



Maronite College of the Holy Family NEWSLETTER

23-25 Alice Street, Harris Park, 2150

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Term 2 - Week 1: Friday 23rd April 2021

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



At MCHF, we remember and honour those who have given their lives to keep us safe. Today, with solemn song and prayer, our staff and students celebrated ANZAC Day. Lest we Forget

Welcome to Term 2 and I trust that we will work together as a community of staff, students and parents to ensure we achieve the best academically, socially and spiritually. Hoping you all had a very Blessed break. I would like to welcome all the new staff and students who have commenced with us this term.

Over the holidays there has been a lot of maintenance work carried out at the College. New staff bathrooms, painting, cleaning, regular pest control and other odd jobs around the campus to ensure that we have a very clean environment and workplace.

This term we have a new Crossing Supervisor. I urge you all to respect and abide by his directives. His role is very important to ensure the safety of the students at the College.

*Dear St Joseph,
Teach us to listen to the voice of God in our lives
and to always welcome His love into our hearts. Amen*



Each month we will reflect on the many virtues of St Joseph

April – Lover of Poverty

Joseph could count on nothing in this world to be his stay. Neither his trade nor property were employed in his first years as father of the Divine child. He had to abandon all that was his and provide for them in whatever way was possible as they were on pilgrimage to Bethlehem, to Egypt, and finally to Nazareth.

**Sr Irene Boughosn
PRINCIPAL**

MESSAGE FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Welcome to Term 2

Welcome to Term 2. I hope the break was a pleasant and relaxing one for you all. I hope and expect that our students are returning this term focused, ready and committed to their education. As we have announced at the start of the year, our theme RESPECT, continues to be a central focus on everything we do this year. It is important that we continue to SHOW respect in order to EARN it from others. In the bible, Matthew sums this up as he writes "So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you." (Matthew 7:12)

Term 2 Staffing Changes

This term we welcome the following members of staff:

- Ms Rita Wrightson – Primary eLearning Coordinator
- Mr Phillip Dobbie – Secondary Science and Maths Teacher
- Mr Robert Staerk – Secondary HSIE Teacher replacing Mr Peter Julius who is on leave this term
- Mr Fadi Hajjar – Secondary HSIE and Religion Teacher

2022 Kindergarten Enrolments

Applications for 2022 Kindy enrolments closed on 21st April 2021. The College will now be processing these applications with interviews to be scheduled on the 18th and 19th of May 2021. The College will be in contact with parents/guardians regarding interview times in the first week on May.

COVID Ease of Restrictions

Commencing this term, the College will allow parents/guardians to participate in weekly morning assemblies for primary students. We will request for parents/guardians to remain to a designated area as advised by the Staff. The College will also be reviewing volunteers to assist within the College life and will advise parents/guardians soon.

Voice of Charity Visit to MCHF

On Friday 23rd April, the Voice of Charity radio station presented one of their program live at the College. Their program included a live stream of our Primary Department's ANZAC Ceremony. We thank the Voice of Charity team for their offer to visit our College and joining us for our ANZAC ceremony.



Parent Feedback – New Student Management System

Thank you to all the parents/guardians who complete our survey to provide feedback on our new student management system that we are currently in the process of seeking potential vendors. The feedback will be gathered and reviewed by the College. This will assist the College in making a final decision on the system we select.

Importance of Opal Cards

We remind our students and parents/guardians that opal cards are required for students catching the bus when travelling to and from the College. the opal cards must be scanned to demonstrate to authorities that the bus services are being used.

To apply for an opal card, please [click here](#).

Mr E. Asmar

Assistant Principal

SECONDARY NEWS

On behalf of the Secondary staff I would like to welcome all of our families back to Term 2. We look forward to achieving many things together this term!

RESPECT

Unfortunately, our College theme of RESPECT has not been shown towards the College environment of late with students leaving large amounts of rubbish in the yards at the end of break times and damaging the toilets once again. We are asking all students to please take responsibility for their rubbish by putting it in the bins provided and ensure they look after College property.

Year 7 and 8 Vaccinations- Monday 3rd May 2021

Year 7 students will have their first dose of the HPV and dTpa vaccine.

Year 8 students will have their second dose of the HPV and dTpa vaccine.

Year 10 will have their meningococcal vaccination on Monday 2nd August with Years 7 and 8 students who miss out in May.

Please see the information and frequently asked questions sheets attached with this newsletter.

Year 7 and 8 Shakespeare Incursion

Students in years 7 and 8 engaged in a delightful, fun, and entertaining performance of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet, a tragedy play performed by Australia's premiere Shakespearean company, Bell Shakespeare. At times students were encouraged to show their understanding of the play by calling out their opinions and answers, while at other times they became a part of the drama by performing roles. Overall, the experience brought the Bard to life, all the way from the 1500s to the 21st century.



Year 11 VET Construction

The Year 11 VET Construction class participated in a Level 2 Fire Awareness and Extinguisher training, delivered by Chubb. The 2-hour training included both theory and practical components. The students have **now** received a formalised certification that allows them to use fire extinguishing equipment.



Homework Club in the Secondary Learning Centre

Homework Club will be returning on Monday 26th April, from 3.20pm to 4.20pm. If you would like to attend, please ensure you have returned your permission note or, see Mrs Papanastasiou in the Learning Centre to obtain a new form.

Representative Volleyball Results

Congratulations to our Junior and Intermediate Volleyball teams who were yet again undefeated in Thursday sport yesterday.

Our junior girls team played an excellent game against Penola winning 56 - 17. Special mention to Natalia Maroun year 8 who had strong serves that resulted in gaining 17 points on her own for the team.

Our intermediate girls team also had a great match with a winning score of 54 to 17 against Emmaus.

Well done to the Intermediate boys' team who won against St Andrews. The boys played a tight match and won against St Andrews 37 to 26.

PDSSSC Cross Country

We wish the following students good luck as they represent the College at the PDSSSC Cross Country Gala Day today - Alanna Harb (Year 7), Olivia Bechara (Year 8), Abdo Abou-Chedid (Year 10), Tony Bechara (Year 10), Elie Menhem (Year 10), Michel Shalhoub (Year 10), Matthew Youssef (Year 10).

Enrichment Opportunities

As part of enrichment learning, we are offering a select number of students an opportunity to participate in an individual research project to work on this year in Term 2 and 3.

If students are interested in pursuing a special project of their own to extend their area of interest, please let Mrs Fisher know.

It could be writing their own book, a science experiment, creating an art work/interactive work, mathematical research, a short film, a dance, a tribute to a range of musical genres, a speech, a geographical or historical interest, a religious spiritual area, a master chef recipe book, an Arabic story, an astronomy model, etc.

A hobby or interest they would like to pursue could be in any subject area. The enrichment project gives them some time to extend their own interests.

ANZAC Day



'They shall grow not old, a we that are left grow old; Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning. We will remember them.'

Today our secondary students participated in an ANZAC Day Ceremony as part of our day of national remembrance to commemorate the soldiers who served and died at Gallipoli in WW1. A beautiful display of war time artefacts was set up and students were given the opportunity with their classes to look through these things.

A big thank you to Mrs Esber, Mrs Gahdmar, Mrs Sarlog, Ms Ngyuen, Mr Hassarati and all the students involved for your contributions to the ceremony, we would not be able to do things like this without the dedication of our staff and students.



Ms E. McCluskey
Head of Secondary

PRIMARY NEWS

Welcome back to Term 2. I hope you had a blessed Easter and enjoyed the break with your children. For some, this time goes too quickly and for others the time can't end soon enough. The first day back of any term is always an enjoyable part of a teacher's job as they get to listen to the students share their holiday adventures. As always, the students appreciate a break from the routine of school and cherish the family time that holidays provide.

During the break, teachers continued to work on writing class programs, preparing resources and completing administration tasks so that their students are given the best opportunity to learn. I thank all the staff for their dedication and hard work during the students' holiday break.

ANZAC Day

Today the Primary staff and students commemorated ANZAC Day with a ceremony held in the Secondary Hall. The event was made more memorable with it being broadcast live on the Voice of Charity Facebook page. This special day is one of Australia's most important national occasions. It marks the anniversary of the first major military action fought by Australian and New Zealand forces during the First World War. The word 'ANZAC' stands for Australian and New Zealand Army Corps. Sr Irene spoke to the students about the importance of the *ANZAC Spirit* and how we can all be like the men and women who fought for the freedom we enjoy today. We pray that the gift of peace, given to us by these brave people will be treasured and protected for generations to come. Thank you to Ms Njeim, Ms Taouk and Ms Sadek for organising such a beautiful ceremony.



Learning Centre

The Learning Centre has been a hive of activity this week. Students participated in many ANZAC Day activities. Mrs LeMerle said the most favourite activity of the students were the sunsets they painted after reading the story, *Anzac Ted*.



Staff Professional Development

On Monday, Primary Department staff participated in Professional Learning Meetings so that they can expand their knowledge and keep up to date with current educational practice. These meetings are paramount to ensure our students receive the targeted learning that they require and develop the skills of an independent learner. Our learning focused on teaching Religion and using new technology in the classroom.



eLearning Coordinator

Ms Wrightson has been appointed as the Primary eLearning Coordinator. This new role will focus on the development, implementation and management of the College's Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) within the Primary Department. Ms Wrightson brings with her a vast range of experience both from within the education system and the private sector. We warmly welcome her into the MCHF family.

Returning Staff

I would like to welcome back Ms Malia and Mrs Farah who have both been on leave. The smiles on the faces of staff and students upon seeing both teachers return this week is testament that they were truly missed.

NAPLAN

A note regarding NAPLAN was sent home this week. Further details on the dates and how you can assist your child prepare for the National Assessment can be found below.

Homework Club

Homework Club will resume next week on Monday 26th April. Students wishing to attend are asked to have enough homework to complete during the hour session. A detailed note with an attached permission slip, is available from the Primary Administration Office. Students are asked to hand the signed permission slip to their class teacher each Monday morning.

Library Borrowing

Library borrowing is an important part of a child's wider reading experience. Students can borrow a range of fiction, non-fiction, picture books and chapter books and there are always new titles 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. If your child has any overdue library books, please ensure they are returned immediately so that other students can borrow them.

School Bus

The College has been asked to remind all students who catch a bus, that they are required use an Opal Card to tap on and tap off. The main reason for this, is that the Opal Card assists the bus companies in collecting data about the number of students who catch the bus and the route that is needed to ensure they get to their destination safely. When students fail to have an Opal Card or use one with no credit, it means that the bus company believes there to be fewer people on the bus than there actually is. Last year, information collected resulted in the cancellation of a bus, making two buses combine for a short while. I urge all parents to ensure their child has their Opal Card with them each day so that your child can be provided their required bus service.

School Uniform

As Term 2 has commenced, students are now required to wear the College winter uniform. We will, however, be

flexible until the end of next week in case the weather is unseasonably warm. This will mean that your child can either wear the full winter or full summer uniform, not a mix of both. Please ensure that all clothing is labelled with your child's name as this makes it easy for any lost items to be returned.

2021 Premiers Reading Challenge

A reminder that students are still encouraged to read as many books as they can from the Premier's Reading Challenge book list. Once a book is read, students just need to add the title to their personal Reading Log so their progress can be tracked along the way. The closing date of the Challenge is Friday 20th August. Happy reading! <https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/studentExperience.html#/>

NAPLAN 2021

Each year, students in Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 participate in the National Assessment Program, Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). The schedule below lists the dates and exams to be completed.

Date	Assessment
Tuesday - 11th May	Language Conventions
Tuesday - 11th May	Writing
Wednesday - 12th May	Reading
Thursday - 13th May	Numeracy

How can I help my son/daughter during NAPLAN time?

- As a parent, one thing that you can do is to keep your child calm. Reassure them that NAPLAN is designed to see where they are at from a literacy and numeracy perspective compared to other students in their age group in Australia.
- Remind them that every child in Australia in their Year group are doing these tests, so they are not alone.
- Ensure that they are at school and sit each examination as a formal roll needs to be sent back for statistical purposes.
- Put screen time to good use. Download apps that encourage students to use their numeracy and literacy skills, rather than just gaming.
- Take an interest in how they are going with their preparation.

How will my son/daughter sit the tests?

These tests will be completed on Paper and will have designated time frames to complete them. Class teachers will notify Primary students of times. For Year 7 and 9 students, a timetable listing all details will be emailed once it is complete.

What will my son/daughter need for the tests?

- A 2B pencil
- pencil sharpener
- eraser
- calculator (for the calculator part of the numeracy test - for Years 7 and 9 only)
- a blank sheet of paper for each test (i.e. 3 blank pieces of paper- for Years 7 and 9 only)

Mr D. Day
Head of Primary

DATES TO REMEMBER

- ★ Monday 26th to Friday 30th April – VET Work Placement for select Years 11 and 12 students
- ★ Wednesday 28th to Friday 30th April – Year 8 Camp
- ★ Friday 30th April – Mass for Years 7, 8 and 9 students at 9am
- ★ Monday 3rd May – Years 7 (1st) and 8 (2nd) HPV and dTpa Immunisations
- ★ Friday 7th May – Mothers' Day Mass for Kindy, Year 1 and Year 2 students

★ ★ ★ CONGRATULATIONS ★ ★ ★

All Rounder Awards:

- ★ Sophie Esber, Ashley Youssef, Gianno Sleiman, Hannah Ghabach, John Paul Ibrahim, Gezabell Makdessi (Year 3)
- ★ Hannah Lichaa (Year 8)
- ★ Nina Bousaid, Jason Chakti (Year 12)

Bronze Awards:

- ★ Nathaniel Malouhi, Leila George, Monica Sabbagh (Year 3)

Silver Awards:

Principal's Awards:

ALSO THIS WEEK...

Kindy Blue in the Classroom ☺



Year 4 students investigated living things within the school, in relation to their Science Topic - Living World.



Secondary School Sport – Basketball in the College Hall



PARENT CORNER

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Please see the information and frequently asked questions sheets attached with this newsletter.

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.

Go to app search on your phone:

- ★ Download the SkoolBag app
- ★ Create an account
- ★ Add your school - **When you are searching for the College, the school does not automatically show up when you start typing the name. Type in *Maronite* and **press enter** for the school name to appear.**

Please contact Georgette Baini if you have issues – 9633 6600.

2021 BYOD Portal

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

School Code: MCHFBYOD

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

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

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

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