



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 4: Friday 19th February 2021

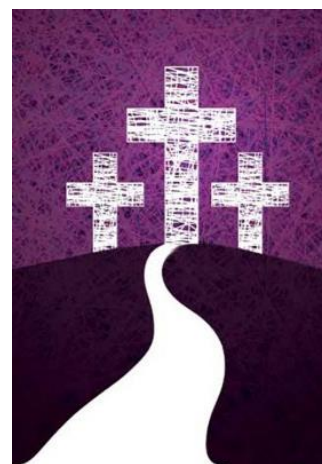
MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



As we enter 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 embarked 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.*



Reminders to all Parents, Staff, Students and Visitors to the College:

- **Entrance Gate security** – To ensure the safety of our students the gates will be open up to 9am after which they will be shut and access only given when you press the buzzer. Gates will then re-open at 3pm. **Parents should not be hanging around in the playgrounds after 8:50am and should not be in the playground before 3pm to pick up their children.**
- There are too many interruptions to the College life by parents who call or come to pick up students between 2:30-3pm. Unless there is a valid reason, no student will be called down.
- 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.**

Sr Irene Boughosn
PRINCIPAL

MESSAGE FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

COVID Guidelines Reminder

Thank you to the majority of our parents/guardians who have adapted to the recent changes to COVID restrictions and guidelines the College has adopted.

As mentioned, the College has been registered as a COVID safe business and a QR-Code has been set up. A few reminders that we request you take note of:

- Parents/guardians are no longer permitted to remain in the College grounds in the morning. Permission is only for parents in K-2 and Year 7 to drop off then leave immediately.
- If your child develops COVID symptoms while at the College, you will be contacted to pick up your child. A COVID test would be required and your child will only be permitted to return to the College when evidence of a negative test result is presented.
- Please do not send your child to the College if they have COVID symptoms and are unwell. Your child is required to remain at home, get tested and only permitted back to the College when evidence of a negative test result is presented.
- Masks are mandatory for students to wear while travelling to and from the College on public transport, including private/chartered buses.

Once again we thank all our parents/guardians who are cooperating and adhering to our processes as we play our role in ensuring we remain a COVID safe premises for your child.

Student Pupil Free Day – 1st March 2021

There will be a student pupil free day on Monday 1st March 2021 as staff will be undertaking a visible learning professional development workshop. There will be no classes on this day and therefore students are to remain at home. Classes will resume on Tuesday 2nd March 2021.

College Photo Days

The Annual College Photo Days will be held on Tuesday 2nd March 2021 and Wednesday 3rd March 2021. Please check the SkoolBag app for more information. Please ensure your child's presentation of their uniform and grooming is to the College's expectations and procedures. This means that any student who does not have appropriate grooming will not be permitted to have their photo taken until they rectify themselves. Your support is appreciated in this matter.

Parent Volunteers

The College will not be requiring parent volunteers for this term. We will reassess and review for term 2. Therefore, there will not be a parent volunteer's induction this term.

Respecting Road Safety

A reminder for all our parents/guardians to ensure we place road safety as a high level of importance when driving around the College. Please remember to park appropriately and legally, driving safe within the speed limit and adhering to the Crossing Supervisor's instructions. Thank you to the many parents/guardians who consistently do the right thing.

Photography/Video Permission and Medical Information Forms

A reminder that these forms are required to be completed as soon as possible through our College SkoolBag App. Assistance is provided through the main administration if any parent/guardian requires it.

SkoolBag App Errors

Here are a couple of known errors parents are experiencing with the SkoolBag app and how to fix them...

- The app will not open for me.
Please delete the app from your device and reinstall it. This should fix the problem.
- I cannot log into the app.
Have you already created an account? An account must first be created with your choice of password. Did you forget your password? Please click on "forgot password" and a link will be sent to your email with instructions on how to change your password.
- I cannot create a new account.
You may already have an account with SkoolBag. Please click on "forgot password" and check your email.

Please contact Ms Georgette Bains if you are still experiencing issues.

Mr E. Asmar
Assistant Principal

PRIMARY NEWS



On Monday, we entered the Lenten Season. The whole Primary Department were blessed to share in a beautiful Ash Monday ceremony in Our Lady of Lebanon Co-Cathedral. It was made more special as this was the first time in over a year that all our students were able to gather in the church together. Over the coming weeks, we will continue to reflect and prepare as we journey towards the celebration of Easter.



First Holy Communion Parent Information Evening

This year, our Year 4 students will celebrate their First Holy Communion on Saturday 22nd 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 and Fr Tony for their presence and words of wisdom. Thank you also to Mrs Kevill, Mr Aboufarah and the Year Four teachers who presented on the night. We keep all our students in our thoughts and prayers as they prepare for this sacred Sacrament.

Parent/Teacher Chats

A reminder that the Primary Department will be conducting Parent/Teacher Chats on Monday 22nd February and Tuesday 23rd 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 regarding their learning. The Parent/Teacher Chat will allow teachers to gain an insight into all

aspects of your child. It is compulsory for parents/guardians to attend. Please ensure you have scheduled your chat by **11pm tonight**, as the booking system will close at this time.

Story Time

Ms LeMerle never misses the opportunity to capture the attention of a new audience by reading one of her favourite stories. All students in Kindergarten will visit Ms LeMerle in the Learning Centre each week to learn invaluable library skills.

Wellbeing Week

Wellbeing Week is a time when students, staff and parents can make their health and wellbeing a priority. Take time to rest, reflect and spend some quality time with family and friends. We will be celebrating this occasion during Week 5 of each Term. Students will be doing activities every day at school that focus on their social, physical and mental wellbeing. Enjoy your Wellbeing Week.

First Aid

This week Kindergarten to Year 3 students participated in a First Aid course run by St Johns Ambulance. Students learnt valuable life skills including how to bandage injuries and respond to emergencies. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the experience.





Little Athletics

This week, our Year 3 students began an Athletics Coaching Clinic conducted by Athletics Australia. This program is designed to develop fundamental movement skills and promote a love of physical activity. All students enjoyed their first experience and are looking forward to learning more over the coming weeks.



Cumberland Zone Swimming Carnival

On Wednesday, a group of MCHF students represented our College at the Cumberland Zone Swimming Carnival. They competed in a range of swimming events against students from Catholic schools in the Parramatta area. Well done to the following students who attended on the day: Claire-Marie Khoury (5 Rainbow), Charbel Chiha (5 Sapphire), Joseph Assi (6 Topaz), Alexi Nasr (6 Indigo), April Zdrilic (6 Indigo) and Ayva Wakim (6 Emerald). Congratulations to April Zdrilic (6 Indigo) for placing 3rd in the 50m Freestyle and Backstroke and to Joseph Assi for placing 4th in the 50m butterfly, 3rd in the 50m Freestyle, 2nd in 50m Backstroke and 1st in the 50m Breaststroke. Thank you to Ms Kartabani and Ms Nemer for their support on the day.



Primary Swimming Lessons

This year, all Primary grades will again be participating in the College Swimming Program. Swimming is a component of the NSW Personal Development, Health and Physical Education curriculum and provides essential safety skills. Years 4-6 began their swimming lessons this week. Lessons will be held each Tuesday and Wednesday until the end of the term. Please note, that there will be no lessons conducted in Week 6 due to College photos.

Cumberland Zone Swimming Carnival 🏊



Weekly Merit Awards

The Merit award recognises the achievements of individual students. Classroom and specialist teachers reward students who are demonstrating academic progress or social improvement in their class or on the playground. Merit Awards are currently presented to students in classroom by the Leaders of Learning for each Stage.



Homework Club

Homework Club occurs each Monday 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. 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.

Mr D. Day

Head of Primary

SECONDARY NEWS

Ash Monday

On Monday, the entire Secondary school got to celebrate Ash Monday mass together for the first time in almost a year. It was a wonderful celebration where staff and students could come together to recognise the beginning of Lent.





Reflection:

As Maronites, we celebrate Ash Monday

The Maronite Lenten season begins with the “Entrance into Great Lent” on Cana Sunday. The Maronite Church adopted Ash Monday later, from the Latin Church. Considering that Great Lent starts on Sunday, it would not have made sense for the distribution of the Ashes on Wednesday, which is why it is Ash Monday.

Which brings us to another question.

Why is Lent for Maronite’s more than forty days? The forty days originates from Jesus’s forty days in the wilderness.

“Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry.” Luke 4:1-2

At first glance it may appear that the Maronite Lenten season is more than forty days. For Maronite’s, the forty days are counted from Cana Sunday until the Thursday of the Mysteries (known as Holy Thursday in the Latin Church). The Sundays during Great Lent are not counted as part of the forty days. Sundays are for the celebration of the Resurrection. So counting from Cana Sunday to the Thursday of the Mysteries and taking out the Sundays, we get forty days.

The hope of this season is that we will find our lives transformed by the many ways we encounter God’s Word.

- Mrs F. Abdul-Ahad

Secondary Swimming Carnival

As part of the PDHPE/Sports Program, the College will conduct the annual Swimming Carnival at Granville Swimming Centre on Friday 26th February 2021 from 9am to 2:30pm. **Attendance and participation for all students is compulsory.**

Students are to wear their full College sports uniform with:

- ◆ Swimming costumes
 - 1 piece that covers the stomach area for the girls (no bikinis)
 - Speedos or board-shorts for the boys
 - Rash shirt can be worn only (no cotton t-shirts)
- ◆ House coloured shirt (Red, Blue, Green, Yellow)
- ◆ Sunscreen
- ◆ Plenty of water to drink
- ◆ Food for the day
- ◆ College Hat

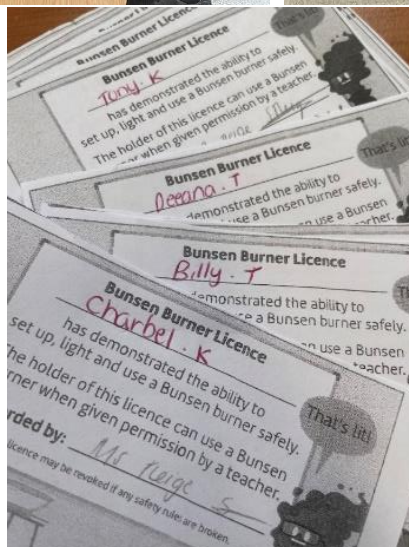
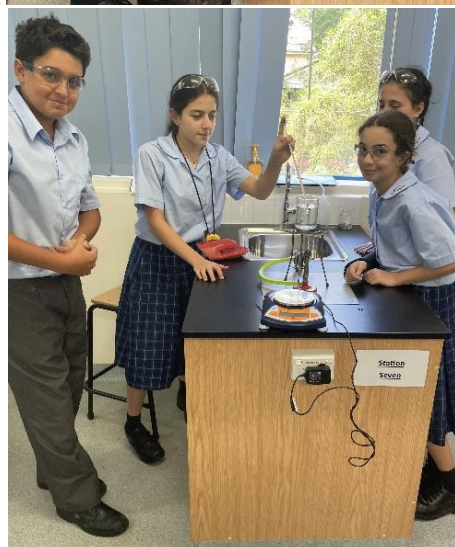


The cost for the carnival has been included in the 2021 pastoral levy. This will cover pool entry, pool hire and bus hire.

All students are required to wear a mask on the buses to and from the venue and may be required to wear it at the venue based on their COVID Safe Plan. Any student who comes to school without a mask will not be allowed to attend the Carnival and will be sent home.

Year 7 Science

This week, 7.3 Science got to set up and use a Bunsen burner for the first time to receive their Bunsen burner licence. – Ms S. Tleige



Year 12 Macquarie University Guest Speakers

Year 12 had the pleasure of talking to Anne and Visjna, from Macquarie University, today. They discussed early entry, how you need to study in a balanced way, as well as how to have fun at university (if students decide to pursue it!). – Mr N. Shah



Year 7 Learn to Swim

This week Year 7 attended the Learn to Swim program at Guildford Pools. It was a great two days for each homeroom, as it taught them the necessary skills in swimming, but also survival skills to link to real life situations. Each student felt supported by instructors who would demonstrate for them and teach them these essential skills, and students were able to choose the level that they were comfortable in to suit their ability. Students had several break times to sit on the grass, eat and enjoy the sun, clouds and the company with their peers and teachers. At the end of the day they were congratulated on their great behaviour and were encouraged to maintain this level of excellence. - Miss S. Hadchiti



Year 7 Technology

Mrs Botros' Year 7 technology class were introduced to basic sewing skills in textiles technologies this week, they worked on completing sustainable scrunchies which were made from upcycling old school uniforms. – Mrs J. Botros

Project Compassion

This week we commenced our Project Compassion fundraiser. The theme for Project Compassion 2021 is **BE MORE**. We are inspired by the quote from St Oscar Romero, "Aspire not to have more, but to be more."

Instead of aspiring to have more, we can focus on how we can BE more kind, more green, more involved, more aware, more giving. This Lent, let us consider how we can 'BE MORE' for our neighbours around the world.

Donations can be in cash or online. Students can scan the code with their phone (only with permission from



their teacher) to donate online.

If each student in Secondary brings in \$1 a day that's almost \$600 a day, x 5 days, x 6 weeks that's \$18 000. The proceeds will be split with half going to Lebanon and half going to the Australian Caritas Appeal. By supporting Project Compassion, you can help people to have what they need to live a healthy and happy life.

Photo Day

A reminder that Secondary photos will take place on Wednesday 3rd March with family photos taking place on Tuesday 2nd March. All students must be in full summer school uniform with appropriate grooming. No makeup is to be worn, girl's hair must be tied back if below the shoulders and boys must be cleanly shaven. The only jewellery that can be worn is one set of earrings in the lower ear lobe by girls and a religious necklace or bracelet. These rules apply to all grades and all students. Any student who doesn't meet these requirements will not be permitted to have their photo taken.



Parent Information Evening

As mentioned last week, the Parent Information Evening was presented via pre-recorded videos this year due to COVID restrictions. The links were sent to all parents via the SkoolBag app on Wednesday. For those who haven't had a chance to watch the presentations yet, I have included all of the links below which will take you straight to our YouTube channel. Please ensure you watch all of these presentations if you haven't already as they contain important information for you and your children.

Principal's Address:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lcd9XSbTQKM&list=PLRMPjZYdWMEIH7J_7o8UqqRZa_QNiyc9&index=1

Vice Principal's Address:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dMCTjPWRd0s&list=PLRMPjZYdWMEIH7J_7o8UqqRZa_QNiyc9&index=2

Head of Secondary's Address:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JVl0qMXJ6_o&list=PLRMPjZYdWMEIH7J_7o8UqqRZa_QNiyc9&index=3

Director of Pastoral Care's Address:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UyJd1IevgyY&list=PLRMPjZYdWMEIH7J_7o8UqqRZa_QNiyc9&index=4

Director of Curriculum's Address:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qN_qsHDqgas&list=PLRMPjZYdWMEIH7J_7o8UqqRZa_QNiyc9&index=5

RESPECT for the Environment

There has been a disappointing amount of rubbish in both the yards and our buildings and stairwells over the last few weeks. Students have been reminded that they are to put their rubbish in the bins and there is to be no eating in the buildings or stairwells. All students must go straight to their designated area from their lockers at recess and lunch and not loiter in any of the buildings.

There has been a significant amount of damage in the bathrooms over the last week which has seen the breaking of toilets and their doors, rubbish left throughout the cubicles and the walls covered in wet toilet paper and drinks.

Students have been addressed on these issues and asked to follow our 2021 theme of RESPECT. We ask that all students show respect not only towards others but towards the environment in which they are privileged to get to attend every day.

Ms E. McCluskey
Head of Secondary

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Monday 22nd February and Wednesday 24th February – 7C and 7D Learn to Swim Program
- Wednesday 24th February – Wellbeing Wednesday for Secondary
- Wednesday 24th February – Year 3 Athletics Australia
- Friday 26th February – All Secondary Swimming Carnival

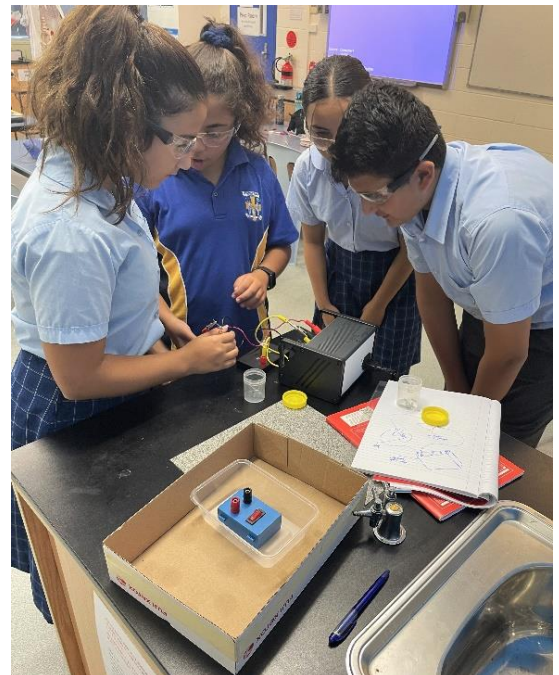
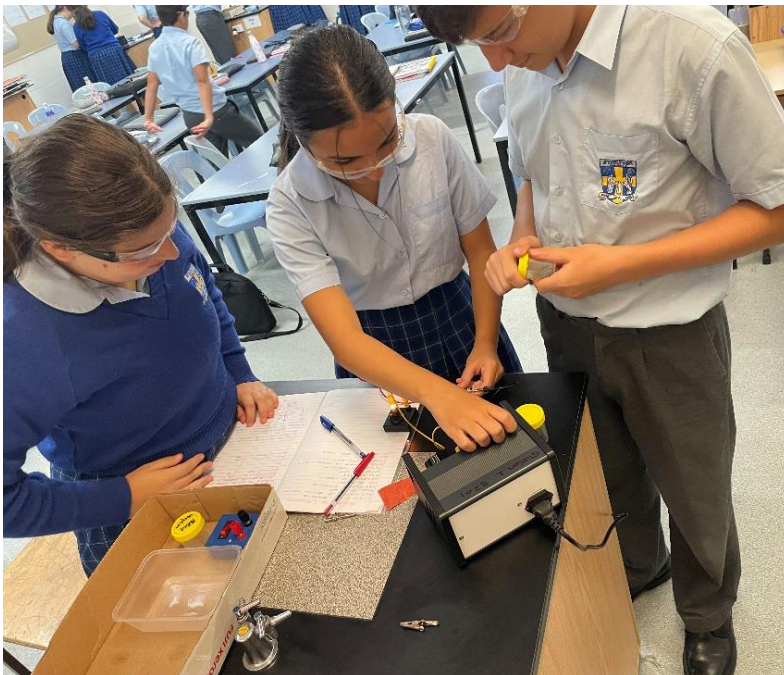
- Friday 26th February – Mass at 9am for Years 3 and 5
- **Monday 1st March – STUDENT FREE DAY – Staff Development Day**
- Tuesday 2nd and Wednesday 3rd March – Photo Days (Primary on 2nd & Secondary on 3rd. Family photos both days)
- Friday 5th March – Mass at 9am for Years 9 and 12
- Wednesday 10th March – PDSSSC Touch Football Gala Day (Select students)
- Wednesday 10th March – Year 3 Athletics Australia
- Friday 12th March – Social Justice Mass at 9am (Years 7 and 10)
- Monday 15th to Friday 19th March – Bullying Awareness Week
- Wednesday 17th March – Year 3 Athletics Australia
- Friday 19th March – St Joseph Mass at 9am (Years 2 and 6)
- Wednesday 24th to Friday 26th March – Year 9 Camp
- Friday 26th March – Mass at 9am for Years 1 and 5
- Friday 26th March – Stations of the Cross at 11:30am (Years 7-10)
- Wednesday 31st March – Holy Week Mass at 9am (Years 4 and 7)
- **Holy Thursday 1st April – Term 1 Ends**

★★★ CONGRATULATIONS ★★★

Nearly there! Give us time to shine.

ALSO THIS WEEK...

Year 8 science- setting up a circuit and testing different elements.



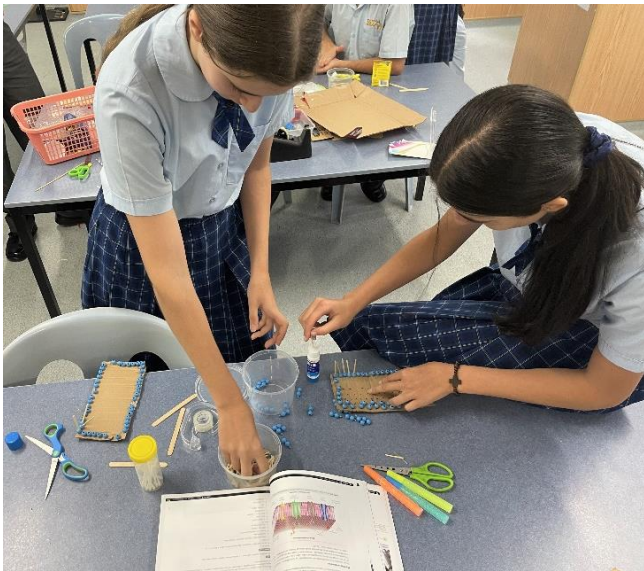
Year 7 in Pastoral today, focused on Character Strengths. This session included reflecting on individual qualities and qualities of others. That when used, led to serving and treating others in the right way. Sitting in a circle taught them the idea of unity and acceptance of another. Choosing from the Strength Cards in the circle, helped them appreciate their qualities, as well as to see and admire the differences of others. Words on these Strength Cards included: forgiving, protective, happy, organised, humble etc. This helped them understand themselves better, resulting in living out the words of St Paul: *"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing"* 1 Thessalonians 5:11.



Year 7 - A talk with the school psychologist, Mrs Khoury about Adjusting to High School, with an opening ice breaker game of People Bingo.



11 biology students, creating 'fluid mosaic models' of the cell membrane.



Fantastic Year 10 Pastoral session on Respect, led by Mrs Roach. An extremely valuable experience for our young ladies!



Year 12 participating in an Elevate Education Session on Memory and Mnemonics, which is aimed to assist them with HSC



PARENT CORNER

PLEASE DOWNLOAD THE SKOOLBAG APP!

Dear Parents/Guardians

It is necessary for parents/guardians to download the SkoolBag App. This ensures you receive urgent messages seconds after they are posted. Please contact Georgette Bains if you have issues – 9633 6600.



SkoolBag

Go to app search on your phone:

1. Download the SkoolBag app
2. Create an account
3. Add your school

Parents; Please check your details on the school portal and make any necessary changes. In particular, please ensure address, contact numbers and email addresses are correct.



Traffic Controller Wanted!

The College is seeking a qualified traffic controller to assist with morning drop offs and afternoon pickups.

For more information or to express interest in the position, please contact the Main Administration.



positive partnerships

Working together to support school-aged students on the autism spectrum

NSW PARENT/CARER ONLINE WORKSHOP

**Positive Partnerships has another Parent/Carer Online Workshop coming up on 9 March.
See attached flyer for details.**

Dear Parents,

We're excited to announce that parents of Maronite College of the Holy Family have exclusive access to Elevate Education's Parent Webinar Series for Term 1, 2021. Elevate works with our students, delivering high impact workshops on study skills, motivation, wellbeing, and exam preparation. By tuning into their webinar series you will learn how to better support your children at home through reinforcing the skills they learn at school.

The webinars take place across term 1, with the next webinar happening on **Wednesday 24th February** at 6pm. Registration is essential and is free for parents of Maronite College of the Holy Family.

[You can register by clicking here.](#)

The webinar is run **live online from 6pm – 7pm** where the presenter will share Elevate's key research and skills, and will conduct a live Q&A so you can ask them questions directly.

For those of you who missed the webinar on motivation, you can watch a replay here –

Share The Webinar Replay 

The webinar replay is available until the date of the next webinar in the series, which takes place on **24th February 2020 at 6pm**.

Should you have questions or would like to contact Elevate directly, their details are listed below.

☎ 1300 667 945

✉ auscoaching@elevateeducation.com

🌐 <https://au.elevateeducation.com>

👉 <https://www.facebook.com/ElevateEd/>

2021 BYOD Portal

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

School Code: MCHFBYOD

FOLLOW US...

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

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

LinkedIn: <https://au.linkedin.com/company/maronite-college-of-the-holy-family>