

ST CHARBEL'S COLLEGE NEWSLETTER



Issue 2

Term 1, March 2019

Principal's Message - Rev Fr Maroun Youssef

On Monday, St Charbel's College attended a liturgy to commence the season of Lent, to recall our beginnings and reflect on what we anticipate to achieve during Lent.

Ash Monday is the commencement of Lent. It is a time when we focus on our relationship with God and slow down to reflect on our lives and our personal values. Today we need to emphasise less on fasting and more on penance involving good deeds and prayer. We all need to encourage our children and ourselves to assist others, say a kind word or do a good deed during Lent like the Good Samaritan. Lent is an opportunity for everyone as parents, students and teachers to examine ourselves if we are faithful to the vocation that we are called for and to put every power that we have to reach our goals whether it is educational, pastoral or spiritual.

I want to particularly thank the parents that attended the parent information evenings organised. The attendance of a parent demonstrates qualities of a true role model which is very important to your child. I sincerely ask you to extend this quality in areas such as praying with your child daily, attending mass regularly

on Sunday and special feast days, and demonstrating the values of being a true Christian in our every day daily lives, particularly during this Lenten season.



O gracious Master, infuse in our hearts the spotless light of Your Divine Wisdom and open the eyes of our mind that we may understand the teachings of Your Gospel. Instil in us also the fear of Your blessed commandments, so that having curbed all carnal desires, we may lead a spiritual life, both thinking and doing everything to please You. For You, O Christ, our God, are the enlightenment of our souls and bodies; and to You we render glory, together with Your eternal Father, and with Your all holy, life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and forever.



Welcome to the Season of the Great Lent.

Great Lent is an opportunity for all of us to grow in holiness and become perfect like God. In order to do this, we need to put ourselves in spiritual training. This week students were reminded of various sacrifices Maronites make during the Great Lent to grow spiritually. They included Fasting (sacrificing), Almsgiving and Prayer. They were reminded that Jesus 'not only wants the mouth to fast,' but he wants us to show our fast through our actions and to help others. Jesus says, 'who wants and cannot fast, let him display richer almsgiving by feeding the poor.'

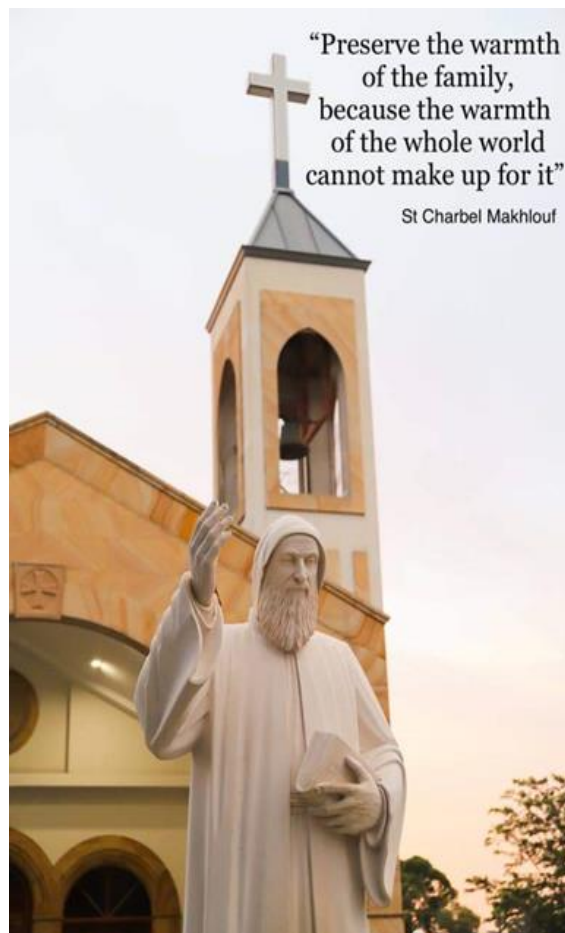
The Great Lent is also an opportunity for parents to begin their spiritual training with their children and be great role models, as parents play an important role in children's learning, faith-development and well-being. Pope Benedict XVI emphasized the important role of parents as being authentic examples and teachers to children. "Families should be "authentic communities of love and life in which the flame of faith may be

handed down from generation to generation."

Earlier this month, the Family Prayer Packs were sent home. The prayer packs are a great resource and I encourage you to spend some time with your children meditating on the various prayers during this Holy season.

Let's ask for God's help during the Great Lent by praying the following prayer as a family:

**O most Holy Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Help us make good use of every day you give us.
Help us turn away from bad habits and change for the better.
Help us grow in love, kindness and spiritual strength.
Help us become more like you so that one day we many share in the joy of your kingdom.
Amen**



Mission and Religious Education

Last Friday, our Year 7 cohort received fruitful Catechesis on the Creed and our beliefs as Maronite Catholics in the picturesque mountainside in Appin. Students were grouped into their House Colours to better appreciate their respective house Patrons and to connect with their team mates and teachers. Our Maronite Monks offered mass to our students along with the sacrament of confession. Students also participated in sporting activities and group discussions on their faith journey in preparation for this Holy season of Lent.



Students in the Primary School have settled in well and are working hard under the guidance of their teachers. They received their ashes in a special liturgy that was held on Ash Monday to commemorate the beginning of Lent.

A letter went home last week reminding parents to be vigilant and monitor their children when online, particularly in light of the latest scare regarding the Momo Challenge, in which a character is popping up on social media and scaring children. The school encourages you to speak to your children about Internet safety and suggest they entertain themselves in other ways such as reading or playing a game.

The school has a 'No Hat, No Play' policy, which means that your child will need to sit in the shade if they don't bring a hat to school. This may mean that they can't play with their friends, so please ensure that they remember to bring their hat. This policy is for your child's sun protection.

It's important that students arrive at school before the 8.25am bell. Many students are joining their class lines after the bell, which means they miss the opportunity to settle into the school day and talk with their friends before school, and they may miss vital instructions given by their teacher, so please ensure they are at school between 8.00am and 8.25am.



A reminder that there is a 'Get Reading Right (Synthetic Phonics)' K-2 Parent Information evening on Monday 8 April at 6.00pm in the MMC. A guest speaker, Justin Caban, will explain how spelling and phonics are taught in Years K-2. Thank you to the many parents who have sent an RSVP for the evening. It's wonderful to see so much interest in the event. Parents may still return an RSVP slip to their child's class teacher if they would like to attend.

Lego Wall: playground space is limited at the school so we are looking at creative ways that students can play at recess and lunch. One idea we would like to try is to install a Lego Wall on one of the buildings in the playground. Students would build out rather than upwards in the traditional sense. If any parents have unused buckets of Lego at home that they could donate to the school it would be appreciated. Please send them along to your child's class teacher. Once the Lego Wall is in place we will work out a system for children to use it to avoid overcrowding, and have a few Lego Walls installed if successful.



Congratulations to two of our chess students, who received trophies for earning 20 chess awards.

The students were George Khachan in Year 6 and Sarah Sandrussi in Year 4.



The Year 2 students are currently learning about the features of living things, their environment and how they change and reproduce. They are investigating the life cycle of Silkworms and how they produce materials to benefit our society. There are 11 stages in the cycle of Silkworms and the photos below show stage 2 as the tiny Silkworms are hatching.



The College is proud to announce that it has started an after school soccer club that will be run by the coaches from the Kikoff program. The sessions will run on Tuesday afternoons from 3:15pm until 4:15pm in the Multi-Purpose Hall for all students of K-6. This program begins on Tuesday the 12th of March.

[Please click here for registrations](#)

An advertisement for Saint Charbel's After School Soccer Club. The background shows a soccer player in an orange jersey running on a field. The club's crest is in the top left corner. Text on the right reads "SAINT CHARBEL'S AFTER SCHOOL SOCCER CLUB". Below this, it says "Introductory Offer: 5 session for just \$50" and "Sessions start: Tuesday 12th March". A list of features includes "Tuesday's from 3.15pm-4.15pm", "Great for Boy and Girls", "Kindy to Year Six Welcome", "School Sports Hall", and "Professional coaches". Contact information includes "To Register: Call 0431 282 156" and "Email coaching@footballpathway.com.au or see Miss Zalloua". The FPA logo is in the bottom right corner.

Year 9 is off to a good start in 2019, with students showing pride at graduating to the next step in their education where they are allowed to pursue elective courses. With the support of Mrs Joanne Mansour and Rev Fr Maroun Youssef, Year 9 have this year begun an Altar Server/Readings program to involve the students more personally with Mass. Each time Year 9 have Mass, a rostered group of boys participate as altar servers, and a rostered group of girls deliver the readings in English and Arabic. After our inaugural session in mid-February, the response was overwhelmingly positive, and we hope this zeal continues all year as we make our way through the whole year group. And finally, what would Lent be without Caritas' Project Compassion to ground us in humility and hope? It is a College tradition for Year 9 to lead this cause, and an early team led by our

newly minted SRC members have already passionately begun publicising, strategizing and organising so we can contribute the maximum to those most in need. Parents/Carers have received letters about Project Compassion already, and the usual boxes will be sent home with the eldest child this week. Please dig deep and help spread hope in our world. Mrs. Panteli returns in Term 2 as Year 9 Pastoral Care Coordinator. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time serving our students and families, and am grateful for the opportunity. May God bless you and your families in this Lenten season and throughout the year.

Mrs Jennifer Fletcher, Acting Year 9 Pastoral Care Coordinator

Congratulations to the 2018 SCC Senior Girls Volleyball team who won their Grand Final last year and finished off the season undefeated. Well done!



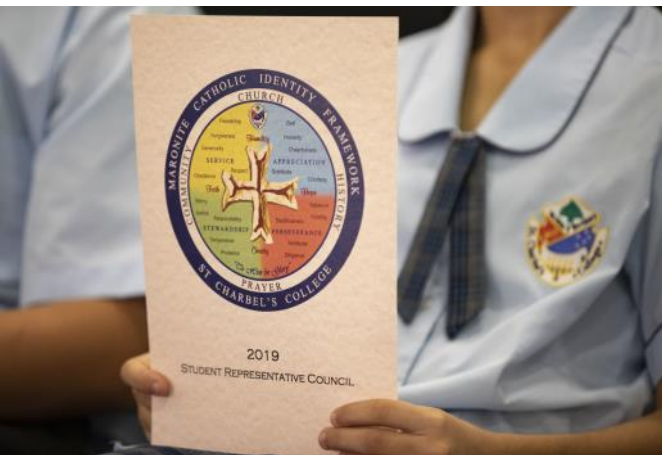
The Year 11 Exploring Early Childhood students spent an afternoon with an experienced mid-wife from Westmead Hospital. They had the opportunity to ask questions about conception, pregnancy and birth to assist them with their studies.

These photos show The Fluid Mosaic Models that the Year 11 Biology class put together using various everyday and confectionery items. Well done!



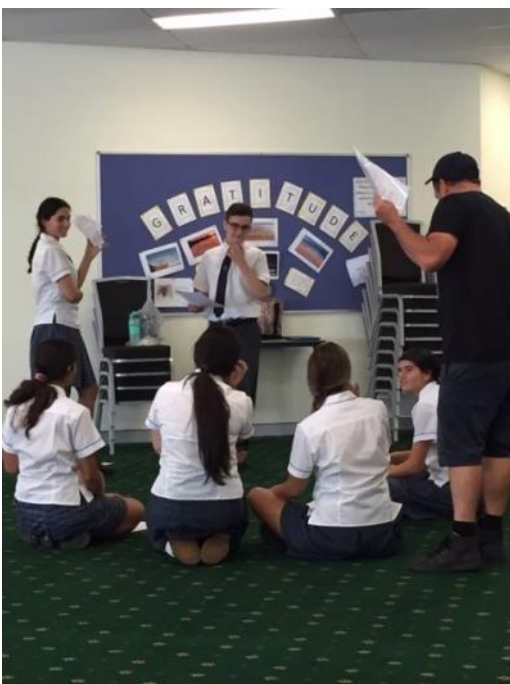
SECONDARY

We were pleased to welcome and congratulate the Secondary SRC students of 2019 with a ceremony held last Thursday 28 February. We have a very keen team of student leaders who have some wonderful ideas and initiatives in store for 2019.



SECONDARY

Earlier this week, the Year 12 Advanced English students participated in a Bell Shakespeare Richard III incursion to deepen their understanding of this HSC text.



The 2019 School Leaders Awards were held at Wiley Park Girls High School on 4th March 2019. They were presented by Sophie Cotsis, Member for Canterbury and Jihad Dib, Member for Lakemba. Our year 12 leaders received this award in recognition of their successful nomination by their Community.



Environmental success!

Our students are continuously volunteering to the betterment of our environment.



ألفصل الأول من السنة الدراسية

بدأ تلاميذ اللغة العربية في الفصل الأول من العام الدراسي بنشاطاتهم المتعددة في جميع الصفوف. وخاصة في صفوف السابع والثامن لأنهم في هذه السنة يتبعون كتاباً مطبوعاً مع دفتر أنشطة، وذلك يعطيهم أكثر دفعا في تعلم اللغة. لقد بدأوا في هذا الفصل بالتمرين على مهارات الإستماع فكانت المواضيع عن لقاء الرفاق، والمدرسة، ولوازمها، والصفوف. ثم خضعوا بعد ذلك لإمتحان في مهارة الإستماع. وستصل النتائج إلى الأهالي قريبا مع أولادكم. نرجو أن تطلعوا عليها وأن تعيدها إلى المدرسة مرفقة بتوقيعكم. كما أننا نتمنى عليكم أن تشجعوا أولادكم في المنزل بالتكلم معهم باللغة العربية وتساعدوهم إذا كان بمقدوركم، ولكم منا كل الشكر.

SPORTS

In PE this year so far we have been covering Athletics in preparation for our Athletics Carnival later this term. We have been covering events such as shotput, discus, javelin, sprints and hurdles. It has been a great opportunity for the students to develop specific skills to this sport and appreciate the work that Olympic Athletes go through to achieve what they do.

Kindy have been working on their gross motor skills – running, balance, jumping and skipping. We have also been trying to incorporate fine motor skill practice in our PE lessons. The pictures below show a lesson with the Kindy students running up to the string and placing a peg on it, combining both gross and fine motor skills in the one activity.

Sports tokens have been introduced to the primary students. At the end of every lesson, 5 students are given a token for either hard work, a positive attitude, encouraging others, following instructions, playing

fair, being a good sport, and displaying the Maronite values/virtues. The tokens are stickers which the students place next to their names in the sports room. The students with the most tokens at the end of the term are able to receive a lucky dip prize! This has been introduced to try and encourage a positive attitude toward sport and each other while playing a competitive game. In the competitive nature of some games, students forget values such as respect, honesty, and humility, to try and get ahead of others, and they need to understand that a good sport is able to be competitive whilst still upholding those values.

A note will be going home about the Athletics Carnival soon, so keep an eye out!



UAC KEY DATES

APPLICATION DATES

Wednesday 3 April

Applications Open

Monday 30 September

Early Bird Applications close

Friday 7 February

Applications close for Semester 1, 2020

CONNECT WITH US



uac.edu.au



ce@uac.edu.au

2019 YEAR 12 RESULTS AND ATAR DATES

Tuesday 17 December

NSW HSC results released by NESA

TBC

ATAR released by UAC

2019-2020 OFFER ROUNDS

Change of Preference

November Round 1

Sunday 10 November

Thursday 14 November

Change of Preference

November Round 2

Sunday 24 November

Thursday 28 November

Change of Preference

December Round 1

Sunday 8 December

Thursday 12 December

Change of Preference

December Round 2

Thursday 19 December

Monday 23 December

Change of Preference

January Round 1

Sunday 5 January

Friday 10 January

Change of Preference

January Round 2

Monday 20 January

Thursday 23 January

SECONDARY NEWS

The NSW government remains committed to requiring a minimum standard to receive the HSC due to the importance of literacy and numeracy skills for success in everyday life.

From 2018, Year 9 NAPLAN tests are no longer the early way for students to demonstrate the HSC Minimum Standard. This change has been made to ensure NAPLAN remains focussed on its diagnostic purpose and to reduce unnecessary stress on young people.

If Year 11 students did not get Band 8s or above in their Year 9 NAPLAN tests, they will need to take the corresponding online tests which will be offered throughout Years 10, 11 and 12. Students will decide with their teacher when they are ready to attempt each test.

From 2019, all students will show they have met the HSC minimum standard by passing online tests of basic reading, writing and numeracy skills, which are available for them to sit the when they are ready from Year 10 until a few years after Year 12.

For more information, including sample online test questions, visit www.educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/HSCminimumstandard

HSC MINIMUM STANDARD

You need **reading, writing and maths skills for everyday life** after school. This why you are required to demonstrate a **minimum standard of literacy and numeracy** to receive the Higher School Certificate (HSC) from 2020.



To make sure you have the basics right, and show you meet the minimum standard, you need to pass short online tests of everyday reading, writing and maths skills.

- ✔ The tests will be available to take at school up to twice a year in Year 10, Year 11 or Year 12, and even after the HSC.
- ✔ Sample questions and answers are available online, as well as practice tests and advice from students who have completed the tests.
- ✔ Your school will help you decide when you are ready to take each test.
- ✔ You do not need to sit the reading, writing or numeracy online test(s) if you achieved Band 8 or above in the respective 2017 Year 9 NAPLAN test(s).

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Some students with disabilities will be eligible for extra provisions for the online tests, or an exemption. Talk to your teachers to determine whether you are eligible for provisions. A Disability Provisions, Exemptions and Appeals policy is available on the NESA website.

MORE INFORMATION

Contact your school principal or visit educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/HSCminimumstandard

STAY UP TO DATE

NSW Education Standards Authority



educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/HSCminimumstandard



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Cool music knowledge!*



- ♪ Convenient at-school venue ♪
- ♪ Small group - 45 min weekly lesson ♪
- ♪ Competitive rate - \$29 per session (GST Incl.) ♪
- ♪ Instrument not required initially ♪

**To enrol, please call 9411 3122 or visit
www.learnmusicatschool.com.au
Limited vacancy!**

Violin Incl. Piano (VIP) Music est. 1984 www.learnmusicatschool.com.au

Punctuality ensures that your child is able to start the day calmly as well as not miss out on vital parts of the school day. Persistent lateness affects attendance, as any child arriving to class after 8:30am will be marked as partially absent.

We understand that there may be rare occasions when you are unavoidably late due to unforeseen circumstances; however, children who consistently arrive late are greatly disadvantaged because they miss starting the day with their peers and the beginning of lessons. It is also very important that children establish good routines and habits in preparation for the rest of their lives. Punctuality is a life skill that they need to develop whilst they are young.

It is essential that you ensure that your child arrives at school on time to prevent disruption to your child's own learning and that of others.

REMINDERS

- Students must arrive to school no later than 8:25am
- Students are not to leave school before 3:10pm and 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.

2020 Kindergarten and Year 7 Enrolments

Enrolments for Kindergarten 2020 and Year 7 are now open until Friday 5 April 2019.

Please call St Charbel's College for more details.

يعلن معهد مار شربل عن بدء قبول طلبات التسجيل لصف الحضنة Kindy والصف السابع للعام 2020، من الآن وحتى 12 نيسان 2019. للمزيد من المعلومات الرجاء الاتصال بمعهد مار شربل.

UPCOMING 2019 EVENTS

March:

Mon 11	Photo Catch Up Day
Fri 15	P & F Spirituality Day
Mon 18	Year 7 Immunisation
Tues 19	St Joseph's Feast Day
Fri 22	Year 9 Spirituality Day
Sat 23	St Rafqa's Feast Day
Thurs 28-Apr 9	Healthy Harold (K-6)

April:

Tues 2	College Open Tour Day (bookings only)
Fri 5	2020 Applications Close
Wed 10	Primary Athletics Carnival Secondary Interim Report Interview
Thurs 11	Primary Interim Report Interview <u>Last Day of Term 1</u>
Mon 15-Fri 26	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS
Sun 14	Palm Sunday
Thurs 18	Holy Thursday
Fri 19	Good Friday
Sun 21	Easter Sunday
Mon 22	Easter Monday
Thurs 25	ANZAC Day
Mon 29	<u>Students Commence Term 2</u>