

ST CHARBEL'S COLLEGE NEWSLETTER



Issue 2

Term 1, Week 7, March 2017

Principal's Message - Rev Fr Maroun Youssef

Already more than half way through the term and we are still keeping busy. I was delighted to meet many parents at our Information Evenings and our Kindergarten morning tea. It gave me an opportunity to appreciate the warm feedback by parents about both the College and our hard working staff. I look forward to many more opportunities to meet with each and every one of you in coming weeks.

I would like to personally congratulate the students who participated in the CBSA swimming and the Chess competition. I was very proud to attend and see the tremendous efforts and accomplishments of our students.



Let us all take this opportunity to reflect on Lent. Take up the practice of reflecting on your day, its gifts and graces, and the progress you are making in life with Christ. Allow it to be a habit with yourself and your children always praising and giving thanks to God. Repent, fast and prepare for the coming of Easter with a clean pure heart.

"Beneath the Cross, one learns to love." Jesus to Padre Pio.

The
Season
of
Lent



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 www.facebook.com/StCharbelCollege





National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence

FRIDAY 17 MARCH 2017

On **Friday 17 March 2017**, we will join the nationwide movement to stand united against bullying and violence.

In support of Embracing 2018 and the One Million Stars to End Violence project, we have pledged to weave 1000 stars on that day! Each star woven will represent the school's commitment towards a bullying and violence free environment.

The stars made will also contribute to the massive public art installation as part of the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games.

WHAT IS REQUIRED? A team effort and we have a great team at St Charbel's!

Please view the below website and instructional video to make the stars which requires four strips of ribbon/paper.

<http://www.onemillionstars.net/get-involved-1>

We encourage all staff, students, parents and families to **have a go** and bring to school on Friday.

There will be prizes for the most creative and elaborate stars!

Parents/Grandparents are invited to join the Star Jam on Friday at 2:00p.m. Please join us for a cup of tea as you create a star. This will take place in the Mary MacKillop Centre.



HAPPY WEAVING!

**THANKS TO EVERYONE FOR MAKING A STAND AGAINST
BULLYING AND VIOLENCE!**

Ash Monday

As the students from Years 4-12 gathered in the hall to celebrate Mass on Ash Monday, there was a sense of calm and reflection. The students were well aware of the onset of their Lenten journey and the invitation to answer the questions, *"In what ways can I more consciously encounter Jesus this season? How can I work with Jesus in becoming a better version of myself?"* The students, centred on these thoughts, prayed the Mass with devotion and contemplation. Our Student Representative Council assisted our priests with the distribution of the Ashes. This is the first occasion where our students have taken on such a privileged role. This role, accepted by our Year 12 students, was carried out with maturity and reverence. It was certainly an edifying experience to share in such a celebration with over 900 of our students! We endeavour to celebrate Masses for all students, K-12, in the not so distant future.

God's blessings during this Lenten season.



Assistant Principal Teaching and Learning (K-12) - Mrs Bejjani

Dear Parents,

At the information evenings you were introduced to the idea of goal setting with your child for children in Years 1 to 12. Thank you to all those that have sent in their goals!

In setting your goals you would have explored possibilities for your child and by breaking down the steps to achieving those goals you provide them with a reality check – it can be hard and it takes time to achieve goals.

Now that the goals have been set, it is important that you have an ongoing discussion with your child about their progress in achieving those goals. The following tips may help in maintaining momentum to achieve their set goals:

Applaud Effort: When you see that your child is working purposefully to achieve their goals, point it out to them. Say something like, "I'm really impressed. When you care about something you really go for it!"

When Kids Fall Short: If your child does not appear to be able to achieve a goal, try these steps.

Review the goal with your child. Maybe it was too vague or too ambitious.

Ask your child for suggestions. Children are more likely to follow through on their own ideas about what else they can do.

Help envisage the benefits. Ask: "What do you think it would feel like to do better on the next test?"

Share your childhood frustrations. Your child might feel better when you tell him/her about your difficulties learning fractions.

Compliment him/her. Even if your child doesn't get the A they hoped for, make sure to praise them for trying ("I'm so proud of how hard you studied!").

Don't use threats or bribes. Offering a video game in exchange for an A, or a punishment for a D, won't help your child's follow-through in the long run.

Term 1 has begun at a furious pace with students involved in a number of important initiatives. We have again engaged Elevate Education to present a series of Study Skills Seminars to students from 7-12. Last week I was fortunate to supervise one of these sessions and it was refreshing to witness our Year 11 students engaged in a discussion on the research of student motivation and the importance of developing a growth mindset. Students were asked to consider three keys to success:

- self-belief, setting goals and planning

At the end of the workshop students were asked to provide feedback about what they had learned and I was pleased to read some of their comments to the following question:

- What was the most important thing you learnt today?
 - ◇ never sell yourself short
 - ◇ never say 'I can't'
 - ◇ how to set my goals
 - ◇ planning is an essential part in achieving your smart goals
 - ◇ to set mini goals
 - ◇ to break your work into 'chunks'
 - ◇ how to create a study guide
 - ◇ that what you say impacts your attitude and therefore your results
 - ◇ that your mindset can have a big impact on results

To the question:

- Do you believe this program was time well spent? 100% of students responded **YES**

Elevate Education provide follow up resources for students and teachers on their website. Each student is provided with access to www.elevateducation.com where they can access a range of practice questions, presenter tips and a copy of Elevate's best-selling study guide *The Science of Student Success*. The presenters have provided the students with log-ins and passwords to the site. If students have forgotten these details they can access them through a default username and password which is: username: elevate, password: pacco.

- The 2017 Elevate Education seminar program for years 7-12 is:

31 January 2017	Year 12 Memory Mnemonics	7 March 2017	Year 11 Student Elevation
28 March 2017	Year 8 Junior Time Management	28 March 2017	Year 10 Study Sense
28 March 2017	Year 10 Time Management	23 May 2017	Year 11 Ace Your Exams
23 May 2017	Year 12 Finishing Line	30 May 2017	Year 9 Memory Mnemonics
13 June 2017	Year 7 Study Skills Kick Start		

A new **HOMEWORK CLUB** in **MATHEMATICS**



will be running every **Tuesday & Thursday** 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: 8am-8:25am
Mrs Zidros and Mr Wong

UPCOMING EVENTS

March

Fri 17	National Day for Action Against Bullying & Violence P & F Spirituality Day
Sun 19	St Joseph's Feast Day
Thurs 23	St Rafqa's Feast Day
Fri 24	Year 8 Spirituality Day
Mon 27	Year 12 Half Yearly Examinations (until Fri Apr 7)
Wed 29	Term 1 Interim Report Interviews

April

Mon 3	Primary Athletics Carnival Year 7 Vaccinations
Fri 7	Last Day of Term 1
Sun 9	Palm Sunday
Thurs 13	Holy Thursday
Fri 14	Good Friday
Sat 15	Easter Saturday
Sun 16	Easter Sunday
Mon 17	Easter Monday
Mon 24	Staff Professional Development
Tues 25	ANZAC Day
Wed 26	Term 2 Commences
Fri 28	2018 Enrolment Application Deadline

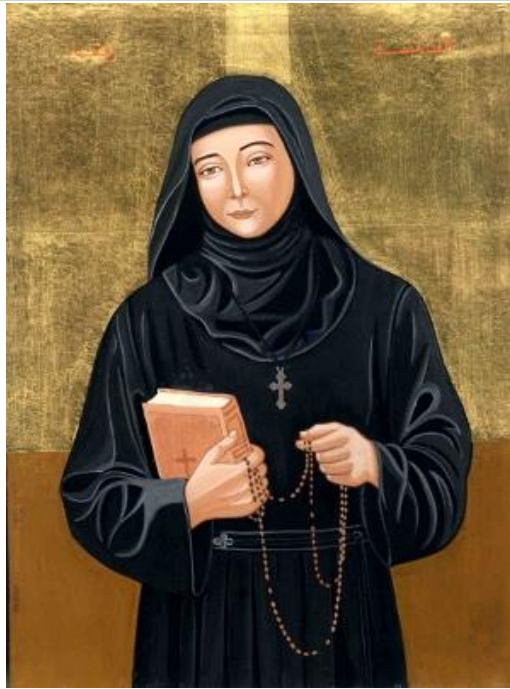
First instalment for school fees is now due
Payments may be paid in cash, cheque, EFTPOS, credit card or directly into our bank account.

For all parents who are using the direct payment method into the school bank account to pay their school fees and charges, please ensure in completing your online payment, that the recipient field description is filled with your Family code/account No. in order to allocate these payments to the correct families.

Arrangements may also be made via Centrelink

Kindergarten was a welcome group at the Mass last week as they began their attendance at our Liturgies, and what a well-behaved group they were. Students are following their Lenten pathways which involves giving up some things or giving to some. This includes the Project Compassion efforts. or more information please see -

<http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion/lower-primary-school-resources>
<http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion/middle-primary-school-resources>
<http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion/upper-primary-school-resources>



Many of us fast from things that we like, especially food or drink, but we can also think about giving up TV, movies, email Internet, magazines, radio, handheld computers, video games, and the like. Instead of feasting on food and drink during this time we can do our feasting on the Word by reading about Jesus' teachings or Lives of Saints and by partaking in the Eucharistic feast at the Mass.

Attendance and taking part in the Mass each Sunday is an integral part of devotions for each Church season but especially so for those preparing for the sacraments. March is a month of some important saints. We look forward to St Joseph's feast day and that of St Patrick and St Rafqa.



Primary Sport Report - Miss Catherine Zalloua

So far this term, students in Kindergarten to Year 2 have been participating in AFL and Years 3 – 6 have been doing gymnastics for their co-curricular sport on Wednesdays.

The students are having a blast and are learning new skills, which is fantastic! This term we also sent 10 students to represent our school at the Inner West Cook Cluster swimming trials. I was extremely proud of the effort and behaviour of our students on the day. Out of those 10 students, Jad Haidar progressed to regionals where he came 3rd in Freestyle, 4th for Butterfly and 3rd for Breaststroke. I really would like to encourage parents to get their children to participate and get involved in activities and sports outside of school. It is very important that they stay active and it also gives them an opportunity to potentially represent their school in events and represent their sporting clubs.

If you need further information please write a note in your child's diary and ask them to see me.



Dear Parents, we have been keeping your children extremely busy over the past few weeks. The Primary School curriculum has been very full so far this term. We have had an extra focus on Literacy and Numeracy with all classes Kindergarten through to Year 6 with the children participating in extensive reading groups and focused Literacy and Numeracy lessons. We are so pleased with the progress we are seeing with the children and I feel the Primary School is buzzing along amazingly this term.

On another note I wanted to address an issue with all our parents which we are finding is causing many concerns for us in the Primary School. This term we have had some parents send lolly bags with their children or through the Office to celebrate their child's birthday. I would like to begin by stating that the sugar content in these bags is extremely unhealthy for your children. Please think about your child's teeth, let alone the hyperactivity the extra sugar creates by the children consuming these lollies. Also, some children may have food allergies especially to food colouring or additives, in these food items. Therefore, please be advised that we will not be accepting lolly bags or any other type of food to give out to the children. If these are brought to the school they will be left at the Office for you to pick up. I appreciate your cooperation and assistance with this request. God bless.

Mirath In Mind

I had the honour of attending a Mirath in Mind evening event at the State Parliament House on Tuesday 7th March. We had two students who performed a presentation around the Australian Waltzing Matilda ballad from an Arabic perspective. What an amazing evening it was!! I was so proud and impressed with the talent we have here at St. Charbel's College. I would like to extend my congratulations and compliments to Matthew Khoury (Year 11) and Rowana Saab (Year 10) for their amazing performances. I was mesmerised with their ability of captivating the audience with their flair and talent and I felt so much pride in accepting the award for our College. Well done to the both of them, they have definitely contributed towards raising the profile of our College in a most positive way.



Creative Arts/TAS Faculty - Mrs Maryrose Maatouk

Creative Arts / TAS faculty newsletter article

The Creative Arts/ TAS faculty is off to a great start. We are very excited to have a Year 12 Visual Art major work chosen for exhibition at the Campbelltown Arts Centre as part of ART EXPRESS. The exhibition is open from 6 April – 14 May. The Art work titled "Waiting" is by Sandra Estephan from the class of 2016.

On the 2nd March, Year 11 and 12 Textiles and Design went on an excursion to Rosehill Racecourse to view the TEXSTYLE exhibition of major projects and walk around the wonderful quilts and textile arts in the craft show. Students were taken in by the creative work and talent of the class of 2016. The students spent a great deal of time observing and analysing the projects and gaining inspiration for their own projects.

Year 12 Visual Art students visited Hazelhurst Gallery and The Armoury on the 15th March to view the Visual Art Major works. Students immersed themselves in Art from the class of 2016 and gained insight for their own art making.

NAME:Sandra Estephan

SCHOOL:St Charbel's College

TITLE:Waiting

FORM: Painting

HSC YEAR: 2016

GALLERY: Campbelltown Arts Centre,

Waiting explores the universal humanitarian theme of suffering and loss due to tragic events such as displacement. In the last few years, the refugee issue and crisis have dominated the news, bringing to our attention the plight of the innocent and of families torn apart. My surrealist painting represents an anonymous female figure, here the symbol of the universal mother, waiting desperately to be reunited with her child. She sits there, endlessly waiting and staring at the sea that so cruelly offered hope for freedom, yet was a catalyst in taking lives away.



On the night of Wednesday the 1st of March, the Year 12 Community and Family Studies class went into the city to help feed the homeless with the organisation, *Walking in the Light* as part of our unit of study. After setting up, the cooking of the sausages was immediate and stations for drinks, bread and sauce came alive, with the girls from the class helping out in different ways and in doing different things on the night. Both serving and interacting with the individuals who were homeless, was eye-opening in the sense that they were grateful for everything that was served to them and showed us that they too were normal people but were struggling in their own ways. It helped us to see how hard their daily lives are and the struggle that they endure by trying to find food or clothes. We were also able to learn about some of the lives of the individuals and the gratitude they had for organisations which support them with weekly meals and any necessities, like soap or clothes.

This experience helped us to be more grateful for the amount of support, shelter and food we are provided with and take for granted daily. It was a rewarding and enlightening experience that I would love to do on a weekly basis.



Year 9 Spirituality Day

On Friday the 10th of March, Year 9 attended a spirituality day which took place in the Multi-Purpose Hall. The theme of the day was 'Who am I?'. Students were welcomed by an amazing group of young, vibrant and enthusiastic leaders from the National Evangelisation team who took the students through a number of activities throughout the day. Students were involved in a number of discussions, games and small group activities which demonstrated the importance of being themselves. At the end of the day, students had the opportunity to take part in a personal reflection and were given the opportunity to pray with one of the leaders and to reflect on their spiritual life. Overall, students found the day beneficial as it gave them an insight about the importance of being themselves.

Ms Jessica George



Music Teacher- Mrs C. Brennan

Congratulations to the following students who have been successful in gaining a position in this year's Vocal Group:

Jacynta Tarraf, Gabrielle El-Kazzi, Jacinta Azzi, Brooke Demian, Mark Khodair, Joseph Sara, Vivianna Jneid, Tia Najem, Rowana Saab, Donna Dagher, Bradley Moussa, Angela Araaj, Antonia Chahine, Charbel Chahine, Cleah Ayoub, Sabina Nowfal, Reine Nader, Anthony Aoun, Salim Chidiac, Chloe El-Boustany, Wendy Jneid, Theresa Faker, Alisha Darwich, Trinity Chalita and Taylah Farah.

Rehearsals will take place on Wednesday afternoons from 3:20pm – 4pm in the Music Room.

The Bankstown Talent Advancement Program has been slightly altered in the way in which they select their group members. This year, Jacinta Azzi, Gabrielle El-Kazzi, Tia Najem, Charbel Chahine, Antonia Chahine, Sabina Nowfal and Wendy Jneid were selected from approximately 200 auditionees throughout the Bankstown region.

Our students attended an intensive performance camp over the weekend, held in the Nameroo Centre in Chatswood, aiming to challenge, inspire and guide the young successful 36 performers in the program. The TAP directors will select 26 students from the 36, based on their application and ability that was demonstrated at the camp, to form the final TAP group for 2017. Our students were role models for the College and we are very proud of them! We look forward to the final results!





في الأسابيع الماضية بدأت امتحانات مهارات الإستماع لجميع الصفوف، من التاسع وحتى الحادي عشر. وكذلك قام الصف الثامن ببعض التطبيقات العملية لتغطية موضوع العائلة الذي يدرسه في هذا الفصل. وبما أننا في زمن الصوم، كتبت التلميذة في الصف العاشر إلينا ألبا بعضاً من معاني الصوم:

- " ليس الصوم هو الامتناع عن بعض الأطعمة التي تتعش الجسد إنما هو رياضة روحية غايتها تنقية النفس من رواسب الخطيئة حتى نقترّب أكثر وأكثر من القداسة التي تجعلنا نعاين الإله.
- يقول الرسول بولس "إن ما يضعف الجسد يقوي الروح. وما يضعف الروح يقوي الجسد، لذلك وضعت الكنيسة فريضة الصوم، كي نجتاز تلك المرحلة الزمنية بنقاوة و قداسة كي نكون مستعدين أن نموت مع المسيح بقرّ الخطيئة حتى نقوم معه بولادة روحية جديدة لا عيب فيها.
- كيف نصوم؟ هل بالامتناع عن بعض الأطعمة فقط. إن ذلك ليس من تعاليم الكنيسة إنما هو إماتة الجسد والحياة بالمحبة وممارسة تعاليم السيد المسيح من إطعام الجياع وسقي العطاش وزيارة المرضى وكساء العريّ وزيارة المسورين ثم القيام بالصلوات اليومية سواء في الكنيسة أم في البيت.



إن المسيحية تركز على ثلاثة قواعد هي الإيمان و الرجاء والمحبة. فلنعتنم موسم الصوم لنحب بعضنا بعضاً كما أحب المسيح الكنيسة.



CBSA Chess

On Thursday the 9th of March, several of our students competed in the CBSA Chess Competition. Our College entered a Year 7, 8, 10 and senior team who were in competition with students from eight other schools.

Our Year 7 team was most successful consisting of Chris Tannous, Charlie Chalita, Elias Francis and Joy Mahfoud who made it to the semi-final round and lost by only half a point. The College thanks Mr Wong, who coached the team for two terms, and congratulates the chess team for their outstanding participation.



CBSA Swimming

The CBSA Swimming Carnival was held Monday evening on the 20th of February. Boys from our College entered into races against eight other schools. The enthusiasm and sportsmanship shown by these boys was fantastic and in line with College morals and expectations.

I would like to congratulate the following boys for their participation on the night:

Charbel Azzi
Joshua Zakhia
George Zakhia
Jason Zoghaib
Marc Haidar
Dominic Abdou
Anthony Ayoub
Joshua Casey
Adrian Jreige
John Paul Assi
Daniel Azzi
Samer Kazzi
Anthony Melhem

Gratitude should also be extended to Mr Luca, Mr Best, Mr Wong, Mr Shalala and Mr Nakhla for attending to support and assist on the night.



SCC Swimming

On Monday the 27th of March a group of girls from the College competed in the SCC swimming carnival. The competition was fierce and involved ten other schools. The girls swam outstandingly and walked away with the trophy for most improved school. This award is based on the percentage difference in scores between last year and this year, therefore indicating great improvement.

Congratulations are due to the following girls:

Melissa El Kawkabany
Daniella Khalil
Elissa Sarkis
Tereza Faker
Joelle Azzi
Christina Elazzi
Erica El-Azzi
Gemma Zakhia
Lourdes Azzi
Janelle Zakhia
Bianca Challita

I would also like to thank Miss Michael, Miss Roumanous, Miss George and Mrs Perry for attending to support and assist on the night.

PROMOTING GOOD ATTENDANCE

KEY PASTORAL TARGET
JANUARY 2017

attendance
MATTERS

ST CHARBEL'S COLLEGE

WHY DO WE NEED TO IMPROVE ATTENDANCE?

Too many absences can impact a student's performance!

Losing 10% of the school year can knock a student off track.

THE STUDENT ATTENDANCE RATE

As reported on My School Website this is the number of actual full time student days attended by full-time students (Years 1 to 10) as a percentage of the total possible student-days attended.

SEMESTER 1 2016—The attendance rate for the College was 95%

TERM 3 2016—The attendance rate for the College was 91%.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE LEVEL

This is the proportion of full time students in Years 1-10 whose attendance rate is greater than or equal to 90% over the reporting period.

SEMESTER 1 2016—83% attended 90% of the time. 17% (1 in 6) of students attended less than 90% of the time!

TERM 3 2016— 69% attended 90% of the time. That is 31% (1 in 3) of students attended less than 90% of the time!

BY IMPROVING ATTENDANCE WE WILL IMPROVE RESULTS!

**ATTEND TODAY
ACHIEVE TOMORROW!**

ATTENDANCE TARGETS 2017

We will work closely with parents to reduce the number of absences.

We will follow up and ensure that ALL absences are explained.

We will call home by third day of absence.

We will organise ATTENDANCE IMPROVEMENT PLANS for all students with poor attendance.

We will consider incentives for excellent attendance.

We will organise meetings for parents wishing to make travel plans during term time.

