



# St. Mark's College *Newsletter*

*Coptic Orthodox Diocese of Sydney and Affiliated Regions*



Volume 17 Issue 4  
Pentecost Term,



Reverend Father's Message  
Head of College Message  
Senior School Information  
Junior School Information

*ANZAC Day*

*'We will remember them'*

*'To Live Is Christ'*



# St. Mark's College Newsletter

Coptic Orthodox Diocese of Sydney and Affiliated Regions

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> May, 2012



Volume 17 Edition 4

ABN: 67 796 481 099



### Pentecost Term

IPSSO Trials	Wed 2 <sup>nd</sup> May
Year 12 Liturgy	Fri 4 <sup>th</sup> May
Semester 1 Examinations Yrs 11 & 12 start	Mon 7 <sup>th</sup> May
SWISSA Netball & Football Round 1	Tues 8 <sup>th</sup> May
Parent and Friends' Meeting, 730pm	Tues 8 <sup>th</sup> May
IPSSO Round 1 bye	Wed 9 <sup>th</sup> May
Kindergarten Liturgy	Fri 11 <sup>th</sup> May
AICES Netball Gala Day	Fri 11 <sup>th</sup> May
Semester 1 Examinations Yrs 7 – 10 begin	Mon 14 <sup>th</sup> May
AICES Football Gala Day	Wed 16 <sup>th</sup> May
NAPLAN Testing for Yrs 3, 5, 7 and 9	Tu 15 <sup>th</sup> – Th 17 <sup>th</sup>
Year 2 Liturgy	Fri 18 <sup>th</sup> May
Pupil Free Day for Yrs 7 – 12 only	Fri 18 <sup>th</sup> May
Inaugural Alumni Evening, Sport & Arts Centre	Postponed
Term concludes	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June

### Theotokos Term

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

### Advent Term

Lessons Commence for Yrs P-12, 8.30am	Mon 8 <sup>th</sup> Oct
Term concludes	Wed 5 <sup>th</sup> Dec
Staff Professional Development	Thur 6 <sup>th</sup> Dec
Staff Professional Development	Fri 7 <sup>th</sup> Dec
School Office Hours	8:00am – 4:00pm

### Progressive House Points

ST ANTHONY	ST DEMIANA	ST GEORGE	ST MARINA
2684	1994	2233	2093

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

*'The hand of the diligent will rule, while the slothful will be put to forced labour.'*  
Proverbs 12:24



*Those who have prepared well and utilised their time wisely have all to gain from the upcoming examinations. I wish all the students well and may the Lord bless them for their effort.*

### His Holiness Pope Shenouda III Commemorated His Legacy



Forty days have passed since His Holiness departed from this earth to be by the side of Our Lord, after serving Him with profound devotion as our father. He shepherded us to the mother church and was the guiding light and support for all of us who admired His work. His Holiness 'Baba Shenouda III' was a highly intelligent individual who generously and unselfishly gave His time for His flock and expressed His thoughts about the Lord through His prolific writing. His works are the legacy that He has left for us to remember Him for His profound greatness and as a loving individual.

At Tuesday's Commemorative Assembly, we reminisced His great leadership as the Pope of the Coptic Orthodox Church across the diaspora and for His immense wisdom when delivering advice. He was a great servant of the Lord through His Church as the 117<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of the See of St Mark and we will miss Him greatly, but will always remember Him with fondness. May His soul rest in peace.

### Message from the Head of College

*Χριστος Ανεστη!*  
'Christ has risen'

I welcome everyone back from what I hope was a blessed time with family and friends and rejoiced in the Lord's resurrection. Pentecost Term has commenced well with all students returning to their daily routine and studies, with enthusiasm and commitment.



This is an important term as Semester 1 Examinations are held for both the Senior and Junior School students, reports are issued to parents from Kindergarten to Year 12, winter sport competitions commence, parent-teacher evenings take place, the Inaugural Alumni Evening will be held and the Sport and Arts Centre will be operational. These are just a few of the many activities that will take place. I would like to wish everyone the very best for Pentecost Term and may the Lord continue to bless our students for their diligence.

### ***Absence from School***

Recently, it was brought to my attention that there has been a spike in the level of absenteeism amongst our students in the lead up to the Semester One Examinations. I understand that there will be at various periods throughout the year when students will fall ill and will need to remain at home to recover.

As a School it's imperative that we uphold our Christian values and encourage our students to fulfil his/her obligations while at school, as it may appear that some students are remaining at home to study, thus gaining an unfair advantage over others who are at school. These remaining days leading up to the examinations are important, as teachers revise the topics delivered and offer strategies to assist them to sit for their examinations and to maximise their overall performance. In some cases students may miss this valuable information, which in the end maybe to their detriment, as they are absent.

The College is currently reviewing the absenteeism of some students to see if they are fulfilling their obligations for the courses they are studying, and in particular Preliminary HSC, HSC and Accelerated Students. ***I would like to remind students that if their absenteeism is too high, this could lead to them not fulfilling the course expectations and may not be eligible to sit for the HSC and those who are accelerated could be withdrawn from the programme, as they are unable to cope with the demands placed upon them.***

Students must attend school daily, otherwise they may jeopardise their own learning.

### ***Accelerated Programme***

The Accelerated Programme is an integral and important part of the College Curriculum and it has been a wonderful asset to our students particularly those who are truly talented in Mathematics. The system currently in place of accelerating students in Mathematics was introduced some time ago under my stewardship, where acceleration is achieved over a five

(5) year period. This gradual progression has benefited the students and taken away some of the stress of accelerated learning. The system was introduced so that students could perform well in their accelerated course without having a detrimental affect on all their other courses, but in particular English and the Humanities where additional time is required to hone one's skills. If a student places a greater emphasis of their time on the accelerated course at the expense of their total learning then he/she is not suited to remaining in the accelerated programme. An excellent mark in the accelerated course and average marks in all the other courses detracts from achieving the best possible performance and in turn ATAR.

The Semester One Examinations will be a litmus test for the teachers to evaluate the performance of the accelerated students across all their courses. This review will determine if a student remains in the accelerated programme. I ask that students do well in all their courses, but in particular English.

### ***Curriculum Changes***

The Junior School Staff have worked diligently to alter the learning strategies that take place in their classroom and there are wonderful signs of progress being made. In the first two periods of the school day all classes K to 6 undertake Literacy lessons and during periods 3 and 4 numeracy (math) is held. This system was introduced to enhance the learning of the students by utilising the most appropriate time when their minds are most active and willing to absorb complex concepts, skills and knowledge, and this is in the first part of the day. All classes are doing the same course during this time and this provides students with the flexibility to move from one class to another based on performance or educational need, particularly in English and Maths. Also, during the first two periods of the day some children are withdrawn from class to work in smaller groups and taught the foundations of literacy through drill and practice. The Literacy Programme from K to 3 is taught through Spalding. This is a programme that teaches students to sound out letters and to apply a series of rules to develop their reading.

To complement the Spalding Programme and the structural timetable changes, the College has provided specialist teachers in PE, Health, Music, Coptic, Coptic Orthodox Studies and Library. These specialists, assist in developing students cognitively and support the strong learning programme that's been developed. This is a similar approach used by other notable independent schools and St Mark's College has proudly joined them.

Catholic Schools and Public Schools don't offer a diverse learning programme like ours, but St Mark's has gone down this path, as it provides enormous benefits for our students. I urge parents to inform others of our special programme and I wish our staff well in implementing these changes.

### ***Senior Athletics Carnival***

What a magnificent day it was. The students participated with enthusiasm and enjoyed the day thoroughly. The Carnival was a close affair from start to finish with a number of records broken and the highlight event was the staff versus student relay, with the staff pulling out all stops to win the event in a very close finish. Congratulations to the Age

Champions and to the winning House, St Marina, for their magnificent performance, also to Mr Helene for organising the day. Thank you to all the staff for their effort and in making the event such a success.

*God bless,  
Mr Rekouniotis  
Head of College*

**Uniform**

This week the students were issued with a note outlining the College’s Dress and Appearance Code. The students have understood the expectations and have made the appropriate adjustments, but I ask parents to make sure their children are abiding by these standards.

The image of the College is important to all of us and parental support is the key to the school’s overall success in portraying our students in the best possible light. Parents in the end are responsible in making sure that their child abides by the Dress Code and Appearance Policy and it’s an obligation of their child’s enrolment. Let us work together in this common goal to uphold our high standards.

*Mr David  
Deputy Head of College*

**Curriculum Matters**

**Senior School Semester One Examinations**

The Semester One Examinations commence next week for Years 11 and 12, followed by Years 7 to 10 the following week. I am sure the students have prepared themselves well for the examinations.

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

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

*God bless,  
Mr Chahrozian  
Curriculum Co-ordinator*

**Senior School Sport**

Pentecost Term has picked up from where Lent term left off. With the Senior School Athletics Carnival kicking things off last Friday, and with our representative teams training in preparation for the SWISSA Football and Netball competitions, this term promises to be full of exciting sporting opportunities which will help balance the pressures of the examination period. Good luck to all students for the term ahead!

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

**Senior Athletics Carnival, Campbelltown Stadium**

Last Friday, the 30<sup>th</sup> of April, the Senior School students of St Mark’s travelled to the wonderful Campbelltown Athletics Stadium to take part in the annual senior school athletics carnival. This year we were truly blessed, as the weather could not have been any better. So the atmosphere was set for

what would be a fun filled, exciting and competitive day throughout.

The 1500m event kicked things off, and with the first 2 races, records were broken. Marianne Wilson (St Demiana House) broke her own record by almost 20 seconds in a time of 7.05.98 in the junior girls’ event. Danillo Miletich (St George House) then followed suit, breaking the junior boys’ record by almost the same amount, in a time of 5.3.23. The tone for the day was definitely set, as many more records would fall throughout the day.

As the students rotated through the tabloid championship of events, there was one thing that would be evident this year – this carnival was going to be extremely competitive and close in terms of results. The number of participants at this year’s carnival were also reaching record highs, as all houses were striving to achieve their very best in order to put them into a winning position.

The lead would change several times throughout the day, and at one stage there were only 12 points separating 3 of the houses, and 4<sup>th</sup> place only 30 points behind them! What a finish it would prove to be.

So it came down to the relay events, which essentially decided the winning house. This year we would have a new champion, one that had never appeared on the perpetual trophy before.



Some notable performances on the day were:

- Andre Nessiem (St Demiana) broke the long standing high jump record by 6cm (1.50m)
- Rhea Varghese (St Marina) smashed the senior girls’ high jump record (1.20m)
- Stephen Spirou (St Marina) broke his own 100m record in a time of 11.63 seconds

Our age champions of the Carnival were as follows:

**Age Champions**

	<b>Boys</b>		<b>Girls</b>
<b>12</b>	Krutik Nayak (7G)		Alexandra Tosanavic (7M)
<b>13</b>	Michael Boctor (7M) Moses Rocha (8D)		Chaitanya Induri (7G)
<b>14</b>	Matthew Ramzy (9G)		Chantelle Perin (9A)
<b>15</b>	Ioan Petru-Tincu (10D)		Yustina Shenouda (10A)
<b>16</b>	Stephen Spirou (11M)		Julie-Ann Ramzy (11G)
<b>Opens</b>	Peter Nawar (12G)		



Our two overall Athletics Champions for the meet were Stephen Spirou (St Marina) and Alexandra Tosanovic (St Marina).

Congratulations to all students involved, and good luck to all who will represent the college later in the year at the SWISSA zone athletics carnival at Olympic Park.



### Final Standings

<b>1st</b>	<b>St Marina</b>	864
<b>2nd</b>	<b>St George</b>	841
<b>3rd</b>	<b>St Anthony</b>	796
<b>4th</b>	<b>St Demiana</b>	703



**St Marina Athletics Champions for 2012!**

### East Versus West Rugby League Carnival

St Mark's Coptic Orthodox College entered a team in the annual East versus West Rugby League Carnival, in the Under 16's under 75kg division. Unfortunately, some of the college's best and most experienced players were slightly over the 75kg mark. This left us with only two members of the squad who play for a weekend club, playing against teams with players who have much more rugby league experience.

Nevertheless, the boys performed gallantly. I was very proud of the determination that they displayed in every game. The pride the boys showed to battle on did the College proud. From personal experience from my own playing days, I know how tough that is!

It was a tough, yet rewarding experience for our team and I commend our boys with the level of commitment and

enthusiasm they showed. It was a pleasure for me to coach a spirited group of boys. Well done!

*Mr B Horner  
Rugby League Coach*

### Junior School News

#### Raising Our Children God's Way

Where is that instruction manual on raising kids? You know, the one the hospital gives you just before you leave with your new baby? What do you mean, there isn't one? Raising a child is such an important, seriously sobering task, it should at least come with a manual, don't you think?

What do you suppose this instruction manual would look like? Can't you just see it? It would contain some great categories like, "How to Stop the Whining," and "How to Get Your Kids to Listen When You Talk."

Christian parents face just as many obstacles as non-Christians in raising kids. When you add all the distractions and the pressures in today's world, Christian parenting becomes even more than a challenge.

A huge part of that challenge is passing on your faith to kids whose priorities are more focused on video games, sporting events, and the latest trends in clothes. And let's not forget to mention peer pressure and media pressure that offers temptations to kids to do drugs, drink alcohol and get involved sexually. Today's kids face an overall absence of godly examples and moral living in a society that is moving toward "freedom from religion" instead of "freedom of religion."

But the good news is that there are things you can do to raise godly kids and even share your faith with them along the way.

#### Living Your Faith

First, as a parent you must live out your faith in your own life. It is impossible to give away something you don't have. Kids can spot a phony from a mile away. They're looking for the real deal from their parents.

Living your faith can start with simple things, like showing love, kindness, and generosity. If your kids see you finding ways to "be a blessing," it will become a natural and normal way of life for them too. We are always talking and saying a good Christian must do this or behave that way. But our children must see and feel your faith.

#### Sharing Your Faith

Second, start sharing your faith early in the lives of your kids. Being a part of your church shows your kids that you think spending time with God is important. Make it a point to let them hear you talk about the great things happening in the church. Let them hear how much you've been helped by being in the midst of people with similar beliefs who pray for you and you for them.

Sharing your faith also means reading the Bible with your children in a way that causes it to come alive for them. Find age appropriate Bible resources and lessons to incorporate into your family-fun times, as well as your child's education. Make family devotions and Bible reading a priority in your weekly schedule.

Also, incorporate Christian entertainment, videos, books, games and movies into your child's life. Instead of feeling deprived of fun, let them discover and enjoy quality and inspiring forms of amusement that will also encourage them to develop spiritually.

Another great way to share your faith with your children is to allow them the opportunity to make and develop Christian friendships. Their faith will be strengthened if they can share the same values with their friends. Encourage your children to talk about Jesus as much as they can and apply faith in their daily life e.g. "you know that Jesus loves every one and he wants you to be just like him to love your brother".

Lastly, show your kids what's in it for them. This is probably one of the most difficult things for many of us parents. Often people are brought up to believe that faith is some kind of obligation you fulfil by attending church on Sunday. And let's face it, children today aren't interested in obligations unless there is some kind of pay out at the end. Some pay outs are: *When you give your life to Christ, you secure your place in heaven, when God enters your life you receive unconditional love, being a Christian means experiencing freedom, having God's favour on your life is like unwrapping a gift every single day.*

Sharing your faith doesn't have to be complicated. Start by living it in your own life so your kids can see it in action. Demonstrate your commitment and the value you place in an on-going relationship with God by finding ways to be a blessing. Kids learn best by example and modelling your faith is the best example they will ever see.

*Mrs Sheharta  
Dean of the Junior school*

## Careers News

### Universities

#### UNSW Co-op Program Applications Open

Date: 1<sup>st</sup> May 2012 Venue: [www.co-op.unsw.edu.au](http://www.co-op.unsw.edu.au)

Contact: Shona Fitzgerald : [cooprog@unsw.edu.au](mailto:cooprog@unsw.edu.au)

Students can register and complete applications online for the 2013 Co-op Program

[https://scholarships.online.unsw.edu.au/scholarship/coop\\_s\\_clogin.main](https://scholarships.online.unsw.edu.au/scholarship/coop_s_clogin.main).

#### UTS Bachelor of Accounting & Bachelor of Information Technology Co-operative Scholarship Programs

8 June – Bachelor of Accounting Co-Op Scholarship Round 1 Application Deadline

<http://datasearch2.uts.edu.au/undergraduate/school/leavers/scholarships/detail.cfm?code=0000016761>

29 June – Bachelor of Information Technology Co-Op Scholarship Round 1 Application Deadline

<http://datasearch2.uts.edu.au/undergraduate/school/leavers/scholarships/detail.cfm?code=0000017807>

### ACU University Experience Sydney

#### Be a Student Nurse For a Day

Tuesday 10th July, 2012 (North Sydney Campus)

#### Be a Psychologist For a Day

Friday 13th July, 2012 (Strathfield Campus)

#### Be an Exercise Scientist For a Day

Friday 13th July, 2012 (Strathfield Campus)

#### Be an Environmental Scientist For a Day

This day has been postponed.

If you have queries about the Environmental Science course or would like a campus tour, please contact: [Cliff.Seery@acu.edu.au](mailto:Cliff.Seery@acu.edu.au)

Register: <http://www.acu.edu.au/155711>

#### University of Wollongong Selective Entry

In February 2012, the University of Wollongong (UOW) launched a refreshed program, which gives your Year 12 students the chance to secure entry to UOW, BEFORE they sit the HSC. This program replaces the Early Entry program that has been operating for over 10 years. What does this change mean for students? The biggest change is the introduction of academic eligibility criteria. This means that not everyone will be able to apply to the program and students must meet the published eligibility criteria to be considered for Selective Entry. The other difference is that they are now including some of our elite degrees that were not offered as part of Early Entry. A list of all degrees and the eligibility criteria is now available at:

<http://www.uow.edu.au/content/groups/public/@web/@unia/documents/doc/uow121943.pdf>

Applications will be online, opening 1 July and closing on 15 August 2012. Students may also be required to attend an on-campus interview or other selection event in late September to be eligible for Selective Entry. Students will learn the outcome of their application between 10 - 12 October 2012, this is before HSC exams commence. More information can be found at:

<http://www.uow.edu.au/future/selectiveentry/index.html> or by phoning 1300 367 869.

#### Apprenticeship Cadetships

##### Chartered Accountants Cadetship Evening

If you're looking to study a business or commerce degree while gaining practical paid work experience then a cadetship is the perfect opportunity for you! The Chartered Accountants Cadetship Evening offers year 12 students the chance to meet and network with a wide range of employers and hear about what to expect as a cadet, the many opportunities in a business career, and how to be successful in the recruitment process.

When:	Wednesday, 23 May 2012 from 4.30pm
Where:	Sydney Convention Centre, Bayside, L1
Who:	Year 12 students
Dress:	Smart Casual
Cost:	Free
Register:	<a href="http://www.charteredaccountants.com.au/students">www.charteredaccountants.com.au/students</a>

##### Business Cadetships Program

Date:	9 <sup>th</sup> May 2012
Target Group :	Year 12 students
Contact:	<b>Alister Wilkinson:</b> <a href="mailto:alisterwilkinson@professionalcadets.com.au">alisterwilkinson@professionalcadets.com.au</a>

**Event Description:** Both the Student Application Form and School Assessment for the 2012 Business Cadetships Program are due by Wednesday 9 May.

**Commercial Cookery Apprenticeship Positions**

Many positions available. <http://wpcgroup.org.au>

**School Holiday Programs**

**Improve Your HSC Mark**

**HSC preparation workshops at UTS**

A series of lectures and interactive workshops run by senior HSC markers will be held at UTS for Year 12 students.

Students will have the opportunity to sit with a Senior HSC marker for a full day to revise all key course content, learn about all the tips and tricks for each exam and receive individual assistance in answering probable HSC questions.

*Lectures: Monday 9 July 2012 to Friday 13 July 2012.*

*Workshops from Monday 24 September 2012 to Friday 28 September 2012.*

Thirteen of the most popular subjects will be offered at both campuses. To learn more, visit:

[www.hscintheholidays.com.au](http://www.hscintheholidays.com.au) or call 1300 677 336.

**ACU HSC Enrichment Day**

**Economics:** Wednesday 11th July, 9.30am-12noon  
(Strathfield Campus)

**Literature:** Wednesday 11th July, 1-3pm (Strathfield Campus)

**Ancient History:** Thursday 12th July (Strathfield Campus)  
<http://www.acu.edu.au/155711>

**Miscellaneous**

**Breaking Through - the stories of twenty women who challenge convention about appropriate careers for women.**

[http://www.eeo.nsw.gov.au/women/breaking\\_through](http://www.eeo.nsw.gov.au/women/breaking_through)

**Parents & Friends' Association**

Our second meeting was held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> May Yr7  
See you there!*