



Maronite College of the Holy Family

# NEWSLETTER

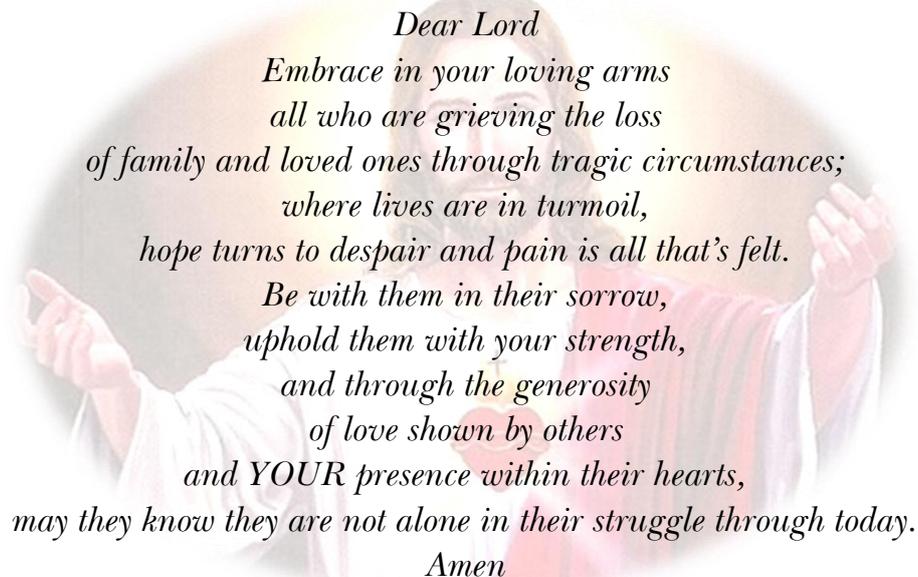
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**Term 1 - Week 2: Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

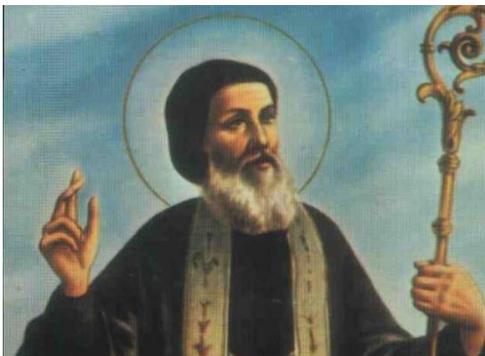
## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

It was with great sadness that we commenced this week at the College. Our prayers and deepest sympathies are with all of those who have been impacted by the recent tragedy. Please pray for all these families and may God give them the grace and strength to help ease their pain.



*Dear Lord  
Embrace in your loving arms  
all who are grieving the loss  
of family and loved ones through tragic circumstances;  
where lives are in turmoil,  
hope turns to despair and pain is all that's felt.  
Be with them in their sorrow,  
uphold them with your strength,  
and through the generosity  
of love shown by others  
and YOUR presence within their hearts,  
may they know they are not alone in their struggle through today.  
Amen*

This week we also welcomed the new additions to the Maronite College of the Holy Family. Kindergarten commenced on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February. All students have now settled in well and are beginning to adjust to their new routine. Just a short reminder to all the Kindergarten parents to please ensure that you leave after you drop your child off in the morning. We are finding that the students tend to be more distressed if the parents linger on in the playground. You are all more than welcome to stay and hear the announcements and prayers but please remain close to the benches and not on the landing near the Kindergarten lines.



As we celebrate the feast of our Patron Saint Maroun on the 9<sup>th</sup> of February, I wish all of you a very blessed feast day. May St Maroun inspire us all to follow in his steps of holiness so that we may be able to reflect the true face of God to everyone.

On Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> February 2020, the College will be Celebrating the Feast of St Maroun and honouring the outstanding results of our 2019 HSC students. Mass will be celebrated at 9am at Our Lady of Lebanon Co-Cathedral.

**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February  
PUPIL FREE DAY**

Tuesday and Thursday Chapel Masses will resume on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February (8am).

**Sr Irene Boughosn  
PRINCIPAL**

## HEAD OF PRIMARY MESSAGE

On Monday we officially welcomed our 2020 Kindergarten children to MCHF. This is a huge milestone in the life of a child and indeed for their parents as well. You can be assured our whole school community are ready and willing to look after them as they commence their educational journey. By the end of day one, I can honestly say that, although somewhat tired, all students had enjoyed their first taste of 'Big School'. Each one of our new students is a blessing to our College and they have certainly put the biggest of smiles on the face of their teachers.



### Meet the Kindy Teachers

Our Kindergarten teachers this year are Ms Ters (Kindy Red), Ms Alweddy (Kindy Rose), Ms Bechara (Kindy Blue) and Ms Delos-Reyes (Kindy White). Mrs Ghabache will also assist in supporting the teachers and students within the classroom.

### Story Time (Pictured Left)

Ms LeMerle never misses the opportunity to capture the attention of a new audience. With her butterfly wings on, she gracefully landed in each Kindergarten class to introduce herself and read one of her favourite stories. All students in Kindergarten will visit Ms LeMerle in the Learning Centre each week to learn invaluable library skills.

### First Holy Communion

This year, our Year 4 students will celebrate their First Holy Communion on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May. On Tuesday night, an information evening was held to discuss all aspects of this very important celebration. The pivotal role that parents hold in their child's spiritual journey was emphasised throughout the presentation. I'd like to thank Sr Irene, Sr Marlene, Sr Cynthia and Fr Tony for their presence and words of wisdom. Thank you also to Mr Bechara for his organisation and the Year Four teachers who assisted on the night. We keep all our students in our thoughts and prayers as they prepare for this sacred Sacrament.



### College Photos

Our 2020 School Photo days will be held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February and Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February. Please ensure that your child is dressed in their full summer school uniform. Payment for photos can be made online using a credit card or money can be sent with your child on the day. Please note, that if paying by cash, the correct amount must be enclosed in the envelope as no change can be given on the day. For further information, please refer to the Student Photo Pack that has already been sent home.

## Crunch and Sip

*Crunch and Sip* is an important part of your child's day at school, as it allows them the opportunity to 'refuel' on vegetables, salad and fruit as well as 'rehydrate' with water. Students who are not hungry and are well hydrated perform better in the classroom as they display an increased focus in learning and are less likely to be irritable and disruptive in class. When packing your child's Crunch and Sip, ensure that the raw fruit and vegetables chosen can be easily eaten.

## NRL Visit

This week, players from Parramatta Eels visited MCHF students to talk about 'Respect'. The players emphasised the importance of respecting others at all times but also focused on the value of respecting themselves. All students were actively involved throughout the presentation which included a range of informative discussions, competitions and games.

## Don't forget to pack Crunch&Sip® every day...

Crunch&Sip® is a set time for your child to eat vegetables or fruit and drink water in the classroom.



## Parent Volunteer Induction

A reminder that a Parent Volunteer Induction will be held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> 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 was sent home this week providing details of the session. We ask that you return the bottom slip of the note to confirm your attendance. Parent Volunteer Inductions will also be held at the beginning of Term 2 and Term 3. There will be no induction in Term 4.

## Homework Club

Homework Club occurs each Wednesday after school for students in Years 2-6. It is a supervised session run by volunteer teachers who assist students in completing homework and research tasks. Students are asked to have enough homework to complete in the hour session. It will begin next week and continue until Week 10 this term. A detailed note with an attached permission slip is available from the Primary Office.

## Music Lessons

If you are interested in your child undertaking private music lessons with Mr Wood this term, please contact the Primary Admin Office.

## College Uniform

MCHF requires all students to 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. Please also ensure that all clothing and personal belongings are clearly labelled with your child's name so that they can easily be returned if lost.

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

From the beginning of 2020, any student intending to take leave for a period of 5 days or more during the school term, must complete an application form in order to obtain Principal approval. Forms can be obtained from the main office.

### **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.

**Mr D. Day**  
Head of Primary

## **HEAD OF SECONDARY MESSAGE**

### **Strength of Our Faith**

The past week has seen a remarkable feeling of how strong our faith really is. The College community has been devastated, heart-broken and saddened by the Oatlands tragedy. Mr and Mrs Danny and Leila Abdallah have shown to us, the College community, the nation and even the world, the strength of our faith. The image of Mrs Abdallah on her knees, with the Rosary in her hand, praying is an image that will be imprinted in our hearts forever. This terrible tragedy has impacted heavily on the College with family members and friends who attend the College. Our Chapel was packed with staff, students and parents this week as we united in prayer for the souls of the siblings Antony, Angelina, Sienna Abdallah and their cousin Veronique Sakr. We again offer our deepest condolences to the families and friends who have been impacted by this tragedy. However, we take comfort knowing that these four beautiful children will illuminate our hearts and lives as angels in heaven.



### **Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2020 – Pupil Free Day**

Due to the funeral for the Abdallah children and out of respect for the family and friends, Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2020 will be a pupil free day for all students. Staff will be at the College undertaking a professional development day. Therefore, students are not required to attend the College. The College will resume as normal on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

### **Photo Day**

The College photo days will be on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2020 and Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2020. Students must ensure they have completed the envelope with payments organised. A reminder that the College grooming policy applies for these days. We expect students to look presentable and professional on the day. Year 12 students will be taking their graduation photos on this day as well.

Full College uniform is to be worn. If your child has sport on their photo day, they are to bring their sport uniform with them. Please see photo schedule on the parent page (below).

### **Feast of St Maroun and Honour Day Mass**

A reminder that the Feast of St Maroun and Honour Day Mass has been moved to Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at 9am at OLOL Co-Cathedral. In this Mass we will celebrate and recognise the 2019 HSC All Rounders and present them with their certificates. All parents/guardians are welcome to attend.

### **2020 Year 7-12 Assessment Handbooks**

Please note the assessment handbooks for all secondary students has been emailed to all students. It has also been published on the College Website, SkoolBag App and Parent Portal. We strongly encourage you to access these documents and download them ensuring you have regular access to the upcoming assessments.



### **Elevate Education**

*(Pictured Left)*

On Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2020, year 7-10 students participated in the elevate education program. The College arranges these sessions with the organisation to assist students in their learning and study techniques. Resources are available for students and we hope the session was beneficial for them for this academic year.

### **Driving to the College (Year 12 Students only)**

The College permits year 12 students to drive to the College following an application for permission to drive. It is a

College policy for students to be granted permission to drive. If permission has been granted, students must ensure they drive in a safe manner abiding by all road rules. Students are not permitted to give lifts to other students (siblings permitted if granted permission by the parents/guardians and noted on the application form).

### **Bus Behaviour**

A reminder that students catching the bus is a service the College offers for students. Therefore, we expect that students appreciate this service and adhere to the rules of the bus to ensure that they travel to and from the College safely. Students are not permitted to eat or drink on the bus, they must be seated at all times or standing in a still position. The Bus Prefects are appointed represent the College and monitor your child's behaviour to ensure they are traveling safely and other students are safe on the bus. We appreciate your support and cooperation in this matter.

**Mr E. Asmar**

**Head of Secondary**

## DATES TO REMEMBER

- Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February – PUPIL FREE DAY
- Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> 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)
- Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February - St Maroun's / Honour Day Mass at 9am
- Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February – Ash Monday Liturgy

## ★★★ CONGRATULATIONS ★★★

**All Rounder Awards –**

**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, 11<sup>th</sup> 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, 12<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

**As we have Mass Wednesday morning, we are hoping to fit Years 6 and 7 on the Tuesday afternoon, depending on how quickly we can move through classes.**

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

The following notes were attached to last week's newsletter... They can also be located here - <https://www.mchf.nsw.edu.au/parentsguardians/> and in SkoolBag.

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. Family Details Update Form
6. Information Collection Notice

***This information is extremely important and must be returned by Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> February 2020.***

Please note; Any information that is not updated by parents will remain in our system as recorded previously, and will be recorded as a 'no return' for 2020.

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

Cancer Council NSW is here to help you kick start the year easily, packing healthy lunch boxes your kids will enjoy. Developed by dietitians [healthylunchbox.com.au](http://healthylunchbox.com.au) is a one-stop shop for everything families need to know about packing a healthy lunch box.

Here's what you will find:

- an [interactive lunch box builder](#) that helps parents and kids plan and pack a healthy lunch with foods they like.
  - The ability to filter [recipes](#) based on diets, easy to freeze and prep time
    - Lots of [quick and easy](#) recipes and [snack ideas](#)
      - Regular [healthy eating blogs](#)

You can sign up to the [Healthy Lunch Box e-newsletter](#) for ideas, updates and recipes delivered to your inbox throughout the year.

#### **BYOD LINK AND CODE**

<https://www.jbeducation.com.au/byod/>

School Code: MCHFBYOD

**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](mailto:admin@mchf.nsw.edu.au)**

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

#### **FOLLOW US ON...**

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