



# MARONITE COLLEGE OF THE HOLY FAMILY NEWSLETTER

23-25 Alice St Harris Park, 2150

Tel: 9633 6600 Fax: 9689 1662

Term 1 – Week 2: Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2014

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL – Sr Margaret Ghosn

Welcome all staff, students and parents to a new academic year 2014. This is the first newsletter as the Maronite College of the Holy Family. I would like to welcome on board, in their new positions, Sr Irene Boughosn as Deputy Principal of Secondary as well as Superior of the convent community and Sr Marlene Chedid as Deputy Principal of Primary. Sr Guitta will be working as assistant with the infants. Sr Constance will be a prayerful presence around the College.

### THEME FOR 2014: NEW BEGINNINGS

It incorporates the fact that we are starting the first year of the new College and writing its early history. We are starting new beginnings as we take on new roles this year. For students the theme also provides encouragement to start again, to give themselves a new chance, to wipe the slate clean and have another go. Over my term I will insist on:

- Academic rigour
- Encouragement of various talents
- Spiritual depth

On the business side I hope to expand the College, to extend the playgrounds, increase the number of buildings, provide necessary student resources and encourage staff professional development. I would like to see the parents take on a greater role in the education of their children. Together we can nourish the community spirit of the College.

## DOING THE ROUNDS

### Dates to remember

7 Feb – Mass for St Maroun and Honour Day

11<sup>th</sup> Feb – Fire-drill

17<sup>th</sup> Feb - Lockdown

18 and 19<sup>th</sup> Feb – Photo day

**Finally grassed area for use by all students** – located corner of Good and Weston street, the playground also includes toilets and bubblers. However use of the ground will be in another 3 weeks as we wait for the grass to grow across the entire surface.



## Maintenance

1<sup>st</sup> floor in A block was carpeted and vinyl laid down

Primary classroom doors painted

Carpets steam cleaned

Windows cleaned

Infant playground pressure cleaned

Playground with grass completed

Painting done around the College including pillars in upper Primary playground

Also 63 new computers were leased for Secondary and distributed in the different computer labs. We also received 41 iPads for Primary but these need configuration.

### New carpet and vinyl were laid in the A block



**Staff 2 day inservice** – held on 28-29<sup>th</sup> January. The first day commenced with a Mass. Staff were then addressed by Mary Gow in regards to WHS: Excursions/Venue Risk Assessments, Student Risk Assessment, Classroom/Workshop safety. This was followed by a presentation on child protection presented by Tulsı Levin de Graaff and Nevine Piperides. Gavin Cooper from ThinkUKnow gave a talk on bullying and cyber bullying. Staff were informed about attendance procedures. Primary spent time working on the Maths Syllabus while Secondary worked on Moodle and had Year and Studies Coordinator meetings.

**On 30<sup>th</sup> January the Secondary assembly was held** - Students were addressed on various expectations and provided with a brief insight into the many opportunities they have to participate in extra curricula activities including: Social Justice, St Vinnies, Mock Trial, SRC, Public speaking, Premier's Reading Challenge, Maths Olympiad, Representative sport etc.

**HSC 2013** – we congratulate those students who performed well in their HSC and wish the class of 2013 all the best in their future endeavours. The top performers will be recognised at our Honour Day Mass on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> Feb with the highest achiever George Chammoun recognised for his efforts

### Kindergarten students welcome!!!







**Gymnastics Program** - Yrs 1, 3 and 5 students will be participating in a compulsory gymnastics program during Term 1. As part of the Physical Education program, students will be taught by specialist educators from TriSkills, specifically trained in gymnastics for children in Primary schools. A note will be distributed in Week 2. Please finalise payments as soon as possible.

**Overdue/lost books** - Students with overdue loans from 2013 are NOT to borrow books until they have been returned or paid for.

**NSW Premier's Reading Challenge** – Students from K-6 are invited to participate. Registration starts early March. Students may borrow PRC books from the library or their public libraries. The competition runs from 1 Feb to 1 Sept. We ask parents to please guide your child in choosing books and encourage your child to read for enjoyment. – Mrs LeMerle

**Keep in your prayers** - Please keep in mind Jennifer Hanna (Yr 1) who has been in intensive care at Westmead Childrens Hospital since November after complication arose during an operation. She is making a slow recovery. We keep her, her mother and sister Mariah (Yr 11) in our prayers.

**Primary School Leaders** – Students will be nominated and chosen from Yr 6 to represent the Primary School in the following areas

- 2 Primary School Captains (Girl and Boy)
- 2 Primary School Captains (Girl and Boy)
- 8 SRC members (possibility of other nominations throughout the year)
- 8 sport house leaders

Selection is based on students having displayed throughout their years of learning at the College the following qualities:

- Genuine leadership
- Service
- Community spirit
- Academic effort
- Manners
- Hard-work

- Enthusiasm
- Role modelling
- Ability to contribute positively to the Secondary at MCHF

Students nominated by the teachers and their peers will be asked to present a speech to the leadership team. Suggestions will be put forward and the final decision will rest with the Principal.

**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** – suggested date is 7pm Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February in Primary hall. This will be confirmed. All are welcome to it and you can purchase a copy of the book, *The one thing God cannot do* for \$20. Mr Hassarati has been the Religious Studies Coordinator in Secondary for many years and has brought with him a great spiritual depth.

## PARENTS' NEWS

**New uniform** – It has been fantastic to see so many students beginning the year in the correct uniform. Primary students can now wear coloured sports shoes for their sport day and that all students must have a school hat with the College emblem. Kindergarten and Yr 7 students must wear the new uniform which has the new College emblem. All other students can phase out their old uniform over the next year.

**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. Parent helpers and volunteers 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 21<sup>st</sup> Feb at 2pm in the Primary Conference Room.

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

**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 Margaret on 96336600.

**Kinder enrolments 2015** – forms will be sent in term 1 to parents of those who have registered their child's name for 2015. If you know anyone who wishes to enrol their child please inform them to contact the College in the next few weeks.

**His Excellency Bishop Antoine-Charbel Tarabay**, Maronite Bishop of Australia, together with Priests and Community of St Maroun's Cathedral, invite you to celebrate THE FEAST OF SAINT MAROUN, Patron of the Maronite Catholic Church, *Solemn Divine Liturgy celebrated by His Excellency* on Friday 7 Feb at 7pm at Saint Maroun's Cathedral, 627 Elizabeth Street, Redfern. We look forward to your presence at this most significant celebration for the Australian Maronite Catholic Community

**Come & Try Football Clinic** - St. Margaret Mary's JRLFC Inc. invites children attending a Catholic School and all Catholic boys & girls from 5 to 11 years of age, to join on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> Feb at Nemesia Street Park, Greystanes from 12 till 1pm. This will be conducted by staff from the NRL and Parramatta Eels. Registrations will be taken for New & Returning Players from 11am–2pm. The Clinic is Free, and includes a Free Sausage Sizzle. All New Registrations: original copy of Birth & Baptism Certificates are required. For enquiries contact us on: Phil 0417-265-241 or Tanya 0414-484-636.

## EMAIL, WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK

If you would like to receive the newsletter electronically write to [admin@mchf.nsw.edu.au](mailto:admin@mchf.nsw.edu.au)

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

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