



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 1 - Week 4: Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2020**

**MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL**

†  
**LENT**

*— 40 Days Of Renewal —*

As we approach the season of Lent, we are reminded that this special season provides all of us with a time to prepare for the essence of our faith - the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Our school community will embark upon the Liturgical Season of Lent with the distribution of ashes on Ash Monday. May I remind parents that young children are not required to fast and if they choose to, they are allowed to drink water while fasting. If young children are becoming lethargic while fasting, I encourage parents to allow them to have breakfast as 40 days of fasting can have a negative effect on their concentration and ability to learn in class. Wishing you all a very blessed season of Lent.

**Prayer for Lent**



Blessed are you, O Lord our God.

You have made the sun to light the day and the moon and stars to light the night.

Help us walk in your light.

During this season of Lent, renew us through the gift of your Holy Spirit.

Help us grow in faith, hope and love.

During this special time, we remember that Jesus died and rose from the dead, so that we might be free to love. Help us to grow to be the people you call us to be – letting go of old habits of selfishness, forgiving those who have hurt us, giving quality time to our families, spending time in quiet prayer.

Amen.

**Sr Irene Boughosn**  
**PRINCIPAL**

## HEAD OF PRIMARY MESSAGE

On Thursday, students from Kindergarten, Year One and Year Two were blessed with a visit from Fr Danny who led them in prayer at the morning assembly. He spoke about the importance of love, especially as we approach the Lenten season. We thank Fr Danny for his time and appreciate the love he shows to all of the MCHF community.

### Parent/Teacher Chats

This year, the Primary Department will be conducting Parent/Teacher Chats instead of the Information Evening as done previously. These chats will be conducted on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March and Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March. The purpose of these chats is for you to share any important information about your child with their class teacher. This information may include your child's strengths, interests or any areas of concern you may have in regards to their learning. The Parent/Teacher chat allows teachers to gain a wonderful insight into all aspects of your child. A note outlining further details was sent home with your child today.



### Parent Volunteer Induction

Thank you to all the parents who attended our induction session held this week. We had an overwhelming response which demonstrates the commitment parents have to their children's learning. Quality education involves a healthy partnership between the school and home. We very much appreciate the support that our parents provide. There will be one more session held in the coming weeks for those who could not make it on the day. The time and date will be advised in the next newsletter and also on the College SkoolBag app.

### Parent Association

The Parent Association held their first meeting for the year yesterday. A big thank you to Mary Bechara, our Chairperson, and all parents who attended. We look forward to the many exciting events planned for our school year ahead. If you are interested in being a part of our College Parent Association, please contact the Primary Admin Office.

### Parramatta Diocesan Swimming Carnival

On Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February, Joseph Assi from 5 Rainbow and April Zdrilic from 5 Opal, represented the College at the Parramatta Diocesan Swimming Carnival. Both students had a great day and enjoyed the experience of swimming at this competitive level. Special congratulations to Joseph Assi for coming 1<sup>st</sup> in the Junior 50m Breaststroke. He will now compete at the MacKillop Swimming Championships on the 25<sup>th</sup> March. We wish him all the best.





## Swimming Program

This week, students from Years Four to Six began the Learn to Swim program at the Auburn Ruth Everuss Aquatic Centre. Learning to swim is an important step in every child's life. It is not only essential for their safety but also allows them to participate in a low impact sport keeping them both healthy and fit. The initial feedback from the students and staff has been extremely positive. The program will run each Tuesday until the end of the term.

## Year 6 Buddies

At the start of each year, our Kindergarten students are buddied up with a Year 6 student. This program allows a special bond of friendship to be formed between them. It also provides a safe environment for our new Kindergartens and allows Year 6 to further develop their leadership skills. Throughout the year all students will partake in a variety of activities including peer reading, art and sporting games.



## NRL Sessions

Students in Stage 2 and 3 participated in NRL sessions conducted by the Parramatta Eels. They were actively involved in activities and drills specifically designed to develop their Rugby League skills. This week's session focussed on teamwork, score trying and coordination. The students had a blast and are looking forward to next week's session already.



## Library Borrowing

Our Kindergarten students were able to borrow library books for the first time this week. The smiles spread across their faces could not hide their excitement of being able to choose a book to take home and read. Library borrowing is an important part of a child's wider reading experience. At MCHF, all students from Kindergarten to Year 6 are able to borrow from an extensive range of quality literature and there are always new books being added to our collection. Please encourage your child to bring their library bag to school each week so that they can borrow some of the wonderful books that are available.





## Applications for Approved Leave – Travel

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.

**Mr D. Day**

**Head of Primary**

## HEAD OF SECONDARY MESSAGE

### Parent Information Evening

This week on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2020, we held our annual compulsory parent information evening. The evening commenced with pre-event entertainment by our music students. We then presented the changes and information for this year and this was followed by parents/guardians visiting stalls to speak with the different departments and services we have on offer. The evening also included catering which was prepared and presented by our Hospitality students. We hope the evening was beneficial for you and is preparing you for another big year at MCHF.



### Student Success

At the parent information evening on Wednesday this week, I presented the model on what brings student success as we reflected on the outstanding results of our 2019 HSC cohort. Starting from next week, I will provide information and strategies of each of these aspects to assist you and our students to maximise their opportunity for success.

### College Forms

A reminder to parents/guardians that the following forms are due to be returned to the College:

- College Events Permission Form (provided at the Parent Information Evening)
- Photography Form
- Medical Forms (if there are changes from 2019).

These must be returned as soon as possible to ensure the College can effectively operate this year. If you need additional copies of these forms, please contact the College.

### Semester 1 Leadership Assembly

On Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February we announced our 2020 Semester 1 student leaders. We congratulate our leaders and





we look forward to working with them to provide them an opportunity to develop their leadership skills. Next week we will announce the names of the leaders in the newsletter.



### **Visible Learning Professional Development**

On Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2020, the College's Primary and Secondary Leadership Teams participated in a leadership professional development session on visible learning with consultants led by Corwin Education. The day allowed the leadership teams to continue working towards the College developing as a visible learning school. On Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February, the College's impact coaches also participated in professional development in their roles assisting the College leadership teams with visible learning.

### **Year 7 Swimming**

This week our Year 7 students completed their 3-day compulsory swimming program on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. The students were excellent and represented the College with pride. It was great to receive the email below from the venue which I would like to share with you:

*Hello Sister Irene,*

*Hope this email finds you in good health.*

*We sincerely enjoyed delivering our Learn to Swim Program to your year 7 group these past 3 days.*

*I would like to extend my gratitude for having such well-mannered and well-behaved students participating in our program. Your students are vibrant and engaged in our program with absolute enthusiasm.*

*A special thank you to Mr Abood, and Mrs Cordina for assisting our swim instructors and pool deck supervisor ensuring a smooth process of lesson's.*

*I commend you on your school's charismatic staff and students alike.*

*Looking forward to delivering our Learn to Swim program to your year 8 group!*



### **Lockdown Drill**

This week the College performed its annual lockdown drill on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February. This is a mandatory drill as part of our WHS policy and procedure. This drill is an important activity to ensure our students and staff are prepared for the unforeseen event that the College needs to be locked down.



## Year 12 Elevate Education

On Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February, our year 12 students participated in their elevate education session. The session titled “Memory Mnemonics” focused on strategies to assist students remember and recall information to assist them manage stress and anxiety in examination periods.

## Academy Access Award *(Pictured Right)*

Nicole Farah (Year 12) was the recipient of The Academy Access Award from Western Sydney University. Nicole was nominated based on her exceptional academic record and diligence. This grants her a conditional Academic Excellence Scholarship for any course of her choice in 2021. We are very proud of Nicole and her achievements.



## Staff PD Session: Student Development Policy Review

The secondary staff held a session on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February where we have commenced review of our student development policy. This session focused on reviewing the current policy and making notes on aspects that need to be improved or changed. This process will be continuing throughout the year.



## Smashed Project

On Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February, year 8 and 9 students watched a performance and interactive session called “The Smashed Project” which focused on underage drinking. This session addressed outcomes in our pastoral program and PDHPE syllabus. We were joined in the session by the Federal Member for Parramatta, Julie Owens. We received excellent feedback from the students and the event organiser. Thank you to Mrs Abdul Ahad for organising this.



## The Coming Week....

This week coming, we have our annual Swimming Carnival on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at Granville Swimming Pool. Also this week on Wednesday, we have Wellbeing Wednesday, the first College tour and the annual evacuation drill. Looking forward to another big week at MCHF!



**Mr E. Asmar**  
**Head of Secondary**

## DATES TO REMEMBER

- Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February – Ash Monday Liturgy
- Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February – Years 4-6 Swimming (2)
- Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February – College Tour. Please email your booking to [Media@mchf.nsw.edu.au](mailto:Media@mchf.nsw.edu.au)



- Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February – Secondary Swimming Carnival
- Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> to Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March – Year 8 Swimming
- Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March – Year 7 Retreat
- Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March – Years 4-6 Swimming (3)
- Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March – Social Justice Mass (Years K-6) at 9am
- Monday 16<sup>th</sup> to Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March – Bullying Awareness Week
- Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March – Years 4-6 Swimming (4)
- Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March – St Joseph Mass (Years 7-12) at 9am
- Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March – Year 4-6 Swimming (5)
- Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March – Primary Maths Olympiad
- Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March – Years 4-6 Swimming (6)
- Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April – Year 12 Parent/Teacher Interviews from 3:30pm to 7:30pm

## ★★★ CONGRATULATIONS ★★★

### All Rounder Awards –

### Bronze Awards –

### Silver Awards –

### Principal's Award –

## THIS AND THAT

On February 14th, the elective Visual Arts students attended a viewing of the Cornelia Parker exhibition at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Circular Quay. The students enjoyed the artist's spectacular installations while completing worksheets to complement their studies of the artist's work. They were engaged and were fortunate to view a contemporary female artist, who is well known for transforming familiar items into extraordinary works of art. A very rewarding day out for all.







Year 10 Textiles Technology students are learning how to construct their own fabric using knitting and non-woven techniques.



## PARENT CORNER

### Parents/Guardians

**Please do not park in disabled parking, in the Church carpark, unless you have a disability sticker. Please be aware that we have parishioners, students and parents with disabilities.**

**Parents/guardians must update their details, if needed, via the parent portal.**

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