

# MESSAGE

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Issue 1 Term 1, February 2020



On behalf of my colleagues, I wish to extend a warm welcome back to the 2020 academic year. I sincerely would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy and blessed New Year. For our new families to our College and our community, especially our Kindergarten and new students, I would also like to take this opportunity to wish you a warm welcome to a significant relationship in the coming years.

The prime purpose of our College is to assist parents in raising their children in the Maronite Catholic faith whilst providing a sound and comprehensive education. The entire school community is responsible for creating such an environment and in our College; this is reflected through the Gospel. As parents who have entrusted your children to us, we expect your support for the goals we are striving to achieve.

We can commence the year by taking pride in congratulating the 2019 Year 12 students on their HSC success. Our students achieved 59 Band 6's across a range of subjects, with many of our courses overall results scoring well above state average. Our highest achievers were Charlie Azzi with an ATAR of 98.55, Daniella El-Azzi with an ATAR of 98.15 and Mary Lyn Alagha with an ATAR of 97.55. Most notably, 40% of our students achieved an ATAR of 80 and above.

Our College ranking improved from 143 in 2018 to 138 in 2019, making our College the best performing Catholic School by rank in our area.

This is a fine reflection of both the abilities of our students with their parent's support and the expertise of our teachers. We at St Charbel's College are very proud of all our students' achievements and wish all of our students past and present the very best in their future endeavours.

We celebrated the Feast of St Maroun on Saturday, 8 February. Our College commemorated this with a whole school mass on Friday 14 February. As mentioned during the Homily, I invite you all to follow in the footsteps of St Maroun, who sat himself in his goals as the grains of wheat that were fallen into the ground giving a lot of fruits. We are from these fruits and we are called to set goals in our life that will be like the grains which are going to grow and become good trees or plants. At the beginning of this new scholastic year, I invite our students and parents to exercise this experience frequently keeping in mind the image of Saint Maroun and Saint Charbel who changed their communities and the world with their lifestyle.

I pray that we have a blessed new scholastic year with the intercession of Saint Maroun and our Patron Saint, Saint Charbel.

Yours in Christ,

Rev Fr Maroun Youssef



# Director of Religion and Mission

Welcome to 2020!

It is always an uplifting experience to celebrate our opening Mass at the College. Our gratefulness to St Maroun - the Patron of all Maronites - was expressed in the Divine Liturgy with reverence and joy. As a community, the College came together to pray and raise funds for the victims of the bushfires in Australia. This is yet another testimony to the generosity of our staff and students, expressed in word and deed. The RE staff look forward to working with you, along with our Chaplains Fr Youhanna Elbetty and Br Youhanna Ghantous, in giving witness to the Gospel message through an array of Christ centred initiatives.

God bless!



# Director of Primary

Dear Parents

Students have settled into the new academic year and have been working hard in class. The Primary School has welcomed new staff this year: Miss Raquella Wehbe (KG), Mrs Diamond Koutrodimos (1P), Miss Linda El Kek (2M), Miss Frances Romalis (4H), Mrs Minerva Estephan, (Arabic), Mrs Christiane Serrano (Learning Support) and Mrs Therese Walsh (Learning Support Coordinator).

It has been heartening to see families embracing the new school uniform. We have had lots of positive feedback regarding how smart the children look. The College wants to make the transition to the new uniform as easy as possible for parents, so in the event that stock of the old uniform runs out and parents cannot buy what they need, we will allow accessories of the new uniform to be worn with the old uniform. Accessories include the school hat, jumper and jacket. The only stipulation is that the boys' shirts, shorts or long pants and socks must match, and that the girls' blouses, skirts and tights must match, i.e. they must wear all the new or the old uniform. 'Tops and bottoms' cannot be mixed.

Similarly, with the sports uniform the tracksuit is considered an accessory, so if stock of the old tracksuit runs out in your child's size, the new tracksuit can be worn with the old sports uniform. Once again, the shorts, sports top and socks cannot be mixed and must be either all the new uniform, or all the old uniform. There is the option of buying the old uniform or accessories second hand from the College's uniform shop. See the Front Office if you require details regarding opening hours etc.

I would like to thank all the parents who attended the recent Parent Information evening. The school realises family life is very busy and were appreciative of your attendance. We trust you found the evening informative. The teachers would like to thank you for your support and positive feedback on the evening.

Miss Maree Kelly



# Stage 2 Coordinator

Welcome back to all our valued parents, staff and students. Our dedicated teachers across the stage have been busy preparing students for what we pray will be a productive and inspiring learning journey through 2020. Year 3 teachers this year are Ms Demi Kokla (3H), Mrs Loulou Alam (3G), Mrs Diane Sammour (3M) and Mrs Yvette Lombardo. Our year 4 teachers are Mrs Rima Tahhan (4M), Mrs Charlotte Soueif (4M), Miss Frances Romalis (4H) and Mrs Adele Towns (4G).

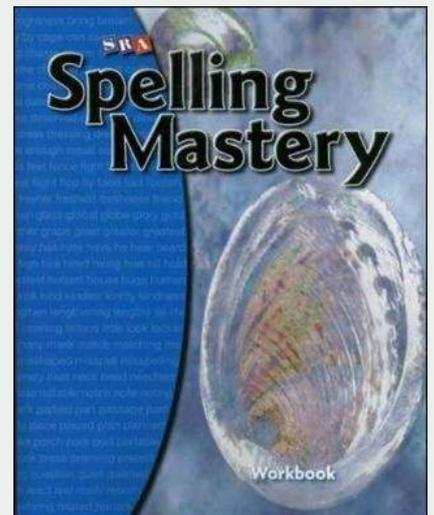
Year 3 students will be sitting the NAPLAN exam early in Term 2. We will be working closely with our students to prepare them for these tests. As part of our History Unit, Community and Remembrance, year 3 students will be visiting the NSW Schoolhouse Museum of Education on Monday 2 March. The children's sacrament of First Holy Communion will be held on Saturday 24 October. More information about this blessed day will be given as the year progresses. Year 4 students are busy learning all about bees in their Science and Technology Unit; Bees Knees. Across their stage, students have begun the Spelling Mastery Program; a focus on direct instruction to develop mastery of spelling skills.

The importance of a positive and respectful partnership between parents and their child's classroom teacher cannot be underestimated. It is for this reason that we urge all our parents to make their child's classroom teacher their first point of contact when issues arise. This communication often leads to solutions, validations and clarifications. Our students, your children, continue to remain at the centre of what we do as teachers on a daily basis and we need parents' support to assist them to grow in our Maronite Faith, academically and spiritually. We thank all our parents who attended the Parent Information Night. It was an absolute pleasure to meet so many of you.

As mentioned at our information evening, daily reading is vital to develop your child's vocabulary, comprehension and reading fluency. As parents, it is important that you listen to your children read for twenty minutes each day. It is even more important to ask them questions related to the texts they have read. Why and How questions are recommended to develop students' comprehension.

On a final note, we would like to thank all our parents in advance for the year ahead. May our Heavenly Father bless our whole school community and may we always be mindful of our school motto, To Him Be Glory.

Mrs Diane Sammour



# Stage 3 Coordinator

Welcome to Stage 3! I am honoured to have been appointed the new Stage 3 coordinator.

We are pleased to welcome the Year 5 students into the senior classes of our school. We also welcome our Leaders, Student Representative Council and our Primary Colour House Captains. We have a very proactive team of student leaders who have some wonderful ideas and initiatives in store for 2020. Our focus for Stage 3 this year is to really embody the Positive Education framework focussing on the 3 R's: being Respectful, Responsible and being Resilient. 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 12-14 May 2020. We will be working to prepare our students for these tests.

Year 6 will soon be undertaking an overnight educational tour of our national capital in Term 2. 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 those costs. The rebate is paid directly to the school upon completion of the excursion.

We are very pleased to welcome our Stage 3 team of dedicated and inspiring teachers, some of whom are new to our school. In Year 5 we have Miss Jackson (5H), Miss Lumagbas (5P), Miss Belcastro (5M) and Mr Tanza (5G). In Year 6 we have Mrs Zubak with Mrs Abraham (6G), Ms Nassif (6H) and Mrs Papasawas with Mrs Lombardo (6M). 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 for the best interest of your children so please feel free to discuss with us any concerns you may have.

## Scholastic Book Club

Scholastic Book Club is continuing at St Charbel's college this year. It was amazing to see so many students across all of the grades ordering books to develop their literacy skills even further! All orders are still completed online through the LOOP order system.

## Chess Club

Chess classes for students from Years 1-6 were a huge success last year. The Sydney Academy of Chess has been running chess classes at our school every Friday at lunch times. The students have loved learning strategies and challenging themselves. During each class there is a tuition session followed by practical application of skills through playing with an opponent. We have quite a few budding young chess experts! Information pamphlets will be sent out with students which will provide you with the information to enrol your child. You are also more than welcome to come and see me for more information.

Wishing you all a happy and productive term!

God bless,

Mrs Shannon Papasawas



# Primary Arabic Coordinator

يا هلا! خطواتي الأولى هي سلسلة جديدة اعتمدها مدرسة مار شربل في المرحلة الابتدائية هذه السنة. تتألف السلسلة من خمسة أجزاء وهي تحتوي على كتاب قراءة ومعه دفتر للتمارين التطبيقية.

هدف هذه السلسلة هو تعليم غير الناطقين باللغة العربية لغة أهلنا وبلادنا. وتهدف هذه الكتب إلى تنمية المهارات اللغوية، مثل التواصل الشفهي، القراءة والفهم، والكتابة المبسطة. كل كتاب يتضمن مواضيع عدة من الحياة اليومية وهي تساعد التلميذ على التعبير باستعمال مفردات وجمل مستقاة من الثقافة اللبنانية والعربية.

يمكنكم تحميل كتاب القراءة على الكمبيوتر الخاص بكم وذلك عبر زيارة الموقع التالي : <https://education.hachette-antoine.com/> حيث يمكنكم التسجيل وإدخال الرقم الخاص (code) الموجود في أول الكتاب.

ويا هلا بكم جميعاً في سنة جديدة مليئة بالصحة والنجاح والمعرفة.



# Acting Careers Coordinator

Careers at St Charbel's College would like to welcome you to the new academic year. The Career's Coordinator aims to ensure that, by the time students leave school, all students are in a strong position to make wise post school decisions in line with their goals and aspirations. In fact, the sooner students begin exploring options, attending events, speaking to professionals and gathering information, the better those decisions will be.

This term, Year 10 will be preparing for their Work Experience program which will be held in Term 2. This preparation will require the cohort to complete mandatory modules in Work Health and Safety as well as offer White Card Training to suitable applicants. Detailed information will be sent to Year 10 parents later this term.

In Years 11 and 12, individual Career consultations are the focus and take place on the school premises. Setting goals and making plans is a process that may involve a few sessions. Therefore students are encouraged to make appointments via email.

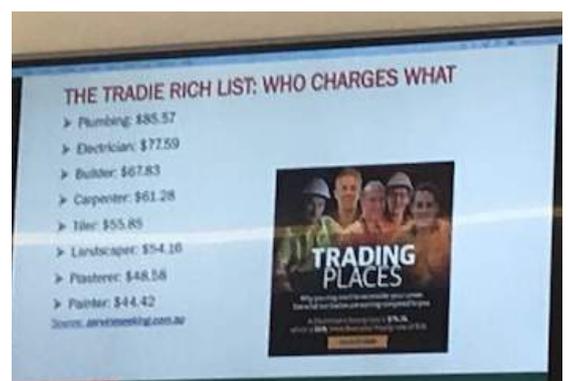
The class of 2019 achieved some incredible results and were carefully guided into the appropriate career path. Below is the Post School Destinations report.

## Post School Destinations

### Year 12, 2019 Post School Destinations

| Destination | Number | Percentage |
|-------------|--------|------------|
| University  | 77     | 88.5%      |
| College     | 6      | 6.9%       |
| TAFE        | 3      | 3.4%       |
| Work        | 1      | 1.1        |
| Total       | 87     | 100%       |

Mrs Andrea Panteli



# Music Notice

## ST CHARBEL'S COLLEGE VOCAL ENSEMBLE

The College offers extracurricular musical activities to secondary students in the form of the St Charbel's College Vocal Ensemble (choir – popular music focus) and Music Group (choir & band students – liturgical music focus).

The Vocal Ensemble/Music Group is open to all vocalists and musicians from Years 7-12. The vocal ensemble performs at various school and community events throughout the year including Bankstown City Council Lighting of the Christmas tree, Nursing Home performance at Maronite Care, Academic Awards night, assemblies and masses.

The Music Group (Liturgy focus) rehearses on Monday afternoon's from 3.15 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. in S103. Singers and instrumentalists are encouraged to attend this practice. Vocal ensemble (popular music focus) rehearses before school on Thursday mornings from 8 a.m. – 8.25 a.m. in S103.

The college vocal ensemble provides vocal coaching to the most talented teen singers of St Charbel's College. Individual development is promoted in an enjoyable environment with an emphasis on control and development of the voice while exploring the beauty, flexibility and expressive power of young voice teen. The college vocal ensemble often leads the community at college masses along with the primary school choir. They perform as a solo group at local community events and receive many opportunities to perform solos (if they wish) throughout the year. These singers collaborate with the choir director to choose songs that match their interests and vocal capabilities.

Auditions for vocal ensemble will take place during week 3 at lunchtimes in the music rooms. Students interested in auditioning for vocal ensemble can meet Mrs Jackson at lunchtime in the music rooms.

Mrs Therese Jackson



# Year 11 Chemistry Excursion

Year 11 Chemistry students visited ANSTO Discovery Centre in Lucas Heights, along with their teacher Mrs Hanna.





## Resilient kids

It's important for your child to learn the personal and social skills that will help them to become more resilient and cope with problems and difficult situations that may come their way.



### Let your child make mistakes

By having to overcome normal challenges for their age and understanding that no one is perfect, your child will learn how to bounce back and be more resourceful.

By over-protecting your child and doing things for them, you deny your child important opportunities for developing resilience.

### Don't fight your child's battles

Sorting out conflicts with friends and peers are important skills for healthy social relationships.

### Encourage your child to talk about things that are bothering them

Learning to seek help when a problem can't be solved is an important lifelong skill.

Let your child know that unhappy or difficult times are a normal part of life and don't usually last for long.

### Encourage your child to re-phrase unhelpful comments

Teach your child to turn words such as – *I'm stupid* or *She hates me* into more helpful and optimistic comments – *I made a mistake, everyone makes mistakes* or *She doesn't hate me she just feels like playing with someone else today.*

### Taking responsibility

Encourage your child to take responsibility for the things they have or haven't done that may have contributed to an unhappy situation or setback.

Help your child to understand the role that 'bad luck' and the role that others may have played when they are faced with an unhappy situation or setback.

### Be a positive role model for your child

- Talk your problems through with others and look for different solutions.
- Use optimistic thinking and say things out loud, such as – *Things will get better soon.*
- Talk about how you may have managed strong emotions in a calm way.
- Talk about your goals and how you hope to achieve them.
- Show appreciation to others for their friendship.

Thank you for playing a vital role in your child's resilience and wellbeing education.



# 2020 Important Dates

## Remaining 2020 Photo Day:

**Friday 28 February:** Catch up photo day  
Kindy photo day  
Family photos with Kindy students  
Choir, primary sports captains  
Primary SRC  
High school SRC

## 2020 Term Dates:

Term 1 Last Day 8 April 2020

Term 2 dates: 27 April until 26 June 2020

Term 3 dates: 20 July until 25 September 2020

Term 4 dates: 12 October until 8 December 2020

**Monday 24 February:** Ash Monday

**Friday 28 February:** Year 7 Spirituality Day

**Monday 16 March - Thursday 26 March:** Healthy Harold

# *Learn Music on Keyboard at School*

## *Enrolment for Term 1*

*Great songs! Musical activities!*  
*Cool music knowledge!*



- Convenient at-school venue
- Small group, 45 min weekly lesson
- Competitive rate
- Instrument not required initially

**Creative Kids voucher accepted**  
**(02) 9411 3122**  
**[www.learnmusicatschool.com.au](http://www.learnmusicatschool.com.au)**



VIP *Music* est. 1984

# Why Chess?

- Create Brighter Thinkers
- Improve Student Focus
- Achieve Academic Success

**Combines learning with fun!**



## Educational Benefits:

- Improves concentration and focus
- Develops logical thinking and problem solving skills
- Enhances memory
- Encourages creative and lateral thinking
- Promotes discipline
- Accelerates emotional development
- Expands visualisation and spatial awareness
- Demonstrates actions and consequences
- Rewards correct decision making
- Increases self-confidence
- Provides opportunities to make new friends from diverse backgrounds

## St Charbel's College (Punchbowl) Chess Classes, 2020 Fridays 1:25PM - 2:05PM in Mrs Leas room

|               |                    |                            |
|---------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Term 1</b> | <b>Cost: \$90</b>  | <b>7th Feb - 3rd Apr</b>   |
| <b>Term 2</b> | <b>Cost: \$90</b>  | <b>1st May - 26th Jun</b>  |
| <b>Term 3</b> | <b>Cost: \$100</b> | <b>24th Jul - 25th Sep</b> |
| <b>Term 4</b> | <b>Cost: \$80</b>  | <b>16th Oct - 4th Dec</b>  |

To enrol please pay online with your credit card at  
[www.sydneyacademyofchess.com.au/payment](http://www.sydneyacademyofchess.com.au/payment)

Enter the code **K4RH8E275T** and fill in the electronic form, with your child's details.

*\*Fees are due on the first day of term. A late fee of \$10 will be applied if payment is not received within 4 weeks of the start of the term. No refunds or credits for missed lessons during the term and trial lessons must be paid for. For pro-rata fees (ie. starting part way during the term) please contact Sydney Academy of Chess on 9745 1170.*

### OPTIONAL EXTRAS (prices include delivery)

To enhance your child's learning experience these items are available for purchase online at the time of enrolment

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <b>Workbook 1 – Cost: \$31</b><br>[For Beginner/Rookie Players]           | <b>Workbook 2 – Cost: \$31</b><br>[For Intermediate Players]                    | <b>Workbook 1 &amp; 2 – Cost: \$46</b><br>[SPECIAL OFFER]     |
| <b>Exploration in Chess Beauty – Cost: \$42</b><br>[For Advanced Players] | <b>Chess Set &amp; Roll-up Board – Cost: \$34</b><br>[Recommended for All Ages] | <b>Chess Clock – Cost: \$77</b><br>[Recommended for All Ages] |

Pay for four terms in advance and receive a **free chess set or workbook 2** valued at up to \$34. Offer expires 31st March, 2020.



SYDNEY  
ACADEMY OF CHESS

Sydney Academy of Chess Pty Ltd

ABN: 14 139 982 004

Level 1, 30A George Street Burwood, NSW

PO Box 1325, Burwood, NSW 1805

P: 9745 1170 F: 9745 1176 E: [enrolment@sydneyacademyofchess.com.au](mailto:enrolment@sydneyacademyofchess.com.au)

# Important Reminders

## REMINDERS

- Students must arrive to school no later than 8:25am
- Students are not to leave school before 3:10pm. Early leave must be with permission granted by Year or Stage Coordinators. Exceptional circumstances require a note from parents.
- Ensure correct uniforms are worn
- Boys to have regulation haircuts
- No coloured bands to be worn around necks or on wrists
- Years 3-12 students to have their diaries signed when required
- Parents to make appointments to speak to teachers or the Principal.
- Playground supervision starts 8am and ends 3:30pm.

## **P&F Uniform Shop Opening Hours:**

Mondays 2:00pm-3:00pm

Fridays: 8:30am - 9:30am

**SALE: ALL OLD Primary School Uniforms  
Reduced to Clear**