Welcome back to Term 4. Kindergarten will focus on Narratives this term. In Week 3 we will have a storytelling incursion. The program will include traditional and non-traditional fairytales told with puppets, props and feltboard. Lots of audience participation included!

"Reading to is the mind what exercises is to the body."  Sir Richard Steele

Here are some simple tips to encourage your child to become a strong reader and a book lover for the rest of their lives.

Children love to hear a story read aloud. Try reading with different voices, lots of emotion, invented sound effects and funny faces. Change the tone in your voice and vary its loudness or softness. Have fun and enjoy it!

It’s a good idea to practice reading before sharing a book. Do a picture walk. Listen to your child talk about the story and the pictures. Ask lots of questions. Try asking your child which parts of the books they found funny, exciting or confusing.

Give your child the chance to choose a book to read. Try reading to your child and, at other times, ask your child to join in reading the book.

Please keep reading every day. The Kindergarten team would like to thank all the parent helpers for their support with reading in Term 3. We hope to see you in the classrooms in Term 4.

For Years 1 and 2, Term 3 was jam-packed with wonderful learning experiences and fun days. One of the most important events of the year happened on the 9th August when the Year 2 students made their First Reconciliation. This was a very holy and meaningful time for them as they prepared for their First Holy Communion. The students were well prepared to receive this sacrament by their dedicated Year 2 teachers, both English and Arabic, and our thanks go to them for guiding the children and teaching them reverence and the true meaning of Reconciliation. The whole school got behind the Book Week theme, “Read Across the Universe”, and what a wonderful parade we saw! There were spacemen and aliens, planets, stars and well known characters. Our teachers got into the spirit of things too and we saw some very scary creations!

Excursions are an important part of learning as they help to develop social and learning skills away from the classroom. Year 2 had an “in school” one this term where they all made teddy bears. This was to finish their unit “Toy World” and fantastic bears were made and displayed with pride. Year 1 went to Taronga Zoo to complete their unit on ‘The Senses’ and a report on that day will be in the next issue. Look like Term 4 will be just as busy and lots of fun mixed with learning.

The year 6 students had their Personal Development Workshops in Week 8, which were run by the representatives from the Maronite Order. We would like to congratulate all the Year 3 students who received the sacrament of First Holy Communion on Sunday the 20 October 2013. There is no doubt that along the process we have lost a valued staff member from our leadership team, although that was not the intention of the process. I would like to thank Mrs Jamie Rodriguez for all the contributions he has made to our school community and pray that he succeeds in his future endeavours.

We need to continue to nurture their faith and this sacrament has made to our school community and pray that he succeeds in his future endeavours.

Welcome back to all our students and their families for the final term of 2013, a term for celebration and reflection. A term for achieving and enjoying a wonderful school year. A term for being and for that the Catholic Church can be proud. It's a good idea to practise reading before sharing a book. Do a picture walk. Listen to your child talk about the story and the pictures. Ask lots of questions. Try asking your child which parts of the books they found funny, exciting or confusing.

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School Chaplain  
Father Challita Al Boustany

On October 2013, his Holiness Pope Francis consecrated the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, as part of the celebration of the Year of Faith.

The pilgrimage statue of Our Lady of Fatima traveled to Rome on October 12, 2013, from its permanent home, the Little Chapel of Apparitions in Fatima, Portugal. Pope Francis and pilgrims welcomed the statue to Saint Peter’s Square at an evening prayer service.

The significance of the statue’s presence is to remember the apparition of Our Lady of Fatima that took place in Portugal in 1917. Mary appeared to three shepherd children, Lucia, Jacinta and Francisco and warned them of the violent trials of the 20th century. In these apparitions the Blessed Mother urged prayer and devotion to her Immaculate Heart.

In a response to this urging, Pope Pius XII for the first time consecrated the world to Mary’s Immaculate Heart in 1942. A gesture repeated by the soon to be Saint Pope John Paul II forty years later, who explained “consecrating the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary means near, through the mother’s intercession to the very fountain of life that sprang from Golgotha, the hill upon which Christ was crucified. This fountain pours forth unceasingly redemption and grace. In it reparation is made continually for the sins of the world. It is a ceaseless source of new life and holiness.”

God wished that Mary would have a special role in our Christian life when he gave her to us as our spiritual mother at the foot of the Cross. I encourage you in this special time to take Mary into your home, pray the rosary with your family, visit the Sacrament of confession and ask for Mary’s assistance.

When saying her “yes” to becoming the Mother of God, she also became the mother of all graces. She will enlighten your minds and families, empower your prayers and bring them in a special way before the throne of the Father.

Head of School’s Message  
Mrs Tina Harb

Dear Parents and Students of the College, we have returned to a very busy term as we prepare for quite a few events leading up to the end of the year. Firstly, and most importantly I wish to ask our community to keep our current Year 12 students in their prayers as they sit for their Higher School Certificate. I have been extremely impressed this week with their commitment towards their studies with quite a few students making the time to come in and see their teachers in preparation for their exams. Additionally, I wish to thank the parents and friends of the College who attended the Year 12 Graduation last term. It was a most spiritually uplifting event, the students truly shone that evening. Moreover, it was extremely impressive to see the students who have consistently worked hard in their studies to receive due recognition for their efforts. I wish all our students the very best of luck as they prepare for the journey ahead not only in completing examinations but also as they plan out their future goals and of course, their successes.

In regards to our Year 6 students, they will be taking part in a transition program this term in preparation for Year 7 next year. It is most important that we ensure that the transition from Primary School into Secondary School is a smooth one for our children, so a program has been organised for students to assist with this. I look forward to receiving feedback from students and parents to gauge not only the successes of the program but also areas we are able to put more focus on for next year.

NAPLAN results have finally been delivered to the College and these were issued to students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 on Wednesday 16th October. Parents who need clarification or have any queries about their child’s results are welcome to make an appointment time with either the Stage Coordinators in the Primary School or Year Coordinators in the High School to discuss any issues.

This week we had Police Liaison Officers from Bankstown Police presenting important information about Cyberbullying to Years 3, 5, 7 and 10. I encourage all parents and students to become aware of the steps now in place designed to protect people in regards to the misuse and/or abuse of others on social media sites. Any person concerned can report nasty incidents. May St. Charbel our patron Saint bless us and protect our College.

Archbishop’s Award  
Mrs J. Mansour

The Archbishop’s Award for Student Excellence recognises students’ achievements as leaders, academic performance and commitment to their faith. Each year a student is selected from St Charbel’s College Year 12 class, who exemplifies the college’s values and is an active member of the community, especially in the implementation of college initiatives. In 2013, I was chosen to receive the archbishop’s award. Myself and a group of students and teachers attended a ceremony at St Mary’s Cathedral, where the award and a medallion were presented to award recipients. A citation was read out by a Year 11 student, which recognised my achievements as a student and member of the community.

Sport Coordinator-Primary  
Mrs Elise Waser

This term students from Kindergarten to Year 6 represented the College at a number of Inner West soccer gala days. Our teams coached by Year 9 and 10 PASS students competed against 109 teams from 20 schools in the region with fantastic results. In addition to this we had 90 Year 3-6 students attending the NSW Touch Football Inner West Gala day at Henley Park. All teams were successful and a number undefeated on the day. Thank you to the High School students who coached!

We also had a large number of students again participating in the Guilty Challenge, a fundraiser to find a cure for gastro-intestinal cancers. Students asked for sponsorship for eating two fruit and four vegetables for a week and promoted healthy eating around the College.

Term 4 will be another busy one for health and PE with the intensive swim program, swimming carnival and Australian Open Tennis Blitz.

Studios & Administration Coordinator  
Mrs Karen Jubb

NAPLAN 2013

Students in Years 3,5,7 and 9 who completed the NAPLAN tests in 2013 received their Student Reports on Wednesday 16th October. The reports show students’ results as skill bands which indicate levels of achievement. The report shows the national average and the school’s average and will allow you to see how your child’s performance compares with that of others who completed the NAPLAN tests.

The College uses these results to better assess each student’s performance, and to take action to improve literacy and numeracy skills.

If your child completed the tests this year, but did not receive their 2013 NAPLAN results – please contact the College.

P & F Corner  
Mrs Zena Khalil – President

Term 3 has flown past with many activities keeping us busy. At the beginning of term during Sunday massses we had an earlinsb stall raising money for Yr 12 graduation activities and a total of $1000 was raised. Thanks to all who gave up their Sundays. Father’s Day mass, morning tea & stall were all a great success. Of course numbers for the morning tea are limited as lots of Dads are unable to attend because of work commitments. Thanks to those Dads who did attend. Our Primary walkathon & sausage sizzle on Friday 13/09/13 was a rewarding event where students, staff & parents all worked together embracing the essence of our community. A total of $204 was raised which will go towards some much needed maths equip- ment. Thank you to all, especially Miss Waser.

Mr Jaime Rodriguez left us last term after many years of service. We will miss him dearly & hope that he is successful in all his future endeavours.

I would like to thank current P&F members for their tireless efforts throughout the year. Your contribution in service to our community is greatly appreciated. God bless you & your families. Being part of such a wonderful group of parents has brought me much joy & happiness. My faith in humanity is renewed every time I see these beautiful people giving up their time for the community. I urge more parents from St Charbel’s college to become involved in the P&F committee. It is truly rewarding. After all, as Mother Teresa says “...the good you do today will often be forgotten. Do good anyway......” In the final analysis, it is between you and God.

Upcoming events: P&F elections - more news to follow.

Uniform shop - open every Friday 2:30-3:30pm (except school holidays). All unworn uniforms in good condition can be left at the school office.

Thank you for your support and please keep our Year 12 students in your prayers as they sit their exams. God bless.

Counsellor’s Corner  
Miss Jolene Mokbel

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new school counsellor. It is a pleasure to be a part of the College community as I work to make changes in the students’ lives. My goal is not to only work with individual students who are going through emotional, behavioral and academic concerns, but my role is to also serve the College by fostering a positive environment for all students, teachers and parents.

I look forward to meeting and working with you and your families.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SCHOOL UNIFORM SALE

10% OFF ALL ST CHARBEL’S SCHOOL UNIFORM FROM 13TH- 20TH NOVEMBER 2013 AT SAUMA’S SCHOOL WEAR SHOP 2205 THE BOULEVARD PUNCHBOWL TEL: 97503276

UPCOMING EVENTS

November

October 2013:

Fri, 1 Year 11 Spirituality Day
Thurs, T&J 2014 Kindy Orientation
Mon, 11-Dec: Yrs 3-6 Intensive Swimming Program
Tues, 12-15: Creative Arts Exhibition
Kindy 2014 Information Night
Fri, 22 Lebanon’s Independence Day
Mon, 25 Primary Swimming Carnival

Third and final 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.

A new HOMEWORK CLUB

in MATHEMATICS

will be running every Wednesday & Friday mornings

Come along to these sessions if you wish to get some extra assistance with your homework.

All students of year 12 are welcome to attend.

Where: N108
Time: 8:30am
Mrs Zidros and Mr Wong, Maths Department

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