



St Euphemia College

School Newsletter

Term 4 Week 5

Principal's Report



A Week of Community and Welcome at Our College

This past week has been a testament to the strength and warmth of our College community. It's a special place of learning, where collaboration, support, and shared values bring us together.

Introducing our College Deputy Principal

We are pleased to welcome **Mrs Jasmin Mano** as our new College Deputy Principal. Mrs. Mano joins St. Euphemia with extensive experience, having held leadership roles in various schools across Sydney. Most recently, she served as Director of Teaching and Learning K-12 at Pittwater House on the Northern Beaches, where she played a vital role in developing their learning framework, achieving outstanding academic results.

Mrs Mano is excited to join our St Euphemia community. Her father had a retail business in Bankstown for over 30 years, and she often came to our Parish Church in her younger years. We welcome her to the College and look forward to the positive evolution of the College over the coming years.

Mrs. Mano values open communication and close school-family partnerships. She can be reached at jmano@stuphemia.nsw.edu.au for any student matters that Year Advisors in the Secondary School or the Primary School leadership team have not resolved.

Year 7 Orientation

Yesterday, we concluded our 2025 Year 7 Orientation program with a welcome BBQ hosted by our Parents and Friends Association. Mr. Panayotopoulos led an informative session for new families, answering questions about our College and the transition to Secondary School. Special thanks to Mr. George Sinanis and Anastasi Sinanis for sharing their experiences as new Year 7 families; their insights highlighted our school's welcoming environment.

A huge thank-you also goes out to our Year 10 Peer Support leaders, who have stepped up as Year 7 buddies, welcoming our incoming students and ensuring they feel supported as they start their journey in Secondary School. We look forward to seeing these young leaders continue their roles in 2025.



Christmas Drive

Last week the College launched our Annual Christmas Drive for families who experience hardship during the Christmas period. Please send in non-perishable food items, essential toiletries or toys over the coming weeks so that our College can share our spirit of community with our neighbours.

2025 Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia National Schools Event

GOAANSE is an annual event that brings together the seven Greek Orthodox Schools once a year, to compete in sporting events and to showcase our cultural heritage. St Andrew's College in Perth will host the event in 2025. Students have begun trialling for the various sporting teams. The cost per student to travel to Perth including accommodation is \$1800 per student.

To help support our students whilst in Perth, Mr Spyrou and Mr Verghios organised our first fundraiser. As always, our students supported the sausage sizzle which raised over \$1500. Thank you to all students and staff who supported this effort—your contributions make a meaningful difference.

Penny Pachos





Deputy Principal's Report - Primary

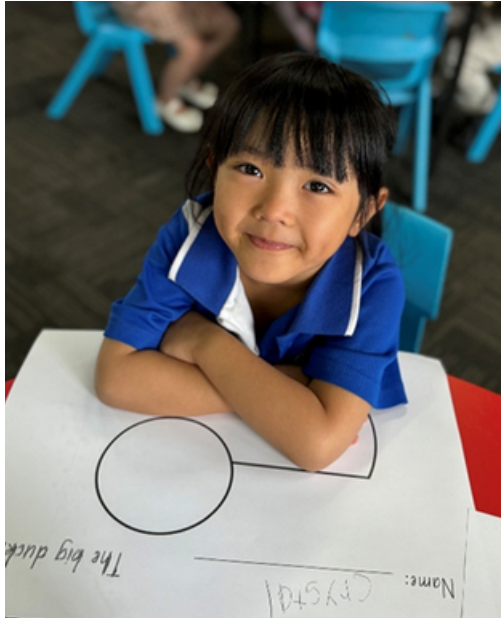
Kindergarten Transition

Upcoming Events

18 – 19
November
Year 5 Camp

18-20
November
Year 6 Camp

26 November
Year 6
Gelato Day



For the second transition session on Tuesday 12 November, the students engaged in a delightful literacy and creative arts session centered around the story 'Ducks Away'. They read the story together, which not only entertained but also encouraged early comprehension and language skills. The students then sang the nursery rhyme Five Little Ducks, which helped reinforce counting skills and sequencing in a fun, rhythmic way. Afterward, they created an art piece inspired by the story, using paper craft and various shapes to design their own ducks. This hands-on activity supported fine motor skills, creativity, and shape recognition as the students carefully cut, arranged, and glued pieces to bring their ducks to life.

At the same time, the parents met with Ms. Pappas for an informative session focused on supporting their children's literacy and numeracy development. Ms. Pappas shared insights into the literacy curriculum, emphasising the role of phonics, vocabulary building, and comprehension as fundamental skills for young readers. In numeracy, Ms. Pappas highlighted the importance of foundational math skills, such as counting, pattern recognition, and basic operations. She provided tips for incorporating math into everyday routines, such as using household items for counting and sorting, engaging in pattern recognition activities, and encouraging simple addition and subtraction during playtime.



Cake stall



This week's Year 6 cake stall fundraiser was an outstanding event and a huge success! Year 6 students together with their teachers created a beautifully organised stall with a smooth setup. Their efforts and teamwork ensured that every cake, cookie, and sweet treat found a happy home.

This successful fundraiser wouldn't have been possible without the generous support and contributions from our amazing Year 6 parents, who provided a wonderful assortment of cakes and sweets for the day. Thank you for your time, effort, and delicious donations!

Congratulations to the Year 6 students, their parents and teachers for such a well-executed fundraiser event, showcasing the St Euphemia spirit of community and teamwork. All funds raised will go towards the Year 6 Graduation. Well done, Year 6!

Year 3 Incursion



Our Year 3 and 4 students recently took part in the electrifying Kaleidoscope Science Incursion, a truly unforgettable experience packed with hands-on thrills and eye-popping experiments. From jaw-dropping liquid nitrogen demonstrations to fireball experiments that had everyone on the edge of their seats, the show brought science to life in the most spectacular way!

Elizabeth Xanthoudakis



College Chaplain's Message

On the Eighth Sunday of Luke our Holy Church recounts one of the most famous lessons from the Gospel: the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:15-37). Through this parable, we discover not only the love we must have for our neighbours, but also Christ's own mission to heal and save a world wounded by sin. Through this parable, we see both the compassionate heart of Christ, the "Good Samaritan" Who saves humanity, and our calling as Orthodox Christians to be "good Samaritans" - bearers of love, mercy and healing to others.

The parable begins with a simple but deeply moving story. A man was traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho when he was set upon by robbers, stripped, beaten, and left for dead by the side of the road. A priest and then a Levite - both respected religious figures - pass by the wounded man without stopping to help. It is only a Samaritan, a figure despised and considered unclean by the Jews, who stops to show compassion. He binds the man's wounds, takes him to an inn, and makes sure he will be taken care of until he recovers.

We may wonder: Why would Jesus use a Samaritan as a positive example in this parable given that Samaritans were considered as outcasts and viewed with suspicion and even hostility? Yet, Christ chose to make the Samaritan a symbol of love and compassion, someone who looks beyond divisions and societal prejudices to see the common humanity in the person suffering before him. By doing so, Jesus calls us to follow a higher law than that of human distinction and to embody mercy and love that reach beyond borders and classifications.

In the parable, the priest and the Levite who walk past the wounded man represent the 'religious' people who should have shown compassion but were, for whatever reason, unable to respond with mercy. Perhaps they feared becoming "unclean" by touching a bloody, injured man. Yet, here we see that such rituals and self-imposed limitations are shattered by the boundless mercy that Christ exemplifies. Jesus shows us that the true fulfillment of the Law is not found in strict observance without compassion but in love that is ready to sacrifice itself for others.

And here, we come to the heart of the parable. The Good Samaritan, who shows such deep and self-less love, points us to none other than Jesus Christ Himself. For we, humanity, are like the wounded traveller, beaten and bruised by sin, bound up in selfishness, anger, and fear, separated from God. Humanity was robbed of its beauty and purity by the fall of Adam and Eve, wounded by pride, and left to suffer in darkness. Yet, our compassionate Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, in His great mercy, comes to us as the Good Samaritan. He does not pass by or ignore us. Instead, He comes near, bends down to our lowly state, carries our burden and binds our wounds with His love.

Through His Incarnation, Christ took on our human nature, humbling Himself to experience our pain, sorrow, and mortality. He heals our wounds through His sacrifice on the Cross. As the Samaritan poured wine and oil on the man's wounds, Christ poured out His Blood to wash away our sins and gave us the Holy Spirit through the sacrament of Holy Unction, the oil of gladness, to sanctify us. He took upon Himself the cost of our healing, bringing us to the "inn" - His Church, where we find rest, hope, and continual healing through the sacraments.

This parable is not simply a moral lesson on kindness; it is a revelation of Christ's love for us and His desire to heal us from the wounds of sin. Christ, the true Physician, binds our wounds with forgiveness, feeds us with the Bread of Life, and strengthens us with the grace of the Holy Spirit. And in turn, as recipients of His mercy, we are called to follow His example and become "good Samaritans" to others.

So, how can we live this calling as Orthodox Christians? The parable calls us to a life of active, sacrificial love. Our faith is not just about personal salvation; it is about manifesting Christ's love to a world that is hurting, broken, and in need of God's mercy. Every person we encounter, regardless of their background, faith, or status, is our neighbour. We must be willing to look past differences, past grievances, past discomfort, and see the image of God in each person.

We live in a world filled with "wounded travellers" - people weighed down by poverty, loneliness, despair, and sin. Just as the Samaritan reached out to help, we too must extend ourselves to those in need. We can do this by listening to the lonely, comforting the sorrowful, forgiving those who wrong us, and sharing our resources with those in need. To be a "good Samaritan" is not only giving physical aid, but also spiritual companionship, kindness, and respect to every person we meet.

In the Orthodox Christian life, the ultimate act of healing and mercy is to draw others closer to Christ. We must invite people into the "inn" - the Church, where they can encounter the loving embrace of Christ, just as we have. Let us pray for the strength to carry Christ's love into the world, to shine with His light, and to be sources of healing for others. Let us embrace our calling to be neighbours to all, offering a listening ear, a comforting word, and a helping hand.

As we reflect on this message, let us recognize the Good Samaritan Who has already come to save us - our Lord Jesus Christ. And may we, allow His love to work through us, so that we too can become like Him, reaching out to heal the wounds of our suffering brothers and sisters.

Fr Peter Mavrommatis

[Click here for Parish Calendar](#)



Year 7 Orientation



On Thursday afternoon, Year 6 had their second Secondary School experience, where they again met with their Year 10 Peer Support leaders who showed them around the school and introduced them to the teachers. This allowed for a discussion based on our school values, particularly resilience and respect, as the leaders addressed every question from Year 6.

Year 6 completed an introductory booklet on Secondary School, focusing on reading timetables and assessment schedules. These skills are essential for future success in Year 7 and the years that follow.

Year 6 were then given the opportunity to engage with their leaders in a pleasant game of Basketball, where the older students demonstrated their outstanding coaching skills. Here the students displayed their sporting talents.

Uniform Shop New Opening Hours

3pm- 5:30pm Tuesday's and Thursday's

Holiday Hours

To view our special holiday hours or if you are unable to visit during opening hours please book an appointment through the link provided below.

You can now also conveniently place your orders online at steuphemiauniformshop.com



Primary Sport

PSSA

The following scores are from round 8 - Friday 9 November.

| Team | Played Against | Score |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Senior Boys' Basketball | Banksia Road | Loss 17 - 22 |
| Senior Girls' Basketball | Banksia Road | Win 22 - 2 |
| Junior Boys' Basketball | Greenacre | Loss 0 - 4 |
| Junior Girls' Basketball | Greenacre | Won 34 - 2 |
| Softball Girls | Banksia Road | Loss 2 - 3 |
| Softball Boys | Banksia Road | Loss 8 - 10 |
| TBall Girls | Bye | |
| TBall Boys | Bye | |
| Senior Cricket | Bankstown North | Win 177 - 49 |
| Junior Cricket | Bankstown North | Loss 138 - 79 |

The fixtures for Round 9, for Friday 15 November are as follows:

| Team | Playing Against | Venue |
|--------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| Senior Boys' Basketball | Malek Fahd | Bankstown Basketball Stadium |
| Senior Girls' Basketball | Malek Fahd | Bankstown Basketball Stadium |
| Junior Boys' Basketball | Bankstown West | Bankstown Basketball Stadium |
| Junior Girls' Basketball | Bankstown West | Bankstown Basketball Stadium |
| Softball Girls | Bankstown | Kinch Reserve |
| Softball Boys | Bankstown | Kinch Reserve |
| TBall Girls | Birrong | Training at O'Neil Park |
| TBall Boys | Birrong | Training at O'Neil Park |
| Senior Cricket | Georges Hall | Training at Jim Ring Reserve |
| Junior Cricket | Georges Hall | Training at Jim Ring Reserve |

Games are due to begin by 10:00am and end by 12:00pm.



Basketball Clinic



Every week, Year 4 students step onto the court for their Little Boomers Basketball Clinic, where they're honing their dribbling, passing, and shooting skills under the guidance of expert coaches. Each session is packed with drills that build coordination and control, and mini-games that let students put their skills to the test in real-game scenarios. The students are loving the chance to stay active, work as a team, and celebrate each other's progress—all while having a blast on the court!

Gina Vourtsanis
Primary Sport Coordinator

Secondary School Sports News



SWISSA Volleyball Competition

This Week's Results

| | | | | |
|--------------|---|---|-----|-----|
| Senior Boys | v | St Marks College | 2-0 | WIN |
| Junior Boys | v | St Marks College | 2-0 | WIN |
| Senior Girls | v | St Mary and Minas Coptic Orthodox College | 2-0 | WIN |
| Senior Girls | v | St Marks College | 2-0 | WIN |



Next Week's Fixtures

Senior Boys v Redeemer
Junior Boys v St Marouns
Junior Girls v St Marks College
Senior Girls BYE

Monique Lou
Secondary School Sports Coordinator

Primary School Disco Update: Important Changes

The Primary School disco will now operate as a drop-off and pick-up event only.

Parents will no longer be permitted to stay during the disco.

Drop-off: Please drop your child off at the front of the College Hall, where our staff will be waiting to supervise them.

Pick-up: After the disco, please return to pick up your child at the designated time. Staff will ensure the children are safely handed over to you.

This change has been implemented to ensure the best possible supervision and to allow for a smooth, efficient transition between the two disco sessions.

[Click here to purchase your tickets before 26 November](#)



P&F Function



We greatly appreciate your support you bring to our fundraising efforts. As we plan for the coming year, we would love to hear your thoughts on how best to use the funds raised.

Your feedback will help us understand what matters most to you and your children and identify priorities that align with our shared vision for the school.

To have your say, please [CLICK HERE](#) before **Friday 29th November**.

P&F Executive Team

ENROLLING NOW

Learning, laughter, and
new beginnings —
discover it all in Prep

Call our Enrolment Officer
to organise a school tour
on 97968240 or email
office@steuphemia.nsw.edu.au



St Euphemia College



ST EUPHEMIA 60 YEARS GALA DINNER

16.11.2024

THE LEMNOS
44 ALBERT STREET BELMORE 2192
6:30PM

3 COURSE MEAL
ALL DRINKS (EXCLUDING SPIRITS)

BOUZOUKI SHOW / DJ / GREEK
DANCING PERFORMANCES
DRESS CODE: BLACK TIE

TICKETS
ADULT: \$130
CHILDREN 2-12 YEARS: \$75



FOR ENQUIRIES PLEASE CONTACT
Stephemiaevents@gmail.com
Georgia: 0412192232