



MARONITE COLLEGE OF THE HOLY FAMILY NEWSLETTER

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Term 1 – Week 4: Monday 17th February 2014

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL – Sr Margaret Ghosn

As we immerse ourselves in the new academic year, with its theme of 'New Beginnings' we are hearing a buzz around the College. Plenty has happened so far including a fire-drill, celebrating the efforts of 2013 HSC students, staff meetings, assemblies and the list goes on. In the coming weeks we have Parent Information evenings for both Primary and Secondary and it is the expectation that all parents attend so as to familiarise yourselves with the life of the College and the important role you play in your children's education. Also a reminder that photo day is coming up as is the Secondary swimming carnival. As we prepare for the approaching Lenten Season I pray we will draw ever closer to the God who loves us.

DOING THE ROUNDS

Dates to remember

17th Feb - Lockdown

18 and 19th Feb – Photo day

20th Feb – Parent Information Evening for Secondary

25th Feb – Parent Information Evening for Primary

28th Feb – Secondary swimming carnival

<http://www.olol-college.nsw.edu.au/events/>

Scholastic Book Fair in Primary Hall 21st and 24th March - Preview books and complete wish lists. On 25th & 26th March – Book selling. Parents welcome.

WiFi across Primary - It is anticipated that WIFI access for Primary will be fully functional by mid-March 2014. Cost to the College is \$60,000.

WHS News - Maronite College of the Holy Family has an ongoing commitment to the safety of its students, staff and visitors. Our active Work, Health and Safety Committee comprises of: Dr Margaret Ghosn, Mr A Stillen, Ms R Bala, Ms B Ramsey and Ms R Pangallo. The Committee met on 4th Feb to discuss the Fire and Lockdown Drills held on 11th and 17th Feb, review of Risk Assessments completed by College staff during their Staff Development day, review and update of staff training and follow-up of College safety audit conducted by the WHS committee in 2013. All staff, students and parents are encouraged to be active participants in the ongoing monitoring of safety standards at our College.

Bullying Presentation - Students in Yrs 5-8 will participate in the Parramatta Eels 'One Community' presentation on 24th Feb. Players and staff from the club will be talking to the students about ways to tackle bullying as a community and also discussing the benefits of an active lifestyle.

Introducing meditation – The College is planning on introducing Christian meditation to students from K-12. Students will settle into class each day with a short meditation. This will help them focus on Christ, deepen their spirituality and prepare them for a positive start to the day.

The New Learning Management System 'Moodle' is now active - students from Yrs 7–12 should have access to their classes. To access the Moodle site please visit: <https://learn.olol-college.nsw.edu.au> Happy e-learning! – Mr J Messiha

GOAL SETTING by Ms C Khoury

With a new school year, should come some new goals for each of us. Below is a simple way to ensure you are on the right track to achieving your goals. Your goals should be **SMART** goals:

S = Specific

M = Measurable

A = Action-oriented

R = Realistic

T = Time-based

So how do you set goals for yourself?

1. *What do you want to achieve?*
2. *Write down your goals*
3. *Plan your strategy.* Break it down into simple steps to make it easier.
4. *Build belief in yourself.*
5. *Develop the strengths you think you need to reach your goals.*
6. *Manage your progress.* Review your goals regularly. Do you need to revise your goals?

College Leaders Get Involved with their Peers - As part of the College Leaders role, they have been allocated various year groups to work closely with throughout the year. They will be assisting in pastoral period sessions and extracurricular activities.

College Captain: Joseph Wehbe

Year 7: Raymond Semaan, Collette ElHallal and Stephanie Hatem

Year 8: Chakib Kazzi, Rachelle Najjar and Sarah Hatem

Year 9: Marina Raffoul, Michael Khoury and Maryanne Moubarak

Year 10: Marina Sabat, Joseph Mourched and Amanda Saliba

Year 11: Justine Fares and Meerna Sawaqed

Year 12: Dylan Laoulach and Jacqueline Zaiter

Secondary Library

- English classes have booked their classes to start the new Premiers' Reading Challenge for 2014. An option has been offered to Yrs 7, 8 and 9 students interested in **eBooks** on iPads.
- A display and lunchtime activities have been organised for the month of Feb to celebrate 'Library Lovers Month.' Numerous students have participated in activities such as quizzes and origami.
- Year 7 and 8 PRC classes have been given a library orientation period and the resources they have access to. They were assisted in joining the State Library NSW and how to access free eBooks and other free resources online.
- Some Yr 9 PRC classes have been made aware of the eResources available to them and PPT presentation on referencing and how to avoid plagiarism.
- CFS Yr 12 class was given instructions on how to use the State Library online resources. They also joined the library as well as a PPT presentation on research and referencing skills.

Ms O Korkor

Secondary students hard at work on the laptops!



Secondary swimming carnival – on 28th Feb. \$7 for students making their own way there and \$14 for those catching the buses. Parents are more than welcome on the day.

Spirituality centre and novitiate - The Maronite Sisters of the Holy Family are opening a spirituality centre at Dulwich Hill and a novitiate for those considering entering Religious Life. In quiet surroundings one is invited to come on a weekend and pray in the chapel and find spiritual guidance. For more information contact Sr Rose Therese on 0421 283 899 or Sr Margaret on 0412 588 045.

Mr R Hassarati's book launch – 7pm Monday 24th February in Primary hall. All are welcome to attend and you can purchase a copy of the book, *The one thing God cannot do* for \$20. Mr Hassarati is the Religious Studies Coordinator in Secondary and brings with him a great spiritual depth.

CONGRATULATIONS

Honour Board Awards - Congratulations to students who received an award. Their work is displayed in the Primary Administration Office. In Kindy: Pamela Kassis, Charbel Mawad, Carlos Bou Melhem & Milaniya Nehme. In Yr 1: Angelina Layoun, Angelina Frangie, Natasha Ishac & Charlize Khoury.

Honour Day – held 7th Feb. Congratulations to the high achieving students and their parents: DUX George Chammoun, Ralph El-Hallal, Rita Mazloum, George Sourenian, Edwin El-Bazouni, Josephine Stanton and Nastashia Sleiman. From last year's cohort so far we have 52% who have received university entry, 17% have entered Colleges and 16% have gone on to TAFE. We wish them God's blessings.



Congratulations to Primary Leaders for 2014

Captains – Gabriella Baker and Charbel Doumit

Vice Captains – Karen Hawache and Nassif AbiKhattar

SRC members – Jon BouMelhem, Mabelle Chamchoum, Gabrielle Dagher, Peter Germanous, Samijo Laoulach, Rachelle Nakhoul, Angela Nemer and Olivia Saroufin.

Sport leaders – **Hunter (Blue)** Raquel El Katrib, Jacob Sahyoun **King (Red)** Rafca Semaan, Alfred Saba **Macquarie (Green)** Mariam Najim, Christopher Makdessi **Phillip (Yellow)** Ramona Touma, Phillip Smith.

Throughout the year other Year 6 students will also be selected.

Scholarships from the Parramatta Council valued at \$2000 - Congratulations to last year's HSC students George Chammoun, Ralph El-Hallal and Odette Feghali who were successful in their applications. The scholarships will assist them in furthering their studies at university.

Rep sport results: In volleyball Junior boys defeated St Agnes 32-22. Intermediate boys drew with St Agnes 39-39. Junior girls lost to St Agnes 22-49. Intermediate girls defeated St Agnes 47-23. Touch football: Intermediate boys drew with McCarthy 5-5. Intermediate girls lost to St Marks 6-1.

Bus Prefects - Congratulations to the following Yr 11 students appointed Bus Prefects. Students must follow the instructions of the Bus Prefects and any concerns must be reported to them. Bus Prefects report to Mr Asmar any concerns which require to be followed up. Bus 446 - Anthony Azar, Sarah Moujali and Chanice Nahmy Bus 436 - Naomi Daoud and Jessica Gerges Bus 438 - Charbel G Katrib and Chuntelle Yacoub Bus 434 - Jeremy Harb, Sarah Merheb and Victoria Bou-Melhem Bus 428 - Naomi Chakty and Alondra Youssef Bus 5 and Bus 22 - Laura Rezk and George Khouri Bus 14 - James Tasipale and George Fakhr Bus 16 - Chloe Daher and Suzie Farah Bus 6 - Christopher Sabat and Danielle Bazouni Bus 8 - Maria Nakad and Mark Frangie Early Bus (567) - Marie Nassif and Maya Sawaqed

PARENTS' NEWS

Primary Parent Helpers and Volunteer Parent Induction - In the next few weeks we will be sending out a parent volunteer note for those wishing to help in their children's classroom. These parents must attend the Volunteer Induction Program which is a legal requirement as Child Protection and College Policies are discussed. The Induction will take place on Friday 21st Feb at 2pm in the Primary Conference Room.

Secondary Parent Volunteers are also required – if interested please see Mrs Macura.

Parent Association meeting - 21st Feb at 1pm in Primary Conference room. Also volunteers needed for Secondary swimming carnival for 28th Feb.

Secondary Parent Information Evening - A compulsory parent information evening will be held on Thursday 20th Feb at 7pm in the College Secondary Hall. All parents/guardians are required to attend in

order to be informed of the College's expectations and requirements. Members of staff will update parents on the changes and information for the 2014 year. It will also be a session to meet with your child's Year Coordinator and teachers and to ask questions. If any parent is unable to attend with a valid reason, then a signed letter must be sent to Mr Asmar (Welfare Coordinator) who will then contact the parents.

Primary Parent Information Evening - An information evening has been organised for Tuesday 25th February at 7pm. All Primary parents are expected to attend and will meet in the Primary Hall for the Principal's welcome before making your way to your children's classrooms for more detailed information from the class teachers.

On Tuesday 18th March 2014 we will be holding an Information Session and Open Day for all Parents/Guardians of Year 5 and 6 students.

All family update forms including change of address and any medical information need to be returned to the College without any further delay.

College photo day – Tuesday 18th Feb. Please ensure your children are in full College uniform. Years 1, 3 and 5 to bring their sports shoes to school and will be able to change after their photos.



Message from the Kitchen - Thankyou to the Parent Association for the 5 brand new Kitchen Aid Artisan mixers that have come to good use with the Yr 10 Food Technology students creating their first delicious palate pleasing dish, 'Chocolate Fondants'.

Reporting Bullying - The College has introduced two new strategies to report bullying. The first is an email to reportinghotline@mch.nsw.edu.au. The second is through the College website clicking on the 'report bullying' link. These will be formally launched at the upcoming Bullying Awareness Week in Week 8.

Gardener wanted – The College is seeking a gardener to work 3 hours a day for 3 days a week. The position involves planting, weeding, watering, mowing and pruning. If you are interested please contact Sr Irene on 96336600.

During bus time parents are not to park in disabled areas – these are reserved only for those whose students have a disability. The traffic inspector has clearly indicated that parents who park in the drop off zone to get out and open the gates for their children to come into the school grounds will incur an infringement notice.

St Margaret Mary's JRLFC invites all children 5-11 yrs attending a Catholic school and all Catholic boys & girls to join our club - We are looking for new players and coaches wanting to play junior rugby league in a Sunday competition. Next registration date: Sunday 23rd Feb from 10-2pm at Nemesia St Park, Greystanes. Free Sausage Sizzle. Training starts Friday 28th Feb from 5:30-6pm. For more info contact Phil 0417-265-241 or Tanya 0414-484-636.

Roar Energy Cubs is a bootcamp for kids aged 5 - 12 years - It's never too early to educate children on the importance of a fit and healthy lifestyle and what better way than with their peers, while enjoying a fun and active session. Sessions are held every Monday and Wednesday afternoon (4-4:45pm) during school terms at Daniel St Park, Greystanes at \$10 per session. Contact Mark Abi-Arrage on 0409891166 for more details or to learn about adult sessions running in your local area.

EMAIL, WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK

If you would like to receive the newsletter electronically write to admin@mchf.nsw.edu.au

Website: <http://www.olol-college.nsw.edu.au/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ololcollegesydney?ref=hl>