Early Stage 1 Coordinator
Ms Parce Luca

In Term 2 the children have enjoyed learning about ‘Places We Know and Love’ across all Key Learning Areas. They had a wonderful time on their first excursion to The Sydney Aquarium. Their behaviour was exemplary. A big THANK YOU to all the parents who assisted on the day. The excursion influenced their learning in so many ways. They wrote recounts, created complicated aquariums in some cases, re-consider the time children miss of school. What topics have been studied this term? Year 2 looked at ‘Wet and Dry Environments’ and enjoyed an excursion to Centennial Park near the city. They also studied sounds in the environment and the Health topic was ‘What’s in My Lunchbox?’ Year 1 teachers wrote the following report and the photo shown here is of police officers who visited our school to talk to our children as part of their ‘Workers in our Community’ topic. “Year 1 are working hard learning about Workers in the Community. We loved the visit from the local police on the 31st May and enjoyed a visit from the Bankstown Fire Brigade on 14th June. We are also learning how to comprehend our reading by learning to predict, activate our prior knowledge and ask the right questions to ensure we understand what we are reading. This term has been very busy and there is still a lot to be done. We look forward to the continued support and growth in learning in the weeks to come.” All in all, interesting learning!

Stage 1 Coordinator
Ms Sue Durham

It’s always amazing how time flies but how fast has this first semester flown? As usual, we can report good progress in all grades and I am especially pleased with the learning that has taken place in Stage 1, Years 1 and 2. Teachers are busy assessing for Report Day at the end of term and all parents are urged to make an effort to come to school to discuss progress with their child’s teacher. It is a perfect opportunity to speak to the teachers, to show interest or address any issues that may have arisen during the first semester. A high number of children have taken or are taking leave to visit Lebanon for the Lebanese summer and this is a valuable part of their education. But the time away from school is a worry for some and I ask parents to, in some cases, re-consider the time children miss of school. What topics have been studied this term? Year 2 looked at ‘Wet and Dry Environments’ and enjoyed an excursion to Centennial Park near the city. They also studied sounds in the environment and the Health topic was ‘What’s in My Lunchbox?’ Year 1 teachers wrote the following report and the photo shown here is of police officers who visited our school to talk to our children as part of their ‘Workers in our Community’ topic. “Year 1 are working hard learning about Workers in the Community. We loved the visit from the local police on the 31st May and enjoyed a visit from the Bankstown Fire Brigade on 14th June. We are also learning how to comprehend our reading by learning to predict, activate our prior knowledge and ask the right questions to ensure we understand what we are reading. This term has been very busy and there is still a lot to be done. We look forward to the continued support and growth in learning in the weeks to come.”

Stage 2 Coordinator
Miss Jana Al-Kazzi

The term is well underway with learning, assessments and feedback happening across Stage 2. Teachers have been assessing students throughout the term and are working on preparing mid-year report. The teachers look forward to meeting with parents on Report Day to discuss children’s progress and any concerns. Year 3 completed their NAPLAN. The teachers have worked tremendously hard to help the children prepare and build their skills for this national test. I hope the results reflect the hard work of both the students and teachers. Year 3 are now working on their Science unit about sounds and how they work and are developing their creative writing through narratives. Year 4 enjoyed a beautiful day out to take a step back in time to the 1800’s. The children visited Merchant House in The Rocks where they were able to experience what life would have been like in Sydney during the early settlement. The children dressed-up in the clothes of that time, played games and experienced the difficulties of cooking with only the simple things in life. The students, teachers and parents all enjoyed the experience. This experience will help the students prepare for the HSE Unit ‘Places, Then, Now and Tomorrow.”

Stage 3 Coordinator
Miss Elizabeth Woodin

Cross County: Recently, students from Years 4.5 & 6 participated in the Inner West Cross Country Carnival at Ryde. All students tried their best and we had some excellent results: Antonio Ayoub: 2nd; Daniella El-Azz: 5th; Patrick Hadchiti: 1st; Matthew Khalil: 5th and Daniel Azzi: 7th. These students all made it to the Regional Carnival held in Miranda. Here, Patrick Hadchiti placed 2nd in the U11 boys and Antonio Ayoub placed 13th in the U10 boys. We are very proud of all the students for participating and representing our school with pride.

NAPLAN: Thank you to the Year 5 teachers and students for their diligent preparation for the recent NAPLAN tests. I asked a few Year 5 students to share their thoughts about NAPLAN. These are their responses: Selena Chidias SS: “Some were hard but I liked Language Conventions because it was the easiest.” Nathan Labban SW: “It was tiring. My favourite was Maths.” Peter Abou Salim SL: “It was challenging. I liked Maths the most because it was not as hard as the rest.”

Upcoming Stage 3 Excursions: The Year 6s will be spending a day at Chinatown and the Chinese Gardens as part of their HSE Unit this term. The Year 5s will be learning more about Democracy at a school-based workshop. Details to follow soon.

Keep working to produce your personal best this term.

Rector’s Message
Rev Fr Antoine Tarabey

Dear parents and guardians,
Welcome to this edition of St Charbel’s College newsletter! I send you my greetings from Lebanon and I assure you that you are all in my thoughts and prayers. I also ask you to keep Lebanon in your prayers so that, through the grace of God and the intercession of Our Lady of Lebanon, peace and security may be restored.
As mentioned at the beginning of the year, Information and Communications Technology (ICT) is one of our main focus areas for this year. Our IT Manager, Mr Danny Bassaal, has been doing a great job updating our network and infrastructure. The wireless network is now up and running all across our campus and many more updates are underway. We thank the IT Department for the hard work they have put in, especially the early morning starts to ensure that there is minimum disruption to classes.
As you may be aware, we have recently increased our capacity to 4 streams in the Primary and Secondary to accommodate the needs of our community. As we approach the end of Term 2, we prepare to finalise our enrollments for 2013. As such, I invite all the families who are interested in enrolling at St Charbel’s College to collect an enrolment package as soon as possible or contact our Registrar on 9740 0999 so we can mail one out to you.
On Sunday 27 May, we celebrated the Feast of Pentecost when the Catholic Church was born. The Disciples, scared and confused, were strengthened by the gifts of the Holy Spirit and went out to proclaim the Good News to all the earth. May this Season of Pentecost be a time of renewal for us.
This year, the Bishops of Australia have invited the whole Church to enter into the Year of Grace, which began on 16 May, an invitation to all of us Catholics to a spiritual journey of renewal, conversion and growth. The Church is calling upon us to consider the time children miss of school. What topics have been studied this term? Year 2 looked at ‘Wet and Dry Environments’ and enjoyed an excursion to Centennial Park near the city. They also studied sounds in the environment and the Health topic was ‘What’s in My Lunchbox?’ Year 1 teachers wrote the following report and the photo shown here is of police officers who visited our school to talk to our children as part of their ‘Workers in our Community’ topic. “Year 1 are working hard learning about Workers in the Community. We loved the visit from the local police on the 31st May and enjoyed a visit from the Bankstown Fire Brigade on 14th June. We are also learning how to comprehend our reading by learning to predict, activate our prior knowledge and ask the right questions to ensure we understand what we are reading. This term has been very busy and there is still a lot to be done. We look forward to the continued support and growth in learning in the weeks to come.”

Principal’s Message
Rev Fr Ronny Chaheen

Administrators and teachers everywhere recognize the important contributions parents make toward a child’s success in school. There is no question about it - success at school begins at home. Parents are the single most important variable in a child’s schooling. Parents model both a silent and spoken language in front of their children daily.
One of the most important components of a good school is the partnership between the school and parents who work together for the best interest of children. The close partnership between home and school is one of the exceptional strengths at St Charbel’s College.
St Charbel’s College has a strong tradition of supportive, hard-working parents. Throughout the year parents have the opportunity to develop that partnership in a wide variety of ways. Parents join the P & F volunteer in the classroom, help at carnivals, attend school meetings, read to their children and help in many other ways. It is important to your child that you are involved in some way at school. It’s a way to let your child know you think his or her school is important.
At home, it is also important to provide routines. Many families build a daily “quiet time” when the television is turned off. This quiet time provides students the opportunity for completing schoolwork or for recreational reading if there is no homework. During this quiet time, a suitable place, somewhat free of other distractions, should be available. The routine of a daily quiet time provides an opportunity to develop self-discipline, stimulate imagination, and enhance reading skills.
Hopefully we can provide time for our children to be children. The realities of the adult world will be there all too soon. As children grow and learn, they find joy and satisfaction in working closely with their families toward a common goal. Such is the case with the students at St Charbel’s College. Commitment to the best for our children on the part of parents, students and staff is the key to our success with the children we teach. It is the hope of the staff that all parents will help us fulfill this commitment to excellence on behalf of ALL children at St Charbel’s College. School and home can work together; build skills and knowledge, reinforce values, and develop a strong sense of self-worth. ‘We must invest our time and energies in our nation’s most valuable resource - our children.’

(Excerpt from the Year of Grace prayer)
Deputy Principal Secondary School
Mr Jaime Rodriguez

Almost finish Term 2! It has been a very busy few weeks for teachers and for students. Lots of assessments have taken place for all year groups and now we begin the process of preparing Half-Yearly reports. We will send a letter home reminding you of the opportunity to talk to teachers about the progress of your children during Semester 1.

Student lateness to school continues to be somewhat of a problem. I remind parents that students will be considered late if they are not in their homeroom by 8.30am. Please ensure that you allow enough travelling time for children to be at school on time. Consequences for repeated lateness do apply and I’m sure we would all prefer to avoid after-school detentions and suspensions as a result of lateness.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to the P&F who have generously supported a Pastoral Care fund to assist students in need. The hard work of our P&F parents is much appreciated. A main event at school was a sausage sizzle on Tuesday 12th of June. I acknowledge and thank them for their presence at school. I pray that the remaining weeks of the Term will be productive and safe for all of us.

Deputy Principal Primary School
Ms. Marie-Claire Hawwa

"It is today that we create the world of the future" - Eleanor Roosevelt. To create a positive, healthy and blessed future for the children in our care we must begin to create this today and seize opportunities for improvement. We are almost at the end of Term 2. Kindergarten 2013 enrolment testing is still underway and the Kindergarten Teachers are completing the National Australian Early Development Index (AEDI) surveys for each of their students. This is a Government initiative that aims to correlate data on the development of children as they start school and it occurs every 3 years.

Congratulations to the Parents & Friends Association for hosting a wonderful Primary school Disco the feedback was positive. A special thank you to all volunteers and committee members for making the primary school discos, Mother’s Day mass, morning tea and gift stall a success. All money raised will assist in purchasing educational equipment for the college and a sound system for the Multi-Purpose Hall.

The Recycled Uniform Shop is open every Friday from 2.30-3.30 except school holidays. All uniforms in good condition can be left at the school office.

The P&F meet on the 1st Tuesday of every month at 7.30pm in the Monastery dining room. All are welcome to attend.

Keep warm and God Bless.

Library News
Ms Christine Golz

Dear Parents, please ensure your child brings their library card every day to school to enable them to borrow books from the library. Our Book Fair in Week 6 from the 26th of May until the 1st of June took place in the library. Students were able to purchase Ashton Scholastic Book Fair books from the library. All purchases contributed towards new resources for the library. Happy Reading

Counsellor’s Corner
Mr Ramsey Andrews

Building self-esteem

Healthy self-esteem is feeling good about yourself, feeling that you are a worthwhile person. Self-esteem builds a solid foundation to help children and parents cope with life. Reminders:

- Children are not born with self-esteem.
- Young children learn self-esteem through what they can do and what their parents think of them.
- Put down’ messages damage self-esteem.
- Giving time, hugs and smiles are very important to building self-esteem.
- Laugh with your children - not at them.
- Keep giving sincere messages that build self-esteem in your teenagers, even if they say they don’t believe you. These messages matter.
- Self-esteem is learned and can be changed.
- Take care of your own self-esteem.

Secondary REC Report
Mrs Joanna Mansour

The 18th of May marked Year 9’s Spirituality Day. The day began with the morning’s frost, but it later revealed the best weather we had experienced for a while. The day was jam-packed with exciting activities and we also celebrated mass. Our focus for the day was the Virgin Mary and the commandments. By far, our favourite activity was the “M.O.T.H.E.R.” activity. We discovered so many adjectives related to Our Lady, that our love for her is now even more special. We would really like to thank the teachers who were involved in the day.

P & F Corner
Mrs Zena Khalil – President

As winter brings colder mornings that make it harder to get out of bed, we strive to venture on planning more activities for our children.

On Tuesday 12th June, a sausage sizzle was held for our high schoolers. A special thank you to all volunteers and committee members for making the primary school discos, Mother’s Day mass, morning tea and gift stall a success. All money raised will assist in purchasing educational equipment for the college and a sound system for the Multi-Purpose Hall.

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Keep warm and God Bless.

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 otherwise your account may not be adjusted).

Arrangements may also be made via Centrelink.

Deputy Principal Secondary School
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