



2024 TERM TWO NEWSLETTER

SAINT MARK'S COPTIC ORTHODOX COLLEGE

Striving for Excellence



JUNE 2024

HEAD OF COLLEGE & DEPUTY HEAD OF COLLEGE UPDATE

Dear Saint Mark's Coptic Orthodox College Community

At St Mark's Coptic Orthodox College, we are truly blessed with a unique environment that nurtures the mind, body and spirit. As we navigate through our school days, it's easy to take for granted the extraordinary gifts we have been provided here at the College and often give them little thought. However, it is important we reflect on the blessings our school environment provides us and our responsibility to cherish and care for it.

St Mark's is a special place to so many current parents who themselves passed through its gates, a time when the College was so much smaller and without a Gym, Canteen and the endless list of assets. For those parents and the students who have recently graduated it is more than just a place for academic learning; they understand it is a sanctuary where our faith and values are nurtured, a place that created a part of the very essence of who they are and will remain for life. The facilities, resources, and opportunities we enjoy here are gifts that enable us to grow in knowledge, character, and spirituality. From our state-of-the-art buildings and beautiful chapel to the supportive community of teachers and peers, each aspect of St Mark's contributes to our holistic development and who we are as we enter the world beyond school.

The Bible provides profound guidance on the importance of appreciating and stewarding our blessings. In 1 Peter 4:10, we read, "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms". This verse reminds us that our talents and resources are not solely for personal gain but are entrusted to us to benefit our community and glorify God.

To put this in context for our current College, this means taking full advantage of the educational and spiritual opportunities presented to us. It means striving for excellence in our studies, participating in school activities, and supporting one another in our faith journeys. It also means caring for our school environment, showing respect for the facilities, and maintaining the beauty and functionality of our shared spaces, while taking a stand against those who would diminish it.

We need also understand our appreciation and stewardship extends beyond the physical and into the relational. We are blessed with a diverse community that reflects the body of Christ, as described in 1 Corinthians 12:12-27. Each member of our community brings unique strengths and perspectives, contributing to the rich tapestry of St Mark's. Valuing and supporting one another is a vital aspect of cherishing the gifts we have been provided.

Additionally remember that St. Paul told us we should "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus"; A heart of gratitude not only acknowledges our blessings but also fosters a positive and joyful community. It makes clear our faith calls us to express thanks to our teachers, peers, College and all the amazing assets that make up what is St Marks.

Sadly, our College has been the victim of a small group of students who have consistently acted to damage senior toilets and other school equipment and endeavour to take away the safe and clean use of these beautiful College areas from the vast majority of staff and students.



Additionally, while the College has acted to provide midday cleaners and replace broken or damaged school facilities, so the majority of our student body do not suffer, it remains incredibly disappointing that we must live with those who do not appreciate the legacy of the past staff and alumni whose faithful work has brought us to this point. As such I implore all parents to talk to their students about the gifts they have, both spiritual and material and the importance of taking responsibility to be a positive element of the next chapter of the College that continues to be written day by day.

Therefore, as we continue to journey together at St Mark's Coptic Orthodox College, let us commit to appreciating and looking after the gifts we have been provided. By doing so, we honour the legacy of our faith, students, teachers and parents who went before us, acting to enrich our community and fulfil our responsibilities as stewards of God's grace.

As we approach the conclusion of Semester One, I encourage all students to dedicate themselves to their studies in preparation for the half-yearly exams. I am sure your hard work and commitment during this time will undoubtedly pay off. And finally, it goes without saying, I wish all families and students a blessed holiday season filled with joy and the warmth of family and friends. Enjoy this special time together, and may you return safely and refreshed for the beginning of Term 3.

God Bless



Mr Deans
Head of College



Mrs Grohala
Deputy Head of College





A WORD FROM FATHER GEORGE



In feast of Pentecost; let's seek the Spirit first

'You also gave them Your good Spirit to instruct them, and did not withhold Your manna from their mouth, and gave them water for their thirst.' Neh 9:20

In the feast of Pentecost, as parents, we need to remember that we should seek first, for ourselves and our children, the Good Spirit prior to the manna and water.

Every time we pray the Lord's Prayer, Christ reminds our hearts to seek first His kingdom and His will before asking for our daily bread. If our children are physically healthy and well-built, and if they are intellectually bright and excelled in every subject, but their spirits are frail and bare, we would certainly have been laboring in vain.

When our children are filled with the Holy Spirit, their faces will be shining even if they only live on fragments of bread; thus, the chief of eunuchs witnessed for Daniel and the three young men in front of Nebuchadnezzar. Dan 1:17-20

O Holy Spirit who filled the hearts of the four young men with knowledge and skill in all literature and wisdom, give us not to be troubled with the earthly needs of our children but to seek, for them, first Your kingdom and Your righteousness in their hearts.

O Good Spirit, as we remember Your outpouring on the holy disciples in the day of Pentecost, we beseech You to fill Your sons and daughters' hearts with every desire of Your love and righteousness so much greater than the richness' desires of the whole world. Amen

*Fr George Nakhil
College Chaplain*





A WORD FROM OUR DEAN OF STUDENTS

TERM 2 HIGHLIGHTS

As we come to the end of Term 2, it's time to reflect on the outstanding achievements and busy schedule our students have navigated. This term has been a testament to the dedication and resilience of our students, who have excelled both academically and physically to meet our high expectations.

Our students have balanced their rigorous studies with an array of extracurricular activities, representing our college at numerous events. Congratulations to all who have showcased their talents and hard work in various arenas, including: Soccer Competitions at CIS, ACIES, Silver Cup Open Girls Semi-Finals and Bill Turner Cup, cross country Representative team, SMC Debating team, Mock Trial team and Toastmasters International training (for our seniors).

Your participation and success in these events are commendable and highlight the diverse talents within our school community.

A special acknowledgement goes to our Senior Leaders for their exceptional involvement in St. Demiana's special assembly and fundraiser. Under the guidance of Mr. Zo'rob, the event was a tremendous success, raising \$2000 for the Coptic Orphans Foundation. Your leadership and commitment to service are truly inspiring. Well done! A special thanks to our sports captains, Trinity Williams and Sameh Megalla, for organising the Term 2 lunchtime basketball competition. Their efforts have turned our breaks into an entertaining showstopper!

SMC Walkathon Winners: Thanks to Mr Jacob and his outstanding Class of 2024

	PRIMARY	SECONDARY
1st: Sports Jersey	Samuel Basily 6G	Bishoy Takla Y7
2nd : \$50 Voucher	Abigail Perry 2L Spencer Perry KS	Joshua Amalaraj Y12
3rd: Canteen Voucher	Martin Shehata 6T	Christian Seidhom Y7 Mkarios Yohana Y7

Student Merit List: Term 2

We are thrilled to announce the highest merit points earned by students in Term 2 are:

- Simon Zeitoun, Year 7 (St. Anthony) with 140 points
- Christian Dimitry Year 9 (St Marina) with 110 Points
- Jessica Saji Year 9 (St Demiana) with 100 Points
- Juliana Mekhaeil Year 7 (St George) with 100 Points
- Mia Mena Year 7 (St Demiana) with 90 Points
- Gabriella Lufe, Year 9 (St. Anthony) with 90 points
- Naman Govind Year 9 (St Anthony) with 90 Points
- Clara Sergious Year 8 (St George) with 90 Points
- Alyssia Dos Year 7 (St. Marina) with 90 points

They have collectively contributed the highest points for their respective houses through their exemplary conduct and academic excellence throughout the term. Well done to these students who are all competing for a complimentary lunch on the last day of school! May the best student WIN!



College Values

Our commitment to excellence extends beyond academics and extracurricular activities. We hold our students to high standards in embodying our college values, which include Respect, Unity, Service, Resilience & Growth. Our male students have been on a journey to embrace the values of being gentlemanly and considerate towards their female classmates. Simple acts like allowing ladies to enter classrooms first and assisting teachers with setups have become part of their daily practice. As a community school, we encourage everyone to continue fostering these values outside of school hours, reinforcing the respectful and supportive environment we cherish.

As we look forward to the rest of the year, we will continue to monitor student merits and demerits to better support our students. Accumulating more than 15 demerits in a term will warrant a suspension and provide personal time to reflect on modifying behaviour to foster and enable successful futures. Students who display habitual breaches of our student expectations will also be denied the opportunity to attend external events such as camps and excursions, as their behaviour may reflect poorly on our college and pose a safety risk.

Last but not least, Thank you to all students, parents, and staff for your unwavering support and dedication. Here's to another successful term ahead!

Warm regards



Ms Williams
Dean of Students





A WORD FROM OUR HEAD OF PRIMARY

As we come close to the end of Term 2, it's hard to believe how quickly the time has passed. Our students have been engaged in a myriad of wonderful activities, showcasing their talents and dedication in both academic and extracurricular pursuits. From dynamic classroom projects to exciting sports events and creative arts sessions, the enthusiasm and spirit of our primary students have truly shone.

A significant highlight of this term was the celebration of the Feast of the Ascension, a cherished event in our Coptic Orthodox faith. This feast not only commemorates the Ascension of Jesus into heaven but also serves as a reminder of the values of faith, hope, and community that we strive to instill in our students. It was a time of reflection and spiritual growth, bringing our school community together in prayer and celebration.

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all our families for their unwavering support. Your commitment to your children's academic success, as well as their spiritual, behavioural, and social development, is invaluable. We recognise that raising our children is a partnership, and it is vital that we work together and complement each other's efforts. Aligning the college's Christian ethos and values with those upheld at home ensures that our students grow in a safe, happy, and conducive learning environment.

Your assistance in ensuring that your child attends school on time, dressed appropriately, and is ready for learning each day contributes immensely to their happiness and success as learners. Remember that while no parent-teacher interviews are scheduled for Term 2, we encourage you to contact your child's class teacher if you have any concerns or require updates on their progress.

Lastly, as we look ahead, I would like to remind all parents to be mindful of school term dates when booking holidays. It is important that students' learning and participation in school activities are not interrupted, as consistency is key to their academic and personal growth.

Wishing you all a wonderful, restful, and safe break. We look forward to welcoming our students back for Term 3, refreshed and ready to continue their journey of learning and growth.



Mrs Nada
Head of Primary





A WORD FROM PRIMARY K-2

In the K-2 department, there's been a buzz of excitement and learning! This vibrant section of our school is where young minds are constantly engaged in a variety of educational and fun activities. The enthusiasm of both teachers and students creates an energetic and dynamic environment, fostering a love for learning from an early age. From interactive lessons and creative projects to the exploration of new concepts, every day is filled with opportunities for growth and discovery. It's truly a joy to witness our youngest students' curiosity and eagerness to learn.

One of the highlights of this term has been our participation in the National Simultaneous Reading event. Our K-2 students enthusiastically joined thousands of students from around the nation in this synchronized reading event, featuring the book 'Bowerbird Blues'. The event underscored the importance of reading for educational development and encouraged a lifelong love of books. By participating, children and adults alike enjoyed the collective excitement of a national reading moment, reinforcing the significance of literacy in our society. Seeing the children's eyes light up as they delved into the story together was a memorable and heartwarming experience.

Kindergarten

Our Kindergarten students have been working hard across all Key Learning Areas (KLA). They are engaged in a variety of activities that promote foundational skills in literacy, numeracy, science, and the arts. From hands-on experiments and creative projects to interactive storytelling and collaborative play, our young learners are developing a love for learning while building essential skills. Their enthusiasm and dedication are truly inspiring, setting a strong foundation for their future educational journey. The progress they make each day is a testament to their hard work and the supportive environment fostered by their teachers.

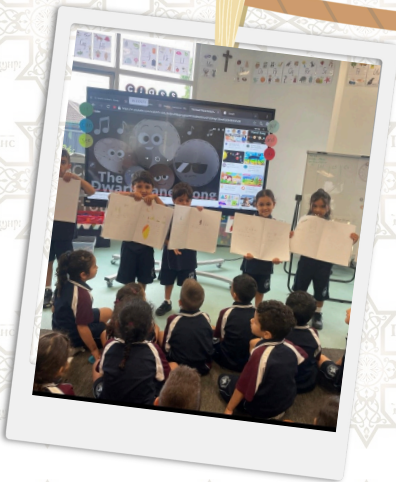
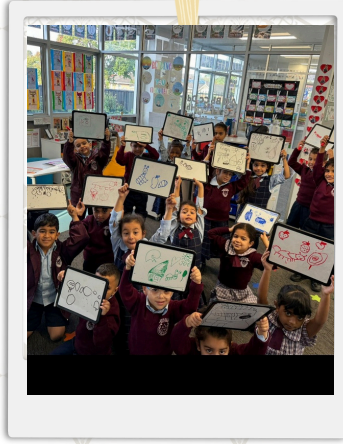
Year 1 and 2

Year 1 and 2 students are diving into a variety of engaging learning experiences. In Year 1, hands-on science experiments and creative art projects make learning fun and dynamic. The students are excited about their weekly experiments and the vibrant art pieces they create, which brighten up our classrooms and hallways. Year 2 students are exploring the world of mathematics through interactive activities and problem-solving challenges, developing critical thinking skills along the way. Both grades are also enjoying enriching storytelling sessions and collaborative group work, fostering a vibrant and inclusive classroom environment. These activities not only enhance their academic skills but also build a strong sense of community and teamwork among the students.

Thank you for your continued support in making these enriching educational experiences possible for our students. Your involvement and encouragement are invaluable as we strive to create a nurturing and stimulating learning environment for your children.



Mrs Lofti
Stage 1 Coordinator





A WORD FROM PRIMARY 3 - 6

Year 6 and Kindergarten Buddy Time

At St. Mark's, Kindergarten and Year 6 students meet regularly for "Buddy Time." Witness the magic of mentorship as our Year 6 students become guides, friends, and protectors to our youngest learners. Through reading sessions, creative collaborations, and joyful play, our Year 6 buddies foster a sense of belonging and friendship within our kindergarten community. They're not just reading stories; they're shaping futures and creating memories that will last a lifetime. Buddy time has been so much fun!

Exciting New PBL Projects in Primary Science!

Year 3 Innovators Shine in Toy Design Project:

Students in Year 3 have been actively engaged in their Project-Based Learning (PBL) task, which has allowed them to practice essential skills and competencies for successful civic engagement, such as solving unstructured problems, critical thinking, collaboration, and effective communication. Their driving question was: "How do we, as toy designers, engineers, artists, and technology specialists, apply the design process to create a toy using different materials, inform people about our new product, and persuade them to buy it?" They put their critical thinking and teamwork skills to the test, building everything from catapults to balloon yo-yos – all with a secret ingredient: elasticity!

Year 4 Game Designers Unleash Their Creativity:

Our Year 4 students have been enthusiastically engaged in a Project-Based Learning (PBL) activity where they are using various materials to design and create their own games. This hands-on project not only sparks creativity but also encourages teamwork, problem-solving, and practical application of their knowledge. From brainstorming ideas to crafting game pieces and rules, students are learning valuable skills while having a fantastic time. We are excited to see their innovative games come to life!

Year 5's Thrilling Roller Coaster Project:

This term in Science, Year 5 students have dived into the exciting challenge of designing the next great roller coaster for "Scream-o-rama".

As lead engineers, the students delved into the forces and energy needed to create a thrilling yet safe ride. Their first exciting task was to build a prototype roller coaster, complete with impressive hills, twists, turns, and loops, to wow the board members. Next, they showcased their newfound knowledge in an engaging presentation. With regular support and check-ins from their teacher, the students have been guided through their research and project development, making this term a fun and educational roller coaster ride!

Year 6 Students are Brightening Futures by Designing Lighting Systems for Model Homes:

This term, our Year 6 students have shone brightly as they graduated as electrical engineers, designers, and architects! They collaborated to create an efficient lighting system for a model house, meticulously considering the needs of its occupants and the broader implications, such as energy consumption and environmental impact. Their impressive journey didn't stop there—they crafted detailed presentations to share their design process, rationale, and material lists with their peers. We're incredibly proud of their creativity, teamwork, and innovation!



Mrs George
Stage 2 & 3 Coordinator





THE LIBRARY UPDATE

We are thrilled to introduce you to the second phase of our newly redesigned library. This phase incorporates the inclusion of a circulation desk for the library staff, as well as more shelving to house the books for students and teacher resources. This innovative space represents a significant step forward in creating an environment that fosters creativity, collaboration, and a love for learning among our students.

The redesign of our school library is rooted in the belief that a well-designed space can inspire and empower students. We aimed to create a multifunctional area that accommodates diverse learning styles and encourages exploration. Our goal was to move beyond the traditional concept of a library as a repository of books to a dynamic hub of intellectual and social activity.

The redesigned library is more than just a physical space – it is a catalyst for learning and growth. By providing students with the tools and environment they need to thrive, we aim to cultivate a lifelong passion for knowledge and creativity. Early feedback from students and teachers has been overwhelmingly positive, with many noting increased engagement and enthusiasm for learning.

As we embark on this new chapter for our school library, we are committed to continuous improvement and innovation. We will actively seek feedback from the school community to ensure that the library evolves in response to the changing needs of our students, teachers and the whole school community.





YEAR 7 UPDATE

Approaching the midpoint of their first year of Secondary, Year 7 Students are exhibiting confidence in their ability to trek uncharted terrain. With a spirit of unison, students are delving into the array of academic, athletic and extracurricular opportunities offered to them.

Activities and Pastoral Care Lessons

We are pleased to notice that weekly Activities and Pastoral Care lessons are continuing to impact students positively. Guided and mentored by their Year 7 Pastoral Team – Mr George, Ms Holland, Mr Spirou, Mrs Youkhanna, and Mr Zo'rob – students are finding their footing and demonstrating a more holistic approach to their experience at the College as Secondary Students.

During Tuesday Period 2 Activities lessons, students develop their study skills. Led by their Activities teachers, students explore the following units:

- Working Better At Home
- Skills For Specific Stages
- Working Better At School
- Improving How You Study
- Improving Your Skills
- Using Technology
- Tools for Managing Challenges and Opportunities

Throughout Thursday Period 2 Pastoral Care lessons, via the Wellio Program, students are prompted to introspectively reflect on and engage with topics pertinent to their age group. Thus far, Term 2 has seen Year 7 explore topical concerns such as:

- Health and Hygiene
- Dealing with Worry
- Managing Unhealthy and Toxic Relationships
- Investing in Your Health

It is with great pleasure that we observe the Year 7 Students become increasingly confident in their efforts to navigate the College's expectations of academic and holistic excellence. We wish Year 7 all the best for Semester Two.

Mr George
Year 7 Coordinator



YEAR 8 UPDATE

Year 8 students in Term 2 have settled comfortably into their classes, embracing new challenges and learning opportunities with enthusiasm. Their adaptability and resilience have been commendable as they navigate their learning journey.

In Activities, students have been diligently participating in a study skills course, honing essential academic strategies. This course has equipped them with valuable tools to manage their time effectively, take organized notes, and prepare for assessments. The commitment and focus they have shown reflect their determination to succeed.

Meanwhile, in Pastoral care lessons, lively discussions have been addressing pertinent issues relevant to their stage in life. Topics such as peer relationships, self-esteem, and responsible decision-making have fostered a sense of community and support among the students, helping them to develop a deeper understanding of themselves and others.

Looking ahead to next term, Year 8 will embark on a program designed to foster their personal growth and development as young global citizens. This program will include activities and projects that encourage critical thinking, empathy, and cultural awareness. Students will engage in collaborative tasks that challenge them to consider global issues and their role in creating positive change.

Excitement is building within the college community for our inaugural SMC adventure camp planned for the end of Term 3. This camp promises to be a highlight of the year, offering students the opportunity to create lasting memories and strengthen their bonds outside the classroom. The camp will feature a range of outdoor activities designed to promote teamwork, resilience, and leadership. The anticipation for this adventure is palpable, and it is sure to be an enriching and unforgettable experience for all involved.

Miss Abdelsayed
Year 8 Coordinator





YEAR 9 UPDATE

Exciting Year of Adventures and Learning for Year 9 Students

This year has been packed with thrilling excursions and educational trips for the Year 9 students. From exploring historical sites to learning new sports, the students have experienced a range of activities that have broadened their horizons and enriched their learning journey.

Exploring The Rocks and Sydney's Dark History

The Year 9 students embarked on an intriguing tour of The Rocks, a historic area of Sydney. As part of this tour, they ventured under the iconic Sydney Harbour Bridge. During this excursion, students delved into the crime stories that have shaped Australian history. The tour provided a fascinating glimpse into the darker side of Sydney's past, highlighting notorious crimes that occurred in the area. The students also had the opportunity to visit Luna Park, adding a touch of fun and excitement to the day.

Beach Safety and Surfing at Cronulla

In another adventurous outing, the Year 9 PASS (Physical Activity and Sports Studies) students headed to Cronulla Beach. Here, they received vital lessons on beach safety, an essential skill for anyone living in Australia. The students were also introduced to the basics of surfing, learning how to catch waves and balance on a surfboard. This experience not only taught them valuable water safety skills but also gave them a taste of one of Australia's favorite pastimes.

Preparing for St Mark's First-Ever Ski Trip

Anticipation is building as the Year 9 students prepare for St Mark's first-ever ski trip to Perisher. This exciting adventure will give students and teachers the opportunity to both snowboard and ski over several days. The trip promises to be a memorable experience, filled with snowy fun and the chance to learn new skills on the slopes. We wish all the students and staff the best of luck on their skiing and snowboarding endeavors.

HSIE Excursion to the WWI Museum

The HSIE department organised a profound educational excursion to the World War I Museum. During this trip, students will embark on a journey through the history of World War I, gaining a deeper understanding of the events, experiences, and impacts of the war. This excursion aims to enhance their knowledge of history and provide them with a greater appreciation of the sacrifices made during the war.

These excursions have not only been educational but also immensely enjoyable, providing Year 9 students with experiences they will cherish for years to come. From exploring historical landmarks to engaging in outdoor activities, this year has truly been a remarkable one for the students of St Mark's.

Mr Armanyos
Year 9 Coordinator



YEAR 10 UPDATE

Year 10 have had another busy term where they have been actively involved in navigating the pressures of assessment tasks and participation in co-curricular activities. Many of the year group have ably represented the College in a range of different activities from SWISSA Football to the ANTISO STEM Challenge that took place in May. As we move into Semester Two, the process of subject selection for Years 11-12 will be commencing early in Term 3. I would encourage parents to speak with their sons and daughters about the subjects they are interested in studying, and what careers they are interested in pursuing after school.

It is completely normal for a fifteen or sixteen year old to find this process daunting and to be unsure about what it is they want to do upon completing their schooling. We encourage students to speak with their teachers about what options are available to them in their senior years and their suitability for different subjects. In our Pastoral lessons we have been encouraging students to look into different careers and the tertiary courses that would allow them to enter that career. Something that is worth considering is what subjects certain institutions require as pre-requisites to enrol in particular courses. Some institutions have been altering these in recent years and I would encourage students to check these prior to subject selection.

We are thankful for the efforts of Year 10 students this term and look forward to supporting and working with them over the coming semester.

Mr Jones
Year 10 Coordinator





YEAR 11 UPDATE

Exciting Opportunities and Academic Dedication

This term has been full of exciting opportunities for our Year 11 students:

Careers Expo at Royal Randwick Racecourse - Year 11 attended the Careers Expo at Royal Randwick Racecourse, exploring various career paths and engaging with industry professionals.

Talk from Dr. George Sidhom - Students were inspired by Dr. George Sidhom, former student and DUX of 2010, who discussed the realities of pursuing a career in Medicine, providing valuable insights and motivation.

Leadership Team Applications - Year 11 students have started applying for the leadership team and will soon deliver speeches to the cohort, showcasing their leadership skills and vision.

Academic Dedication - Our students remain dedicated to their studies, tackling complex depth studies with diligence and enthusiasm.

We are proud of Year 11's achievements and commitment this term!

Mr Sidhom
Year 11 Coordinator



YEAR 12 UPDATE

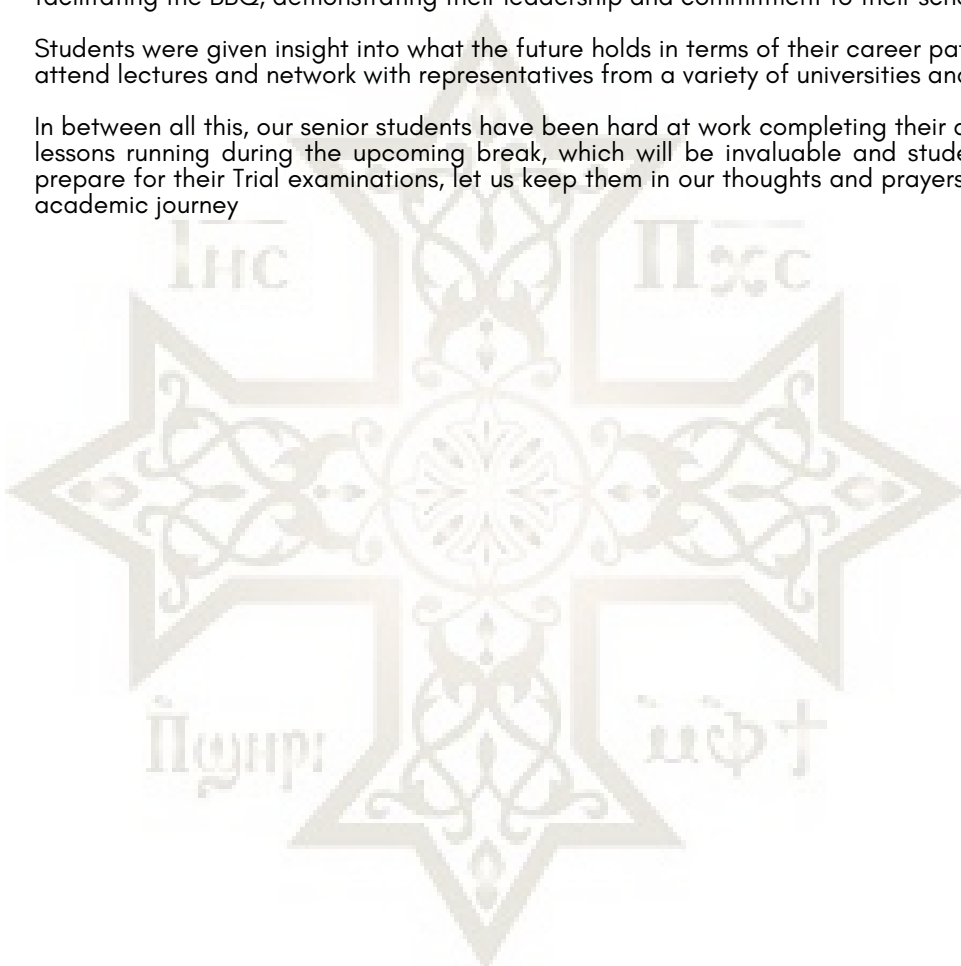
Year 12 have been buzzing with activity this term, embarking on multiple enriching excursions that have expanded their horizons beyond the classroom. From educational lectures to more hands-on activities, each outing has provided invaluable learning experiences. Week 1 started with the annual College Walkathon to commemorate and celebrate St Mark's Feast Day.

Although hampered by wet weather, there was a sense of unity and fun with the whole school liturgy, BBQs and a downgraded walk around the Wattle Grove area. It was great to see a lot of the students come together and help, especially with facilitating the BBQ, demonstrating their leadership and commitment to their school community.

Students were given insight into what the future holds in terms of their career path at the Careers Expo. Students were able to attend lectures and network with representatives from a variety of universities and other educational institutions.

In between all this, our senior students have been hard at work completing their assessments. There will be various HSC holiday lessons running during the upcoming break, which will be invaluable and students are encouraged to attend. As they now prepare for their Trial examinations, let us keep them in our thoughts and prayers, supporting them in this crucial stage of their academic journey

Mr Jacob
Year 12 Coordinator





STEM

Despite being a short 8 week term, it has been action-packed with exciting projects and activities that have engaged and inspired our students.

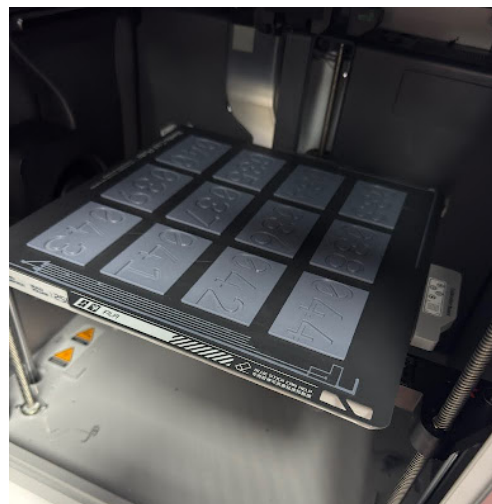
Building a PC from Scratch

This term, our students had the exciting opportunity to build a PC from scratch. This hands-on project introduced them to the components and assembly of a computer, enhancing their technical and problem-solving skills. Next term, we will continue this project by focusing on software, where students will learn about using Linux and building our own AI server. It has been rewarding to see our students gain confidence and proficiency in such a crucial area of modern technology.



Designing and Building Locker Numbers

Our STEM Club undertook a creative and practical project by designing and building new locker numbers for the entire school using 3D Modeling software, Shapr3D, as we are in a partnership with SMC. Using a blend of engineering principles and artistic design, students crafted functional and visually appealing locker numbers. This project emphasized the importance of teamwork, innovation, and applying classroom knowledge to real-world challenges.



Inspiring Guest Speaker Collaboration

In collaboration with the Science Department, we were thrilled to host Dr. Tiziana Musso, a postdoctoral computational materials scientist from UNSW. Dr. Musso shared her expertise and insights into the exciting field of computational materials science, exploring various avenues of STEM and science in her field. Her talk was inspiring and opened our students' eyes to the vast possibilities within STEM careers.



Apple WorldWide Developer Conference (WWDC 2024)

During a break from our PC building project, we watched the Apple Worldwide Developer Conference (WWDC) 2024. Students were fascinated by the latest technological advancements and engaged in lively discussions about innovation and the future of technology.

This term has been filled with hands-on learning, creativity, and inspiration. We are incredibly proud of our students' achievements and look forward to more exciting projects and events in the coming term. Thank you for your continued support of our STEM program!





Year 9 & 10 STEM Excursion

32 Year 9 & 10 students were sent to ANSTO, based in Lucas Heights to compete in the 2024 STEM Science And Engineering Challenge. Our students competed against 8 other schools in a series of complex tests that range from building bridges, creating efficient networks to designing and building planes with limited resources and a timer in the background! Our students performed admirably we are very proud of them.

COS

Teachers Mr Morgan, Mrs Metira, and Mr Armanyos, along with Fr. George and 15 representatives from Year 10 and Year 11, have departed for the Philippines on the SMC's inaugural mission trip!!

Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers as we wish them all the best on this incredible journey. No doubt, this will be a great success!

We can't wait to hear all about it on their return.





JUNIOR SRC

During Semester One, the Primary Student Representative Council (SRC) showcased fantastic leadership by organizing fun games for students to enjoy during break times.

Our SRC members proudly wore their vests while helping students and teachers on the playground.

Next term, we'll be selecting a new group of students for the SRC, and we'll keep you updated on the schedule for next term's speeches. Stay tuned!

Mrs Sidhom



SECONDARY SRC

Our Student Representative Council (SRC) has kicked off its weekly meetings, now held every Wednesday during lunch. We're thrilled to share that we've been hard at work developing a comprehensive Code of Conduct to uphold the high standards of our SRC.

In addition, we've installed a virtual Year 11 suggestion box—some great ideas are already flowing in! We aim to install a virtual suggestion box for all the other grades in high school over the next week. We've also submitted a proposal packed with fun activities for this term. Stay tuned for more updates and get ready for an engaging and vibrant time ahead!





SPORTS AT SMC



	St Anthony	St Demiana	St George	St Marina
<i>Term 1 Merits</i>	4590	5130	5560	5470
<i>Swimming Carnival</i>	284	228	148	522
<i>Athletics Carnivals</i>	933	818	617	918
<i>Term 2 Merits</i>	2120	2550	2940	2480
<i>Minute to Win it</i>	52	22	44	48
Semester 1 Total	7979	8748	9309	9438

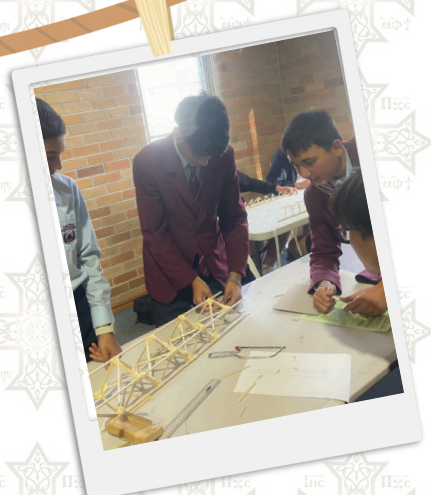
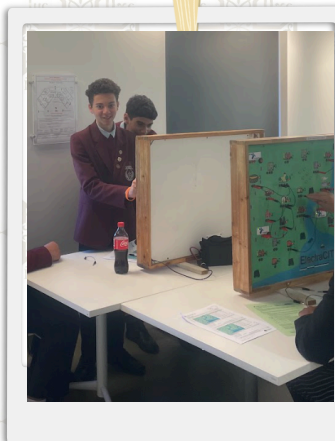
Congratulations to Mr Spirou & his ST MARINA House for leading the points ladder for Semester One.



Mr Nestorovski
Head of PDHPE/Sport



SENIORS CAPTURING MOMENTS





IT UPDATE



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.



Submitting Absences using SEQTA-Engage

Parents now can submit all the absences through SEQTA-Engage account/App.



Semester 1 – 2024 Academic Reports

Year KDG –11 Academic Reports have now been released on SEQTA Learn (for students) and SEQTA Engage (for parents). Reports are important for students and parents as they provide the key statistical and attribute data across all subjects. Information has also been given on their overall approach to classwork, study, and competency within skillsets.

In order to access your child's report, please follow the steps below:

1. Log in to SEQTA Engage
2. Go to the 'Reports' tab on the left, blue navigation space
3. Click the report labelled 'Y; 2024V1; Semester 1' (Year X)

A WORD FROM THE COLLEGE FINANCE TEAM

Thank you to all the families who have finalised their College fees.

This is a kind reminder that the third instalment date is due on 2 August 2023.

If you would like to discuss your fees account, please contact the Finance Team for a confidential conversation to organise your payments by calling the College on 9825 6768 or emailing finance@stmarks.nsw.edu.au.

We are committed to providing excellent customer service and will do everything we can to assist.

Thank you and kind regards

SMC Finance Team



ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE 2024 P&F COMMITTEE

Bake SALE



We are excited to announce that the P&F has organised a bake sale event on Thursday, 25 July! All students in both primary and senior schools will have the opportunity to purchase delicious baked goods during recess and lunch for a gold coin donation.

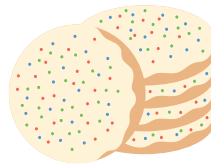
We kindly request that all families contribute items for the bake sale on Thursday morning, delivering them to their class teacher. Please ensure the items are easy for children to purchase, such as cookies, cupcakes, lamingtons, etc. We ask that whole cakes are not provided. It is important that each family participates to ensure we have enough items for all the children.

Additionally, we are seeking parent volunteers to help at the bake sale during recess or lunch. If you are available, please email pandfestmark.nsw.edu.au.

Your support is greatly appreciated!

Thank you for your ongoing support and participation in our events, helping us provide great opportunities for our children.

P&F Committee



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Contact the P&F on pandfestmarks.nsw.edu.au



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Y12 HSC TRIAL EXAMS

As a community we keep our Year 12 students warmly in our thoughts and prayers as they begin preparations for the HSC Trial examinations that will commence on Monday, 5 August.

Our prayer is for all their efforts to richly rewarded in producing their best over the Trial HSC Examination period.

[2024 Trial HSC Timetable](#)

CURRICULUM REFORM RESOURCES FOR PARENTS

Each new syllabus being released as part of NSW Curriculum Reform is accompanied by a Parent Guide, to support families understanding changes to the new syllabuses.

Across these resources is Aboriginal Artwork created by our Curriculum Reform advisor and proud Bundjalung, Kamilaroi woman, Paige Coe.

The designs capture a cultural narrative for each learning area, sharing a story about how that knowledge is learned and shared from an Aboriginal perspective.

STUDY SKILLS HANDBOOK

Ever leave your assignments until the last minute? Procrastination might seem harmless, but it can lead to unnecessary stress and lower-quality work. Here are four compelling reasons to start working on your assignments immediately: **Starting Assignments Straight Away: Why It's Crucial for Success**

You can learn more about being more effective with assessments in the ASSIGNMENT SKILLS unit of www.studyskillshandbook.com.au by logging in with these details:

Username: stmarks

Password: 52success

PYJAMA DAY FINDER

We are thrilled to announce the success of our Pyjama Day and movie Fundraiser, hosted by the Student Representative Council (SRC). The event was filled with laughter and joy, bringing our students together in a warm and inviting atmosphere.

All funds raised will support Coptic Orphans, an international organisation dedicated to helping orphans break free from the cycle of poverty. We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated and contributed to this meaningful cause.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

