



# 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 10: Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020**

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our parents, staff and students for their support and cooperation during these testing times.

As we continue to pray for good health, patience, peace and calmness in our lives, may the Risen Lord walk through our homes and shower His abundant blessings upon us all.

Hoping we all enjoy the celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday and can proclaim with faith,

***"Jesus is Risen! He is truly Risen!"***



**Sr Irene Boughosn  
PRINCIPAL**

### Palm Sunday

On this day of great rejoicing,  
Lord Jesus Christ, when we welcome  
You as our King and Savior,  
we also walk in the shadow of Your cross.

Hosanna! we cry.

Blessed are You who come  
in God's name to save us.

Hosanna!

Strengthen our faith on this Palm Sunday  
so that when the time comes  
to carry the cross we might still  
call out to You with heartfelt praise.

Give us the grace and the courage  
to follow You this Holy Week  
from death to resurrection,  
from darkness to the fullness of light.

We need You,  
Lord Jesus Christ, our Savior.  
Hosanna!

*When Christ hung and bled and died, it was God saying to the world, 'I love you.' - Billy Graham*

## HEAD OF PRIMARY MESSAGE



We have suddenly arrived at the end of first term. The past few weeks have presented many challenges that have not only bonded us closer together, but also highlighted just how flexible and resilient we are in these uncertain and troubling times. I would like to personally thank Sr Irene for leading the College in a calm and nurturing manner. Thank you also to Sr Marlene and Sr Cynthia for their continued guidance and support. The amazing efforts of the teaching and support staff, along with the office staff must also be celebrated. Lastly to the students and parents, the commitment you display towards a new way of learning is greatly appreciated. To all in our College community, I wish you a very Holy Easter and pray that you continue to remain safe. For our students, remember to be kind to yourselves and to be kind to your family as well.

### Remote Learning

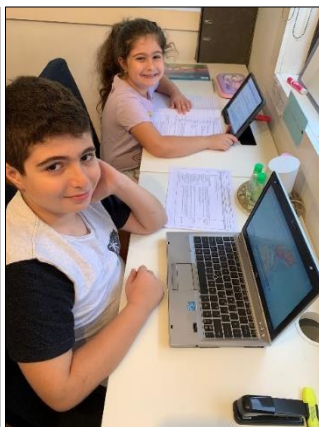
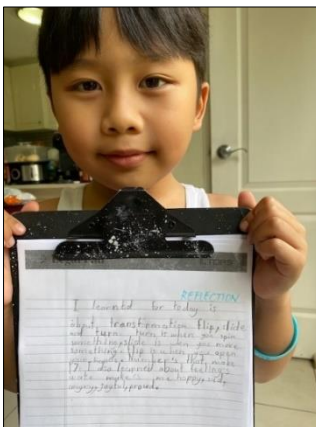
There has been great discussion regarding the dramatic changes made to the delivery of curriculum in the Primary Department. Government decisions made without any consultation, triggered the teaching profession to rethink how learning could best be delivered online, without the assistance of a teacher. As you are aware, this has been a challenge for everyone involved and continues to be an extremely stressful time for all. Primary teachers are used to preparing work for students that is supported by them in a classroom environment. We appreciate the patience and positive feedback that has been received by most parents. It is unfortunate though, that there are some parents who continue to criticise what is being done here at the College. Please understand that teachers cannot cater to every request from a parent based on their personal preference or commitments. Nor can they be expected to reply to emails throughout the night. Like yourselves, teachers have families who also need their love and support at this time. We are open to discuss any feedback that you may have, but it is asked that you follow the correct protocol and avoid using social media to publicise your opinions.

### New Arrivals

Congratulations to Ms Louisa Hill and Ms Sandra Hanna who were both blessed with the arrival of their baby this week. Ms Hill welcomed a beautiful boy named Aiden into the world on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March, while Ms Hanna delivered a gorgeous girl, Mary-Therese on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March. We wish both them and their families well.

### Learning from Home

This week, teachers were inundated with student work samples and words of appreciation for their efforts. We are grateful for the way families have embraced this new style of learning and appreciative of your understanding during this transition phase.



## Learning at School

Those students who continued to attend school, had the added bonus of a teacher to assist them when required. Upon visiting each class throughout the day, a high level of student engagement could always be seen. Great work to all!



## Hygiene and Social Distance

All staff are continuing to emphasise the importance of personal hygiene. The College is also ensuring that a safe environment is provided to our MCHF community with more frequent cleaning schedule occurring throughout the day. This week, social distancing has been a popular topic of conversation amongst our older students. Seeing this awareness is not only encouraging, but shows a growing maturity which is vital in the current situation we find ourselves in. As always, discussing these issues at home with your students is also extremely beneficial.

## Holy Communion

A reminder that the Year 4 Holy Communion will now be held on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2020 at 2:00pm. Further details will be sent out at a later date.

## 2020 Premiers Reading Challenge

Don't forget that even when learning remotely, students can still participate in the 2020 Premier's Reading Challenge. Encourage them to continue reading so that they can be transported into another world, time or place.

Students can log onto the site, search for books to read, add books to their reading logs and track their progress. The race is on! <https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/studentExperience.html#/>

### 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.



Mr D. Day  
Head of Primary

## HEAD OF SECONDARY MESSAGE

### Student Success: Part 6 “Attendance”

This week we continue to breakdown the 7 aspects that achieve student success. This week we focus on Attendance. It has been proven that lack of attendance at school impacts a student’s performance and education. Therefore, it is simple – the more you are at school, the greater the chance for success. It is important to note that meeting course requirements (especially in senior years) is not only about marks and results. There are three components to meeting course requirements: results, outcomes and hours. A student’s attendance at school ensures they are meeting the hours required to complete courses.



### Remote Learning Feedback and Update

Secondary Staff and Students are settling in remote learning. Majority of students are engaged and are communicating with their teachers. The use of Microsoft Teams to collaborate is being received well by staff and students which provides us the peace of mind that our transition to this platform by term 4 will be a successful process. As mentioned, our aim is to transition to Microsoft Teams for all courses to replace Moodle. This transition has been impacted by our current pandemic crisis, however, our goal will remain to make a full transition by term 4 for all courses and become the main and only platform for online learning.

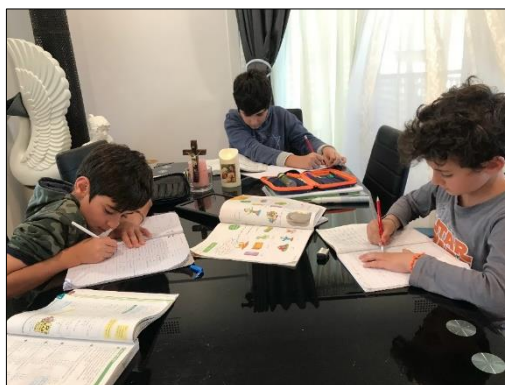


I do need to remind you that students must be engaged in their education during remote learning. Remote learning is not a holiday or a term break. Students are expected to continue their learning journey until the end of the term. Daily messages are being emailed to students which includes a prayer, announcements and reminders.



### Remote Learning Plan for the Remainder of the Term

As stated in the remote learning plan transition letter dated 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020, please see below the plan for the remainder of the term. Please note in Week 11 all students are required to remain at home and remote learn as a trial of continuity of learning should the College be instructed to close.



Week	Dates	Action
11	06/04/2020 – 08/04/2020	<b>Remote Learning from Home – ALL STUDENTS</b> On Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> April 2020 until and including Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> April 2020, students are to remain at home and learn remotely. These days will be a trial to guarantee continuity of learning should the College be instructed to close in the future.
<b>Term 1 concludes for staff and students on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2020</b> <b>Unless otherwise notified, Term 2 commences for students on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2020</b>		

### Remote Counselling Services

Our College continues to be committed to the mental health and wellbeing of our students. Now more than ever, the wellbeing of our students is of great concern. The College has discussed the provision of remote counselling procedures and would like to inform you that our College Psychologist will continue to provide counselling and support services to students even as we begin our time with students and staff working from home. The method of delivering counselling will change. Due to remote learning and the ongoing restrictions placed upon us, face to face counselling is not possible at this time. Our Psychologist will be using a combination of email contact, phone or online counselling sessions. Students who are already receiving counselling will be able to email the College Psychologist directly and request a session. The student has the option of requesting a phone session or an online session. Online sessions will be provided via Zoom (a video conferencing program). Relevant consent forms and information will be emailed to the student prior to the session. If a new student would like to request counselling, then they are able to email their Year Advisor who can arrange a referral to the College Psychologist. If parents have any concerns about their child, please contact the College directly.

### Maintaining Hygiene and Safety at the College

All staff are continuing to emphasise the importance of hygiene at the College. They are continuing to provide sanitisers for students and are reminding them to maintain correct hygiene procedures. The College has implemented a more frequent cleaning schedule throughout the day and after school hours. We have also ensured we adhere to the social distancing requirements within the classrooms for those students who have continued to attend the College this week.



### Year 7, 2021 Enrolments

Please note commencing Term 2, we will be commencing the enrolment process for our Year 7, 2021 cohort. At this stage, we will not be conducting the face-to-face interviews. The enrolment packages will be arranged to be distributed to parents/guardians of year 6. The documentation will need to be completed and returned. Interviews will then be arranged later in the year when we are able to conduct these.

### Applications for Approved Leave (Travel)

Please note the College will not be approving any applications for approved leave (travel) until we are cleared from the COVID-19 pandemic crisis we are in. Any pre-approved applications have been cancelled and those parents have been contacted.

### 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 forms, please contact Ms Salma Abou-Azar in the Secondary Administration.

### Project Compassion

As we head towards the end of Lent, this also means we conclude Project Compassion for this year. We take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributed towards this initiative this year. We also thank Mr Hassarati for coordinating Project Compassion once again this year.

## Changes to Homework Club and Afternoon Detentions Commencing Term 2

Please be advised that Homework Club and Afternoon Detentions have been moved to Monday afternoons commencing Term 2 from 3:20pm – 4:20pm.

### End of Term 1

I take this opportunity to thank our staff for the tremendous work they have done this term – especially in the past few weeks. I have been at the College for almost 13 years and the bond and collaboration between the staff during the last few weeks in this crisis has been an inspiration. I am blessed to be surrounded by a team of hardworking educators.

Thank you to the students and parents/guardians for the support and cooperation throughout this term – especially during this pandemic crisis. As a parent, I understand the challenge it is to monitor and support your child during remote learning. All we have asked is for students to do their best in their learning and parents/guardians to do their best in supporting their child continue their learning.

I wish you all the best for the term break. As we conclude our Lenten journey, we turn our focus and prayers to Holy Week as we reflect and pray on the final weeks of Jesus' life on earth which ultimately leads us to celebrating his resurrection. I wish you all a blessed Easter and join with you rejoicing "Jesus has Risen; he has Truly Risen!"

Mr E. Asmar  
Head of Secondary



## DATES TO REMEMBER



- Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April until Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April - **Remote Learning from Home – ALL STUDENTS.** Students are to remain at home and learn remotely.
- Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April – Term 1 Ends
- Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April – Term 2 Begins (unless our Prime Minister decides otherwise)
- Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May – Year 7 Immunisations + Years 8 and 11 Catch-ups
- Monday 11<sup>th</sup> to Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May - Year 7 (2021) Enrolment Interviews
- Monday 25<sup>th</sup> to Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May – Years 7, 8 and 10 Half Yearly Exams
- Monday 1<sup>st</sup> to Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June – Year 10 Minimum Standards Test
- Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June – Year 9 Half Yearly Exams

## THIS AND THAT

A very happy birthday to Sr Constance who turns 90 on 12<sup>th</sup> April!

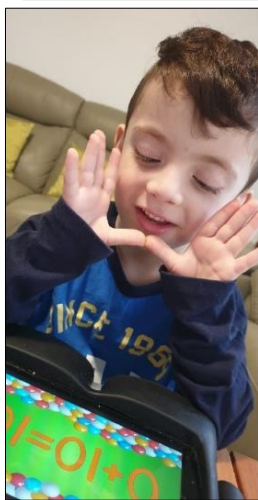


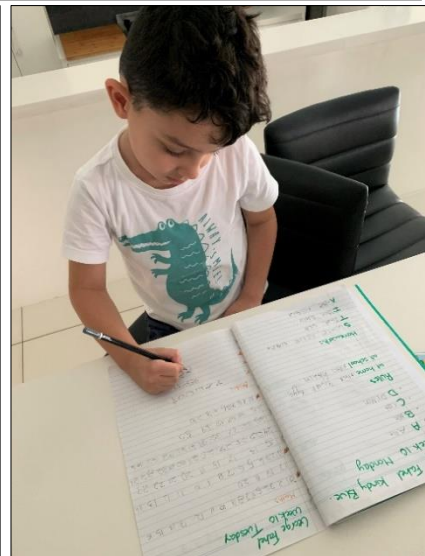
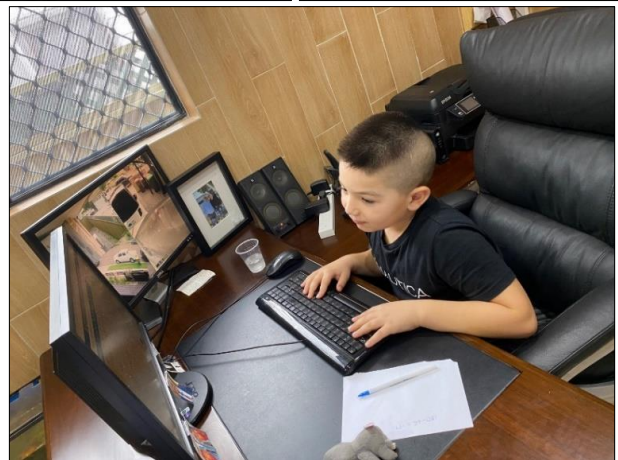
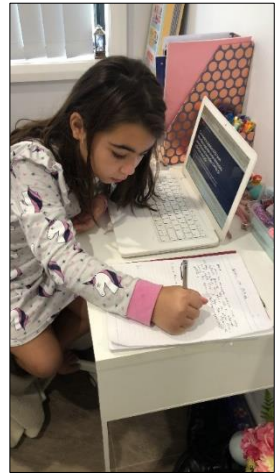
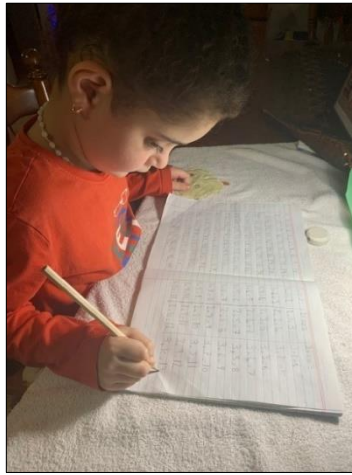
MCHF would like to congratulate the following winners of our annual Easter Raffle: Mr Stillen, Olivia Bechara (High School), Grace Sleiman (High School), Serena Sadek (Primary) and Ms Macura.

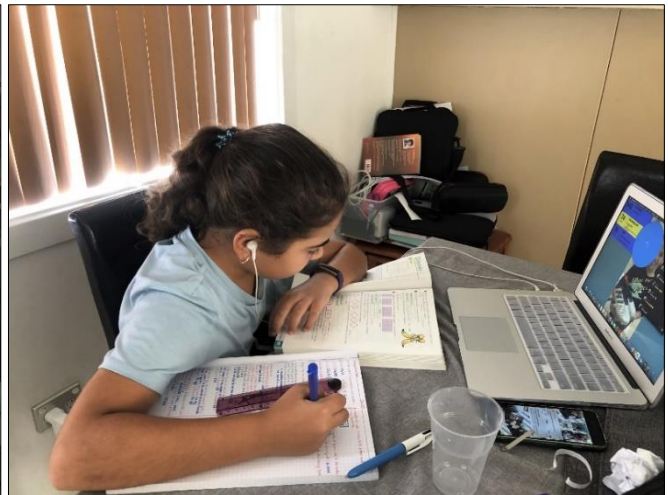
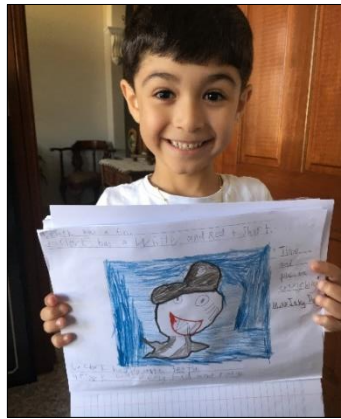
On behalf of the College community, we would like to thank Mary Bechara and our Parent Association for all their efforts in putting together this year's Easter fundraiser. The children loved purchasing the Easter egg bags and taking part in the raffle.

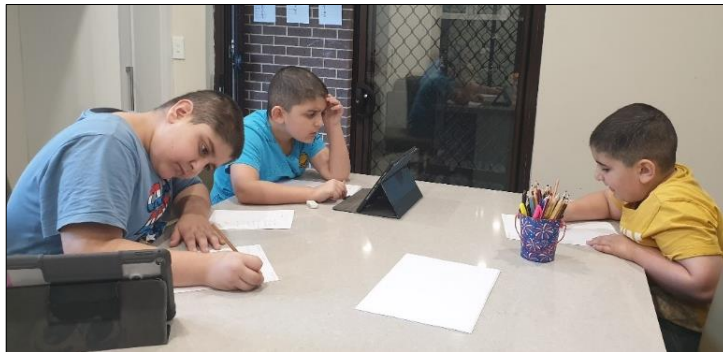
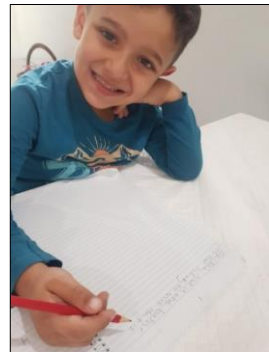
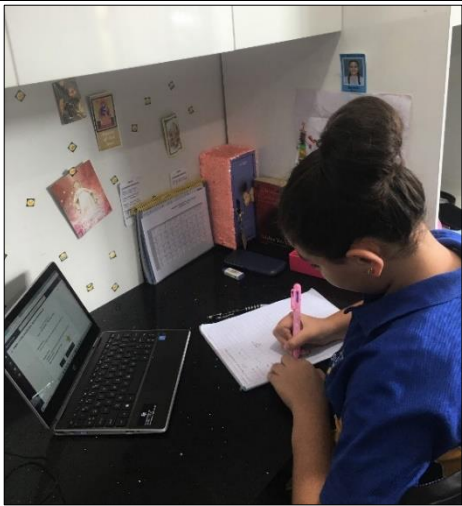


Here are some photos of our wonderful students working from home...  
Well done, kids! Keep up the good work.









## PARENT CORNER



### BYOD LINK AND CODE

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

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