



Maronite College of the Holy Family NEWSLETTER

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Term 4 - Week 8: Friday, 26th November 2021

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

I would like to thank all students, parents, and staff for their outstanding donations towards our Lebanon Appeal. A total of \$10,400.00 was raised for this worthy cause.

This week we commenced our Annual St Vinnie's Christmas Appeal. I ask all to please donate to another worthy cause for those in need.

Today we celebrated the Year 6 Graduation. Unfortunately, due to the Covid restrictions we were unable to have the proud parents in attendance for this important milestone. However, the ceremony was streamed live, so that parents could participate from home.



The day commenced with Years 4, 5 & 6 celebrating Mass in the Church. Following the Mass, the students assembled in the Primary Hall for a short Graduation Ceremony. We wish them all the very best for the next chapter in their schooling. I would also like to wish them all a very Blessed Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year.

A huge thanks to all the staff involved in the organisation of the Year 6 Graduation Day. In particular, the Stage Coordinator Ms Kevill, Head of the Primary Mr Day, and the Year 6 teachers, who invested a lot of time and effort in the running of this ceremony.



As you graduate may you be **BLESSED** with the
pride of a job well done,
the **LOVE** of those closest to you
and **CONFIDENCE** in your future.
Most of all remember,
GOD will continue to hold you in the
palm of **HIS** hand.



As HSC enters into its third week, I ask you all to please continue to keep Year 12 in your thoughts and prayers.

Parents are reminded of the following:

- Drop your children off at the front gates
- Do not enter the school grounds
- If you must enter, QR Code, wear a face mask and go directly to the Admin Office
- If your children have any flu like symptoms, please keep them at home

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

COVID-19 Update: Operational Setting Changes for the Remainder of the Term

The COVID-19 and Economic Recovery Committee agreed to minimise school closures when there are positive COVID-19 cases, and maximise the time students have learning face-to-face in classrooms. The following changes will be in place from Monday 29 November:

- A rapid antigen home testing (RAHT) 'test-to-stay' program will be available to close contacts to get them back to school immediately following a negative PCR and on the basis, they do 7 RAHT tests before attending school each day. This applies to close contacts who have had exposure to a COVID-19 positive case at school.
- Any staff or students who have been identified as close contacts as a result of exposure on a school site and are currently isolating can return to school and OSHC from Monday 29 November and begin RAHT testing as long as they have already had a negative PCR test.
- NSW Health has agreed that the regular clean, day clean and enhanced clean provides a more than sufficient layer of protection in schools for students and staff. It has also agreed there is no benefit to undertaking an environmental clean, which is highly disruptive to a school's ongoing operations and can close a school for up to 2 days. This is another important change that will get students back into classrooms faster in parallel with the 'test-to-stay' program.
- In line with community settings, instruments that rely on breath and singing and chanting will now be permitted outdoors, within cohorts, with distancing in place and where there is no sharing of instruments. Under these conditions music classes, bands, ensembles, group repetition and choirs within cohorts can resume. Performances (in front of audiences) are still on hold under current COVID-safe requirements within schools.
- Year 12 students can attend end-of-year school celebrations including graduations (at off school site venues) – regardless of their vaccination status. The unvaccinated students will be required to show a

negative PCR COVID-19 test within 72 hours prior to the event and follow the COVID-safe rules in place at the venue – including wearing a mask indoors.

Annual MCHF Survey

All parents/guardians, staff and students are invited to participate in the annual MCHF Survey. This voluntary survey is a College-wide survey to assist with the growth and development of our College. The purpose of the survey is to gather your feedback on how the College can continue to lead improvement and change. Your feedback and contribution are important to the College as we review and reflect on current practices. All feedback collected will be confidential. You will not be required to supply any identification details.

Click on the link below to complete the Parent/Guardian survey:

<https://forms.office.com/r/dM9DqjzjPd>

The survey will close on Friday 3rd December 2021. For any further information regarding the survey, please do not hesitate to contact me.

MCHF Christmas Appeal for Lebanon

We are proud to announce that the College raised \$10,400 for the Christmas Appeal for Lebanon. This is an outstanding achievement after the College set a target of \$3000. It is such a wonderful gift we have at the College where many of our parents/guardians and students are generous and supportive when it comes towards fundraising and community spirit.

The funds raised are sure to make a difference on those who are struggling in Lebanon and will put a smile on their faces. We have also written a letter and the students have created a video message which will be sent to Lebanon with the funds.

We thank you for your support and generosity towards this appeal.

Vinnies Christmas Appeal

As we conclude our Christmas Appeal for Lebanon, we turn our attention and focus to our annual St Vincent de Paul Christmas Hamper Appeal. Each class and homeroom will be given a list of items for students to contribute towards the hampers. We invite our students and College community to support our final appeal so that we can make a difference to struggling families this Christmas.

Mr E. Asmar
Assistant Principal



PRIMARY NEWS

We are fast approaching the end of not only the term, but another year. For our Year Six students, today marks the culmination of seven years of primary schooling and the beginning of the next stage of their educational journey. As we say goodbye, I would like to wish them well as they transition into Year 7. For those very few students who are leaving the MCHF Community, I hope that you remember your time at our College with great fondness and cherish the special memories you've made along the way.

Year 6 Graduation

The special day for our Year 6 students began with a beautiful mass held in their honour. It was a wonderful celebration, which was shared with students from Year 4 and 5. Thank you to Ms Kevill, Ms Francis, Ms Murphy, Ms Assaf, Ms Mekdessi, Ms Rozario and Mr Nouh, for their efforts in preparing all aspects of the Mass. A special thank you to Fr Tony for celebrating this special event for our graduating students.



The Year 6 Awards Ceremony was held in the Primary Hall at the conclusion of the Mass. Sr Irene delivered an inspirational and heartfelt speech to all students before the presentation of the awards and Graduation Certificates. The ceremony officially ended with a group photo and an individual cupcake for all. Students then shared their Primary School memories before saying their goodbyes. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Sr Irene for her leadership and support throughout this year of uncertainty. Thank you also to Sr Marlene for her guiding presence. To Ms Kevill and the Year 6 teachers, your dedication and hard work throughout the year has been much appreciated. Finally, a huge thank you to the administration and support staff who worked behind the scenes to ensure the day was a success. A special mention to Ms Deeb for the extra attention to detail she always adds to our events.



Year 6 Rewards Day

This week, Year 6 were rewarded with a special day of fun to celebrate the end of their Primary School years. They enjoyed a range of activities including sport rotations, a trivia competition and 'Minute to Win It' games. Lunch was provided and before they sat back to enjoy a movie. A great day was had by all.





Farewell

Today we wish Ms Hort all the best as she takes leave in preparation for the birth of second child. I would like to thank Ms Hort for the many contributions she has made to the College during her time with us.

Kindergarten Orientation

A reminder that our Kindergarten Orientation will occur next week. Details of the session have been sent to parents/guardians of our 2022 students. Further enquires can be made at the Primary Administration Office.



Communication with Teachers

All communication with Primary staff is to be 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.

College Resources

A reminder that students are to return any College library books or class readers they may have at home so that the end-of-year stocktake procedures can begin. This will ensure that all the books are ready for student use at the start of next 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. Girls must have their hair tied up if it is longer than shoulder length. They are to use hair ties and headbands that are either navy blue or yellow. No student is permitted to colour their hair. 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.

Lost Property

A large amount of lost property has accumulated at the College this term. If your child has lost clothing or other personal items, please ask them to check the Lost Property tubs outside the Primary Office or on the Primary Playground to see if they can locate it. All remaining lost property will be cleared at the end of term.

Mr D. Day
Head of Primary

SECONDARY NEWS

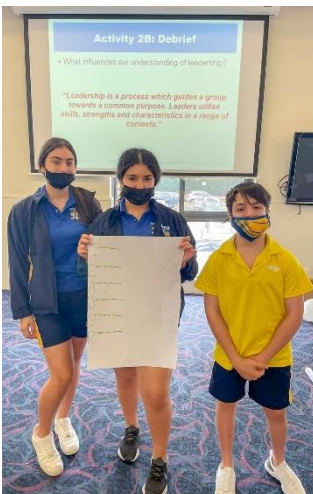
Year 9 Food Technology

In the unit of work, Food for Special Occasions, Year 9 Food Technology students explored a range of special occasions including social, cultural, religious, historical, and family. They examined small and large-scale catering establishments. Students concluded their topic by making gingerbread houses as a food for a special occasion.



Year 9 Peer Support

Year 9 Peer Support Training Day was held on Thursday where students in Year 9 were trained to be leaders for our 2022, Year 7 cohort. The Peer Support program is a peer led, skills based, experiential learning program. It encourages peer connections throughout the school and assists students in developing practical skills to enhance social and emotional wellbeing to support our new Year 7 students for next year. Looking forward to welcoming Year 7 on the first day back.



Year 10 Food Technology

Mrs Botros' Year 10 Food Technology class are now ready to be "Insta" famous with the amazing preparation of their very own brownie D.I.Y boxes!!! This practical was a result of year 10's investigation into identifying the latest dessert trends that have been influenced by social media.

Look out for these young rising dessert entrepreneurs!!



HSC Update

The HSC is almost over for our Year 12 students! Only 4 exams to go next week and then we look forward to celebrating at our Graduation Mass and Ceremony on Friday 3rd December. To all of our students who have finished their exams already – congratulations on achieving this major milestone in such a difficult year. To all of our students who still have exams left - we will continue to keep you in our thoughts and prayers over the next week, keep going, you are almost there.

Uniform and Grooming

Just a reminder to all students that our College uniform and grooming policies remain in place for the entire term. Boys need to be cleanly shaven and have a blended haircut, hair cannot be tied back in pins or hair tie. Girls need to ensure hair is tied back and the only jewellery that can be worn is one set of earrings in the lower ear and a religious necklace or bracelet – no rings are to be worn. Fake nails and nail polish are also not allowed.

Students can only wear their sports uniform on days that they have practical Health lessons and on Thursdays, students must wear their coloured house polo.

As the term draws to a close, I ask all students to continue to adhere to these rules.

Overdue Library Books

We have a large number of students who still have overdue library books. We ask that any student who has not returned a book to the library please does so as soon as possible. If the book has been lost, students will need to pay for a replacement.

Rubbish

There has been an increase in the amount of rubbish that is being left behind in the yards after break times and buses in the afternoons. Students are reminded to please ensure that they place all of their rubbish in the bins provided.

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal

On Monday the 22nd November, Secondary students were allocated an item to bring in for our St Vincent de Paul Christmas Hampers to help those who are less fortunate. All items will need to be brought in before 3rd December so that we can package up the Hampers and get them out to families in time for Christmas.

Rewards Day

This year, our Rewards Day will go ahead as planned on Monday 6th December, but it will be at school like it was last year due to current COVID restrictions. A letter was sent home to all secondary parents today with detailed information on the plan for the day. We look forward to being able to provide a fun day for all of our students to celebrate the end of a very difficult year for everyone.



Ms E. McCluskey
Head of Secondary

★★★ CONGRATULATIONS ★★★

All-Rounder Awards

- ★ Rachael Khalil, Mary Elias, Theresa Khoury, Marielouise Bachaalani (Year 1)
- ★ Laurice Zoghaib, Adriana El Khoury, Tony Saliba, Olivia Debs, Mathew Sassine (Year 2)
- ★ Joseph Sassine, Gabrielle Abi Khattar (Year 4)
- ★ Joseph Boumelhem, Sebastian Daoud, Ashley Habib, Johaan Louie, Mandalin Moussa, Mikayla Stavrinakis, Luciana Dib, Veronicca Azzi, Joelle Lahood, Analucia Abboud, Xavier Nohra (Year 11)

Bronze Awards

- ★ Sarah Azzi, Alexander-Joseph George (Kindy)
- ★ Mary-Bella Taouk, Jacinta Sassine (Year 2)
- ★ Isabella Taouk (Year 4)

Silver Awards

- ★ Serena Sadek (Year 4)

Principal's Awards

- ★ Lina Alameddine, Ella Rose Botros, Christian Barakat, Michael Al Alam (Year 4)

DATES TO REMEMBER

Monday 29th November - Year 9 Science Incursion

Monday 29th November – Kindy (2022) Orientation Day 1
(Session 1: 9am-10am – Session 2: 11:15am-12:15pm)

Tuesday 30th November - Kindy (2022) Orientation Day 2
(Session 1: 9am-10am – Session 2: 11:15am-12:15pm)

Friday 3rd December – Year 12 Graduation Mass and Ceremony

Monday 6th December – Secondary Rewards Day

Tuesday 7th December – Christmas Mass / Term 4 Concludes for Students

2022 Dates to Remember

Year 7 start school – Monday 31st January

Everyone else except Kindy commence school – Tuesday 1st February

Kindy start school – Wednesday 2nd February (*half days until Friday 4th February*)

REMINDERS AND NEWS FROM FEES AND ENROLMENT

Friendly reminder that outstanding fees are due and need to be finalised by 7 December 2021. If you are unable to meet this obligation and wish to discuss options for a payment plan, please contact the College **now**.

Thank you to all parents who have settled their bills and to all parents who have attempted to make contact with the College to arrange payment plans.

All excursions/events have been cancelled for this year and credits will be applied off school fees, except for...

- Year 9 Forensic Science Incursion
- Year 12 Graduation and Formal
- Rewards Days

ALSO THIS WEEK

Kindy White students, playing the "Trading Game" to reinforce the concept of place value.



Kindergarten Red's last library skills lesson for the year. We have loved reading stories and learning lots of different library skills with Mrs LeMerle.



Year 7 get crafty during Homeroom!



Getting ready for Christmas

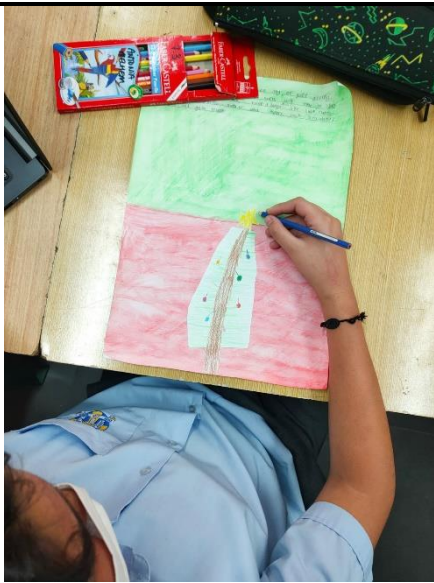


It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas in our Year 10 Homeroom classrooms!



Year 7 Art Christmas Card Competition with Ms Nguyen





Year 10 Visual Arts students in front of their biggest challenge yet.... Covid didn't stop them!
30 Drawings in 30 days!



After much angst, Mrs Botros's Year 8 Technology classes are close to completing their Christmas timber table toppers. Their final stages of using the light burn CAD program, which communicated with the Emblaser 2, students waited patiently for their timber panels to be emblased. It was worth the wait as these students will take home a personalised Christmas piece.



Ms Boustani and Ms Delimitros presenting to Year 12 important information on university admissions.



PARENT CORNER

Summer Reading Club!

This summer why not escape into a book! And no better place to find one is at your library! Summer Reading Club is back at City of Parramatta Libraries and we invite everyone to read, write, create, and join in the fun. We would love to see people browsing and borrowing from the library's great collections. This year the Summer Reading Club is open to all children aged 4 and above, teens and adults commencing from 1 December 2021 – 31 January 2022.

Click the link to find out more - <https://www.cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au/summer-reading-club>

School Readiness Test 2021

In preparation for transition to NAPLAN Online in 2022, selected groups of students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 will be participating in the School Readiness Test (SRT) between 22nd-26th November 2021.

SRT is an opportunity for schools to set up and run simulated tests to become familiar with the online assessment platform and reflect on areas that may need to be addressed ahead of moving online. SRT is not an assessment of student ability. Student test attempts will not be marked, nor will results be available.

Parents/guardians of students who have been selected to participate in the SRT will be provided with further details next week.

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>