

ST CHARBEL'S COLLEGE NEWSLETTER



Issue 1

Term 1, Week 4, February 2017

Principal's Message - Rev Fr Maroun Youssef

I would like to welcome you all back for 2017. I hope and pray that you all enjoyed your summer holidays and are ready for an exciting and rewarding academic year.

This year we proudly introduced our new executive team, Mrs Vania Bejjani, Assistant Principal of Teaching and Learning K-12, Mrs Joanne Mansour, Director of Religion K-12, Mrs Bernadette Hems, Assistant Principal Pastoral Care K-12, Mrs Tina Harb, Head of Primary School, Mrs Karen Jubb, Director of Curriculum 7-12 and Mr Ghassan Chehaid, Business Manager. Together we aim to improve the College both academically and strategically with our amazing team of teachers, staff and of course the continual support of our parents. The students of our College are our main focus as we consider the best education we can possibly offer. Our aim this year will be to strive to improve wherever possible to bring out the best possible potential in all of our students.

This past week we proudly celebrated the 2016 High Achievers Ceremony in which the Dux accolade was awarded to Mark Sara, with an ATAR of 95.1 equal 2nd place was awarded to Thea Boutros and Claire Sayde with an ATAR of 94.7 and 4th place was presented to Dorothy Kamal who also received 1st place in Advanced English with an ATAR of 94.35. We are so very proud of all our students who had received above 90 as well as those students who received Band 6's in their HSC subjects. I would also like to wish each and every one of our 2016 students every success in their future endeavours and hope that they remain proud of having been a student of St Charbel's College, continually carrying with them the pride of their Maronite faith and heritage. Most importantly, I pray that with the intercession of St Charbel our Patron Saint, constantly guides and protects all of our students as they embark on a new journey in their lives. I wish to also extend my thanks and gratitude to our Parents & Friends Committee who assisted with the morning tea, their contribution is always greatly appreciated.

It was an exciting time meeting our kindergarten parents at morning tea on the children's first day of Kindergarten. It was not only the first day for the new students but my first experience amongst the new Kindergarten students. Our new students were welcomed warmly by their teachers and fellow students and I hope that they will always feel at home within the wonderful family community here at St Charbel's College.

I would like to bring to your attention that I am aware that many of you will be preparing for your summer vacation in Lebanon. I ask that you give serious consideration to your travel plans as from this year there will be restrictions for those students who plan to take more than 10 days leave of absence from their schooling. Our commitment is to the children of our College and poor attendance reflects poor education. With the new requirements of attendance stipulated by the NSW Education Standards Authority (formerly known as the Board of Studies) it will be much harder to take unnecessary leave. I ask that you reflect on the importance of your child's education before making any decision. As outlined above, our best interest is for our students' futures which is why I strongly advise all parents to communicate with your child's teachers at school before any plans are made to book plane tickets for extended holidays. Discipline will be enforced to create a respectful and friendly community within our College where students will resonate both pride and school spirit in their College. There will be no room for untidiness in uniform, haircuts that are not appropriate for the standards of the College or disrespect between students and teachers.

St Maroun's Feast Day was proudly celebrated this past week with a most beautiful mass. St Maroun is the founder of our Maronite faith. I pray that St Maroun together with the intercession of St Charbel guides and leads us to a most successful year at St Charbel's College. We implore St Maroun and St Charbel to constantly assist us with moving our College in a positive direction academically as well as keeping us strong in our faith and conviction, united in the true traditions of our Maronite upbringing and heritage.

May this year begin and continue to be rewarding for each one of us as I look forward to working and meeting with each and every one of you.



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This term has been busy and productive. Parents will note from the Strategic Plan that we have clear pastoral targets for the future:

- To strengthen safe and supportive environments
- Create a positive mental health framework across the school
- Develop a whole school approach to positive education
- Promote staff wellbeing
- Develop a growth mindset
- Build collaborative relations with parents and guardians.

We will be working hard in all of these priority areas. A key pastoral target for 2017 is to improve attendance across the board K to 12. There is a clear link between attendance and academic success. We request that parents support us in our endeavour to cut down on absences. As mentioned at Parent Information Evenings, we advise parents to avoid taking children out of school during term time. If this is unavoidable-please meet with Mrs Hems.

A second key target for 2017 is to embed the Five Keys to Success across the curriculum K to 12. We have purchased a program for parents that offers guidance on this and we will make this available in due course. Please note the attachment which outlines the targets and the **HABITS OF MIND**. Please support us in encouraging the habits at home.

We are delighted with the way that Kindergarten and Year 7 have settled in and we thank teachers for their guidance in ensuring smooth transitions.

Congratulations to our new SCR members in both Primary and High School. We are very proud of them and they have executed their duties very well already.

The Kiss 'n' Go service continues and we have positive feedback from parents. I wish to thank the wonderful volunteers who give their time on a daily basis to ensure that the service continues. It would be nice to have more volunteers so that we do not rely on a small number of parents who have now given their time for over two years. If you would like to volunteer, please let me know.

Director of Religious Education (K-12) - Mrs Joanne Mansour

God's blessings to you all for this New Year!

As I reflect on the beginning of this year, I give thanks to God for our role in Salvation History. Each and every one of us has a unique role to play in bringing the Word of Jesus Christ to all we meet. This year, as I take on the new role of Director of Religious Education (K-12), I marvel at all the wonderful spiritual initiatives that already take place in our school and the endless opportunities we have yet to explore. It is our intention to enhance the faith formation of our school community through activities such as, the **Family Prayer Packs**, parental catechesis, spiritual retreats, and a whole school approach to liturgical celebrations – to name a few! As Maronites in the 21st century, we are challenged to **know our faith**, to **keep our faith** and to **share our faith**. At St Charbel's College, we hope to continue embarking on this journey together.

Ash Monday is fast approaching, and as we begin this Lenten season perhaps we can engage in family conversations around what it all means!

Questions to ponder:

What is the point of Ash Monday?

Why does the priest place ashes on our forehead?

What is the Lenten season all about?

Why do we fast?

In what ways will we be a different person by Easter Sunday?

Yours in bringing Jesus Christ to all we meet.

Assistant Principal Teaching and Learning (K-12) - Mrs Bejjani

Our College motto, **'To Him be Glory'** is the fundamental driver of everything that we do at St. Charbel's College. As Assistant Principal of Teaching and Learning, I endeavour to work with our parents, teachers and students to develop a cohesive approach to teaching and learning. This approach is based on the holistic view of your child's education. It is our aim that by the time a student finishes their schooling they are **lifelong learners that are centred by their Maronite faith and hold the essential skills to contribute as active and productive citizens of Australia**. In order to achieve this, our learning framework is formulated by using the best research-based 21st Century educational practices to inform our approach to teaching and learning.

This year, our focus is to implement John Hattie's international research titled **Visible Learning**. Hattie's research centres on what educational leaders and teachers do that has the most positive effect on student learning and achievement. We are working towards consistently applying the principals of **Visible Learning** in all aspects of your child's schooling.

In a rapidly changing 21st century environment that is driven by technological progress, the skills required by our students in the working world are constantly evolving. It is therefore our role to equip students with the necessary skills that they can use to adapt to the changing nature of the workplace. Therefore, we aim to develop the core competencies of 21st Century Learners - **communication, collaboration, critical thinking and creativity**.

This year we are driving the development of informed educational practices that engage students in their learning and improve their educational outcomes.

Dear Parents,

It is with a great deal of pleasure that the staff and I welcome back all of our families to another school year at St Charbel's College. I also extend a very warm welcome to the new families who have joined our St. Charbel's College community this year.

I do hope that all of our families have had a most relaxing and restful Christmas holiday filled with valuable family time. We are now back into the routine of school and I have been so pleased with the amazing way we have all started the new year. The children are settled and happy and we have noticed that this has impacted their school day in a positive way. As a staff, we are here to support all the children and to ensure that every child meets their learning potential. As a staff we look forward to working closely with all of our parents this year. Always remember that as a College we have a common goal with you, the parents, and that is to ensure every possible success is achieved for your child. This is why it is important that collaboration with one another takes place as it will most definitely manifest positive and enthusiastic children.

The smooth start to our school year has meant that children have been settled and quick to follow instructions. We need to make sure that we maintain this momentum and so below I have listed some helpful hints:

Be positive - always commend your child's efforts

Be organised - organise books and bags the night before

Start fresh - ensure your child is well rested and has a healthy breakfast and packed lunch for school

Meet and greet- teach your child to greet members of the school community

Reassurance - give your child a quick hug and a calm goodbye. By hanging around lines your nervousness will affect them.

I look forward to working closely with you this year. Remember our common objective is to give your child an amazing school experience where they are continuously learning new things. We are able to achieve this together by open communication and applying the same values of both school and home.

God bless,

REC Primary - Mrs Mary Wells

Our Opening Mass began our year with a theme of collegiality since we had Senior Primary classes attend with the High School. Other celebrations during Term 1 will include Masses prepared by Grades 6, 4 and 2.

The feast day of St Maroun was celebrated by the Primary classes writing small prayers of love and petition which they presented around the picture of St Maroun.

We look forward to all grades presenting their Mini-Paraliturgies in Passion Week.



Fun Group Music Keyboard Class At School (Enrolment for Term 1)

GREAT SONGS MUSICAL FUN MUSIC THEORY

Enrol to start now

- 🎵 K - 6 welcome 🎵
- 🎵 Convenient at-school venue 🎵
- 🎵 Small group - 45 min weekly lesson 🎵
- 🎵 Competitive rate - \$27 per session 🎵
- 🎵 Limited vacancy! 🎵



Smart Kids Love Music!

Call **9411 3122** or visit our website to enrol

VIP Music est. 1984 www.learnmusicatschool.com.au

UPCOMING EVENTS

February

- Mon 27 Ash Monday
- Tues 28 Years 7-12 Information Evening

March

- Wed 1 Kindergarten Information Evening
- Fri 3 Year 10 Spirituality Day
- Wed 8 - 10 Year 11 Camp
- Fri 10 Year 9 Spirituality Day
- Thurs 16 Primary Resilience Role Play Presentations
- Fri 17 National Day for Action Against Bullying and Violence
- P & F Spirituality Day
- Sun 19 St Joseph's Feast Day
- Thurs 23 St Rafqa's Feast Day
- Fri 24 Year 8 Spirituality Day
- Mon 27 Year 12 Half Yearly Examinations (until Fri Apr 7)
- Wed 29 Term 1 Interim Report Interviews

April

- Mon 3 Primary Athletics Carnival
- Fri 7 Last Day of Term 1

The Kindergarten students of 2017 have shown great maturity in their transition to Primary School. The three orientation days were the perfect opportunity for the students to learn lining up routines and classrooms procedures and expectations. Thank you to the Kindergarten parents for their support in preparing their child for Kindergarten.

The Kindergarten students have started learning their Jolly Phonics letter sounds, sight words and basic Number sense. Parents keep in mind that the students will be transitioning to Primary School most of Term 1. Do not be alarmed if it takes all of Term 1 for your child to make a friend or to get used to the homework and school demands. If you have concerns please call a meeting with your child's teacher by writing a note to the teacher in the diary or calling the office to make an appointment time. Please avoid bombarding the teachers with questions in the morning and afternoon lining up time as the teachers' attention must be on the supervision of the students.

I also remind you to please ensure your child's meals are separated into 2 zip-lock bags labelled: Recess and Lunch. The student diary MUST be at school every day to continue communication between parents and teachers and for students to glue in their merits. If your child is absent from school, you are required to write a note to the teacher with an explanation of your child's absence. Thank you for your cooperation so far.



Stage 1 Coordinator - Mrs Jessica Zeitouni

Welcome back to school and the 2017 academic year. I hope you all had a relaxing and enjoyable break. It is great to see all the students enthusiastic and excited to start their learning.

Academic programs are well underway in Stage 1 and students are busily working in their classrooms. The content is very rich and exciting and will definitely be challenging your children. Along with academic programs, we are also implementing many pastoral programs that aim to help your child develop important life skills. These programs will ensure your children develop a 'growth mindset' and gain the skills they need to be a successful student. In order for students to be able to work independently on schoolwork and homework and to stay on task in order to learn key skills and knowledge and be successful, it is vital that they be able to:

- Be **confident** in beginning new work or continuing when a task gets hard.
- **Persist** when the work is frustrating or boring until the work is completed.
- Be **organised** in their management of assigned classwork and homework.
- **Get along** and work cooperatively with others, by managing conflict and anger and following important school rules.
- Demonstrate **emotion resilience** by controlling emotions, inhibiting impulses when upset and bouncing back from adversity.

I look forward to meeting you all throughout the year and working with your fabulous children. God Bless





I am happy to inform Stage 2 parents that I am now the Stage 2 Coordinator. I have worked on Stage 1 for many years and have had dealings with many of you from the times your children were in the lower grades. I am familiar with the students in Stage 2 (Years 3 and 4) and look forward to a rewarding year fulfilling the requirements of my new role in the College.

Welcome back to the new school year. It is wonderful to see the happy faces of our students as they reconnect with their friends after the long break. The first weeks of Term 1, 2017 have been very busy and productive.

Year 3 and 4 classes have settled in well, with most students busily showing their new teachers good work habits. A minority of students however, are still developing satisfactory habits and it is hoped that the coming weeks will show the improvements needed. Two years ago we introduced "Classroom Standards" which are displayed in various, creative ways in all classrooms and display boards throughout the school. There are five standards which are as follows:

- WE FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS red
- WE RAISE OUR HANDS TO SPEAK AND WE LISTEN TO OTHERS orange
- WE RESPECT EVERYONE AND THE ENVIRONMENT yellow
- WE FOLLOW THE HANDS OFF POLICY green
- WE ALWAYS TRY OUR BEST blue

These five sentences give out a powerful message to ALL students K-12 and are reinforced throughout each day and serve as reminders when rules are broken. Please assist teachers in settling the children in for their new year of learning by discussing and thereby reinforcing these important messages.

The term so far has shown a general improvement in behaviour and there have been no reported incidents of bullying. We have taken a very hard line about this very serious problem and will continue to do so. The last 4 years have seen actors visit the school to perform role plays about building resilience which has become an important facet of the education of our students. Therefore, the actors have been invited back to present their role plays again and will be performing for Years 1-6 on 16th March. The plays send out a strong anti-bullying message and are worthwhile productions.

Lots of activities are in the pipeline, excursions are planned and good times combined with lots of work fill the classrooms.

I welcome back all teachers, students and parents who have been a part of St Charbel's progress in years gone by and I offer a warm welcome to our new families who have become a part of our school community.

Home can help all students to realise their potential. Please work with the class teacher and ensure that your child completes homework and has the necessary materials for classwork. Show an interest in his/her schoolwork and praise and encourage efforts.

I look forward to continuing success in all our endeavours.

A new **HOMework CLUB** in **MATHEMATICS**



will be running every **Tuesday & Thursday** mornings
*Come along to these sessions if you wish to get some
extra assistance with your homework*

All students of all years are welcome to attend.

Where: N108 **Time: 8am-8:25am**
Mrs Zidros and Mr Wong

First instalment for school fees is now due
Payments may be paid in cash, cheque, EFTPOS,
credit card or directly into our bank account.
For all parents who are using the direct payment
method into the school bank account to pay their
school fees and charges, please ensure in completing
your online payment, that the recipient field
description is filled with your Family code/account No.
in order to allocate these payments to the correct
families.
Arrangements may also be made via Centrelink



Welcome to Stage 3.

We are pleased to welcome the Year 5 students into the senior classes of our school. We also welcome our Student Representative Council and for the first time at St Charbel's College, our Primary Colour House Captains. We have a very keen team of student leaders who have some wonderful ideas and initiatives in store for 2017.

Our focus for Stage 3 this year is to develop independent, responsible and organised learners. These are skills which will serve our students well in Secondary School.

Year 5 will sit their NAPLAN test at the start of Term 2 from 9-11 May 2017. We will be working to prepare our students for these tests. Year 6 will soon be undertaking an educational tour of the national capital. Students will be given the opportunity to participate in a variety of educational programs with a focus on Australia's history, culture, heritage and democracy. This will support our History Unit, *Australia as a Nation*.

The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit the national capital as part of their Civics and Citizenship education. To assist families in meeting the cost of the excursion, the Australian Government is contributing funding of \$20 per student under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate program towards these costs. The rebate is paid directly to the school upon completion of the excursion.

We encourage you all to make a suitable time to meet your child's teacher. We are here to work with you as a team in the best interest of your children so please feel free to discuss with us any concerns you may have.

Wishing you all a happy and productive term.

Library News - Mrs Simone Cullinan

We would like to warmly welcome back all staff and students to another exciting year in the library. The hot weather has been very challenging for everybody. However, it's the perfect excuse to find a cool spot and curl up with a good book!

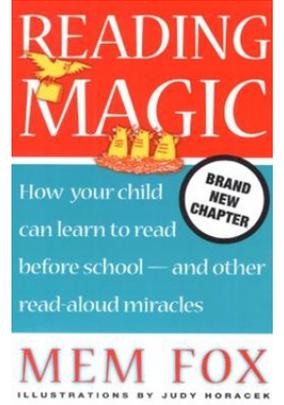
Children's author Mem Fox has written a simple guide for reading aloud with children. Mem encourages us to spend 10 'wildly happy' minutes reading aloud with our children each day.

<http://memfox.com/for-parents/for-parents-ten-read-aloud-commandments/>

All of our primary students borrow from the library on a weekly basis. Take some time to ask them what they are reading and perhaps read a chapter together.

If you have children in Kindergarten, read them the picture book they have borrowed each day.

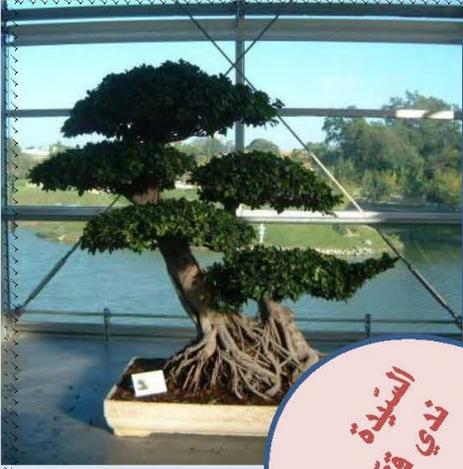
It is never too early or too late to start reading with our children. Let's all make reading for pleasure a daily habit in 2017.



Secondary LOTE Coordinator - Mr Melhem Kairouz

أهالي طلابنا المحترمين، مع عودة كل عام دراسي جديد يعود معه الروتين اليومي ولكن يجب أن لا ننسى أن مسؤولية تربية وتعليم أولادكم هما مشاركة ما بين الأساتذة والأهل. وما يتعلمه التلميذ في المدرسة عليه أن يُعيد قراءته في المنزل وبمراقبة ومساعدة الأهل أحياناً. فنرجو أن تقدّموا لأولادكم يد المساعدة وبالأخص في واجبات اللغة العربية.

مساعدتكم لأولادكم ومراقبة دفاترهم ودروسهم تجعلهم يهتمون أكثر بهذه اللغة التي قد تكون يوماً ما سبب نجاحهم في مستقبلهم. وفي حال تريدون مناقشة أي موضوع يخص هذه المادة، أرجو أن تتصلوا بمنسّق اللغة العربية في القسم الثانوي. وبالمناسبة، إننا نتقدّم من الطلاب الذين حصلوا على علامات عالية في الشهادة الثانوية العليا بأحرّ التهاني ونتمنى لطلاب هذه السنة أفضل النتائج. سنة مباركة لجميعكم.



” إن أردتَ إنماءَ شجرةٍ أو نبتةٍ ماء،

عليك بتغذية جنورها“

السيدة
ندي قزي

السيدة ماري
سندروسي

السيدة
نوال قزي

السيدة
نجاح بايع

معلمات اللغة العربية للقسم الابتدائي
يرحبون بكم وباطفالكم في هذا العام
الدراسي لسنة ٢٠١٧، ويتمنون أن
يكون عاماً مليئاً بالعطاء والتعاون
والتّجّاح

أهلاً وسهلاً بكم

جبال الأرز

كانون الثاني

٢٠١٧

لبنان يا

قطعة سما

ع الأرض

تاني ما إلا

عنايا

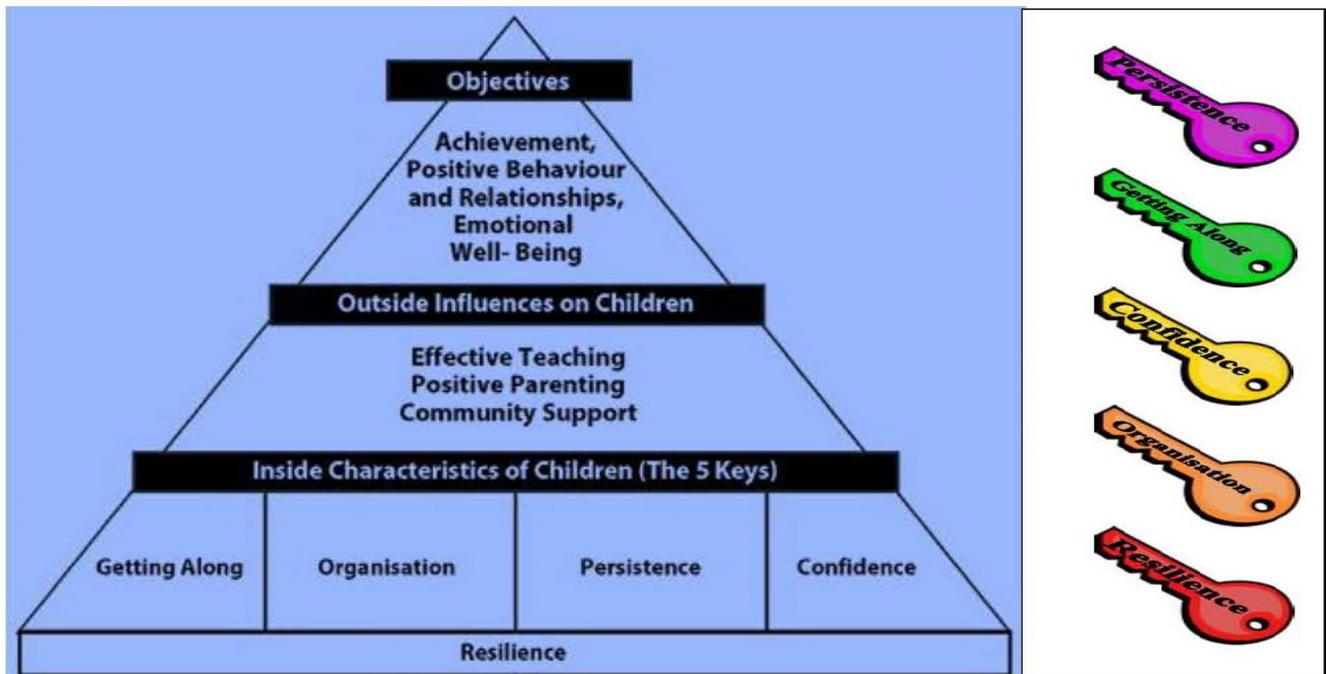
كانون الأول

٢٠١٦

شكراً جزيلاً للأب المدير مارون يوسف المحترم الذي وافق لنا على الحصول على كتبٍ مدرسيّةٍ منسّقةٍ ومصمّمةٍ من
لجانٍ تربويّةٍ، صادرةٍ عن المركز التربوي للبحوث والإنماء، ومُقرّةٍ من وزارة التّربية والتّعليم العالي.
نأمل أن تحوّد هذه المبادرة الجديدة على تأييدكم، ونرجو أن تشاركونا آراءكم كي نعمل سوّيّة على إحياء اللغة العربيّة
في معهدنا المبارك، وهكذا نُغدّي الجذور فينمو أطفالنا بالمعرفة والمباديء اللبنيّة الأصيلة والتّراث العريق.
نرحّب بكم مُجدّداً ونأمل سوّيّة أن تكون سنة مثيرة ومثمرة.

PASTORAL PRIORITY : THE 5 KEYS TO SUCCESS

A key focus for 2017 is to assist our students to acquire the 5 keys to success:
Confidence-Persistence-Organisation-Getting Along-Resilience



confidence

We want our students to be strong and not afraid to fail-to have a go! By having a go, they learn about their mistakes and avoid them next time. Confidence is about believing in yourself and allowing yourself to get things wrong. Confidence means feeling **you can do it**. It means you can face challenges and attempt something new. Examples of confident behaviours are raising your hand in class to answer a hard question, attempting challenging work, sharing a new idea or simply saying hello to someone new.



Persistence means trying hard and not giving up when something feels like it's too difficult to do. Examples of persistent

behaviours are continuing to try, even when schoolwork is hard, not being distracted by others, checking your work when it's finished to make sure it's correct, and completing assignments on time.

ORGANISATION

We aim for our students to be organised in all aspects of their lives. In being organised they become time efficient and more productive! We want our students to know where they are at, to plan ahead, to set targets and to manage themselves effectively.

Organised behaviours include planning for the following day the night before, planning uniform, homework, assignments and revision ahead of time. It also means being prepared and turning up on time. We ask that parents assist us by establishing good routines at home.

GETTING ALONG

Getting Along is important to progress. We want our children to care for each other. We wish for them to work cooperatively with each other, resolving conflicts by discussion rather than fighting, managing their anger, showing tolerance and following class rules, including making responsible choices so that everyone's rights are protected.

Getting Along means working well with classmates and solving problems without getting angry.

RESILIENCE

Resilience is being able to bounce back when something bad happens. Resilience means being aware of one's feelings and knowing how to stop getting too angry, down or worried when faced with challenges.

Examples of Resilience:

When someone treats me unfairly I can stop myself from getting too angry.

When I make mistakes or I am teased, I can stop myself from getting too down.

When I have an important test or activity to perform, I am able to do my best without becoming too worried.

HABITS OF THE MIND

We ask that parents work with us to develop good habits and positive mindsets. Please talk to your child about the following habits of mind.

1. Accepting yourself (Self-Acceptance) - not thinking badly about yourself when you make a mistake.
2. Taking Risks - thinking that it's good to try something new, even though you might not be able to do it.
3. Being Independent (Independence) - thinking that it's important to try new activities and to speak up even if your classmates think you're silly or stupid.
4. Believing you can do it (Optimism) - thinking that when your work is hard, you can still do it. It also means not giving up on yourself when you have difficulty with school work.
5. Giving Effort - thinking that the harder you try, the more successful you will be as well as knowing that success is not caused by external factors (luck, ease of task) but by internal factors (effort).
6. Working Tough (High Frustration Tolerance) - thinking that in order to be successful in the long-term, you sometimes have to do things that are not easy or fun to do in the present.
7. Setting Goals (Goal Setting) - thinking that setting a goal can help you be more successful at a task.
8. Planning My Time (Time Management) - thinking about how long it will take you to do your schoolwork and planning enough time to get it done.

Thank you to our parents for supporting us in achieving our Pastoral Targets for 2017!