Welcome back to Term 2! It was fantastic to see all the smiling, happy faces back after the term break. Several teachers have commented on how well the children have returned to school, eager to learn. Certainly the teachers have returned refreshed after the break and are eager to teach. We will be working hard again to ensure that we are providing a supportive and caring classroom environment, one that offers rich and meaningful learning opportunities for every child. This term Stage 2 classes are learning about Year 3: Sound Great/Music (Science and CAPA), Narratives (English), Excursion: Rocks. Recount—Personal/historical.

School A to Z online school community

The School A to Z online school community, developed by the Education Department, provides practical advice about homework, tips on learning, wellbeing, technology and resources to help parents and carers support their child’s social, physical and mental development. It includes a free mobile application for iPad and Smartphone that features hundreds of definitions about Maths and English terms, illustrated examples and interactive videos, information on common assignment topics, educational maths and spelling games.

Welcome back to Term 2! We look forward to working together, as always, and remind you that “It takes a whole village to raise a child.”

ST CHARBEL’S COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

Term 2, Week 3 - May 2012

Issue 3

Rector’s Message
Rev Fr Antoine Tarabay

Dear parents and guardians,

Welcome back to Term 2.

I hope everybody had a good break, ready for another term.

The holidays were a very busy time for us at St Charbel’s Parish with the Easter celebrations, the visit of the President of Lebanon to our Church and College and the visit of Most Rev Abbot Tannous Nehme to Australia.

Good Friday at St Charbel’s Parish this year was, once again, a big spiritual gathering during which over 6,000 parishioners attended the Stations of the Cross and the Good Friday Liturgy. On this day, we remember that Jesus paid the full price of our salvation. We were very fortunate that His Excellency Archbishop Giuseppe Lazzarato, Apostolic Nuncio to Australia, was able to join us on the day and give the homily reflecting on the meaning of Good Friday.

Following that, we were welcomed by the President of Lebanon, His Excellency General Michel Sleiman, and Mrs Wafaa Sleiman, First Lady of Lebanon, to St Charbel’s Church and College on Thursday 19 April. The Bishops of the Eastern Churches along with the community, staff and students of St Charbel’s gathered to welcome the President and to pray together for Lebanon, its people and its land.

Also, during the break, we were pleased to welcome Most Rev Abbot Tannous Nehme, Superior General of the Lebanese Maronite Order, on his second visit to Australia. Abbot Nehme was accompanied by Fr Claude Naidra, Secretary General of the LMO. They joined us to welcome the President and for a pastoral visit to our parish and community.

Organising all these events would not have been possible without the support of the College staff and the volunteers. We thank every person who helped in any way.

The two main focus areas for this term are to further develop our IT resources and integrate ICT into Teaching and Learning, and to finalise the interview process and enrolments for 2013, particularly in Kindergarten and Year 7.

Finally, we turn our gaze to Mary during this month of May which the Church dedicates to Our Lady. We ask her to intercede for us before God, to guide us to her Son, Jesus, and to help us bring more people to Him.

Principal’s Message
Rev Fr Ronny Chahine

Welcome to Term 2 and I hope that you and your family had a pleasant Easter break. There is so much to look forward to in Term 2: Sports Carnivals, excursions, Primary disco dance and many other activities to name a few.

Thursday 26th of April our college had a short assembly to commemorate ANZAC day. It is the day we remember all Australians who served and died in all wars, conflicts, and peacekeeping operations. The spirit of ANZAC, with its human qualities of courage, mateship, and sacrifice, continues to have meaning and relevance for our sense of national identity.

Friday 4th of May we had the Primary Disco that was organised by the Parents and Friends Association. It was a great night and all students had a fantastic time. I’d like to take the opportunity to thank the P&F Association for all their hard work.

Our Year 2 students have started preparing for their First Reconciliation and we keep them in our thoughts and prayers.

Our Year 12 students will receive their report cards for the First Semester on Tuesday, 15 May. I encourage all Year 12 students to take some time to reflect on their results so far and set clear goals for this year and their HSC. Success does not happen by accident. It is only through your planning and perseverance that you can achieve your ambitions.

The NAPLAN tests for Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 will be held from the 15th to the 17th of May. Our students are adequately preparing with their teachers for these tests. We hope that the results will reflect their work and levels it is important to note that NAPLAN is a system that helps us as educators, students and parents to identify our students’ strengths and areas for improvement in Literacy and Numeracy.

The month of May is already here. This is the month during which Christians, in their churches and their homes, venerate the Virgin Mother and ask for God’s immense graces through her intercession. On this occasion, I would also like to wish all mothers a Happy Mother’s Day!¹
Welcome back to Term 2. I hope you and your family had a chance to share in the spirit of Easter and had a blessed time.

We come back looking forward to the challenges that this Term will bring. We welcome amongst us two new teachers who are replacing colleagues on maternity leave. Mr Philip Yeo will be teaching in Science and Learning Support, and Mrs Bernadette Hems will be teaching in the English and HSE Departments. I am confident that our community will benefit from the contributions that these two experienced teachers will make to our school.

I take this opportunity to remind parents of the importance of punctuality. All students are expected to be in homeroom by 8.30am. Please ensure that you consider traffic conditions in the morning and give yourselves plenty of time to be at school before 8.30. Uniform standards is a second aspect that I’d like to bring to your attention. Please ensure that your son/daughter has the required attire and that it is worn appropriately on their way to school.

On a different issue, all parents of Y12 students would by now have received a letter informing them of the date and time for the Year 12 Report Card Evening. These interviews will take place on Tuesday the 15th of May. It is vital that parents come to collect the reports and discuss their child’s progress with their teachers. Please ensure you make an appointment.

At St Charbel’s College we are committed to high standards of learning for all students and we acknowledge and appreciate the support shown to me in this role so far and please feel free to make an appointment to 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 and Geoffrey Wong, Maths Department

P & F Corner

Mrs Zena Khalil – President

Welcome back to a fun-filled and busy Term 2. I hope you all had a Holy Easter & safe holiday. We have many activities planned this term.

Mother’s Day Mass & Morning Tea: Friday 11th May, 2012 (more news to follow)

Mother’s Day Gift Stall for Primary School; Friday 11th May, 2012 (during school hours). Gifts for $5, $7 & $10 will be sold. One gift per child.

Recycled Uniform Shop: Open every Friday 2.30pm – 3.30pm. All Uniforms to be donated can be left at the school office. Cash only for purchases. Thank you for your ongoing support.

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 and Geoffrey Wong, Maths Department

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 ensure a family code must be included otherwise your account may not be adjusted).

Arrangements may also be made via Centreflink.

LOTE Coordinator–Secondary Mr Melhim Kairouz

SCC Swimming Carnival

On Monday 5th March 2012, I participated in the SCC Girls Swimming Carnivals. I have participated in the last 3 SCC Girls Swimming Carnivals. In those 3 years I have never seen a bigger improvement than what we all saw that night. It was amazing and one of the best experiences I have ever had at St Charbel’s College. We placed well in most of our races and even scored a 4th in freestyle by Ashley Khouri, which was very motivating for the rest of the team. Thanks to Mr. Zaloua’s Squad trainings in the morning, I could say that a huge amount of us and I can really see us getting 1st and 2nd place in next year’s carnival.

Mary Chaghoury from Year 9

On the 27th of February 2012, the boys went to participate in the OBSC Swimming Carnival. The lead up to the carnival was tiring and challenging as we trained hard in the swim squad to get ready for the competition.

When the day arrived everybody was hyped up, we felt this way was our year. In previous years we had struggled against other schools but that had to change. When we got to the venue, the squad got ready to race. ON YOUR MARKS, SET...GO, the first race went ahead at 7pm. After a couple of races we discovered that our hard work and commitment was paying off, we were not struggling against others, instead we were competitive. On the night we had discovered that there were great young swimmers in the squad. That is very exciting for the future of our College. Everyone enjoyed the night and the company of their peers but most importantly we were happy that our hard work and enthusiasm had paid off.

Elie Azzali from Year 10

Swim Squad

For seven weeks now, St Charbel’s has provided myself and 15 other students in Years 7-12 with the opportunity to participate in the swimming squad, two mornings a week at Hurstville Aquatic Centre. During this time, I immediately had the chance to meet amazing new people and have an enjoyable time while exercising!

We have great support from the instructors at the pool, who enable us to push ourselves and strengthen our abilities in swimming.

Without the organization and concern from Mr. Zaloua who manages to arrange buses for us, as well as an extremely healthy breakfast, even making it to school time on 6:45am, all this would have not be possible. The early mornings are probably the only downfall, however the fact that this amazing experience is all for FREE definitely is a whole lot easier for all of us to get out of bed in the morning!

Ashley Khouri - Year 10

LOTE Coordinator–Secondary Mr Melhim Kairouz

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