



Maronite College of the Holy Family



NEW & LETTER

23-25 Alice Street, Harris Park, 2150 Tel: 9633 6600 Email: Admin@mchf.nsw.edu.au

Term 4 – Week 10: Tuesday, 7th December 2021



MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

After a long, hard, and winding road, we finally reached the finish line.

I would like to thank you all for your support and cooperation throughout this very difficult year. There have been so many different COVID restrictions we have had to follow, and at times these have seemed unfair, but I truly thank you for your understanding.

On Friday 3rd December, we finally celebrated the Year 12 Graduation. The day commenced with Mass at OLOL Co-Cathedral, followed by a short Ceremony in the Church Hall. Staff, Students and Parents were able to mark this momentous occasion and farewell our Year 12 students.



A huge thank you to all staff involved in the organisation of the Year 12 Graduation Ceremony, especially Ms Kordakis (Year 12 Coordinator) for all her mentoring and support she offered to this cohort. It has been a huge challenge, and because of the grace of God, we have prevailed. A special thank you, also, to Sr Marlene, Mr Asmar, Ms McCluskey, Ms Dalla, Ms Abdul Ahad, and the Year 12 Homeroom teachers who invested a lot of time and effort in the running of this ceremony.

New Appointments for the Maronite Sisters of the Holy Family

After three years at the helm as Principal, our Congregational Leader has seen fit to change the Sisters' appointments. I would like to announce the following:

- Sr Margaret Ghosn will be Principal of MCHF as of January 2022
- I will be Principal of St Maroun's College as of January 2022
- Sr Marlene Chedid will be at the Child Care Centre in Belmore as of January 2022

It has been a pleasure getting to know each one of you and working alongside you for the betterment of our child's wellbeing. I have enjoyed my time here and I have done my best to ensure MCHF is a place where staff, students and parents feel they belong as one community.

We wish Sr Marlene all the very best in her new mission and we thank her for her years of service to our community and College.

I trust you will welcome Sr Margaret back again and support her in all her undertakings.

Sr Margaret and I will be working closely to ensure both schools progress in the educational field. I ask that you support us both in the endeavour.

Keep us in your prayers as we keep you in our prayers

Finally, I would like to wish you all a very Blessed Christmas and a New Year filled with peace, joy, and love.



Prayer for the End of the School Year

At the end of this school year, we give thanks to God:

For all the teaching and learning that has taken place in our school, both in and out of the classroom,

For the talents and gifts that have been shared and the challenges that have been faced;

For the burdens that have been lifted and the hurts that have been healed;

For the respect and care that has been given.

We give thanks for the friendships that have just begun and for those that have grown.

For the faith that has been lived in our daily struggles,

For the hope that has lifted our hearts on the dark days and for the love that has kept us going.

We give thanks for the community that we are, and we ask you Lord;

Bless our students: May your Spirit inspire them with confidence and calmness.

Bless our families as we take our holidays - May our time together leave us with memories to cherish.

Pour out your love on us, that we may return renewed and refreshed to continue our journey together.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen

***We have finally reached the end of the Year of St Joseph please reflect on the last virtue of St Joseph
December – Chaste Guardian of Virgins and Pillar of Families***

Due to his chastity and vocation, Joseph has further been entrusted to continue his mission of guarding the pure

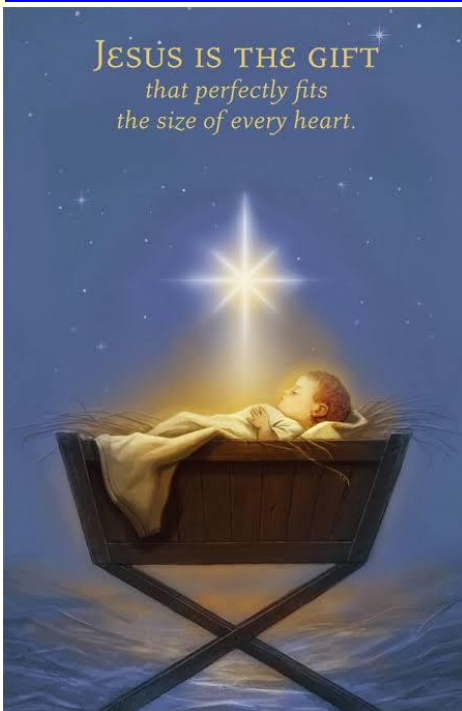
one of God and of the integrity of the family. This power flows through him now as a reward of his perfect fidelity. All religious and families should have recourse to this most powerful intercessor.

“Let us love Jesus above all, let us love Mary as our mother; but then, how could we keep from loving Joseph, who was so intimately united to both Jesus and Mary? And how can we honour him better than by imitating his virtues? Now, what else did he do in all his life but contemplate, study, and adore Jesus, even in the midst of his daily labours? Behold, therefore, our model.” - St Madeleine Sophie Barat

Sr Irene Boughosn
PRINCIPAL



MESSAGE FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL



Concluding 2021.....Looking Forward to 2022

Well here we are! Many of us have been waiting for this week to come and rightly so!

Considering the year that we have had, we should be counting down the days to put behind us a second year filled with restrictions, guidelines and challenges.

However, as I mentioned at the end of last year at this time, we shouldn't dwell on the challenges and the effects it had on us and our lives. We should be celebrating the successes and achievements we have accomplished.

I take this opportunity to wish all our staff, students and parents/guardians a blessed Christmas and a safe and enjoyable holiday.

Thank you for your dedication and commitment to the College. I look forward to continue accompanying you all in our learning journey and facing challenges that come our way and celebrating many more achievements and successes.

2022 Theme: “The Best Me I Can Be”

In 2022, we are excited to launch our theme: THE BEST ME I CAN BE!

This theme is based on our learner model released this year. The theme focuses on three dispositions of our model – independent, takes ownership and reflective.

Our aim in 2022 is for our students to take ownership of their learning, in order to become reflective and independent.

Vinnies Christmas Appeal

Our College community has once again done an amazing job in charity work donating many hampers for our annual Vinnies Christmas Appeal. This is what makes our College unique; we are a giving and generous community and we always come together in charity works.

I take this opportunity to thank you all for your generosity and support towards this appeal. We have helped a family less fortunate than us to have a special Christmas this year.

Thank you to the following members of staff who led this year's Christmas appeals: Ms Abdul Ahad, Mr Hassarati, Ms Pietak, Ms Pather, Ms Botros, Ms Hatem, Ms Murphy, Ms Francis and Ms Njeim

2022 THEME
The Best Me I Can Be

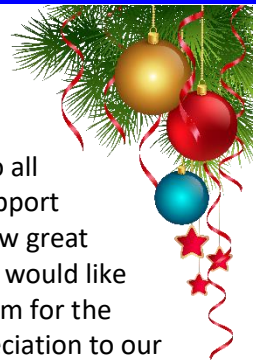
TAKING OWNERSHIP
of my learning to
become **REFLECTIVE**
and **INDEPENDENT**



Mr E. Asmar
Assistant Principal

PRIMARY NEWS

As 2021 draws to a close, I take this opportunity to wish all our MCHF parents, students, and staff a happy and blessed Christmas. It has been a busier year than usual, filled with the added uncertainty of the ever-changing COVID restrictions. I would like to acknowledge and thank Sr Irene and Sr Marlene for the guidance and support they continue to provide to all members of the MCHF community. Thank you also to the Primary Leadership Team who support me in leading the Primary Department each day. To the teaching and support staff who show great dedication and passion to deliver quality learning experiences for our students, thank you. I would like to recognise and thank the office staff, Business Services Department and Maintenance Team for the amazing job they do to ensure that everything continues to run smoothly. My sincere appreciation to our students for the commitment you displayed towards your learning this year, especially during Remote Learning. Finally, a big thank to the parents who continually show their appreciation, understanding and support to the College. Keep safe over the holiday period and enjoy the festive season with your family.



Christmas Mass

Today, the College held its annual Christmas Mass. It was beautiful celebration which was attended by our Kindergarten, Year 1, Year 2, and Year 3 students. The remaining Primary grades participated by watching the livestreaming of the Mass.





Farewell

This week we wish a fond farewell to Ms Bridgette Ramsey and Ms Louiza Sadek who are leaving the MCHF community. Both are long serving members of staff who have made significant contributions to our College and to the students they have taught. Also moving on from our College this year is Mr John Munce, Ms Souad Assaf, Mr Michael Aboufarah, and Ms Ainna Miranda. They have all accepted positions at new schools to further enhance their teaching careers. We thank all our departing teachers for their time here at MCHF and wish them well for their future endeavours.

Taking Leave

Today we wish Ms Khodeir all the best as she takes leave in preparation for the birth of her first child. I would like to thank Ms Khodeir for the many wonderful contributions she has continued to make to the College and look forward to her return in the future.

Learning in the Chapel

Kindergarten loved starting their day in the chapel last week. They prayed and discussed the ways they can prepare for Christmas and the birth of our Lord.



Young Scientist Awards

We congratulate the following students for effort and achievement in this year's Young Scientist Competition.

- Sophie Esber from Year 3 was *the Inventions and Innovations Winner for her age group*. She designed a remote-controlled robot with distance sensors that could be used to patrol and protect chickens from predators.
- Aaryan Basnet from Year 6 was awarded a Certificate of Distinction for his project on deforestation. He outlined how society can reduce the effect of deforestation, preserve biodiversity, and defend the rights of the forest.

End of Term Assembly

The Primary End of Term Awards Assembly was separated into two events yesterday. These assemblies not only celebrated the special academic achievements of our students, but also recognised the students who have been selected as the leaders in the Primary Department for 2021. Due to restrictions, students were unable to have their parents attend, however they were given the opportunity to phone them afterwards to tell them their wonderful news. We congratulate all our future leaders. I am sure that they will do a wonderful job next year.

School Captains

- Angelina Khoury
- Rafael Ishac

Vice Captains

- Bernadette Yaacoub
- Andrew Khoury

SRC

- Sophia Khoury
- Annalise Khoury
- Mary Semaan
- May Nakhoul
- Charbel Tannous
- Michael Salem
- Mario Ishac
- Christian Khattar

Sport Captains

St Charbel (Yellow)

- Jasmine Saba
- Sebastian Diab

St Rafqa (Green)

- Tatiana Mejalli
- Justin Green

St Mary MacKillop (Blue)

- Ava Namnoun
- Charbel Chiha

St Maroun (Red)

- Joanne Yaccoub
- Danny Taouk



End of Year Reports

The College has carefully analysed the Semester Two reporting structure and adjusted it to accommodate the recent period of Remote Learning. The student report will focus on Next Step Learning Goals and the assessment of student effort in all Key Learning Areas. Your child's report will be made available to you on Friday 9th December 2021 via the Parent Portal.

Learning in the Holidays

During the Christmas Break, it is vital to keep children's minds active. Please encourage your child to continue to read and write each day. For our younger students, engaging them in literacy-based activities will allow for the continued development of their reading and writing skills. For those in Stage 2 and Stage 3, minimise screen time and encourage daily reading of novels and magazines that interest them. It is also important to continue to find Mathematics in everyday places so that your children can continue to enhance their mathematical thinking.

Merry Christmas!



Mr D. Day
Head of Primary

SECONDARY NEWS

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays

This morning we got to celebrate our final mass of the year as a College with our Christmas Mass. The secondary department would like to wish all our families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May God's blessing shine down upon you this Christmas and we look forward to welcoming everyone back safe, refreshed, and ready for the new school year in 2022.



Year 7 History

Mr Abboud's 7B history class took part in mummification as part of their Ancient Egypt study.



Year 9 Science IncurSION

Year 9 experienced the annual Forensic Science IncurSION on Monday 29th November. Education Interactive presenter Ragavi, a real forensic scientist, brought with her a scenario which involved drugs and a murder. There were suspects which the police investigated but it was the forensic scientists that gave the police the evidence to press charges. The students were shown many techniques and pieces of equipment used to assist in gathering and analysing evidence found at and nearby the scene of the murder.

The students were then able to look at, and use, some of this equipment to try to solve the crime. They were able to dress up in the forensic science overalls, use UV lights, microscopes and analyse all the evidence gathered from the crime scene. At the end, some students were chosen to role play the situation that led to the murder. Interest was high amongst the students, and they enjoyed the experience. Maybe some may pursue forensic science as a career.





Year 10 Commerce

The Year 10B Commerce class took part in a Project Based Learning activity- THE SHARK TANK for their Business topic last week. Three groups presented their business ideas to 'Shark Investors', Mr Gabrael, Mr Cunningham, Ms Rizk and Mrs Esber. The groups created an amazing presentation, tempting all four 'Sharks' to invest for a small percentage of profits.

Well done to MY TRAVEL CLOSET; CARGO and NATURES GIFT for your hard work and dedication to set off your companies and for being able to answer questions on the spot. We're so proud of you all!

Year 12 Graduation Mass and Ceremony

It has been a big few weeks for our Year 12 cohort who completed their HSC Exams on Thursday. Almost 95% of students have already been offered early entry into their chosen university course which is a remarkable achievement! On Friday, we were finally able to celebrate. The day started with our Graduation Mass where Year 12, their families and the entire secondary school were able to come together in prayer. This was followed by our Graduation Ceremony where we were able to recognise a number of students for their achievements through out the course of a very difficult year.

I would like to congratulate all of our award winners for the dedication and application throughout their schooling years. A special congratulations to the below students who received one of our Major Awards for 2021.

Ethical Award – Jason Chakti

Bishop of Parramatta Award – Adrian Harb

Students' Choice Award – Chanelle Coorey

The Quiet Achiever Award – Lana Chamchoum

The Academic All Rounder Award – Celine Moussa, Jason Chakti and Celine Harb

Active Citizenship Award – Ashton Tannous

Ampol Best All Rounder Award – Tatiana Estephen

Australian Defence Force Award for Leadership Skills – Ashton Tannous



Australian Defence Force Award for Future Innovators – Simon Zaiter
Reuben F Scarf Award – Brytney Al-Saiah
The Community Service Award – Therese Abi-Khattar and Elissa El Katrib
The Howayek Award – Adrian Harb
Principal's Award – Chanelle Coorey

We wish Year 12 all the best for whatever their futures may hold. As I said at the Graduation Ceremony, you will always carry a little bit of MCHF in your hearts and you will forever be a part of our family no matter where life's journey takes you.



Summer Holiday Reading

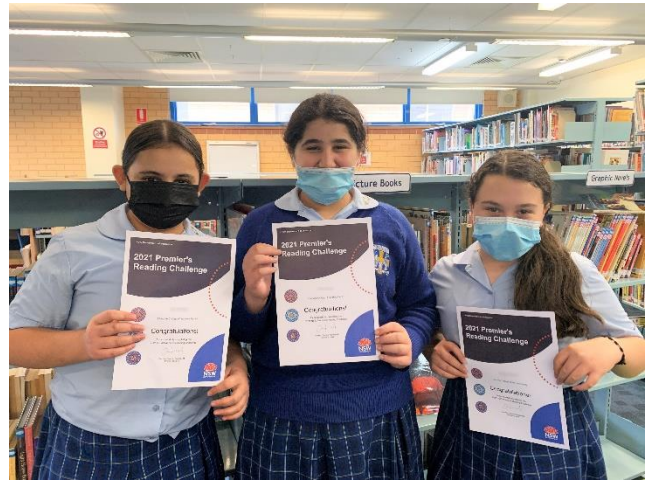
Over the break, keep your brain active and READ regularly. You can access free books (e-books and hard copies) through your local library or use paid services such as Amazon, Apple iBooks, Kobo, Dymocks and Booktopia. Books are a great gift to give and receive so don't forget to add some to your Christmas wish lists.

[http://libcat.parracity.nsw.gov.au/client/en_AU/default/?rm=ERESOURCES1%7C%7C%7C1%7C%7C%7C0%7C%7C%7Ctruehttps://www.cumberland.nsw.gov.au/elibraryThe Top 40 Young Adult Books of 2021 \(So Far\) - Goodreads News & Interviews](http://libcat.parracity.nsw.gov.au/client/en_AU/default/?rm=ERESOURCES1%7C%7C%7C1%7C%7C%7C0%7C%7C%7Ctruehttps://www.cumberland.nsw.gov.au/elibraryThe Top 40 Young Adult Books of 2021 (So Far) - Goodreads News & Interviews)

NSW Premier's Reading Challenge Years 7-9

Congratulations to the 74 students in Years 7-9 who completed the Premier's Reading Challenge. In a difficult year, with libraries closed and limited access to books, this was a wonderful achievement. Many other students attempted the challenge but did not reach the 20-book requirement. Well done to all these students as well.

Standard participation certificates were handed out in English classes this week with the Gold and Platinum certificates and medals handed out at our Academic Assemblies yesterday.



St Vincent de Paul Christmas Hampers

The St Vincent de Paul Christmas Hampers were collected yesterday with an overwhelming response from our community. Over 130 bags were collected while the remaining 50 went to assist Heaven on Earth.

Thank you to all our secondary students and their families for the kindness you have shown in helping others during the Christmas season.

Here you can see some of our Year 7 Hamper Creations that were put together this week.



Academic Assembly

Yesterday we held our End of Year Awards Ceremonies for each year group. Congratulations to all students who were recognised with awards on the day. A special congratulation to our 2021 DUX from each year group:

Year 7 – Jude Hasham

Year 8 – Charlize Sleiman

Year 9 – Brealle Hasham

Year 10 – Christelle Joukhadar

Year 11 – Elie Joukhadar



Rewards Day

Yesterday, our secondary staff and students got to participate in our annual Rewards Day. Due to COVID restrictions, this day looked different to previous years, but a lot of fun was had by all.

Students had a 5-activity rotation which included their End of Year Awards Ceremony, Obstacle Courses, a Giant Slide, a Bungee Challenge, Sporting Activities and Team Building Activities. It was a nice way to celebrate the end of what has been a very challenging year for all. Thank you to all the staff who helped in the preparation of the day and congratulation to all students on the way they behaved and involved themselves.





Farewell

I would like to take this opportunity to farewell those secondary staff who are leaving us at the end of the term: Mr Alex Cheung, Mrs Katerina Cordina, Mr Chris Hayman, Mrs Thirumala Pather, Mrs Antoinette Roach.

We wish you all the best in your future endeavours and thank you for all your hard work and dedication to MCHF over the years. You will be dearly missed by everyone, and we hope you always look back on your time here with fond memories.

Ms E. McCluskey
Head of Secondary

CONGRATULATIONS



All-Rounder Awards

- ★ Charbel Tannous, Alexia El Boustani (Year 1)
- ★ Elyas Abed, Tonina Nader (Year 3)
- ★ Cynthia Toni Makari, Charbel Boutros Estephan (Year 4)
- ★ Luke Whitton, Nicole Jabbour Halloun, Jorden Douaihy, Danny Taouk, Jamie Wakim, Gabriella Boustani, Clara Akik, Matthew Elcham Isabella Deeb, Antonio Eljer, Rafael Ishac, Christiana Harb, George Bousaid, Joanne Yaacoub (Year 5)
- ★ Billy Tadros, Angela Sammour, Audrey Moussa, Elias Bechara, Alannah Harb, Leila Bou Melhem, Boulos Zakhia, John Diab, Billy Tadros (Year 7)
- ★ Miriam Awad, Marissa Chalita, Zachariah Dayoub, Brealle Hasham, George Youssef, Joseph Ghannoum, Simon Bazouni, Rebecca Hanania, Anna Licha, Raymond Constanton, Anthony Hassoun, Christina Khoury, Leya Mouawad, Katia Akik, Christian Abdul Ahed, George Chalhoub, Christiane Daher, Isabella Sabat, Youssef Taouk, Danielle Taouk, David Abi Khattar, Michael Khoudier, Sienna Mekary (Year 9)
- ★ Christina Elkhoury, Charbel Merheb (Year 10)
- ★ Josef Boumelhem, Vanessa El-Katrib, Patricia Harb, Alissar Ishac, Georgia Khattar, Layla Mouawad, Mark Nehmer, Raphael Nofal, Jacob Semaan, Luke Taouk, Mathew Yacoub, Sid Zaidan, Christina Elkhoury, Joy Sleiman (Year 11/12)

Bronze Awards

- ★ Eli Baker, Layla Bou Francis, Eleny Joukhadar, Gaia El Khoury, Eva Nakhoul (Year 3)
- ★ Clavy Saba, Lucas Tadros, Jayden Sassine, Margaret Rose Youssef, Charbel Taouk, Taylor Kobayaty, Julian Licha, Mia-Theresa Bazouni, Mary Rizk (Year 4)
- ★ Lynn Haddad, May Nakhoul, Bernadette Yaacoub, Jacinta Maalouf, Mary Ibrahim, Mikayla Atie
- ★ Annalise Khoury (Year 5)
- ★ Bernadette Yaacoub, Jacinta Maalouf, Mary Ibrahim, Mikayla Atie Lynn Haddad, May Nakhoul (Year 5)
- ★ Christian El Barhoun (Year 7)
- ★ Jean Paul Azar, Mia Younan, Celena Habib, Joe Hage, Ella Marie Kalache, Mariah Moussa, Anthony Samson, Hannah Habib, Rebecca Hanania, Simon Bazouni, Jorjous Jarjes, Joyce Yaacoub (Year 9)
- ★ Mandalin Moussa, Mikayla Stavrinakis, Wadih Tannous, Elias-Charbel Lahoud, Julien El Bazouni (Year 11)



Silver Awards

- ★ George Taouk (Year 2)
- ★ Charlize Nohra, Heavannah Nehme, Anderson Ghosn, Jenny Makary, Eliasa Kanaan (Year 3)
- ★ Charbel Baaklini (Year 4)
- ★ Annalise Khoury, Bernadette Yaacoub, Andrew Khoury (Year 5)
- ★ Rita Raffoul, Melody Sleiman, Matthew El Bazouni, Audrey Tannous, Norma Samaha, Omar Amoud, Theresa Boustani (Year 9)

Principal's Awards

- ★ Anthony Bou Assi, Peter Boutros, Therese Kanaan, Danielle Delia, Jaz Sahyoun (Year 1)
- ★ Annabella Daher, Jaqueline Haklani (Year 2)
- ★ Gabriel Ishac, Julian Azar, Bianca Maroun (Year 3)
- ★ Isabella Abou Haydar (Year 4)
- ★ Annalise Khoury, Andrew Khoury (Year 5)

DATES TO REMEMBER

Tuesday 7th December – Term 4 Concludes for Students

2022 Dates to Remember

Year 7 commence school – Monday, 31st January 2022
Everyone (except Kindy) start school – Tuesday, 1st February 2022
Kindy start school – Wednesday, 2nd February 2022
(Half days until Friday, 4th February 2022)

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 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>



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>