

**>>> NEWSLETTER <<<****SAINT MARK'S COPTIC ORTHODOX COLLEGE****Striving for Excellence****HEAD OF COLLEGE UPDATE**

As we near the conclusion of Term 2, I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt appreciation for your hard work and dedication throughout this period.

Our students have completed their exams and assessments with diligence and determination. I commend each and every one of them for their commitment to their studies and their unwavering pursuit of excellence. Your accomplishments serve as a testament to your resilience and growth.

I would also like to extend my gratitude to our exceptional staff. Your unwavering support and guidance have played a crucial role in our students' success. Your commitment to their education and well-being is truly commendable, and I am immensely grateful for your efforts.

As we approach the well-deserved break, I encourage everyone to take time for rest, rejuvenation, and self-care. Remember, education encompasses more than exams and assessments. It is about fostering meaningful relationships, embracing new experiences, and developing into well-rounded individuals.

Looking forward to Term 3, I am excited about the opportunities that lie ahead. Together, we will continue to provide an exceptional learning environment that nurtures the talents and abilities of our students. Let us embark on this journey with enthusiasm and a shared commitment to growth and achievement.

*God Bless,
Anthony Deans
Head of College*





THE SEASON OF PENTECOST LIVING CHRIST THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT



COLLEGE CHAPLAIN

We are almost finished Term 2 (Pentecost Term), and on the 4th of June the Coptic Church celebrated the feast of Pentecost which is one of the movable feasts of the Church as it falls 50 days after the Feast of Resurrection.

The Resurrection Sunday, the day after the Passover Sabbath, prophetically coincided the Old Testament Feast of the First fruit in which the priests offer the first bunch of the ground produce to the Lord. Thus, this feast foreshadowed the resurrection of Christ. Christ was the fruit that came from the earth, was lifted up and presented Himself to the Father as a ransom for our salvation. (1 Cor 15:20)

Meanwhile, 7 weeks later, In Pentecost, or in Hebrew the feast of the weeks (Shavuot) which was also called in the Old Testament 'The Feast of the Harvest', every Jew was commanded to 'present an offering of new grain to the Lord' Lev 23:15-16. The imagery is striking: As Christ in His humanity was the first fruit presented to the Father in the Feast of the First Fruit, likewise we are also to present ourselves to God in the Feast of Pentecost. Christ who was the firstborn among many brethren, is our true role model to imitate and to be conformed to His image (Romans 8:29). God seeks us to be fruitful of the fruit of the Spirit, to take the likeness of Christ and become one with Him. Thus, every year, the season of Pentecost is effectively the Church reminder of our purpose, vocation and perseverance.

"Each of you has been anointed with heavenly Chrism has become a Christ by grace; each is king and prophet of the heavenly mysteries." Homily of St Macarius XVI

"O heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of truth, the treasury of good things and the Life Giver, graciously come, and dwell in us and purify us from all defilement, O Good One, and save our souls. 3rd Hour Litanies of Agpia.

Fr George Nakhil
College Chaplain



Early Liturgy in our new Chapel

We pray a liturgy every Thursday mornings at chapel from 6am- 8am and all families are welcome to join.



COLLEGE VALUES, VISION & STRATEGY

BOARD UPDATE

Through God's grace and collaboration with all the staff, executives and parent representatives, we achieved a successful co-design of a College vision, values and strategy:

OUR COLLEGE VISION

To enrich our children with Christian teachings founded upon the Coptic Orthodox faith, becoming value-driven Australian citizens, connected as one body with unique gifts.

OUR COLLEGE VALUES

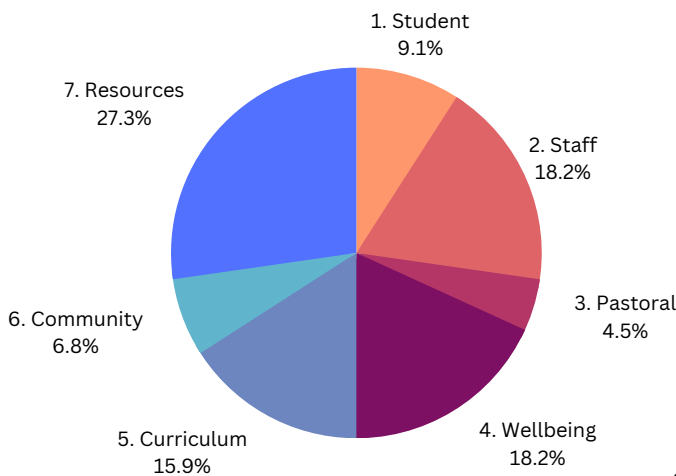


OUR COLLEGE STRATEGIC PILLARS

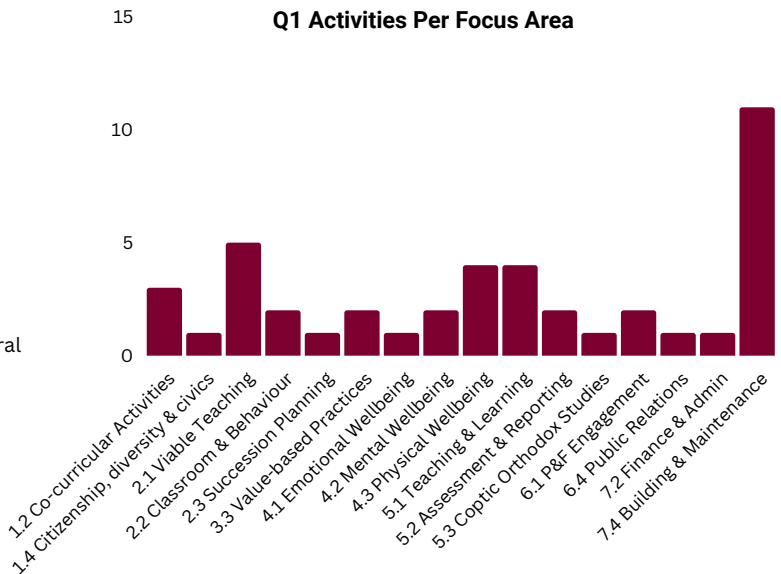
STUDENTS 	STAFF 	PASTORAL 	WELLBEING 	CURRICULUM 	COMMUNITY 	RESOURCES
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After six months of co-designing the strategy, which can be found on the College website, it is now being implemented and reports are generated on a quarterly basis to ensure progress towards the pursuit of excellence. Below is an example of how Quarter 1 activities have been captured and evaluated based on the strategic pillars and focus areas.

Q1 Activities Per Strategic Pillar



Q1 Activities Per Focus Area



In the next quarter, we are looking to understand more of the staff and parent priorities and look forward to a prosperous year ahead as we unite towards a common vision and work collaboratively for the betterment of our College and the growth of our students.



COLLEGE STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION FOR 2023

STUDENTS



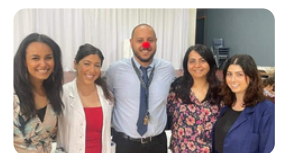
Increase in co-curricular activities and achievements including; swimming, debating, netball, and addition of Choir and Drama.



STAFF



Staff have more collaborative spaces. Professional Development is underway. New behaviour policy in place for optimum teaching and learning.



PASTORAL



New Chapel built on the Premises with weekly Thursday masses for families. Weekly lunchtime Bible study with Fr George.



WELLBEING



New canteen truck available for students with healthy options. Onsite Counsellor is available for all students. New gym with fitness program.



CURRICULUM



New STEM Curriculum. Collaborations with Industry partners for practical learning. New learning & assessment approaches for Junior College.



COMMUNITY



Increased P&F engagement & events. Increased sporting collaborations with sister Colleges. Increased local community engagements.



RESOURCES



Opening of two new buildings in 2023. More open, modern spaces for increased collaboration. New security system put in place including cameras. New laptops for all staff.





MORE COLLEGE ACTIVITIES & UPDATES



Student printing

Starting with Our Year 11 & 12 students: Self-service printing, copying and scanning are available to our senior students at the School Library.



Science and Engineering Challenge

St Mark's were dressed to impress at the Science and Engineering Challenge hosted by ANSTO and run by the University of Newcastle! We versed 6 schools, including selective and other private schools and after a very intense series of challenges we not only received a very high score but we also managed to take home 2nd place and we're not very far behind first!!! It was such a rewarding and memorable day for our students who all came home impressed with their success and skills which they applied with such confidence and finesse.

Well done to our magnificent, Science and Engineering team in 2023



Reconciliation Week

National Reconciliation Week (NRW) started as the Week of Prayer for Reconciliation in 1993 (the International Year of the World's Indigenous Peoples) and was supported by Australia's major faith communities.

On Thursday 25th May St Mark's held a K-12 assembly in the presence of Very Rev Fr Dr Shenouda Mansour (PhD) General Secretary, NSW Ecumenical Council and Rev Pastor Ray Minniecon Scarred Tree Ministries, St. John's Anglican Church.



Security Cameras

CCTV has been rolled out in some parts of the school as part of our commitment to ensure student safety. The system has been placed in common areas and playgrounds to ensure areas outside the classroom are well- managed and secure at all times.



Primary School Representative Council

This term students from year 2 to year 6 have been selected to be part of the Junior school student leadership (SRC). The students will be involved in assisting in organising school activities.



St Mark's Walkathon

We want to **extend a heartfelt thank you** for the outstanding support and participation in our **St Mark's Walkathon** College fundraiser earlier this term. We are excited to announce that we have successfully raised approximately **\$11,000** for our chosen charities, Coptic Orphans and Exodus Youth Worx.



Luna Park Visit

Years 11 & 12 Business Studies classes attended an excursion to Luna Park on Friday. Students were given an insight into the operations of the business and how they have remained to be competitive over the years.



Bible Study

There is Bible study every Thursday at lunch time with Fr.George. The students have thoroughly enjoyed their time.



COLLEGE REMINDERS

General school uniform

- All students are reminded that they should be dressed in the Winter uniform this term and Term 3.
- Boys ties are to be worn with the school uniform at all times at an appropriate length. All ties must be straight and neat.
- Shirts and blouses are to be tucked in at all times, with top button fastened.
- Skirt, dress and tunic length must be on the knee.

Blazers

- Blazers need to be worn to and from school. Blazers are compulsory throughout the school year. They are to be worn to and from school, during Chapel, to school events, excursions, school photographs and when representing the school.
- Layering Blazers are to be the outer garment, jumpers, cardigans and vests can be worn underneath. On extremely hot days, an exemption may be given to remove blazers. A decision will be made by the Deputy Head of College and students will be advised by their teachers.
- Badges The School Badge and House Badge are worn on the left side of the blazer collar. Other School Merit Badges are also permitted to be worn on the blazers.
- Care and maintenance Blazers are to be kept clean, tidy, and have no missing buttons. Blazers are to be dry cleaned and repaired at the end of each term.

Mobile Phones

- Students are NOT permitted to have mobile phones in their possession during the School hours of 8:25am – 3:10pm.
- They are to hand their phone into the front office for safe keeping each morning and collect it at the end of the day.
- Students with lockers may keep their mobile in their locker for safe keeping whilst on school grounds.
- If an issue were to arise throughout the day parents will be contacted via the College Office and the same channel of communication will be used if parents wish to inform their child of any urgent issues.

For Boys - Hair Update

Boys must have NEAT and blended hairstyles that are cut short to one length. It should not extend below the eyebrows or touch the shirt collar. Undercuts, steps, razored part lines or patterns, top knots, shaved sides, flat tops and spiked hair are not permitted. The hair must be no shorter than a **Blade 1**. Boys are expected to be clean-shaven and their sideburns short. No Skin fades, No Mullets and No side tapers.



For Girls - Hair & Nails

Girls must keep their hair off their faces and shoulders, regardless of the length of their hair. Hair must be completely and securely tied back including long fringes and strips of hair. Braids and half up/half down hairstyles are not permitted. Hair extensions or colored hair is strictly not allowed. Makeup, false nails, nail polish and fake lashes are not permitted. Nails are to be kept short and neat. Shirt length must be below the knee cap and girls must wear black or navy stockings.

Borrowing a Chromebook

In case of an emergency; St Mark's Library now has a number of Chromebooks that are available for students to borrow for the day. Students take full responsibility for the device.

Study Sessions

Study sessions are now available every Tuesday during recess and Wednesday during lunch in E4. Our senior students are offering mentoring and support during this assessment period.

As always, we expect our students to show respect and consideration towards their teachers, peers and the school environment. This includes **arriving on time** and prepared for class, **participating** in all activities, **completing homework** and following the school rules.

Primary Curriculum

New English and Mathematics syllabuses is now released. New syllabuses focused on what is essential to know and do in early and middle years of schooling, and key learning areas in the senior years.

Jewellery

As a general rule Jewellery may not be worn to College or to College events. Necklaces, bracelets of any material including rubber or string, anklets and rings may not be worn at any time with the College uniform due to safety reasons. Wristwatches are to be discreet (no smart watches permitted); Girls are permitted to wear a single gold or silver sleeper or stud in the lower ear lobe only; Gemstones are not permitted. A small Coptic cross may be worn around the neck.



PHOTOS, IMPORTANT DATES & COLLEGE CONTACTS



Important Dates

Term 2 - 2023

- 1 June | Annual world Coptic day
- 1 June | Year 12 Physics Excursion USYD
- 1 June | AICES Cross Country at Horsley Park
- 2 June | HSC Career Expo
- 12 June | Monarch's Official Birthday
- 19 June | Year 7 PDHPE Excursion
- 22 June | Year 12 Chemistry Excursion
- 23 June | Term 2 Concludes.

Term 3 - 2023

- 17 July | Term 3 commences
- 26 July | FUTSUL Gala Day
- 31 July - 18 August | Trial HSC Exam

Term 4 - 2023

- 10 October | Lessons commence KDG to Year 11
- 6 December | Lessons Conclude KDG to Year 11



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