



St. Mark's College Newsletter

Coptic Orthodox Diocese of Sydney and Affiliated Regions

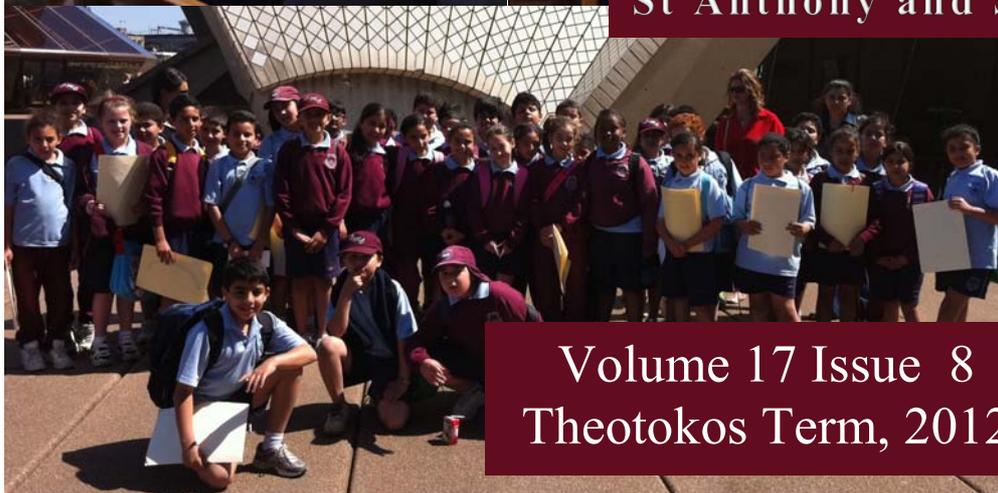


Year 12 Valedictory Liturgy

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



St Anthony and St Paul's Church



**Volume 17 Issue 8
Theotokos Term, 2012**



21/09/2012 02



St. Mark's College Newsletter

Coptic Orthodox Diocese of Sydney and Affiliated Regions

Friday 21st September, 2012



Volume 17 Edition 8

ABN: 67 796 481 099



Advent Term

Staff Professional Development
P&F Association, 9.00-10.00am
ASSISA R7 v Georges River Grammar Sch
Senior Co-curricular Activities commence
HSC Examinations commence
ASSISA R8 v bye
ASSISA 9 v William Carey Christian Sch
ASSISA R10 v Thomas Hassall Anglican
HSC Examinations conclude
Year 12 Formal, The Grand Roxy Reception
Year 6 Graduation, Skyview Reception
Speech Night
Term concludes
Staff Professional Development
Staff Professional Development

Mon 8th Oct
Tues 9th Oct
Wed 10th Oct
Fri 12th Oct
Mon 15th Oct
Wed 17th Oct
Wed 24th Oct
Wed 1st Nov
Thur 8th Nov
Thur 15th Nov
Tues 20th Nov
Wed 5th Dec
Wed 5th Dec
Thur 6th Dec
Fri 7th Dec

Lent Term 2013

Staff Professional Development
Lessons commence for Year 7 and Kinder
Lessons commence for all Years
New Parents' Welcome
Parent-Teacher Interviews Yrs 7 – 12
Western Easter Good Friday
Western Easter
Western Easter Monday
Term concludes
ANZAC Day
Orthodox Easter Good Friday
Orthodox Easter
Orthodox Monday

Tue 29th Jan
Wed 30th Jan
Thur 31st Jan
Mon 4th Feb
Mon 4th Feb
Fri 29th Mar
Sun 31st Mar
Mon 1st April
Fri 12th April
Thur 25th April
Fri 3rd May
Sun 5th May
Mon 6th May

Pentecost Term 2013

Staff Professional Development
Lessons commence for K - 12

Tue 7th May
Wed 8th May

School Holiday Office Hours

9:00am-3:00pm

Progressive House Points

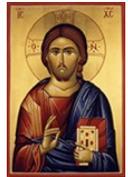
ST ANTHONY	ST DEMIANA	ST GEORGE	ST MARINA
2891	2010	2306	2186

Staff Professional Development Day

Monday 8th October 2012 is a Staff Professional Development Day. Students K to 12 do not attend school.

Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the LORD your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you.

Deuteronomy 31:6



Message from the Head of College Theotokos Term Concludes

A very busy Theotokos Term has come to an end. A great deal has been achieved both inside and outside the classroom with the Senior School students in Years 7 to 12 sitting for the Semester 2 Examinations and the academic year concluding. The Junior School students have continued to undertake changes in the curriculum with the implementation of mathematics streaming and co-curricular activities. In the area of sport, two of our teams managed to be in the finals for the winter SWISSA Competition and both performed, well even though, they didn't win the competition.

The Year 12 Valedictory Liturgy was held at St Anthony and St Paul's Church where the School farewelled Year 12 and we thanked them for their valuable contribution that they have made to the life of the College. This was followed by Camps for Years 5 to 12 which were outstanding. I was fortunate enough to visit the Year 11 Camp at Stanwell Tops and what a magnificent Camp it was. Some of the activities were enormously difficult, but the students undertook the challenges with a great deal of courage. I cannot emphasise enough the valuable life skills that students acquire from the camp experience.

Finally, the term ended with a beautiful luncheon held for our guests, Year 12 Parents. This was an emotionally charged event where the Year 12 students thanked their parents and presented them with a gift.

St Mark's is a community school and the events held during Theotokos Term reinforces the ethos and values of the College. I would like to thank all the students and staff for their hard work and dedication in supporting our wonderful school throughout the term.

Parents and Friends' Meeting

Tuesday 9th October, 9:00- 10.00am

Fundraising Matters

Come along and fundraise for our children!

The Purpose of the Newsletter

The Newsletter is an official document that is prepared and issued to parents, students, staff and the broader community. It is an informative document that portrays the present life at the College, it is an archive of events, results and achievements that can be referred to as an historic record and is the vehicle that is used to convey the implementation of new ideas, processes, initiatives and structures at the College.

Recently, I had some parents who raised issues that had been explained in the College Newsletter. When asked if they received a copy of the Newsletter, they replied, no. This is most disappointing, as a great deal of effort has gone into conveying information to the community through this vehicle of communication. A copy of the Newsletter is printed and given to every child to take home every three weeks, another copy is sent electronically by email to all families and a third copy is archived on the College website for everyone to access. The Newsletter is the official document that every parent should read, if they are to be kept up-to-date with the happening at the College. We are all busy people in this demanding world that is unforgiving, but we need to make time to keep abreast of life's challenges, one of which, is for parents to support their child in his/her learning. This requires a commitment by parents to read the Newsletter and it's the student's responsibility to keep their parents informed of the existence of the Newsletter.

Some topics that have been raised in past newsletters are:

1. Students not performing academically to his/her potential.
2. Studying Techniques.
3. Tutoring.
4. Being placed in a class/course based on academic performance.
5. Special events undertaken by our students or visitors who attended the College.
6. Introduction of Co-curricular Programmes.
7. Senior School Academic Roll-over.
8. Junior School Academic Restructure.
9. Use of Spalding in the Classroom.
10. New Building Programme to commence.
11. The Detriments of Having a Mobile Phone at School.

I respectfully ask parents to read the newsletter and if they don't receive it, just go to the College website and download a copy.

Year 12 Valedictory Liturgy & Parents' Luncheon

On Friday 14th September Year 12 were farewelled by the school community and the liturgy was conducted by the Vicar General, The Very Reverend Fr Tadros Simon and was supported by Fr Shenouda Mansour, Fr Yousef Fanous and Fr Suriel.



Our school captains Mina Shehata and Mariam Demian and vice captains, Jonathan Tanios and Annasimone Abdelmalek made a special thank you and farewell address, that outlined their life at school and how fortunate they were to be a student at St Mark's College. Monica Botros of Year 11, replied on behalf of the College Community, emphasising what wonderful role models, Year 12 have been. The main address was made by Mr David, as the Patron of Year 12 who highlighted the challenges they have faced in reaching their final year of schooling and where they will head in the future.



The following week, a Special Luncheon for Year 12 Parents was held at St Paul and St Anthony's Church. It was a wonderful function and I would like to thank our special guest The Very Reverend Fr Tadros Simon for his attendance and for his beautiful words of wisdom. Speaking on behalf of the Year 12 Parents, Mr Demian, gave a beautiful address emphasising the trials and tribulations, as well as the joy of being a parent. In response, the School Captains gave a respectful address, thanking their parents for their love and support in preparing them so well for the future. It was an emotionally charged function that brought together our community, the Church and the School.



On behalf of the College Community I thank the parents for supporting the College over the years and I wish Year 12 all the very best for their upcoming HSC Examinations and for their future tertiary studies.



Also a special thank you to Mrs Elmassry for providing the catering and to the support parents and College Staff for their assistance.

Student Performance and Course Choices

Since my return to the College I have spent a great deal of time reviewing past student reports and interviewing students to ascertain their feelings towards the school and their academic studies. The responses to my questions have been interesting and I would like to share some of them with you.

Q1. Which subject is your main priority from the Junior School years, but in particular from Year 7?

Mathematics, I can catch up on the other courses later on.

Q2. Do you study diligently for your examinations?

Only when I'm in Year 12. The other years are not important and don't count towards anything.

Q3. Why do you feel this way?

I've been told this by others and I believe it's true.

Q4. Are you tutored in a course?

Yes, because I can work ahead with my tutor and I don't need to depend on the classroom teacher. If I don't concentrate in class that's fine, because my tutor can teach me later in the day at home.

Q5. Do you misbehave if you know your tutor will cover the work and that Years 7 to 11 are not important?

Yes, sometimes.

At the beginning of the year all the students were informed that their academic performance would determine which course they will be offered for the new academic year. This has been reinforced throughout the year at the regular daily assemblies, and in the newsletter so that everyone is aware of the process of selection in a course and the placement of a student in their appropriate level of performance.

Unfortunately, some students haven't taken the advice on board and have performed at an unsatisfactory level in some courses and are asking to be given an opportunity to be included in a course that they haven't taken seriously in the past or given any real commitment to.

Parents need to encourage their child to take all courses seriously in all years, because their past performance will determine if he/she will be chosen in a course. Someone coming to a teacher and saying, *"please give me a chance sir, I am capable of doing this course it's just that I didn't do any work before, but now I will."* This doesn't place a student in a good position for inclusion in that course. As the student hasn't developed good study habits in this course and has poor foundation skills for future success in the course.

Over the past few years, the students have become selective in their learning and in turn it's had a detrimental affect on their overall performance, in particular, with English, Humanities and Science. To master these courses you need a long-term commitment to develop and practise the basic skills that are required for attaining good results, just like in Mathematics. In Mathematics, the students are taught over many years and take this course very seriously, why would it be any different for the other courses, in particular English? This course is the foundation for success in all other courses in the HSC. After all, it is the only compulsory course from Kindergarten to Year 12.

If the College is to maintain its high academic expectations, teachers need every student to perform at their very best for all courses and every task. Teachers then have worthwhile analytical data that they can review the effectiveness of

their teaching and the learning of their students. Being selective in what to work hard in and what to discard is a recipe for underperforming.

Parents have a responsibility in taking an active role in making sure that their child undertakes his/her studies seriously, in all courses.

Sports Centre

Further work has been done in the Sports Centre. The sporting equipment has been installed and the Food Technology room is being fitted out with stoves, sinks and benches. The electronic scoreboard with basketball rings look absolutely spectacular.

The students should commence using the Sport Centre once the HSC Examinations have concluded, and it will enable our sports programme to be extended as the facilities will enable the College to offer tennis, indoor soccer, badminton, volleyball, basketball, gymnastics, weights, etc.

This is truly the work of the Lord through our Patron Saint, St Mark. God bless our children and the community.

Maintenance Update

During the break the College is undertaking a full maintenance and cleaning programme in preparation for the new term. Carpets shampooed, vinyl floors stripped and polished, windows washed, desks cleaned and outdoor areas hosed down, as well as routine repairs done.

Camps 2012

In the next issue of the College Newsletter there will be detailed reports on all the Camps, but from all feedback received from the students, they've had a wonderful time and enjoyed the experiences greatly. Thank you to all the staff for giving their time so generously on Camp and for their diligent commitment in taking care of our wonderful well-behaved students.



Walk-A-Thon

This is an annual event organised by Year 12 to raise money as a gift to the College that is presented on the evening of the Formal. This is a wonderful gesture by the students, but it also signifies their appreciation of their time at the College.

It was an enjoyable day for all the students who rotated through a number of activities and had a BBQ. Thank you to everyone for making the day such a success. In particular, Mr David, Mr Nicola and Year 12 for organising the event.

Kindergarten 2013 Orientation

It was wonderful to see the next generation of students with their parents, who will be attending the College from 2013.

I would like to thank Mrs Shehata and Mrs Nada for organising the session, and for presenting information on curriculum, daily structure and the overall expectations of the school. It was a resounding success!

Farewell

Mr Korfiatis

After a short stay at the College Mr Korfiatis is leaving St Mark's College and we thank him for his efforts and we wish him well for the future.

Congratulations

Mrs Awadallah has sent a photo of her baby, Faith and what a beautiful and wondrous blessing from the Lord she is.

*God bless,
Mr Rekouniotis*



Curriculum Matters

Year 12 Reports

These reports will be posted to parents in the last week of the holiday break and will outline your child's performance in the Semester 2 Examination, provide a progressive rank in each course and include an advisory comment for students to take note in their lead up to the HSC Examinations. I wish all the students well.

Year 12 Lessons Over the Break

In some courses classes will be held over the break and it's important that students attend. These less formal arrangements lead to some vital pieces of information that are gained that will provide the extra impetus required to do well in the HSC.

Note: When Year 12 students attend school for assistance during Term, he/she must attend in full school uniform.

Senior School Academic Roll Over

This will take place from Tuesday 9th October, 2012. It's important that students arrive to school prepared for their first day of lessons. ***This includes their new textbooks.***

Textbook Orders

Parents from Years 7 to 11 should have ordered their textbooks for their child, for the academic rollover. These were due on Friday 14th September with Endeavour Books, if the discount was to be given. All orders will now be at the normal retail price.

*Mr Chahrozian
Curriculum Co-ordinator*

Senior School Sport

SWISSA Sport

It's pleasing to note that our teams were very competitive in the Boys' OzTag and the Girls' Football, this winter.

The girls have shown great improvement in their football skills and understanding of the game and I'm sure over the next few years the girls will be a strong combination for our Senior Teams.

In OzTag, the boys have played above themselves and were strong in both the Intermediate and Senior Teams. There is a strong talent pool for the next few years that may see St Mark's College collecting a few trophies. This term, the Senior Team made it to the semi-finals and the Intermediate Team was just beaten in the final.

I would like to thank the staff for all their hard work in preparing the teams this winter and the students for their diligence in seeking to improve their skills and for the contribution they have made to sport.

Junior School News

It has been such a busy term, but everyone has enjoyed themselves in class and during extra-curricular activities. They have made steady progress in developing their special

talents. I would like to thank all the staff, parents and students for their hard work and support over the term and I wish everyone a safe holiday.

Opera House Excursion

Stage two enjoyed their excursion to Sydney's iconic feature, the Opera House. As part of the Human Society and Its Environment unit the students explored the history of each state and our Australian heritage. The students enjoyed a lovely sunny day at the Opera House and a tour around the Governor's residence. We would like to thank the parents that attended the excursion and made this day a safe successful trip.



*Thank you and God bless
Mrs Shehata
Dean of the Junior School*

Parent Survey for an on-site Before School and After School Care Program

The School is investigating the prospect of beginning a Before School and After School Care program to be run on-site at the school. Currently we are assessing the need for the program and therefore ask parents to answer the following questions to ensure the program would meet your needs.

The program would provide a safe and stimulating environment for the children either before or after school with lots of fun activities. Children will be provided with a healthy breakfast and afternoon tea and engage in a variety of exciting activities.

Please return the survey to the school office by Thursday 11th October 2012.

Uniform Shop

Over the September - October break the Uniform Shop will be open to parents from 9:00am to 3:00pm on the following days:

Friday 5th October and Monday 8th October, 2012

When students return in Advent Term (Term 4) students wear their full summer uniform, including blazer and Year 11 are required to wear the Senior Uniform.

Also, the approved school shoe is black leather with laces and normal heel height. The sport shoe is predominantly white, with no fluorescent colours and it must be a proper running shoe.

*Mrs Abdelmalek
Uniform Shop Manager*

Parents & Friends' Association

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

We Need Your Assistance!

Next Meeting

Tuesday 9th October, 9:00-10.00am

Room D1

Looking forward to your support and assistance in 2012.

*Mr M Rouchdi
P&F President*



Address ; 12 Esher Mews Wattle Grove - 2173

Features

- 3 bedrooms, with built in wardrobes
- Open lounge/living area /spotlights
- Solar heated in-ground pool
- Single 2 ways bathroom /semi ensuite
- Single garage/remote control
- Gas fitted kitchen/hot water/heater fitting
- Air-conditioned living area
- Renovated modern kitchen
- Elegant curtains & drapes (not included)
- Tiled pergola with blinds & built in gas barbeque area facing the pool.
- Easy care lawn section with native plants in the front & backyards
- Positioned in front of a park / tennis court
- Close to schools & walking distance to St. Mark's College
- Close to shopping & transports.
- Land size : 366sqm

Price : \$ 489,000 +

House is available for inspection from 15/09/2012 by appointment

***Contact details : Mr. Abdelmesseih Fam
Mob: 0425273874***