



St Euphemia College

School Newsletter

Term 1 Week 11

Principal's Report



Upcoming Events

Term 2

12 April

Staff Development
Day

30 April

Term 2 Commences
for all Students

2-6 May

School Closed
Greek Orthodox
Easter

This week I had the pleasure of inducting our new SRC Leaders for Year 7 – Year 11. I spoke to the students about the qualities of a good leader. Below is an excerpt from my speech at the assembly.

What does it mean to be a leader? Clearly your peers see something in you that inspired them to vote for you to be elected into the SRC. It may be your dedication, your integrity, your willingness to go above and beyond to do the right thing and help others. Maybe it's as simple as always being the first to volunteer, be it to enter a competition or to give something difficult like public speaking a go. Whatever it is, your peers have recognised this attribute in you and today we will honour you with your badges.

I encourage you, our new SRC leaders to continue upholding the values that define our school.

Congratulations to our new leaders. I am looking forward to working alongside the team on new initiatives and ideas they have for improving our College.

Year 7: Chrisovalandou Condoleon and Haney Zeidan

Year 8: Renee Kritikos and Chris Prevezanos

Year 9: Tiana Vidic and Dean Dinoris

Year 10: Christina Vellis and Anasta Andreou

Year 11: Michelle Constantinou, Ellora Sotiropoulos, Alexandros Vidiniotis & Adam Alevris

It has been a busy term with assessments, sporting events, excursions and special celebrations and as I walked around the playground today, I could sense the students are ready for a well earned break. I wish all our students a relaxing break and encourage them to become involved in activities around the home. School holidays are a great opportunity for them to step up and give a helping hand at home now that they have all this free time.

I look forward to seeing our families again on 30 April.

Penny Pachos



Deputy Principal's Report - Primary

Community Recognition Letter

Congratulations to **Victoria Varoutsos** (Year 2) and **Jorge Kaffes** (Year 5) for receiving a community recognition statement for their outstanding results in the SICLE Greek Language Competition that was held last year. The award was forwarded to the students by The Hon Jihad Dib MP and was noted in the Legislative Assembly.

Mr Dib stated "As a community, we celebrate your achievement and recognise the importance of language learning and cultural preservation. Your accomplishment not only brings honour to yourself, your family, and your school, but it also contributes to the richness and diversity of our community."

School Arrival Time

Please ensure your children arrive at School on time each morning in order to develop a regular routine. The morning bell rings at **8:35am**. It is disruptive to the class when students arrive late. Students who arrive **after 8:45am** must enter through the Stacey St entrance and proceed to Student Services. If students are not accompanied by an adult, the parent must email the school explaining their child's lateness.

Easter Raffle

Thank you to all the parents that helped prepare our Easter Raffle Tickets. The draw will take place on **Wednesday 1 May**. Tickets must be returned by 30 April.

Kindergarten and Year 6 Teddy Bear Picnic

On the 8 April, the Kindergarten students, accompanied by their Year 6 buddies, ventured to Bankstown City Gardens for their traditional Teddy Bears Picnic.

The day was marked by joyous laughter, delightful activities, and sheer delight. The gardens buzzed with the presence of cheerful teddies and cuddly toys, while the students enjoyed their recess and lunch amidst a picturesque picnic setup. The weather proved to be splendid, allowing everyone to engage in outdoor play and explore the playground equipment.

The Year 6 students served as exemplary mentors to their Kindergarten buddies, ensuring they had an unforgettable experience throughout the day. Excitement brews for their upcoming buddy activities.



Primary

Upcoming Events

Term 2

9:00am 7 May

Easter Hat Parade

19 May

Year 4

Church Attendance



Year 4 Spotlight

Our Year 4 students have enjoyed getting into Art this Easter!

During their Art lessons, they used paintbrushes to make Easter crafts and pictures that had religious meanings. They also learnt how to make their paintings look real using shading techniques and light effects. Each colour and brush stroke helped them express their feelings and tell a story.

The activities gave the students the opportunity to improve on their painting skills and at the same time learn about Easter's important messages. They made works of art that were not only nice to look at but also taught them about the Easter meaning and their faith.



Congratulations to all our students who have worked incredibly hard throughout the term. It's now time to enjoy your break, explore new interests and spend quality time with family and friends.

To our parents, thank you for your ongoing support and partnership in your child's education. Your involvement plays a crucial role in their success, and we're grateful for the trust you've placed in us.

I would like to wish all our families a safe, joyful and fulfilling holiday break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back next term, refreshed and ready to embark on new adventures.

Elizabeth Xanthoudakis

College Chaplain's Message

With God's Grace we have reached the midpoint of Great and Holy Lent. This, the third Sunday of Lent is dedicated to the Veneration of the Holy Cross. The Gospel reading for the day is taken from the Gospel of Mark (8:34-9:1).

In the Gospel reading, Jesus invites people to active discipleship saying, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me."

The love of God is evident from the outset as Jesus does not impose His will on people, but rather, respecting our free will, He invites whoever wishes to follow Him to a life of discipleship through the forsaking of one's own will and aligning it to God's will.

[Click here for Orthodox Calendar](#)



However, His next statement about carrying one's cross would have brought dread upon His listeners because they knew well that to carry one's cross meant one would be crucified, and crucifixion was a horrible execution reserved for the worst criminals. Still, Jesus invites His disciples throughout the ages to take up their cross and follow Him.

And so, when we think of the cross, we are faced with this paradox, this mystery of intertwined tragedy and of victory. The cross, an instrument of infamous death, of punitive death to which criminals were doomed - because Christ's death was that of an innocent, and because this death was a gift of self in an act of love - becomes victory and triumph.

This is why Saint Paul could say, "It is no longer I, it is Christ Who lives in me." Divine love filled him to the brim, and therefore there was no room for any other thought or feeling, any other approach to anyone apart from love, a love that gave itself unreservedly: love sacrificial, love crucified, but love exulting in the joy of life.

So, when we read in the Gospel, "deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow Me", we are not called to something dark and frightening; we are told by God: "Open yourself to love! Do not remain a prisoner of your own self-centeredness". We are called to sacrifice our often selfish desires on the cross that God has given to us for our salvation. We are reminded by Saint Theophan the Recluse to not be, "like a shaving of wood which is rolled around its own emptiness." We are challenged to open ourselves up so that we can see that there is so much to love, there are so many to love! There are so many ways in which love can be expressed, experienced, and fulfilled and accomplished. We ought to open ourselves up and love because this is the way of the Cross!

So, when we venerate the Cross, when we think of Christ's crucifixion, when we hear the call of Christ to deny ourselves - and these words simply mean: turn away from ourselves! Take up your cross - we are called to open ourselves to the flood of Divine Love that is expressed in the cross that God allows in His wisdom for our salvation, love that is both death to ourselves and openness to God, as well as to each and to all.

Let us learn to embrace the Cross of Christ in our lives. Let us learn to give thanksgiving to God for the crosses He lays on our shoulders, knowing that the cross is the key that opens paradise for each of us. Let us learn the glory of crucified Love, of this sacrificial Love which is, in the words of the Old Testament, "stronger than death, stronger than hell," stronger than all things because it is Divine Life conquering us and poured through us onto all those who need to be loved in order to come to Life, to believe in Love, and themselves to become children of Love, children of Light, to inherit Life eternal.

Fr Peter Mavrommatis





Careers News

UAC Applications are open

UAC applications for study at university in 2025 are now open for students.

Details of Semester 1 2025 courses offered by UAC's participating institutions are available on the UAC website.

Starting an application: essential information

This year, students need the following details to start their UAC application:

Personal email address: For security reasons, when students start their application they will need to register with a personal email address and a password.

Year 12 student number and UAC PIN: UAC emailed UAC PINs to NSW students yesterday using the email addresses NESA and ACT BSSS have on file. If any students didn't receive this email, please **call UAC**

Students need to enter their Year 12 student number and UAC PIN early in the application. These details identify them as a 2024 Year 12 student, which means they'll be able to apply for an early offer through the Schools Recommendation Scheme.

Unique Student Identifier (USI): At the request of institutions, this is now a mandatory field for domestic applicants who are Australian citizens. Students can quickly and easily **create their USI or check if they already have one.**

How to apply through UAC

1. Create your UAC account using a personal email address and a password. You'll be sent an email to validate your account.
2. Select your citizenship.
3. If you're a 2024 Year 12 student, enter your Year 12 student number. Your UAC PIN was emailed to the address you registered with NESA on 3 April 2024.
4. Enter your personal details, including:
 - a. your name (the name on your application must match the name on your official ID, otherwise you'll have problems when you enrol)
 - b. a personal email address (don't use a school address – it will expire)
 - c. your Unique Student Identifier (USI) (a government-issued student reference number that you need to enrol at an institution and get HECS-HELP or FEE-HELP – apply for a USI or check if you already have one).
5. Provide details of your studies.
6. Select up to **five** course preferences.
7. Accept the applicant declaration.
8. Pay for your application with a credit card (Mastercard or Visa) or PayPal account. 2024 Year 12 students can also pay using BPAY. Your application is **not complete** until you have paid.



9. Check your email regularly for updates on your application.

Once you've applied, you can change the order of your preferences – or even the courses you've selected – as often as you like before the closing dates for each offer round.

Some courses have early application closing dates so check for these as well. You can't change your preferences by phone, letter or email.

If you have any problems with UAC please contact Ms Prevezanos aprevezanos@steuphemia.nsw.edu.au

Anastasia Prevezanos
Careers Advisor

Music Department

At St Euphemia College, we've embarked on a transformative journey in musical education, guided by the pioneering research of Anita Collins. Recognizing the profound cognitive and emotional benefits of learning an instrument, we've taken bold steps to integrate the learning of keyboard/piano into our curriculum.

Anita Collins, an esteemed Australian educator and music advocate, has illuminated the cognitive merits of music education through her groundbreaking research. Her findings underscore how instrumental practice, such as learning the piano, strengthens neural connections, enhancing memory, attention, and spatial reasoning. Moreover, Collins emphasises the emotional rewards of playing an instrument, citing it as a powerful outlet for self-expression and stress relief.

With this in mind, we have constructed a keyboard lab, accessible to students from Years 6 to 9 at this time. This innovative facility serves as a central hub for honing piano skills, providing every student with the opportunity to explore the world of music firsthand. Our commitment to holistic education is illustrated in our efforts to empower students with the tools they need to thrive academically and emotionally.

In conjunction with the establishment of the keyboard lab, we have modified the music curriculum to include keyboard lessons from Years 6 to 9. By embedding piano education into our curriculum, we aim to cultivate a generation of well-rounded individuals with enhanced cognitive abilities and emotional resilience. Through consistent practice and collaboration in the keyboard lab, students will not only develop musical proficiency but also sharpen essential skills such as discipline, patience, and teamwork.

The keyboard lab initiative represents a significant investment in the future of the Music Department and of our students, providing them with a platform to explore their creativity and express themselves through music. As students progress through the piano curriculum, they not only expand their musical horizons but also develop a deeper appreciation for the arts.



Hector Navarro
Music Teacher



Secondary School Sports News

SWISSA Junior Girls Basketball

Having lost to St Mary and Minas during the round robins, the St. Euphemia Junior Girls were determined not to have history repeat itself. And they succeeded. They have emerged as the 2024 Term 1 SWISSA Basketball Champions!

Congratulations to the team on their remarkable achievement. A special thank you to **Mr. Spanos** for his ongoing support and mentorship throughout the term, which undoubtedly played a significant role in the team's success.

SWISSA Opens and Junior Boys Basketball

It can only be described as a cruel twist to the end of what was an immensely successful season of SWISSA Boys Basketball. Despite an undefeated record throughout the season and a goal difference that nearly doubled that of the second-placed team on the ladder, both the Opens and Junior Boys were dealt heartbreaking defeats by just one point in the semi-finals and finals, respectively. The final ranking of our boys' team are as follows;

- Open Boys – 3rd
- Junior Boys – 2nd

Thank you, **Mr. Xanthoudakis** and **Mr. Koutsoukis**, for your dedicated guidance throughout the term. Although the outcome wasn't as anticipated, the journey of guiding them is certainly commendable. Your efforts and commitment have undoubtedly left a positive impact on the team, shaping not only their skills on the court but also their character off it.

Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia National Schools Event

This year the GOAANSE will be hosted by St Spyridon College 7-10 May.

Monique Lou
Secondary School Sports Coordinator





Uniform Shop Holiday Opening Hours

Tuesday 23 April	2:00pm-4:00pm
Saturday 27 April	8:30am-10:30am
Tuesday 30 April	2:00pm-4:00pm

Uniform Shop Contact Details Irene M: 0406 881 970

Secondary School students are expected to be in full winter uniform at the commencement of term two until the end of term three.

Primary School Students are expected to be wearing their Winter School Uniform by Monday 13 May.

Parents and Friends

We're inviting parents from all year groups, both Primary and Secondary, to join our Parents & Friends association. Your involvement, regardless of its scale, carries significant weight. To engage, kindly sign up using the **QR Code** provided below. We appreciate your support!

St Euphemia College P & F Expression of Interest

