

# Maronite College of the Holy Family, Parramatta



## New Building Donation Information Booklet

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*Donating towards purchasing innovative and  
collaborative furniture for student learning.*



# PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Potential Donor,

On behalf of the College Executive Team, Advisory Board and the College community, I would like to thank you in advance for your time to consider being a donor towards purchasing innovative and collaborative furniture for our new building to improve the student learning environment at the College.



As part of the College's Strategic Plan, the centre is aimed at improving not only the learning environment, but also the teaching environment for staff. The learning centre will include state of the art open space learning rooms equipped with the latest technology and facilities. The College anticipates the building project to cost \$10 million and you can help us reach our goal.

The College has partnered with Australian Schools Plus to make donations to our school tax deductible. Schools Plus hold a special deductible gift recipient (DGR) status so potential suitors can make tax deductible donations to support our project. Further information on how to donate is available on page xx in this information booklet.

Should you require further information regarding the project or donating, please do not hesitate to contact us.

We look forward to see this exciting new project become a reality as we strive to improve education at MCHF!

Dr Margaret Ghosn  
DMin, MTH, MEd, BTh, BSci(Hons)

## ABOUT MCHF

Maronite College of the Holy Family – Parramatta is a K-12 Coeducational College under the administration of the Maronite Sisters of the Holy Family. MCHF offers diverse and challenging academic and sporting initiatives, social development and spiritual formation, in a community centred environment and has strong HSC results. You can find out more about the school's history in Appendix 1.

## COLLEGE ETHOS

Maronite College of the Holy Family - Parramatta is unique in that it was established in 1972 for students of Australian-Lebanese background and Maronite Catholic faith. The College, through the ministry of the Maronite Sisters of the Holy Family (MSHF) and its staff, strive to instil in the students the teachings of Jesus.

Emphasis is firstly given to providing a strong Maronite Catholic Foundation, expressed through regular worship and prayer, celebrating liturgy and Sacraments, commitment to the Scriptural Word and emphasis on the working of the Holy Spirit.

Secondly emphasis is given to love and service. All students are encouraged to see the best in themselves and in one another and to achieve their full potential. The College Ethos can best be achieved in the words of Saint Paul, 'Whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things' (Phil 4:8).

The College is a community which promotes a sense of family. It emphasises values of treating all with dignity, service, forgiveness and justice.



# MISSION STATEMENT

Maronite College of the Holy Family, in serving the educational needs of the Australian-Lebanese Maronites and the broader community of Western Sydney, seeks:

- To build a College community in which the Gospel values of faith, justice and love are reflected in all aspects of daily life.
- To identify the unique needs of each student, so as to allow each child to develop to their fullest potential – spiritually, academically, physically and socially.
- To encourage each student to take pride in their identity as Australians of Lebanese background, living in a multicultural society.
- To recognise and affirm the pre-eminent role of parents in the education of their children and encourage their active involvement in the College community.
- To live out the College motto of 'To know, love and serve.'

## THE FUTURE FOR MCHF

In order to continue to achieve excellence in all facets of College life, we need to adapt to the ever changing educational context. The rapid changes in the 21st century in areas of technology, curriculum, accountability and community expectations demand we as a College continue to strive for improvement.

The College's Strategic Plan includes:

1. College life and culture
2. Student learning
3. Development of staff
4. Engagement of families and the wider community
5. Business services
6. Future direction of the College



# NEW LEARNING CENTRE PLAN

The new building has been designed to enable the College to incorporate the latest pedagogical practices within the classroom to allow students to develop their knowledge and skills. These teaching practices will occur with the latest state of the art facilities such as ergonomically friendly and collaborative furniture, latest technological equipment such as projectors, screens and hubs.

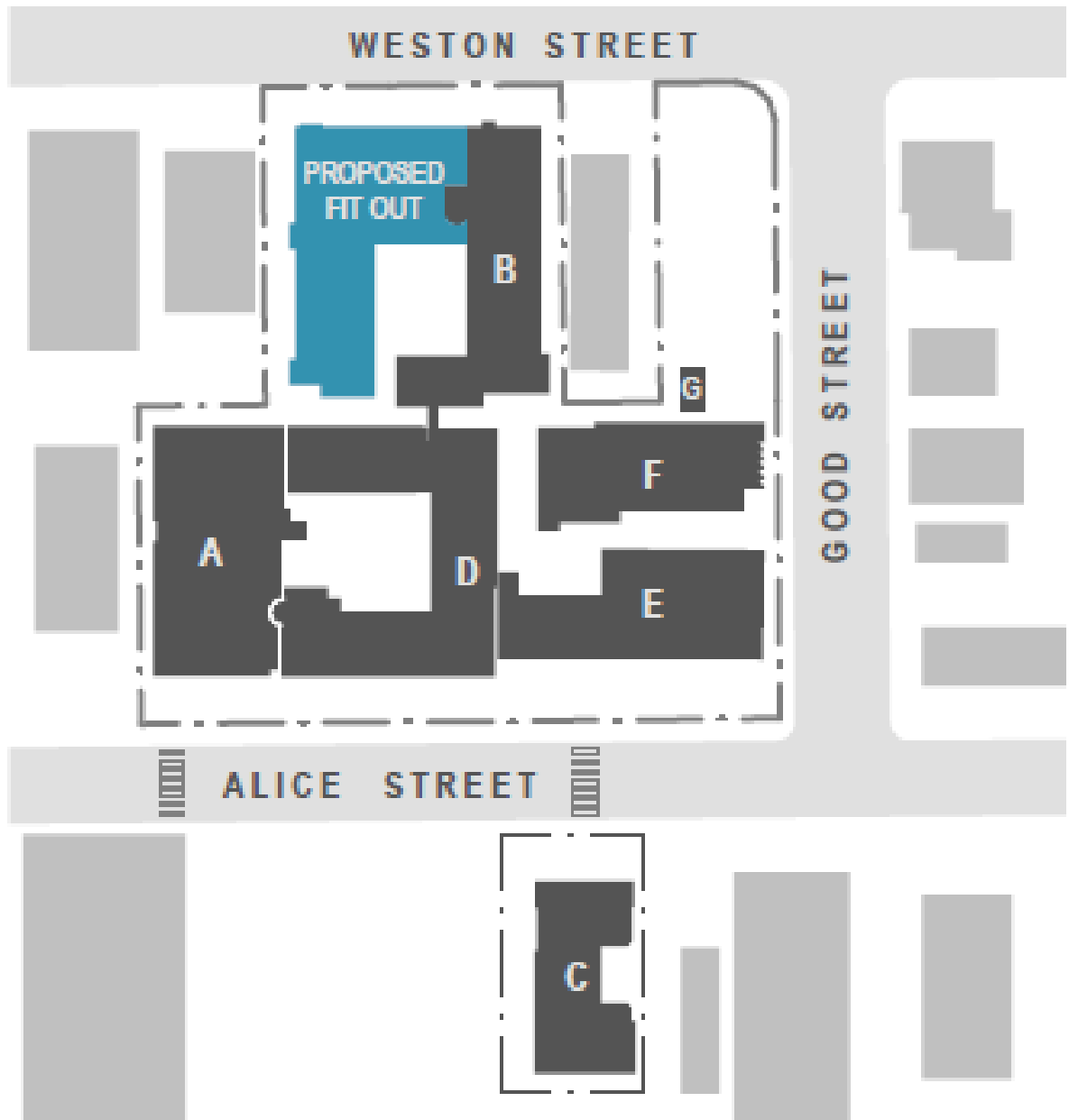
The building will ensure the College security is improved, ensuring that students are no longer required to cross Alice Street to the current C Block.

The new building is part of the future direction of the College and a method to improve student learning as stated in the strategic plan (Priority 2 and 6).



## Current Site Plan of MCHF

The new building plan is for **Building C** to be moved across Alice St and adjoin **Building B**. This will improve the security at the College enclosing all buildings in the one vicinity.



## New Site Plan of MCHF



## Proposed New Learning Centre

With your support we are hoping to include:

- State of the art learning and teaching facilities: Projectors, TV screens, computer hubs, collaborative furniture, writeable walls, moveable walls.
- New staff study and common room to ensure staff are based in the one location as currently staff are based in various buildings. This will enable effective collaboration amongst members of staff.
- New Secondary Administration Office
- Wheelchair access
- Seminar rooms to be used for students as well as parents for various events throughout the year such as parent information evenings, subject selection evenings.
- Collaborative working environments for students and staff to work in small or large groups.

## HOW YOU CAN DONATE

Visit the link below to donate

<https://www.schoolsplus.org.au/projects/modern-furniture-new-secondary-building/>.

Our target is \$30,000 to assist in funding for new, innovative and collaborative furniture for the new building which will enhance student learning.





# CONTACT US

The College is available to assist with donation enquires.

Please contact us if you require more information.

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# APPENDIX 1

## MARONITE SISTERS OF THE HOLY FAMILY (MSHF)

The first female Maronite Congregation, The Maronite Sisters of the Holy Family, was founded by Patriarch Elias Hwayek, Rosalie Nasr and Stéphanie Kardouche, on the 15th of August 1895. Historically the Maronite Sisters of the Holy Family was 'founded for' the ministry of educating village girls. The Congregation from the very beginning was focused on the needs of the times, committed to educational, humanitarian and spiritual service.

Today the Congregation counts around 50 institutions with the number of students estimated at 33,000. Ministry that has developed alongside education and nursing include childcares, orphanages, boarding schools, tertiary appointments, Christian media, hospitality, parish ministry, community service, houses of prayer and students' halls of residence. In 1968 the Sisters arrived in Sydney, Australia and have since then established two K-12 Colleges, a childcare and a preschool as well as two Aged care facilities.



# HISTORY OF THE COLLEGE

Principal Sr Juliette Ghorayeb and Sr Constance Bacha of the Maronite Sisters of the Holy Family (MSHF) laid the foundations for Our Lady of Lebanon school, aided by Monsignor Peter Ziade.

The school opened its doors with an enrolment of 115 students under Our Lady of Lebanon Church, in Harris Park, on January 1st 1973. The early conditions were austere, with an uncarpeted, unpainted building. Nevertheless the pioneer sisters quickly got on with the task of providing education to families newly arrived in Australia who were battling both financial and linguistic barriers. Sister Madeleine de la Croix arrived in Australia in 1974, and was assigned to Our Lady of Lebanon School.

In 1978 the sisters acquired two adjoining house blocks to accommodate the Primary school and convent with the generous assistance of many parents and friends. These blocks soon became known as 23-25 Alice Street, the official address of the College. It was on these blocks that the infants/primary, administration and convent were constructed.

With a student population of 354 and a staff of 16 teachers and 2 sisters, the official opening was performed by Senator Peter Baume, Minister for Education, on 26th June 1982.



In the 1980s an application was lodged for establishing a Secondary. The Secondary department moved from the Church hall into its two purpose-built buildings in 1990. By the completion of the final stage of this project in 1992, the College had

grown into a school providing education to almost 1,000 children from Kindergarten to Year 12 and employing 80 staff. The construction of extra Primary classrooms also occurred in the 1990s. It was only then that the classrooms under the local church were finally discontinued.

The official opening of the final stages of the buildings to house all sections of the Secondary department occurred in 1992 and was performed by Prime Minister Paul Keating. In the Parramatta Advertiser it was written:

*'Mr Keating later praised cultural diversity when he opened a Lebanese school at Harris Park. 'It (the school) reflects the fact that there is strength in our cultural diversity and that the energy of an ethnic community can strengthen our pursuit of common national goals.' . . . Fanfares, anthems, flags, culture and entertainment, adoration and adulation were all ingredients of the reception Prime Minister Paul Keating received when he opened Our Lady of Lebanon School at Harris Park on Friday. . . . Sitting only a few feet away, Parramatta's Federal Labor MP, Paul Elliott, basked in the reflected glory.*



Sr Irene Boughosn was appointed the new College Principal in 1996 to replace Sr Constance who had been Principal for twenty-five years. During this time political visits were common. In 2000, Prime Minister John Howard visited Our Lady of Lebanon College, and the NSW Premier Bob Carr came along on 10th August 2001. Two weeks after the Premier's visit, the NSW Parliamentary Liberal Party John Brogden visited the College.

Further additions to the Secondary included a new A block that consisted of a purpose-built library, an assembly hall, six classrooms, canteen and toilet block. This was officially opened on September 17th 2004 by the State Governor Dr Marie Bashir. In addition to the Federal Attorney-General and Education Minister and



minor State, Federal and Local Government politicians, there was also the presence of MP Mr Phillip Ruddock, Bishop Ad Abikaram, and Congregational Leader Gabrielle BouMoussa. Messages were sent from The Hon. John Howard Prime Minister, The Hon. Dr Brendan Nelson MP and Minister for Education, Science and training.



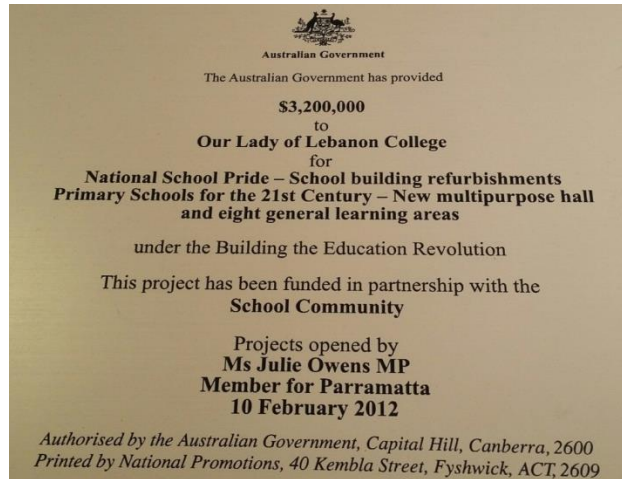
Recognising the NESB nature of the children, programmes were introduced into the Infants and Primary sections of the College to ensure that the students received a solid grounding in both literacy and numeracy. The emphasis in the Secondary section was on ensuring that all students were educated to their true potential, whether at University or in a trade.

Sr Marlene had been on the staff of the College in the early days of the Secondary department, as an administrative assistant and teacher of languages and religion. She returned to OLOL in 2005 as Principal.

The College took advantage of extra Federal Government funding in 2008-2009 to extend, refurbish and update its educational facilities. This included the relocation and upgrading of the three science labs, a new computer lab, access to the internet, a new drama room and refurbished administration area. In 2010-2011 additions to the D block resulted in Primary gaining a conference room, music room and offices.

The Federal Government in 2009 called for a push to update Primary schools with OLOL College receiving \$3 million to construct a new Primary block which included a library, IT room, four classrooms and a multipurpose hall. This was officially opened in 2012.





With the help of the Parents Association and the College's own efforts over 2008-2013 Primary classes were fitted with smart boards. In 2013 a grassed playground area was completed on the corner of Good and Weston Streets.

In 2014 Sr Margaret Ghosn became the fourth Principal. At the same time the College changed its name from Our Lady of Lebanon College (OLOL) to Maronite College of the Holy Family (MCHF), to better reflect its purpose and connection to the Maronite Sisters of the Holy Family.

In 2016 plans are underway to develop a new Secondary block with open space learning. This will be located adjacent to B Block. Upon completion of the new building the College will have ensured all its campuses are on one corner of Weston, Good and Alice streets, thus ensuring a secure environment for students.

Our Lady of Lebanon School, which would become known as Our Lady of Lebanon College and later as Maronite College of the Holy Family, is unique for a number of reasons. Along with its sister school Saint Maroun, they were the first Maronite schools in Australia, offering compulsory Arabic with most of the students of Lebanese ancestry and regularly celebrating Maronite Catholic Liturgies.

Carrying the College motto, 'To know, love and serve' the College has lived out these values through the tireless work, commitment and support of the Maronite community. From the beginning the College has been the realisation of the hope of Maronite families that their children maintain the cultural and religious beliefs. The College today is more than an educational institution; it is also a cultural way of life, a spiritual well spring, a tight knit community, and a loving family.