

# MESSAGE

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL



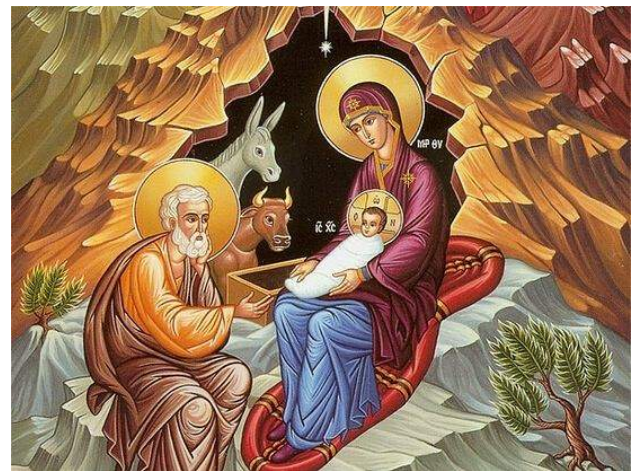
Issue 16 Term 4, December 2019

I would like to extend my most sincere gratitude to the St Charbel's College community of students, staff and parents, for its strong and continued support throughout the year. What makes each year unique is the characters and personalities of students and staff who shape all of the content and subject matter that is taught and learnt. The end of each year, despite being "busy," is the ideal time to reflect on the joys and the occasional frustrations that allow us to remain on track throughout the year. I would like to thank all the teachers for their professionalism and dedication in providing our children ample opportunities to learn, grow and explore.

Christmas is a special time of the year when we celebrate the birth of our Saviour in Bethlehem. We enjoy the story about Mary and Joseph, their trip to Bethlehem, the birth of Jesus in a stable, the visit of the shepherds and wise men. We enjoy watching our children express their delight in their understanding of the events of Christmas.

However, as one of the theologians says: "We too often don't go any further than the simple story. We miss out on the real significance of these events. Christmas is the celebration of God becoming one of us, a fact that we can never fully grasp, God living on the earth with all the pain, the suffering, the human tragedies, the personal rejection and dying. Jesus came into the thick of everything; and through His presence we are never alone."

At this special time, we ask our Lord to give us the grace of understanding, so we live the true meaning of this special feast. May God bless you and may you all have a holy and peaceful Christmas and an enjoyable break as we prepare for another exciting year ahead.



# Director of Curriculum

This week sees the end of an extremely busy term, where students and teachers have stretched themselves to the limits with academic and pastoral activities. I wish to thank and acknowledge staff who have shown their commitment to our students and the school in many ways.

Of particular note is the extreme dedication of the Music and Creative Arts teachers and I hope that everyone took the opportunity to view the Creative Arts Expo – where the inspiration of our teachers and the talents of your children were so obviously displayed. To Mrs Jackson – our energetic and talented music teacher, we say thank you for selflessly giving your time to prepare students for the Higher School Certificate music performances as well as the myriad of masses, ceremonies and events held throughout the year.

During this time of faith and family, may the true meaning of Christmas fill you with joy. Wishing all our families a happy and holy Christmas. To our students – please stay safe during the holidays and come back refreshed and ready for a great year of learning in 2020!



# Director of Primary

It's been a busy few weeks as the school year comes to a close. The school recently held a K-12 assembly to celebrate Lebanese Independence Day. The ceremony was simple but meaningful. Credit goes to the planning committee, including Mrs Nada Kazzi and Mrs Sandrussi for organising the moving ceremony.

The week of swimming lessons for Primary students went smoothly. The Primary school's swimming carnival was also a great success. While Yrs 3-6 students were at the pool, K-2 students competed in a range of sporting activities including ball games and skipping activities. This was an opportunity for students to improve their coordination and gross motor skills while having fun. Many thanks to Miss Zalloua for organizing the swimming carnival, as well as organising the K-2 activities, along with Mr Barker, Mr Tanza and Miss Belcastro.

2020 Kindergarten students recently spent the morning at the school. They took part in a range of learning tasks and familiarised themselves with the school campus before starting officially at the school next year. The morning was a great success, thanks to the efforts of Mrs Hasham and the Kindergarten staff who organized the activities for the 2020 students, as well as teaching the current Kindy students.

The Primary School had a mufti day to raise money for White Stone – a subset of Maronite Care which provides services for those suffering all types of addictions. The students looked wonderful in their colourful outfits and the school thanks parents for their support.

Last week Year 6 graduated from the Primary School. Thank you to Mrs Leas and the Year 6 staff who put a lot of time and effort into organising the graduation Mass and ceremony! I'd like to wish the students good luck and God's blessings as they begin their journey through High School!

As the year draws to a close, the teachers are busy finalising classes for 2020 and end of year activities. 2020 classes are formed by the class teachers, who know the students best, in consultation with leadership. Parents have been asked not to request student placement because it is already a complicated process so please trust that the teachers have the best interests of all the students at heart.

Thanks goes out to all the staff for their dedication and hard work this year! I would also like to thank parents for their support and positive feedback this year! Your support is really appreciated by myself and all the Primary staff!

God's blessings and may you all have a wonderful Christmas and enjoy the holiday season with your family!





# Coordinator of RE - Primary

Some of our primary students enjoyed getting into the Christmas spirit by creating their very own Nativity Scenes!





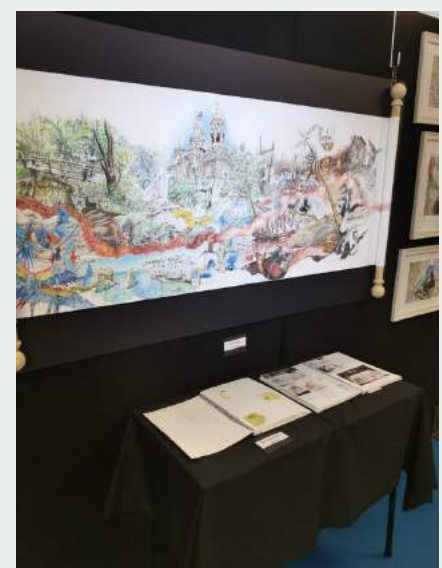
# TAS Coordinator - Secondary

The Creative Artists and Technologists at St Charbel's College have been very busy during term 4. The term began with the return of the Textiles and Design Major Projects and artworks marked by NESAs. We soon realised two of the artworks had been chosen for pre-selection for ARTEXPRESS, with one making the final cut. Congratulations to Ms Huggett and year 12 Art students Mary Lyn Alagha and Nathan El Azzi.

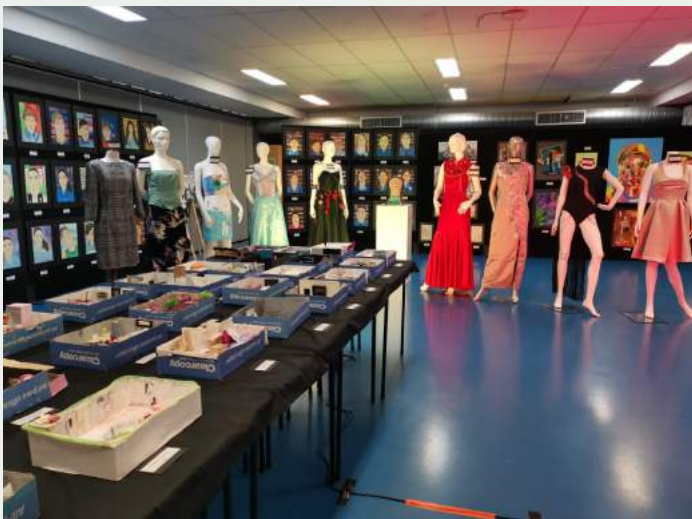
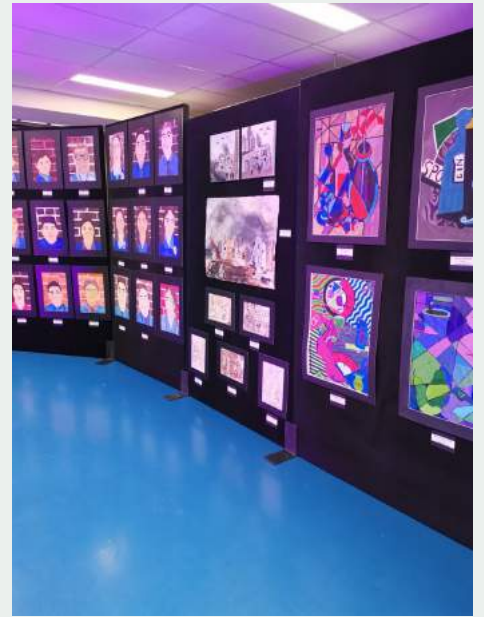
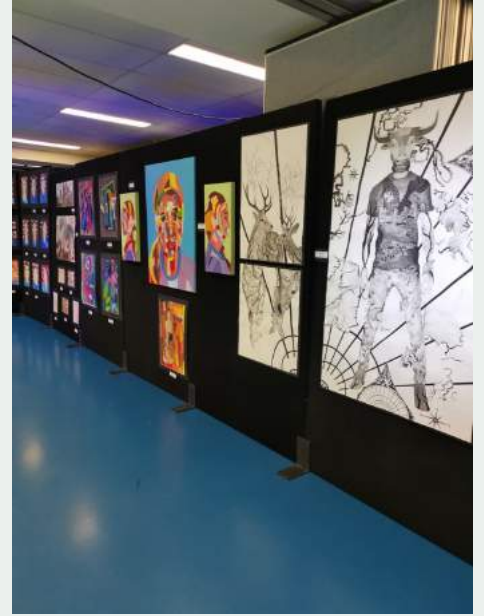
The teachers and students prepared for the Exhibition and performances that were held on the 29th November. The Exhibition remained in the hall for the awards night. The Performances were spectacular, students from Years 7 to 11 shining on stage, from drummers to guitarists, violinists and vocalists. We had to keep reminding ourselves we were in Punchbowl and those on stage were our teenagers. The students really grow in our subjects, we are so proud of them all. It didn't slow down, hot on the tail was the Bankstown lighting of the tree and TAP auditions. We are so lucky to be part of the Canterbury Bankstown council area. Our students are provided with wonderful opportunities to develop musically and artistically. The Talent Advancement Program (TAP) involves students in year-long workshops and performances. Students are given opportunities to perform in the public arena for the likes of the Prime Minister in special events throughout the year. Thank you to Mrs Jackson and Mr Saidi for preparing our students for their performances.

In the final week we were treated to performances by year 9 and 10 Drama classes. Miss Loulach and the students worked so hard and the evidence is in the performances. Students once again shone and took on their parts providing a real experience for the audience. Look out for the talented performers who will most definitely be on the big screen in the near future. An "Oscar" for Miss Loulach and her students. Congratulations!

Wishing all a Blessed Christmas and New Year. Thank you for the support you give your students. Please encourage your kids to be creative and practice the skills they have developed through the year. Thank you to my team of teachers in the Creative Arts and Technological and Applied Studies on a tremendous year.



# TAS Coordinator - Secondary





# Secondary Arabic Coordinator

كتب طلاب الصف التاسع في اللغة العربية ما يلي:

"زار تلامذة اللغة العربية المعرض الفني، الذي يُنظَّم كلَّ عام في معهد مار شربل. كانت الأعمال الفنيَّة عديدة، فمنها الرِّسم، وتصميم الملابس، وتصميم عُرف النَّوم والمفروشات وغيرها.

إشترك في هذا المعرض مجموعة من الصِّفوف الثانويَّة، فكانت الملابس ذات تصميم خلاق وذوق رفيع، والرُّسومات جميلة ومُعَبِّرة. ومن الأعمال الفنيَّة التي تميَّزت، فيديو من إعداد الطالب نايتن القزي في السَّنة الثانية عشرة، بعنوان "The Sleep of Reason" إذ جذب انتباه الكثير من الزَّائرين، وقد اختير ليُعرَض في جامعة "نيو ساوث ويلز".

كانت تجربة جميلة إذ شعر الطلَّاب بالفخر برفاقهم الذين يُبدعون بما يُقدِّمون من أعمال فنيَّة كلَّ عام."

إنَّ أساتذة اللغة العربية في القسم الثانوي، إذ يهنئون كلَّ مَنْ اشترك في المعرض يتمنون لهم دوام النجاح والإبداع وأعياداً سعيدة لإدارة المعهد والأساتذة والأهالي والطلَّاب.

ميلاد مجيد و عام سعيد!



# Primary Arabic Coordinator

ها إننا نختم السنة الدراسية وفيها تعلم الطلاب الكثير. كانت سنة مليئة بالنشاطات والأعمال في قسم اللغة العربية. سمعت أصوات تراتيل الميلاد في كل زاوية من المدرسة. وهنا، في مدرسة مار شربل، نتشارك الهدايا في بعض الأحيان، ولكننا نعرف من هو صاحب العيد. يسوع هو صاحب العيد، لا يريد هدية انما فقط أن نسمح له بدخول قلوبنا.

فها نحن نصرخ بصوت عال ونقول: ولد المسيح! هللوايا.



تهانينا وألف مبروك لجميع طلاب الصف السادس. التخرج نهاية لرحلة قصيرة، وبعدها تبدأ رحلة أطول وهي رحلة المدرسة الثانوية.

ومن معلمات اللغة العربية نتمنى لكم النجاح والتوفيق في المراحل المقبلة.





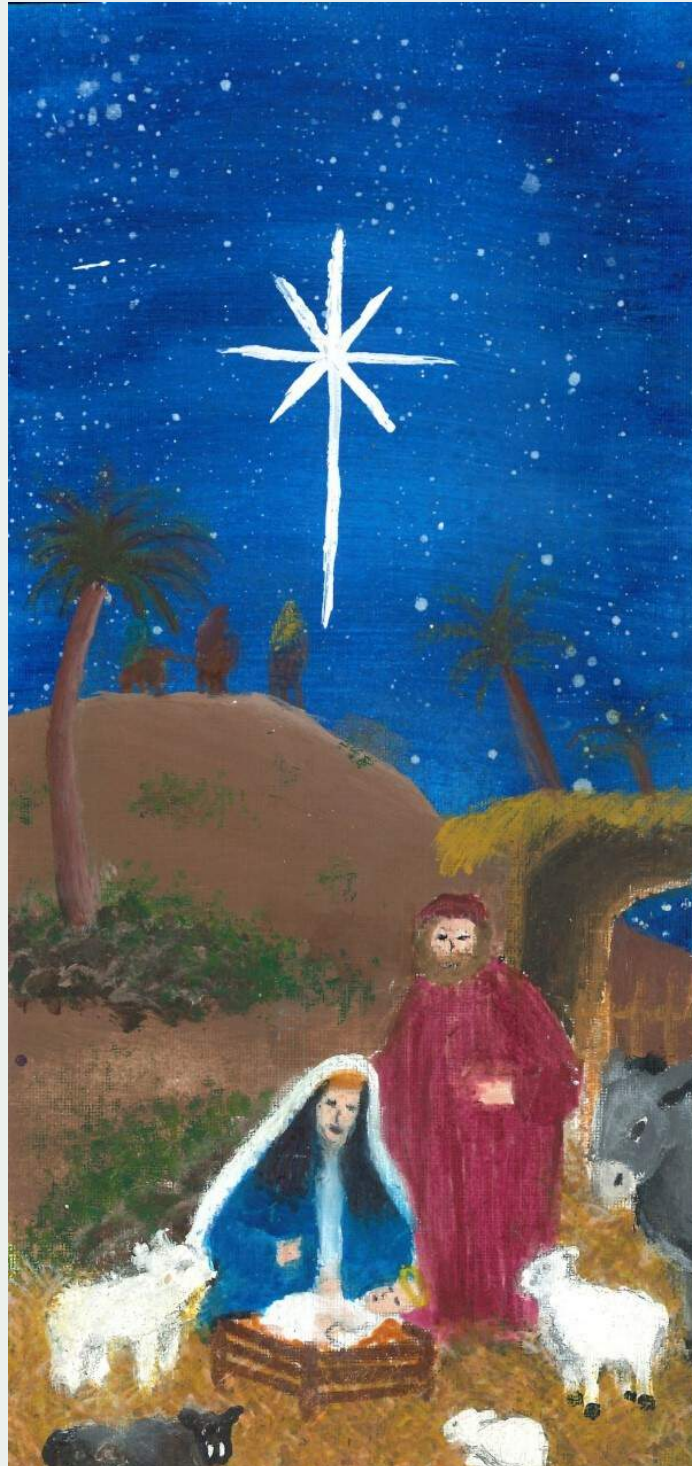
# Humility in Action

In light of the College theme Humility in Action and the season of Christmas, the Year 10 students participated in community service at Our Big Kitchen (soup kitchen), preparing meals for people in need. It was truly a humbling experience for all those who participated.



# Student Achievements

As part of our Year of Maronite Spirituality, Bishop Antoine-Charbel Tarabay invited all Maronite students, from year 6 to year 10 to enter the 2019 Christmas Card Competition. Students were invited to draw or paint a Christmas scene inspired by our Maronite spirituality, depicting the Holy Family at Christmas. A panel of Judges from participating schools together with the Bishop examined all entries and our own Danielle Challita (9S) won second prize! Bishop Tarabay presented Danielle with her prize and thanked all the students who participated.





# Year 10 Drama

What a fantastic way to end the year! Special mentions must go to Miss Loulach and her Year 10 Drama class - who showcased their amazing talent in their performance of the musical Grease. It was fun, witty, energetic and the students carried themselves with great professionalism. We are all so proud of their efforts. Thank you to the Timber and Art department, the Year 9 Drama class and the Lighting and Sound team for making it all possible. We are blessed with such a passionate, enthusiastic and committed team of staff and students.



# 2019/2020 Office Hours

13/12/19 – Administration Office & Finance Office will be open 8.00am – 4.00pm (limited staff)

16/12/19 – College closed from 12pm

17/12/19 – Administration Office & Finance Office will be open 8.00am – 4.00pm

18/12/19 – Administration Office & Finance Office will be open 8.00am – 4.00pm

19/12/19 – Administration Office & Finance Office will be open 8.00am – 4.00pm

23/12/19 – 21/1/20 – Administration Office & Finance Office will be closed

21/1/20 – Administration Office & Finance Office will re-open for 2020 (limited staff)

# 2020 Important Dates

## Return to School Dates:

Years 1 - 12: Monday 3rd February

Kindy Commence: Tuesday 4th February (**Half Day**)

Wednesday 5th February: (**Kindy Half Day**)

Friday 7th February: High School Swimming Carnival

## 2020 Photo Days:

Monday 3rd February: Years 7 - 12

Tuesday 4th February: Years 1 - 6

Wednesday 5th February: Family and group photos

Tuesday 11th February: Catch up photo day

Kindy photo day

Family photos with Kindy students



# Getting into the Christmas Spirit!

A great shout out to our wonderful choir led by Therese Jackson and John Saidi, who joyfully spread the spirit of Christmas to the wider community, taking part in the Bankstown Lighting of Christmas Tree event! Their performance was outstanding, and they made us feel very proud to be part of Saint Charbel's College!

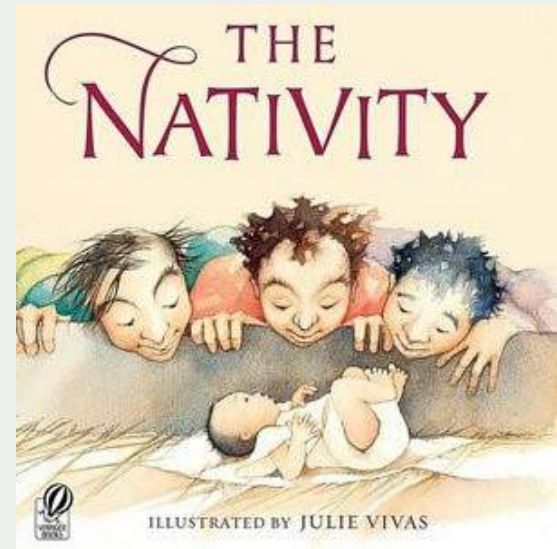
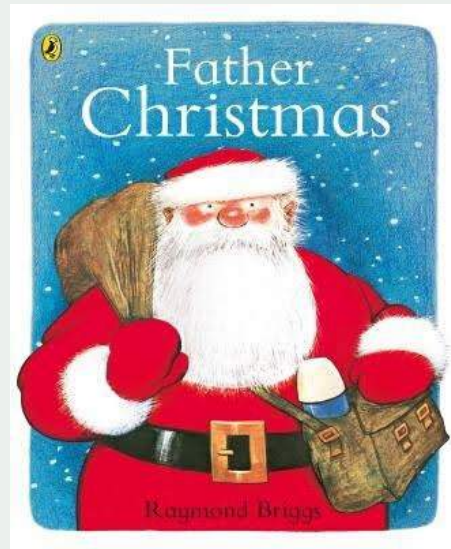
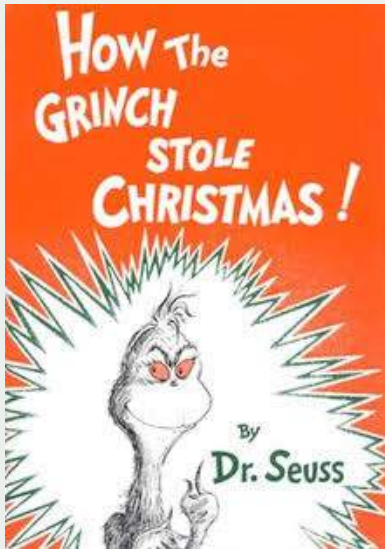


Another year and another successful choir performance at the lighting of the tree at Bankstown Hospital. Thank you to Mrs Bayeh and our choir students for their amazing performance at Bankstown Hospital as well as at St Charbel's Care Centre. Your continued efforts have helped put a smile on everyone's faces during this Season of Advent!



# Library News

Term Four has been busy, productive and happy at St Charbel's College Library. The children have enjoyed reading beautiful Christmas stories and creating wonderful Christmas crafts to celebrate the season of Advent and the birth of Jesus.



If you would like your children to continue reading over the Summer Holidays please consider joining the Summer Reading Club at your local library. This is a free holiday program to encourage and reward reading. It runs from the 1st December to the 19th January 2020. You can register online for the Summer Reading Club at City of Canterbury-Bankstown Libraries here:

<https://www.cbccity.nsw.gov.au/community/library-knowledge-centres/programs-events-calendar/summer-reading-club>



As the school year draws to an end, we would like to thank all of our students and families for their enthusiastic support of the library.

On behalf of the Library Staff, we wish our College community a Happy, Blessed and Merry Christmas.





**Level 1 30A George St, Burwood 2134**

Office: (02) 9745 1170

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## **CHESS!!**

Learn to be a chess champion! Coaching for students at St Charbel's College (Punchbowl) is held on Fridays from 1:25pm to 2:05pm, starting on 18 October 2019.

Learning and playing chess helps children develop their logical thinking and problem solving skills, improves their concentration and focus, while also being a great source of enjoyment. Activities include group lessons on a demonstration chess board or interactive whiteboard, puzzle solving and fun practice games.

Students earn merit awards by making checkmates, or by displaying skills and positive qualities, which all good chess players strive to develop.

If your child is interested in taking part, you can collect an enrolment form from the school office, or email [enrol@sydneyacademyofchess.com.au](mailto:enrol@sydneyacademyofchess.com.au) for a copy. For all enquiries, please contact Sydney Academy of Chess on (02) 9745 1170.

# *Learn Music on Keyboard at School*

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# Important Announcements

## **REMINDERS**

- Students must arrive to school no later than 8:25am
- Students are not to leave school before 3:10pm. Early leave must be with permission granted by Year or Stage Coordinators. Exceptional circumstances require a note from parents.
- Ensure correct uniforms are worn
- Boys to have regulation haircuts
- No coloured bands to be worn around necks or on wrists
- Years 3-12 students to have their diaries signed when required
- Parents to make appointments to speak to teachers.
- Playground supervision starts 8am and ends 3:30pm.