



Maronite College of the Holy Family NEWSLETTER

23-25 Alice Street, Harris Park, 2150

Tel: 9633 6600 Email: Admin@mchf.nsw.edu.au

Term 4 - Week 5: Friday, 5th November 2021

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Unfortunately, this week didn't commence as we had hoped with the College being made aware of a positive COVID case of a Secondary student. Case interviews and contact tracing took place, resulting in our Secondary department reverting to remote learning.

As mentioned in my communication to the staff, students and parents/guardians, we are guided by the directives and advice of NSW Health and Catholic Schools NSW. This process is not a simple one and there are many tasks that needs to be completed during this process. However, I assure you all that the College will not put the health and safety of anyone at risk. We are here to ensure the safety of everyone at the College.

During this time, I request and appreciate that the decisions made are respected and not questioned. We acknowledge and appreciate that there is an element of concern during this time, which everyone has a right to feel. However, as mentioned, we are guided by directives from other external agencies which we implement. We cannot go against the advice of NSW Health and Catholic Schools NSW.

We will endeavour to communicate any necessary information to you, as soon as it is made available. We need to understand that this may not be the only time we are in this situation, as we may likely have other situations in the future. However, we will continue to follow the same process and be guided by authorities.

I thank NSW Health and Catholic Schools NSW, who were very supportive during this process.

Finally, I wish to remind all parents/guardians to please be vigilant with your children and look out for any symptoms and get tested. Please keep your children at home if they develop any symptoms. This is our best safeguard against this virus.

On a lighter note, today we celebrated Mass to induct the New College Leaders for 2022. I would like to congratulate them and wish them all the best in their roles for 2022. Following the Mass, the Year 3 students had their First Reconciliation. Hoping the Holy Spirit guides their every move and remains in their hearts always.





A PARENT'S PRAYER TO SAINT JOSEPH

*O glorious St Joseph,
to you God committed the care of His only begotten Son amid the many dangers of this world.*

We come to you and ask you to take under your special protection the children God has given us. Through holy baptism they became children of God and members of His holy Church. We consecrate them to you today, that through this consecration they may become your foster children. Guard them, guide their steps in life, form their hearts after the hearts of Jesus and Mary.

St. Joseph, who felt the tribulation and worry of a parent when the child Jesus was lost, protect our dear children for time and eternity. May you be their father and counsellor. Let them, like Jesus, grow in age as well as in wisdom and grace before God and men. Preserve them from the corruption of his world and give us the grace one day to be united with them in Heaven forever. Amen

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

November – Patron of Dying and Solace of the Afflicted

What a blessed death to see God before you die and for God Himself to tell you to go. This was Joseph's gift from his Son, who would hand his father over to His Father. Thus, has Christ entrusted Joseph to have particular intercessory power for all those on the moment of death.

**Sr Irene Boughosn
PRINCIPAL**

MESSAGE FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Response to COVID Case

This week commenced with the College being notified a member of the College community was tested positive to COVID. Despite that the couple of days was certainly a challenge, the College responded and cooperated extremely well with Catholic Schools NSW and NSW Health to manage the situation to ensure our secondary students returned to face-to-face learning. I thank the staff who were a part of the response committee to manage the case. I also acknowledge and thank the staff, students and parents/guardians for cooperating and trusting the College to manage the case.

MCHF Christmas Appeal

The College will be participating in two Christmas appeals this year. The first appeal will be for Lebanon where we aim to raise \$3000 to send to students in two schools in Lebanon to put a smile on their faces this Christmas. We will also be preparing a video message to send to them to wish them a Merry Christmas and to let them know that we are thinking about them and praying for them. This appeal will be for two weeks commencing on

Monday 8th November 2021 and concluding on Friday 19th November 2021 with a mufti day to celebrate Lebanon Independence Day!

The second appeal is the annual St Vincent de Paul Christmas hampers where each class/homeroom will be allocated a family to donate items. This appeal will commence on Monday 22nd November 2021 and will conclude on Friday 3rd December 2021. The hampers will be sent to St Vincent de Paul following our Christmas Mass at the end of the year.



MCHF Christmas Appeal for Lebanon

FROM 8TH NOVEMBER
UNTIL 19TH NOVEMBER

DONATE NOW!
MCHF TARGET - \$3000

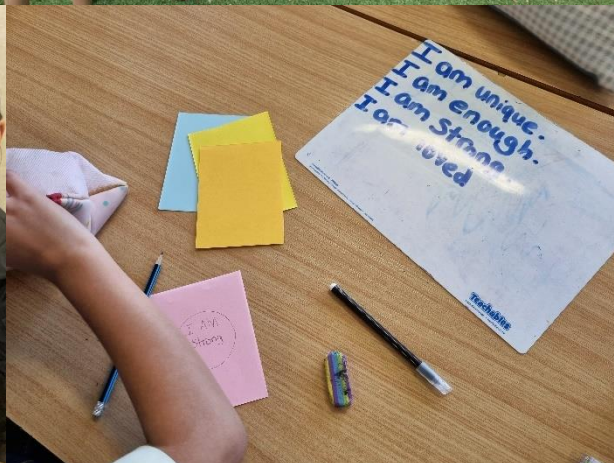
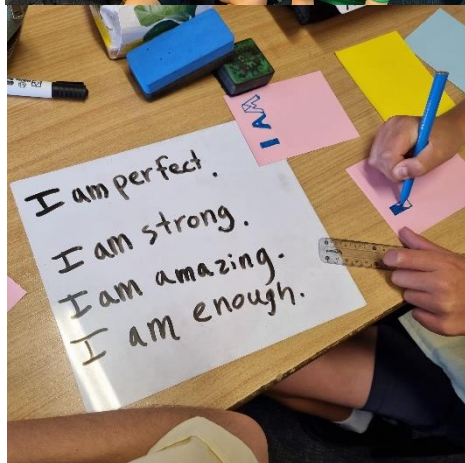


Put a smile on the face of
a child in Lebanon.



Wellbeing Wednesday

This week we hosted our regular Wellbeing Wednesday which organise every Week 5 of each term. Despite celebrating this day in a COVID safe way, the staff and students still got behind the initiative and celebrated the importance of wellbeing and mental health.



Updated Advice for Families when a Student is a Close Contact but Cannot Self-Isolate on their Own

This week, advice was released for families, particularly those who are required to self-isolate. In instances where parents/guardians deem that their child is not able to isolate by themselves, a parent/guardian may designate a person in their household to care for their child while they are a close contact. If the guardian is fully vaccinated, they do not need to co-isolate with the child (they can leave the home). For further information, please refer to the link below:

<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/factsheets/Pages/self-isolation-covid-and-close.aspx>

2022 Leaders Induction Mass

On Friday 5th November 2021, we celebrated the induction of the 2022 College Leaders with a Mass led by our College Chaplain, Fr Tony Sarkis. We congratulate our 2022 leaders and we look forward to the initiatives and work they will be doing.



Commencement of HSC Exams

On Tuesday 9th November 2021, our HSC exams will commence under strict COVID guidelines. We wish our Year 12 students all the very best in their exams and we keep them in our thoughts and prayers over the next three weeks.

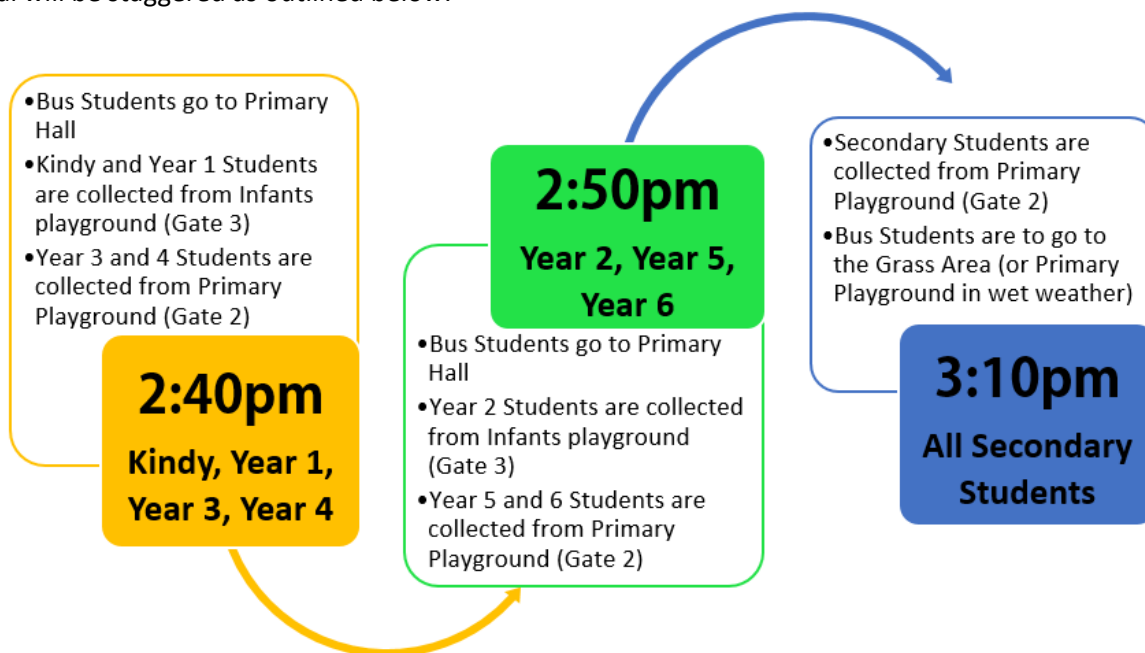
Mask Wearing

As per the NSW Public Health orders, masks are compulsory indoors for all students in Year 7-12, while on public transport and at public transport waiting areas unless they have an exemption.

All students are encouraged to carry a spare mask in their bag in case one was to break or is misplaced during the school day.

Dismissal Procedures

Based on the current advice to provide a staggered pick up process, the College can confirm that afternoon dismissal will be staggered as outlined below:



College Shop

The College Shop will not be opening on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings this term. The shop will be operating through phone orders only. For any orders, please contact the Main Administration and arrangements will be made.

Mr E. Asmar
Assistant Principal

SECONDARY NEWS

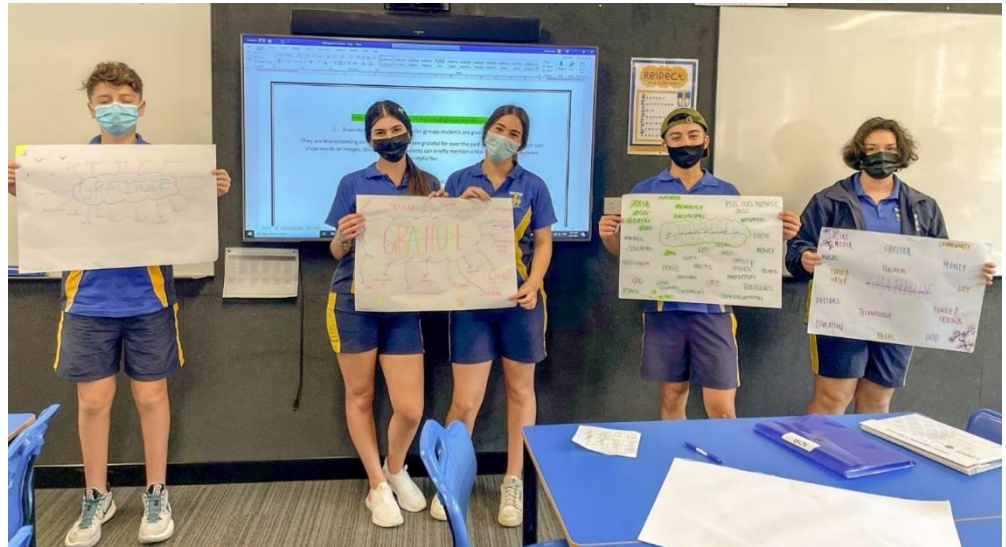
I would like to thank all of our Secondary staff, parents and students for their adaptability this week, as we returned to remote learning on Monday and Tuesday. We were happy to be able to welcome everyone back on Wednesday and are hopeful that we can remain with face-to-face learning for the rest of the year.

Year 9 Yearly Exams

The College has made the decision to have Year 9 remain at home and complete their exams online for the next week. Exams commenced on Wednesday 3rd November and will conclude on Wednesday 11th November. We look forward to welcoming all Year 9 students back to the College on Thursday 12th November.

Year 10 Welcome Back

On Wednesday, we welcomed Year 10 back to face-to-face learning. They participated in a pastoral transition program where students looked at gratitude, empathy and mindfulness. They recorded everything they were grateful for, over the last 6 months, and discussed this with their peers in activities that were similar to what the rest of our students did when they returned the week prior.



Year 12 2022 Study Leave

Year 11 students who have applied for early study leave on a Thursday and have been approved will be able to commence this starting next week, Week 6. Students will be issued with a Leaver's Pass once parental permission has been given and they need to use this to sign out of the College at the beginning of lunch. Students must go straight home and follow all rules that have been set out. Any student in breach of the rules will have their Leaver's Pass cancelled.

Year 12 2022 Leaders' Induction Mass

Today we celebrated the induction of our 2022 leaders with mass in Our Lady of Lebanon Co- Cathedral. Year 10 and 11 students attended the mass while the rest of the secondary school live streamed it into their homerooms. We would like to again congratulate our 2022 leaders on their appointments and wish them all the best as they begin their leadership journey. As I said in my welcome this morning, *'great leaders don't set out to be a leader, they set out to make a difference.'*

We look forward to seeing the positive impact you have on our College over the next year.

	LEADERS	HOUSE LEADERS
<p>College Captains 2022 Elie Joukhadar Grace Sleiman</p> <p>Vice Captains 2022 Julian El Bazouni Mikayla Stavrinakis</p> <p>SRC President John Massoud</p> <p>SRC Vice President Cynthia Sabat</p>	<p>Liturgy Prefects Joelle Lahood Alissar Ishac</p> <p>Academic Prefects Ashley Habib Joy Sleiman</p> <p>Wellbeing Prefects Jacob Semaan Sabine Bou Sanayeh</p> <p>Community Prefects Christopher Germanos Georgia Deeb</p>	<p style="background-color: yellow;">Charbel House Captains Georgia Khattar Samantha Georges</p> <p style="background-color: red; color: white;">Maroun House Captains Luciana Dib Stephanie Attie</p> <p style="background-color: green; color: white;">Rafka House Captains Leana Dib Mandalin Moussa</p> <p style="background-color: cyan; color: white;">Mackillop House Captains Cindy Massoud Anna Marie Yaacoub</p>



Year 12 HSC Exams

Year 12 parents and students have this week been issued with a detailed HSC Exam Timetable including rooming as per NESA HSC protocols. The HSC exams commence on Tuesday 9th November in the old C Block. A reminder that all students must wear a mask whilst waiting to enter the exam room and whilst in the exam room. Students will need to arrive 30 minutes prior to the exam start time to complete the COVID check in and screening questions. Students must adhere to the College uniform and grooming expectations and must be in full summer school uniform. We wish all of Year 12 the best of luck with their exams, we will keep you in our prayers.

Year 12 Formal

Our Year 12 formal has been confirmed as taking place on Thursday 20th January 2022 at the Highline Venue in Bankstown. Tickets are now available for purchase from the Primary (Main) Admin Office. An invitation letter was emailed out to the parents/guardians of Year 12 students this morning.

Wellbeing Wednesday

On Wednesday we celebrated our first Wellbeing Wednesday since Term 2 with a 'touch of green.' Staff and students enjoyed music during break times and were able to socialise with their peers over lunch promoting awareness of the importance of wellbeing.

Uniform and Grooming

As we settle back into face-to-face learning, I would like to remind all students and families about the College's uniform and grooming policies. Girls must have their hair tied back with a blue or black hair tie at all times, there is to be no jewellery worn except for one set of earrings in the lower ear lobe and a religious necklace or bracelet and fake or coloured nails are not permitted. Boys must have a blended haircut and be cleanly shaven at all times. Sports uniform is only to be worn on days when a student has a prac lesson for PDHPE and house colour shirts must be worn on a Thursday.

Afternoon Pick Up

Just a reminder that any secondary student who gets picked up in the afternoon will need to do so from the upper primary playground. Students who catch a bus now line up on the grass area to wait for their buses.

Ms E. McCluskey
Head of Secondary

PRIMARY NEWS

Today our Year 3 students received the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. They have been preparing for this day by developing a true understanding that reconciliation is a celebration of God's gift of forgiveness. It allows them to reconcile with God, the Church and those they may have hurt. Knowing the true meaning of

'sorry' and learning about how they can truly reflect on the decisions they have made, has been an important part of their journey.



Wellbeing Wednesday

Primary students celebrated Wellbeing Wednesday by wearing a splash of green and participating in a range of activities during class.



Year 5 students created their own positive affirmations to remind themselves of the wonderful qualities they possess. Remembering these affirmations are especially important when having a 'bad day' as they will make a person feel much better about themselves.



Kindergarten

Kindergarten students are currently learning all about living things. Over the coming weeks, each class will be focusing on the characteristics, basic needs, behaviours, and the environment of mealworms. The students can't wait to see the mealworms metamorphize into beetles!



In Mathematics this week, Kindergarten Red have been learning all about creating equal groups. They worked in pairs using concrete materials to make and draw equal groups. The students even calculated the total using different mathematical strategies such as counting by 2's, 5's, and 10's.



5 Opal

This week, 5 Opal students enjoyed an afternoon of creativity as they hand-crafted Christmas ornaments using fabric and their newly acquired sewing skills of threading a needle, sewing a button and a using a running stitch.

Communication with Teachers

Now that all students have returned to full time face-face teaching, we ask that all communication is conducted via phone or email to the Primary Office. Alternatively, you can write a brief note for your child to pass on to their teacher. This will ensure that any queries or concerns can be addressed promptly. In line with new health and safety procedures, we also remind you not to communicate with teachers or other staff members at the end of the day as students are dismissed.



Library Borrowing

A reminder that library borrowing has now ceased for the year. We ask that students return any College library books they may have at home so that the end-of-year procedures can begin in the Learning Centre. This will ensure that all the books are back on the shelves and ready for borrowing at the start of the 2022 school year.

Uniform

As we approach the end of the year, it is important that students continue to comply with uniform expectations.

This also includes having appropriate haircuts and wearing suitable accessories. We would appreciate parent assistance in ensuring that the College Policy is always adhered to by your child. If you have good reason why your child is not in correct uniform, we kindly ask that a note be written and sent to the class teacher.

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 always expected, 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.

Attendance

A reminder that College attendance procedures have now returned to normal. All students absent from school are asked to bring in a letter of explanation upon their return. Detailed documentation will be required for prolonged absence. We also ask that students who present with flu-like symptoms remain at home. Any students showing signs of sickness or become ill during the day, will be sent home.

Partial Absences

Regular absences, whether for the whole day or part of the day have a detrimental effect on your child's academic progress. We understand that at times appointments for a specialist and the like are unavoidable, but these need to be planned and if possible, should occur outside of school hours. Collecting students early from school for reasons such as avoiding traffic, is not permissible. Prior approval will be needed for any parent wanting to collect their child after 2 pm.

Mr D. Day

Head of Primary

★★★ CONGRATULATIONS ★★★

All-Rounder Awards

- ★ Napoleon Douaihy (Kindergarten)
- ★ Helena Azzi (Year 1)
- ★ Mia Filipaina (Year 2)
- ★ Lynn Haddad (Year 5)
- ★ Katherine Nohra, Georgia Farah, Nour Khalife, Rafka Dagher, Christian Ibrahim, Isabella Ishac, Charles Karam, Isha Shabbir, Deena Tawk, Sebastian Ibrahim, Dahey Maalouf, Charbel Mawad, Anthony Laoulach (Year 7)

Bronze Awards

- ★ Rafqa Kassas, Jonathan Taouk, Ava Faddoul, Gabriel Nakhoul (Kindergarten)
- ★ Jovan Achy (Year 7)

DATES TO REMEMBER

Thursday 9th November 2021 – Year 12 HSC Exams Commence

Wednesday 17th November- Years 3-6 ICAS English Exam

Thursday 18th November - Years 3-6 ICAS Mathematics Exam

Friday 19th November - Years 3-6 ICAS Science Exam

Tuesday 23rd November - Year 6 Rewards Day

Friday 26th November - Year 6 Graduate from Primary

Monday 29th November - Year 9 Science Incursion

Tuesday 7th December – School Concludes for Students

REMINDERS AND NEWS FROM FEES AND ENROLMENT

The following excursions have been cancelled for this year and credits will be applied off school fees:

- MCHF Pilgrimage
- All Brainstorm Productions for 2021
- Year 9 Food Technology Incursion
- Years K-6 Carnivals
- Years K-3 Swimming Programs
- All remaining Primary excursions (excluding the Year 6 Rewards Day)
- Years 6, 9 and 11 Camps
- Years 8 and 10 Living History Incursion
- Year 9 Geography Excursion
- Year 11 First Aid Training
- Drama Excursion
- Music Excursion

PARENT CORNER

Fundraising for those in need in Lebanon

As we know, Lebanon is in very dire circumstances with corruption at the highest levels, forceful takeover of the country by other Nations, an economy that has spiralling debts, lack of employment, no basic amenities, electricity outage, and increasing poverty. Both the Maronite College of the Holy family and our sister school, St Maroun's College, will be raising funds to provide basic necessities and food for students in schools, operated by the Maronite Sisters of the Holy Family. The money will go directly to purchasing items for these families, so that they can experience some joy during this Christmas season.

If anyone would like to donate, please contact Admin (96336600 – Ext: 1). Envelopes will be sent around during homeroom classes for smaller collections.



MCHF Christmas Appeal for Lebanon

**FROM 8TH NOVEMBER
UNTIL 19TH NOVEMBER**

**DONATE NOW!
MCHF TARGET - \$3000**



*Put a smile on the face of
a child in Lebanon.*



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/>

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