



*Maronite College of the Holy Family*

# NEWSLETTER

23-25 Alice Street, Harris Park, 2150

Tel: 9633 6600 Email: [Admin@mchf.nsw.edu.au](mailto:Admin@mchf.nsw.edu.au)

**Term 4 - Week 8: Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Advent is a time when we need to prepare ourselves spiritually in order to fully understand and share in the joy of Christ's arrival. Jesus came into the world in a very simple and humble manner. We should strive to find God in the simpler aspects of our lives.

Advent is about the expectation of hope.

We need to be aware of the daily opportunities to be kind and compassionate.

In sharing a smile, a caring word or some small act of kindness, we will find peace at Christmas and throughout the year.

**My Prayer for you this Christmas  
is that you would know the greatest gift –**

**JESUS**



Over the past few weeks, some parents have made requests for their children to have particular teachers or classes next year. Please be aware that a great deal of time and consideration is given when organising class lists. Staff take into account social and academic aspects of all students to ensure that individual learning goals can be achieved. For this reason, no changes will be made based on parental preference. Thank you for your understanding.

This is the final newsletter for the year and I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your commitment to the College over the year. It has been a wonderful year with many

outstanding achievements. Wishing you all a very blessed Christmas with your families and may 2020 hold many wonderful surprises for you all.

**Students in Years 1-12 return in 2020 on Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> January in full Summer uniform.  
Kindergarten commence Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2020 (Half Day).**

**Sr Irene Boughosn  
PRINCIPAL**

## HEAD OF PRIMARY MESSAGE



As 2019 draws to a close, I take this opportunity to wish all our MCHF parents, students and staff a happy and blessed Christmas. It has been an extremely busy year for our school and I would like to acknowledge and thank Sr Irene, Sr Marlene and Sr Cynthia for the guidance and support they continue to provide to all members of the MCHF community. Thank you also to the Primary Leadership Team who support me in leading the Primary Department each and every day. To the teaching and support staff who show great dedication and passion in order to deliver quality learning experiences for our students, thank you. I would like to recognise and thank the office staff, Business Services Department and Maintenance Team for the amazing job they do to ensure that everything continues to run smoothly on a daily basis. To the Parent Association, thank you for the amazing job you do in bringing the school community together with the many events you hold throughout the year. Lastly, I would like to thank the students and parents for the commitment you display towards learning here at the College. Keep safe over the holiday period and enjoy the festive season with your family.

### Christmas Mass

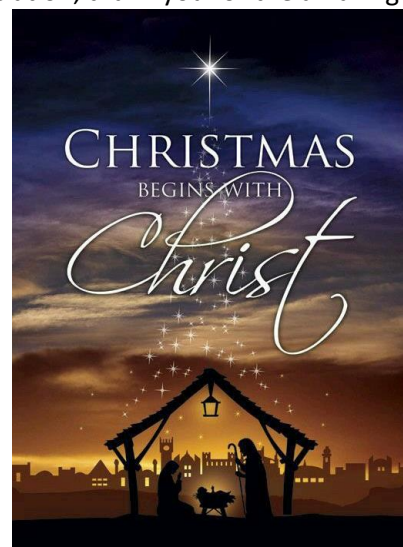
This morning the College's annual Christmas Mass was held. It was a beautiful celebration for all who attended. Special thanks to Sr Cynthia for organising the mass and preparing the Primary students who had specific roles in the celebration.

### Farewell

Today we wish Ms Mallia all the best as she takes leave in preparation for the birth of her child early next year. I would like to thank Ms Mallia for her contributions to the College as both a class teacher and more recently as the Stage 3 Coordinator. Ms Mallia's dedication and passion for education has inspired both students and staff. We also farewell Mrs Hanna and Mrs Saada today. Mrs Hanna has worked as a Kindergarten teacher this year while Mrs Saada has worked as a Teacher Assistant, supporting students in the classroom. We thank them both for the contributions they have made to our College and wish them well for the future.

### End of Year Reports

Student reports will be released to parents on Friday 13th December 2019 via the Parent Portal. These reports capture student learning for the second semester and inform parents about their child's progress for the year. Reports are a significant communication between school and home. Teachers have the responsibility to honestly inform parents about student learning measured against syllabus outcomes. Teachers can only report on what students demonstrate. This can be challenging for some parents who may see different skills displayed at home or in other extracurricular activities. Teachers cannot account for learning that is not demonstrated by a student in the school setting. Student achievement is reported on an A - E scale. It is important to recognise that every student is different and that they cannot all achieve an 'A' or a 'B'. In fact, receiving such grades is rare and celebrating individual student growth is far more important and should be acknowledged. Being awarded a 'C' grade means that a student has achieved set outcomes and is where they need to be in regards to





learning. Such grades can reflect a lot of hard work on a student's behalf and if they have applied maximum effort, no one can ask for more. It is important that students have a positive disposition to learning and parents play a key role in this. Your response to your child's grades can make a significant difference to a student's future learning.

### Vinnie's Christmas Hamper Appeal

Thank you to all our staff and students who supported the annual Vinnie's Hamper Appeal. Saint Vincent de Paul were overwhelmed by the response and I am sure the families who will be receiving the hampers will be very appreciative. Thank you to Mrs Lal and Mrs Taouk for organising the appeal in the Primary Department. Special thanks also to Mrs Lal, Mrs Maxwell, Ms Mourani, Ms Mourched, Mrs Murphy and the Year 5 students for all of their hard work in sorting out all the donations and putting the many hampers together.



### End of Term Assembly

The Primary End of Term Awards Assembly was held yesterday. This assembly not only celebrated the special academic achievements of our students, but also recognised the students who have been selected as the leaders in the Primary Department for 2020. Congratulations to all our future leaders. I am sure that they will do a wonderful job next year.

<b>School Captains</b> Elizabeth El-Katrib Jude Hasham  <b>Vice Captains</b> Mary Anne Habib Isaac Bou Francis	<b>Student Representative Council</b> Chanel Chahin Rebecca Boustani Therese Sessine Audrey Moussa Christine Al Somsom Elias Bechara Joseph Habib Jovan Achy	<b>Sport Captains</b> Aurora Fenianos Christian Ibrahim Gabiella Massoud Jonah Dayoub Katherine Nohra Tony Bou Melhem Natalia Alam Joseph Chehade
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### Learning in the Holidays

During the Christmas Break, it is vital to keep children's minds active. Please encourage your child to continue to read and write each day during the holidays. If you have a child in Kindergarten, Year 1 or Year 2, please encourage them to read and write every day in some way. This is to their academic advantage as this will allow them to enhance the reading and writing skills they have been developing at school. For the older children in

Stage 2 and Stage 3, please minimise screen time and encourage daily reading of novels and magazines that may interest them. It is also important to continue to find Mathematics in every day places so that your children can continue to develop their mathematical thinking.

### Staff Professional Development

This week the Primary and Secondary Leadership Teams met to discuss the future direction of teaching and learning at MCHF. Regular meetings such as these, demonstrate our commitment to the ongoing Professional Development of staff and the importance we place on improving teacher practice and student outcomes from Kindergarten through to Year 12.



### Christmas Raffle

The annual Christmas raffle held by the College's Parent Association, was drawn at the Primary End of Term Awards Assembly yesterday. It was an exciting time as all the students waited eagerly to see if they were one of the lucky winners. Thank you to Mary Bechara and her team for organising the raffle. Thanks also to the parents and staff who donated the many prizes that were available.



### Opal Cards

All students who travel to and/or from school on a bus must hold a current Opal Card. Students are required to use their Opal Cards to 'tap on' and 'tap off' when boarding and disembarking any school bus they catch in the course of their journey. Opal Card data gathered when students 'tap on' and 'tap off', is used to determine the demand for bus services. If students do not 'tap on' and 'tap off', the data collected will be inaccurate and could lead to bus services being cancelled. If your child will be catching the bus in 2020, please ensure that they have a valid Opal Card prior to commencing school next year.

**Mr D. Day**

**Head of Primary**

## HEAD OF SECONDARY MESSAGE

**Please note students return on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2020 in summer uniform. No student is to wear sport uniform on the first day.**

### College Theme

This week, we conclude our College year and with it concludes the theme for 2019 "To Love." I hope all students have gained some sort of knowledge and appreciation for love – through Love of God, Love for MCHF, Love for Others and Love for Self. These were our term focuses. We look forward to our 2020 theme, "To Serve", where we will focus on service as part of our College motto. Our theme quote comes from the founder of the Maronite Sisters of the Holy Family, Venerable Patriarch Elias Howayek, as he says "My God, grant me the grace to serve you according to your providence." Further details will be announced next year.



### **Thank you and Farewell to the 2019 College Year**

We conclude our 2019 College year and I take this opportunity to thank our lovely students, parents/guardians and staff for another fantastic year that was full of achievements and challenges. We celebrate our achievements and learn from the challenges to continue developing ourselves as educators and learners. I am proud to have seen the progress and achievements our students made this year and this is the reason why our College is a great environment for learning. I like to conclude this year to quote from an unknown source which typifies the role of teachers – “A teacher’s purpose is not to create students in his/her image, but to develop students who can create their own image.” I wish you all a very blessed, safe and enjoyable Christmas, New Year and holiday and look forward to continuing the educational journey in 2020. May the birth of our Lord bring forth blessings to you all.

### **Changes to Applications for Approved Leave – Travel**

Commencing from 2020, the minimum days to apply for approved leave – travel has changed to 5 days instead of 10 days. Any student who wishes to apply for approved leave – travel for 5 days or more commencing in 2020 must complete an application form.

### **Bishop’s Christmas Card Competition Award Presentation**

On Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2019, our Bishop Antoine-Charbel Tarabay attended our morning assembly to present Grace Sleiman (Year 9) with her award for winning the Christmas Card competition as part of the diocese’s theme for this year – Maronite Spirituality. Her artwork and design will be used by the Bishop for his annual Christmas cards. Congratulations to Grace and thank you to Bishop Tarabay for providing students the opportunity to participate in this competition.



### **Student Reports**

Please be advised that reports will be released to parents/guardians on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2019 via the Parent Portal.

### **Peer Support Leadership Training**

On Friday 29 November 2019, our year 9 students participated in their peer support leadership training to prepare them as peer support leaders in 2020. The day was a great success and the students excelled in the activities set. Thank you to Ms Abdul Ahad and Ms Cordina who prepared and presented the training and to the staff that assisted with supervision. We are proud to announce the leaders for 2020 who will work closely with our year 7, 2020 students: John Massoud, Patrick Lichaa, Georgia Khattar, Stephanie Atie, Georgia Deeb, Ray Hobeich, Jacob Semaan, Chanelle Mekary, Joy Sleiman, Leana Dib, Ashley Habib, Julien El Bazouni, Cindy Massoud, Grace Sleiman, Kaitlyn Gerreyn, Samantha Georges, Badwi Makary, Clair El Hakim, Mikayla Stavrinakis, Joelle Lahood, Alissar Ishac, Charbel Ibrahim, Marissa Franjie, George Kanaan, Luciana Dib, Mandalin Moussa, Georgia Mawad.



### **Primary and Secondary Leadership Team Meeting**

On Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2019, the primary and secondary leadership teams met to discuss and evaluate how



we have been implementing visible learning in the College. The time to collaborate between the primary and secondary departments provides an opportunity to assess and evaluate how we can provide quality teaching and learning from stage 1 through to stage 6. This is what makes our College a special place where we can work together closely to ensure an effective education for our students.

### Expo Extravaganza “Reality Bites”

On Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2019, we held our annual expo extravaganza where the skills, talents and work of our students (and staff) were showcased. It was an amazing evening and we were proud to witness the quality work of our students. We were also entertained by the acting of our staff in the various videos and performances they put together. A massive thank you to Ms Delimitros who coordinated the expo again this year. She was heavily supported by staff who all came together to make this evening a great success. Congratulations to all the staff and students for another fantastic event. We also thank our judges and sponsors, whose contribution were important for the success of the event.



### Rewards Day

On Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2019, our staff and students headed for their rewards day to the Aquatic Centre, in Sydney Olympic Park. It was a great day for our staff and students to go away from the College grounds and to celebrate the year that was. Students and staff thoroughly enjoyed the time away and the water to cool down from the heat.





### Christmas Mass

On Friday 6th December 2019 we concluded our College year with our annual Christmas Mass with the enactment of the Birth of our Lord during the Gospel. Thank you to Ms Youssef for preparing the students for the Gospel play. We also thank Mr Hayman and Mr Sedicol for preparing our choir students for the Mass.



### Awards Ceremony

On Friday 6th December, we held our annual Award Ceremony to recognise the academic, sporting and pastoral excellence of our students for the 2019 academic year.

We congratulate all the students who received awards. We especially congratulate our 2019 Dux recipients: Brealle Hasham (Year 7), John El-Barhoun (Year 8), Elie Joukhadar (Year 9), Celine Moussa (Year 10) and Robbie El-Bazouni (Year 11).





### New Furniture

This week two of our B Block rooms were fitted out with new furniture. B301 and B302 look amazing and students were excited for the new learning space. We hope to continue fitting out the remainder of the B Block classrooms in the future.



Mr E. Asmar

Head of Secondary

## DATES TO REMEMBER

- **SCHOOL CONCLUDES - Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December**
- **First day of Term 1 (2020) for Years 1-12 students – Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> January 2020**
- **First day of Term 1 (2020) for Kindergarten – Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2020 (Half Day)**  
All students must return in full College uniform -

## ★★★ CONGRATULATIONS ★★★

**All Rounder Awards** – Georgio Boumelhem (Year 3) - Selina Dib, Pamela Souccar (Year 4) - Billy Tadros (Year 5)

**Bronze Awards** – Charbel Chiha, Mariana Hadchiti, Aliaha Youssef, Emmanuel Maroon, Valentina Boumelhem (Year 3) - Anthony Jabbour, Jonah Botros, Janae Diab (Year 4)

**Silver Awards** – Catalina Sleiman (Year 3)

**Principal's Award** – Claire Khoury, Mia Kerbaj, Michael Salem, Clara Akik (Year 3) - Amber Fasavalu (Year 4)

## THIS AND THAT

Kindy White kiddies got their letters from Santa and they are all on the nice list! Exciting times!!



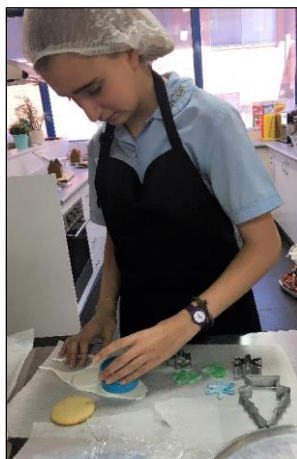
Sr Cynthia organised a Christmas adoration with Miss Chaaban's Year 8 Religion class. Students were taught how



to prepare for the birth of Jesus by always having a place for him in our homes. Students were able to make a manger out of clay, in order to understand the true meaning of the birth of Jesus. Thank you to Mr Hayman and the choir for singing Christmas carols in the background.



Year 9 Food for Special Occasions – Let the festive season begin with gingerbread!



Year 7 enjoy the gift of giving – KK gift exchange



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2. Slop on SPF 30 or higher broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen, at least 20 minutes before sun exposure. Reapply every two hours when outdoors or more often if perspiring or swimming.

3. Slap on a broad-brimmed hat that shades your face, neck and ears.
4. Seek shade.
5. Slide on sunglasses.

Younger children would enjoy the message from Sid the Seagull found on the link below;

<https://www.sunsmart.com.au/tools/videos/current-tv-campaigns/slip-slop-slap-seek-slide-sid-seagull.html>

### The Following items will be on SALE at the College for 2020

#### Dates and times are as follows:

Thursday, 5 December **8.30-9am**

Friday, 6 December **8.30-9am**

Monday, 9 December **8.30-3pm**

Tuesday, 10 December **8.30-3pm**

Thursday, 12 December **8.30-3pm**

Friday, 13 December **8.30-3pm**

Thursday, 23 January **8.30-2pm**

Friday, 24 January **8.30-2pm**

Item	Cost
Bucket Hat	\$10
Brimmed Hat	\$15
Small Bag	\$50
Large Bag	\$60
Library Bag	\$10

Year	7	8	9	10	11
Arabic Books	\$60	(carried on from Year 7)	\$40		
Art Kits	\$55		\$95	\$95	\$95
Casio Calculator	\$30	\$30	\$30	\$30	
PASS			\$35	\$35	
Bible	\$25 - <b>ONLY 1 Bible necessary for Years 7-10</b>				
Jacaranda Bundle	\$155 (includes the Religion ebook & PDHPE Workbook)				

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