MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL – Sr Margaret Ghosn

Welcome to 2016! I hope you have had a wonderful time as family over the holiday break. As we enter into the new academic year we place our prayers before the Holy Family and ask for peace and joy to bless us in the year ahead. We welcome all new families this year and we have a number of new staff on board for 2016. There are many things happening this year . . .

- **Our 2016 theme is ‘Let’s Read.’** MCHF would like to see more students engaged in reading, be it through books, ebooks, Journals, magazines, Premeir’s Reading Challenge, or through Reading Eggs. Love of reading develops writing skills, verbal expression and an increase in knowledge.

- **The canteen is under new management** this year and time has been spent refurbishing the canteen. Attached to this newsletter is the delicious menu. Both Primary and Secondary will be purchasing from the canteen in A block. Secondary are invited to submit lunch orders to ensure they receive their food hot and at the start of lunch. It saves time rather than queuing.

- **This year we start plans for building a new Secondary block** that will have the latest technology and adaptable learning space environment. This process involves architectural designs, submitting a DA as well as seeking a Government Capital Grant. Hopefully we will start building towards the second half of the year. The project is estimated to be around $9 million and we ask your support through the buy-a-brick campaign or any other way you can assist.

- **Buy-A-Brick campaign.** See attached flyer. If you want your name engraved in the new building you need to purchase a brick before September this year. **Thank you to the following who have purchased bricks recently:** Mrs Dana Brothers (1 brick).

So as we commence another year I look forward to working collaboratively with you all to ensure MCHF forms students of exceptional talent and deep faith.

DOING THE ROUNDS

New building plans which will connect Block B with the purchased block of units in Weston Street. This will allow MCHF to have all its buildings on one side of the road and so ensure a safer environment.
Renovations, Maintenance and other happenings over the holidays included:

- Gardening
- Painting of toilets and classroom walls and doors
- Pressurised cleaning of infants playground
- New Primary staffroom kitchen
- Renovation of Primary staffroom toilets
- Renovation of B block staffroom toilets
- Cleaning of all windows
- Steam cleaning of all classroom carpets
- Pest control spray of the entire College
- Deep cleaning of all air conditioning units
- Upgrading WiFi
- Replacing 130 leased computers
- Installing security cameras
- Installing electronic gates


- 5/2 Honour Day and St Maroun Mass
- 8/2 Ash Monday Mass
- 9/2 Evacuation drill
- 16/2 Parent Information Evening for Primary 6-7pm
- 17/2 Secondary assembly for class leaders
- 19/2 Secondary swimming carnival
- 23/2 Photo day
- 26/2 Primary Lent Mass
- 2/3 Primary Science Fun day
- 3/3 Primary Science Fun day
- 14/3 Bullying Awareness week
- 18/3 St Joseph Mass
- 18/3 Yrs 7 & 8 Brainstorm production
- 24/3 Stations of the Cross
- 27/3 Easter Sunday
- 28/3 Easter Monday holiday
- 1/4 Secondary Academic assembly
- 8/4 Easter Mass and end of term 1

Secondary food tech room had a complete make-over!
Upper Primary toilets were renovated over the holidays.

Kindy 2016 commenced their first day of school on Friday 29th January with plenty of tears and hugs (from the parents).
CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to George Sassine (Yr 12) for receiving the Western Sydney University Academy Access Award

PARENT CORNER

The PA shop will open every day till Monday 8 February from 8:15-9:00. Then every Monday only after that from 8:15-9:00am.

Music Lessons – if you would like your child to take guitar, piano or keyboard private music lessons, Mr Wood will be running classes as of week 3, for half an hour each lesson. Cost is $20. Please notify the main administration if you want your child to receive private music lessons during school time.

Our students participate in Mirath in Mind every year. If you would like to know more about this event see the following Youtube clip which includes our students performing. https://youtu.be/ODGduTdaSQI

Transport for NSW has provided the attached Frequently Asked Questions regarding school Opal cards. All queries can be directed to Transport for NSW on 131 500 or concessions@transport.nsw.gov.au


The Parramatta City Titans will be holding a FREE rugby league skills clinic every Thursday in February. These clinics are open for both girls and boys. Time: 5-11 year olds (5pm-6pm); 12-17 year olds (6pm-7pm). Cost: FREE. Where: Ollie Webb Reserve, Corner Pitt & Glebe Street, Parramatta. Call 0424 754 886 or register on the day. Email: info@parracitytitans.com.au

Early Years classes - Numeracy & Literacy for children aged 4-5 years
Michelle Tamaro (B/Ed Primary; M/Ed Literacy)
0402 335 527