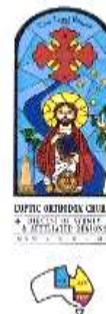




SAINT MARK'S

COPTIC ORTHODOX COLLEGE

To live is Christ



HEAD OF COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

Wednesday, 5 December 2018

Volume 22 Edition 4

Upcoming Dates

TERM 4

DECEMBER

- 7 Wed Yr 7 Student Vaccination Day
6 Thu Peer Support 2-day Camp commences
- 2018 K-6 Primary Presentation Day
9:30 – 11 am, Hall
7 Fri K-12 THANKSGIVING Liturgy,
8:30 – 11 am
Secondary SPORTS Presentation
Day 2 pm, Hall
CHRISTMAS CAROLS 6:30 – 8 PM
12 Wed Yrs 5 – 12 Annual Speech Night,
Liverpool Catholic Club, 6 – 8 pm
13 Thu All Staff commence their
Professional Dvt program for the
remainder of Thursday and Friday.

14 Fri Term 4 Concludes

School Office Hours During Summer Break
12 December – Friday 21 Dec 2018

&

Mon 21 January – Tues 29 Jan 2019
9 am – 3 pm

Uniform Shop Hours shown included in
Newsletter Item

CELEBRATING 22 YEARS OF COPTIC
EDUCATION IN NSW

TERM 1 - 2019

JANUARY

- 21 Mon School Offices Re-Open 9 am – 3 pm
- 28 Mon Australia Day Holiday
29 Tue Staff Professional Development Day
30 Wed Lessons Commence Years 1 – 12
31 Jan 2019 Kindergarten commences
Yr 7 Parent Information Session, 6 – 7 pm

FEBRUARY

- 1 Fri Year 1 – 12 Liturgy to open the
Academic Year, 8:30-11 am
4 Mon K-6 Parent Information Sessions, 6 – 7:30 pm
5 Tue Primary Swimming Carnival
7 Thu Early Bird Liturgy, 6-8 am

Christmas Greetings

Glory be to God for the year we have been fortunate to experience! Through only Him are we able to achieve true success, enjoy the results of our efforts and work toward addressing and resolving the simple and sometimes complex challenges that came our way.



With the combined effort and support of every individual within our College and wider community, the spirit within St Mark's College continues.

Congratulations and thanks to all students, staff and families on your combined efforts. Congratulations and thanks to our Hierarchs: HH Pope Tawadros II & Patriarch of the See of Alexandria; HG Bishop Daniel, Bishop of Sydney & Affiliated Regions; Rev Fr George Nakhil, College Chaplain along with the blessed attendance at the College throughout the year of Rev Fr Suriel Hanna, Rev Fr Basilios Gad, Rev Fr Joseph Ghattas, Rev Fr Thomas Doss, Very Rev Fr Shenouda Mansour and to Very Rev Fr Antonios Kaldas for his Personal Dev Talks with Yrs 5 & 6.

Finally, to our Executive and team of dedicated staff – Thank you to each and every one of you for your cooperation and support during this challenging year. Special thank you to Mr Peter Joseph, who stepped up to the challenge in the role of Acting Deputy Head of College this term, and performed brilliantly!

The work required of our Governing body is not an easy one. Our past and current Board members have spent, and continue to spend an enormous amount of voluntary time away from their regular work commitments and family to guide and support us in meeting our Objectives. On behalf of everyone here, I thank each Board Member past and present for their guidance and support.

With God's guidance, we will all continue to meet our daily challenges through grace, respect, supporting each other And a lot of hard work.

May you all have a blessed and Holy Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous 2019!



ميلاد مجيد
وكل عام وانتم بخير



Inspirational Words:

"It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you ... yes, it is Christmas every time you smile at your brother and offer him your hand." **Mother Theresa**



From Our College Chaplain: Fr George Nakhil

<http://www.smass.co.uk/contemplations-on-feasts-and-fasts/the-fast-and-feast-of-the-nativity>

The Fast And Feast Of The Nativity



Have you ever wondered why fasting is necessary before the feast of the Nativity? It is a joyful receiving of our Lord, what we really want to do is build up an excitement day by day leading up to Christ's birth. It does not have the same feel as Lent with constant repentance and a journey leading you to the cross and then the resurrection. The hymns are not sad but are full of glorifications so why are we fasting? Other churches build the occasion up as a joyful expectation with early gifts and carol songs. But perhaps there is more to the event than an expectation of the Lord, perhaps there is a call on us to also change and be prepared as well.

For there must also be a truly deep mystery to this feast. He who always existed is born; He who was never created grew in the womb of St. Mary.

Part of our problem is that we do not approach this great mystery with wonder and amazement, we have become so accustomed to the story that we almost forget it is a spiritual feast. We have made it all about the children, the nativity story is for them, the plays and presents and the whole atmosphere is about the children feeling the wonder and excitement of Christmas and we have sanitized it of its mystery. As such we often fail to fully grasp the true spiritual depth of this event and its life changing consequences for all mankind.



To Counter This Superficial Approach We Fast For 40 Days.

We must prepare ourselves for in actual fact this feast is about us. The mistake is to sit back and be joyful that God has come to us. When the reality is that this is a feast to celebrate us being elevated to Him. It is not about His humility, but an unquenchable love that is taking human form to absorb us completely and raise us high above the earth. It is about our nature transforming from one of the earth and corruptible to one of heaven and incorruptible again. Our transformation is just as remarkable as God's arrival in the flesh. It is the moment that God says to us that we are worth saving; we are worthy of God's deliverance.

So it is us that must take the spiritual journey, we do not watch and receive joyfully we must prepare. For Christ will not reveal Himself just for the spectacle of it, not as a party trick but so that He can take hold of us and elevate us from death and despair into a state of life and eternity. If we are not ready to hold on to Him then we will get left behind, so we must be ready. Think how many people Christ approached and asked to follow Him? Did they all leave everything and just follow? Most of us are not able to just be ready we are firmly attached to this world, we spend our time thinking of this world with our problems, relationships, commitments and dreams, we build and spend our time preparing for life in this world so we can make the most of it. So when God comes to elevate us beyond it we feel a tug in our hearts that says no. Our hearts say there are too many very important things happening in our lives we are not ready to be absorbed and elevated into a spiritual world where God is our passion and dedication to Him comes before all. A key discipline that combats this selfish thinking is charity. Hence its importance this time of the year; it is not just to provide for the poor it is for us, to train us to freely let go of our time and money without holding back and without reserving things for ourselves. So we give while picturing Christ receiving it as if it was our very own soul that we are sharing out.



52 Australis Av, Wattle Grove, NSW. (PO Box 747, Moorebank, NSW, 1875)

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Coptic Orthodox Diocese & Affiliated Regions

ABN: 67 796 481 099

Message from our College Board

Dear Parents, families and friends,

We would like to welcome the custodians of the Colleges past, present and future to our new board. NSW Coptic School's Board of Education is governed by the NSW Coptic Schools Board. Our Board members come with an array of experience from multiple disciplines. The Board meets at least twice per term and has, in addition, workshops at which it considers governance and strategic long term planning issues. The NSW Coptic School's Board of Education has held several Board meetings with our respective school's executive leadership team, education consultants, legal professionals to shape our school's vision in a methodically step by step transition.

This transition period has been a time of understanding our schools' strengths, requirements, resources, staff and how we can manage all aspects to provide the best learning support and quality teaching for our children. This journey is not an easy one and we have been faced with challenges, decisions and important changes to bring the vision, passion and people that is much needed for our schools.

With the blessings and support from His Grace and all the families, the Board and every one that is involved with the generosity of their own time towards working for the prosperity of our schools, look forward to what the future holds. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and look forward to 2019!



St Mark's Coptic Orthodox College warmly invite all students, families and friends to the annual Carols Night on Friday the 7th of December, 2018.

The night will begin at 6pm, and will include musical performances, carols and a visit from Santa in his sleigh.

Please bring your picnic rug, chairs, drinks and nibbles, and join our community to celebrate the school year and the upcoming Christmas period.



PRIMARY

From our Head of Primary: Mrs Nada

Dear Parents/Guardians,

It has been a wonderful year full of many learning experiences and fun activities for both students and teachers. It is fascinating to watch our precious students flourish spiritually, academically and socially. All the primary teachers would like to use this opportunity to thank all our parents for their love, care, and support. We wish you a very merry Christmas and a prosperous new year. The staff looks forward to seeing you back in 2019. May the Lord bless your family and keep you safe.



Mrs Nada

Holiday Out of School Care Days



Before & After School Care (OSHC)

The operating dates over the Summer period are:

We will be operating on Thursday 13/12 and Friday 14/12 (8am-6pm). Our last day will be Fri 14/12.

We will be returning on Tuesday 08/01/19 till school starts (except Australia Day Public Holiday- Mon 28/01/19)

SECONDARY

From our Acting Deputy Head of College: Mr Joseph



Season's Greetings

On behalf of all staff here at the College, I would like to extend our best wishes to students, parents/guardians and the wider community for the Christmas period ahead. Christmas is a time for giving and cherishing what we have. Please relish this festive season with your family and friends.



Yearly Evaluation

'Success isn't always about greatness. It's about consistency. Consistent, hard work gains success. Greatness will come.' – Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson

Having completed all assessments, students will now have a sense of their level of success this year. Some students experienced exponential academic and personal growth over the course of the year, and this is something to be proud of. Regardless of marks, students must use this holiday period to evaluate their skill development across all subjects. They should reflect upon their level of preparation for assessments and overall diligence. This is imperative in preparation for 2019.

2018 Secondary Academic Awards Night

Students are in the process of receiving notification of involvement in the Secondary Academic Awards Night, scheduled for Wednesday 12th December at the Liverpool Catholic Club. Students and parents are asked to be seated by 6.15pm sharp for commencement. It is an expectation that all Secondary students attend this event being the final official College event for the year.

Stage 5 - Design and Technology "Engineering Bridge Design"

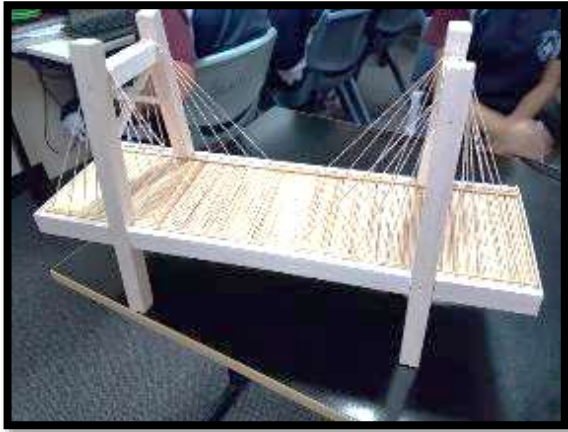
Bridge design over the ages has evolved largely due to the needs of people and the development of new materials and building techniques. A bridge is a structure built to span a gorge, valley, road, railroad track, river, body of water, or any other physical obstacle, for the purpose of providing passage over the obstacle. Designs of bridges will vary depending on the function of the bridge and the nature of the terrain where the bridge is to be constructed. Beam bridges, arch bridges, cantilever bridges and suspension bridges are the four common bridge categories, although combinations of these types of bridge styles can be designed. Essentially, bridges need to be strong enough to support their own weight and support a load moving from one end to the other.

From left to right: Dhanashri Palaskar, Mariam Gindie, Alambi Pant, Leah Samuel, Anthony Anastopoulos, Daniel Fanous, Christopher Daniel and Simon Hanna Mr Talevski

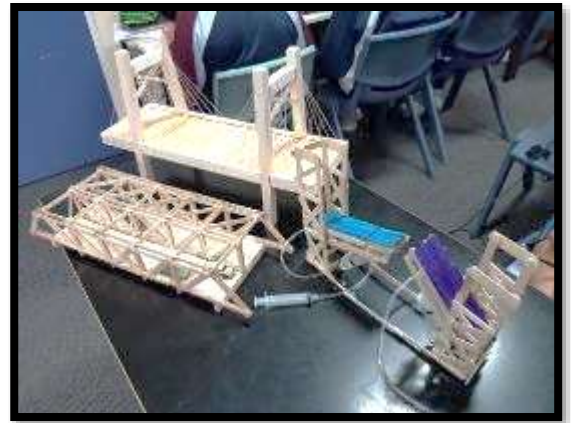


Industrial Technology - Timber

Our Year 9 Design and Technology students have embarked on engineering and modelling their bridge designs and would like to share their outstanding bridge designs on display for the College community to view.



(Above) Cable-stayed bridge model by Simon Hanna



(Back left) Cable-stayed bridge design model by Simon Hanna

(Front left) Truss bridge model by Anthony Anastopoulos

(Bottom Right) Hydraulic truss bridge model by Alambi Pant



Project: Bar Stool

These are some of the Year 10 Industrial Technology students Timber projects – Bar Stool.

With this project the students gained an understanding of the challenges and constraints that influenced the successful development of the timber furniture design project; for example, time, size, costs, materials, tools and finish. The students also gain knowledge in interpreting detail work drawings and developed drawing skills by producing a portfolio of technical drawings, which consisted of an isometric 3D model using Sketch-Up a 3D modelling software application and manually drawn detailed work drawings which helped them with the construction of their project. Most importantly they enjoyed the final product!

The Bar Stool is constructed out of Hoop Pine a softwood timber.



Bar Stool by Lazar Djordjevic

Yr 10 Industrial Technology - Timber



Bar Stool by Marko Spasojevic



Tasmanian oak folding chair by Anthony Nakhil



Bar Stool by David Nasr

Year 10 Industrial Technology – Timber students recently and successfully completed their Folding Chair projects, constructed out of Tasmanian Oak hardwood timber.

Tasmanian oak is a warm, dense and resilient hardwood timber. Tasmanian oak is the preferred hardwood for a wide range of applications. It works extremely well and produces an excellent finish, especially finished with natural timber oil. It can be used in all forms of construction and in interior applications such as panelling, flooring as well as interior/exterior furniture.



UNIFORM SHOP UPDATE

It has been a pleasure to meet many of the new parents who have already come in to purchase the school uniform. We understand that there are a few out of stock items, and we will be receiving the majority of these items in the first week of January. We will not have the size 6 tracksuit and the size 6 wool jumper until mid Term 1, and will advise as soon as they arrive. For those of you who have not received all the uniform, or have not yet purchased the required uniform, we will assist by providing additional shop opening times.

The uniform shop will be opened, in addition to the usual term opening times, on the following days:

DATE	OPENING TIME
22 January 2019	9:00am-12:00pm
23 January 2019	9:00am-12:00pm
24 January 2019	9:00am-12:00pm
29 January 2019	9:00am-12:00pm
30 January 2019	9:00am-12:00pm
31 January 2019	9:00am-12:00pm

The shop is located in the rooms under the B Block foyer, i.e. in the Amphitheatre area.

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

The last day the shop will be opened in Term 4 will be Monday the 10th December.

Enjoy the holidays!





MUSIC TUITION PIANO - GUITAR - DRUMS - VOCALS

1-1 and small group musical instrument lessons are now available after school at St. Mark's offered by award-winning music school Octave8 Music Academy.

One of our students David Lawandi who has only just started is already performing in the 2018 Christmas Student Showcase at Brighton Lakes Club in Moorebank. During October - November students at Octave8 have also taken AMEB examinations and received Merits and Distinctions. Our teachers Mr Yuki a classically trained (Royal College of Music London) guitarist and pianist and Mr Sebastian (Australian Institute of Music) our percussion and vocals tutor look very much forward to welcoming you in 2019.

Enrolments are now open for 2019. Call us on 9731 0263 or email us carlene@octave8.com.au for all queries.

The Benefits of Music Education — Quick Facts



'An Overview of Current Neuroscience Research' 2015 The Royal Conservatory of Music, Toronto - Canada

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- ✓ Check and adjust tyre pressures
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- ✓ Check operation of wipers and washers
- ✓ Written safety report³
- ✓ Inspect air filter and cooling system
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- ✓ Rotate wheels⁴
- ✓ Check steering and suspension components
- ✓ Inspect brake and driveline components

Includes 6 month free roadside assist.



*Mention this brochure to receive offer. See website for terms and conditions.

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Coptic Orthodox Diocese & Affiliated Regions

ABN: 67 96 481 099



St Mark's Coptic Orthodox College
Extends a warm invitation to all our Students, Staff, Families,
Neighbours and Friends
To attend its

Annual Carols by Candlelight

Friday 7 December
6 – 7:30 pm
On Site in the College grounds

Bring your picnic blankets and baskets and come sing along with all
your Family and Friends and join us in welcoming the
Christmas Spirit for 2018

