



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 8: Friday 20th March 2020

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Prayer for people who are infected with COVID-19 or facing quarantine



Jesus, during Your ministry on Earth You showed Your power and caring by healing people of all ages and stations of life from physical, mental, and spiritual ailments.

Be present now to people who need Your loving touch because of COVID-19.

May they feel Your power of healing through the care of doctors and nurses.

Take away the fear, anxiety, and feeling of isolation from people receiving treatment or under quarantine. Give them a sense of purpose in pursuing health and protecting others from exposure to the disease. Protect their families and friends and bring peace to all who love them. Amen.

Dear Parents/Guardians

As the threat of this virus continues to spread, I would like to assure you that all necessary precautions have been put in place at the College. It is our utmost priority to make sure all the students and staff are looked after accordingly. I urge you to continually remind your children to exercise proper hygiene and not to touch other students. We are continually following advice from the Department of Education in relation to procedures we must follow.

To date, the following procedures have been put into place:

- All assemblies, excursions, sporting activities, swimming lessons, camps and any other planned activities which involve the interaction of outside bodies to the College have been cancelled until further notice.
- All classrooms have been supplied with hand sanitisers for the use of the students and staff.
- As much as possible all students have been spread out in the classrooms.
- The College has extended the hours of the cleaners to ensure that bathrooms, and surfaces are continually being disinfected.

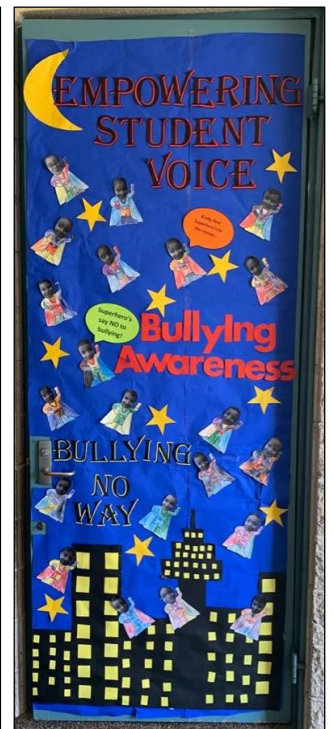
Should you require any further details, please contact the College.

**Sr Irene Boughosn
PRINCIPAL**

HEAD OF PRIMARY MESSAGE



Bullying Awareness Week was a focus for MCHF this week. The theme this year focused on 'Empowering Student Voice'. Primary students spent the week engaging in activities designed to develop awareness of bullying in our community. They learnt how to recognise the signs of bullying and how they could take action to address the issue. The aim of the week was to empower our students so that they could assist in creating a safer community for everyone. The week ended with celebrating Harmony Day. This day recognises and supports inclusiveness, respect and belonging for all Australians, regardless of anyone's cultural background. The highlight for me was hearing the positive conversations amongst our students about the topic of bullying. I was also impressed with the creativity shown in the variety of classroom door displays.



To complete our Bullying Awareness program this week, all students from Kindergarten to Years 6 were treated to a performance by some of our secondary students. This experience allowed our students to observe situations where bullying can occur in our community and how the situation can be resolved. Class discussions after the performance enabled individuals the opportunity to share their opinions and apply some of the knowledge that they acquired throughout the week. Thank you to Mrs Youssef and the Year 11 drama students for all the hard work they placed into the preparation and performance of the play.



Holy Communion

Due to recent events, the Year 4 Holy Communion will now be held on Saturday 24th October 2020 at 2:00pm. Further details will be sent out at a later date. We thank you for your understanding.

Coronavirus

The College's response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) has been evolving as this medical situation escalates. We will continue to act upon the advice we receive from NSW Health and Educational Authorities. As always, the safety and wellbeing of our students is our primary concern. Further measures to reduce any possible risk to those in our community will be implemented as the need arises. We want to thank all parents who have been cooperating with us during this challenging time.

Emphasis on Hygiene

This week, all teachers have been emphasising the importance of personal hygiene. Signs have also been placed in prominent positions around the College as a reminder to all students. We ask that all parents promote these essential practices with their children as well.



Student Attendance

As the government has not mandated the closure of schools at this point in time, please be aware that the College will not be able to approve any student leave during the stated period unless a Medical Certificate of clearance is supplied upon their return to school. NSW Health's current advice states that only those who have been in **direct, close contact with a confirmed case** need to stay away from school or work for 14 days. NSW Health defines close contact as being:

- face to face for at least 15 minutes with someone who has tested positive for the COVID-19 when that person was infectious
- in the same closed space for at least 2 hours with a person who has tested positive for the virus.

Requests for Classwork

The College is receiving many requests for current class activities to be sent home to those students not presently attending school. As the Australian Government has not mandated any school to close, all classes will be taught as usual at the College during regular school hours. Primary class programs are designed to be facilitated by the teacher, therefore it is difficult to transfer these lessons into take home tasks. In the case that the school was mandated to close, the teaching staff will modify and adjust program content into online lessons in order to achieve set NSW Syllabus outcomes. They will also be available to provide online support if this situation arose. This support is not possible whilst they continue to teach their class at school. If teachers are asked for work to be supplied, they will provide class homework and a list of general activities that will assist in consolidating the current learning.

Morning and Afternoon Procedures

Please be aware that changes to the following procedures are now in place:

- **Morning Drop Off** - Students are to be dropped off at the front gate. Parents are requested not to enter the school grounds.
- **Afternoon Pick Up** - Parents in the Infants Playground must remain behind the seating area and wait for their children. Once dismissed by the class teacher, students will be permitted to walk to their parents. Parents are not to approach teachers at this time as they have a duty of care to their students who are yet to be collected.

Parent Volunteers

Please note, that due to the current Coronavirus situation, the College will no longer be permitting parent volunteers to assist within the classroom or with any other school-based activity.

Applications for Approved Leave – Travel

Just a reminder that currently, the following applies to all MCHF families.

- Applications submitted for leave to travel, will not be accepted.
- Any family returning from an overseas trip **MUST SELF ISOLATE for 14 days prior to returning to College. Medical documentation must be provided before returning to the College.**

Swimming Program

Swimming lessons for Years 3-6 have been cancelled due to health regulations and the safety of the students. Classes will revert to their usual sport days and participate in lessons that develop their fundamental skills. This week Year 5 had a fun and engaging sport lesson back on dry land.

Five Loaves Café

Can I please ask, that all parents remind their primary aged children that they are not permitted to go to the Five Loaves Café to purchase food, without parent supervision. This includes both before and after school. We thank you for assisting us in maintaining student safety at MCHF.

Project Compassion

In class, teachers have been discussing the meaning of charity and ways that we can all help the disadvantaged in our society. One way in which MCHF is lending a helping hand is by collecting money for Caritas Australia. This week I heard the very proud Ms Dib talk about the amazing generosity of her class. 4 Amber students have worked together to raise a current total of \$521 for this year's Project Compassion Appeal. This money is certainly going to make a difference to many people's lives, especially during this Lenten season.

Homework Club

Homework Club continues to be 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.

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

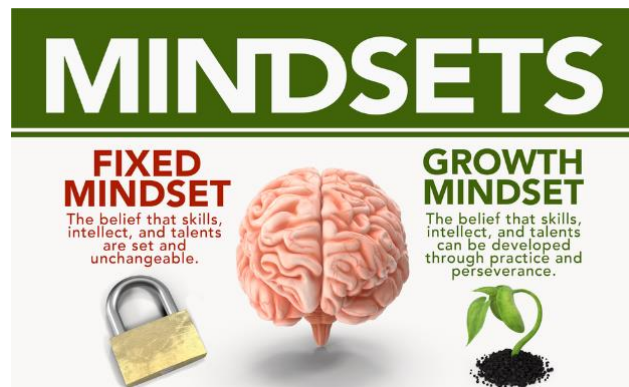
books to their reading logs and track their progress throughout the challenge. The race is on! <https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/studentExperience.html#/>

Mr D. Day
Head of Primary

HEAD OF SECONDARY MESSAGE

Student Success: Part 4 “Discipline”

This week we continue to breakdown the 7 aspects that achieve student success. This week we focus on Attitude. An attitude for a student is not something that can be taught or requested. It has to come from within the student. Their mindset shapes their attitude, as well as the other aspects. This is the reason we promote for students to develop a growth mindset in order to enable them to develop a positive attitude and an attitude where their education becomes their highest priority. A positive attitude, including a growth mindset, will greatly assist for a student to achieve success.



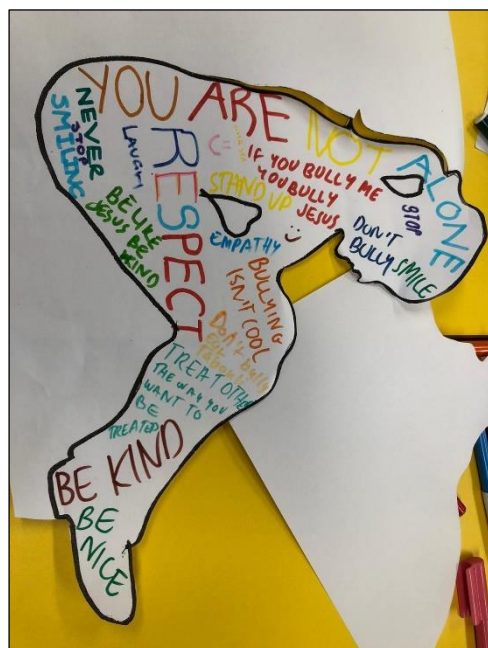
COVID-19 Update

The College is doing everything instructed to ensure the College is a safe environment for the staff and students as we get through the current pandemic situation. We request and appreciate the support and cooperation of parents/guardians and to trust us as we maintain and continue with the daily operation and management of the College.

Bullying Awareness Week

This week we held our Annual Bullying Awareness Week event to promote anti-bullying and send the message that the College stands together against bullying. This coincided with the National of Action Against Violence and Bullying held on Friday 20th March 2020. This year all week activities included a Noticeboard Competition between the various year groups, prayer boxes for students to offer their prayers and intentions, poster competition and designing an Anti-Bullying T-Shirt. Special events for the week included the screening of the movie “Cyberbully”, a Kahoot challenge in the Learning Centre, drama presentation for our primary students prepared by our drama students and the splash of red event. A special volleyball challenge between teachers and students took place at lunch time to conclude the week-long event. Thank you to Mrs Abdul Ahad for organising the event along with the College Anti-Bullying Ambassadors for overseeing the activities and events.





Year 12 Parent Teacher Interviews

A reminder to Year 12 parents/guardians, the Year 12 Parent Teacher Interviews will no longer be held face to face. Parents/Guardians have been invited to email Year 12 teachers in the week beginning Monday 30th March 2020 for feedback on the progress of their child. During this week please be patient with Year 12 teachers for a

response to emails. We ask for 48 hours to receive a response. For more information, please refer to the letter released via the College Website and App.

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 Polo's. 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.

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

- Wednesday 25th March – Primary Maths Olympiad
- Thursday 9th April – Term 1 Ends
- Wednesday 29th April – Term 2 Begins
- Monday 4th May – Year 7 Immunisations + Years 8 and 11 Catch-ups
- Monday 11th to Friday 22nd May - Year 7 (2021) Enrolment Interviews
- Tuesday 12th to Thursday 14th May – NAPLAN
- Monday 25th to Friday 29th May – Years 7, 8 and 10 Half Yearly Exams
- Monday 1st to Wednesday 3rd June – Year 10 Minimum Standards Test
- Thursday 4th to Thursday 11th June – Year 9 Half Yearly Exams

★★★ CONGRATULATIONS ★★★

All Rounder Awards – Lina Alameddine (Year 3)

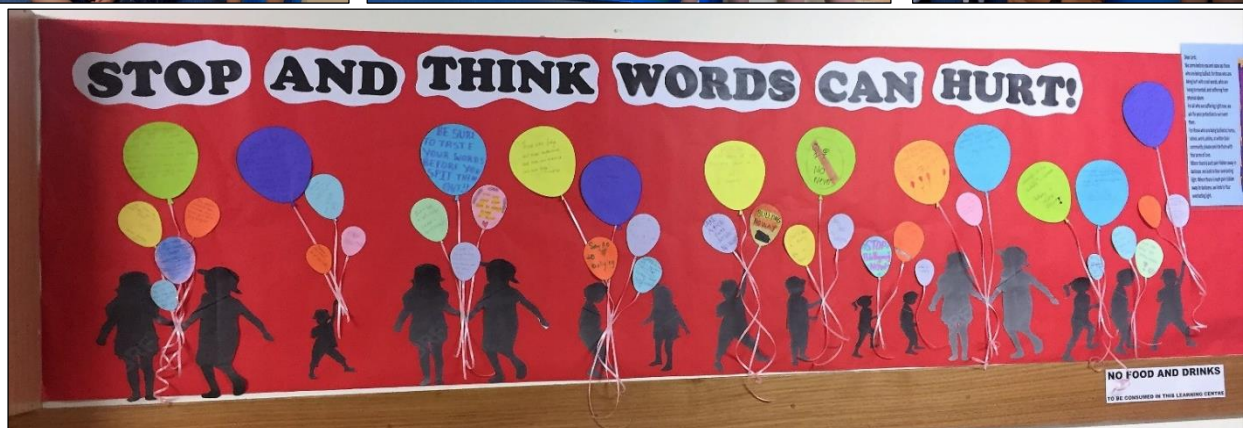
Bronze Awards –

Silver Awards –

Principal's Award –

THIS AND THAT

BULLY AWARENESS WEEK AT MCHF





**DON'T
BE A
BULLY**





Year 11 Construction Fire Awareness Course

The Year 11 VET Construction students participated in a Level 2 Fire Awareness Course ran by Chubb Training on Monday 16th March 2020.



PARENT CORNER

Please scroll to the end for a message from the Bishop...

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.

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/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/mchfparramatta/>

Instagram - <https://www.instagram.com/mchf2325/>

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MARONITE EPARCHY OF AUSTRALIA

FURTHER TEMPORARY MEASURES REGARDING COVID-19 19 MARCH 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As you are aware, the Federal Government has issued directives banning any indoor events with more than 100 people and outdoor events over 500 people, including gatherings in all places of worship, in an effort to limit the spread of COVID-19.

As part of our Christian and social responsibility to limit the spread of this virus and to care for our vulnerable brothers and sisters, the following temporary measures are to be taken in all Maronite churches and parishes, in addition to the previously announced measures (on 6 March 2020):

- **Celebrations of the Holy Sacraments will proceed** with extra precautions and attendance restricted to the limits issued by the Australian Government. These changes are subject to continued review, dependant on government directives:
 - o No indoor Mass or church event should be conducted with more than 100 attendees.
 - o If more than 100 attendees are expected, the Mass or event should be moved outside and limited to 500 people, or split over several time slots or venues.
 - o **Weekday and Sunday Masses:** The celebration of the Holy Eucharist will continue. Larger parishes will add extra services, based on their local needs. Extra services will be announced soon by your local parishes.

Attendance numbers are limited by law and when the maximum number allowed is reached, you will be regretfully asked to come to the next service.

I understand that this may be very frustrating, but I thank you for your patience and understanding. I encourage you to attend services at times which are less likely to be busy and at the smaller Maronite parishes. I refer to my previous communication and direct that Communion will only be distributed in the hand.

- o **Christenings, Funerals and Weddings:** the celebration of these sacraments can proceed but must adhere to the attendance restrictions outlined above. All services will be limited to family only.
- o **Reconciliation:** The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be mainly offered outside mass times in a dedicated room or space where the priest and the penitent can sit at a safe distance while adhering to safeguarding laws. Confession times will be communicated to you by your parish. Preventative measures with regards to

COVID-19 transmission should be taken if using the church's confessionals to hear confessions.

- **Anointing of the Sick:** The priests will continue to offer pastoral care and the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick to all Maronites who need it. When anointing the sick, priests are given permission to lay on hands by holding them above, rather than upon, the head and to anoint using a cotton wool ball and a protective glove, which can be disposed of appropriately after a single use.
- **All non-sacramental and non-essential gatherings will be cancelled or postponed, effective immediately and until further notice.** These include parish group meetings of all ages, bible studies, spiritual talks, language schools, spiritual retreats, sacramental preparation lessons (Reconciliation and First Holy Communion), home visits during the month of May, as well as all social events.
- **Stations of the Cross and Fridays of Lent** liturgies will be subject to the attendance limits imposed by the Government and can be live streamed on social media. *Please note that this liturgy is not an obligation and the faithful can participate via live stream from their homes.*
- **Church Halls and Facilities:**
 - No new bookings of the church halls or rooms for condolences or mercy meals or any other events will be accepted.
 - Existing bookings of church halls or rooms will be postponed or cancelled effective immediately.
 - Every effort will be made to ensure that churches and facilities are cleaned and disinfected after every gathering and as often as practically possible.

- **Private Prayer and Adoration:**

We firmly believe that Jesus is present in the Holy Eucharist, source and summit of our life as a church. These are not ordinary times and refuge and peace can be found in prayer and adoration. As such, the churches will remain open, as per usual, for the faithful who wish to pray or adore Christ present in the tabernacle. You can check your church opening times with your local Maronite parish.

A Day of Prayer will be observed on 29 March 2020 as called for by the National Council of Churches in Australia. All Christians in Australia are called to unite in prayer for an end to this pandemic.

I also call upon families to gather in their homes at 7pm every night to pray together the Holy Rosary and read passages from the Bible, turning our homes into true "domestic churches".

- **Prevention and Social Distancing**

I remind you of the importance of social distancing to limit the spread of COVID-19 from person-to-person. This means sitting apart during church services and **avoiding physical contact with one another.**

If any of the following applies to you then please do not attend any parish grounds:

- You have come into close contact with someone confirmed as having COVID-19 in the last 14 days.
- You are feeling unwell and experiencing fever, cough, sore throat or shortness of breath.
- You have travelled and returned from overseas in the past 14 days.

You can honour your Sunday obligation by participating in a time of prayer within the home, reading the Scriptures or watching Mass via television, live streams on social media or listening to the Voice of Charity Australia Radio Station (1701AM). This also applies to vulnerable people who should not expose themselves to situations which will put them at risk, such as individuals over 60 and those with chronic diseases.

- **Parish Offices**

The eparchy and parish offices will remain open to serve you. Opening hours may change. Please check with your local parish.

- **Live Streaming**

The following parishes will live stream most of their services on Facebook Live: St John the Beloved Mount Druitt, Our Lady of Lebanon Harris Park and St Charbel's Parish Punchbowl. All links will also be made available through the Maronite Eparchy of Australia Facebook page.

Measures regarding the celebrations of Palm Sunday and Holy Week will be announced in due course.

The decisions above have been made after careful consideration. It is our duty to care for the spiritual and physical wellbeing of one another at this time and reduce the spread of the virus, without complacency. I encourage you to remain calm and to find strength and hope in our faith remembering the words of the Psalmist: "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?" (Psalm 27:1)

In God's Love,

A handwritten signature in black ink, enclosed within a large, loopy oval. The signature appears to read "F.B. Tarabay".

+Antoine-Charbel Tarabay
Maronite Bishop of Australia