Term 1 has a been a very busy, productive and enlightening time for the 6 classes in Stage 1. There has been a high level of engagement from students on anti-bullying and a team from “Star Productions” visited us to perform role plays on this theme. The children enjoyed the plays immensely and I am pleased to note that we have not had any serious issues re bullying since. Year 2 have been studying the unit “Identifying Us” which looks at who we are and what being Australian is all about, at the same time maintaining and respecting their Lebanese heritage. Year 2 had another visitor for this term, this time from the Sydney Markets. The theme was “From the Farm to Plate” and Basil Banana came to speak about healthy eating and food production. George Taouk from SL very kindly agreed to be Basil and is shown here in our picture. SMART boards were installed in Stage 1 and I know that they were very welcomed additions, especially “Sally” in 1G! SMART boards are wonderful learning tools and the students become so involved in their activities. To wrap up Term 1, the College held an Open Day on Saturday, 31st March. This was an opportunity for the whole College, K-12, to showcase to all what makes St Charbel’s College a school of excellence. Many came along to see for themselves. I wish all a happy, safe Easter.

Stage 2 Coordinator

Term One is almost over, in what seems like a blink of an eye. Firstly, thank you to all those parents who showed their support by coming to the Parent Information night. Your presence was very much appreciated. Students and teachers have settled into classroom routine well and have been working hard. Thank you for ensuring that homework is completed and returned to school. So far this term we have been working on learning about Australia in HSIE, about expositions in English and completing lots of strands in Mathematics. They have worked hard to design and make an Australian landmark, which all look great.

Year 4 students are working on magnets in Science. The students are also busy planning and writing procedures and engaging in plenty of stimulating mathematics activities. Students will be learning about how to create mind maps and links using ‘Inspirations’ and other programs to help them develop their understanding of content taught in class and the use of technology.

Time certainly has flown and the end of the first term is upon us. 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 term. Please take the time to go through the different portfolios and discuss with your children the progress they have made this term. Parents will be very interested in what you have to say. Why not have a discussion with your children about what they would like to achieve in their studies in the future?

The Year 6 students and teachers enjoyed a three day camp to Stanwell Tops, near Wollongong. Spir Figure 1: The Kindergarten children are buckled in and ready for learning. They have made great progress.

Stage 3 Coordinator

The end of the first term is upon us and I take this opportunity to thank you for your support over the past term. When one looks back over the term it is amazing to see just how much has occurred. Ten weeks ago, students were just thinking about beginning their school year, setting their goals and looking forward to returning to a productive and exciting new year of school!

As our term draws to a close, it is important for students to have some time to think about how they are going. Are things working out as they had hoped? What is going really well? What could be better? Helping students to take some time to reflect on their goals for Term 2, is something that I ask parents to discuss with their child/children over the school holidays. Having your support in this important discussion helps students to consider what they need to do to be successful.

The Easter message is one of hope. Easter celebrates the capacity to triumph over the greatest of sufferings, over the most difficult of situations.

Easter gives us a message that we have a right to be confident and optimistic about the future. This is the best possible message to send to children who are building their future. As we participate in the events of Easter, our prayer is that our students grow confident of their abilities, secure that they are loved, and resilient as they encounter whatever difficulties life puts in their path, inspired by Jesus’ triumph over death.

Rector’s Message

Dear parents and guardians,

As this is the last newsletter for Term 1 I would like to take this opportunity to thank the school community: leadership, staff, parents and students for all your hard work and commitment to St Charbel’s College. As I have said on several occasions, our College can only offer quality of education when we all work together, home and school. As we approach the great feast of Easter, we remember God’s love and compassion revealed on the Cross. At Easter, we rejoice for the light of resurrection pierces the darkness of death, revealing that death does not have the last word. As Maronite Catholics, we are defined by the Resurrection, by life and by hope in Jesus Christ.

I would also like to bring to your attention some important events in our liturgical program for St Charbel’s Parish starting from Palm Sunday and ending on Easter Sunday. For the full program, please visit the parish website: www.stcharbel.org.au.

Palm Sunday 5 April 2012

Mass and Procession at 7.30am (no procession), 8.45am, 10.00am (English), 11.30am, 5.30pm and 7.00pm (English)

Holy Thursday 4 April 2012

6.00 p.m. Evening Mass with the Washing of the Feet - Church will be locked up for all night

Good Friday 5 April 2012

9.00 a.m. Stations of the Cross starting from Roberts Park

Rite of Adoration of the Cross in English & Procession at 7.30 am

Palm Sunday 5 April 2012

3.30 p.m. Rite of Adoration of the Cross in English & Procession of the Cross

Saturday 7 April 2012

11:00 am Reconciliation Prayer

12.00 a.m. Midnight Mass - Rite of Peace

Easter Sunday 8 April 2012

Sunday Masses: 7.30 a.m., 8.45 a.m., 10.00 a.m. (English), 11.15 a.m., 5.30 p.m. and 7.00 p.m. (English)

I wish all the families a Happy Easter, with the confidence that true happiness only comes from the source of all happiness, Jesus Christ. risen from the dead.

As we approach the great feast of Easter, we remember God’s love and compassion revealed on the Cross. At Easter, we rejoice for the light of resurrection pierces the darkness of death, revealing that death does not have the last word. As Maronite Catholics, we are defined by the Resurrection, by life and by hope in Jesus Christ.

May the Risen Lord bless and take care of you and your family.

Principal’s Message

Rev Fr Ronny Chaheen

The end of the first term is upon us and I take this opportunity to thank you for your support over the past term. When one looks back over the term it is amazing to see just how much has occurred. Ten weeks ago, students were just thinking about beginning their school year, setting their goals and looking forward to returning to a productive and exciting new year of school!

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2013 Year 7 Enrolments

Enrolments for Year 7 2013 are now open until Friday, 4 May 2012. Please inform your friends and relatives who are interested in enrolling their children at St Charbel’s College.

All applications require the ORIGINAL copy of your child’s: Birth Certificate, Baptism Certificate and Immunisation Certificate from either your doctor or health Clinic. The blue book is no longer acceptable. Office staff will copy the original documents then hand them back to you. A photocopy of any of these documents is not acceptable.

Please note that no late applications to siblings will be accepted regardless of circumstances or situation.

2013 Kindergarten Enrolments

Enrolments for Kindergarten 2013 are now open until Friday, 6 April 2012. Please inform your friends and relatives who are interested in enrolling their children at St Charbel’s College.

All applications require the ORIGINAL copy of your child’s: Birth Certificate, Baptism Certificate and Immunisation Certificate from either your doctor or health Clinic. The blue book is no longer acceptable. Office staff will copy the original documents then hand them back to you. A photocopy of any of these documents is not acceptable.

Please note that no late applications to siblings will be accepted regardless of circumstances or situation.

UPCOMING EVENTS

07/04

Palm Sunday

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07/04

Palm Sunday
Term 1 is coming to an end! It has been an exciting period of time, with new learning and various initiatives taking place. Our new Year 7 students have transitioned into High School quite comfortably and are now entering a period of assessment across all subjects. We celebrated achievements at our assembly on Friday 23rd of March. Students’ quality work and positive attitude to their studies was acknowledged and celebrated. Our Y12 students are currently sitting their half-years exams; we pray for their success. We look forward to a well deserved break but also prepare ourselves for the challenges that the rest of the year will bring.

I take this opportunity to wish all the families in our community a blessed Easter season. May the Risen Christ fill your hearts with hope and peace. Happy Easter!

Acting Deputy Principal Primary School
Ms. Marie-Claire Hawwa

‘Nothing is impossible; the word itself says I’m possible!’ — Audrey Hepburn. By saying ‘I’m possible!’ we each acknowledge that our very existence is a miracle and that God created us with unlimited potential in using our talents.

In reflection of Term 1 2012 it has been a Term of personal transformation and progress for all. Commencing with the new Kindergarten students who adapted very quickly to school routines and rules. To the installation of Smart Boards that has equipped the Primary School with dynamic resources for endless learning in this new era of education. To the Year 6 students attending camp, where they created valuable memories to last a life time and explored the virtues of trust, courage and faith. Thank you to Miss Woodin and the Year 6 teachers for their diligence and hard work on camp.

The St Charbel’s Primary School students are off to a great start to the year having already participated in two competitive community events. Students from Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 participated in the Inner West Regional swimming carnival and displayed excellent talent in the pool. Thank you to Mrs Abraham and Mr Love for supporting these students. Years 4, 5 and 6 students participated in the FUTSAL competition on Tuesday the 27th March and 3 out of the 4 teams qualified for the State finals. Well done to Miss Candelori for organising FUTSAL.

P & F Corner
Mrs. Zena Khalil – President

Thank you to all parents and friends who attended our Spiritual Retreat held on Friday, 23rd March 2012. Special thanks to Fr Antoine Tarabay, Fr Paul Melhem, Fr Peter Diab and Committee members for making the day a success.

The Recycled Uniform shop is open every Friday during term from 2.30pm to 3.30pm. All uniforms in good condition can be left at the office.

Upcoming events:
- Friday, 4th May 2012: Primary School Disco
- Friday, 11th May 2012: Mother’s Day Morning Tea, Mass and gift stall for Primary.

Looking forward to your support for these events. We wish you all a Holy Easter and safe holiday.

A new HOMEWORK CLUB in MATHEMATICS will be running every Tuesday & Friday mornings.

Come along to these sessions if you wish to get some extra assistance with your homework. All students of all years are welcome to attend.

Where: N108
Time: 8:00-8:30am
Mrs Zidros, Maths Department

Trippe P: The Triple P positive parenting program gives you the tools to:
* Encourage behaviour you like from your child
* Deal positively and consistently with problem behaviour
* Take the stress out of parenting
Parents can attend seminars or group sessions. A recent article appeared in the SYDNEY MORNING HERALD detailing how successful these seminars/group sessions can be.

For details of Triple P seminars/groups go to: www.families.nsw.gov.au/triple-p

Wishing you all a very Happy Easter and a safe and healthy break.