

ST CHARBEL'S COLLEGE NEWSLETTER



Issue 1

Term 1, February 2019

Principal's Message - Rev Fr Maroun Youssef

Welcome back to the new 2019 academic year in which I sincerely would like to wish you all a very happy and blessed New Year. For our new parents to the College, especially those of Kindergarten and new students, a very warm welcome to what we endeavour and trust will be a significant relationship in the next coming years.

The prime purpose of St Charbel's is to help parents raise their children in the Maronite Catholic faith as well as providing a sound comprehensive education. The entire school community is responsible for creating such an atmosphere in the College that 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 the **HSC results for 2018**. Eleven of our students achieved an ATAR of ninety or over, which is an outstanding result. The College ranking vastly improved from 162 in 2017 to 143 in 2018. This is a fine reflection of both the abilities of our students and the expertise of our teachers. We, at St Charbel's College, are very proud of all our students' achievements.

Last week we celebrated the Feast of St Maroun on Saturday, 9th February. We commemorated this with a whole school mass. I invite you all to follow in the footsteps of St Maroun, in which the Pope describes parents as the first educators of their children. St Maroun's example is as a teacher and leader in which we celebrate his heritage:

we are disciples of Jesus Christ, under the authority of St Peter, in the spiritual tradition of St Maroun. Let us always live as worthy ambassadors of the Maronite Catholic Faith.

I pray that this year is a fruitful and blessed year for each and every one of us with the intercession of St Charbel's guidance always.



Welcome to 2019!

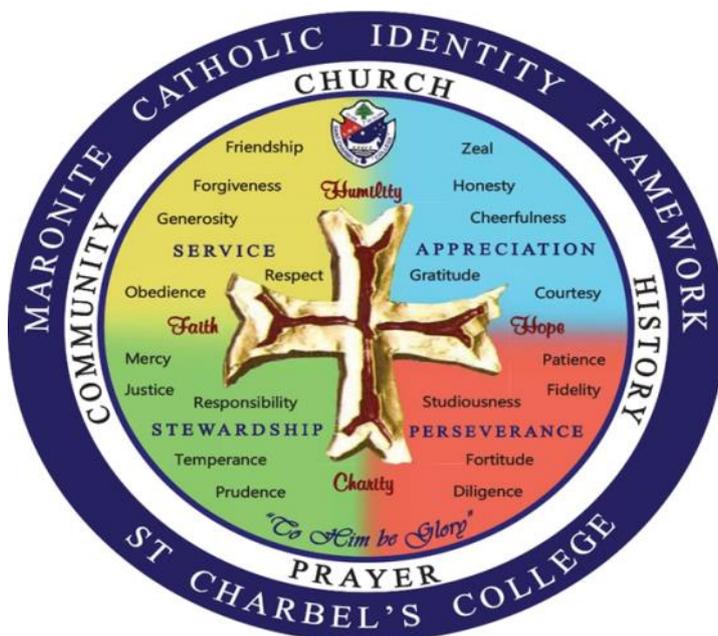
In 2019, St. Charbel's College will be engaging with our Maronite Catholic Identity Framework through a series of exciting workshops and activities. As parents and educators, it is our role to accompany our children in becoming the best people they can be; that is, the *best version of themselves*.

How do we do that? It is through learning what the virtues mean, how our House Patrons lived them out, and by challenging ourselves to be inspired to emulate them in our context.

What can you do at home? With your family, decide which virtue you would like to focus on for a given period of time and assist each other in living it.

We would love to hear your stories.

We look forward to journeying together in *becoming the best version of ourselves*.



KEY COMPONENTS

PRAYER

A monastic spirit of self-discipline and sacrifice underpins Maronite prayer and liturgical life. Maronites have a profound devotion to Mary, the Mother of God expressed in liturgical life, hymns and feasts.



HISTORY

The Maronite Church follows an Antiochene (from the region of Antioch) tradition, where "they were called Christians for the first time" (Acts 11:26). Syriac, a dialect of the Aramaic that Jesus Himself spoke, remains embedded in Maronite liturgy.



CHURCH

To be Maronite is to be Catholic. To be Maronite Catholic is to be a member of one of the Eastern Catholic Churches who is guided by a Patriarch, and has the Pope as Her visible Head. Maronites hold the same beliefs as the Roman Catholic Church yet worship differently. The Maronite Church is named after St. Maroun.



COMMUNITY

Learning how to love God and others is founded in the Maronite family. The Maronite family belongs to the family of the Church. Maronites are committed to spreading the message of the Gospel through serving others.



CORE VIRTUES

SERVICE



The action of helping or doing work for someone for the Glory of God. "It is more blessed to give than to receive." (Acts 20: 35)

APPRECIATION



Seeing everything as a gift from God and being thankful. "Let them thank the Lord for such kindness." (Psalm 107: 8)

Faith

Believing in God and in all that He has revealed

Hope

Trusting in God's loving plan

Charity

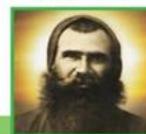
Loving God with all your heart, mind, and strength and your neighbour as yourself

HUMILITY

Accepting your limitations and God given talents. "Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up." (James 4:10)

Returning to God the first fruits of your time, talents and treasure. "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace." (Peter 4:10)

Persistence in doing something despite difficulty or delay in achieving success. "Be joyful in hope, persevere in hardship; keep praying regularly." (Romans 12: 12)



STEWARDSHIP

PERSEVERANCE

elevate education

We wish to extend a welcome to our students – old and new – to another exciting year of learning, and to the celebration of the 2018 HSC results. The cohort’s performance has made us very proud and we are looking forward to acknowledging them at the 2018 HSC High Achievers’ ceremony on Friday 15th February.

All students are settling into their new 2019 classes and students have made final decisions on their electives as we move into the second cycle of the timetable. There are limited opportunities for change now, as most classes have reached their maximum numbers.

At St Charbel’s College we aim to support students to become independent and resilient learners by providing opportunities to develop practical skills that can be implemented in their daily lessons and revision. This year we will again be using the expertise of Elevate Education to present workshops for students from Year 7 – 12 covering topics such as time management, memory development, motivation and organisation.

In addition, we have organised for Elevate Education to present a parent workshop during our 7-12 Parent Information evening on Wednesday 20th February. The workshop will cover:

- how parents can help students manage their time effectively
- how parents can help their students become motivated and stay motivated
- the different types of work that students

should prioritise across the year in order to improve their results

- how parents can help their children work effectively with technology whilst minimising distractions like Instagram, Facebook etc.

Whilst student attendance at the information evening is not compulsory, **at least one parent from each family must attend.**

The information evening will commence at 6.30pm and address the following items:

- Maronite Catholic education and mission
- Pastoral care and wellbeing
- Curriculum and assessment
- Elevate Education - Parent Presentation

We look forward to seeing you there!

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
6am							
7am							
8am							
9am							
10am							
11am							
12pm							
1pm							
2pm							
3pm							
4pm							
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10pm							
11pm							
12am							



Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the new year! There are many exciting happenings in the Primary School and it's reflected in the positive atmosphere that is noticeable as I walk around the campus.

The Primary School has welcomed new staff this year: Miss Rebecca Belcastro (KG), Miss Louise Grady (KM), Miss Adele Gazzola (4P), Miss Nicole Lumagbas (5M) and Miss Patricia Kazacos (Learning Support department).

The Primary School has introduced new class codings this year: Generosity, Honesty, Mercy and Patience. These reflect the values of the Maronite Catholic Identity framework and allow the class to align themselves with these values rather than the initials of the teacher.

The school is pleased to have the new Kindergarten playground area open. The students have embraced their new play area with enthusiasm.

The Primary School is establishing a school garden this year. As mentioned at the Meet and Greet evening, please contact Mrs Sharyn Casey via info@stcharbel.nsw.edu.au if you are able to give some of your time or donate some gardening utensils or plants.

Reading and spelling in Years K-2 is being supplemented by the Get Reading Right program, also referred to as Synthetic Phonics. An expert in this area, Justin Caban, will be running a Parent Information evening on Monday 8 April for K-2 parents. Details will be sent home shortly. Part of the role of a school is to help students become independent in order to prepare them for the real world. This begins when students arrive at school in the morning. If you bring your children to school, please leave the premises immediately to allow your child to settle in and develop their social skills independently.

The exception is Kindergarten parents in the first few weeks of school.

The school has been looking at semester awards and changing their focus. In Primary School, staff believe it is far more important that the students strive to do their best work and achieve their potential. If the school seems to focus on marks, this can have a detrimental effect on students because they always feel pressured to get full marks, or come first and believe they are compared unfavourably to other students.

Thus in Primary School the emphasis is very much on the journey, not the end result. Accordingly, there is only one award given at the end of Semester One for a student in each class who has stood out in every regard during Semester One: academically and in their behaviour and attitude to their work, teachers and peers, thereby being a good role model for all students. Class teachers select the student in the same way as they do for Teacher Certificates awarded during the term: they consider students' academic results, as well as their aptitude and behaviour and they consult with specialist teachers to confirm their decision.

To encourage students to do their best, they are acknowledged for effort, attitude and achievement with stickers, Teacher Certificates and via the school's merit award system throughout the year.



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 2019.

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 14-16 May 2019. 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, Miss Lumagbas and Miss Arraj. In Year 6 we have Miss Kokla, Mrs Papasavvas, Mrs Zubak with Mrs Abraham and Mrs Leas with Mrs Troncoso.

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.

Chess classes for students from Years 1-6 were a huge success last year. Sydney Chess Academy 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! If you are interested in enrolling your child, speak to the office or ask your child to come and see me for more information.

Wishing you all a happy and productive term. God bless.



I hope you're well rested and ready for a productive term 1. I would like to welcome Adele Gazzola to the Stage 2 team. Adele will be taking 4P from terms 1-3. Please say hello if you see her on the playground.

We are very excited to be back at school and should be almost back into the swing of things. Please ensure all your child's belongings are carefully labelled so they don't get lost. It is important that all students are wearing their hats during outdoor playtime. It is still very hot outside and we need to ensure we are keeping ourselves protected from the sun.

Year 3 will be visiting the Schoolhouse Museum on the 7 March 2019, here we will experience what school was like in the olden days.

Scholastic Book Club

St Charbel's College is taking part in Scholastic Book Club in 2019. Your student will receive two issues of book club a term. All orders are to be completed online through the LOOP ordering system. Please see instructions below:

- Head to www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP or download the APP from google play or the APP store.
- Simply grab your child's Book Club catalogue and either SIGN-IN or REGISTER your account.
- Add your child's first name and last initial; for example, Christopher T (so the school knows who the book is for), then select your SCHOOL and your CHILD'S CLASS. Note: You can order for multiple children at once if they attend the same school.
- Click on ORDER and enter the item number from the Book Club catalogue.
- All orders are linked directly to the school for submission to Scholastic. Books will still be delivered to your child's classroom if you order by the close date.



Book Club LOOP

for Parents

LOOP is the Scholastic Book Club
Linked Online Ordering & Payment platform for parents.

To order and pay for Scholastic Book Club by credit card visit:
www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP

 GET IT ON
Google play

 Download on the
App Store

Welcome back to a new year filled with many exciting opportunities for faith development.

This year, St. Charbel's College introduced the Pastoral Program, 'Values/Virtues in Practice'. This program is designed to help our students grow closer to Jesus by imitating the values of the Saints. It helps students live out their faith in their everyday lives. This year we intend to focus on Honesty, Mercy, Justice, Zeal, Faith, Reverence, Stewardship and Generosity. The program will allow students to engage with the College's Framework.

We pray then that our teachers and parents together will teach the values of Jesus.

Lord Jesus,

Help us all become better teachers of values.

Let us teach the value of love without which children cannot grow.

Let us teach the value of justice which sets children free from the forces that hold, bind and limit their growth.

Let us teach forgiveness that re-unites and makes us whole again. And let us teach hope in a glorious future and in a God that has carved our name in the palm of His hand.

Amen.

St Charbel our Patron, pray for us.

"Let us consider the Saints, the Saints are the true bearers of light within history, for they are men and women of faith, hope and love." Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI.

Primary Arabic Coordinator—Mrs Nada Kazzi

أهلاً وسهلاً بكم إلى سنة دراسية جديدة.

إعتاد التلاميذ على النمط الدراسي لهذه السنة و بدأت الدروس العربية في كل الصفوف بشكل منتظم ومشوق.

تبدأ دروس اللغة العربية يوميا بالترحيب بالأولاد ثمّ التحدث عن الطقس، أيام الأسبوع، الفصول والألوان ويتم تشجيع الطلاب على التحدث باللغة العربية. تختلف المواضيع التي ندرسها من صف إلى آخر. الرجاء منكم تشجيع اللغة العربية والتحدث مع أولادكم يوميا عما تعلموا في الصف.



The library staff would like to wish all parents and students a warm welcome back to school. We hope you had a relaxing break and that you made time to read during those hot and sunny days.

The beginning of the year is a time for making resolutions. There is no better resolution than to find ten minutes a day to read with our children.

Here is a link to Mem Fox's Ten Read-Aloud Commandments to help you get started:

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

In the library we work to help our students navigate their way safely through the online world. We show students safe ways of searching the internet using credible and reliable sources.

The Office of the eSafety Commissioner provides wonderful resources for parents to help their children stay safe online. I have included a link to their safety information below. Let's work in partnership to ensure our children remain safe online in 2019.

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/education-resources/parent/staying-safe>

Finally, many thanks to Mrs Golz for working with Yorke Education to ensure all of our students had the correct textbooks to begin the school academic year and to our library assistants for ensuring all new resources were ready for our students.

Chess Lessons at the School

To all Parents and Students,

All students of St. Charbel's College Punchbowl are invited to a free chess lesson at lunch time on Friday 22nd February. The usual time for chess lessons is Friday lunch, if you are interested in enrolling in our weekly class held at the school, please contact our office either by phone on 97451170 or by email at

enrolment@sydneyacademyofchess.com.au.

There will be an announcement made on the day to tell students where to go for their chess lesson.

Sydney Academy of Chess



SYDNEY
ACADEMY OF CHESS

Secondary Swimming Carnival—Celine Najem

The 2019 St. Charbel's College Secondary Swimming Carnival was held at Roselands Aquatic Centre on Tuesday the 12th of February.

The day began with the 50m championships, that determined which students will go on to swim at the CBSA and SCC swimming carnivals. Afterwards, students participated in the compulsory 25m races followed by the optional 50m races.

Mr Zalloua then decided to try out a game of apple bobbing, with apples being placed in the pool instead of a bucket. Three students from each house colour were chosen for the game and was won by the red house.

To finish off the day, the school participated in two whole school relays where house colours had the opportunity to win their team some bonus points.

The swimming carnival was won by the red house once again, as a result of their great efforts.

In conclusion, it was a fantastic day due to the great weather and participation of students.



St Valentine



2020 Kindergarten and Year 7 Enrolments

Enrolments for Kindergarten 2020 and Year 7 are now open until Friday, 12 April 2019.

Please call St Charbel's College for more details.

يعلن معهد مار شربل عن بدء قبول طلبات التسجيل لصف الحضانة Kindy والصف السابع للعام 2020، من الآن وحتى 12 نيسان 2019. للمزيد من المعلومات الرجاء الاتصال بمعهد مار شربل.

Saint Charbel's Ethnic School Enrolments Now Open – 15 February 2019

Classes are available for **school-age students and adults**.

For additional information, please contact Rita Boutros on 0431210004 or email: rboutros@stcharbel.nsw.edu.au.

SCHOOL FEES

The first instalment for school fees is due on 22-Feb-2019. Payments may be paid in cash, cheque, EFTPOS, credit card or directly into the College's bank account.

For all parents who are using the direct payment method into the College account, please ensure when 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.

Bank

account details are: BSB: 032-068; A/C 57-1383

The College is ensuring that many events and messages are being advertised through our Facebook page. Please take the time to check us out. Additionally, there are times pictures of students are used. If you do not wish for your child's picture to be used please inform the College by emailing your request to info@stcharbel.nsw.edu.au

Learn *Music* on the keyboard at School

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



- ♪ Convenient at-school venue ♪
- ♪ Small group - 45 min weekly lesson ♪
- ♪ Competitive rate - \$29 per session (GST Incl.) ♪
- ♪ Instrument not required initially ♪

**To enrol, please call 9411 3122 or visit
www.learnmusicatschool.com.au
Limited vacancy!**

Violin Incl. Piano (VIP) Music est. 1984 www.learnmusicatschool.com.au

UPCOMING 2019 EVENTS

February:

Fri 15	High Achievers Ceremony
Mon 18	High School Photo Day
Tues 19	K-6 Photo Day
Wed 20	Years 7-12 Information Evening

March:

Fri 1	Year 7 Spirituality Day
Mon 4	Ash Monday Liturgy
Mon 11	Photo Catch Up Day
Fri 15	P & F Spirituality Day
Mon 18	Year 7 Immunisation
Tues 19	St Joseph's Feast Day
Fri 22	Year 9 Spirituality Day
Sat 23	St Rafqa's Feast Day

JOBS FOR YOUTH

APPRENTICESHIPS + TRAINEESHIPS

The evening is supported by a panel of experts to answer all your questions including Training Services NSW, Group Training Organisations and Employers.





Find out all you need to know about Apprenticeship courses and School Based Apprenticeships & Traineeships.

NIGHTS

Available now in a wide range of industries including Engineering, Business Administration, Construction, Child Care, Automotive, Electrical, Health, Hospitality & many more!

APPLY ON THE NIGHT

DETAILS

Dates: Monday, 18 February 2019
West's Leagues Club, Leumeah
Monday, 11 March 2019
Bankstown Sports Club, Bankstown

Time: 7:00pm - 9:00pm

Cost: FREE

Click HERE to Register:
<https://mwlp.eventbrite.com.au>

FREE onsite parking

Watch out for upcoming MWLP events!

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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 (Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays)
- After School Care: 3pm until 6:30pm
- Vacation Care: 7am until 6pm

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:](#)



Before & After School Care Contact Details:

Centre co-ordinator: Mary Azzi

Centre Number: 0418 735 976

Email: stcmcs@weldon.com.au