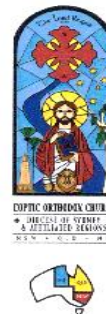




SAINT MARK'S COPTIC ORTHODOX COLLEGE

To live is Christ

HEAD OF COLLEGE NEWSLETTER



Wednesday, 27 June 2018

Volume 23 Edition 4

Upcoming Dates

JUNE

- 1 Fri Yrs 10-12 HSC & Careers Expo
- 7 Thu Early Bird Liturgy 6 – 8 am
- 14 Thu Early Bird Liturgy 6 – 8 am
- 21 Thu Early Bird Liturgy 6 – 8 am
- 25 Mon Yrs 10-11 Vaccinations
K-6 Parent Teacher Interviews
- 26 Tue K-6 Parent Teacher Interviews
- 28 Thu Early Bird Liturgy 6 – 8 am
- 29 Fri Red Nose Day (St George House)
Term 2 CONCLUDES

Winter Break Office Hours

9 am – 3 pm each day

JULY

- 23 Mon Staff Professional Dev Day
- 24 Tue Lessons Commence Term 3 –
Theotokos Term
- 26 Thu 6 – 8 am Early Bird Liturgy
- 31 Tue ICAS English Competition

AUGUST

- 2 Thu Early Bird Liturgy 6 – 8 am
- 3 Fri Jeans for Genes Day
- 6 Mon Yr 12 HSC Trials Commence
- 7 Tue Theotokos Fast commences till
21 August
- 9 Thu Early Bird Liturgy 6 – 8 am
- 14 Tue ICAS Mathematics Competition
- 15 Wed K-6 Life Ed commences
- 16 Thu Early Bird Liturgy 6 – 8 am
- 17 Fri K-6 National Science Day
K-6 Book Parade
- 21 Tue K-6 Meerkat Production @ Hall
- 23 Thu Early Bird Liturgy 6 – 8 am
- 30 Thu Early Bird Liturgy 6 – 8 am
- 31 Fri Yr 11 Preliminary Exams
commence
Daffodil Fundraiser
Kinder 2019 Orientation Morning

SEPTEMBER

- 2 Sun Fathers' Day
- 3 Mon Fathers' Day Morning Tea 9 – 10
am
- 4 Tue 7-12 Sec School SPORTS Photos

Dear Parents,

The College is fortunate to be growing and increasing in student number on a weekly basis, so much so that our Waiting List in many instances cannot accommodate new families wishing to enrol their children. To accommodate this, the College is undertaking a Building Plan with an approval to commence Stage 1 projects for a new facility on site that will house a new Learning Resource Centre, an Administration Centre and 8 additional classrooms at the commencement of this December. The expected construction will take place in the vacant land behind the temporary fences and extend to include the area currently with the two houses (Office & Library).

It has been planning this now for the past two years and approval was finally forwarded by our Departmental Federal Authorities in May. However, over the past 3 years, we have been able to utilize additional classrooms and created additional classes for Primary with and additional Yr 3/4 (2016), an additional Yr 2 (2017) and this year plan to further assist our Waiting List families in Years 1 & 2 with a new class that will be introduced for the commencement of Term 3 2018. The expected growth will soon see SMC Primary with a full two-stream Primary School by 2020 once Stage 1 Building Project has been completed.

Stage one classes will consist of two x Yr 1 classes and two x Yr 2 classes. The classes are mixed ability as the teacher's programs allow for differentiation to cater for all students of different abilities.

We have been blessed to employ Miss Monica Armanyos as the new Yr 1 classroom teacher for this new class who commences her duties on 23 July 2018. Miss Monica Armanyos comes with some great experiences and she is an active member of her community. She is a wonderful addition to the Primary team and through God's Grace we look forward to the further expansion of the College in the coming years where further building and construction is being planned.

Farewell & Thank You

At the end of this term we say farewell with much appreciation to Dr Lucas, Mrs Salmo and Mr Hunter. We thank each of them during their stay with us and thank them for their effort and energy in assisting our students and College during this semester. We wish you every blessing in your future endeavours.

The Fast of the Apostles is one of the oldest fasts in the church, and was previously known as the “Fast of Pentecost” or the “Fast of the Disciples.” However, during the Ecumenical Council of Nicea in 325 A.D., its name was changed to “Fast of the Apostles” which is carried through till today.

In the *Holy Dioscolia* (collected in the third century), it is written: “After you complete the Feast of Pentecost, have a feast for another week... then we fast after the rest.” However, in the book *The Canon of the Apostles*, which was one of the books of Clement of Rome (collected in the fourth century), it states: “They continued to speak in the new tongues of the nations, in which they preached, and He told them what must be done by the congregations with regards to prayer, worship, and the laws, and they thanked God for this knowledge they received. They fasted for forty days, thanking God through it, and then Peter washed the feet of the disciples... then they departed to all the nations to call people to the faith.”

“The Fast of the saintly Fathers, the Disciples, which is also called ‘Fast of Pentecost,’ begins with the Monday after the Holy Fifty Days, and it ends on the fourth of Epip, the night that commemorates the martyrdom of the Apostles Peter and Paul...” Currently, this is the accepted opinion of the Coptic Orthodox Church, as well as the Syrian and Greek Orthodox Churches.



From these sources, we find that the Apostles fasted after the descent of the Holy Spirit on them, as well as between the Ascension of the Christ and the Feast of Pentecost. The aim of the fast were different: the fast after the Ascension was because the Apostles were waiting for the gifts of the Holy Spirit, which was promised to them by the Lord of glory. This sort of fasting is also the reason why we fast before communion and baptism, or the fasting of a bishop before his ordination - it prepares us to receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit. As for Apostles’ fast after Pentecost, it was a fast of thanksgiving to God for the gifts of the Holy Spirit that they received, and it served a purpose of preparing them for another service, which was to preach to the world. Thus, service and preaching are an important cornerstone to this fast.

Moreover, the work of the Holy Spirit is clearly seen in the Church. The Church fasts during the week that follows the Feast of Pentecost, but this does not contradict the rules of the Feast, because, as Saint Basil and Saint John Chrysostom say, “to feast is not to break a fast.” The same applies to the Feast of the Annunciation, where we do not contravene our fast for the Great Lent. The Feast of Transfiguration, which usually occurs during the Fast of the Virgin, is another occasion where we do not break the fast. We fast during the Minor Feasts of the Lord (the Circumcision Feast, the Feast of the Lord’s Entry into the Temple, the Feast of the Lord’s Entry to Egypt, the Feast of the Wedding of Cana of Galilee, and Maundy Thursday) if they come on a Wednesday or Friday. We fast as well on some of the feasts of the Virgin Mary and any of the feasts of the martyrs or saints. Hence, breaking the fast does not follow the celebration of Pentecost, but rather we celebrate with fasting, prayer, and thanksgiving.

Accordingly, we can conclude that the Apostles fasted for ten days after the Ascension of Christ, to prepare themselves to receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit. This accords with the Lord’s saying: “*The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast*” (Mt. 9:15). On Pentecost day, the Holy Spirit descended with His gifts on the disciples, so they fasted with thanksgiving to God and to prepare themselves for service and preaching. In this way, the disciples did exactly as their Lord, who fasted for forty days after the Holy Spirit descended on Him. This is also evident in the Acts of the Apostles: “*While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’ Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off. So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit... they proclaimed the word of God*” (Acts 13:2-5). Therefore, the Fast of our Fathers, the Apostles, has an important place in our church, since it is related to the work of the Holy Spirit in the believers.

Source

Mikhail, Deacon Albair Gamal, *The Essentials in the Deacon’s Service*, (Shobra, Egypt: Shikolani, 2002), p. 784, 785. Translated from Arabic by Bishop Kamal Rofail, edited by Alexander A-Malek and Michael Guirguis.

Instrumental Music Lessons – Expression of Interest

Thank you to the numerous parents that forwarded their Expressions of Interest for instrumental music tuition with Octave8 for consideration.

The College is currently in discussions on how best to offer the requested services and their frequency and will inform parents once settled.

Lessons are conducted via private agreements with Octave8 who will lease a classroom/s one afternoon each week for the scheduled sessions.

Uniform Shop News



Octave8
MUSIC ACADEMY
Voted Most Outstanding Educational
Service by Liverpool Business Awards 2017

PROFESSIONAL MUSIC TUITION

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COLLEGE
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BASS GUITAR
DRUM KIT
VOCALS
UKULELE
SONGWRITING
COMPOSING FOR FILM
MUSIC THEORY
HSC PERFORMANCE
COACHING

TRINITY COLLEGE LONDON
Rock & Pop
Australian Music Examinations Board
rockschool

now taking
expressions of
interest

WWW.OCTAVE8.COM.AU
E MUSIC@OCTAVE8.COM.AU
P (02) 9731 0263

UNIFORM SHOP UPDATE

We would like to thank everyone for their support and patience during the winter changeover.

The shop is now fully stocked with all winter items and we are excited to advise that there are two new items which have been approved to be part of the school uniform:

- The new winter scarf with the school emblem will be available from the start of next term.
- The new blue senior jumper which has arrived and is available for purchase. Students who are wearing the current maroon jumper can continue to do so, however senior students who need to purchase a jumper will now be required to purchase the updated blue senior jumper.

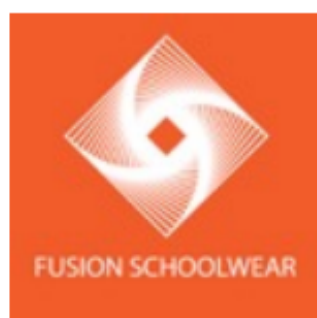
The uniform shop details are:

- Email: stmarks@fusionschoolwear.com.au
- Tel: 0476 411 241
- Both the Price List and Order Form are now located on the school website.
- Shop hours during the term will be as follows:
 - Monday 8:30am - 11:00am
 - Thursday 1:30pm - 3:30pm

We will also be opened, in addition to the usual term opening times, on the following day:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>OPENING TIME</u>
23 July 2018	9am-12pm

Have a wonderful holiday with your children, and we look forward to seeing you in the shop next term.



From the Deputy Head of College, Mr Adam Osborne

The Light and the Torch

Congratulations to all students from K - 12 for their outstanding efforts across the school during Term 2. It has been a wonderful Term full of new and exciting learning initiatives.

Year 12, we especially pray for you as you prepare over the break for the upcoming Trial HSC. May God grant each of you success, wisdom and peace.

I have had the privilege to visit Primary School classes over the last few weeks and see firsthand the outstanding learning environments that teachers have created, the quality work students are accomplishing and the strong Christian ethos being displayed on a daily basis.

Thank you to Fr. George and the other Fathers for their outstanding and continuing spiritual insight and input into the College. Students are growing in faith and love through your leadership and example.

Recently I have been studying the life and ministry of His Holiness Pope Shenouda the 3rd. His life and teachings are remarkable. I have been encouraged by His Holiness's words on prayer and relationship;

"Prayer is a tie, a relationship between man and God. Therefore, it is not just talk, it is a heart connected to a heart. Prayer is a feeling of being in the presence of God. It is a partnership with the Holy Spirit and unity with God."

"Praise others and make them aware of your appreciation. Make them feel that you know their good deeds and admire them."

May these words continue to inspire and help us.

Psalm 119 v 105 states:

Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path.

Blessing and prayers,

Blessings and prayers, **Adam Osborne**

Science News: Yr 7 Cork Launchers

Students in Year 7 are being challenged to refine their skills on the Scientific Method by producing a cork launcher. The criteria for success is that the launched object must reach a target that is at least 5 meters away. The trajectory is the path that an object follows through the air and the trigger is a device that sets off a mechanism. To facilitate this, the first task is to design and create a sketch of their prototypes which are then amended, redesigned and modified to fit their brief.

Their next mission is to create a rubber band powered car! Stay tuned!



Yr 10 @ UTS

Year 10 have been invited to attend a two-day event, at UTS, in order to gain a genuine understanding and appreciation of the application of science to our society, environment and everyday life. This is particularly important for year 10 students as they begin considering their post- school destinations and their subject choices for Year 11, 2019.

By visiting UTS Science over the next two-days, students get to:

- Experience university life both socially and academically
- Experience- state-of-the-art science and mathematics facilities
- Participate in hands-on experiments and lab practical sessions; including:
 - Data Arena
 - Microbiology – All the small things
 - Physics – Green Power
 - CSI – Forensic Science
 - Physiology



From the Head of Primary, Mrs Silvia Nada

Primary News

Dear Parents/ Guardians,
Term 2 was a busy term full of many activities. Upon reflecting, much has been achieved and it is pleasing to see the students happy and settled.



Reports

Our reports as you may have noticed have changed in appearance. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the classroom teacher or me for clarification. However, the College has improved the report structure and template so that it is easy to read.

Term 3

In Preparation for term 3, please encourage your child/ren to read books so that they are enriched with Literacy.

Please encourage your child always to be well prepared for school and in following the College rules. When the children are well prepared and organised for their school day they are focused and settled. This will lead our children to success.



Thank you for your continuous support. The staff wish you a restful break and we look forward to another exciting term.

God bless

Keep us in your prayers

Assessment and Reporting

Assessment and reporting are two important processes in the learning and teaching cycle at St Mark's College. Assessing student learning is an integral part of the school classroom. It improves learning and informs teaching; it is the process through which teachers identify, gather and interpret information about student achievement and learning to improve, enhance and plan for further learning.

The Learning Goals for the first semester are developed after careful observation and rigorous assessment of your child's progress during first term followed by an interview and communicated to the parents. Goals are set focussing on the development of Literacy, Numeracy and/or Behavioural /Organisational skills.

The student portfolio is sent home with your child's mid-year and end of year reports for you to view, share with your child and celebrate their progress. The student portfolio provides valuable insight into your child's achievements and development.

Things to look for in the child's portfolio:

- Evidence of development – improvement and progress
- Best work practices and best efforts
- Presentation elements e.g. handwriting
- Content of their work e.g. units covered in class
- Evidence of creative thinking in their work
- Signs of “having a go” and risk-taking with their learning

What to do:

- Celebrate your child's achievements
- Look for indicators to focus on for future development
- Communicate with your child's class teacher about the progress shown through the portfolio

Parent / Student / Teacher Interviews will be held twice each year. The first is held in Term 1 and the second is held in term 3. The purpose of the Parent / Student / Teacher Interview is for parents to share relevant information about their child and for the class teacher to share information about their observations and assessments of the student's progress.

The student participates in the interview to share their learning goals for the semester. These goals have been developed by your child's teacher because of extensive assessment and observation of your child at work. Your child has also formulated one of their own learning goals (Years 2-6).

Thank you and God bless

Afternoon Collection Time Reminder

It has come to my attention that there are a number of students who are picked up past 3:15 pm. Please be advised that the pickup time in the afternoon is 3:00 pm and teachers are often in meetings or doing work requirements which means that there is no teacher supervision past 3:30.

This places your child's safety at risk and goes against what the College stands for as your child's safety is very important to us. Please assist us by picking up your child/ren on time, however, if you are going to be late or caught up in traffic, it is imperative that you call the office.

No Primary student is allowed to remain past pickup time if their high school sibling is in detention as again there is no supervision during this time.

Thank you for your cooperation in this. Your continuous support is much appreciated.

Yr 4 Narrative by Joyce Abdelmessih

As part of a routine writing exercise for narrative, Joyce Abdelmessih (Yacoub) created this poem.

Lady Beetle Poem

*This little love bug is here,
Bringing you lots of love and cheer!
I'm glad to visit, but not to stay,*

*As love isn't love 'til you give it
away!*

*I asked you not to be slow,
For time goes by too fast, you know.
It begins with a grin,
It turns into a giggle,
You start to laugh,
Your legs start to wiggle,
You look around for someone to hug,
Hooray, you've caught me, I'm the love bug,
So here is a message, from me to you,
That pretty much every ladybird would tell you,
Choose someone special this very day,
And send them your love in a very clever way!*



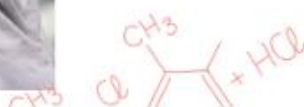
Junior
SCIENCE ACADEMY

SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMS AT MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY – mq.edu.au/about/holidays

- Children are introduced to science concepts and skills in a safe and supervised environment.
- Courses teach the concepts through experiments, art, drama, physical activity, craft and other hands-on activities.
- Students are provided with experiences and activities that help them to understand a concept or gain knowledge in an active way.
- Courses are added and rotated each school holidays, and drop off and pick-up times are designed for the working parent.
- The Junior Science Academy is for children in Years K-6 in primary school.



Drop off	8.30am – 9.30am
Activities	9.30am – 4.30pm
Pick-up	4.30pm – 5.30pm
Cost	\$120



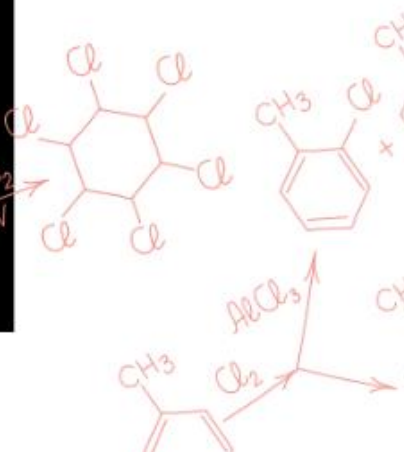
Did you know?

- Junior Science Academy courses can be used by schools for class incursions or science clubs. OOSH centres and Scout or Guide groups can also use the activities to enhance their program.
- Our activities are written by primary school teachers, and provide a fun and engaging way to generate interest and ability in science at school. Each lesson is designed to fit in to a one-hour period each week over a term, but can be modified as required.
- Offer our courses at your school or centre. Contact us for a solution and a quote.



Contact Details

T: (02) 9850 9485 E: juniorscience@mq.edu.au



SECONDARY NEWS

From the Secondary Studies Coordinator – Mr Peter Joseph

"I always say, decisions I make, I live with them. There's always ways you can correct them or ways you can do them better. At the end of the day, I live with them. Every night on the court I give my all, and if I'm not giving 100 percent, I criticize myself."
– LeBron James (Cleveland Cavaliers)



Semester One Student Evaluation

As we have now reached the conclusion of Semester One, all students should evaluate their practices. This means that students should complete a robust reflection and analysis of study regimes, organisational strategies, punctuality and overall levels of focus in class for each subject. Elite practitioners – from athletes to experts in any field – consistently evaluate their performance and take accountability for the decisions they make. It is an elite mindset for a student to reflect and promote change. I would highly encourage all students to do this over the holiday period.

Semester Two Class Streaming

Communication was sent to parents with information regarding the streaming class realignment for Years 8-10. Faculty Heads will complete their analysis of student performance and behavioural dynamics, which will result in some class changes. Students impacted will receive a new timetable at the beginning of Term 3. For further information, please refer to the letter sent on June 12, 2018.

ICAS Exams

Students have recently completed their Science ICAS exam. The next two ICAS dates are as follows:

English – 31/7/18 (Years 3-10 & Year 11 Advanced English)

Mathematics – 14/8/18 (Years 3-10 & Year 11 Mathematics 2 unit)

HSC Minimum Standards Tests

Students in Year 10 who did not meet the HSC Minimum Standard in any Year 9 NAPLAN components completed their first attempt at the online test this term. Those who met the standard in this online test component do not need to complete any further testing in that area. Any student who did not meet the standard will have another attempt later this year. These results are communicated to students as they are made available.

“NO LIMITS TO LEARNING” TUTORING SCHOOL

Make 2018 your year to shine!

We are here to help your children achieve their best. We have been established for over 7 years proudly serving the local community. Our professional team of qualified teachers have achieved outstanding results. We continue to strive for our students to reach their optimum academic level.

Please contact us on Mobile: 0414 566 209

We offer one-on-one tutoring with specialised programs to suit each students individual learning needs. Our fees are very competitive!



Hanans Migration Services

Hanans Migration Services is an established migration agency located in South Wentworthville.

With over 20 years legal and migration experience in the Australian migration field, we assist with and provide professional advice on all onshore and offshore Australian visa enquiries, visa cancellation, visa review and ministerial intervention submissions.

We offer fixed and competitive fees for our services.

Assistance with Arabic language translation is provided upon request.

Contact us today via phone (ph 0411 099 086) or email (hanansmigrationservices@gmail.com) for a consultation.

Website: hanansmigrationservices.com.au

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