



Maronite College of the Holy Family

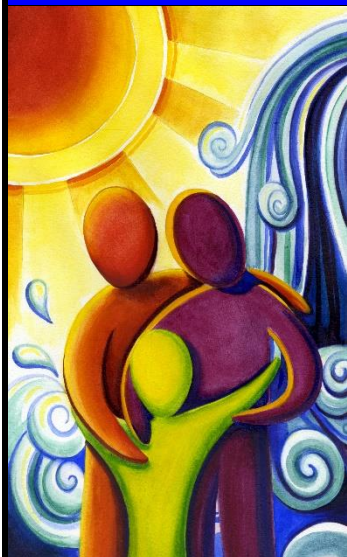
NEWSLETTER

23-25 Alice Street, Harris Park, 2150

Tel: 9633 6600 Email: Admin@mchf.nsw.edu.au

Term 1 - Week 1: Friday 31st January 2020

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



A warm welcome to all the existing and new families joining the Maronite College of the Holy Family Community. I assure you that your children will be in safe hands. We hope you had an enjoyable and relaxing summer and are now ready to begin another successful school year.

Prayer for the Beginning of the School Year

God of wisdom and might,
We praise you for the wonders of our being, for mind, body, and spirit.
Be with our children as they begin a new school year.
Bless them and their teachers and staff.
Give them strength and grace as their bodies grow;
wisdom and knowledge to their minds as they search for understanding;
and peace and zeal to their spirits.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Please keep in your prayers all the victims affected from the recent Bushfires. Also please be mindful of the use of water during the water restrictions.

Reminder that Kindergarten commence on the 3rd of February 2020. Times are as follows:

Monday, 3 February 2020 – Half Day: 8.40 am – 12.00 pm

Tuesday, 4 February 2020 – Half Day: 8.40 am – 12.00 pm

Wednesday, 5 February 2020 - Commence Full-Time: 8.40 am - 3.10 pm

Dear Parents and Careers,

In line with action taken by Catholic Schools NSW the College wishes to advise that:

Any student who has visited China in the last 14 days should not return to school for a period of 14 days as the incubation period can be as long as two weeks.

Any student who has had close contact with a person with confirmed case of Novel Coronavirus should not return to school for at least 14 days since the last contact with the confirmed case.

Any student with a confirmed case of Novel Coronavirus will be excluded from school until they are medically cleared to return.

In all cases we ask students to bring in a clearance certificate from their medical practitioner before resuming school after the 14-day exclusion period.

If you are concerned with your child experiencing flu like symptoms, cough or fever please take them immediately to a health care professional. They should not attend school if they present “flu like” symptoms.

Staff at the College has received the same advice.

We ask for your full cooperation in this matter.

Sr Irene Boughosn
PRINCIPAL

HEAD OF PRIMARY MESSAGE

Welcome back to a new year and a new decade. I would particularly like to extend a warm welcome to all the new families who have joined the MCHF community. I am sure the Christmas break was a great time for families to rest, rejuvenate and reflect on the year that has just past. The start of any school year always begins with a certain amount of excitement and frenzy. Teachers are busily getting their classrooms prepared and programmes finalised whilst parents are purchasing school supplies, uniforms and lunch box goodies. For the students, their eagerness to return was seen on the first day as they caught up with their friends and shared wonderful stories from their holidays. As I visited each class, I was impressed to see that all students had quickly settled back into the school routine. For this, I must thank the dedicated and organised staff here at MCHF who have worked during the break in order to create a very calm and nurturing environment for the students. As we begin this new year, it is important to remember that parents and teachers are partners in helping each child achieve success in their educational journey. This combined support is essential if the transition is to be a positive developmental experience for your child. A good relationship with the classroom teacher, will make it easier for you to stay informed about your child's progress in all areas of their schooling and will enable a positive collaboration to occur if difficulties arise throughout the year.

Primary Staff

I would like to formally welcome our new Primary staff members, Mr Watkiss, Ms Pillay and Ms Ters. The varied experience and fresh ideas they bring will benefit both students and teachers here at MCHF. We also welcome back Ms Fahd, Ms Hort and Ms Azzi who will be fulfilling temporary roles in our school.

Holy Communion

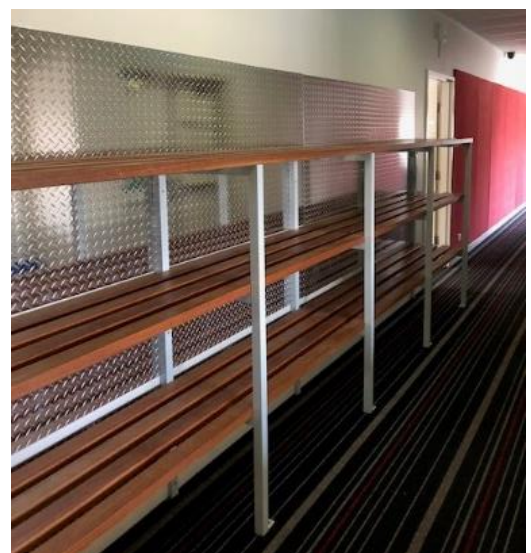
This term our Year 4 students will begin to prepare for their First Holy Communion which will be celebrated at Our Lady of Lebanon Co-Cathedral on Saturday 23rd May at 2:00pm. A Parent Information Session has been scheduled for Tuesday 4th February at 6:30pm. The meeting will provide information about parental spiritual guidance and other relevant details regarding the celebration. A note outlining specific details of the meeting was sent home with students today. We keep them in our prayers and thoughts as they embark on this important spiritual journey.

Importance of Reading

As we start back in the routines of school life, I ask that you continue to encourage your children to read each day. Talking to them about what they have read allows them to practise sharing their ideas and understanding about the text. Also take time to read yourself. Children who see their parents read are more likely to become good readers themselves.

Upgrading of Facilities

The College is continually improving the learning environment for our students by ensuring that the facilities provided are clean and welcoming. During the recent Christmas break, F Block was given a mini-makeover. The walls were painted, new display boards were mounted and protective sheeting installed in the bag areas. Thank you to the Maintenance Team for their continued hard work.



Parent Volunteer Induction

MCHF will be holding a Parent Volunteer Induction on Tuesday 18th February 2020 at 2pm in the Primary Hall. This induction must be completed to enable you to assist in various voluntary roles at the College. A note will be sent home next week which will provide details of the session. We ask that you return the bottom slip of the note to confirm your attendance. Please note that there will be another induction at the beginning of Term 2 and Term 3. There is no induction in Term 4.

College Uniform

As we begin the new school year, it is important that all students comply with uniform expectations. Wearing the College uniform with pride is an important message to give to your child about their identity as a member of the MCHF community. This includes having appropriate haircuts and wearing the College hat when playing. We would appreciate parent assistance in ensuring that the College Policy is adhered to by your child at all times. If you have good reason why your child is not in correct uniform, we kindly ask that a note be written and sent to the class teacher.

Weekly Merit Awards

The Merit award recognises the achievements of individual students. Classroom and specialist teachers reward students who are demonstrating academic progress or social improvement in their class or on the playground. Merit Awards are presented to students at Wednesday morning assemblies.

Keys to Success

Positive behaviour of students is also encouraged through the Keys to Success program. When students display the qualities of Persistence, Kindness, Honesty, Courage, Patience and Reverence they will receive a token. After accumulating 6 tokens, students will receive an award. There are 4 awards to obtain. These include the All Rounder, Bronze, Silver and Principal's Award.

Mr D. Day

Head of Primary

HEAD OF SECONDARY MESSAGE

Welcome to 2020

Welcome to another academic year! Welcome to our new students, new staff and new families. Welcome back to our staff, students and parents and I hope you had a wonderful break despite the terrible tragedies that occurred. The recent bushfires will no doubt have a long term impact on a lot of families and communities which will take weeks, months and even years to overcome. The recent passing of basketball legend, Kobe Bryant and his daughter, have also taken the world by shock. I know many of our students, even staff, were impacted on this tragedy. All we can do is pray and learn from his legacy which he leaves behind. 2020 is a new year, a new decade and a new opportunity to grow and develop. I pray that this year will be blessed for our staff, students, families and College that we may continue to live by our mission and motto – to know, love and serve. All the very best for this year.

2020 College Theme

Our theme for 2020 is 'To Serve.' We have taken a quote from the Venerable Patriarch Elias Howayek for our theme: "My God, grant me the grace to serve you according to your will." Our model for this year includes a focus for each term which you can refer to in the diagram. The College will be working around this model this year (Pictured right).



"My God, grant me the grace to serve you according to your will."
Venerable Patriarch Elias Howayek



New Staff

In secondary, we welcome the following new staff:

- Mr D El-Hage who is our Year 11 Advisor, Careers Advisor and will be teaching in our Mathematics and PDHPE departments.
- Ms S Hadchiti who is our Year 9 Advisor and will be teaching in our Religion Department.
- Mr N Shah who will be teaching in our Mathematics department.

2019 HSC Results

Our College was proud with the overall results of year 12, 2019 cohort on their HSC results. Chantal Shalhoub achieved 1st place in Arabic Extension in NSW. Our DUX was Teresa Raad achieved an ATAR of 95.40. Despite maintaining our overall College ranking, our data shows that we have increased results in Bands 4-6 and a decrease in Bands 1-3. We look forward to celebrating these achievements with our high achievers on Monday 10th February 2020 at the Honour Day Mass.

First Day of Year 7

Year 7 started off their first day in Secondary by meeting their Peer Support buddies for the year. They worked on getting to know the College, reading a timetable and being organised. We commenced a new tradition where we officially welcomed them into secondary with a candle light procession at the opening assembly. This symbolises that they are the light of Jesus and this light they will carry until we farewell them in 2025 as HSC graduates. Our Year 8-12 students also commenced the year very well. They have settled in and are ready for another big year.



Uniform and Grooming

As students commence the year, it is vital that we ensure that all students adhere to our College's uniform and grooming policy. Students must be in summer uniform for term 1. I was pleased to see a high majority of students wearing the right uniform on Thursday. There have been a handful of students addressed over their grooming (mainly haircuts). If your child has been addressed, then please ensure they rectify their grooming by Monday morning.

Semester 1 Student Leadership Elections

On Friday our year 7-11 students completed their elections for their student leaders for semester 1. Roles include SRC Representatives, Class Captains, Chapel Leaders, Learning Centre Monitors, Bus Prefects, House Captains and Leaders. This coming week we will go through the results of the voting and announce our leaders for semester 1. We will be holding our leadership assembly in the next couple of weeks to present our leaders with their badges.

Books, Equipment and Materials

Students have been advised of the books, materials and equipment needed for their subjects and courses. The book lists can be found on the College SkoolBag App, Parent Portal and Website. Please ensure all items required for subjects are organised and purchased in order to maximise the learning in the classroom.

Mobile Phones/Smart Watches

A reminder that the College is now a mobile free school. This commenced in term 4 last year as a trial. This new policy will now take place effective this term. This means that all students are not permitted to carry their phones (including smart watches) on them during the day. They must be locked away in their lockers. The College will no longer be collecting mobile phones and will not take responsibility for any issues associated with a student's mobile phone.

Staff Spirituality Day

Staff commenced the year with a day retreat on Tuesday 28th January 2020 with our sister school, St Maroun's College Dulwich Hill. The day retreat was held at St Joseph's Baulkham Hills. The retreat focused on our College theme for this year, To Serve, and was led by Brother Robert O'Connor – a Marist brother and former Principal in Marist schools. The afternoon included a group activity and the day concluded with a celebration of Mass led by Fr Tony Sarkis.



Mr E. Asmar
Head of Secondary

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Monday, 3 February 2020 – Kindergarten start school - Half day (8.40am–12pm)
Please ensure that your child is dropped off and picked up on time to avoid students becoming anxious.
- Tuesday, 4 February 2020 – Kindergarten half day (8.40am–12pm)
- Wednesday, 5 February 2020 – Kindergarten commence full-time (8.40am-3.10pm)
- Tuesday 4th February – Holy Communion meeting for parents at 6:30pm
- Monday 10th February - St Maroun's / Honour Day Mass at 9am
- Tuesday 11th and Wednesday 12th February – **School Photo Days** (Full Summer Uniform. Sports uniform is **not** to be worn for photos! If your child has sport on any of these days, they must bring their uniform)
- Monday 24th February – Ash Monday Liturgy

★★★ CONGRATULATIONS ★★★

All Rounder Awards –

We are eagerly anticipating more names on this year's list!!

Bronze Awards –

Silver Awards –

Principal's Award –

THIS AND THAT

Please note: The following may change, depending on time and speed...

MCHF Photo Day 1 Schedule - Tuesday, 11th February 2020

| Time | Group Name |
|---------|---|
| 8-9am | Staff Individual + Leadership & Executive Staff Group |
| 9am | Kindergarten Blue |
| 9:10am | Kindergarten Red |
| 9:20am | Kindergarten Rose |
| 9:30am | Kindergarten White |
| 9:40am | 1 Gold |
| 9:50am | 1 Green |
| 10am | 1 Lilac |
| 10:10am | 1 Silver |
| 10:20am | 11A |
| 10:30am | 11B |
| 10:40am | 11C |
| 10:50am | BREAK |
| 11:10am | 2 Diamond |
| 11:20am | 2 Jade |
| 11:30am | 2 Pink |
| 11:40am | 2 Purple |
| 11:50am | 3 Beige |
| 12pm | 3 Lavender |
| 12:10pm | 3 Orange |
| 12:20pm | 3 Yellow |
| 12:30pm | 4 Amber |
| 12:40pm | 4 Aqua |
| 12:50pm | 10A |
| 1pm | 10B |
| 1:10pm | 10C (10D, if there is time before lunch) |
| 1:20pm | BREAK |
| 1:50pm | 4 Violet |
| 2pm | 10D (Move on to the next if 10D already done) |
| 2:10pm | 4 Olive |
| 2:20pm | 5 Opal |
| 2:30pm | 5 Rainbow |
| 2:40pm | 5 Ruby |
| 2:50pm | 5 Sapphire |

MCHF Photo Day 2 Schedule - Wednesday, 12th February 2020

| Time | Group Name |
|--------|-----------------|
| 8-9am | Catch-up Photos |
| 9am | 6 Emerald |
| 9:10am | 6 Indigo |
| 9:20am | 6 Teal |
| 9:30am | 6 Topaz |
| 9:40am | 7A |

| | |
|---------|---|
| 9:50am | 7B |
| 10am | 7C |
| 10:10am | 7D |
| 10:20am | 8A |
| 10:30am | 8B |
| 10:40am | 8C |
| 10:50am | BREAK |
| 11:30am | 8D |
| 11:40am | 9A |
| 11:50am | 9B |
| 12pm | 9C |
| 12:10pm | 9D |
| 12:30pm | Year 12 Individual school photos (Before the caps go on) |
| 1pm | Year 12 Graduation cap and gown individual and group photos |

PARENT CORNER

Dear parents please find attached to this Newsletter the following notes:

1. Information for Parents & Carers of Students at Risk of Anaphylaxis or Asthma
2. First Aid Medication request form
3. Request for student to carry his/her own EpiPen®, Anapen® or asthma reliever medication
4. 2020 Photography / Video Permission Form
5. Information Collection Notice

Information requested should be returned to the College no later than Monday 17th February:

If your child has a medical condition and you did not receive a letter or are waiting for a medical appointment to complete the forms, please contact the College administration.

If you do not have access to a printer, you may collect the notes from the Administration office in D Block.

A reminder also, that parents/guardians must update their details, if needed, via the parent portal.

Please remember to download the SkoolBag app (free) from your app store and create an account linked to our College.

To receive our newsletter via email, please email us - admin@mchf.nsw.edu.au

Website: <http://www.mchf.nsw.edu.au/>

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