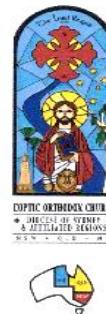




SAINT MARK'S

COPTIC ORTHODOX COLLEGE

To live is Christ



HEAD OF COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

Wednesday, 11 April 2018

Volume 23 Edition 3

Ανεστη! Christ is Risen!
Αληθως Ανεστη! Truly He is Risen!

Upcoming Dates

APRIL

- 12 Thu Early Bird Liturgy 6 – 8 am
- 13 Fri Term 1 Concludes

TERM 2

- 30 Mon Staff Profess Dvp Day

MAY

- 1 Tue Term 2 Commences K – 12
- 3 Thu Early Bird Liturgy 6 – 8 am
Yrs 3-6 Inquisitive Minds
- 4 Fri NAPLAN Trial Day
- 8 Tue St Mark's FEAST DAY
P & F Mothers' Day Stall
- 9 Wed Yr 7 Vaccinations
- 10 Thu Early Bird Liturgy 6 – 8 am
K-6 Open Day – New Parents
2019 Yrs 9 & 11 Subject
Information Evening
P & F Mothers' Day Stall
- 11 Fri K-12 Liturgy, St Mark's Feast
Day & Events
P & F Mothers' Day Stall
- 13 SUN MOTHERS DAY
- 14 Mon Mother's Day Morning Tea 8:45
– 9:30 am
- 15 Tue NAPLAN Yrs 3, 5, 7 & 9
- 16 Wed NAPLAN Yrs 3, 5, 7 & 9
- 17 Thu Early Bird Liturgy 6 – 8 am
NAPLAN Yrs 3, 5, 7 & 9
- 14 Sun MOTHERS DAY
- 15 Mon Mother's Day Morning Tea 8:45
– 10 am
- 24 Thu Early Bird Liturgy 6 – 8 am
- 31 Thu Early Bird Liturgy 6 – 8 am
SMC Multicultural Day

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



"Ekhristos Anesti Eknikron; thanato thanaton; patisas. Ke tee-see-enti semni massi. Zoueen. Kharissaminooss. Zoxapatri. ke eiu. Ke egia epnevmati. Ke Neen Ke a-εει. Ke estoos. E-onastoon e-onoan. Amin."

Χριστός ανέστη εκ νεκρών, θανάτω θάνατον πατήσας, και τοις εν τοις μνήμασι ζωήν χαρισάμενος.

"Christ Is Risen from the dead. By death He trampled death. And those who were in the tombs, were granted: the eternal life. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Now and forever, and unto the ages of all ages. Amen"





Coptic Orthodox Patriarchate
His Holiness Pope Tawadros II
Pope of Alexandria and
Patriarch of the See of St. Mark
The Papal Center



بطريركية الأقباط الأرثوذكس
قداسة البابا الأنبا تواضروس الثاني
بابا الإسكندرية
وبطريك الكرازة المرقسية
المقر البابوي

222 Ramses St., Abbaseya, Cairo, Egypt

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English

In the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, One God, Amen.

Ekhristos Anesti, Alithos Anesti. Christ is risen, Truly, He is risen.

I congratulate you my beloved for the Glorious Feast of the Resurrection. The Feast of the Resurrection is the epitome of our feasts and the most joyful of our joys. I congratulate everyone everywhere. I congratulate all fathers the Metropolitans, Bishops, hegumens, presbyters, monks, deacons, all elders, the members of church boards in all dioceses, all people, youth, servants, all families, and young children. I congratulate you on the Glorious Feast of the Resurrection, which is known by three names:

We call it the “Feast of Passover”, meaning to pass from darkness to light. This is the night before the Resurrection Liturgy, the Apocalypse night, when we enter the church in darkness and conclude with the holy liturgy on the Bright Saturday in the light. We also call it the Feast of the Easter. This word is derived from the word “East”. It is an eastern feast, and the east is always associated with light. I also congratulate you by its third name, Sunday. It is the feast of Sunday, which means day of the light. This is the day of light, Feast of the Light.

In the various events of the glorious resurrection, occurring during the week of Pascha, we encounter several characters. The resurrection is the biggest event in the history of mankind and implants hope for humanity. We are faced with two types of people. One kind of human being causes pain while another implants hope. In the Arabic language, both words “Pain” and “Hope” have exactly the same letters, but are arranged differently. There are those who cause pain and suffering in the lives of men, and others who implant hope and optimism. The resurrection is the greatest earthly event implanting hope in men’s souls. Let us take some few examples.

When we read in the beginning of the New Testament, we read about King Herod. A man who caused pain. He was responsible for the killing of the children of Bethlehem. These were younger than two years old. His intent was to kill the child Jesus. He caused and nurtured pain that resulted in crying and lamentations that filled the land because of children’s slaughter. More examples of people who caused pain for men are the Jews who crucified the Lord Christ. The sufferings of crucifixion were enormous physically, psychologically and emotionally. They included the pain of mockery, nails, crown of thorns, and the cross itself. There were the screams of the crowd present, their wrath, insults, and harsh words directed to the Lord Christ on the cross. These extreme sufferings were inflicted by the Jews who crucified the Lord Christ. They culminated by the death of Christ on the cross. Another example of those who caused pain in the lives of men was Judas, the traitor disciple. He was a disciple selected by Christ, with his brothers the disciples. He lived among them, watched the miracles of the Lord Jesus Christ and listened to His teachings. But his inferior personality allowed him to compromise Christ with money, causing extensive pain by betraying and selling Him cheaply. This concluded by hanging and suicide.

These are examples of those who caused pain. There are many examples. Some people spread darkness the life of man, either darkness of mind, or darkness of heart. These cause failures in the lives of others, instill all kinds of fear, anxiety and financial struggles between people leading to violence and wars. Others may cause pain through stubbornness, rebellion, or aggression. Also, inject lies, rumors and doubts, that make others falter in despair. All those cause pain. They live without Christ.

The other kind of human beings are those who plant hope in the life of men. The resurrection of Christ was a strong event in planting hope. It is the condition upon which Christianity was established. Christianity is built entirely upon the resurrection of the Lord Christ. As "Nor is there salvation in any other," (Acts 4:12). Look at Mary Magdalene who was a desperate woman, seeking her Christ and could not find him. The appearance of Christ, and His words to her restored her hope. She became St. Mary Magdalene, who carried the good tidings of the resurrection to the disciples and apostles. Look at the two disciples of Emmaus, they were walking by Jerusalem, and talking but they were both desperate. When the Lord Christ appeared to walk with them, He said to them "O foolish ones, and slow of heart," (Luke 24:25) and He restored their courage and hope. Observe the group of the disciples who were frightened and severely confused in the upper room after the crucifixion of Christ and His resurrection. While in this state and hopeless, Christ appeared to them. The Holy Bible says in John: "Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord." (John 20:20). He implanted hope.

My beloved, you may decide to which group you wish to belong. Are you from the group that causes pain in the life of others? Or from the group that implants hope? You can implant hope with encouraging words, being optimistic, opening a door of hope, and making peace. When you forgive others, you plant hope. When you greet everyone with your smile, you plant hope. When you portray a positive attitude in your daily demeanor, you plant hope.

My beloved, I congratulate you for this feast, the Feast of Resurrection. I congratulate all our churches from the east to the west. I congratulate all the Egyptian Coptic Orthodox dioceses present worldwide. In the U.S.A., Canada, Latin America, Europe, Africa, Asia, in the Seat of Jerusalem, and Australia. To all my beloved children everywhere, my warm and special congratulation to you all. I hope that the joy of this feast fills your hearts. I congratulate you all from the land of Egypt. This land is loved by our Lord Jesus Christ, and in which He lived for years with our mother, the Virgin St. Mary and St. Joseph the carpenter. I congratulate you all, and pray for all goodness, all love and all peace for you.

Let us say the greeting of the Resurrection, Ekhrastos Anesti, Alithos Anesti. Christ is risen, Truly, He is risen.

Samadras II

Feast of the Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ

8 April 2018, Easter Message

Christ is Risen, Truly He Has Risen!!

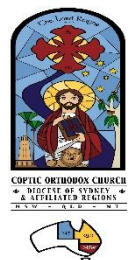
To the Reverend Fathers, the Priests, the Deacons, the Church Committees, the Servants, the Youth and all the members of the Coptic Orthodox Diocese of Sydney and its Affiliated Regions.

My beloved brothers and sisters in Christ, Grace, peace and mercy from Christ who is risen in glory!

***Pikhrastos Aftanf! Khristos Anesti! Al Masih Kam!
Christ is Risen!***

I would like to acknowledge before I begin the traditional custodians of the land.

This year's Easter message is focused on the continuous joy we as Christians experience in the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ and our constant responsibility towards this and our Church across generations. Two very important points that need to be addressed first, is that Heavenly Joy is one of the fruits of the



Holy Spirit in humans (Galatians 5:22)¹. Second, that the Kingdom of God is righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit (Romans 14:17)².

Although³ the day of the Crucifixion was a sad and painful day on the emotional side, it was also a day for Salvation from the theological perspective. Even though the disciples were in a lot of sadness and worry on Good Friday, they experienced great joy on Sunday thanks to the Resurrection of our Lord.

At the dawn of Sunday when Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to the tomb of Our Lord Jesus, they saw the angel. This Angel told them: He has risen from the dead, and so they rushed back, with fear and also with great innate joy, and informed the Disciples of His resurrection (Matthew 28: 1-8)⁴.

The Disciples were saddened by the view of Jesus being crucified on Good Friday. The Lord Jesus knew beforehand that this would happen, so He told them: “You are now sad, but I will see you after my resurrection from the dead, and your hearts will be joyful, and this Joy no one can take away from you (John 16:22)⁵. This is fulfilled when the Lord Jesus appeared to His Disciples after His Resurrection. The disciples could not believe their own eyes when they saw Him, due to the great joy they had upon seeing him (Luke 24:41)⁶. It was extremely important that Our Lord Jesus saw His Disciples after his resurrection; to give them this joy, which would encourage them to start preaching His Name. This act of preaching requires heavenly peace to dwell inside their hearts, as they were to face very tough circumstances ahead. Our Lord Jesus gave them this Godly Peace as He appeared to them while they were gathered in the Upper Room, with closed doors in fear after the crucifixion of Our Lord Jesus. Christ appears and shows them His hands, His feet and His side (John 20:19-20)⁷, and “the Disciples rejoiced when they saw The Lord”. During this apparition, and amidst their joy, He gave them His Godly Peace.

During Our Lord Jesus’ prayer just before His crucifixion, He spoke to the Father saying “all the things I have said to the world during My incarnation, My Disciples were witnesses thereof, and I will send out to continue preaching the good news to the world, so My Joy shall be complete within them (John 17: 9-13)⁸. Thus, our joy with the Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ, is also related to our love for others and preaching to them. The call of preaching is a responsibility of everyone, each according to the grace given to them, as per the responsibilities given to them by the Holy Church. As the joy of Jesus dwelling in one’s heart, pushes us to share others with us in the Joy of Resurrection⁹.

Our Lord Jesus Christ has endured pain and humiliation for the sake of the joy presented before Him (Hebrews 12:2)¹⁰. This Joy is in the salvation of our race which is achieved through His crucifixion, salvation and His resurrection from the dead and His ascension into Heaven. Hence when we as believers share joyfully in the Holy Spirit (1 Thessalonians 1:6)¹¹, in the endurance of pains, humiliation and trials (James 1:2)¹² for the sake of righteousness all believers become resembling The Lord Jesus and His pure disciples. What a great honor this is! This is what our teacher St. Paul the Apostle emphasized in his epistle to the Thessalonians; that our joy amidst trials and persecutions qualifies us to share the passions of Christ (1 Peter 4:13)¹³. Our joy during pain leads us to more joy when His glory is revealed, which is a responsibility, and every tribulation has its own crown.

Before Our Lord Jesus’ ascension to Heaven He took His Disciples to Bethany and raised His hands and blessed them, then He ascended into the Heaven. The Disciples then returned to Jerusalem in great joy (Luke 24: 50-53).¹⁴ The Disciples kept praising and blessing God in the temple. Yes, Resurrection is Joy, but it is also a responsibility. This is the responsibility of being in the holy church of God; to praise and bless The Lord and to serve the church each according to their talent.

The great Apostle of Love, John the Beloved describes to us two important spiritual reasons for our spiritual joy. The first one is to be always keen on reading God’s Word and live by it. Our Teacher St. John said: “And these things we write to you that your joy may be full”(1 John 1:4)¹⁵. The second one, is to walk in truth; Biblical truth (3 John 1:4)¹⁶. Because Our Lord Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Yes, resurrection is joy, but it is also a responsibility, the

¹ Galatians 5:22

² Romans 14:17

³ Pope Shenouda III, Contemplations on the Resurrection, first edition 1990, Cairo, P. 46

⁴ Matthew 28: 1-8

⁵ John 16:22

⁶ Luke 24:41

⁷ John 20:19-20

⁸ John 17: 9-13

⁹ Pope Tawadros II, The Coptic Orthodox Lectern, First Edition, November 2013, P. 383

¹⁰ Hebrews 12:2

¹¹ 1 Thessalonians 1:6

¹² James 1:2

¹³ 1 Peter 4:13

¹⁴ Luke 24: 50-53

¹⁵ 1 John 1:4

¹⁶ 3 John 1:4

responsibility is to obey the word of God in everything that we do. There is also the responsibility of witnessing to the truth, and not to be carried away by falsehood, no matter how many images of falsehood are around us during this time.

We ask our Lord, the Risen King of Glory to keep for us the life of our honourable father and shepherd, His Holiness Pope Tawadros II. May the Lord grant him many years of faithfully caring for our beloved Coptic Orthodox Church. We also ask the Resurrected King to preserve the lives of our Fathers their Eminences the Metropolitans and our Fathers their Graces the Bishops of the Coptic Orthodox Holy Synod. May the Lord preserve their lives for many years and peaceful times to come. And we pray the Resurrected Lord to bless our Mother land Egypt and our blessed land Australia.

To Him who is our light, our life, our peace and our joy, be the Power, the Glory the Dominion, the Majesty now and unto the ages of all ages. Amen.

With Love in Christ,

By the Grace of God;

Bishop Daniel

Bishop of the Diocese of Sydney and its affiliated regions.

Pikhrastos Aftonf! Khristos Anesti! Al Masih Kam! Christ is Risen!

P & F Meeting

Dear Parents of St Mark's College,

Following the recent P & F 2018 Elections for the Executive Committee, I have great pleasure in advising all of the 2018 P & F Office Bearers:

President	Mrs Nancy Ayad
Vice-President	Mr Helmy Farag
Secretary	Mr John Michael
Treasurer	Mrs Mary Anton

On behalf of the College community, I congratulate and welcome each of these individuals and also ask each member of the SMC Parents & Friends Association (members are EACH and all parents, Staff and interested community individuals). It's important to note that these elected individuals are your formal representatives on the school's Parents & Friends Association, they are volunteers who have accepted to undertake additional responsibilities on everyone's behalf in order to better assist our student and staff environment through their interest, participation and activities throughout the year. If you are asked to assist in any capacity and for any activity, PLEASE consider helping.

Their task is to bring parents together for the common good of our students by supplementing additional resources (through events) that will add towards the school learning environment.

The P & F Exec, nor the P & F Meetings are not to be confused with the forum to air grievances once a month. All parents need to address any concerns or grievances in the correct manner, when they occur, to the correct individual/s promptly so that any matter, large or small, can be taken on board and addressed. Waiting for a once a month audience at a P & F Meeting is not fulfilling the purpose of a P & F meeting.

Meetings should be about raising ideas for improvement, constructive discussions with common goals and organising events that can bring parents and students and staff together in unity. If funds are raised during these events, all the better as then together School and P & F can consider how to roll those profits back into the school to assist in improving the student's learning environment.

The first activity of the P & F will be holding the 2018 Mother's Day Stall during the week 7 – 11 MAY. Items on sale for student purchase will range from \$5 - \$20. A flyer with more details will follow.

CONGRATULATIONS!

To Mrs Claudia Angrisano and her husband Daniel on the recent birth of their first child, a boy they have named Alesio!

Instrumental Music Lessons – Expression of Interest

Dear Parents,

For some time now we have been liaising with Octave 8, a company that specialises in Instrumental Tuition both privately and in schools (as an extra-curricular regular session).

The intention is to gauge from you who and how many individuals would be keen and interested to access this service after-hours on the school premises from the trained Instructors of Octave 8. Dependent on numbers a cost would be charged on a term by term basis by the company. The time allocation could be an afternoon after school, and possibly in time from this, we would be able to create an SMC School Band.

If you are seriously interested in committing to this out-of-school Instrumental Program both in time and financially as an extra, please contact Mrs Mervat Sidhom on 9825 6768 to leave your name and contact number, student name/s and corresponding instrument by 4 pm FRIDAY, 13 March. The flyer included is a draft only and not yet finalised but will give you an outline of instruments covered by Octave 8.



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NSW Government Initiative “ACTIVE KIDS”



The NSW Government is helping kids get active with the new Active Kids program.

From 31 January 2018, parents, guardians and carers can apply for a \$100 voucher per calendar year for each student enrolled in school. The voucher may be used with a registered activity provider for registration, participation and

membership costs for sport, fitness and active recreation activities.

The voucher can be used at any time during the calendar year it was issued. To use the voucher, give your voucher details to an approved Active Kids Provider. The program runs year-round, so kids can get active at any time!

To access, here is the link: <https://sport.nsw.gov.au/sectordevelopment/activekids>

FROM THE DEPUTY HEAD OF COLLEGE – Mr Adam Osborne

As we continue to grow in relationship and community the bible speaks about a powerful word for community; Koinonia it is translated "fellowship" twelve times, "sharing" three times, and "participation" and "contribution" twice each. It is more than just being in the same place together and working towards a goal together. It is the essence and establishment of the very same union and relationship that Jesus speaks of in John chapter 17 where he declares in verses 20 and 21: “My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you.

This is our goal at Saint Mark's, to continue to create a place where we abide in the love of God, whilst helping each student thrive and flourish into all they have been called to be. As we do this there is a great resource from the University of Birmingham in England on building character and virtues for students. Follow the link below for more information.

<http://www.jubileecentre.ac.uk/1777/character-education/parent-resources>

<http://www.jubileecentre.ac.uk/432/character-education>

Blessings and prayers, **Adam Osborne**



PHOTO: GETTY

Family

Stop the Vicious Cycle of Burnout.



Research on burnout in adults and children shows that there is a correlation between the level of stress that parents feel at work and the level of stress that their kids feel at school. Of particular importance is the fact that the highest correlation can be found between mothers and their teen daughters. Stress and anxiety over money seems to be predictive of the highest levels of burnout. It seems that feeling burned out can



actually run in the family.

Our high, uncontrolled stress levels that result in us feeling burned out are detrimental to our kids because we act as their role models. They are constantly watching what we say, what we do and how we cope with stress. One of the concerning qualities about today's generation of kids is that they are now the most stressed-out generation — which means they're likely to become burned out adults.

One of the factors that contribute to that staggering statement is that they have poor coping skills. I am thinking that we, too, have poor coping skills in dealing with the tremendous stress that we now live with on a daily basis.

In kids, there are certain behaviors that may be signs that they are burned out:

- Loss of energy and interest for things they used to care about
- Anxiety rears its head socially and in school
- They say, "I don't care" a lot
- Reduced personal accomplishment
- More easily distracted than usual

When we are running around from place to place often late while eating and driving, texting and talking on the phone, we send a message to our kids that life is chaotic. When we are stressed, we can't really be present. This means that if our kids have something they want to talk to us about, we aren't available to listen to them.

When we overschedule our work and social lives we are likely to overschedule their school, athletic, and social lives, too. Some kids today tell me they don't have time to hang out with friends because they are "too busy."

Our kids need to be saved from the unachievable standards of perfection that are being placed on them. And parents need to be freed from their own unachievable standards of parenting perfection.

Here are three important things you can do today to stop the cycle of burnout:

1. Be sure there is an end in sight.

via GIPHY

One of the factors correlated to burnout is that the stress is chronic and won't ever stop. Be sure once your child does a project or plays on a sports team that there is an obvious break. This way they experience stressful things as having a start and end point.

2. Insist on self-care and downtime for your child.

Make sure that they have time to do the things they love to do in a non-competitive way and that there is time in their schedule every week for boredom. Yes, that time that is needed in order to be creative, innovative and relaxed.

3. Reduce multimedia exposure time.

via GIPHY

This includes phone, iPads, television and computer time. The level of stimulation that kids receive on a daily basis overloads their developing brains. Taking tech breaks reduces stress hormones flowing into their bodies and increases relaxation.

These tips apply to parents, too. I would suggest making it a family affair that everyone makes an effort to practice self-care, reduce stress, and know the signs of chronic stress in an effort to prevent family burnout.

Dr. Sheryl Ziegler is a mother, Doctor of Psychology, speaker, and author of the new book, Mommy Burnout: How Addressing Yours Will Make You A Better Mother And Create A Better Life For Your Children. You can follow her parenting advice in her newsletter by signing up today or visiting mommyburnout.com.

Uniform Shop News

Reminder that WINTER UNIFORM is worn by students from Term 2.

UNIFORM SHOP UPDATE

It has been a busy time in the uniform shop and we would like to thank everyone who visited the shop over the holiday period for their patience.

It was fantastic to know that all students were able to purchase their summer uniform. The shop will be stocked with winter uniform items over the coming weeks, and we will update the community accordingly as they arrive.

Swimwear, soccer socks and sports socks are also now available.

Fusion Schoolwear is currently in the process of finalising the new online uniform shop and we are anticipating a launch date towards the end of April.

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 days:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>OPENING TIME</u>
26 April 2018	9am-12pm
27 April 2018	9am-12pm
30 April 2018	9am-12pm
1 May 2018	8:30am-10:30am

It has been a pleasure meeting many of you in the shop, and we look forward to working with you in the future.



PRIMARY NEWS FROM THE HEAD OF PRIMARY

Mrs Silvia Nada



Term 1

2018 SRC (School Representative council)

Students from year 2 to 6 have been elected to be part of the Primary SRC each semester. The SRC meets once a fortnight to discuss issues relevant to the Primary School. Miss Tennant and Mrs Saeed are responsible for running the meetings. SRC provides equal opportunities for all students to voice their ideas and concerns about school. The SRC endeavours to enable all students to feel valued, to be involved in school life, and to contribute to the school community.

Tuesday clubs:

Every Tuesday the students participate in a club that they have chosen. The clubs consist of: Cooking, gardening, stem, chess, drama, arts and crafts, Kindy to year 1 activities and sports skills.



Debating:

Students in year 5 and 6 have been selected to participate in the debating team and our first round against Emanuel school is on Tuesday 27th February.

Awards:

The students are encouraged by receiving awards in their stage assembly. The awards are: citizenship, improvement and high achiever. The student can accumulate their awards to proceed to award levels.

Hands Off:

The College is very strict with its hands-off rule. Please speak to your child about this to prevent injuries and consequences.

Lost property:

There have been too many items in the lost property especially lunch boxes, containers and bottles. Please label all items and encourage your child to look after his/her property.



SECONDARY NEWS

From the Secondary Studies Coordinator – Mr Peter Joseph

Reflection

As Year 12 students move into Semester Two having just completed their Semester One Exams, in addition to students in Years 7-11 completing their first lot of assessments, the following quote should hopefully offer some perspective about the true meaning of failure and success:

“I’ve missed more than 9000 shots in my career. I’ve lost almost 300 games. 26 times, I’ve been trusted to take the game winning shot and missed. I’ve failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeed.” **Michael Jordan**



HSC Minimum Standard

As has been widely reported, there have been changes to the implementation of the HSC Minimum Standards. NESAs states that *A minimum standard of literacy and numeracy is required to receive the HSC from 2020 to reflect the importance of literacy and numeracy for success in daily life.*

As such, the following applies:

Year 10 students

If you are in Year 10 this year (2018) and did not receive a Band 8 or above in the 2017 Year 9 NAPLAN tests you will need to take the minimum standard online tests between now and Year 12 to receive your HSC in 2020. If you achieved a Band 8 or above in one or more of the 2017 Year 9 NAPLAN tests you are recognised as having met the HSC minimum standard in that area/s and will not need to sit the corresponding online test/s.

The process for completing these Online Minimum Standards tests will commence next term. NESAs mandates a number of ‘completion windows’ for students to attempt the test each year. More information will be issued to Year 10 students in the coming weeks.

Year 9 students

From this year, Year 9 NAPLAN tests will no longer be available as an early way for students to demonstrate the standard. This change has been made to ensure NAPLAN remains focussed on its diagnostic purpose and to reduce unnecessary stress on young people.

NAPLAN

Students will sit the 2018 NAPLAN tests as per the schedule below:

	Tuesday 15 May 2018	Wednesday 16 May 2018	Thursday 17 May 2018
Year 3	Language conventions (40 minutes) Writing (40 minutes)	Reading (45 minutes)	Numeracy (45 minutes)
Year 5	Language conventions (40 minutes) Writing (40 minutes)	Reading (50 minutes)	Numeracy (50 minutes)

Year 7	Language conventions (45 minutes) Writing (40 minutes)	Reading (65 minutes)	Numeracy (60 minutes)
Year 9	Language conventions (45 minutes) Writing (40 minutes)	Reading (65 minutes)	Numeracy (60 minutes)

At this stage, students sitting the NAPLAN tests should continue to do past NAPLAN papers under examination conditions at home to best acclimatise themselves for the examinations.

Information, support material and past papers can be found at: <https://www.nap.edu.au/naplan>

ICAS

Once again, St Mark's College will be sitting the ICAS tests. The University of New South Wales, the tests' creators, are slowly moving away from this being labelled as a 'competition' and more towards it being a diagnostic tool. This will give us valuable insights into a student's skill development which we can track for each student over multiple years.

The dates for each test and students sitting the tests are as follows:

Exam	Sitting date	Years
Science	29/5/18	3 - 10
Spelling	13/6/18	3 - 6
English	31/7/18	3 - 10 and Year 11 Advanced English
Maths	14/8/18	3 - 10 and Year 11 Mathematics 2 unit

Brochures containing more information on ICAS is available for students and parents in the Office. Please see Office staff for one.

2019 Subject Selections

2019 Subject Selection evenings for Years 9 and 11 will take place next term. Information letters will be issued to these students closer to about the Subject Expo and the process for selection. Stay tuned!

Website: Students Online

All Year 12 students have just been given information about how to activate their account on Students Online and obtain their PIN.

Students Online is your source for information about your senior school study, from Year 10 to the HSC. It covers school-based assessment, HSC exams and results, including grades, how the HSC works, preparing for exams and more.

To access Students Online:

1. Go to <https://studentsonline.bostes.nsw.edu.au/>
2. Log in with your Student Number and PIN to access your personal study details.

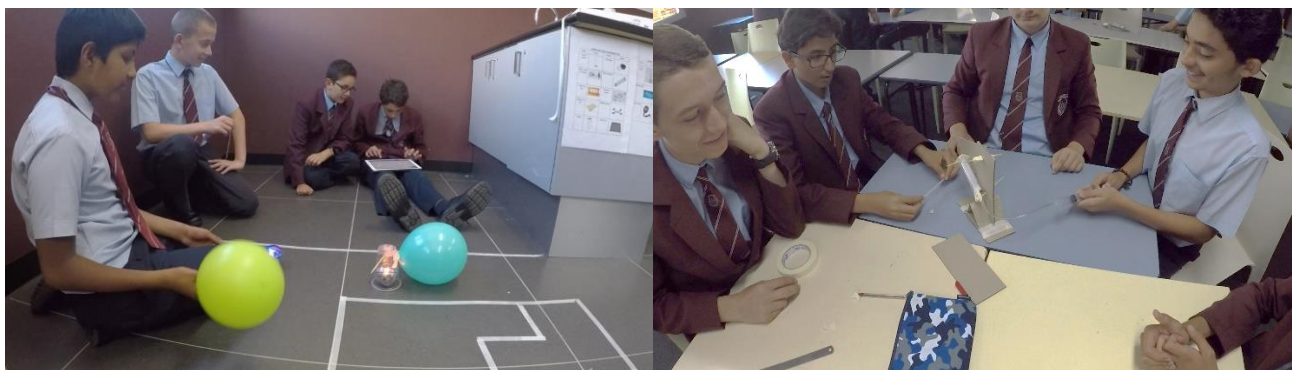
From May, Year 12 students can print out their personalised HSC Exam Timetable from Students Online.

STEM at St Mark's College – Dr Keryn Lucas (STEM CoOrdinator Yrs 7 – 12)

Our thanks and appreciation to Dr Lucas for establishing this Program at SMC this year. Even during its first term and still in its infancy, Dr Lucas has successfully put together an amazing Program that we all know will greatly benefit our students.

During Term One, our students have had the opportunity to develop their critical thinking and problem solving skills through the new STEM program at St Mark's College. Selected students from Years 7 and 8 have attended a workshop at Microsoft to develop digital technology skills, while at school, students have had the opportunity to participate in one of five different design-centred learning projects:

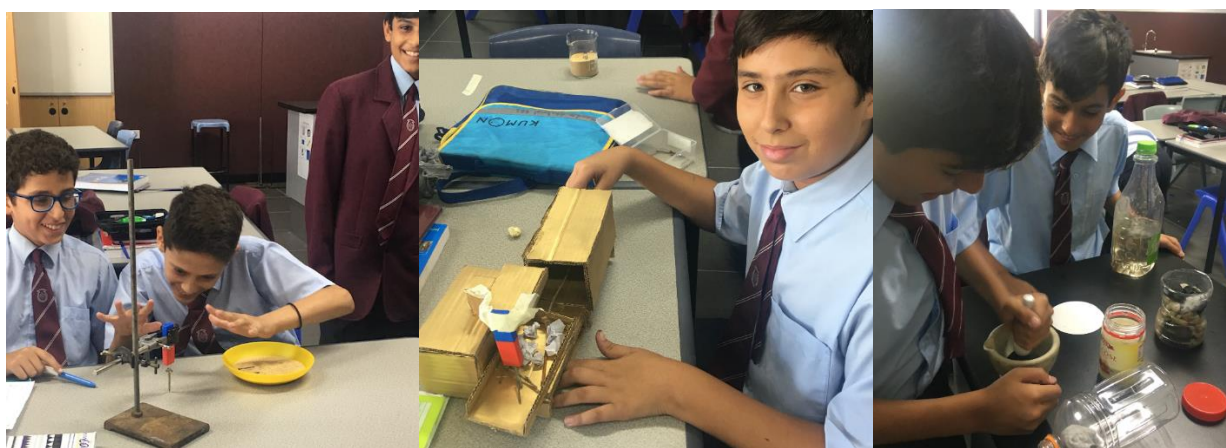
- Pneumatic Robot Arm
- Space Flight Engineering
- Angry Birds Challenge
- Coding with Spheros



Each of the projects requires students to think creatively, to brainstorm, to work collaboratively and to evaluate and refine their ideas. The students have approached their projects with enthusiasm, imagination and resilience. It has been a joy to watch the development of the student's projects throughout the term, as well as the excitement that ensues with each small success. The unparalleled value of learning through failure has certainly taken centre stage – which is exactly as it should be as we step out of our comfort zones and into unfamiliar territory.

Yr 7 Science News

So proud of Year 7 and their own ideas, coming up with their own method of Separation of Matter. Antony and Danial working closely together filtering dirty water by crushing charcoal, adding pebbles and sand to make their own filtering system. Kerelos made his very own mini recycling plant by removing any metal pieces with a magnet and dividing metals from non-metals. Many other wonderful ideas were projected this class."



Maths Club Invite

Year 7, 8 and year 9(5.2) invite you to improve your Maths skills during lunch time every Thursday term 2&3 at room B3.7, you can bring your lunch with you.

Please register your name with Mr Gerges or Mrs Salmo

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