

ST CHARBEL'S COLLEGE NEWSLETTER



Issue 11

Term 3, Week 8, 2017

Principal's Message - Rev Fr Maroun Youssef

Spring is finally upon us bringing warmer weather and more outdoor activities to participate with family and friends.

Recently we celebrated Father's Day mass followed by a morning tea generously organised by our P & F Committee. It was very inspiring to share this morning with our fathers who are all a role model to each and every one of our students. The role of a father sometimes goes without notice, but in Bible times men were personally involved in the education of their children. Fathers were encouraged to spend time with their children on a regular basis, to be good listeners, to guide them and give them love, discipline and commendation. A child sees the acts of their father, be it physical or temperamental and will act the same way believing it is normal. So fathers, take the time to love your children and your family and be a positive role model as you define the children of our future generation. "Just as a father has compassion on his children, So the LORD has compassion on those who fear Him" (Psalm 103:13).

Our Year 11 students will be undergoing their yearly examinations. We wish them well for these exams and anticipate that they will continue to work hard and be motivated to proceed successfully to their HSC courses.

We also celebrate the birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary on 8 September, it falls exactly nine months after the feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary. It is a very important feast, because it prepares the way for the birth of Christ.

It is our Christian duty to inform our friends and family about the consequences of redefining marriage. Redefining marriage has far reaching consequences and will affect everybody. I encourage you all to vote and to vote for the sake of our future generations and to preserve our religion. May God bless each and every one of you in your families.



UPCOMING EVENTS

September

- 11 – 22 Year 11 Yearly Examinations
- Tues 19 Year 12 Graduation Mass & Ceremony
- Fri 22 Last Day of Term 3

October

- Mon 9 Staff Professional Development
- Tues 10 Term 4 Commences
- Fri 13 Year 3 Spirituality Day

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 www.facebook.com/StCharbelCollege



Learning to Read

Reading begins at an early age when they begin to notice the print that surrounds them and the talk that includes them. Children will engage in reading and writing experiences that engage them. Children notice street signs like the large yellow 'M' sign because it interests them!

It is important to include children in conversations because that is where they learn new words that help them in their reading and writing.

Allow children to choose their own books and select a range of books – funny books, books with beautiful illustrations, rhyming books, factual books. Find the type of books that interest them.

Parents who tell stories and spend time reading with their children provide them with the best opportunities for children to love reading.

The process of reading is not always an easy process, particularly if your child is having difficulty reading a book or feeling stressed. The Primary English Teachers Association suggests that parents can try any of the following strategies:

- **Read aloud together** – the child reads slightly behind you as you read in your normal reading voice.
- **Take turns**- you read a page, sentence, or paragraph and your child reads the next one.
- **Read and reread** – read the page, sentence or paragraph and then your child rereads it.
- If the book is boring, too complex or too silly – find another one. There is nothing wrong with not finishing a book if it does not interest your child, the aim is to build a love of reading. **The challenge is to find books that you and your child love to read.**

Assistant Principal Pastoral Care (K-12) - Mrs Bernadette Hems



As a school we were proud to host the Lebanese Film Festival again this year. This has been our fourth year of involvement and we were delighted to welcome the famous Lebanese actress Julia Kassar as we watched several of her films including "Charbel". We had wonderful feedback from the film festival organisers and from Julia herself who was charmed by our students throughout the day. The vote of thanks from the festival organisers said, "The Lebanese Film Festival highly value the contribution of film and the arts to education, and we are encouraged by the schools consistent enthusiasm to make sure students are involved in our Festival each year. Julia Kassar thoroughly enjoyed her day spent at the College, particularly being able to spend time with students. She also sends her thanks for the College and Monastery's hospitality over the day. " Julia arrived from her home in Beirut to spend the day, see the films and take questions in a Q/A session at the end of each film. She was overwhelmed with the interest shown by the students.



We are now preparing for Year 12 graduation and we wish them all God's blessings as they approach their final examinations. The staff were delighted to receive a wonderful gift of patio furniture which will be enjoyed from now on. Thanks to year 12 for their generosity. Congratulations to the new SRC members for Year 12. It was wonderful to hear inspiring speeches from all of the students who contributed to the election process. The interviews were also very impressive regardless of perhaps being a little nervous as they were all interviewed by the senior executive.

Badges will be handed over in a ceremony at the end of Graduation mass.

As part of our wellbeing agenda, some staff will lead assemblies and pastoral care sessions next week in support of the R U OK initiative to remind us to take care of each other and ensure that everyone feels welcomed In our community. Four staff also recently attended a briefing for White Ribbon. We are proud to be part of such an important initiative. Information will be given to staff and students about this prior to White Ribbon Day which takes place on 25 November.

As Term 3 draws to a close we farewell our Year 12 students and wish them well as they prepare for their final school examinations. The HSC examinations should not be looked at as a final hurdle – but the culmination of thirteen years of study and preparation, and we congratulate those students who have worked consistently over time, as they will reap the benefits of their application. We also wish our Year 11 cohort all the best as they finalise their preliminary studies and look forward positively to becoming the new senior class of 2018. Thanks must also go to the parents and teachers who have supported these students during their time at the College. In Term 4 we say goodbye to a number of students from Year 11 who have determined, after careful consideration of their options, that they pursue an apprenticeship and engage in the world of work. Again, we congratulate them on their mature approach to their career pathway and wish them all the best for the future. We hope that they will eventually come back and share their success stories with us.

As many of you will know, NAPLAN goes online from 2018. This means that students in Years 3,5,7 & 9 will sit all NAPLAN tests in a computer environment. To prepare for this, all students in Years 3,5,7 & 9 must sit a NAPLAN Readiness test to assess the ability of schools to manage the new testing environment. St Charbel's College is scheduled to complete these tests in next week - Week 9. Students will not receive any results from these tests as they are purely to gauge whether or not the school infrastructure is able to handle the testing load. Students in Years 3, 5 7 & 9 have been timetabled to complete the testing process and all students will need to bring a set of headphones to access some of the questions. Parents will be provided with further information about the program.

Early Stage 1 Coordinator - Miss Yvette Attard

Book Week was a busy and eventful time for Kindergarten. The students celebrated books and their love of reading by learning about different Australian authors and illustrators. They completed many fun and creative activities relating to the theme of 'Escape to Everywhere', including participating in the colouring competition.



Kindergarten embarked on their first out of school excursion! This was quite an exciting event as we journeyed on a bus to Campsie Library! The librarians were very welcoming and pleased to see how well-mannered and engaged our students were. While we were there, we watched two interactive read aloud stories including *Chip* by Kylie Howarth and *The Cat Wants Custard* by P. Crumble. These books were on the list of Notables for Book Week 2017.

On Parade Day, we saw many of our favourite book characters – and some super heroes too! The children loved parading in their costumes and seeing their teachers dressed up as well!

Well done to the whole of Kindergarten on their participation and enthusiasm in our Book Week activities!

Students from Year 9 Textiles Technology have Textile Artworks entered into Operation Art and they are on display at the Armory

OPERATION ART 2017

Our school is exhibiting in Operation Art. Come and see it on display at the Armory Gallery, Jamieson Street, Sydney Olympic Park

9 September - 29 October, open daily 10am-4pm, Free Entry





Heartpeace

Help those of us, O God, Who need to listen to the rhythms of our heart, and hunger for the experience of joy again, Who just want the hurt and pain to go away, And never return.

In other words, help those of us, dear God, Who need to forgive.

Help those of us, too, Who need to listen to the rhythms of our hearts, And the struggle with the deeds we've done, Which hurt both ourselves and others, Who just want the guilt and pain to go away, And never return.

In other words, help us, dear God, Who need to be forgiven. Amen.

On Friday 18th of August, 2017 Year 2 made their First Reconciliation. This was a day filled with many graces and blessings for the children. After completing their confession they all felt freer. It was also a blessing to have so many parents there to support their children on the day. We ask that you continue to support them during the rest of their spiritual life and that this was their first confession but hopefully not their last. God bless!



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

Third 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 in order to allocate these payments to the correct families. Arrangements may also be made via Centrelink

For Years 3 and 4, Term 3 has been jam-packed with wonderful learning experiences and fun days. One of the most important events of each year for Year 3 is the making of their First Holy Communion and all Year 3 classes are busy learning about the next step after Reconciliation and the meaning of the Holy Eucharist. Also for Year 3, Naplan is over for another 2 years and results were overall pleasing. Year 3 are now working with Mr love on computers and composing Powerpoint presentations about "Night and Day". Our photos show the children enjoying their IT learning.

Year 4 students are busy trying to get their heads around Fractions and Decimals, easy for some and not so for others. Perhaps parents can remember when they were studying these challenging maths topics – easy for some and not so for others!

The whole school got behind the Book Week theme, "Escape to Everywhere" and what a wonderful parade we saw! There was so much variety in costumes of well known books and characters.

Parents had been very busy and our teachers got into the spirit of things too, wearing some wonderful creations! We couldn't escape for long but it was fun while it lasted!

Winding down now –soon HOLIDAYS!!!! Please try to read with your children every night. They have busy days at school but are never too tired to keep on learning and reading is a wonderful way to do just that.





الفيلم شربل:

كانَ الأسبوع الماضي حافلا بالنشاطات حيث زارنا منظمو مهرجان الافلام اللبنانية برفقة الممثلة المتميزة جوليا قصار. كما وشاهد تلاميذ صفي الخامس والسادس فيلم "شربل" الذي يروي قصة حياة شفيع المدرسة، والذي لعبت فيه الممثلة جوليا دور أم القديس شربل. وبعد انتهاء الفيلم، أجابت الممثلة بكل تواضع واحترام على أسئلة طرحت عليها من قبل الطلاب حول الفيلم وقصة نجاحها.

ميراث بالبال:

لا تزال التمرينات والتحضيرات جارية، فالوقت المنتظر بدأ يقترب، والطلاب يعملون بجد كبير. في ممرات المدرسة، تسمع يوميا أصوات الموسيقى اللبنانية، ودعسات الدبكة وغناء الطلاب الذين يتابعون تمارينهم بجد مع السيدة نجاة البايح للتمكن من المبارات وتقديم العرض الفني في ٢٠ تشرين الأول.

Weldon Children's Services is offering a before and after school care program at St Charbel's College which commenced. Weldon has been operating before and after school programs and vacation care programs for families for more than 30 years. The St Charbel's program is running on-site from the Multi-Purpose Hall.

Information about our onsite program can be provided by contacting the Weldon Head Office at:

Telephone: 8741-0500

Email: kids@weldon.com.au

- The hours of operation will be as follows:
- Before School Care: 6:30am until 8:20am
- After School Care: 3pm until 6:30pm
- Vacation Care: 6:30am until 6:30pm

Our programs offer a range of activities suitable for school aged children. We provide breakfast in the mornings and light nutritious snacks in the afternoons.

The school office have enrolment packages and information about our programs.

Kids @ Weldon:



Kids@Weldon

Before & After School Care Contact Details:

Centre co-ordinator: Vee Ibrahim

Centre Number: 0418 735 976

Email: stcmcs@weldon.com.au

Kids @ Weldon will also be conducting Vacation Care Programs these upcoming school holidays.





Children's Book Week was celebrated this year between the 19-26 August. All over Australia schools celebrated the wonderful authors and illustrators who we have in this country.

Students at St Charbel's College came together this year to celebrate Book Week with our annual writing competition and parade.

The theme for Book Week this year was 'Escape to Everywhere' and students were asked to create a postcard, bookmark or travel brochure based on the theme. The entries this year were of such a high standard that choosing only two from each class proved very difficult. We would like to congratulate all of those students who submitted an entry and especially those who won a prize.

The Book Week Parade was a very exciting afternoon with students from Kindy to Year Six celebrating their favourite books and travel destinations. There was an amazing array of creativity on display. Congratulations to all our students who participated with such enthusiasm and to our prize winners.

Finally, we would like to thank Father Maroun, Mrs Hems, Mrs Bejjani, and Mrs Harb who all made time in their busy day to show their support for Book Week. I would also like to thank Mrs Golz, Ms Yammouni and Mrs Akkari who worked tirelessly behind the scenes in the lead up to the event. Thanks also to the wonderful Primary staff and Mrs Labban, Ms Badrous, Mr Love and Mr Tarabay for all their help with the parade.



الفصل الدراسي الثالث



في الفصل الدراسي الثالث لم يكن هناك نشاطات مدرسيّة خارجيّة في القسم الثانوي للغة العربيّة. إقتصرت النشاطات في هذا الفصل أولاً على التركيز على الإمتحانات الشفهيّة

التي ستبدأ في الأسبوع الثامن لصفوف السّابع والثامن والعاشر. أمّا الصّف الحادي عشر

فسيبدأ امتحاناته الأخيرة في الأسبوعين التّاسع والعاشر قبل أن ينتقل إلى الصّف الثاني عشر في الفصل الرّابع من هذه السّنة.

وبالنسبة لنشاطات ميراث في البال ، فما زال فريق من التّلامذة يقوم بتمرينات أسبوعيّة، كلّ نهار خميس ، ومنها الدبكة وغناء الكورس.



Secondary Sport Coordinator - Mr Frederick Zalloua

The last month we have been involved in CBSA boys AFL whereby we have a young team who has gone so far undefeated under the guidance of Mr. J. Mudaliar. Continue the excellent progress and we hope to see you in the finals.

We also have girls participating in SCC Basketball and Soccer. As always, we have strong teams who play with good commitment and attitude, keep it up!

A few weeks ago our boys Senior Futsal Team went to the all school NSW Futsal State Championship. Unfortunately the boys lost in the semi finals for the 2nd time in three years, but it was still a mighty fine effort for them to come 3rd in 'State Championships'.

Finally, a big congratulations goes to Christina Elazzi in Year 9 for achieving her 'black belt' in Taekwondo. An exceptional effort from such a fine young lady.



Save lives together

A **heart**-felt thank you to the parents, students and staff who have **donated blood** so far – your **donation** is a very special and significant contribution to the lives of many fellow Australians. **Since 2014, we have made 86 donations, which has helped save 258 lives!**

Blood donations occur during Thursday sport, where a driver transports donors to the Liverpool Blood Donor Centre and back to school before 3:10pm.

"Thank you for allowing me to enjoy an amazing experience today. Knowing that I have saved 3 lives is incredible!" Mrs Dolly Zoghaib (parent)

Upcoming date:

Thursday, 14 September at 12:45pm

Please contact Mr Shalala on 9740 0999 or cshalala@stcharbel.nsw.edu.au

Maronite Diocesan Assembly Survey

After more than 150 years of Maronite presence in Australia, the first Maronite Diocesan Assembly will be held from **Friday 24 to Sunday 26 November 2017**, in Sydney. To help prepare for this Assembly, under the theme: **"Strong in Faith, Growing in Love"**, all Maronites are invited to complete a short survey. The survey can be accessed online through **maronite.org.au** or you can collect a copy from your church. Please return the completed survey to any parish office by **15 September 2017**.

إستطلاع الرأي للمجمع الأبرشي الماروني

بعد مرور أكثر من ١٥٠ سنة على وجود الموارنة في أستراليا، سوف يعقد ولأول مرة المجمع الأبرشي الماروني من الجمعة ٢٤ إلى الأحد ٢٦ تشرين الثاني ٢٠١٧ في سيدني. ولأجل انجاح هذا المجمع، تحت عنوان: "نزداد في الإيمان... ننمو في المحبة"، نرجو من جميع أبناء وبنات الكنيسة المارونية الإجابة على إستطلاع الرأي (survey) الموجود على مداخل الكنيسة أو المتوفر عبر الانترنت على maronite.org.au وإعادته إلى مكتب الرعية قبل ١٥ أيلول ٢٠١٧، وشكراً.



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Eph 4:15

Does Pope Francis support same-sex marriage?

A number of commentators have recently suggested that loyalty to Catholic teaching, and especially to Pope Francis, would allow, even require, support for same-sex marriage; by implication, the Australian bishops misunderstand Catholic teaching and have been disloyal to Pope Francis by saying Catholics should vote NO. But what has Pope Francis actually said about this?

In April 2010, while still Archbishop of Buenos Aires, he issued a strongly worded pastoral letter on behalf of his fellow bishops against the redefinition of marriage in Argentine law. He reminded public authorities of their responsibility to protect marriage and its unique contribution to the common good. He pointed out that the state is not discriminating unjustly when it requires a man and a woman to make a marriage: “it merely recognises a natural reality”. The future pope continued: “A marriage – made up of man and woman – is not the same as the union of two people of the same sex. To distinguish is not to discriminate but to respect differences... At a time when we place emphasis on the richness of pluralism and social and cultural diversity, it is a contradiction to minimise fundamental human differences. A father is not the same as a mother. We cannot teach future generations that preparing yourself for planning a family based on the stable relationship between a man and a woman is the same as living with a person of the same sex.”

But has Cardinal Bergoglio changed his tune since becoming Pope Francis? He has famously emphasized the need for the Church to be close to people, accompanying them pastorally amidst the complexity of their lives, and helping to heal their wounds. He is acutely aware that many people with same-sex attraction feel alienated from the Church and society. He says that he will not judge homosexuals who are genuinely searching for God and seeking to do the good.

However, sensitive pastoral care towards gay and lesbian people, including same-sex couples, is consistent with upholding the truth of marriage as the lifelong union of man and woman open to procreation. Indeed, Pope Francis has been critical of the “narcissistic individualism” of contemporary culture, which promotes “a freedom disengaged from responsibility” and the common good – whether among heterosexual or homosexual persons. He has criticised “ideologies that attack the family project directly”. These cultural forces, he thinks, undermine the natural and divinely-given plan for marriage and the family.¹ And he argues that upon the health of marriages and marriage-based families depend not only happiness and holiness for many individuals, but also the transmission of faith and ethics, the vigour of economies and polities, the care of life and the generations, and thus the very direction of peoples through history.²

In this context Pope Francis has repeatedly argued that the legalisation of same-sex marriage would be “a step backwards for humanity” (an ‘anthropological regression’)³ and gravely harm us all – homosexuals included – because the health of the ‘human ecology’ depends on a healthy marital culture.⁴ Such a culture draws the two sexes together in married life and ensures that, as far as

Most Rev. Anthony Fisher OP, DD BA LIB BTheol DPhil
Archbishop of Sydney

possible, children receive the gift of the contributions of both male and female parents, committed to each other and to them.⁵ Quoting from the Australian Bishops' Pastoral, *Don't Mess With Marriage*, and making it his own in his celebrated exhortation, *Amoris Laetitia*, Pope Francis insists that each of the spouses "contributes in a distinct way to the upbringing of a child. Respecting a child's dignity means affirming his or her need and natural right to have a mother and a father."⁶ The 'ideological colonisation' resulting from confusing presentations of sexuality and marriage disfigures God's plan for creation, denies children their natural rights, harms individuals and communities, and must be resisted.⁷ Yet sadly "many countries are witnessing a legal deconstruction of the family, tending to adopt models based almost exclusively on the autonomy of the individual will."⁸

Far from revoking the Catholic Church's two-thousand-year-long insistence that (according to divine revelation and the natural law) marriage can only be between a man and a woman,⁹ Pope Francis has been a strong advocate of that very position. Those claiming his support in their campaign for a Yes vote in the forthcoming plebiscite have either not read him or are deliberately misrepresenting him. To vote with Pope Francis is to VOTE NO.

Yours fraternally,



Most Rev. Anthony Fisher OP, DD BA LIB BTheol DPhil

Archbishop of Sydney

¹ Pope Francis, *Amoris Laetitia: Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation on Love in the Family* (2016), 33-34, 39-40 etc.; *Address to the Faculty and Students of the John Paul II Institute for Studies of Marriage and the Family*, 27 October 2016.

² *Amoris Laetitia*, 52.

³ Edward Pentin, 'Pope repeats that same-sex 'marriage' is "anthropological regression' *National Catholic Register*, 3 January 2014.

⁴ Pope Francis, *General Audience*, 5 June 2013; *Address to the European Parliament*, Strasbourg, 25 November 2014; *Address to the Filipino Authorities and Diplomatic Corps*, Manila, 16 January 2015.

⁵ Pope Francis, *Address to the European Bishops Conference*, 3 October 2014; *Address to the European Parliament*, Strasbourg, 25 November 2014; *Address to the Filipino Authorities and Diplomatic Corps*, Manila, 16 January 2015; *Amoris Laetitia*, 81-83, 166ff, 172ff etc.

⁶ *Amoris Laetitia*, 172; cf. *Address to the International Colloquium on the Complementarity of Man and Woman*, Rome, 17 November 2014.

⁷ Likewise in Pope Francis, *Address to the International Colloquium on the Complementarity of Man and Woman*, Rome, 17 November 2014; *Address to Filipino Authorities and Diplomatic Corps*, Manila, 16 January 2015.

⁸ *Amoris Laetitia*, 53.

⁹ Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, *Considerations regarding Proposals to Give Legal Recognition to Unions between Homosexual Persons*, 3 June 2003.



Why MaroniteCare?

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<https://www.facebook.com/maronitecare/>



Dr Dima will be presenting some sessions to parents.

Everyone is welcome, parents and youth. The course is free. There is no need for any registration. The sessions include practical advice, interactive exercises and role-play.

The coming session is as follow:

- **Session IV: *Why do Difficult People exist in Life?* (Tues 19 Sep 2017)**