



St Euphemia College

School Newsletter

Term 1 Week 8

Principal's Report



Upcoming Events

24 March

Greek
Independence Day
march

26 March

Combined Greek
Orthodox Swimming
Carnival

27 March

Primary
Commemorative
Assembly

28 March

St Euphemia College
Tours

Alongside Greek Independence Day, Monday 25 March holds significant religious importance for our Church as it marks the Feast of the Annunciation. The Feast of the Annunciation commemorates the announcement by the Archangel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary that she would conceive and give birth to Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

The Annunciation is considered one of the twelve Great Feasts and whilst our students have a day off school on Monday, we remind them that our Parish Church, St Euphemia, will hold Divine Liturgy from 7:30am – 10:00am and are all invited to attend.

St Euphemia College stands proud as a Greek Orthodox school whose strong values of truth, respect, empathy and resilience underpin our supportive school culture. We are diverse and inclusive and stand proudly united in our shared faith and values.

An inclusive community is one that embraces every individual, regardless of their abilities or background. It is a community where everyone feels valued, respected and included. In the school setting, an inclusive environment is one that empowers everyone to learn. The journey to complete acceptance; however, can sometimes have obstacles and it is in these difficult times that we must all come together and draw on each other for strength and support. We must accept the challenges that diversity brings and learn to be patient and trusting of our community. As Orthodox Christians, we draw on our faith to be patient and empathetic. To walk in our neighbours' shoes and show some resilience.

As we proudly march together on Sunday from Martin Place to the Opera House, let us stand proud, united and representative of our College and Church. Let us remember the historical and religious significance of 25 March and continue our journey of inclusivity.

Penny Pachos



Student Leaders Morning Tea

Jason Clare MP Member for Blaxland extended an exclusive invitation to the School Captains and Vice Captains of St Euphemia College to be part of a Student Leaders Morning Tea on Friday 15 March 2024.

Students had the opportunity to meet their peers from neighbouring schools over morning tea and participate in a fun and informal forum on leadership. In addition, students undertook a tour of the new Western Sydney University City Campus in Bankstown and heard presentations from current WSU students and alumni.



Dimitri Verghios
Year 12 Advisor

Year 11 Science

The Year 11 Chemistry class conducted an experiment to discover the diverse physical properties inherent in covalent molecular structures, exemplified by solid carbon dioxide. The students delved into the world of covalent networks by comparing the physical properties of solid carbon dioxide (dry ice), a representative of covalent molecular structures.

Through systematic comparisons, students gained a deeper understanding of the relationship between molecular arrangements and macroscopic properties. The insights gleaned from this exploration contribute to the broader comprehension of chemical principles and their real-world applications.

This analysis serves as a testament to the educational value of hands-on experiments in fostering scientific inquiry and critical thinking skills among students. By exploring the properties of solid carbon dioxide and other covalent network substances, students embark on a journey of discovery, unraveling the mysteries of chemistry one experiment at a time.

Theony Nikas
Coordinator Science





Deputy Principal's Report - Primary

Greek Independence Day Celebrations

All students in Years 2 to 12 are required to attend the Greek Independence day celebrations on Sunday 24 March. Students need to meet their class teachers at Martin Place at 12:30 pm. Students must be dressed in their full school uniform, including their blazer and bring with them a reusable water bottle.

Students in Prep, Kindergarten and Year 1 will not be marching with the school. Any students from these grades that will be attending on the day will need to be supervised by their parents and are not required to be in school uniform.

Primary Excursions

26 March

Kindergarten Excursion

27 March

Wellbeing Incursion

28 March

Year 5 Excursion



Year 6 Fundraiser - Gelato Day

It was a day filled with sweet smiles and delicious treats as the Primary celebrated Gelato Day.

From classic flavours like creamy vanilla to adventurous combinations like bubblegum, there was something to tantalise every taste bud. As they enjoyed each scoop, laughter filled the air, creating lifelong memories. Gelato Day not only provided a delightful treat but also fostered a sense of community and joy among the students, reminding them that sometimes the simplest pleasures bring the greatest happiness.





Harmony Day

On Thursday, our School celebrated Harmony Day. The students engaged in a variety of activities. These activities and discussions held in the classrooms were aimed at teaching our students an understanding of how all Australians equally belong to this country and enrich it, as well as promoting cultural respect for all.



Year 1 Spotlight

Throughout this term, the Year One students have read a variety of texts, participated in role plays, and expressed their creativity through art, all focused on the theme of friendships.

They've looked at friendships from different angles, grasping how vital they are in their lives. By stepping into various character roles in role plays, they've gained firsthand experience of the dynamics and challenges of friendships.

Additionally, they've showcased their artistic talents by creating artworks reflecting their understanding of friendship.

In doing this, they're not just seeing how important friendships are, but also discovering what makes them lasting and helpful.





Year 1 Excursion

On Wednesday 20 March, Year 1 visited Vaocluse House to coincide with their HSIE unit, Families in the Past and Present. Students visited the Wentworth Family's house and were able to see how the family lived in the past. From their antique furniture, exquisite dining room and the children's nursery, to how the kitchen and scullery maids lived, cooked and cleaned.

Students were also given the opportunity to play with and explore children's games from the past. They enjoyed rolling hoops, learnt how to play croquet, tossed quoits, attempted getting the ball in the cup and even played bowling. One distinct feature of all these games was that they were all made out of wood, which the students thought was fascinating.

Overall, it was such a wonderful day filled with lots of learning and fun.



Year 2 Excursion

On Wednesday 20 March, Year 2 got the chance to visit Rouse Hill Estate. Students were transported back in time as they participated in a range of lessons and activities in an 1880s schoolhouse and farm.

Students explored the working areas of the former farm and investigated what life would have been like for children living there in the late 1800s. As chores would have been part of daily life for children living on the farm in the late 1800s, students experienced some of these for themselves: feeding the chooks, hanging out the washing and pumping water.

Students also had the opportunity to learn firsthand about what school life was like in the late 19th century. Students dressed in costume – straw hats, plus cotton pinafores for the girls and sailor collars for the boys – and then met their schoolmistress Miss Fox to begin the school day. After saluting the British flag, the class marched into the 1880s schoolroom, where they sang the national anthem 'God Save the Queen' and prepared to start their first lesson.

Students enjoyed participating in lots of hands-on activities including practising writing on slates, completing a science lesson, a sewing lesson and a drawing lesson as well as an outdoor physical education drill and maypole dancing in the yard.



Year 4 Incursion

On Monday 18 March, Year 4 were immersed in one of the world's oldest surviving cultures. This brought them face-to-face with Aboriginal history, society and practices. It took them back thousands of years on a journey through Aboriginal history, observing Aboriginal tools, weapons and archaeological artefacts. As they interacted with the Rangers, they gained an appreciation for the country, learned to identify different places and developed an understanding of the importance of places to different people.



Year 6 Incursion

On Wednesday 20 March, Year 6 had an exciting and action-packed day of learning and exploration on our incursion with Ranger Jamie Tours, who visited our School. The incursion aligned with our Geography unit, 'Factors that shape places for a diverse and connected world'.

We began with an engaging presentation of taxidermy animals, which the rangers brought with them. We learned about the significance of protecting our environment and animals, and the important role that emergency services play. We also learned about the difference between NSW city firefighters and NSW village firefighters, and how they work separately to fight fires and protect communities. We also discovered how fires can affect animals and their homes, gaining a deeper understanding of the importance of wildlife protection during bushfire season.



We engaged in creative hands-on activities such as making electric battery-powered mini windmills. We also explored the playground to search for bugs and critters, learning about the diverse life in our urban environment. Additionally, we worked in teams to create bird houses using cardboard and leaves, with the rangers emphasising the importance of providing shelter for local wildlife.

A highlight of the day was constructing solar ovens out of foil and cardboard to harness renewable energy from the sun. These worked well. We enjoyed a competition on whose oven had got the warmest. We wrapped up the incursion by expressing our appreciation to the rangers and our teachers for organising this educational day. It was a memorable experience that left us with a greater appreciation for the work of firefighters and the impact of fires on our environment. We gained a greater knowledge of sustainability and biodiversity in our community.

By Andrey Savic – Year 6



Wellbeing Incursion Show

The Wellbeing Show will be visiting our School on Wednesday 27 March. The show is an interactive performance which aims to promote the attitudes and behaviours that each child needs to acquire in order to be successful academically, in social interactions with others and to generally experience happiness and wellbeing within themselves. The cost of the incursion is \$8.

25 March Commemorative Assembly

Parents are cordially invited to join us for our afternoon assembly on **Wednesday 27 March**, to celebrate Greek Independence Day. The assembly will commence at 2:00 pm and will feature performances by our Year 3 and Year 5 students showcasing their dance talents, Year 4 and 6 students presenting songs, and a select Year 5 and 6 students reciting poetry. We look forward to sharing this special occasion with you.

Elizabeth Xanthoudakis





College Chaplain's Message

The 25th of March

The 25th of March is an important celebration for Orthodox Christians because it heralds the imminent coming of the Messiah, foretold in the Old Testament and now proclaimed at the Annunciation. On this day, the Archangel Gabriel was sent to the Virgin Mary in the Temple to announce to her that she was God's chosen vessel for His Son to be born. She humbly accepted this great task and conceived by the Power and Grace of the Holy Spirit. This great day in the history of salvation is commemorated every year on the 25th of March. The name of the Feast is the "Annunciation of the Mother of God" or Ευαγγελισμός της Θεοτόκου. The Greek word ευαγγελισμός literally means 'good message' as the archangel conveyed to the Virgin Mary the good message of the salvation of humanity through the incarnation of Jesus Christ.

The world that had until now been condemned to death and corruption as a result of humankind's sin would now be freed, and so this day is one of the most important feasts of the Church because of the joyous announcement of the conception and consequent birth of the Saviour, the Son of God Who will take upon Himself the sins of all the people.

For Greek Orthodox Christians, the 25th of March has a further significance because it was not only the day on which the salvation of the world was announced, but also on account of the fact that it was on this day that the enslaved Greek people began their struggle for freedom from the oppression of four hundred years of Ottoman occupation. This day was not chosen by chance, but the leaders of the revolution, together with the fathers of the Church chose it because of its significance for the Orthodox people. On the day that the promise was made to the Virgin Mary that her Son would save His people, the Greek soldiers gathered in the Church of Αγία Λαύρα, raised the banner of the revolution, received Holy Communion and made the oath "freedom or death", promising to liberate the suffering nation, or to die struggling for it. And so it was, few against many, underprepared and ill-equipped, these brave men and women made the ultimate sacrifice so that we, their descendants, can live freely.

To honour the day, our College participates in the various celebrations at the Cathedral, Martin Place and the Opera House. The 25th of March itself is a non-school day so that students and staff have the opportunity to offer thanksgiving to God for His mercy, and honour the memory of the heroes of the revolution.

Have a blessed Lent!
Fr Peter Mavrommatis



[Click here for
Orthodox Calendar](#)



Senior Book Club

The Senior Book Club team has met several times this term. It has grown to 20 students this year! They have enjoyed their lunch sharing their favourite reads of the summer holidays and exchanged thoughts and insights about our current book "Small Things Like These" by Claire Keegan. Below are some book reviews of the books read by the book club members over the holidays.



I read 'A Monster Calls' by Patrick Ness. Despite its simplicity it was no less meaningful. The story follows a young boy named Conor who has a nightmare every night and does not speak about it. One night, a monster in the shape of an elm tree, comes to Conor and tells him that he must reveal his truth, after the monster has told him three stories. Conor is not living an ordinary boy's life; his mum is very ill, his dad lives in America, he is bullied at school, and he does not have a single friend. This novel was poignant and powerful as it shows the difficulties of loss and the struggles young people face but most importantly, the courage it takes to let go and hope for the future. An emotional but beautiful story! Anastasia Lambros

The novel 'Rebecca' by Daphne du Maurier captures the mystery genre in utter magnificence. Suspense, angst, secrets, lies, confrontation, the book has it all. 'Rebecca' depicts an unnamed narrator who impetuously marries a widower with a great fortune. What she fails to realise is that great fortune hides even greater secrets. His estate and mansion, Manderley, is renowned for its exquisite beauty. However, the death of late Ms. De winter (Rebecca) overshadows the beauty of Manderley as even in her death, she fills every space of the terrace and every thought of the narrator. Who is Rebecca and how and why did she die? I personally adored this book, the mysterious ambience, its descriptive language and shocking plot twist. 'Rebecca' is a novel that you must read. Ellora Sotiropoulos

'As Long as the Lemon Trees Grow' by Zoulfa Katouh is an emotional and poignant narrative about Salama, an 18-year-old pharmacy student living in Syria during the civil war. Her studies are stopped, and she is suddenly expected to perform operations on wounded children and women. She saves many lives, however, her promise to her parents before they died was that she will save herself. Torn between her promise and her love for her homeland, Salama navigates the violence and moral ambiguities produced by war. Beautiful descriptions of Syria's cultural heritage and a surprise plot twist had many book club members read this book in two days. It is a captivating book about the power of hope amidst adversity. It is available in the school library!

Ms Zarkos



Careers News

Everything you need to know about the ATAR

The Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) is a number between 0.00 and 99.95 that indicates a student's position relative to all the students in their age group (ie all 16 to 20 year olds in NSW). So, an ATAR of 80.00 means that you are 20 per cent from the top of your age group (not your Year 12 group).

Universities use the ATAR to help them select students for their courses and admission to most tertiary courses is based on your selection rank (your ATAR + any applicable adjustments). Most universities also use other criteria when selecting students (e.g. a personal statement, a questionnaire, a portfolio of work, an audition, an interview or a test).

Upcoming Western Sydney Webinars

Watch our webinars covering a range of individual study areas. Want to know more about careers and degrees in the fields of most interest to you? Not sure what subjects to select for your senior years? Let us support you to make informed decisions and discover more about why you should study at Western.

- Thursday 21 March @ 5PM | What Can I Study? Speech Pathology, Podiatry, Paramedicine, Traditional Chinese Medicine
- Tuesday 26 March @ 5PM | What Can I Study? Science, Medical Science
- Wednesday 27 March @ 5PM | What Can I Study? Social Science, Social Work
- Wednesday 3 April @ 5PM | What Can I Study? Teaching, Education
- Thursday 4 April @ 5PM | What Can I Study? International Studies, Tourism and Event Management, Humanitarian and Development Studies
- Tuesday 9 April @ 5PM | What Can I Study? Arts, Languages, Interpreting and Translation
- Wednesday 10 April @ 5PM | What Can I Study? Architecture, Industrial Design, Construction Management, Planning
- Thursday 11 April @ 5PM | What Can I Study? Medicine

Web link here

University of Sydney Webinar - Year 10 subject selection

University of Sydney students and a UAC representative will discuss important topics such as: what to consider when selecting your subjects for Year 11 and 12, the impact subject selection can have on adjustment factors, what the ATAR is and how it's calculated, prerequisites and assumed knowledge, tips for admission and scholarships, and key insights from our current students on their subject selection experiences and transition into university. The session will finish with a live Q&A.

This webinar is suitable for current Year 10 students and both the parents/carers and teachers of Year 10 students.

[UWS Webinar](#)

[USYD Link](#)



[UNSW Medicine
Special Entry
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[Scholarships for
Medicine Click
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[UCAT HERE](#)

[Workshop Here](#)

UTS 360 Virtual Tour

Sit back and explore the University of Technology Sydney from the comfort of your home.

[**Click here**](#)

Find out about the different entry schemes available at UNSW, including:

- Gateway Entry Scheme
- Lateral Entry Scheme

Free UCAT Information Session

3 April

The National Institute of Education (NIE) is proud to present the free information seminar all about UCAT and the undergraduate pathways into medicine, dentistry, and some other health science programs. The session is PACKED with loads valuable information during which we will be covering the following topics and more.

This forum is an excellent opportunity for teachers, students, and parents to find out about the UCAT and to have their questions answered by an expert who has been working in the field since 1999.

Simulated UCAT Workshop

6 April

The Simulated UCAT Workshop program is ideal and often a necessary step towards effective and efficient preparation for the UCAT.

The workshop is primarily designed to cover fundamental techniques in navigating all five sections of the UCAT test and also for participants to gain a better understanding of their own level of preparedness for the test. Over the course of the years, the program has evolved into a more comprehensive and holistic exercise, which not only achieves its primary goal, but it is also exposing students to a wealth of knowledge about all other aspects of the journey into a medical degree. The latest update has seen the program grow into a 2-Day event as the sheer amount of content covered was too great to fit into a 1-day program.

The Maths Needed for 15 of Australia's Most Popular Uni Courses

We've rounded up the top five most popular uni courses in NSW, Queensland and Western Australia, and made notes under each to let you know if maths is a prerequisite, assumed knowledge or will just generally help you out along the way. Keep this page bookmarked! As more states and territories publish their most popular uni courses, we'll up date this list.

And as always, it's really important to do your own research. Before you decide on your Year 11 and 12 subjects, you should look up the degrees you'd like to do at uni to check their complete list of entry requirements.

[**Information Here**](#)

Anastasia Prevezanos
Careers Advisor



Primary School Sports News

PSSA Sport

As the third round of winter PSSA tryouts concludes, students eagerly anticipate the finalisation of teams. With the winter PSSA teams set to be solidified, attention turns towards the upcoming summer PSSA, scheduled to resume on Friday 5 April. Training sessions also resume on Thursday 4 April. The Senior and Junior Basketball teams will be training in the school playground at 3:15 pm for sessions with their coaches, concluding promptly at 4:00 pm for parent pickup. Meanwhile, students participating in Softball, Tball, and Cricket will be training at Bankstown Sports Complex. Students will be departing from school at 2:45pm with a bus. A reminder that a bus has not been booked to return to school and parents must collect their children by 4:00 pm from the complex.

Combined Greek Orthodox Schools' Swimming Carnival

On Tuesday 26 March, a select group of students will be representing our school in the Combined Swimming Carnival against our Orthodox sister schools, St Spyridon College and All Saints Grammar. The event will be held at Birrong Leisure and Aquatic Centre and parents are welcome to attend. The events start at 9:30am and conclude at 2:30pm.

Congratulations to the students who were selected to participate in this year's Combined Greek Orthodox Schools' Swimming carnival that will be held at the Birrong Aquatic Centre, on Tuesday 26 March. This year we have the pleasure of hosting the carnival. We anticipate a wonderful day and wish all of our students good luck in their swims.

The event will be held at Birrong Leisure and Aquatic Centre and parents are welcome to attend. The events start at 9:30am and conclude at 2:30pm. Thank you to Ms Vourtsanis for her outstanding efforts in organising this event.

Gina Vourtsanis
Primary Sport Coordinator

Parents and Friends

St Euphemia College P & F
Expression of Interest





Secondary School Sports News

CIS Knock Out Soccer Plate Results

On 18 March 2024, the secondary school Boys soccer team travelled to Semour Oval in Miranda to compete against Shire Christian College. It was a very tight and challenging match, however, our boys persevered and won. The score was 1-nil. This amazing result means that the team will progress to the next round. Great job boys.

SWISSA Swimming Results

On Friday 15 March 2024, 23 students represented St Euphemia College at the SWISSA Swimming Championships. Some great achievements from this event include:

Danica Isailovic	Record Breaker - 50m Butterfly 2nd 13 Years Girls Individual Scores 1st 13 Years Girls 50m Butterfly 1st 13Years Girls 50m Backstroke 1st 13Years Girls 100m Freestyle
Anastasios Sinanis	12 years Boys Age Champion 1st 12 Years Boys 50m Butterfly 1st 12 Years Boys 50m Backstroke 1st 12 Years Boys 50m Freestyle 1st 12 Years Boys 100m Freestyle 1st 12 Years Boys 50m Breaststroke
Marko Uzelac	2nd 12 Years Boys Individual Scores 2nd 12 Years Boys 50m Butterfly 2nd 12 Years Boys 50m Backstroke 2nd 12 Years Boys 50m Freestyle 2nd 12 Years Boys 100m Freestyle
Mila Drageljevic	15 Year Old Girls Age Champion 1st 15 Years Girls 50m Backstroke 1st 15 Years Girls 50m Breaststroke 1st 15 Years Girls 50m Freestyle
Anastasia Grapsias	2nd 15 Year Old Girls Individual Scores 1st 15 Year Old Girls 50m Butterfly 2nd 15 Years Girls 100m Freestyle
Evangelia Matelis	3rd 15 Year Old Girls Individual Scores 1st 15 Years Girls 100m Freestyle



Dean Dinoris	2nd 14 Years Boys 50m Butterfly
Constandinos Vatos	2nd 16 Years Boys 50m Butterfly
Michaela Pavlidis	2nd 15 Years Girls 50m Backstroke

SWISSA Basketball Results

Open Girls	WIN	International Maarif School	44-0
Junior Boys	WIN	International Maarif School	94-8

Next Week's SWISSA Basketball Draws

Open Girls	V	St Marouns
Open Boys	V	St Marouns
Junior Girls	V	St Marouns
Junior Boys	V	St Marouns

Current Ranking on SWISSA Basketball Ladder

Open Girls	6th
Open Boys	1st
Junior Girls	1st
Junior Boys	1st

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

ST EUPHEMIA.NSW.EDU.AU



IN HONOUR AND MEMORY

100 Years Since the Establishment of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia

COMMENCING OUR CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS WITH A MUSICAL CONCERT

FRIDAY 22 MARCH 2024 | SYDNEY TOWN HALL | 6.30 PM

FEATURING THE AUSTRALIAN HELLENIC CHOIR LED BY MUSICAL DIRECTOR LEON VITOGIANNIS

FREE ENTRY

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT EVENTS@GREEKORTHODOX.ORG.AU