of their First Holy Communion – only three weeks to go. There will be prayers, reading, discussion, games and quizzes involved and we wish them a happy time as they prepare. Please pray for the students and their teachers as they make themselves ready for this special occasion.

School Fees

Second 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.

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<th>Event</th>
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