



Maronite College of the Holy Family NEWSLETTER

23-25 Alice Street, Harris Park, 2150

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Term 1 - Week 7: Friday 13th March 2020

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

FEAST OF ST JOSEPH - 19TH MARCH PATRON OF THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY



Next week we celebrate the feast of St Joseph. I would like to wish a very happy St Joseph's Feast Day to all our Father's and all who carry the name of Joseph. I would like to extend a particular word of encouragement to all fathers so that they may take St Joseph as their role model.

*Almighty God,
As you once sent the humble Joseph
to protect and provide for Mary and Jesus,
so now send the Spirit that guided him
to protect us in all our ways.*

Joy to you all on this Happy Feast!

**Sr Irene Boughosn
PRINCIPAL**

The following information is for the safety of yourselves and your CHILDREN. Please read these carefully and abide by them.

- Stick to the 40km/h speed limit in a school zone and look out for children who may be about.
- Drop your children off and pick them up on the school side of the road in your school's designated drop-off and pick-up area. Never call out to them from across the road – they may run to you without checking for traffic.
- Park safely and turn legally around schools, even if it means walking further to the school gate.
- **DO NOT** park in the driveways of the Units around the College. This is trespassing and if caught by a Police Officer there will be a fine issued.
- Never double park as it puts children at risk.
- Never park in a bus zone.
- Please observe caution when parking in the Church Carpark.
- Please **DO NOT** block the MAIN ENTRANCE when you enter to drop off your children.
- Please park in the **ALLOCATED SPOTS ONLY** and ensure that your children exit from the appropriate gate.
- Please **DO NOT** park in the DISABLED SPOTS in the Church Carpark.
- At a supervised crossing, observe the directions of the school crossing supervisor.
- Model safe and considerate behaviour for your child – **they will learn from you.**

HEAD OF PRIMARY MESSAGE

The world of social media and technology is of great importance to most students, especially as they get older. Children think that the internet gives them privacy and a sense of control but the very opposite is true. This week I met with our Year 6 students and discussed the dangers associated with the use of the internet and the ways that they can keep safe. I spoke to them about their 'digital footprint' which is the trail of [data](#) created while using the internet. It includes [websites](#) visited, [emails](#) sent and information submitted to [online](#) services.

As we approach Bullying Awareness Week, I urge all parents to have conversations with their children about the acceptable and appropriate use of technology, including social media usage and messaging. It is a parent's responsibility to ensure they teach their child the dangers of the online world and monitor their behaviour when using any device. You may like to reflect on the following in regards to your child's internet usage at home.

1. Place time limits on all internet usage. It is important for child development that there is a balance between physical activity and screen time.
2. Teach your children about what can and can't be said online. Obscene or offensive language is not to be tolerated nor are comments that can impact the way another person feels about themselves. Online bullying through social media is a police matter. If you suspect or know about inappropriate talk and conversations online involving your child, it is your responsibility to protect them by intervening in an appropriate manner.
3. Explain to your child that they are never to respond to a threatening email, message, post or text. They should always notify you or other trusted adults about any communication or conversation that was scary or hurtful.
4. Be a good role model. Children will often duplicate what they have seen their parents or older siblings do and say online.
5. Allow sites that you are comfortable with and avoid all social media platforms that offer anonymity. Apps such as WhatsApp, Messenger, kik and Instagram for example can be dangerous for your child's physical and mental wellbeing.
6. Stick to the age requirements for all sites. It is not appropriate or legal for children under 13 to have a Facebook page or Snapchat accounts for example.
7. If you allow social networking accounts, ensure privacy settings are enabled. Discuss with your child what personal information can be shared online and the implications that can arise from uploading images of themselves or others.
8. Know who your child's friends are online. Ask them how they know them and if they have met them. Not everyone online is who they say they are.
9. Keep all devices out of bedrooms at night. This will ensure your child gains a good night's sleep without disturbance.
10. Monitor the games that your child plays. Games intended for and rated 18+ are clearly adult games and should not be put in the hands of impressionable young children. It is up to you to take control of gaming choices for your child and check age ratings prior to purchase. Please also be aware that some games have an 'in game' chat function which can pose a risk to your child.

Praying with Sr Marlene

Each Thursday morning, Sr Marlene leads the primary students in prayer before sharing a story with them. This week the students listened to the story of 'The Lost Son'. Sr Marlene retold the story and highlighted its relevance to our lives today. Students were then invited to share their thoughts about the story and the special message that Jesus wanted us to learn from it.

Mathematics

In Mathematics, students are always given opportunities to apply their skills to solve problems. Providing open ended tasks encourages the use of higher order thinking skills and develops an understanding that some problems can be solved in a many of ways, using a variety of strategies. This week Kindy Rose were learning all about measurement. The students used informal units to measure their bodies and also



compared the lengths of numerous of objects. Ms Alweddy then challenged her students with a real life problem and had the students measure a table to see if it would fit in a particular place in their classroom. The class were unanimous in their findings and sent me a photo with the caption 'Thumbs up!'. It was obviously a perfect fit.



STEM Interest Groups

The STEM Interest Group held once a week during break time, was again filled with students bubbling with excitement. Ms Alweddy had her Bee Bots out ready for the students to continue their exploration of robotics in a fun and stimulating way. Bee Bots are a great interactive tool which assist the development of programming and coding skills.



School Uniform

Just a friendly reminder that all students must attend school in the correct uniform for that day. This includes wearing the school hat when outside. It is expected that all students have suitable hairstyles that are consistent with the College's expectations. Long hair must be tied back. Sleeper earrings and stud earrings may be worn. If for any reason your child cannot wear their full school uniform, a note to the class teacher is required. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Homework Club

Homework Club is held each Wednesday afternoon from 3:20pm – 4:20pm in the Primary Learning Centre. It is a supervised session run by volunteer teachers who assist students from Years 2-6 with homework and research tasks. Students are asked to have enough homework to complete in the hour session. Notes with an attached permission slip are available from the Primary Admin Office. A reminder that all students attending Homework Club must be collected from the school gate at 4:20pm. Your cooperation is appreciated.

School Bus

In recent weeks, there have been increasing reports of poor behaviour on the buses travelling to and from school each day. Please remind your child that correct behaviour is expected at all times, especially when wearing the College uniform. All students must continue to abide by College rules and expectations until they arrive home. Disrespectful and inappropriate behaviour will not be tolerated and consequences will be given to students if necessary.

2020 Premiers Reading Challenge

The Premier's Reading Challenge has begun. The challenge aims to encourage a love of reading in all students and enables them to experience quality literature. By logging onto the site, students can search for books to read, add books to their reading logs and track their progress throughout the challenge. The race is on!

<https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/studentExperience.html#/>

Applications for Approved Leave – Travel

A reminder that 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

Student Success: Part 3 “Discipline”

This week we continue to breakdown the 7 aspects that achieve student success. This week we focus on Discipline. Discipline is one of the important aspects that leads to student success. When we talk about discipline, we are not only referring to classroom behaviour; discipline also includes a student being ‘self-disciplined’ to achieve success. There are many examples to refer to, however, a few examples of discipline (or self-discipline) include:

- Getting to the College and classes on time
- Adhering to the uniform and grooming policy
- Setting goals
- Accepting feedback and instructions from others
- Being organised
- Accepting consequences for actions
- Establishing a growth mindset – learning from mistakes

A student’s discipline, especially self-discipline, will shape the individual student which will control the basis of their actions. As a result, students end up consistently doing the right thing, putting in the effort to achieve their best and hence, will achieve success.



Western Sydney Women in Aviation Mentoring Program

The College is proud to share the achievements of Marla Alkhoury in Year 12. Marla has been accepted into the Western Sydney Women in Aviation Mentoring Program. She has been assigned a mentor to network and collaborate with as well as behind-the-scenes experience at Bankstown Airport. Marla wishes to pursue a career as a pilot and we hope this program can put her in touch with the right contacts. The College congratulates Marla on this achievement.



Year 11 Homeless Feed

Year 11 students participated in a homeless feed initiative through Our Lady of Lebanon's Heaven on Earth group. Students attended Prince Alfred Square, Parramatta, on Saturday 29th February 2020 to assist with feeding the homeless. The students were assisted and led by Mr Hassarati, Mr El-Hage and Mrs Botros. The experience was a rewarding one for the students, especially in this Season of Lent.

Visible Learning Survey

This week students completed a survey to provide feedback on the teaching and learning environment at the College. The purpose of the survey is to gather data, assess and improve the teaching and learning experiences at the College. This is part of our current work we are doing to improve our College as a Visible Learning school.

Social Justice Mass

On Friday 13th March 2020 students attended the Social Justice Mass held in the morning at Our Lady of Lebanon Co-Cathedral. We prayed for social justice in Australia which was a positive experience for staff and students as we continue our journey through the Season of Lent.



Staff Professional Development Session: Strategic Planning

On Monday 9th March 2020, our staff participated in a professional development session where they provided feedback on the proposed 2020-2022 Strategic Plan. The feedback will now be collated and reviewed to assist the College to finalise our future direction and goals for the next 3 years.



Extracurricular Activities

The College is proud to provide opportunities for students to participate in the life of the College through various extracurricular activities. It is important to highlight the time and effort the staff make to these activities to provide opportunities for students to enjoy and participate in the life of the College. Some of the initiatives and activities available for students this year include: Bandana Day, Book Week, Bullying Awareness Week, Chess Club, Children's Hospital Visit, Choir, Debating, Drama Club, Duke of Edinburgh, Enrichment Project,

Environmental Group, Expo Extravaganza, Homeless Feed, Homework Club, Lebanon Independence Day, Maths Olympiad, Mirath in Mind, Mock Trial, Peer Mentoring, Project Compassion, Public Speaking, Representative Sport, SRC, Vinnies Christmas Hampers, Vinnies Winter Sleepout, Carnivals, Walkathon and Wellbeing Wednesday.

Faith Forum

On Wednesday at lunch we had the first Faith Forum Session. This session is run by Miss Chaaban and is an opportunity for students to learn about their Maronite Faith and ask questions they may have. Each week is a new topic and, as we are during the Lenten season, the importance of fasting was our focus. We discussed why we fast and why we give up certain foods. This then led to how we can resist temptation, emulating the actions of Jesus in the desert for 40 days. Students were highly interested as this was something they did not know and are looking forward to the discussions to come.



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

Thursday Sport Uniform

There seems to be some confusion amongst students in regards to the required uniform to be worn on Thursdays. Students are required to wear the College sport uniform on Thursdays with their House Polos. This includes rep students. Rep students must either wear their rep uniform under their sport uniform or bring in a separate bag and change into before rep sport. Any student who fails to comply with this will result in out of uniform infringement being issued.

Year 12 Driving to the College

Year 12 students are required to seek approval from the College to drive to the College. This is a policy which must be adhered to by students. Students must complete the application form and submit to the College for approval. Failure to seek approval may result in severe consequences.

Applying for Approved Leave – Travel

A reminder that as of this year an application for approved leave must be completed and submitted to the College if the leave is for 5 days or more.

Travelling on the Bus

A reminder to students travelling on the bus to ensure they have their opal cards ready when getting on the bus. There should be no eating or drinking on the bus and they are required to take their rubbish with them off the bus and not leave it on the floor. Finally, we expect students to be on their best behaviour while travelling on the bus and cooperate with their bus prefects. It is important for students to remember that they are still under the College's responsibility while wearing the College uniform travelling to and from the College.

Mr E. Asmar
Head of Secondary

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Monday 16th to Friday 20th March – Bullying Awareness Week
- Tuesday 17th March – Years 4-6 Swimming
- Friday 20th March – St Joseph Mass (Years K-6) at 9am
- Tuesday 24th March – Year 4-6 Swimming
- Wednesday 25th March – Primary Maths Olympiad
- Tuesday 31st March – Years 4-6 Swimming
- Wednesday 1st April – Year 12 Parent/Teacher Interviews from 3:30pm to 7:30pm
- Thursday 9th April – Term 1 Ends
- Wednesday 29th April – Term 2 Begins

★★★ CONGRATULATIONS ★★★

All Rounder Awards –

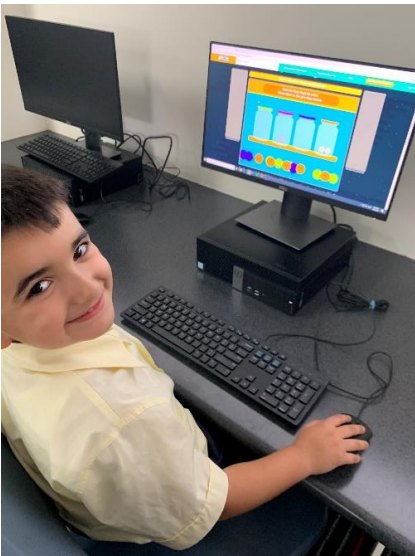
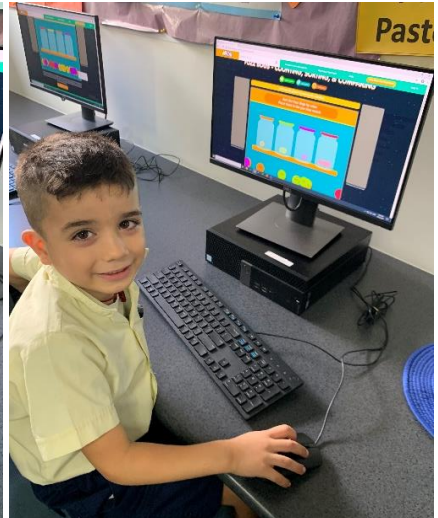
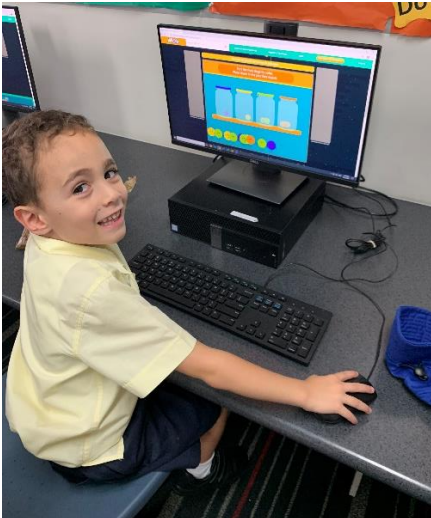
Bronze Awards –

Silver Awards –

Principal's Award –

THIS AND THAT

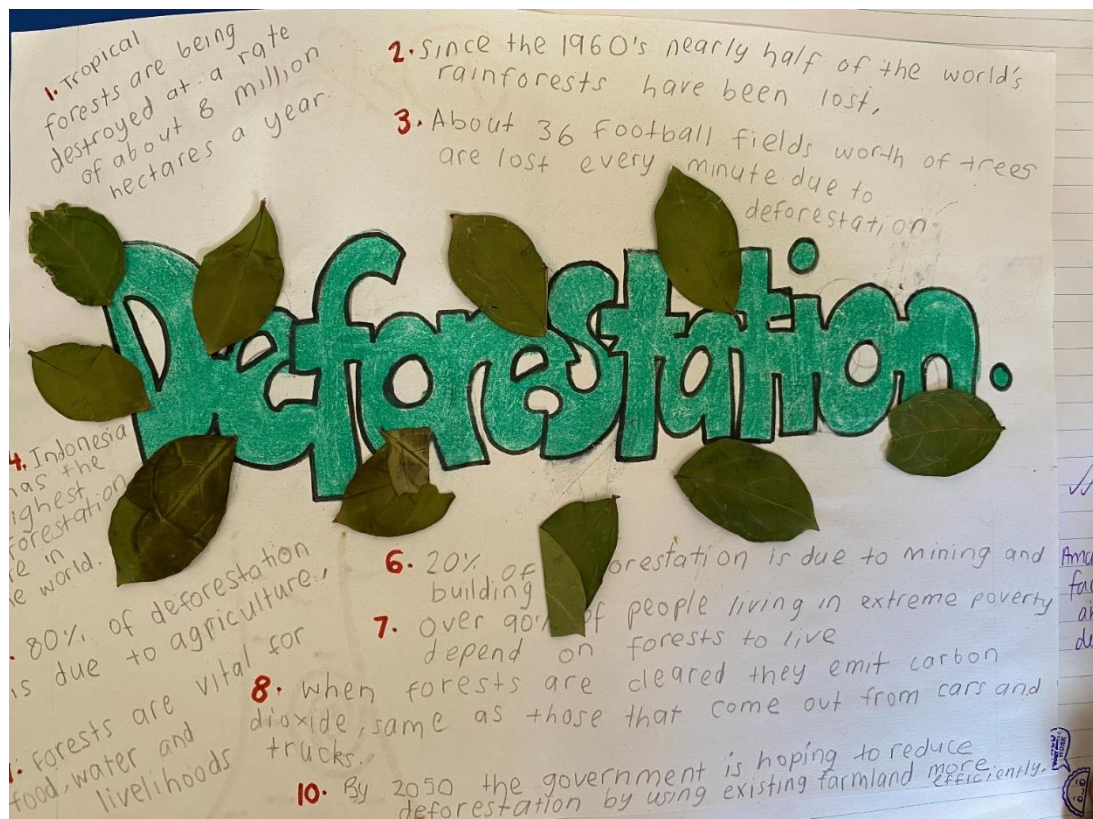
On Monday, Kindy Red had their first ICT lesson. They learnt how to log into the computers on their own, and were able to play games.



Year 7 are enjoying their Geography excursion to Sydney Olympic Park. They are learning about “Place and Liveability” which requires them to investigate the environmental features that enhance people’s wellbeing, social connectedness, and environmental quality.



Heidi Farah (4 Amber) is recognised as a star student for always producing quality homework tasks!
Keep up the amazing work Heidi!



PARENT CORNER

The Parent Association is organising our very first College Easter Stall for our infants and primary students. We are kindly asking for donations of small confectionery and a variety of Easter Eggs (any size) from our generous parents to go towards putting together items for the stall. We will be creating a variety of Easter Bags and Easter Boxes for the students to purchase at the stall (pictured right).

We are also organising an Easter raffle for our high school students where we will be raffling off a variety of Easter hampers. We greatly appreciate any donations made towards putting together our hampers.

All donations can be made to the Primary Admin Office.

If you have any questions in relation to donations, please contact **Mary Bechara** on **0411 033 231**

As always, we appreciate your continued support.



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

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

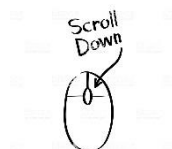
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