



MARONITE COLLEGE OF THE HOLY FAMILY

NEWSLETTER

23-25 Alice St Harris Park, 2150

Tel: 9633 6600 Fax: 9689 1662

Term 1 – Week 2: Friday 6th February 2015

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL – Sr Margaret Ghosn

This is our first newsletter for the year. I take this opportunity to welcome you all into the family that is the Maronite College of the Holy Family. Our theme for 2015 is 'In God's Image.' I have chosen this theme as it encapsulates all of who we are and what we do. It invites students to consider every moment of their lives and to constantly seek to make the right choices through focusing on God. In the first few days of College life the staff had two days of inservice to prepare for the year. We celebrated the wonderful results of our HSC students. We welcomed the new kindergarten students who were excited to start school life! So as we enter into full gear, I pray that the Holy Family will be ever watchful and bless us in many wonderful ways.

R.I.P. We keep in our prayers the Aho family and in particular Juliana (Yr 6) and Angelina (Yr 4) whose mother passed away over the holidays.

DOING THE ROUNDS

Dates to remember - <http://www.mchf.nsw.edu.au/events/>

16th Feb – Ash Monday Mass at 10:45am

17th Feb – Parent Association Elections at 1:15pm in the meeting room

17th Feb – Parent Volunteers Induction programme – 2pm in meeting room

20th Feb – Primary Leaders Mass

20th Feb – Secondary swimming carnival

23rd Feb – Yr 12 assessment block commences

24th Feb – Primary Parent Info evening at 7pm

24th and 25th Feb - College Photo day. Letter will be sent home

4th March – Secondary Parent Info evening at 7pm

Maintenance over the holidays - Painting of numerous classroom doors and walls; Partitioning of offices and classrooms; Installation of Smart boards; Pesticide spray across the grounds; Gardening; High pressure cleaning of playgrounds; All windows scrubbed & all carpets steam cleaned

Staff 2 day inservice - included WHS and Child Protection, subject meetings, and preparation for 2015.

Primary Extension - In order to ensure students are continually challenged in literacy and numeracy lessons, we will be implementing a 'top group' approach to Mathematics and Reading in 2015. Reading groups from Yrs 4-6 will include three classes of mixed groups (Levels 1-29) and one class of independent readers (level 30 plus) to ensure they are working beyond their grade level, including the introduction of essay writing in stage 3. In Mathematics Yrs 4-6 will have an extension class and the other three classes will be of mixed ability. This class can complete all grade work at a faster pace before completing more challenging, problem solving based activities beyond their grade level. These groups will be created after an initial assessment, checking NAPLAN results and talking with teachers. Yr 3 will also do this once NAPLAN is complete and the students have settled into the stage 2 work.

Primary Library - Borrowing will start on Monday. Students need to borrow books from the library every week and return them on time. Each student needs his/her own *waterproof* library bag. We are promoting a reading culture at the College in 2015 and this begins with the children borrowing regularly! This year the Primary Library is promoting greater student reading. Ongoing reading and borrowing from the library will be a focus.

Premier's Reading Challenge - from 2 March to 28 August. Students must complete their online Student Reading Records by 21st August. For more information see <https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html>

Scholastic Book Club - Book Clubs LOOP is a new Linked Online Ordering & Payment platform for Parents. If you want to pay by credit card for your online Book Club order, the platform makes it easy. It

eliminates the need for paper order forms plus your online order is submitted to the school safe and sound. See www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP

Kindergarten's first big day! Parents and students were all very excited



Secondary Assembly held on 30/1/2015 – Students were addressed by the Principal and the Welfare and Curriculum Coordinators on expectations for the year. Bus prefects were also announced.



2015 Bus Prefects - Yr 11 students appointed Bus Prefects are: Cintia El-Khoury, Gabriel Bou-Haroun (Bus 446), Eddie Fakhri (Bus 436), Sharon Hatem, Simon Al-Ekhtiyar, Anthony Kaltoum (Bus 438), Jessica Ishak, Jonathan Nakhoul, Claudia Douaihy (Bus 434), Evette Nakhoul, Charbel Yacoub, Assad Ibrahim (Bus 428), Wilson Njiem (Bus 5 and 14), Mathew El-Bazouni (Bus 14 and 22), Laura Sassine (Bus 16), Georges Dagher (Bus 22), Gabrielle Laoulach (Bus 6 and 8), Maroun Chidiac (Bus 6), Josline Tannous, George Sassine, George Abou-Antoun (Bus 8), Cathy Layoun and Simon Layoun (Early Bus 567). Bus Prefects are present on buses to ensure the safety of students travelling to and from the College. We kindly remind parents to please address your children regarding the importance of safety and good behaviour on the bus. Failure to abide by the College's bus policy will result in the confiscation of bus passes.

New uniform – It was great to see many students wearing the new uniforms



CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulation to Suzie Farah in Year 12 who won the FACS HSC YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP worth \$2000 for 2015 for the Western Sydney area. The funds will be used on education related expenses to assist Suzie to complete her HSC successfully. Once again, Congratulations to Suzie.

Congratulations to Gabrielle Baker in Yr 7 who will be trialling classes in Yr 9 due to above average academic capabilities. We wish Gabrielle all the best in her accelerated classes.

Congratulations to our HSC 2014 students. 14 students scored an ATAR over 80. – We celebrated their success with a Mass celebrated by His Excellency Bishop Antoine-Charbel Tarabay. This was followed by a morning tea with staff. Below are some of the great results achieved by our students. Stephanie Hatem 97.50; Marina Sabat 95.05; Jackie Zaiter 94.95; Michael Khoury 88.30; Collette El-Hallal 87.60; Karina Boustani 87.00; Justine Sassine 86.90; Marina Raffoul 86.55; Maryanne Moubarak 85.35; Sarah Hatem 85.05; Amanda Saliba 84.00; Claudia Brais 81.10; Justine Fares 81.00; Jessica Youssef 80.10



University placements for 2014 HSC class – We saw a total of 64.62% of the students commencing universities this year, an increase of 8.17% in comparison to the 2013 cohort. Students were accepted into University of Sydney, University of Technology Sydney, Australian Catholic University and Macquarie University. Students have been accepted into Bachelors of Engineering, Medical Sciences, Property Administration, Sports Science, Radiography, Laws, Occupational Therapy, Applied Finance and Economics and Education among others. 36% of the students have already commenced their courses at Colleges and TAFE, pursuing Diploma in Childcare, Plumbing, Hospitality, Art and Design, and Construction and Project Management. Congratulations to 2014 cohort and we will wish them well for the future. – Ms Kumar



PARENT CORNER

Parent Notes - Please ensure the following notes are returned:

Medical Updates - Please ensure that you update your child's medical records so that we are providing care based in their current needs. All Asthma and Anaphylaxis plans must be submitted to the College office no later than Friday 20th Feb. After this date College records will indicate a 'no return'.

Photo Video note - Please return by 20th Feb. Only students with signed exemptions will be recorded.

Collection Notice - This was distributed for your information and does not need to be returned.

Parent Induction Meeting - All parents wishing to volunteer in classrooms or during PA activities are required to attend an induction meeting held Tuesday 17th Feb. Please return your note if you are able to attend.

Secondary Open Day on 24th March from 9-10:30am and 2-3pm. This will be open to all parents and to the outside community. You are invited to come and see the excellent work being done in Secondary.

Adjusting to Secondary - Yr 7 students are settling into a new phase in their life. This can be an overwhelming time with many social, academic and physical changes. As parents you can help your child adjust. Some simple strategies that may assist:

1. *Talk to them regularly* – Ask them about their day; what they did; what they enjoyed or didn't enjoy; any new friends they made.
2. *Listen to them* – when your son or daughter is talking to you, make sure you're actively listening to them. Show them that you are interested and care about what they are saying; pay attention.
3. *Normalise their emotions & reassure them* – let them know that it's ok if they feel nervous, anxious or a bit scared to be in high school. Acknowledge that it's a very different environment to primary school but reassure them that you are there to support them as are their teachers.
4. *Get involved* – if you are able to, become involved as a volunteer at school – know who their friends are; know what their favourite subject is and who their favourite teacher is.

If you notice that your child is continuing to struggle after a few months then access the support services available at the College – Year Coordinator, Welfare Coordinator or College Psychologist.

School Zone Offences as of Feb 2015: Below are traffic offences that occur at school zones. Parents please be courteous whenever you drive to the College to drop off or pick up your children. Offences include: Not stopping at red light; Approaching children's crossing too quickly to stop; Not giving way to pedestrian on crossing; Disobeying hand-held stop sign at crossing; Driving using mobile phone; Disobeying no stopping sign; Disobeying no parking sign; Exceeding speed by 10 km/ph and over.



Merrylands Maulers 2015 Registrations will be held on Sunday 8th February 10-2pm with a free Football Clinic featuring Parramatta Eels Players from 11-12pm - With another registration day on Sunday 22nd of February 10-2pm. Then training will be held on every Friday from the 28th February at Nemesia Street Park Greystanes at 6-7pm. For more information please contact Phillip Fahd 0417 265 241 or Tony Mardini 0414 351 221.

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

Website: <http://www.mchf.nsw.edu.au/> Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ololcollegesydneypref=hl>