

ST CHARBEL'S COLLEGE NEWSLETTER



Issue 3

Term 1, Week 10, April 2017

Principal's Message - Rev Fr Maroun Youssef



As Term 1 quickly comes to an end, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for a successful term. We have managed to begin the new academic year smoothly due to the effortless teamwork of our staff, parents and students.

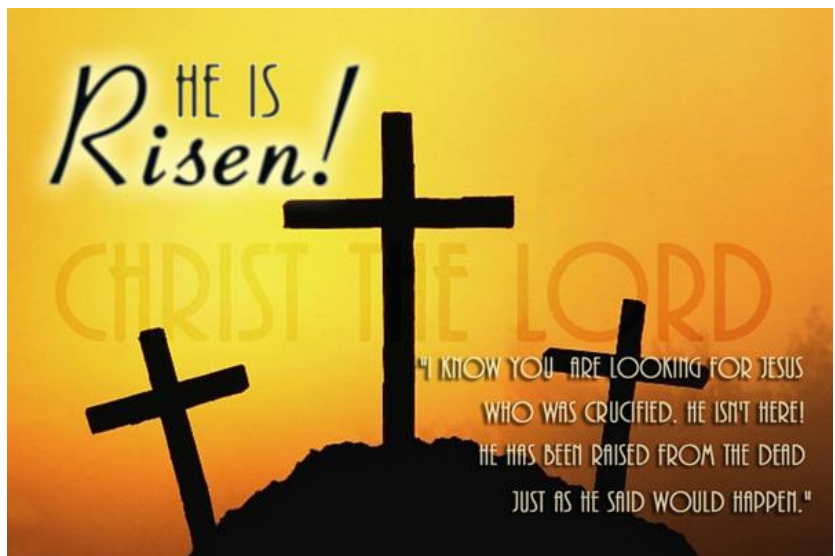
Over the past few weeks we have been emphasising the need for consistent attendance for all our students. This is an ongoing commitment by students and teachers of the College to record and maintain attendance. While we appreciate your desire to go overseas to visit family in Lebanon, it is imperative that the travel is limited to a short period of time so as not to affect the academic performance of your child. On 15 March, 2017 NESAs (Board of Studies NSW) visited our College to review our Attendance Policies and Procedures as well as the College's Governance Policy. Most fortunately, we were successful in both and we intend to continually emphasise the procedures for the attendance of students as it is imperative for the students' wellbeing and academic performance. This can only be done by the total ongoing commitment of both students and parents of the College.

On Palm Sunday, we will celebrate the first joy of the season, as we rejoice in Our Lord's triumphant entrance into Jerusalem where He was welcomed by crowds worshipping him and laying down palm leaves before Him. It also marks the beginning of Holy Week, with the greatest tragedy and sorrow that our Lord Jesus endured. As we enter into Passion Week let us forever remember that Christ's death and resurrection is for the forgiveness of our sins and for life everlasting with Him.

Let us always remember that God so loved us, that He sent His only begotten Son to die for us, so that our sins may be forgiven.

May the joy of Easter be a remembrance for all that, Christ has risen! I pray that the risen Lord will bless each and every one of your homes during the Easter season and every day forward.

I wish you all a most blessed holiday and look forward to returning to another successful Term 2.



A reminder: Students return to school for Term 2 in full winter uniform on Wednesday 26 April, 2017

Follow us on:  <https://twitter.com/sccpunchbowl> (@sccpunchbowl)

 www.facebook.com/StCharbelCollege





On **Friday 17 March 2017**, we joined the nationwide movement to stand united against bullying and violence. We also pledged to be a part of the *1000 Stars to End Violence* project with each star woven representing the school's commitment towards a bullying and violence free environment. We are delighted to announce that thanks to the wonderful work of our students, teachers and parents we have achieved our target!

The stars made will contribute to the massive public art installation as part of the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games. Thanks to everyone who weaved in support of this worthy cause.

In addition, the High School held an assembly made up of a series of presentations given by each year group. It was entertaining, highly creative and extremely thought provoking. Thanks to everyone involved!

The Primary had a series of assemblies and they focused on positive gossip – the idea that we can gossip as long as what we say is very positive!

Thanks to Year 12 who supplied gelato on the day and thanks to Learning Support who organised hand painting to support the idea of harmony – a wonderful initiative.

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



Many thanks to everyone for contributing/ supporting **National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence!**

The student performances were incredibly impressive and thought provoking! Thanks to the pastoral team!

The hand painting for harmony was a wonderful idea and so well executed-thanks to Learning Support!

The star making across the school was impressive-we are well on the way to achieving the target of 1000 stars!

Thanks to primary for your work on positive gossip!

Gelato went down a storm-thanks Year 12!



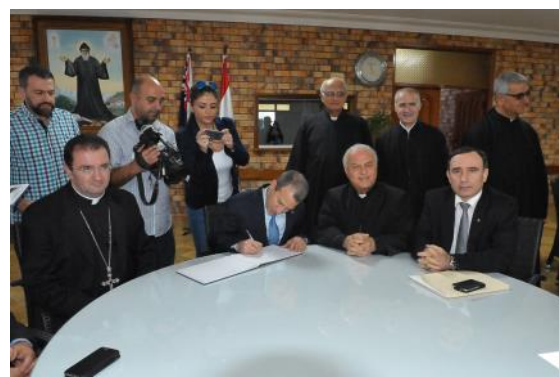
Lebanese Foreign Minister Gebran Bassil visits the College.

Students and teachers were very proud to be visited by the Lebanese Minister of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants, Mr Gebran Bassil on Monday 3rd April. Mr Bassil and other dignitaries, including His Excellency Bishop Antoine Tarabay, the Honourable State Minister for Presidency Affairs, Mr Pierre Raffoul, Consul General of Lebanon Mr George Bitar Ghanem, and State & Federal Committees of ULAM, spent a short but enjoyable visit to the College.

Our students welcomed him with a rousing rendition of the Australian and Lebanese national anthems, led beautifully by the school choir. Individual performances by Danielle Challita Year 7 and Matthew Khoury showcased the talents of our students, and we were delighted to present Mr Bassil with a gift of a watercolour painting of the beautiful scenery of Lebanon created by Christine Antoun.

There was an air of expectation from the moment Mr Bassil walked through the guard of honour to the moment he mounted the stage to respond to the Principal's welcome. Mr Bassil extolled the virtues of students and their families remaining strongly connected to Lebanon, their spiritual homeland. He responded positively to students' questions on the value in maintaining Lebanese citizenship when living overseas and the impact of the refugee crisis.

The official party left to cheers and applause – leaving the audience feeling privileged by their presence. The College Leadership wishes to thank all those who participated in the assembly, especially the P&F for their support in setting up the hall and providing the delicious morning tea.



Director of Religious Education (K-12) - Mrs Joanne Mansour

We give thanks to Almighty God for this Term.

We celebrate the gift of the **Family Prayer Packs** that are now circulating amongst our families.

We look forward to opportunities to deepen our faith through the following events held in Term Two:

1. Refreshing parent understandings on our key Catholic teachings with Mr. Robert Haddad.

Session 1: How to Keep your Kids Catholic
Wednesday 26 April, 2017, 7:00 – 8:30pm, Mary Mackillop Centre

Session 2: Morality in the 21st Century
Wednesday 10 May, 2017, 7:00 – 8:30pm, Mary Mackillop Centre

Session 3: What does the Sacra-Ment? Unpacking the Sacraments
This session is fitting for parents of children receiving the Sacraments this year
Wednesday 7 June, 2017, 7:00 – 8:30 pm, Mary Mackillop Centre

Please RSVP for the sessions by 21 April via the link provided in emails sent previously or directly

(jmansour@stcharbel.nsw.edu.au)

2. Also, save the date for our **Inaugural Father Son Evening** on Friday 26 May 2017. More to come on that!

May Christ's victory over sin and death bring peace to our hearts, homes and families during this blessed season. God Bless,



Dear Parents, our most busy term has come to an end and we are now in the process of getting a whole range of things organised for Term 2 in regards to teaching and learning as well as various events. I wish to personally thank all our parents for making the time to come in to chat to the teachers for the Term 1 Interim Interviews. I felt it was a great success as parents were able to receive helpful information regarding their child's learning which in turn will assist in planning ahead to ensure positive outcomes. The teachers were extremely impressed with the turn out on the evening and felt the sessions were both constructive and helpful.



We have had various events and excursions which took place this term. I feel all these contribute towards your child's learning experiences immersing them with learning skills outside the class room. Please look out for the Stage Coordinator entries where these events are addressed in detail.

Holiday Homework: With the Term 1 holidays approaching, I wanted to ask all parents to ensure that the children complete some type of homework during the 2 week term break. We have various online resources available for your use such as Mathletics, StudyLadder and BugClub. Additionally, children in Year 3 and Year 5 will be receiving skills type of homework to assist with preparations for NAPLAN. Please ensure your child completes this work as it will assist with their planning and understanding for these skills. Lastly, I encourage all the parents to ensure their children read every day. Spending at least 15-20 minutes each day on reading helps your child immensely especially in regards to the development of their literacy skills.

Pastoral Care Issues: On another note I wanted to bring to your attention the importance of working together as a team. As a parent you play a vital role in your child's learning. Building a positive relationship between home and school plays an important part in the education of your child. Effective communication is the key to the success of this relationship. We are committed to responding to your enquiries and concerns however, I do ask that any issues which arise need to be addressed with us in a timely manner.

Additionally, I wanted to bring to your attention that my current role is Head of Primary School. This means any queries in regards to pastoral issues now come through to me. We have a highly experienced and supportive team in the Primary School who works tirelessly to assist you and your children. Parents who have concerns need to talk to their child's teacher first, if you feel that you would like further follow-up then the Stage Coordinators are there to assist. The Stage Coordinators this year are:

- * Kindergarten, Ms Marie Claire Hawwa
- * Years 1 and 2, Mrs Jessica Labban (Zeitouni)
- * Years 3 and 4, Ms Sue Durham
- * Years 5 and 6, Mrs Rima Leas

Any parent who needs clarification on this please feel free to contact the school and make time to meet with me.

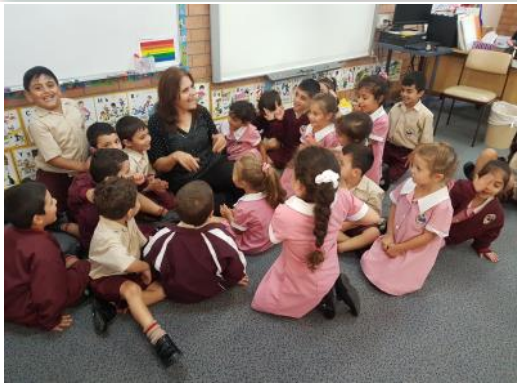
Resilience: In recent weeks we have been dealing with quite a few issues around children not coping with very minor matters whether it is around friendships or being hurt over the most trivial of issues. I feel that building the trait of resilience within your child is absolutely vital to the development of their strength of character. When we talk about resilience, we are describing a person's ability to deal with the challenges that life can throw at us. And it's never too young to start developing these coping skills with your children, even very young children can learn these skills to help them deal with difficult times as well as maintain a positive outlook on life. Resilience isn't about being 'tough' or being the 'strong silent type'. Instead, it focuses on emotional strength and awareness, and a positive sense of self. Feeling optimistic and hopeful are key to positive mental health and strong social, emotional wellbeing. Resilience is all about overcoming difficulties rather than avoiding problems. Additionally, developing problem-solving skills and good social skills helps your child to learn from experiences. It also helps your child to recognise and manage emotions and be empathetic towards others. These characteristics mean that children are better able to make sense of the world around them, connect with people, and even seek out support when they experience difficulties. Good problem solving skills and the ability to work towards realistic goals also give children a greater feeling of control over their lives and a sense of positive self-worth. These important life skills help children to deal with every day challenges but also act as a foundation for coping with life's bigger hurdles. When bigger stresses come along – such as dealing with loss, rejection or disappointment – children can draw on what they've learned to help themselves to cope and feel better. Even though at first they might feel quite distressed, their resilience skills can help them bounce back. They also feel more confident asking for help when they really need it. While it's natural for us to want to protect our children from negative experiences, it is also important not to shield them completely from life's challenges. Working through difficulties and problems – with adult support where it is required – gives kids a chance to learn about themselves, develop resilience, and grow as a person.

Restorative Justice: To ensure that the children take responsibility for their emotions and their conduct we have introduced restorative justice conversations. These conversations focus on the child taking responsibility for their actions but also working on successful solutions. We use specific questioning practices which focus on specific behaviours or incidents without partitioning blame. We also draw out who was affected and how, using direct questions to problem solve so that the children have the opportunity to make things right. The idea is that we are all using the same language and so the questions we use are the following:

- What happened? How did it happen? How did you act during this incident? Who do you think was affected?*
- How were they affected? How were you affected? What needs to happen to make things right?*
- If the same situation happens again how could you behave differently?*

We would appreciate your assistance at home with this topic. You too as parents can use this approach at home as it assists your child to identify and understand the difference between good and bad choices. We are more than happy to assist you with clarifying any of the above information.

Finally, I would like to extend my sincerest wishes and blessings for Easter. May the risen Lord watch over and protect your families always. God bless,



Congratulations to the Kindergarten students for settling into Term 1! It was lovely to meet all the parents at the interim meeting and to discuss the students' progress and expectations. Kindy kids have developed confidence in sharing their News and mastering phonics. They are growing in Number sense of Numbers to 10. The Kindergarten students have been learning about the weather in Science and about changes and their family rituals and special places in History. We pray that the students continue to revise in the holidays and have a blessed and holy Easter.



Stage 1 Coordinator - Mrs Jessica Zeitouni

As we approach the end of our first school term we can definitely say that for Stage 1 it has been a busy one filled with lots of learning and events. Below is an overview of what has been happening in Stage One:

BATHROOM ETTIQUETTE SESSION

Stage One students engaged in a bathroom etiquette session where they were reminded how they need to behave in the bathroom. Students in Year 1 and Year 2 need to be continually reminded that they are not allowed to eat, play or misbehave in the bathroom. To remind them of this they were introduced to MTS which stands for this: \Rightarrow



Please continue to remind your children of these bathroom rules.

ANTI-BULLYING DAY AND ANTI- BULLYING PLAYS

The Anti-Bullying play fitted right into our Anti-Bullying day. Both of these initiatives taught the students how to identify bullies and how to deal with those situations.

The Anti-Bullying play, called *Joe Solo*, explores what techniques bullies use to make others unhappy and what strategies can be used to stop bullying. The play is designed to help children understand and deal with bullying wherever it occurs and shows them how you stop bullies without becoming a bully themselves. This play was very entertaining and informative for all.



CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY

Clean Up Australia Day demonstrates that people across the country are willing to do something themselves to help protect and care for their environment. The students at St. Charbel's College are no different. Stage 1 students gave up a small part of their day to play their part in cleaning up the school and, in turn, cleaning up Australia.





Once again our children experienced the wonderful anti bullying role plays presented by the Starrs Productions Theatre in Schools. The play this year for all students in Years 1-6, was "Joe Solo" which was about a new boy at school who had trouble making friends and was bullied by a girl. The play showed the children how to behave and react if they see someone being badly treated by showing peer support, understanding and friendship. A great time was had by all as our photo shows and lots of lessons learnt in how to deal with the very anti-social behaviour of bullying. March 17th was a day marked around the country as "National Day Against Bullying and Violence" and St Charbel's really got behind this with our resilience theme of "Getting Along With Others". The plays and the National day fitted in with "Harmony Day" and we all worked on being "Bucket Fillers". If we all work together with the one main aim to live in harmony with each other, not being "Bucket Dippers", then the world will be a happier place.

The term is winding down and Easter is just around the corner. We will soon have a well deserved break which includes Easter this year and I take this opportunity to wish all our students, parents and staff a happy, safe Easter.

Looking forward to a hard working Term 2.



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

April

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

May

Tues 2	Year 12 Report Interviews
Tues 9 – 11	NAPLAN (Years 3, 5, 7 & 9)
Fri 12	Mother's Day Mass & Morning Tea
Mon 23 – 2	Life Education / Healthy Harold
Wed 17 – 19	Year 6 Camp
Wed 24	Year 10 ALLWELL Testing
Fri 26	Account 2 Fees Payment Due
Tues 30	ALLWELL Testing External Applicants

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

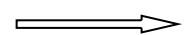
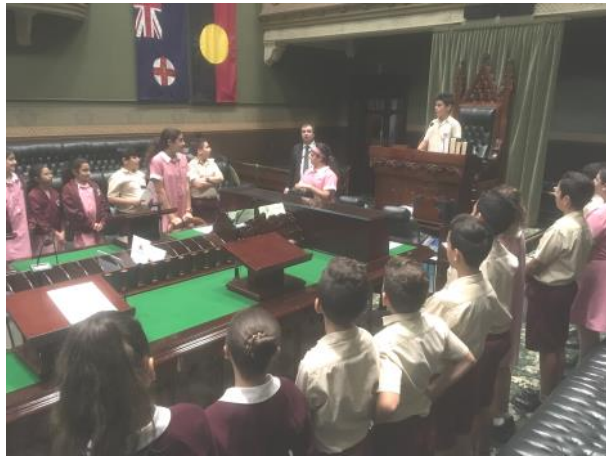
For all parents who are using the direct payment method into the school bank account to pay their school fees and charges, please ensure in completing your online payment, that the recipient field description is filled with your Family code/account No. in order to allocate these payments to the correct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

Arrangements may also be made via Centrelink

Stage 3 certainly started the school year with a bang. Our Year 5 students commenced their school leadership journey with revamped School Leadership Passports. They are now active participants and stakeholders in their leadership journeys. We look forward to watching them develop into our leaders of the future.

While we are on the topic of leadership, our Year 6 students have been getting first hand experience at how our State and National leaders manage our country. Year 6 studied Democracy and Government this term and had the privilege of visiting Government House and NSW Parliament. We followed the journey of a new law from its beginning as a bill in the Legislative Assembly where it is debated and then moves on to the Legislative Council where it is amended and finally passed as legislation. We follow this new legislation down Macquarie Street to Government House where it is enacted by the Governor of NSW and becomes an Act.

Last Friday, Year 6 took their learning to Canberra where we visited The War Memorial, Old Parliament House and our Federal Parliament. Our students have represented our school with such pride and integrity. We received many positive and affirming comments about the behaviour, conduct and contribution of our students. We are very proud of them.



BELOW I HAVE ATTACHED SOME WRITING FROM JOSHUA TAMER (6L)

24th March 2017.

State Parliament was fun, but strict. We enjoyed it and learned a lot from it, such as the system of Democracy and our Parliament. We also learnt about the two houses; the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council. It was surprising at first how much the State Parliament had to look after with the amount Federal Parliament had too. We had a small debate about a sixth day of school which everyone enjoyed.

Government House was the next and final destination for the day. We walked around the Governor, David Hurley's house. We had two guides, Pat and Michael. Government House was stricter than State Parliament, because we weren't allowed to touch anything, probably because it is such an old and beautifully preserved building. We had a great day.

31st March 2017.

It was time for Canberra, where we had an early morning and a late night. We left at 6:00am and returned at 9:30pm. It was a long but fun day. We visited the War Memorial first, where we learned about the Eternal Flame, then we visited Old Parliament House, which didn't look as new as New Parliament but looked like Buckingham Palace. We were asked to wear gloves to protect the building from our finger prints and oily hands. We relived a debate about whether we should keep the Speaker's Chair as it is or move it up to the New Parliament. This debate actually happened when they were preparing to move to the new Parliament House in 1988.

After an hour or so we drove to our current Parliament House which looked amazing! We had a guide who explained the Senate and the House of Representatives as we sat up in the gallery, trapped behind the glass. We moved to the Senate, where a debate was happening about taxes. A Senator was speaking passionately and others spoke over him. One particular Greens Senator was yelling out at him constantly and The President of the Senate had to yell, "Order!" several times. After the tiring day, we drove back to school, stopping at McDonald's first, and then continued our four hour drive back home. It was a fantastic experience!



Year 6 Art Exhibition

On Friday, 24th March, Year 6 presented an Art Exhibition to showcase their Dreamtime art works. To coincide with this term's history unit 'Australia as a Nation' students have been learning about Aboriginal symbolism, dot painting and the use of colour and lines to create a narrative. Students spent many weeks drafting their design before transferring their art work onto a canvas. There was a range of art works and the children's artwork received favourable reviews.





لماذا نلون بيض العيد؟؟

في أحد القيامة، نحن نحتفل بقيامة السيد المسيح من الموت في اليوم الثالث. لقد انتصر يسوع المسيح على الموت وخرج من القبر. كذلك فإن البيضة هي كالقبر وما فيها هو ميت بحد ذاته، لكن من هذه البيضة تخرج حياة. فالبيضة هي رمز لحياة جديدة، لهذا السبب نقوم بتلوين البيض كرمز لقيامه السيد المسيح من الموت.



المصدر: <http://www.massi7e.com/electronic-church/coloured-eggs-in-easter#ixzz4bUQ23XXr>

<http://www.massi7e.com/electronic-church/coloured-eggs-in-easter#ixzz4bUQ23XXr>

المسيح قام حقاً قام ونحن نشهد على ذلك

بمناسبة حلول عيد الفصح
المجيد، يسرنا أن نقدم أسمى
الأماني لجميع الطلاب
وأهاليهم وأن يعيده الله عليكم
بالصحة والسعادة والسلام.

القسم الابتدائي للغة العربية

من النشاطات

نحن تلاميذ صف الروضة عيدنا
عيد الشّعيني وغنينا



"اليوم عيد اليوم فرحة عيد الشّعيني"



ونحن
تلاميذ
الصف
الثالث
تعلمنا عن
العشاء
السري.
وقدمنا
مسرحية
قصيرة.



St Joseph's feast day

Around the world there are many different styles of celebrating the feast days of Saints.

One of the traditions for celebrating St Joseph's feast day is held in Italy. Many parishes set up a St Joseph's table and laden it with food for the needy. They have special foods that they prepare-often with breadcrumbs as a symbol of the sawdust that is part of the life of a carpenter.

At St Charbel's, the Primary School children used this model and celebrated St Joseph's generous care for God's people by providing food for the poor in a little activity we called *St Joseph's Bread Bag*. Thanks to our wonderful Office staff [Mrs Aoun and Miss El Bayeh] we were able to have little bread stickers which the students bought and pasted onto the Bread Bags. Their dear hearts were so generous as they were asked to pay any amount they wanted for a sticker. Some gave as much as \$20 just for one.

This money goes into Project Compassion for our Lenten efforts.

Mini Liturgies are in progress with the students playing the roles of Passion Week in an attitude of prayerfulness.



Creative Arts/TAS Faculty - Mrs Maryrose Maatouk



An Artwork produced by a group of students from Year 10 Visual Art was entered into the Clancy Prize for Religious Art. The students produced a group etching and two individual etchings. The theme for the Clancy prize this year was "Mercy". Ms Hugget, Miss Costandy, Miss Williams and I went along to the opening of the exhibition.

Dr Dan White, Director of Sydney Catholic schools, was a guest speaker at the Opening and Awards evening. His words were so motivating to listen to and opened our eyes as teachers, especially in the Creative Arts area. It was a lovely evening and we were delighted by the outstanding Art works from students in Catholic schools in Sydney.



Library News - Ms Christine Golz

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Please encourage your children to return the library books for the end of the term and continue to ensure your child brings their student card everyday to school to enable them to borrow books from the library.

A reminder that Holiday Activities are available at your local library.

Bankstown City Library and Information Service will once again present fun-filled activities for school-aged children during the School Holidays.

Locations: Bankstown Council's five libraries - Bankstown, Greenacre, Padstow, Panania and Chester Hill

Wishing you a Happy and Safe Holiday!



Year 7 Ancient History Excursion to the Nicholson Museum at the University of Sydney

"Today my friends and I were allowed to touch real life artefacts, we learnt about mummies and ancient civilisations: such as Greece, Rome and Egypt."

Charlize

"When we arrived at the museum our first activity was being like archaeologists, we got to feel real artefacts and discover more about the objects. I really enjoyed the excursion!"

Daniella

"I enjoyed looking at the Lego model of Pompeii because it went into detail and looked very cool. I also learnt how Pompeii was destroyed"

Antonio

"I learnt how mummification works and more about ancient history, but one of the best things today was seeing the artefacts from the past and doing the hands-on activity."

Gabriella

"Today we learnt a lot of things but the thing that caught my attention was the 6 year old boy named Horus. He died and was mummified at the age of 6."

Caitlin

"The history excursion was very interesting. I enjoyed the stories of the Greek gods."

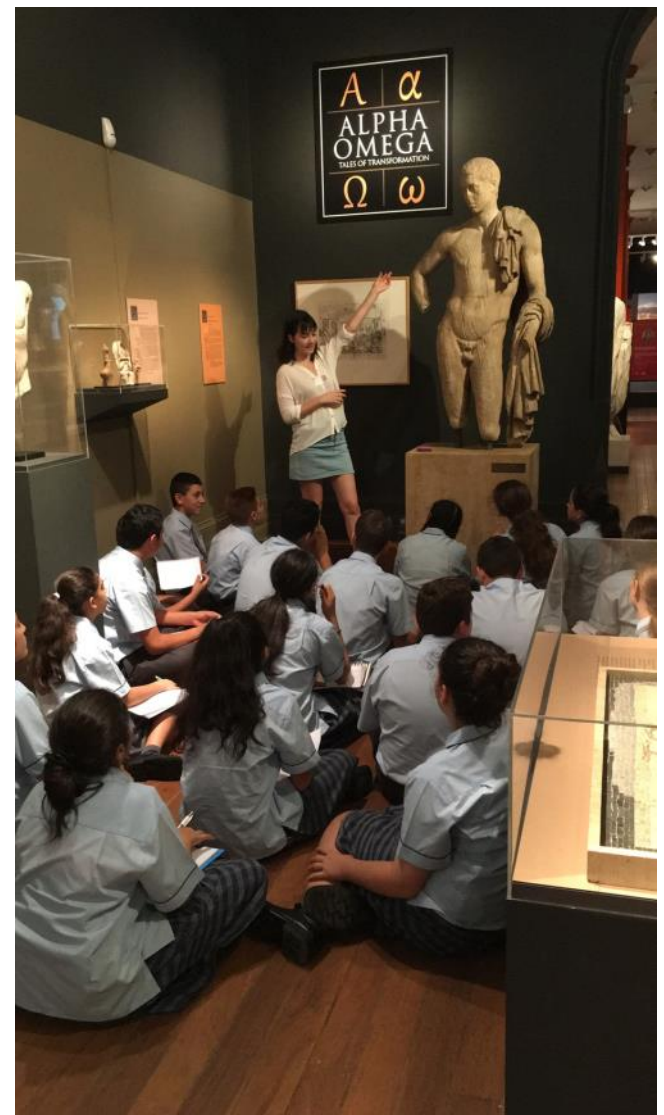
Ella

"The most interesting thing I learned today was visiting Ancient Egypt. I loved the story about Isis and how she helped her husband. I really enjoyed looking at the mummies and learning about Egypt."

Jessica

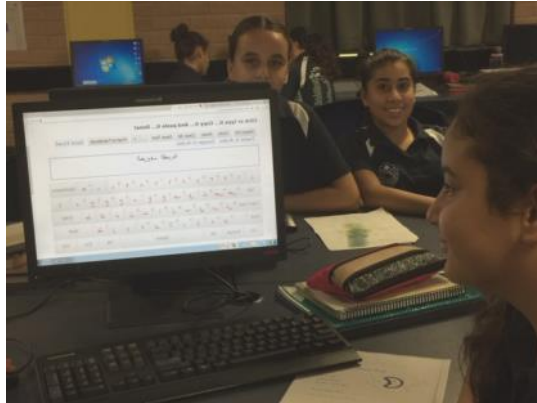
"Our favourite part of the day was when we were organising artefacts. We felt like archaeologists, which taught us what kind of questions they ask and how they analyse artefacts."

Unknown





أنتهت الإمتحانات لمهارات الإستماع وكانت نتائج الطلاب جيّدة، ثمّ واصلوا ما تبقيّ لهم في هذا الفصل من دروس وتطبيقات لتغطية البرامج المقرّرة من قبل دائرة التربية في نيو ساوث ويلز. ومنها مواضيع العائلة والفصول ووسائل المواصلات وغيرها. والصّور المرفقة تبيّن بعض التلامذة وهم يتمرّنون على الطباعة باللغة العربيّة والبعض الآخر في صفوف السّابع، يُحاولون أن يجدوا كلمات تبدأ بحرف قَمَري أو بحرف شمسي. وبناءً على النتائج والسُّلوك في الصّف حصلت كلّ من الطالبتين تريز فخر وماري روز عبود في الصّف السّابع 7M على هديّة رمزيّة من المعلّمة .



High School Pizza Day!

This year, Year 9 has been heading the *Caritas* Project Compassion campaign for K-12 in the College. A group of almost 30 very generous and very enthusiastic students has been organising various activities and initiatives in both the Primary and Secondary schools to raise funds for this worthy cause over the Lenten season, one of which being the High School Pizza Day.

On Wednesday, 22 March, 2017, these students helped to set up and facilitate Pizza Day.

The students, with the help of some of the Year 9 HR teachers, set up their selling and serving stations at the end of period 4, in anticipation for the hungry high schoolers who would approach at lunch time!

As soon as the bell went at 1:25pm, the Year 9s were swamped with students from Years 7-12 who had come to purchase pizza and drinks! By 1:31pm, I had to yell out to students to stop accepting money as all 165 pizzas had sold out!

The successful initiative raised a record amount of \$1200 for Project Compassion, bringing the College's total amount raised to over \$3100, so far this year!

A huge thank you to all students and teachers who got involved in Pizza Day to make it the success that it was.

Yours in Christ,



Year 11 Report - Mrs Zeina Hitti

Year 11's camp was held between the 8th and 10th of March in Stanwell Tops. The theme of the camp, coordinated by Mrs Hitti and the homeroom teachers of Year 11, was '*Lean on Me*'. Over the course of the camp, we participated in many activities. The first of which was a hike down the mountain to the beach and various activities waited for us on the shore. A mass was held for reflection during the afternoon and movie night was shortly



after dinner. The next day, we came together for a set of spiritual activities also planned by our coordinator and teachers; giving us further time to reflect and reconnect with God, while also practising the concept of leaning on each other. We were then dispersed to various activities run by the venue, including Archery, Carting, the Giant Swing and Survivor. A Talent Quest was held after the completion of these activities, followed by either free time and card games or watching the footy. The next day, most of us were reluctant to pack and leave but memories will always remain in our hearts.

Our camp and spiritual retreat was a fantastic break from studies and stress. While we may have given the teachers a hard time, it was all done for fun and games. Our retreat was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. I would like to thank Mrs Hitti and the Year 11 team one last time for planning and setting in motion this wonderful experience and for taking time away from their families to come along with us. The memories shared and lessons learnt will never be forgotten by the 2017 Year 11 cohort.

Written by Vanessa Tamer (Year 11 Student)