I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Kindergarten teachers and Mrs Perry for all their hard work throughout Term. The routines the Kindergarten team have established are evident in the happy and settled classes. The children are developing independence and a love of learning.

Kindergarten’s gross motor skills are improving due to the “Fundamental Movement Programme” taught in PE, which is a skills based program. There is a correlation between physical exercise and learning, so please encourage your children to be as active as possible.

Stage 1 Coordinator
Ms Sue Durham

Hard to believe Term 2 already and we can wonder where the time has gone but I can see that the time has been used very wisely when I look at the achievements of our students. The classrooms have beautiful displays of work and workbooks are filling up quickly with proof of our teaching and learning. At the end of each term the displays are taken down to make way for the next term’s work and they just keep getting better and better. Arabic happens every day in the classrooms and is rarely featured in our newsletters so it’s time to rectify that and show what has been happening in Arabic in Year 2. The theme was “Transport” and following is a description and photos of the learning that took place. The students enjoyed that topic especially when they made paper boats and an airplane from wood.

We look forward to continuing success.

Stage 2 Coordinator
Mrs Mary Anton

On Wednesday 3rd April, Year 4 attended an excursion to the Rocks Discovery Museum as part of their HSIE Unit ‘Places: Then, Now and Tomorrow’. This tour led by Aboriginal tour guides, gave our students great insight into how Aboriginal people lived before European settlement, how the land was used, various Aboriginal traditions and customs as well as learning about some Aboriginal vocabulary. The students persevered through the challenging weather which finally gave them the opportunity to touch various tools and instruments used by the Aboriginal people whilst at the museum.

After our tour, the students went to visit Madame Tussaud at Darling Harbour. The excitement of the students was evident by their joy to see a wax figure of a famous Australian. A great learning experience that was enjoyed by all the students.

Stage 3 Coordinator
Ms Marie-Claire Hawwa

Thank you to all Stage 3 teachers for their hard work throughout the course of the year so far and thank you to all Stage 3 students who have worked diligently to produce work that reflects their true potential. Please take the time to meet with the Stage 3 teachers regards to your child’s progress so far, portfolios and reports will be going home at the end of Term 2.

Year 5 students recently enjoyed an excursion to C.A.R.E.S for road and bike safety, run by the NSW Police. The Year 6 students and teachers enjoyed a three day camp to Stanwell Tops, near Wollongong. Spirits remained high as students faced their fears in many challenging activities: Survivor, abseiling, rope climbing, kart racing, archery and swinging above a beautiful valley on the Giant Swing. Thank you to the Year 6 students for their excellent behaviour and willing participation and a special thank you to Mr Lewis, Miss Warlow, Miss Waser and Mr Love for their energy and enthusiasm on camp.

I had the great pleasure of accompanying our SRC School Captains, James Harb and Mary-Lyn Alagha to the Halogen National School Captains Leaders conference. There were approximately 6000 students in attendance from all over the State and excellent guest speakers.

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I would firstly like to welcome you all back to another exciting and rewarding school term. The first few weeks of Term 2 have already brought us many events that we have been able to celebrate.

The most prominent one of them all has been the election of Rev Fr. Antoine Tanabay as Bishop for the Maronite Eparchy of Australia. Fr Tarabay is currently in Lebanon preparing for his ordination. Before Fr Tarabay left for Lebanon he expressed this time as being bittersweet as he will no longer be seeing students on a daily basis or greeting families in the afternoon as he used to when he was Rector of St Charbel’s College. He does thank God for all the beautiful memories and experiences at St Charbel’s College that have enriched his life.

Fr Tarabay looks back with appreciation to the school community, staff, parents and students for the ongoing support and to express gratitude for the honour and privilege he had to lead St Charbel’s College over the past 10 years. We ask the Lord to grant Fr Tarabay the grace and strength that he may truly be according to His heart, and that he may be graced with the wisdom and gifts of the Holy Spirit to continue to serve the Lord and His people.

During the school holidays many of us also took time on ANZAC DAY to commemorate the thousands of Australians who fought during the First World War and all other wars since. St Charbel’s College held in the first week back of Term 2 an ANZAC DAY school assembly to mark this special national occasion.

As with every mother, Mother’s Day is always a wonderful event for which the P&F assist the school greatly in organising events for all the mothers in our school community. On Friday 10th May, we held a morning mass followed by a morning tea as well as a stall which gave many of our students an opportunity to purchase a small gift for their mothers.

Teachers and students have been busy preparing for the NAPLAN tests which began on Tuesday 14th May. I wish all of the students who participated in NAPLAN the very best and to remember to remain diligent with your studies. I would like to thank our teachers who continue to work hard and provide our students with enriching learning experiences so that we as a school can achieve our academic goals.

“I can do all things through Him who strengthens me” – Philippians 4:13

Points:
* Make a timetable for study but make sure to also allow time for daily exercise.
* When studying, try to repeat what you hear or read in your mind. Sometimes a single word can help you remember a whole idea.
* Try to identify what your optimal learning style is; auditory, kinesthetic/tactile or visual. This will help you when studying and being able to process and understand important information.

I am honoured to announce that Pope Francis has appointed Rev Fr. Antoine Tarabay as the new Bishop for the Maronite Diocese of Australia. This news brings great joy to St Charbel’s College and Parish. We pray that the Lord may bless Fr Tarabay as he takes on this new role at the service of the Church and its people.

St Paul reminds us that where there’s a Bishop there’s a church, and by having a church, the Lord gives us wonderful gifts such as sacraments, chrismations and baptisms. The youth will continue to be the future of our church and for this reason we must remember the importance of instilling into our children the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ, which will enrich our Maronite Catholic community.

“He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully” – St Paul

I hope you have enjoyed reading this newsletter, if you have any queries or concerns please don’t hesitate to call me.

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Deputy Principal Secondary School

Mr Jaime Rodriguez

We’ve made it to beginning for a new term. The work has been constant and we have had significant success in a number of areas. Our sports representative teams have exceeded expectations and have represented our College proudly. Various teams made it to the grand finals of their sports and competed with courage and enthusiasm. It was great to see our Volleyball teams reach immense heights to win their semi-finals and the grand finals. The Futsal competitions were other great achievements with all 14 teams winning their competitions. The swimming carnival led to a great performance by our boys and girls in the CSSA and SCC competitions! Great effort by students and teachers.

Our Year 12 students have finished their Half-Yearly exams. I’m sure that all that hard work and stress will produce great results and learning opportunities. Lessons continued for some during the holiday break as our teachers volunteered some of their holiday time to continue teaching. All the teacher level are working ardently to get our school ready for the implementation of the new Australian Curriculum. In all areas our focus is to offer our students the best available opportunities to perform at their best. We look forward to the challenges that Term 2 will bring.

Deputy Primary Principal School

Mrs Tina Harb

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The end of Term 1 was very eventful for our children. There were quite a few activities which kept them busy and most importantly their minds active. I would like to give special mention here to their wonderful efforts with the Jump Rope for Heart Sponsorship Program. With the help of teachers and under the guidance of Mrs. Wesley we were very fortunate to collect over $7500 for this fantastic charity. The children need to be commended on their brilliant efforts as they have definitely in a most positive way lifted the profile of our College.

We have started off to a particularly busy term. Already our children have attended an excursion to the Voice of Charity Concert which they found to be both entertaining and uplifting, especially from a Maronite perspective. Our Year 3 and Year 5 children have sat for NAPLAN tests and we pray that the Lord gave them inner strength and they gave their best ability for good results. On another note, it was Mother’s Day. The children busily created beautiful cards and chose lovely gifts from the Mother’s Day Stall to ensure that our beautiful mothers had themselves a most memorable day.

As you enjoyed your lovely gifts and special love from your children on Mother’s Day let us not ever forget that one of the last gifts the Lord gave to us before His death on the cross, was the gift of a mother. And not just any mother, but His own mother, Mary, a very special woman chosen for a very special purpose. The month of May is not only a time we celebrate our mothers on Mother’s Day but it is also recognised as the month dedicated to Mary, the mother of our Lord Jesus. When a woman becomes a mother she is given a most beautiful gift from God, a gift which they naturally take very seriously. This special gift of a mother’s love and commitment to her children is one which truly reflects the Virgin Mary’s role of mother to Jesus our Lord. The Virgin Mary, teachers to be generous, loving and compassionate to their children. She teaches mothers how to be models of deep faith and great courage as they face the joys and challenges of family life today.

So, on Mother’s Day, I hope that you all passed to thank God for the gift of our mothers and for all the most wonderful things we have learned from them. Last of all, may we pray that the Blessed Virgin Mary envelopes her goodness and love around all our College. Already our children have attended an excursion to the Voice of Charity Concert which they found to be both entertaining and uplifting, especially from a Maronite perspective. Our Year 3 and Year 5 children have sat for NAPLAN tests and we pray that the Lord gave them inner strength and they gave their best ability for good results. On another note, it was Mother’s Day. The children busily created beautiful cards and chose lovely gifts from the Mother’s Day Stall to ensure that our beautiful mothers had themselves a most memorable day.

Library News

Ms Christine Golz

Dear Parents, please ensure your child brings their library card everyday to school to enable them to borrow books from the library or print.

Ms Stafford and I are arranging for Year 5 Book Club to be held on Fridays at lunchtime in the library. We are starting off with a talk by a librarian from Bankstown Council to introduce the students to services available at Bankstown library. The program basically involves reading for leisure with students choosing 5 books they will all read and review on our Book Club Wiki but more of that later. Shortly a link will go up on the website that will allow you to see what the Year 5 students are reading and book reviews by Year 5 students.

Similarly Mr Lewis has arranged for Year 6 students to be doing Local Area History projects on Troy.

The National Library of Australia database and research skills will be taught to Year 6, Projects on display in the library foyer from now on.

Counsellor’s Corner

Mr Ramsey Andrews

Having a good sense of humour not only allows you to enjoy the good times, it also helps you deal with challenges. So here are some things you can do to help your child strengthen their sense of humour and see the lighter side of life:

Share a laugh with your child. You might have a different sense of humour but laughing together can be a bonding experience.

Make some time to have fun with your child. You could schedule regular enjoyable events together.

Encourage your child not to take themselves too seriously.

Remind your child to speak to themselves helpfully (rather than negatively).

Point out to your child that it’s good to laugh with others, not at them.

Urge your child to speak to someone (e.g., family member, friend, school counsellor, GP, Kid Helpline) if they are really struggling with their sense of humour.

Year 8 Medieval Day

Medieval Day was full of fantastical surprises and interesting experiences. The day began with the interesting and amazing Medieval Living History Incursion where we learnt about all the different aspects of medieval life including weaponry, clothing, lifestyle and the Crusades. Following this, the entire grade went to different classrooms to present their talks and role plays of their medieval characters. Students then began preparing their long awaited and delicious medieval banquet meal. Good marks were awarded to groups who presented their tables with a range of medieval foods and decorations. Medieval Day helped students experience medieval life in a practical, visual and enjoyable way.

By Anthony Ayoub and Daniel El-Azzi

Secondary TAS Coordinator

Mrs Maryrose Maatouk

Term One 2013 was certainly busy in the Creative Arts / TAS department. One of our Year 12 HSC art works was selected to be exhibited at The Art Gallery of NSW. The College Principal, Father Ronny and Ms Huggett were at the gallery for the opening of Art Express to support Jacinta Abu Chrouche. Jacinta’s work titled “Frozein in Time” was displayed at the gallery until the 14th April. There have been a number of excursions across the subject areas. Among the excursions were visits to The Royal Easter Show by Food Technology and Music students accompanied by Mr Valenti, Mrs Brennan and Mrs Montol. Two of our students, Andrew Boustani and John Saidi were performing at the Easter show as part of the Bankstown Tap program. The elective music classes went along to see an “Australian Rock Music” concert performed at the Australian Institute of Music on the 21st March. The Drama students accompanied by Miss Mousa and Mrs Brennan were part of an incursion based on movement and physicalisation. The Year 11 and 12 Textiles students accompanied by Ms Maatouk went to the Stitches and Craft show at Rosehill. They viewed the HSC Major Projects in Textiles exhibition, participated in a seminar and were inspired by new materials and technologies in the Craft show. On Tuesday the 26th March students from Yra 10, 11, 12 Art visited the Art Gallery of NSW and Newtown Armory accompanied by Ms Huggett and Ms Maatouk to view the 2013 Art Express exhibition. It was a wonderful and inspiring day. The HSC students in Art, Textiles and Industrial Technology (Timber) are well into the development and manufacture of their Major Projects. Students in the junior years are working hard at their first semester projects.

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.

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