



St Euphemia College

School Newsletter

Term 1 Week 5

Principal's Report



Upcoming Events

3 March

Dionysios Solomos
Awards

7 March

Primary NRMA
Road Safety
Incursion

6 - 8 March

Year 9 Camp

24 March

Greek
Independence Day
March

One of the best parts of being a school Principal is having the opportunity to interact with our students in a more relaxed atmosphere. I don't have to chase students for their homework or give them feedback on their assessments. I have the pleasure of talking to them about their day, I am lucky to be offered cakes and meals from the Hospitality Kitchen that our Year 11 and 12 students have prepared, to play a quick game of handball with the Year 4 boys at recess, give a helping hand in the library or to greet our students as they arrive in the morning or leave in the afternoon.

This week was one of those fortunate weeks where I was afforded the opportunity of spending time with our Year 12 students at their retreat and with the whole Secondary School community at the Secondary School Swimming Carnival. These relaxed events are community building opportunities for all. In the midst of competition or play, students learn about inclusivity, being able to participate and be a part of the community. Their sense of belonging is strengthened as they enjoy each other's company in a relaxed environment that will create new memories and in some instances the beginning of new friendships.

I was thrilled to receive an email from a resident of Collaroy yesterday, praising the behaviour of our Year 12 students at the beach and at the local café during their retreat. In her words, I have every confidence that these young adults will continue to develop into kind, respectful adults, a true testament to the wonderful leaders of the College our Year 12 students are. We have so much to be proud of here at St Euphemia College and the behaviour of our students at both events this week is one such moment.

Wishing you all a wonderful week.

Penny Pachos



Deputy Principal's Report - Primary

It's been an exciting time here at St Euphemia College with our students actively engaging in various enriching experiences. Let's dive into some of the highlights from the recent week.

Enrolments Open for Prep and Kindergarten 2025

Enrolments are now open for Prep and Kindergarten for the academic year 2025. As we look forward to welcoming new faces into our school community, we encourage parents to take this opportunity to secure a place for their child in these foundational years of education.

To initiate the enrolment process, contact our Enrolment Officer to make a booking with the Deputy Principal Primary. This provides an opportunity for you to discuss any questions you may have and to take a tour of the school's facilities.

Introductory Meet and Greet Sessions

Thank you to all the parents who took the time to attend the *Meet and Greet Sessions*. Your presence and engagement contributed significantly to fostering a strong sense of community within our school.

It was great to see the positive interactions between parents and teachers. Your support and expressions of appreciation for the dedication of our teachers have not gone unnoticed. Recognising the tireless efforts of our educators is vital and your acknowledgment means a great deal to them.



Greek Dancing

Greek dancing fosters a sense of community and enhances coordination and rhythm. Incorporating physical activity into daily routines is proven to benefit both the body and mind, enhancing cognitive function and promoting overall wellbeing.

Fees for the Greek dancing program are now due. Participation in this activity is **compulsory** for all students as discussed during the enrolment process.



Religious Education Lessons

I am delighted to announce the newest addition to our dedicated team at St Euphemia College. Deacon Father Meliton, brings a wealth of knowledge and a deep commitment to fostering spiritual growth in our students.

In his role, Father Meliton will be responsible for teaching Religion to students from Prep to Year 6. We are excited to have Father Meliton on board and look forward to the positive impact he will make on the religious education curriculum.

Last week, our Year 1 students had the opportunity to visit our church, guided by Father Meliton. Our young learners were provided with valuable insights into various religious practices.





Library News

The students have started to visit our School Library. Reading allows our students to immerse themselves in the pages of diverse tales, expanding their vocabulary and igniting their imagination and creativity. We encourage parents to foster this interest at home by encouraging the students to share the books they have borrowed from the school library with the rest of the family.

NRMA Road Safety Incursion

On **Thursday 7 March** we welcome a visit from the NRMA Science and Road Safety program to our school. This invaluable incursion offers best practice road safety education for the entire school community.

The NRMA program, delivered at no cost to schools, has already made a positive impact by visiting over 630 schools and educating more than 250,000 children across NSW and ACT.

The program focuses on enhancing the knowledge and skills of the students, aligning with the NSW K-6 PDHPE, English and Science Syllabi.

Elizabeth Xanthoudakis





College Chaplain's Message

We begin our journey through the Triodion and into Great Lent and Pascha with the reading of the Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax-collector (Luke 18:10-14).

Through this parable, Jesus teaches us about the virtue of humility and the danger of pride, by comparing the prayer of two people who went to the temple to pray. One was a pharisee - a teacher of the law, while the other was a tax-collector.

The pharisees were known for their strict adherence to the letter of the law, ensuring that each commandment was enforced precisely and imposing this strict interpretation upon others. On the other hand, tax-collectors had a reputation of being greedy, often taking from people more than what they were entitled to, and so it was interesting that Jesus used these examples to teach us about virtue.

Praying in the temple, the pharisee was proud of himself for adhering to the letter of the law. He boasted loudly so that all could hear that he wasn't like other people who sinned. He boasted that he was righteous because he fasted twice a week and that he tithed, giving ten per cent of his income and goods to the temple.

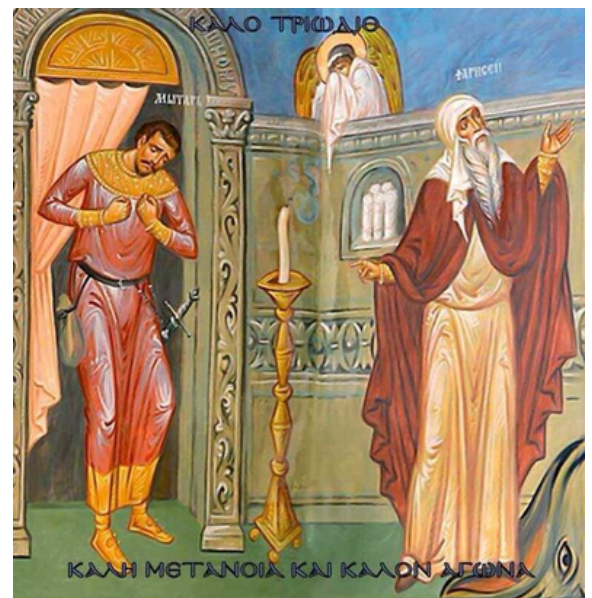
In contrast to the 'prayer' of the pharisee, the tax-collector stood afar off, not daring to look towards heaven, saying "God, be merciful to me a sinner".

At first glance, it may appear that the pharisee was succeeding in his spiritual journey, but the reality is that his heart was full of pride and judgment. He kept the commandments for his own sake and so while his actions may have appeared good and pleasing to God, his proudful motives meant that God did not accept his prayer. It is interesting that the first week of the Triodion is a week we do not fast, lest we think we have achieved something.

The tax-collector, not trying to justify himself, acknowledged his sins and offenses, and humbly asked God for forgiveness. It is for this reason that Jesus warns us, "everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted".

Let us then be wary that we do not become proudful or boastful for any perceived achievements and successes, but rather, let us turn our attention to our faults, and let us humbly ask God to forgive us our failings, knowing that "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble" (James 4:6).

Fr Peter Mavrommatis



[Click here for
Orthodox Calendar](#)



Director of Teaching and Learning Report

As we progress through our exploration of the learning dispositions at St Euphemia College, we arrive at the pivotal element of 'Inquisitiveness' (I). Inquisitiveness, alongside Growth Mindset, Reflective Thinking, and Teamwork, forms an integral part of our G.R.I.T framework.

Inquisitiveness is the need to know, learn, and explore without boundaries. It is about fostering a sense of curiosity in students, encouraging them to ask questions and seek answers. This disposition drives innovation, critical thinking, and a deeper engagement with learning.

Here are three strategies to nurture Inquisitiveness at home:

- **Encourage Questions:** Create an environment where asking questions is valued and encouraged. Show genuine interest in the questions your child asks and engage in conversations that explore these queries further. When you don't have the answers, take it as an opportunity to discover together. This approach reinforces the idea that questions are a powerful tool for learning.
- **Explore Diverse Subjects:** Introduce your child to a wide range of topics and activities beyond their school curriculum. This could include visits to museums, libraries, or engaging in nature walks. Diverse experiences spark curiosity and open up new worlds and ideas to explore.
- **Create a 'Wonder Wall':** Designate a space in your home where your child can post questions, ideas, or topics they're curious about. Regularly spend time together researching and exploring these wonders.

Inquisitiveness is a gateway to a richer, more engaging learning experience. It drives our students to not just absorb information, but to actively seek out knowledge and make connections between disparate ideas. By cultivating a culture of curiosity in learning and exploration, we empower our students to become not just learners, but passionate seekers of knowledge.

As we continue to instill G.R.I.T in our students, let us remember the importance of inquisitiveness. It is the spark that ignites the flame of learning.

Matthew Panayotopoulos





Year 12 Retreat

This year's spiritual retreat was by far the best camp we've experienced! Jumping on the bus bright-eyed and bushy tailed at 8, we took off to Collaroy Centre for a breathtaking seaside setting to escape the pressure of the HSC.

Our arrival at the camp saw the largely yearned for 'structured' water fight begin many hours before its 2pm scheduled time. Those who somehow remained dry were promptly drenched either by the centre's hoses, water guns, balloons, or the infamous slip and slide which students surrounded to use with the victims descending down the slide.

The first evening did not lack its fair share of pranks, card and board games, and late-night shenanigans. Despite the rainy and cold weather on the second day, nothing, not even the couple hours of sleep discouraged our plans to spend it at Collaroy Beach. Witnessing teachers and students alike be thrashed by the waves was an entertaining sight, as was witnessing Mr Spyrou's coffee making skills come into fruition when assisting a small cafe swarmed with orders from most of year 12. Having finished from the beach earlier than expected, we decided to undergo the spiritual part of the camp, whereby Father Peter gave us an edifying presentation on love, the centre of the Orthodox Christian ethos. To exemplify this core value, we sat in a circle, where we were asked to stand up and talk to 3 people we have rarely spoken to. Awkward as it may have seemed, it was a blessing to traverse that barrier of unfamiliarity, to understand that we were all family, and perhaps beyond that, we must strive to lovingly embrace all of humanity as the image and likeness of God. The rest of the day was spent in loving, even positively tearful comradery with one another, and enjoying a bountiful pizza night.

For our last day, we wasted not a single moment. Some of us went racing on the rock climbing, or down to the beach to grab gelato and hang out. After we regrouped at midday, we enjoyed one another's company, playing basketball, volleyball, or piano. Of course, we couldn't bid farewell to Collaroy Centre without yet another water fight. Tired, but hearts full from the invaluable time spent with our peers, we boarded our buses to return back to St Euphemia College.

We would like to thank our legendary year advisor, Mr Verghios, Father Peter, Mr Spyrou and Ms Ntiamoah for making this spiritual retreat possible, enjoyable, and bringing us closer together as a grade. We also wish everyone a fruitful Lenten season by drawing nearer to God in fasting, vigil and prayer!

Lachlan Mansour and Angelina Miltiadou





Junior Book Club Reviews



The Junior Book Club team met last week for the first time this year. Students enjoyed their lunch sharing their favourite reads of the summer holidays. They exchanged thoughts and insights about the characters and evaluated why their favourite read was enjoyable. Below are some book reviews by the book club members recommended for all students.

The Wide Reading Program is a compulsory component of the English Program at the College, occurring each term and every school holiday. Many new novels have been purchased for the school library and these will be reviewed throughout the year.

‘What Once Was Mine’ written by Liz Braswell belongs to the fantasy genre and is a retelling of the fairytale of Rapunzel. It is a twisted tale about Rapunzel, who is born with deadly powers and throughout the novel she learns how to control them. She got separated from her parents when she was young and encountered many adventures on her journey to find them. I found this novel exceedingly engaging, as Liz Braswell uses figurative language to make it captivating and entertaining. The use of descriptive language in the novel is countless and I love all the imagery used in the story which allowed me to imagine the incredible world created by the author. It is a novel that I could read over and over again. I highly recommend everyone to read ‘What Once Was Mine’ and I rate it a 5 out of 5 stars.

Marie Karayiannis Year 9.

Trials Of Apollo: The Burning Maze’ by Rick Riordan, is an action-packed fantasy book, which has threads of Greek and Roman mythology woven into it. ‘The Burning Maze’ is the third book in the series. It covers the journey of the Ex-god Apollo, and how he must become a god again, accompanied by his sidekick Meg. This book in particular tells us the story of how Apollo navigated a maze to find and free an Oracle: Herophile. The book is filled with twists and turns and explores a wide range of emotions. From despair, to hope, this book creates suspense and adventure in every chapter. Even though this book is adventurous and exciting, sometimes it’s hard to remember what has happened. Despite this however, the book is beautifully written and includes a wide range of personalities and nationalities and is perfect for teenage readers who are into fantasy, Greek/Roman myths or action adventures. It’s a quality novel to continue the series and will leave you rolling on the floor laughing. I give this book 4.5 stars out of 5.

Irini Ifandoudas Year 9



Careers News

Virtual Work Experiences is a career program from the developers of JobJump, a careers website used by over 800 careers practitioners in 500 Australian secondary schools. Virtual Work Experiences is a more natural, developmental and reliable methodology for a student's Careers exploration. Placing students in the driving seat of their own career formation in a fun and enriching journey.

Virtual Work Experiences allows students to explore and affirm a career. It provides the seeds that, once sown, will enrich the student over time and well into their lifetime in their chosen career and is free.

With the 112 Virtual Work Experiences offered, the student is central and driving their own career formation.

Anastasia Prevezanos

Secondary School Sports News

Week 5 SWISSA Basketball Results

Open Boys	win	All Saints Grammar	46 - 21
Open Boys	win	St Mary and Minas College	39 - 22
Open Girls	def	All Saints Grammar	8 - 22
Junior Girls	def	St Mary and Minas College	15 - 19
Junior Boys	win	St Mary and Minas College	19 - 13

Week 6 SWISSA Basketball Draw

Open Girls	v	St Marks College
Open Boys	v	St Marks College
Junior Girls	v	St Marks College
Junior Girls	v	Redeemer Baptist School
Junior Boys	v	St Marks College
Junior Boys	v	Redeemer Baptist School

Monique Lou
Secondary School Sports Coordinator

[Click here for Virtual work experiences](#)



Primary School Sports News

Swimming Carnival Winners

Congratulations to **Athena** for emerging as the triumphant house winners of the swimming carnival, a title proudly claimed by House Captains, Kosta Repousis and Mary Tezaris, at the Primary School Assembly this past Monday afternoon. The atmosphere was brimming with excitement and cheers as Athena's victory was celebrated. Furthermore, the spirit of achievement continued as ribbons were handed out to our outstanding swimmers who clinched the top four positions in the fiercely contested 100m freestyle, 50m freestyle, and 50m backstroke events. The carnival not only showcased exemplary sportsmanship but also fostered a sense of camaraderie and determination among all participants, making it a memorable and rewarding experience for everyone involved. Thank you to all who participated and assisted on the day.





IPSHA Swimming Carnival

Congratulations to all the students who were selected to participate in this year's IPSHA Swimming carnival that will be held at the Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre, Homebush on Tuesday 5 March. IPSHA is the Sports Association for Independent Schools to which our College belongs to. Students were selected based on their times that were achieved at our swimming carnival and meeting the rigorous qualifying standards set by IPSHA.

PSSA Sport

As the summer PSSA teams are finalised, students eagerly received their contracts and details regarding upcoming training sessions in preparation for the commencement of games on Friday 8 March. Anticipation fills the air as our students prepare to represent our College with pride and determination on the field.

Training Sessions:

Senior Basketball – Wednesday 6 March, 3:15pm – 4:00pm in the school playground, with Ms Diamant

Junior Basketball: Thursday 7 March, 3:15pm – 4:00pm in the school playground, with Ms Moshos

Softball Boys and Girls: Thursday 7 March, departing from School at 2:40pm for the Bankstown Sports Complex and students will need to be picked up from the venue by 4:00pm, with Ms Vourtsanis

TBall Boys and Girls: Thursday 7 March, departing from School at 2:40pm for the Bankstown Sports Complex. Students need to be picked up from the venue by 4:00pm, with Ms Poulos

Cricket Boys and Girls: Thursday 7 March, departing from School at 2:40pm for the Bankstown Sports Complex. Students need to be picked up from the venue by 4:00pm, with Ms Pozoglou

With the onset of winter soon approaching, **PSSA Winter** tryouts for **Soccer, Newcombe Ball, and Netball** have also officially kicked off. Students across Years 3-6 displayed great skills and excitement during these sessions, with many of them impressing the coaches. Good luck to all students.

Gina Vourtsanis

Primary School Sports Coordinator