



St Euphemia College

School Newsletter

Term 1 Week 6

Principal's Report



Upcoming Events

15 March

SWISSA Swimming
Championships

13 - 22 March

NAPLAN

24 March

Greek
Independence Day
March

28 March

St Euphemia College
Tours

Every year, on 25 March, Greece comes alive with vibrant celebration, parades and heartfelt tributes as the nation celebrates Greek Independence Day. Our celebrations in Sydney will take place on 24 March. The celebrations will begin with our Year 12 students attending Divine Liturgy at The Cathedral of the Annunciation of Our Lady in the morning. We will then be joined by all students from the College at Martin Place for the Laying of the Wreath Ceremony, followed by the procession to the Opera House.

The celebrations on **Sunday 24 March** are a significant event and all students from the College are **required** to attend. We will honour and commemorate the Declaration of Independence of Greece from Ottoman rule in 1821. It is a day of remembrance and renewal of national pride. We honour the sacrifices of our ancestors who laid down their lives for the cause of freedom. We support our democracy, justice and human dignity.

As the first female Principal of St Euphemia College, it is not lost on me that I, alongside all the women who work at the College, serve as role models for our young female students. Today marks **International Women's Day**, a day the world celebrates and reflects on women's rights, social equality and political achievements.

This year, the theme "Inspire Inclusion" urges us to reflect on the diverse experiences, voices and contributions of women around the world. Inspiring inclusion means creating workplaces where women of all backgrounds have equal opportunities for advancement and leadership. We are fortunate here at St Euphemia College to be surrounded by amazing women, women who lead with conviction, women who set the standard and women who inspire our young female students to want to go out into the world and leave their mark. Happy International Women's Day to all our mothers, grandmothers, sisters, aunts, cousins, sisters, teachers and friends!

Penny Pachos



Deputy Principal's Report - Primary

Welcome to this week's edition of our newsletter. Each week, we will be shining a spotlight on a particular grade and celebrating the accomplishments and the growth of our students.

Prep Spotlight

This week, we highlight the impressive accomplishments of the newest members to our school, our Prep students.

The Prep students have been learning essential life skills, these being the art of playing properly and the joy of making friends and sharing with their friends. Through engaging activities and thoughtful guidance from their Prep teachers and support teachers, our young learners are developing their communication skills, learning to take turns and learning to be empathetic towards each other.



In addition, our Prep students have been exposed to some wonderful rich texts such as 'The Hungry Caterpillar' and 'Farmer John's Tractor' and learning classic rhymes and songs such as 'Old McDonald Had a Farm'. They have been using a variety of play materials and resources to support their learning in both Literacy and Numeracy. An important component of the Prep program is the Basketball Boomers. This gives our students the opportunity to acquire essential movement skills through games.



Year 6 Buddies

This week, the Year 6 students introduced themselves to their Kindergarten buddies and had a 'get to know your buddy' session. The Year 6 students prepared a booklet for their buddies which listed their special qualities.



NRMA Road Safety Incursion

Yesterday, NRMA visited our school to reinforce basic road safety rules.

The students were taught:

- The role of seatbelts in the event of a crash and why they need to be positioned correctly.
- How to cross a road safely and why it is important to hold hands.
- The importance of wearing a helmet why they need to be positioned correctly.

Parents are advised to discuss with their children what they learnt during their scheduled sessions and to promote conversation around strategies to keeping themselves safe.





NAPLAN

NAPLAN, or the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy, is an annual standardised test in Australia for students in Years 3, 5, 7, and 9. It assesses the student's skills in literacy and numeracy. The tests have been scheduled to commence with Year 3 and 5 taking part in the Writing Exam on Wednesday 13 March.

Parents can support their children by engaging in open communication to address any concerns and reinforcing that the test is just a small part of their children's educational journey.

Wishing everyone a great week ahead.

Elizabeth Xanthoudakis

Parents and Friends

It is with great enthusiasm that we extend an invitation to all our Parents and Friends to join the St Euphemia College P&F.

The P&F provides an invaluable platform for collaboration, communication, and support. Through this association, we have the opportunity to contribute positively to the educational journey of our children and enhance the overall school experience.

The benefits of joining the P & F include:

Community Building: organising social events and activities to bring members of the College community together and it is an excellent way to network.

Supporting College Initiatives: this includes fundraising events to help with purchasing equipment and upgrading facilities.

Parent education: hosting information sessions and workshops on relevant topics and inviting the College Executive to communicate College initiatives and programs.

If you share our enthusiasm and would like to be involved in the St Euphemia College P & F, **please use the QR code** to provide your details. We hope to have families from across the Primary and Secondary Schools as part of our Committee.

St Euphemia College P & F
Expression of Interest





College Chaplain's Message

On the second Sunday of the Triodion our Holy Church calls the faithful to reflect on the messages of the Parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32).

In the parable, we learn that a man's younger son approached him demanding his share of the family wealth. Without hesitation, the father gave him the portion that was allocated to him, and not long after, the young man left his father's house and travelled into a far country where he wasted his father's money irresponsibly.

It was not long before the young man came to be in want. A famine came upon the distant land, and he soon found himself hungry and homeless. His fall from grace was so great that he attached himself to a farmer who herded swine, something forbidden by the Law of Moses. There, he lived among the swine, happily feeding on the same pods. A great tragedy, which ultimately shows that when we wallow in sin, we effectively become like swine!

Despite his irresponsible living and bad choices, God continued to call him, and there, among the swine, he remembered that in his father's house, the servants had their own quarters, their own clothes and bread to spare, and this caused a change of heart.

He began to repent for his bad choices and sinful actions, and made a commitment to return to his father's house. He said to himself, "I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants'."

We do not know how many times the young man repeated these words as he set off on the return journey to his father, but we do know that the young man had repented for his sins and trusted in his father's love and forgiveness.

As the young man was still far off, his father, who had been seeking him ever since he left, saw him, and ran towards him, fell on him, embraced him and kissed him. Before his son could even say what he had rehearsed many times, his father commanded that he be dressed in his former clothes and that the family ring be placed on his finger, restoring him to his former and rightful status as his son.

Through this parable, which provides an overview of God's plan for the salvation of the world, we explore the themes of sin, repentance and the majesty of God's lovingkindness and forgiveness.

The young son represents each individual person, who through sin is distanced from God and faces a spiritual famine or crisis. However, even when we are far from God, and wallowing in sin, God continues to call us to return. He opens the road to return to all who respond to His call, and if we are able to acknowledge our sins and confess, He will accept us unconditionally and restore us to our rightful place.

As we continue our journey to Christ, let us not lose hope on account of our sins, but let us allow the transformative power of repentance to lead us back to Christ.

Fr Peter Mavrommatis

[Click here for
Orthodox Calendar](#)



Director of Teaching and Learning Report

As we continue our journey through the G.R.I.T framework that drives learning at St Euphemia College, we spotlight the fourth, cornerstone: 'Teamwork' (T). Alongside Growth Mindset, Reflective Thinking, and Inquisitiveness, Teamwork encapsulates our commitment to nurturing well-rounded individuals who thrive on collaboration, mutual respect, and shared achievements. It is a testament to our belief in the collective effort and the synergy that emerges when individuals unite towards a common goal.

Teamwork involves communication, cooperation, and mutual respect among members. By emphasizing the importance of Teamwork, we prepare our students to become effective collaborators, empathetic listeners, and leaders who value diverse perspectives and contributions.

Here are three actionable strategies to encourage Teamwork at home:

Participate in Team-Based Activities: For example, playing board games that demand collaboration and strategic thinking can be a fun and educational way to highlight the value of working together. Games like Codenames not only offer a platform for practicing teamwork but also for family bonding and learning to win or lose gracefully together.

Volunteer as a Family: Participating in community service or volunteer projects as a family can be a powerful way to experience the impact of teamwork in action. Working together towards a charitable cause reinforces the notion that collective efforts can lead to meaningful change and instills a sense of social responsibility and empathy towards others. Reach out and ask our Parish Priest The Very Reverend Fr Panagioti about opportunities within our Parish.

Encourage Sports or Group Hobbies: These environments require participants to communicate, cooperate, and sometimes lead or follow, all while striving towards a common goal. It teaches them the importance of each member's role and how collective effort can achieve what might be impossible alone.

Teamwork is more than just working with others; it's about building a community where every individual feels valued, heard, and connected. It lays the foundation for our students to become compassionate leaders, effective communicators, and active contributors to society.

As we embrace the principles of G.R.I.T within our St Euphemia College community, let us continue to champion the spirit of teamwork. Together, we can inspire our students to not only reach for their dreams but to lift others on their journey as well.

Matthew Panayotopoulos



Sunday Divine Liturgy

Following the disruptions of COVID-19, we are able to resume Sunday Divine Liturgy attendance for students starting 17 March. This sacred experience will nurture the spiritual growth and understanding of our students in accordance with the Orthodox Christian faith.

Please note the following details for attendance

Date and Time: Church attendance will take place on Sunday morning in their Year groups. Students are expected to arrive promptly by **8:50 am** and gather in front of the Church Hall for entry into the Church at 9:00 am. The Divine Liturgy will conclude by 10:30 am.

Dismissal: Teachers will supervise students until parents/carers arrive for pickup. Alternatively, if prior arrangements have been made, students may be allowed to make their own way home.

Sibling Arrangements: Students with siblings in different Year groups may opt to attend Church on the day allocated to their siblings' grade. Please inform the teacher on duty to record their attendance accordingly.

Chrisovalanti Spyrou
Head of Religious Education

Sunday Liturgy Schedule 2024

17 March
Year 11

18 August
Year 2

7 April
Year 3

19 May
Year 4

26 May
Year 5

2 June
Year 6

9 June
Year 7

16 June
Year 8

23 June
Year 12

28 July
Year 1

4 August
Year 10

11 August
Year 9





Year 4 Science

In our Year 4 science unit, "Matter Matters," students explored the fascinating properties of liquids through hands-on investigations. Through experiments, they investigated whether the volume of water changes when poured into different containers, if the shape of water remains the same regardless of the container, and whether water can be compressed in tools like syringes or bottles. By pouring water into various containers, observing its behaviour, and experimenting with compressing it, students discovered fundamental principles about liquid behaviour and the properties of matter. These engaging activities sparked curiosity and provided valuable insights into the properties of liquids, contributing to their understanding of the world around them.



Gina Stamos
4S Teacher



Primary School Sports News

IPSHA Swimming Carnival

A group of talented students from Years 3 to 6 had the honour of representing our school at the IPSHA swimming carnival held on **Tuesday, 5 March**. Despite the intense competition, these students showcased exceptional skills and determination in their respective swimming events. Their remarkable sportsmanship and unwavering commitment to do their best was evident throughout the day. I was extremely proud of the way the students conducted themselves throughout the day and their outstanding performance not only reflected their individual dedication but also highlighted the collective spirit of our school community. Well done to all the students who participated.



Basketball Clinic

The Basketball clinic led by Coach Gerard from Basketball Boomers continues to be a huge hit with our Infant classes. Keep up the terrific work boys and girls!





PSSA Summer Sport Fixtures

Summer PSSA Sport has officially begun. This week is a week of BYEs, except for Basketball. Good luck to all the teams participating this term. Games begin 10:00am and conclude by 12:00pm.

Junior Girls Basketball	SEC	vs	Regents Park
Junior Boys Basketball	SEC	vs	Regents Park
Senior Girls Basketball	SEC	vs	Regents Park
Senior Boys Basketball	SEC	vs	Regents Park

Girls Softball	SEC	BYE
Boys Softball	SEC	BYE
TBall Girls	SEC	BYE
TBall Boys	SEC	BYE
Senior Cricket	SEC	BYE
Junior Cricket	SEC	BYE

Gina Vourtsanis
Primary Sport Coordinator



Secondary School Sports News

After a five year absence, the Secondary School Swimming Carnival on Friday 1 March was a resounding success. Students competed in their events with great spirit and the feedback from staff was very positive. A particular mention needs to be made to the Year 10 PASS students for their help marshalling and keeping track of the House points.

We look forward to our selected team of swimmers competing in the SWISSA Swimming Championships on Friday 15 March 2024.



SWISSA Basketball Results

Open Girls	LOSS	St Marks College	3-12
Open Boys	WIN	St Marks College	32-19
Junior Girls	WIN	St Marks College	30-6
Junior Girls	WIN	Redeemer Baptist School	37-10
Junior Boys	WIN	St Marks College	29-27
Junior Boys	WIN	Redeemer Baptist School	40-37

Monique Lou
Secondary School Sports Coordinator



Tour St Euphemia College 28th March



Registration Required



Morning Tour

9:00am to 9:30am

Afternoon Tour

1:30pm to 2:00pm

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