

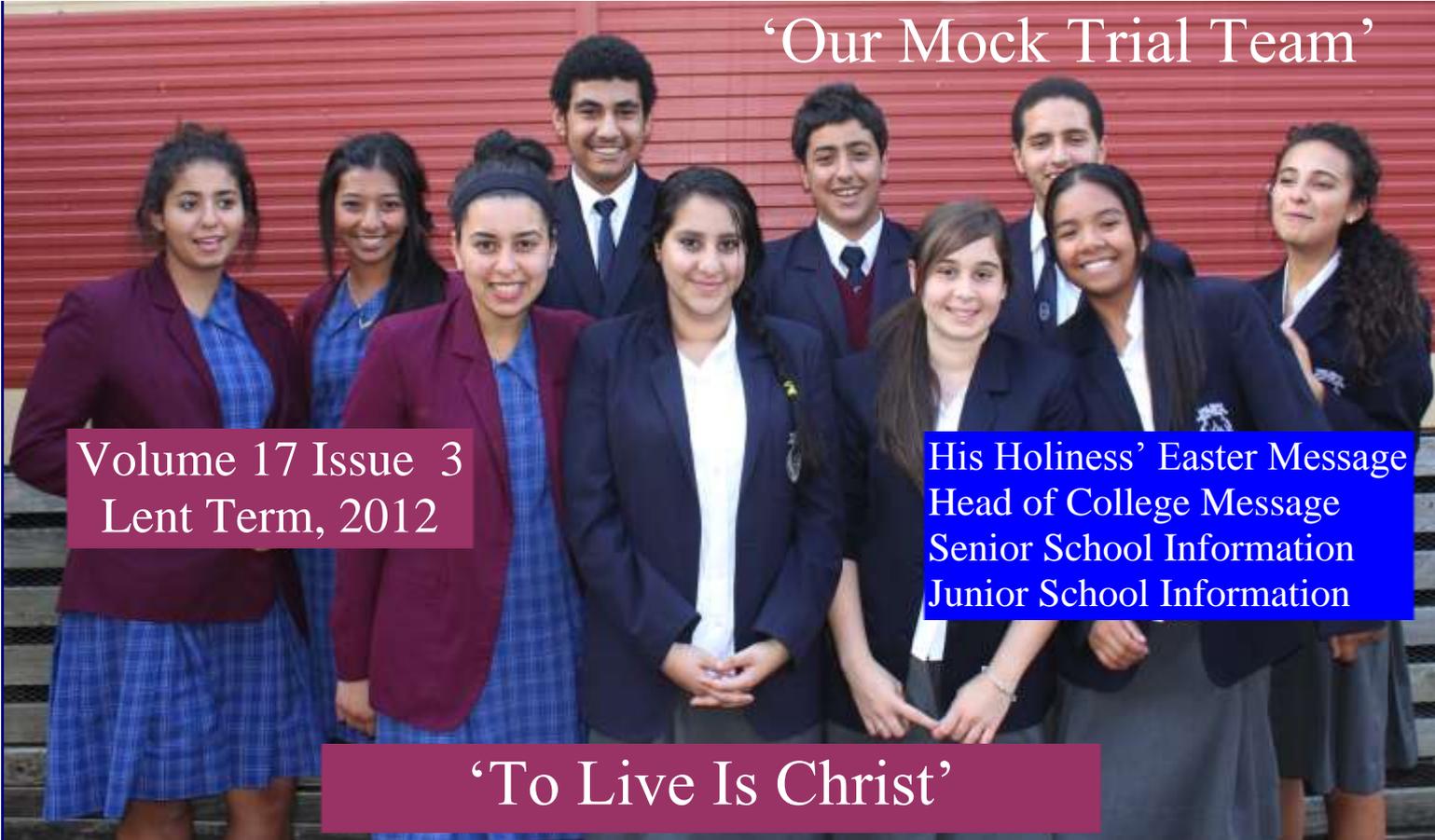


St. Mark's College Newsletter

Coptic Orthodox Diocese of Sydney and Affiliated Regions



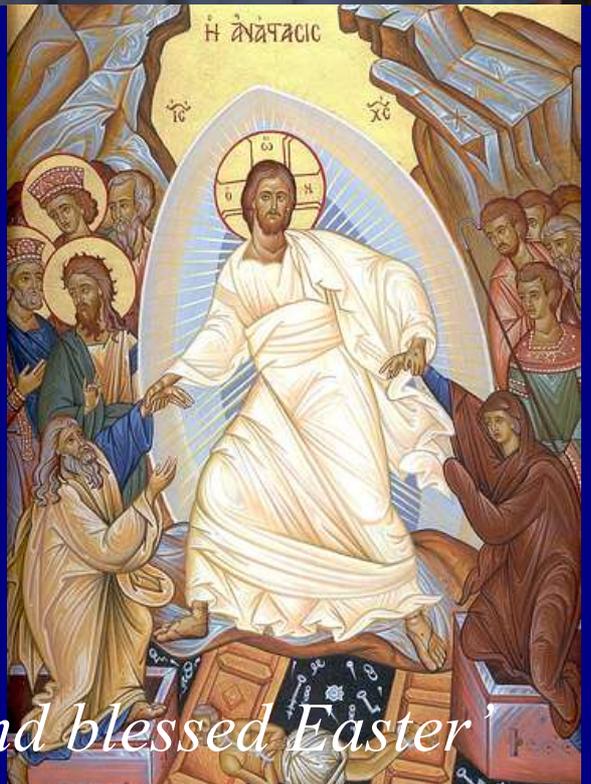
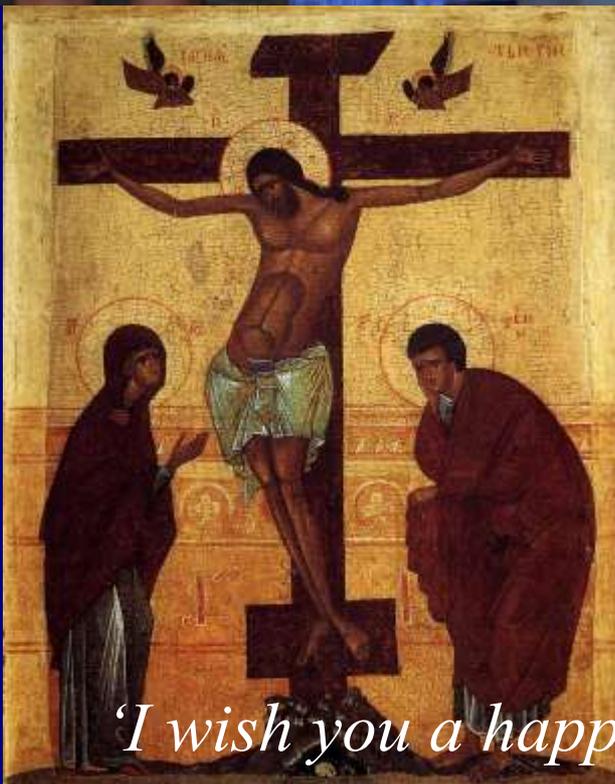
'Our Mock Trial Team'



Volume 17 Issue 3
Lent Term, 2012

His Holiness' Easter Message
Head of College Message
Senior School Information
Junior School Information

'To Live Is Christ'



I wish you a happy and blessed Easter



St. Mark's College Newsletter

Coptic Orthodox Diocese of Sydney and Affiliated Regions

Friday 5th April, 2012



Volume 17 Edition 3

ABN: 67 796 481 099



Pentecost Term

Staff Professional Development Day	Mon 23 rd April
Lessons Commence for Yrs K-12, 8.30am	Tues 24 th April
ANZAC Day Assembly	Tues 24 th April
ANZAC Day Public Holiday School closed	Wed 25 th April
Semester 1 Examinations Yrs 11 & 12 start	Mon 7 th May
Semester 1 Examinations Yrs 7 – 10 start	Mon 14 th May
Pupil Free Day Yrs7 – 12	Fri 18 th May
Inaugural Alumni Evening, Sport Centre, 6.00pm	Sun 20 th May
Term concludes	Friday 22 nd June

Theotokos Term

Staff Professional Development Day	Mon 16 th July
Lessons Commence for Yrs K-12, 8.30am	Tues 17 th July
Term concludes	Fri 21 st Sept

Advent Term

Lessons Commence for Yrs P-12, 8.30am	Mon 8 th Oct
Term concludes	Wed 5 th Dec
Staff Professional Development	Thur 6 th Dec
Staff Professional Development	Fri 8 th Dec
School Office Hours During Easter Break	9.00am – 3.00pm
School Office reopens from Tuesday	17 th April

Progressive House Points

ST ANTHONY	ST DEMIANA	ST GEORGE	ST MARINA
1888	1291	1392	1229

House points are updated weekly as students accumulate points for their House. This can include a variety of activities from sport, co-curricular, behaviour etc. Keep the contributions flowing.

Parents and Friends' Meeting

Tuesday 8th May, 7.30pm
Fundraiser: Planning for Mothers' Day Stall
Venue: Room D4
Come along and fundraise for our children!

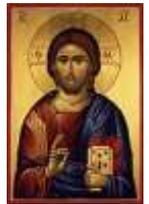
Reminder:

School Fees for Pentecost Term
due Friday 20th April, 2012
College Office re-opens Tuesday 17th April, 9:00 – 3:00pm
Lent Term fees that are overdue will incur a late fee.

The Lord's Message

'The Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And after He is killed, He will rise the third day.'

Mark 9:31



H.H. Pope Shenouda III

Lecture

I would like to congratulate you all with the coming of Passion Week. The days of Passion Week are feast days because passion for us is a feast. We do not just celebrate the feasts during the seasons, but also we celebrate Passion Week which, for us, is a feast.

The days of the Passion Week are not just holy but they are the holiest of days during the entire year. It is called the days of treasure in that one can gather throughout this week the greatest spiritual treasures during his life. For this reason, I would like to invite you withdraw by yourselves and contemplate this week. The Friday concluding Lent is an opportunity for each person to think how he benefited during the forty holy days of Lent. And if those days have passed as normal days, then that person must think how he will benefit from Passion Week. He who remains unaffected by Passion Week is a person who is extremely cold in his spirituality.

The Passion Week is a holy week with holy memories, passionate hymns, wondrous readings from the Old and New Testaments, and a sharing of events during the life of the Lord Christ. It also has sermons added to the readings from many saints, and numerous prayers and petitions before God. During this week, we follow the life of Christ day-by-day and hour by hour. For this reason, I urge to prepare yourselves to benefit from this week.

Unfortunately, I would say that many of you, when it comes to Passion Week, even though it is the holiest and most blessed of days in our spiritual life, struggle with it because it is exam season. I do not ask you to skip your exams, but you must preserve your heart and memory so that your heart and thoughts are with our Lord Christ during these days.

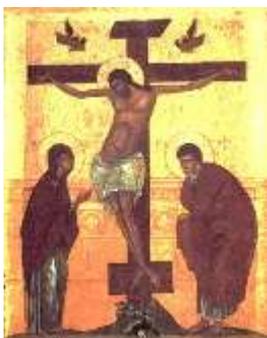
The Friday concluding Lent has for the faithful the unction of the sick, to heal the soul, the body and the spirit. The Church has instituted very important establishments for the faithful that cannot be missed. It performs the unction of the sick with

holy oil that has been prayed upon during this Friday, and during the morning of Bright Saturday. It also provides the washing of the basin with holy water during Covenant Thursday, and also the general funeral service after Palm Sunday. So, the faithful are benefited with oil, prayer, funeral service and the palms of Sunday. I urge you to benefit as much as you can from these holy days. Those who have not had communion during the entire year, do their utmost to have communion during Covenant Thursday because that liturgy is the origin of all liturgies in the entire apostolic church throughout the world.

There are very important liturgies during this week—the liturgy concluding Lent, the liturgy of Palm Sunday, the liturgy of Covenant Thursday and the liturgy of the Feast of the Resurrection. This is in addition to the liturgy of Lazarus Saturday and Bright Saturday. So, consider and prepare yourself and your feelings about this week. Know that Christ crucified did not just carry our sins, but also carried our hunger and sufferings. So, we bring our sins and place them on Christ's cross, and bring our problems, our pains, our sufferings, our hunger, and our tribulations—all putting them on the cross.

Don't let your days during Passion Week be all petition to the Lord, but also remember all the blessings of the Lord so that you may thank Him. So, during your metanoias during Passion Week, prepare your petitions and problems to present them before the Lord.

Let this week be full of your own personal meditations. If you lack them, then we have published many books on this subject so that you can read them. But it is important to have your own personal meditations every day during this week. For example, after the Friday concluding Lent, meditate upon the love God has shown Lazarus. Or meditate upon the tears of Christ for Lazarus. Or, His words that "our friend Lazarus has slept." One could say, "If Lazarus was Your friend, O Lord, then I am far worse than Lazarus in my sleep! If Lazarus had only slept four days, then I've been sleeping in my sins so much longer!" You should have your own meditations in Christ. For instance, you can meditate upon the power of Christ raising Lazarus from the dead, which is also a symbol for repentance because repentance is a resurrection from the death of sin.



Passion Week requires a concentration on the passion of Christ and the daily readings. I wish you would have your own book to write your spiritual thoughts during this week. If the passion of Christ is the result of our sins, then let this be a week of repentance. Because if Christ suffered because of our sins then we must repent from our sins so

that He no longer suffers from our new sins. Focus on this repentance. Of course, repentance is always required, but during these holy days each sin has its own consequence. And sins during the Passion Week are far worse, just as a sin in a holy place or during a holy time is far worse than normal. Similarly, the sins of sons of Eli the priest were horrible because they sinned during holy times and in holy places.

Passion Week is a bell—ringing in our ears to wake us from our sleep. Each sin that we have committed is a cause of pain. Do not think that the passion of Christ was the beating, the whipping or the nails. The real suffering of Christ was His bearing our sins and, consequently, wrath of God. As such, let Passion Week be a week of repentance.

Passion Week is a week of asceticism. Many people eat nothing during this week other than bread and salt. They stay away from all cooking during this week, as much as they can. Of course, each one is up to his own capabilities. But the person who falls in the desires of food has lost the benefits of the week. And the more one stays away from the pleasures of eating and drinking, the more one can stay away from the pleasures of other sins. Take the days of Passion Week as practice for asceticism, discipline, repentance and suffering. Yes, suffering as well because the Apostle Paul says, "that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death." (**Philippians 3:10**). So, put this phrase always before you during Passion Week: "the fellowship of His sufferings." We don't just celebrate the passion of Christ, but we also have a fellowship of His sufferings. Just as the Book says, "Therefore let us go forth to Him, outside the camp, bearing His reproach." (**Hebrews 13:13**). "Reproach" here means the cross, so each one bears his own cross.

Perhaps the cross you bear is to push yourself to get rid of certain bad habits that you have, or bad thoughts that you have let your mind accommodate. Push yourself to purify yourself from all this. We need all these days to be holy, until we rejoice in the resurrection of Christ, and rejoice also in the fellowship of His suffering. We are resurrected in Christ, just as He was resurrected. We should share in Christ's suffering and His resurrection. We should also share in the stations of His passion, step by step. Even the black veils in Church grants us a special spiritual sense that these days are not days of pleasure or carelessness but are instead very serious.

The important advice I would also give to you is simply that your behaviour outside Church is the same inside Church. Inside Church one finds holiness, meditations, readings and hymns. But as soon as a person leaves Church he forgets all of this and becomes careless just as if he did not benefit anything. Passion Week is not limited to inside Church, but is instead has special order to benefit inside Church as well as a benefit to be preserved outside Church. I do not say you should always frown outside and talk to no one, but in your dealings with people do not let your spirituality be lost. Satan during Passion Week calls his Satanic warriors to devise a plan outside Church. There is no way that Satan can do anything inside Church as he hears the hymns of Agios in the mournful tune or the psalm Pekethronos, both of which utterly drive him crazy. So, he instructs his soldiers to wait outside the church so that and as soon as a person leaves, they try to steal what was benefited from Church. He sends someone inappropriately clothed to steal the eye or he starts a problem to drown a person in it, so that meditations are lost. He is the devil; he's experienced in this.

Believe me, even sometimes he enters the church as well. You might even see in some churches fights about who holds the cross, or who prays the psalm—worse than even outside.

Keep your spirituality, just like the righteousness man who brings forth out of his heart the good treasure, which means that he has been laying his spirituality as a valuable treasure in his heart. The Bible also says, “Your word I have hidden in my heart.” (Psalm 119:11) Your words are hidden so that no one, including Satan, will steal them or its spirituality from the heart. It is hidden from evil and Satan as a treasure so that no one will grab them.

Another advice I would like to offer—what you benefit from Passion Week to do not loose them in the resurrection and the spring that follows. The angels of Passion Week are at war with the devils of the fifty days of spring that follow the resurrection. Those devils don’t war with us as we are fasting and in the height of our spirituality. Instead, they wait until we have broken our fast to pounce upon us. All the asceticism that you have practiced might be easily lost during the feast and the fifty days that follow. Preserve the spiritual treasure which you have gained during Passion Week during the days of the feast. I do not suggest that you should continue to fast; you should eat, but without excess. Do not lose yourself in eating.

Let this Passion Week be holy while it lasts and afterwards. The depth of the spiritual life is that it is spiritual in its time, but its effects last afterwards.

Message from the Head of College The Blessings of Easter

Lent Term has quickly come to an end and what a busy and productive term it was. The Senior School Staff have worked diligently preparing our students for the upcoming Semester 1 Examinations in Pentecost Term and the Junior School Staff have worked towards the introduction and implementation of a new approach to Literacy and Numeracy.

Both the Senior and Junior Schools have had their swimming carnivals, inter-school sport has been well under way with some encouraging sporting results and Year 7 had their annual camp.. Our students have been studiously building upon their foundation skills and knowledge and have accepted the challenges with enthusiasm and dedication.

In all, it’s been a most rewarding term and I’m pleased to say that everyone has made a positive contribution to the outcomes of this term.

I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to everyone.

Easter Message

Easter is a blessed time where we reflect upon ourselves and how our Lord Jesus Christ plays an important role in our precious lives. He suffered greatly upon the cross for our salvation and we gain strength from Him in dealing with the trials and tribulations of our daily life. This is the time of year when we are with our family, in church and in prayer during Pascha Week, uniting us in spirit and soul seeking for the guidance and love of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. It’s a time for renewal and reflection.

I wish to extend to the whole St Mark’s College Family a holy and blessed Easter and I pray that everyone returns safely for Pentecost Term.

God bless Him, as He is always by our side.

Parent-Teacher Interviews

In the last two weeks of Lent Term, the Senior School held two evenings for parents to discuss their child’s progress and to prepare for the lead up, to the Semester 1 Examinations. It was wonderful to see the majority of parents attend and had the opportunity to discuss the content covered in class, as well as receive an update on their child’s performance.

It was disappointing though, that in Years 11 and 12 not all parents attended. Particularly those parents whose children could have benefited from the interview process.

I would like to thank all the parents who attended and extend my gratitude to all the teachers who gave up their time so generously, on both nights.

Tutoring Part 2

Tutoring seems to be an integral part to a student’s armoury for learning today, but in the past was only utilised by those students who needed assistance, as they were unable to understand a concept or had great difficulty in delivering an appropriate response to a set question.

The modern day approach to tutoring is to gain an edge on the student’s competition. This has manifested into a strategy much like the ones used in a computer game. Where manoeuvring or jockeying for positions are common practice as well as looking for approaches that can be tested or exploited within the current HSC Policies and Procedures. *These include:*

- 1. Not partaking in the total life of the College**
Sport, co-curricular and Extra-curricular activities are essential to have on a students resume. A full resume brings future prospects
- 2. Not attending school regularly**
This can lead to non-compliance
- 3. Acceleration in One or More Courses**
Defeats the purpose of attaining the best possible ATAR
- 4. Seeking help from tutors beyond normal acceptable practices**
This can lead to malpractice and dire consequences
- 5. Looking for alternative pathways to attain an HSC outside normal practices**
Defeats the purpose of attaining the best possible ATAR due to a lack of pastoral support

There is a general belief that being accelerated in a course in Year 11 will maximise a student’s ATAR, as it provides more time in Year 12 to be devoted to a lesser number of courses. Acceleration is not open to everyone, only to those few who are truly gifted. If someone is good in a subject due to excessive tutoring, that requires him/her to devote endless time towards this course at the detriment of other courses, is

not the true definition of a gifted child or 'Giftedness'. Students who undertake a path like this, take a risk, that may actually lead to attaining a lower ATAR rather than a higher one. Students who forsake the in-depth study of their English, Business Studies, PDHPE, etc to concentrate on an accelerated course, rarely achieve their best in these courses because their devotion to the accelerated course has stolen precious time away, that is required to build firm foundations in Year 11 for the extended launch into Year 12 content. The NSW Board of studies supports this view.

If a student wishes to maximise their ATAR he/she should spend as much time as possible on English. Every spare moment should be allotted to this course as it will benefit all their courses and in the end, maximise their ATAR to the fullest.

Acceleration at St Mark's is predominantly in Mathematics and it's done over five (5) years, from Years 7 to 11. In other words, two (2) years are not crammed into one (1). That's why it work's at St Mark's College with limited impact on other courses, but at times there are still a few hiccups along the way. ***The school's policy is that students who don't perform in their other courses are at risk of being removed from the accelerated programme and returned to the normal programme.***

Therefore, Tutoring can sometimes be a means to an end, but it may not bring out the very best performance in a student, but can be a long-term hindrance to their overall development and future success. After all, the majority of students do the HSC the traditional way, without acceleration and succeed without the excessive demands and additional pressure that bares through accelerated learning from a tutor.

Maximising Your ATAR Part 2

If a student wishes to maximize their ATAR they should consider what the majority of students are doing. That is to undertake a study in Year 12, beyond 10 units. Approximately 25,000 places are offered at universities within NSW every year and the majority of students who fill those places are those who do more than 10 units. ***Is this a surprise? To our students it is!*** The students who undertake more than 10 units of study are our competitors and they are very strategic in their approach to the HSC. Instead of acceleration or limiting their courses they do the opposite.

Why?

1. They understand that having only 10 units limits their ability in having a safety net, in case they don't do well in a course.
2. They broaden their knowledge base and pre-requisite offerings for entry to university.
3. By broadening one's knowledge it enables them to cope with the early years at university.
4. They prefer the challenge of taking on other activities that embellishes their learning.
5. Heightens university prospects for attaining early entry or scholarships.

Universities are also looking for students who undertake courses like Medicine, VET Science, Engineering,

Accounting, etc to have additional life skills. Therefore students need to be involved in extra-curricular and co-curricular activities both inside and outside the school. Activities like Mock Trial, Debating, Toastmasters, Tournament of Minds, Sport, choir, drama, orchestra, camps, Duke of Edinburgh Awards Scheme, etc or taking on a position of responsibility like School, House or Sport Captain as they are beneficial in building up a student's character reference for future employment prospects, compared to a person who has ***only*** an impressive **ATAR. Universities and employers today are looking for the full package.**

If hundred (100) students apply for university entry for 50 available places for medicine and all have the same ATAR, what distinguishes them from each other? Sometimes we lose focus of what we need to do to prepare children for the future. Acceleration is not the answer, but the skills we attain along the way at home, school and in the world generally will arm our children with future success. The well-rounded student will offer a great deal more to society, and every university and employer knows that well!

*God bless,
Mr Rekouniotis
Head of College*

Winter Uniform

I would like to remind parents that Pentecost and Theotokos Terms (Terms 2 and 3) require all students in Years K-12 to wear their full school and sports winter uniform. For students in Years 6 - 12 this means wearing the College blazer to and from school in an appropriate and respectful manner. On sports days, students must wear their winter sports uniform including the full sports tracksuit and appropriate white sport shoes (OH&S).

I ask parents to contact the uniform shop before their child returns to school to purchase any item of uniform that they require.

Students at St Mark's College should be extremely proud of their school and must demonstrate this to the wider community through the manner in which they wear their College uniform.

I thank you for supporting the College in upholding the policies and expectations at all times.

*Mr David
Deputy Head of College*

Curriculum Matters

Semester One Examinations

The Semester One Examinations are not that far off and I remind students that they needed to have planned their approach to maximising their study time. The examination period will take place as follows;

***Years 11 & 12 Term 2 Weeks 3 & 4 (7th May – 18th May)
Years 7 – 10 Term 2 Week 4 (14th May – 18th May)***

We wish all Senior Students the very best as they prepare for their upcoming examinations and look forward to seeing students improve on their results from last year.

*God bless,
Mr Chahrozian
Curriculum Co-ordinator*

Senior School Sport

As term 1 comes to end, St Marks has once again done a wonderful job in representing itself throughout the broader sporting community. From tennis to triathlon, basketball to futsal, rugby league to touch football, our College continues to compete at the highest levels. Again I would like to congratulate and thank all students for their wonderful efforts, and I urge all students to continue to strive for excellence on the sporting field.

NSW All Schools Futsal Regional Championships



The Opens boys - From left to right (back row): Kyriloos Mansour, Andrew Nessiem, Matthew Moussad, (Mr Helene), Jono Tanios, Milun Miletich
(front row): Peter Nawar, Alain Tawfik, Stephen Spirou, Marc Bastawros

St Marks in a Futsal frenzy!

This year St Marks was entered into 4 divisions as they took to the courts at Bankstown Basketball stadium for the 2012 NSW All Schools Futsal Regional Championships. The College entered teams into the 14s boys, 16 girls, 16 boys, and the opens boys.

On Monday the 26th of March, the 14s boys began proceedings by producing some outstanding results. After finishing first in their group, including a win over the much favoured St Spyridon College, the boys entered the semi-final stage full of confidence. However things did not begin well with star player Milan Bosnjak ruled out of the match due to illness. This seemed to have an impact on the mind set of the boys, as they were defeated by the eventual winners of the competition, East Hills Boys' High School. Overall it was a wonderful effort by the boys, who were the youngest team in the competition, yet performed exceptionally well.

Wednesday 28th of March saw the 16s Girls and Boys in action. Again, St Marks was to produce some incredible results, with both teams progressing through to the semi-final stage of competition. For the girls, St Marks got off to a slow start going to down against Malek Fahed College. The girls rallied well and managed to win their second match in an epic battle 1-0 against the highly favoured Thomas Hassall Anglican College. The girls were then in a must win situation



to make the finals, where they managed a remarkable result, winning the match 5-0 to progress through to the semi-final stage of competition. The girls battled hard but could not match the very well drilled St Spyridon College, boasting a plethora of representative players, who also went on to win the competition.



Left: 16s girls in action against St Spyridon College (Monica Gerges, Monica Shenouda and Natalie Crofts in defence)

Right: (from left to right) Sandra Fawzy, Martina Bastawros, Jemimiah Ghaly, Natalie Crofts, Angelique Assad, Monica Gerges, Anastasia Sereti, Yostina Shenouda, Monica Shenouda

The boys also rolled through the groups stages well, and had a mountain to climb in their semi-final against John Edmonson High School, who finished 2nd in last year's Futsal state championships. John Edmonson had cruised through their group, winning 3 of their 4 games by margins of greater than 10 goals.

Our boys were gallant in defeat, pushing John Edmonson all the way, and one stage with the score at 4-3, John Edmonson seemed somewhat rattled. Our boys eventually went down 6 goals to 3 in a great game of Futsal.



Left: 16s boys before their semi-final match against John Edmonson.

Right: (From right to left) Peter Atta, Chris Spirou, Cyril Shenouda, Mark Gorgy, Stephen Spirou, Mina Abdelmessieh, Anthony Moussad, Anthony Sarofeem, Moses Rocha, Abraam Fouad.

The last day of competition was to take place on Thursday 29th of March. This was to be the most challenging, yet most exciting day of competition, with our senior boys being placed in the 'group of death'. In sporting terms, this refers to the group which boasts a number of teams who could potentially win the competition. The group consisted of 3 teams that made it to the NSW State Championships last year. Of the 3, one of the teams finished 2nd overall at state level. A daunting task indeed.

Not to be out done by our other teams performances throughout the week, the senior boys definitely stepped things up. With a courageous win over St Euphemia College in the first game, the boys would have a difficult task taking

on Belmore Boys' High School, who were tipped to be one of the top teams of the competition. Our boys showed tremendous courage, spirit and determination to turn the tables against their more favoured opponents, with a wonderful 2-0 victory.

Beaten in a tight game against last year's state championship runners up, John Edmonson High, our boys matched up against a fierce and highly skilful Liverpool Boys' High. In what was a very physical battle, our boys went down against a quality outfit.

Overall, a wonderful week for the College, who made it to the semi-final stage of every division entered. Congratulations to all the students involved.



Senior boys in action

St Mark's in AICES Regional Touch Football



(From right to left) Mrs Holland, Marina Mansour, Martina Bastawros, George Abdelsayed, Abanoub Tawadros, Stephen Spirou, Chris Spirou, Soteria Magar

Congratulations to the above group of students who represented the SWISSA Zone at the AICES Touch Football Championships on Tuesday 3rd of April. All students competed extremely well as the SWISSA Zone boasted a highly successful squad in all competitions. Well done to all involved!

SWISSA Inter-School Summer Basketball Results

Junior Girls' Basketball Final League Table

Team	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Georges River	5	0	0	200	32	168	15
Redeemer	5	0	1	149	78	71	15
All Saints'	3	0	3	107	151	-44	9
St Euphemia	2	1	3	54	95	-41	7
St Marouns	2	0	4	77	105	-28	6
St Mark's	1	1	4	42	132	-90	4
Syd. Adventist	1	0	4	44	80	-36	3

R1	Georges River	36-4	St Marks
R2	Redeemer	44-2	St Marks
R3	St Marks	4-4	St Euphemia
R4	St Marouns	14-6	St Marks
R5	Sydney Adventist	0-20	St Marks

R6	St Marks	6-34	All Saints
Final	Georges River	27-4	Redeemer

Intermediate Girls' Basketball Final League Table

Team	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Georges River	5	0	0	224	35	189	15
St Euphemia	4	0	1	131	68	63	12
All Saints'	3	0	2	64	99	-35	9
St Marouns	2	0	3	61	130	-69	6
St Mark's	1	0	4	58	125	-67	3
Syd. Adventist	0	0	5	9	90	-81	0

R1	St Euphemia	29-4	St Marks
R2	Georges River	48-4	St Marks
R3	St Marouns	20-8	St Marks
R4	Sydney Adventist	0-20	St Marks
R5	St Marks	22-28	All Saints
Final	Georges River	52-8	St Euphemia

Senior Girls' Basketball Final League Table

Team	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
All Saints'	4	0	0	125	40	85	12
St Euphemia	3	0	1	88	39	49	9
St Mark's	2	0	2	41	73	-32	6
St Marouns	1	0	3	37	66	-29	3
Syd. Adventist	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Redeemer	0	0	4	36	109	-73	0

R1	All Saints	28-11	St Marks
R2	St Marks	6-25	St Euphemia
R3	St Marouns	10-12	St Marks
R4	St Marks	12-10	Redeemer
Final	All Saints	14-11	St Euphemia

Junior Boys' Basketball Final League Table

Team	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
St Euphemia	6	0	0	261	53	208	18
St Marouns	5	0	1	120	95	25	15
All Saints'	4	0	2	173	58	115	12
St Mark's	2	0	4	95	119	-24	6
Georges River	2	0	3	47	139	-92	6
Redeemer	1	0	5	42	192	-150	3
Syd. Adventist	0	0	5	17	99	-82	0

R1	Georges River	14-11	St Marks
R2	Redeemer	2-16	St Marks
R3	St Marks	17-29	St Euphemia
R4	St Marouns	26-25	St Marks
R5	Sydney Adventist	0-20	St Marks
R6	St Marks	6-48	All Saints
FINAL	St Euphemia	vs	St Marouns

Intermediate Boys Basketball Final League Table

Team	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Georges River	4	0	0	151	78	73	12
St Marouns	3	0	1	97	56	41	9
All Saints'	2	0	2	78	91	-13	6
St Euphemia	1	0	3	88	109	-21	3
St Mark's	0	0	4	27	107	-80	0

R1	St Euphemia	25-10	St Marks
R2	Georges River	39-10	St Marks
R3	St Marouns	31-3	St Marks
R4	St Marks	4-12	All Saints
Final	Georges River	30-15	St Marouns

Senior Boys Basketball Final League Table

Team	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
St Marouns	5	0	0	159	88	71	15
St Euphemia	4	0	1	127	77	50	12
All Saints'	3	0	2	143	76	67	9
St Mark's	2	0	3	96	80	16	6
Sydney Adventist	1	0	4	67	131	-64	3
Redeemer	0	0	5	23	163	-140	0

R1	All Saints	19-10	St Marks
R2	St Marks	18-19	St Euphemia
R3	Sydney Adventist	13-25	St MarksCourt
R4	St Marouns	25-10	St Marks
R5	St Marks	33-4	Redeemer
Finals	St Marouns	28-23	St Euphemia

Yours in Sport,
Mr D. Helene
(Head of PDHPE & Sport)

Junior School News

Assessments

Successful schools engage students in all aspects of their learning. There are many strategies for accomplishing this. As a classroom teacher, how do we ensure that the information shared in classroom discussions and taught provides a balanced picture of the student's strengths and weaknesses? The answer to this is to balance both summative and formative classroom assessment practices and information gathering about student learning.

Assessment is a huge topic that encompasses everything from state-wide accountability tests such as NAPLAN tests to everyday classroom tests. As educators or parents we should frame our view of testing as assessment and that assessment is simply information. The more information we have about students or our children, the clearer the picture we have about achievement or where gaps may occur.

Research shows that when teachers effectively use formative and summative assessment practices, students who typically perform at the lower level of achievement show the greatest gains. Engaged students take ownership of their learning and become the centre of their own success.

For Teachers, more frequent assessments can:

- Understand why assessment is a key component of instruction and cannot be separated from the teaching and learning process.
- Recognize the various methods of classroom assessment and appropriate uses for each during the information gathering process.
- Realize the importance of engaging students in the assessment process.
- Reflect on current practice and discover ways to improve classroom assessment quality.

- Provide short-term feedback about the day-to-day learning and teaching process at a time when it is still possible to make mid-course corrections.

For students, more frequent assessments can:

- Help them become better monitors of their own learning.
- Help break down feelings of anonymity, and to prepare them for tests such HSC from a young age.
- Point out the need to alter study skills.
- Provide concrete evidence that the instructor cares about learning.

Classroom assessment is both a teaching approach and a set of techniques. The approach is that the more you know about what and how students are learning, the better you can plan learning activities to structure your teaching.

Our children have a long journey ahead of them, the more we know the more we can support them. May the Lord grant us all the knowledge and the wisdom to cater for our students.

Mrs Shehata
Dean of the Junior School

How does homework benefit your child?

While homework has always been under scrutiny, researched and debated for decades, its position in education policies around the world remains strong. Most Australian children in primary and secondary school are set regular homework. Associate professor Richard Walker believes that homework in the "uninspiring" form that most students receive it is



of little benefit. He recommends that skills of self-regulation must be learned - kids are not born with them - so what happens when a parent is not around to provide that assistance? Without the support of someone, the exercise of doing homework is of little benefit to the child," he says. He adds that there is no relationship between the amount of time spent on homework each night and learning outcomes. "Problems arise for many families because they don't have homework systems in place," Walker says. He adds that children need help setting up a pattern of when and where they do their homework, which needs to be built into the family schedule.

Benefits of Homework

Once children receive assistance setting up a pattern of when and where they do their homework, they will enjoy the many benefits it brings.

Homework builds up an initiative in students. They initiate study. Teachers get the schoolwork done from students whereas students initiate doing homework. There is a sense of responsibility associated with completing their homework. Children feel responsible for finishing homework and accomplished when they do it.

Another benefit of homework is that students develop time management. They start allotting their time to study and play

thus learning to complete their scheduled tasks in the time they have. Moreover, they learn to do things on their own. They manage their time and complete their work independently. Homework encourages self-discipline in students.

Homework gives students a chance to amend their mistakes and improve on their weaknesses. Homework that gradually increases every year enhances academic achievement. Students score better on class tests. Homework helps in the development of an attitude to explore and learn. It thus improves their academic results. Homework definitely gives students the practice of what they learn in school and practice makes them perfect! The amount of homework governs its benefits. Homework should not become a punishment. Studies have brought out certain rules regarding the amount of homework to be given to students of particular ages. Homework manifests its benefits only if it is given in right amounts and taken in the right spirit. Children should not be burdened with homework and expect them to do well in studies. Homework should be proportionate to their age and mental ability.

The motivation offered by homework should be accompanied by parent involvement. Homework serves as a link between the school and home. Parents must strengthen this link by supporting their children in their homework. Parents must take interest in the homework given to their children. Parents who show concern and interest in their children's school activities, thereby promote education and in return great academic success for their children.

Please do not hesitate to speak with your child's teacher if you feel your child is struggling with their homework. Your child's teacher will be happy to set homework that caters for your child.

Mrs Nada Deputy Dean of Junior School

Junior Fun Run

It was a beautiful day, sun was out and K-6 students were excited to participate in their annual Fun Run carnival. The Fun Run took place at South Park, Chipping Norton on the 5th of April, 2012. It was great to see students encourage one another and especially congratulate each other at the end of their races. Students from K-6 thoroughly enjoyed the activities that was organised for them throughout the day. They participated in activities such as continuous cricket, soccer, egg and spoon relays and much more.



This is the first year that we award House points for participation and for the top 5 finishers of their race. Saint Anthony's House group are to be congratulated on their fine effort as they are this year's champions winning by a convincing 61 points from second placed St. Demiana. The high school helpers were very helpful and I would like to thank them for their help throughout the day. The teachers that helped run the carnival were magnificent as usual and I thank them for their effort and support throughout all of our carnivals. It was a great way to end the term and see that everyone had an enjoyable day. The age champions are also to be congratulated on their superb effort in their respective races. Well done to all K-6 students who participated in this year's carnival and are encouraged to continue do so in future events. Who will be the Champions for 2013? Only time will tell!



Final Placings

1st	St Anthony	177
2nd	St Demiana	116
3rd	St Marina	93
4th	St George	73

Age Champions

8 boys	Joshua Fanous
9 boys	Marcus Boctor
10 boys	Mina Grace
11 boys	David Eskander
12 boys	Joseph Safi
8 girls	Monica Hanna
9 girls	Claudia Mankarious
10 girls	Martina Grace
11 girls	Jasmine Gadalla
12 girls	Monica Wilson

Thank you and God bless,

*Mr Nicola
K-6 Sport Co-ordinator*

Careers News

Undergraduate Medicine and Health Sciences Admission Test (UMAT)

UMAT is a 3 hour multiple-choice test used to assist with the selection of students into medicine, dentistry and health science degree programs.

UMAT2012 will be held on 25 July 2012. UMAT is offered once a year only.

Registrations for UMAT2012 will open early in April 2012. Registrations close at 5pm AEST on 1 June 2012. Late registrations will be accepted up to 5pm AEST on Friday 15 June 2012 on payment of a late fee of \$65 in addition to the registration fee of \$210. The online registration system will close at 5pm AEST on Friday 15 June 2012. **It will NOT be possible to register for UMAT 2012 after this time.**

There are two UMAT practice tests available for purchase. Practice Test 1 is included in the UMAT registration fee.

<http://umat.acer.edu.au>

Students need to download [2012 Information Booklet](#) from the website and to read this carefully. Information about UMAT is available in the [Quick Reference Guide](#)

UMAT Preparation

MedEntry www.medentry.edu.au

The National Institute of Education www.nie.edu.au

Professional Cadetships Australia

Year 12 students can apply for a cadetship with UBS, one of the world's leading banks.

Applications open: Monday 12th March.

Applications close: Wednesday 9th May

2013 Engineering and Technology Cadetships Program will be available soon.

<http://www.businesscadetships.com.au>

Experience UTS Day

A range of 25 workshops and info sessions from across our different course areas at UTS including: law, medicine, CSI and IT.

Date: Tuesday 3 & Wednesday 4 July 2012

Registration opens in June 2012.

Contact: future.students@uts.edu.au, Ph. (02) 9514 1711

<http://datasearch2.uts.edu.au/undergraduate/events/index.cfm>

Graduate Opportunities 2012 - out now!

Employer details, application deadlines, job requirements, E-books online at:

http://www.graduateopportunities.com/2012_go_directories

Undergraduate Opportunities 2012 available in July.

Career Information Booklets also available.

www.graduateopportunities.com

CSIRO Work Experience Programme 2012

Date: Applications close 30th March 2012.

<http://www.csiro.au/org/Work-Experience-Overview>

Apprenticeship and Traineeship Information Days

In 2011 there were 300 apprenticeships at the 'Get a Job Day' and 230 students booked into interviews – 80% of applicants passed the first stage.

2-Aug Campbelltown West's League Club

7-Aug Liverpool Liverpool Catholic Club

9-Aug Fairfield Cabravale Diggers Club

14-Aug Richmond The Richmond Club

21-Aug Bankstown Bankstown Sports Club

23-Aug Penrith Penrith R.S.L.Club

28-Aug Blacktown Blacktown R.S.L. Club

30-Aug Parramatta Parramatta R.S.L.Club

Contact: Chris Dunstan 02 9796 3655

or cm_d@bigpond.com

Charles Sturt University Upcoming Events

MyDay Communications and Sports Journalism

Bathurst Campus: Tuesday 8 May 2012

Courses showcased: Journalism, Public Relations, Theatre Media, Advertising, Commercial Radio and Sports Journalism.

MyDay Nursing and Paramedics

Bathurst Campus: Tuesday 15 May 2012

Courses showcased: Nursing and Clinical Practice (Paramedic).

MyDay Dentistry and Allied Health

Orange Campus: Monday 4 June 2012

Courses showcased: Dentistry, Physiotherapy, Pharmacy, Clinical Science and Oral Health (Therapy/Hygiene) **TBC**

MyDay Animal and Veterinary Science

Wagga Wagga Campus: Thurs 5 & Fri 6 July

This year Equine Science will be included along with Animal Science and Veterinary Biology/Veterinary Science.

MyDays provide students and their parents the opportunity to meet with academic staff and current students. They also provide information about courses, pathways, scholarships and international opportunities (CSU Global).

The events are open to students in Years 10, 11 and 12, however preference will be given to Year 11 and Year 12 students.

Individual students can register directly online at www.csu.edu.au/myday. Alternatively students can register through their Careers Adviser. Registration forms and further information will be forwarded to you during week 2 of Term 2 for distribution to interested students. Information will then be forwarded directly to the student.

Thank you for your ongoing support. Any comments or suggestions as to how we can make these days worthwhile for your students would be welcomed. We look forward to working with you.

Positive Parenting Being A Dad

Whether you are part of a traditional two parent family, a full-time single parent, or have your children for some of the time, being a dad is your most important job.



Parenting can be done by either parent, but children have different experiences with their fathers than with their mothers.

Some things that all dads can do:

1. talk about your feelings so your child learns it's okay for men to talk about feelings
2. spend time with your daughter. It will help her to feel good about being female if she sees you enjoy your time with her and you respect women. You are teaching her how to expect men to treat her when she grows up
3. show your son how to be a man. Ensure he spends time with you and other men. He will learn more from what you do than what you say
4. enjoy your child's company, get involved, read, play, have fun and do things together
5. encourage your child to stick at a problem, even if it is hard
6. expect your child to do their best, be proud of them, but also when they try, but fail.

What matters most for your child is how you behave as their dad. Even if you are not a fulltime dad your child needs to know that you care about them and will look after them.

Dads in nuclear families

If you're a dad in a nuclear family it's important your relationship with your partner/spouse is working well. Children usually love both parents and it hurts them to see parents fighting or putting each other down.

What you can do:

make time to be together as a couple without your child

discuss your feelings right from the start. Your first baby will bring many changes to your relationship with your partner. She may feel tired or overwhelmed coping with body changes and new responsibilities. You may feel left out or jealous

talk to your partner about how it is for you as well. Men often feel a great responsibility to look after their family when there is a new baby and the wife's income has suddenly stopped

talk about what you each expect of yourself and your partner in looking after your child. Work out how you will share things like getting up at night or bathing and feeding

This is a triple P article. To find a Triple P group or seminar in your local area, call us on 1800 789 123 or visit our website www.families.nsw.gov.au.

Parents & Friends' Association

Our second meeting was held on Monday 2nd April and it was disappointing that only a handful of parents attended. The Parents' Association has a role to play in fundraising and in supporting the educational needs of our children. Without your support we will be unable to succeed in delivering additional options for our children and the school. I would like to thank those parents who attended and gave up their time so generously to be with us.

I would like to invite you to our next meeting in June to assist the P&F Committee to raise \$15,000 to lay additional astro turf in the playground.

*Mothers' Day Stall second week in May
We Need Your Assistance!*

Let's Make Our Mums Happy and Give Them a Special Gift of Appreciation!

*Next Meeting
Tuesday 8th May, 7:30pm
Room D1*

Looking forward to your support and assistance in 2012.

*Mr M Rouchdi
P&F President*

St Monica's Prayer Group

"For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them." –

Matthew 18:20



*Sometimes as we work throughout the day,
We wonder if our prayers go unheard and astray,
And we ask God if He will listen to our endless requests,
For our children to be watched over and eternally blessed.*

On Friday afternoons at 2:15, we gather together to sing hymns, pray for students and make specific requests. We will also be praying for the Yr 12 students during their trials and HSC examinations.

One class and each of its students as well as class teacher(s) is dedicated per week

Friday 27th April Yr6

Friday 4th May Yr7

See you there!



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