St. Mark’s College
Newsletter
Coptic Orthodox Diocese of Sydney and Affiliated Regions

Head of College Message
Reverend Father’s Message
Senior School Information
Junior School Information

14th in the State
2Unit Mathematics

Volume 17 Issue 1
Lent Term, 2012

‘To Live Is Christ’

HSC All-Rounder
HSC Dux
**Progressive House Points**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ST ANTHONY</th>
<th>ST DEMIANA</th>
<th>ST GEORGE</th>
<th>ST MARINA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>808</strong></td>
<td><strong>547</strong></td>
<td><strong>751</strong></td>
<td><strong>604</strong></td>
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**The Lord’s Message**

*Let no one seek his own, but each one the other's well-being.*

**1 Corinthians 10:24**

“Buy our chocolate bars and you will be cooler than your friends!”

“Drive our car and everyone else will envy you!”

What’s wrong with the above commonplace advertising slogans?

“It’s all about me.”

And that just isn’t Christianity. Yet it is very easy to have this kind of hype seep into our thoughts and attitudes, since it surrounds us every day. As Christians, we have to have a kind of filter that sifts out the wrong ways of thinking and behaving.

As Christians, we are commanded to love one another and to care for each other. That is how we begin to learn what love means. But it does not end there. Over time, as the Christian matures, caring for others stops being a command and becomes instead a nature. You no longer care for others just because you are commanded to do it, and perhaps sometimes do it reluctantly, perhaps sometimes escape from that duty. Instead, you care for others because that is who you are, because that is the kind of person you are. Love flows from your lips and your actions as easily and as naturally as water from a spring.

Then, you have become love. And of course, we all know that God is love (1 John 4:8). And that is one way in which we are united to God. Because love abides in us, and because God abides in us, so love abides in us.

This is what we were made for. And this is what St Mark’s College was made for: to help people grow in love and care for one another, to give them examples of love to follow, to give them opportunities to train themselves in learning how to love, and to transform people into beings of love.

Every activity that we do is a suitable training ground for love. If I help other students as I study for myself, then my study has become love. And of course, we all know that God is love (1 John 4:8). And that is one way in which we are united to God. Because love abides in us, and because God abides in us, so love abides in us.

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Fr Antonios
Message from the Head of College
I would like to welcome back everyone to the new school year and pray that you had a blessed and safe Christmas break with family and friends.

The year has commenced well with our students settling in to their classes and working with exuberance and diligence. I would like to especially welcome our new families that have joined us and to Kindergarten. May their time with us be a happy and memorable one over the next thirteen years.

HSC Results 2011
On the first day of term we congratulated our 2011 HSC students who achieved commendable results, in particular, those who attained an ATAR over 90. It was a wonderful assembly and it was pleasing to see the parents of the awardees being present to celebrate their children’s achievements. The HSC College Dux is Bishoy Sharobim with an ATAR of 99.35, and was listed as an HSC All-Rounder. Also, a notable performance by Mary Girgis, placed 14th in the state for 2Unit Mathematics. Congratulations to both students for their exceptional performances and to all our Year 12 Cohort of 2011. I wish them well for the future and in their particular careers of choice, may they prosper with God’s blessing and guidance.

Below are some further notable statistics:
1. School Ranked 84th in the state
2. School Ranked 28th on the Maths Merit List
3. 90% of students offered a university place
4. 35% of students attained an ATAR over 90
5. 55% of students attained an ATAR over 80
6. 69% of students attained an ATAR over 70
7. 72% of courses above state mean: Biology, Business Studies, Chemistry, English, (Stand & Adv), Legal Studies, Maths (Gen, 2U, Ex1 & 2), PDHPE, Physics, Studies of Religion (1Unit)

St Mark’s is in the best position to offer these advantages for many years and continues to do so. This is evident by the number of students who matriculate to university.

New Appointments
The operational structure of the College has been revised and some changes have been introduced that will lead to better educational outcomes. These are as follows:

Dean of the Junior School
Mrs Shehata has been a stage co-ordinator for many years and her new appointment as Dean of the Junior School will streamline the lines of communication between parents and the College. Parents are to approach the classroom teacher first in every instance before approaching Mrs Shehata with matters of concern.

Deputy Dean of the Junior School
Mrs Nada is responsible for student welfare and daily operations in the Junior School. Her expertise with infants and primary aged students has been one of her strengths and her contribution has been a contributor to this positive behavioural culture. Before parents approach Mrs Nada about behavioural matters, they are to speak to the classroom teacher first.

1. Give sufficient study time to all courses, but additional time to those you have difficulty.
2. St Mark’s has a strong academic ethos where all students are of like mind and committed to their studies and maximizing their ATAR.
3. Study your courses at an even pace building upon the foundations gradually.
4. Teachers at St Mark’s College are committed to teaching well and have your interests at heart. Their availability and professionalism is outstanding and are willing to assist you at all times.
5. Always make sure you have a safety net. Most students who gain a place at university have studied beyond 10 units.
6. Be well organized and do your best from the very first assessment task. This will maximize your assessment and in turn your ATAR.
7. What is the difference between an HSC Exam result and the HSC Assessment? The exam records the performance of the student in the HSC Examination in late October and November. The Assessment Mark is a record of a student’s achievement over many tasks throughout Year 12. To attain a good result in a course a student needs to perform well in both.
8. English is a compulsory course and it's included in the ATAR. Students need to assign most of their time on English, this will improve their mark across all courses.
Curriculum Co-ordinator
Mr Chahrozian is looking forward to working closely with parents and students providing curriculum advice that will enhance learning across K – 12. His role is to review educational pedagogy and to introduce appropriate teaching methodology that will stimulate student interest in the classroom. Mr Chahrozian is an experienced executive teacher and his expertise will clearly lead to better curriculum outcomes for our students. Also, he is the Science Head of Faculty.

Junior School Co-ordinator
Mrs Makar will continue her role as a stage co-ordinator and will provide support to both Mrs Shehata and Mrs Nada. Currently she is overseeing Special Needs.

Visual Arts Faculty Head
Ms Baldwin has been appointed to this new position in recognition of the importance of Art and the role it plays in developing the all-round student. Ms Baldwin is an experienced teacher and her broad and specific set of skills has already brought about change in this faculty. I wish her well with the challenges ahead.

Head of Technology Faculty
Mr Talevski is an experienced technology teacher and will continue in his role as the Head of Technology.

Careers
Mrs Gerges has been appointed Careers Advisor and I encourage students to approach her for advice for either subject or career choices.

New Staff
A number of new staff have joined us over the break and I would like to welcome them to our community and may the Lord bless them in their work. The new staff is listed below.

Mr Horner (Science)
Mr Horner is a very considerate and compassionate teacher who has a passion for Science and will continue to develop an interest in Science for our students.

Mr Aziz (English)
Literacy is an area that the College is focusing upon and Mr Aziz will play a role in developing a strong English curriculum across the College. He is keen to make a positive contribution to the life of the College and we welcome his input.

Mrs Duffy (LOTE)
The College has appointed Mrs Duffy to teacher our students Japanese. She is a very gifted language teacher and has made an impact with the students in the short time she has been with us. I wish her well and I am looking forward to our students utilizing this unique language.

Mr Glavas
Mrs Glavas is a welcome addition to the College as he is the second male teacher to be on the Junior School roster. He has made a good start to the year and the students have enjoyed being in his class.

House System

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>House</th>
<th>House Patron</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St Anthony</td>
<td>Mrs Nicola</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Demiana</td>
<td>Dr Tham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Marina</td>
<td>Mrs Williams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St George</td>
<td>Mrs Holland</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Senior School has moved from the Year Group model to a House System to assist and support the overall welfare of the students. It provides leadership opportunities for our Year 12 students and enables them to play an influential role in developing and assisting students in the junior years. Each House has two captains and they assist the House Patrons in a number of daily tasks. In the past parents approached the Year Co-ordinators for major issues pertaining to their child, now it will be the House Patron.

I wish everyone well in their new roles and below is a list of the school office bearers for 2012.

School Office Bearers

School Captains
Mina Shehata and Mariam Demian

School Vice Captains
Jonathan Tanios and Anasimone Abdelmalek

Senior School House Captains
St George Kyrillos Mansour and Sarah Fahmy
St Anthony Rachel Webby and Matthew Awad
St Marina Akshay David and Shery Nasr
St Demiana Aloon Tawfik and Youstina Ghaly

Junior School Captains
Daniel Boulos and Monica Wilson

Junior School Vice Captains
Ryan Azzi and Mary Abdelsayed
 Junior School House Captains
St George  Marc Rouchdi and Mary Abdelsayed
St Anthony  Joseph Safi and Chantelle Wasif
St Marina  Daniel Boulos and Jasmine Gadalla
St Demiana  Marcos Nada and Monica Wilson

Students Representative Council
3A  Jonathan Alarmani and Martina Gayed
4S  Philopateer Abdelmalek and Alexandra Assad
5G  Christopher Shehata and Angela Tawadrous
5/6N  David Eskander and Maria Fahmy
6N  Mark Angelo Abboud and Sarah Metry

Year 7 Camp
The Year 7 Camp was held at the Narrabeen Sport and Recreation Centre. The sole purpose of the Camp is to unite the group, create friendships and provide them with challenging experiences that will prepare them well for their future academic studies.

The students partook in a variety of activities like: Low ropes, archery, abseiling, canoeing, wall climbing, etc. The students had a wonderful time together and many found the activities a first time experience and managed to complete them well.

I would like to congratulate the students on their behaviour and attitude throughout the Camp and extend my thanks and gratitude to the House Patrons for giving their time so graciously to be with the students and for providing them with these life skill experiences.

Insects on Site
The College has been dealing with an infestation of fleas on site and has treated the classrooms and playground areas on a number of occasions. This has controlled the situation each time but it reoccurs. The wet warm weather this year hasn’t helped as it has provided the ideal environment for insects to enhance their breeding cycle.

It maybe reappearing in cycles due to a number of reasons but as a precautionary measure I ask parents to please assist the school to eradicate the problem by:

1. Washing your child’s school bag and clothing.
2. Applying appropriate insect repellent on your child’s legs prior to arriving to school.
3. Checking at home to see if your family pet (cat or dog) may have fleas.

In the meantime, if your child has sensitive skin it maybe best for him or her to remain at home for a couple of days. It’s very disappointing that this has occurred, just when the students have settled into their studies so beautifully.

 Senior School Sport
Once again, we are off to a flyer start in terms of Sport at St Marks. With two carnivals already down, and some outstanding sporting achievements made already, the College continues to go from strength to strength.

With the beautiful Sports and Arts Centre almost complete, the College will now have a facility that will complement the growing nature of sport at St Mark’s. I look forward to working with all students and parents this year, in what promises to be another wonderful year full of opportunities for our students in sport and physical activity.

Senior School Swimming Carnival
In very trying conditions, St Mark’s ventured off to the Liverpool Whitlam Centre for the annual St Mark’s Coptic Orthodox College Swimming Carnival.

With a redeveloped grandstand, the students managed to keep dry while out of the water, which encouraged many to get in and complete for points and the honour of being house champions.

With some outstanding performances from all houses, the stand-outs were to come from St Anthony House. Notable mentions need to go to St Anthony swimmers Matthew Awad (Yr 12) and Carmer Wasef (Yr 10) for their outstanding performances.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>Girls</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Paul Behman (7)</td>
<td>Trevina Williams (yr 7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Michael Boctor (7)</td>
<td>Miriam Awad (yr 8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Philo Gangi (8)</td>
<td>Marette Youssef (yr 8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Philo Anwar (10)</td>
<td>Anastasiya Hlachuk (yr 10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Stephen Spirou (10)</td>
<td>Shreyash Jagadale (10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Matthew Awad (12)</td>
<td>Sarah Fahmy (yr 12)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Top Swimmers of the Meet
Matthew Awad (yr 12) & Carmen Wasef (yr 10)

Final Results
- St Anthony: 518 points
- St Marina: 351 points
- St George: 328 points
- St Demiana: 209 points
A big thank you to all staff and students for their wonderful efforts on the day.

**SWISSA Results**

**Round 1 Results**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Junior boys</th>
<th>vs Georges River</th>
<th>loss 14-11</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Junior girls</td>
<td>vs Georges River</td>
<td>loss 36-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior boys</td>
<td>vs All Saints Grammar</td>
<td>loss 19-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior girls</td>
<td>vs All Saints Grammar</td>
<td>loss 28-11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Round 2 Results**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Junior boys</th>
<th>vs Redeemer Baptist</th>
<th>win 17-0</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Junior girls</td>
<td>vs Redeemer Baptist</td>
<td>loss 44-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior boys</td>
<td>vs St Euphemia College</td>
<td>win 19-18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior girls</td>
<td>vs Redeemer Baptist</td>
<td>loss 25-6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Round 3 Results**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Senior boys</th>
<th>vs Sydney Adventist</th>
<th>win</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Senior girls</td>
<td>vs St Marouns College</td>
<td>win</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Round 4 Results**

| Senior boys | vs St Marouns | loss |

The intermediate competition will commence next week. Good luck to all our teams for the remainder of the competition.

**SWISSA & AICES Representatives**

Even though we are only early into the year, some students have already achieved representative honours. Congratulations to the following students:

**SWISSA Basketball Representatives**

*Competing at the AICES Regional Basketball Championships.*

- Chris Saad (yr 12)
- Andre Perin (yr 11)

**SWISSA Tennis Representatives**

*To compete at the AICES Regional Tennis Championships.*

- Chantelle Perin (yr 9)
- Saraangi Grero (yr 11)
- Andre Perin (yr 11)

**BULLDOGS BLITZ**

Last Thursday, St Mark’s College was once again fortunate enough to have a visit from the Bulldogs as a part of the annual Bulldogs Blitz.

The focus this year was on the importance of literacy, and the College was fortunate enough to have some wonderful words of wisdom from high profile player Corey Payne. Corey has had a first grade career spanning...
over 10 years, and spoke about the importance of being disciplined in whatever your pursuits may be.

Corey has a successful sporting career to boast about, but has also completed a Master’s degree in Business Commerce. On behalf of the College I would like to thank the Bulldogs for giving up their time to visit our wonderful College.

![Corey Payne with Kyrillos Mansour, Marc Bastawros, Milun Miletich & Peter Nawar](image)

Good luck to S Grero, C & P Perin at the AICES tennis championships.

**Yours in Sport,**

**Mr D. Helene**

*(Head of PDHPE & Sport)*

**Junior Sport**

**Junior School Swimming Carnival**

Friday the 10th of February 2012 was the Junior Swimming Carnival held at the Whitlam Leisure Centre which was an entertaining carnival that was thoroughly enjoyed by all students. There were only 10 students away on the day and this indicates the enthusiasm that students have towards our carnivals. Students that attended the carnival are to be congratulated on their efforts in the pool. It was pleasing to observe the majority of those students participate to get extra points for their House groups. Students showed great sportsmanship and were always encouraging one another throughout different events. All the houses are to be congratulated on their efforts this year, however, there is one House that stood out from the rest and that was St. George, narrowly winning by 33 points from St. Anthony. The age champions are also to be congratulated on their efforts and they are listed below. A carnival is a team effort and without the teachers and the senior school helpers that came and did a marvellous job, the carnival would not have run successfully so their efforts are much appreciated.

We look forward to an exciting Athletics Carnival. Will St. George, St. Anthony, St. Demiana or St. Marina win, only time will tell! Photos of the Swimming Carnivals have been uploaded onto the St. Mark’s website.

**Jollybops**

Last week the Junior School students had an incursion from a Science troupe that entertained them on the wonders of nature. They covered the topic of FORCES and included gases and how they behaved creating forces that move objects.

The students were enthralled throughout the presentation and demonstrated a great deal of general knowledge.

**Final Results**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>House</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St George</td>
<td>423</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Anthony</td>
<td>390</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Demiana</td>
<td>338</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Marina</td>
<td>253</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mrs Shehata

*Dean of the Junior School*
Parents’ Association
The first meeting was held on Monday 20th February and it was pleasing to see the large number of parents in attendance. Our new Head of College Mr Rekouniotis was welcomed and he outlined the future direction of the College and Fr Antonios presented the new school building project that will commence in mid 2012. This project will include new science laboratories.

President: Mr Rouchdi
Vice President: Mr Malek
Treasurer: Mr Seman
Secretary: Miss Michael

I would like to invite you to our next meeting in March to assist the P&F Committee to raise $15,000 to lay additional astro turf in the playground. In the next newsletter a list of fundraising events will be advertised.

Looking forward to your support and assistance in 2012.

Mr M Rouchdi
P&F President

Age Champions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>Girls</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8Yrs</td>
<td>Joshua Fanous</td>
<td>Monica Hanna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9Yrs</td>
<td>Marcus Boctor</td>
<td>Alexandra Assad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10Yrs</td>
<td>Jacob Ghobreal</td>
<td>Angela Tawdrous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11Yrs</td>
<td>James Edward</td>
<td>Chantelle Wasef</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12Yrs</td>
<td>Daniel Boulos</td>
<td>Monica Wilson</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

St Monica’s Prayer Group

“For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” – Matthew 18:20

Sometimes as we work throughout the day, we wonder if our prayers go unheard and astray, and we ask God if He will listen to our endless requests, for our children to be watched over and eternally blessed.

On Friday afternoons at 2:15, we gather together to sing hymns, pray for students and make specific requests. We will also be praying for the Yr 12 students during their trials and HSC examinations.

One class and each of its students as well as class teacher(s) is dedicated per week.

Friday 24th Feb Kindy
Friday 2nd March Yr 1
Friday 9th March Yr 2
Friday 16th March Yr 3
Friday 23rd March Yr 4
Friday 30th March Yr 5
See you there!

Careers News
Sydney Royal Easter Show Volunteer program for 2013
When: 5 - 18 April 2012