



St Euphemia College

School Newsletter

Term 4 Week 6

Principal's Report



“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others”

(Philippians 2: 3- 4)

This week at the Secondary School Assembly, I spoke to the students about the importance of family and community. Family and community are precious; they provide strength, support and a sense of belonging.

At St Euphemia College, we strive to embody these values. We come together as a united community, cheering each other on at sporting events and proudly representing our school when competing against others. Our sports teams consistently demonstrate teamwork and camaraderie.

However, it is concerning that this spirit of unity does not always extend into the classroom or playground. Some students engage in behaviours that create discomfort for other students through forms of micro-bullying. Micro-bullying is a subtle form of bullying. It includes leaving someone out of a social group, making belittling remarks or mocking the way someone walks or talks.

While these actions may seem minor, they can have a significant impact over time. They can lead to feelings of isolation, anxiety and low self-esteem, ultimately weakening the sense of unity within our community. But this is not who we are.

We are St Euphemia College, a proud Greek Orthodox community. We are an inclusive school that fosters respect, friendship and growth. Our mission is to help students build meaningful relationships, prepare for life after school and become the best version of themselves.

As a College we do not tolerate bullying. If your child experiences or witnesses bullying, I urge you to contact their teacher or Year Advisor. Together, we can address these issues promptly and ensure every student feels safe and supported.

It is important to remember that children sometimes don't realize the harm their behaviour may cause.

Upcoming Events

27 November
P&F Meeting
6:30pm

**27 - 29
November**
Year 12 Retreat



By educating our students and reinforcing the College values of Truth, Empathy, and Resilience, we can nurture a culture of kindness and respect, ensuring our community remains united and strong.

Let us continue to stand together and uphold the values that make St Euphemia College a place of pride and belonging.

Penny Pachos

Deputy Principal's Report



It is hard to believe that this is only my second week at St Euphemia College. Term 4 is always a notoriously fast and furious term in schools, but for me personally the added layer of starting my new tenure as Deputy Principal of St. Euphemia College mid-Term 4 has got me quite literally on my feet, and I am absolutely loving it!

Thank you sincerely, for the very warm welcome I have received and continue to receive as I meet our community. Whether it has been at the school gates, in passing or on the phone I appreciate very much just how warmly I have been embraced into the St Euphemia College Community.

As I outlined to the students at my first assembly address, I consider it a privilege to join Mrs Pachos, to lead the community as Deputy Principal and I am wholeheartedly committed to ensuring that in all that we do and all that we aspire to do at St Euphemia College – we will 'Strive for Excellence'. I will always strive for excellence as I serve the St Euphemia College community, and I thank Mrs Penny Pachos for her warmth, trust and camaraderie as we partner to ensure your children have the very best education, steeped in our beautiful Greek Orthodox traditions. The Parish of St Euphemia holds a special place in my heart. As a young girl I was often brought to St Euphemia Church by my parents, to light a candle and join in the Divine Liturgy, as my father's menswear store was only a short stroll from the Compass Centre.

Student Uniform Expectations and Grooming

At recess and lunch breaks I have been enjoying getting to know our students, engaging them into dialogue about what they love about their school and what they suggest we could continue to 'strive for'. I am even brushing up on my handball skills, as I join into the fierce competitions happening in our playground at recess and lunch. When I'm not playing handball, I like to engage the students into conversations about their uniform and grooming. I am particularly pleased to see the improvements that the students have been making this week to their uniform wearing and general grooming, as a response to my consistent reminders last week. I invite you, our parent body, to join with me in ensuring that your son and daughter is well-groomed and attired in the full St Euphemia College uniform, each day. Full uniform and grooming expectations can be found in your son or daughter's College Student diary. I have been particularly focussed on the students wearing ankle length navy or white socks, hair for our young ladies pulled back, and our young gentlemen, clearly shaved, shirts tucked in and ties spick and span. Your partnership with me to affirm these expectations is greatly appreciated.

Year 12 Spiritual Retreat

Finally, it is with much enthusiasm that I am looking forward to joining the Class of 2025 our most senior leaders of St Euphemia College, their Year Advisor; Mr Koutsoukis, Father Mavrommatis, Mr Spyrou, Mr Verghios and Ms Lou for a three-day Spiritual Retreat next Wednesday to Friday at 'The Collaroy Centre'. To ensure a smooth and enjoyable experience for our Class of 2025 and their teachers, please ensure that your son/daughter has adhered to the packing requirements and arrives on time at 8am on Wednesday, 27 November. We are anticipating a highly successful and enjoyable spiritual retreat for our Year 12 students as they complete their first term as HSC students and look toward 2025 with much optimism and determination to 'Strive for Excellence'.

Jasmin Mano



Deputy Principal's Report - Primary

As we approach the end of the year, it's a wonderful time to reflect on all we've achieved and look forward to the exciting events still to come. We're eager to celebrate these special moments with our school community and make lasting memories together. Stay tuned for all the exciting festivities ahead!

Prep Class



Upcoming Events

27 November
Kindergarten
Graduation

28 November
Prep
Graduation

This week, our Prep students have been revising their mathematical concepts with a festive twist! From counting Christmas ornaments to sorting and patterning with holiday decorations, they've been combining learning with the joy of the season. It's been a wonderful way to keep their math skills sharp while embracing the Christmas spirit!

Our Kindergarten Buddy Program



Last Friday, Kindergarten and Year 6 teamed up for a festive Christmas project!

The students came together to create a heartwarming Christmas memory book. They got inspired to write a sentence about what makes Christmas truly meaningful. Our Kindergarteners took ideas from the story "There Was No Snow on Christmas Eve" and wrote beautiful reflections about the miracle of Jesus' birth. It was such a joy to see the Year 6 buddies helping the little ones publish their work, making something memorable they can treasure and look back on each holiday season. What a magical way to celebrate this special time together!

Year 1 Incursion



On Wednesday, the Year 1 students participated in the Responsible Pet Program, which featured a gorgeous German shepherd. This program taught students how to care for pets and interact with them safely. Through engaging, hands-on activities, they developed empathy, responsibility, and essential safety skills around animals.

Year 3 Mathematics



In Year 3, students dived into the exciting world of volume. Using cubes as hands-on tools, they explored how to measure and calculate the space objects occupy. By building and arranging cube structures, students developed a practical understanding of three-dimensional shapes and their dimensions. They counted and estimated cubes to determine volume, fostering problem-solving skills and spatial awareness. Through these engaging activities, Year 3 students discovered that measuring volume can be fun, interactive, and full of discovery.

Elizabeth Xanthoudakis



Year 5 Camp: An Unforgettable Adventure!



On Monday 18 November our Year 5 students embarked on an exciting two-day camp to Bathurst Goldfields, the Blue Mountains and Scenic World. The trip was filled with thrilling activities, fascinating history and breathtaking scenery.

At Bathurst Goldfields, students stepped back in time and experienced life as 19th-century gold rush prospectors. They panned for gold, explored historic villages and gained valuable insights into Australia's rich history.

In the Blue Mountains, the students marvelled at the stunning vistas and majestic rock formations. They participated in team-building activities, such as hiking and problem-solving challenges, fostering camaraderie and resilience.

A visit to Scenic World offered breathtaking views of the Jamison Valley and the iconic Three Sisters rock formation. Students enjoyed the thrill of riding the world's steepest passenger railway and taking in the scenery from the cable car.

This camp was more than just a fun excursion – it was an opportunity for our students to develop important life skills, forge lasting friendships and create unforgettable memories. We are proud of our Year 5 students for embracing this adventure with enthusiasm and curiosity!

We extend our gratitude to the teachers and staff who accompanied the students on this trip, ensuring their safety and well-being throughout.

Year 5 teachers





Year 6 Camp to Canberra



On Monday 18 November to Wednesday 20 November, Year 6 students embarked on an exciting camp to Canberra. The three-day adventure was fun-filled and a chance to dive into Australia's history, democracy, and culture, creating many lasting memories.

Day 1 of the camp kicked off with a visit to the Museum of Australian Democracy, where students learned about the evolution of our democratic system. This was followed by a session at the National Electoral Education Centre, where the students participated in a mock election, gaining firsthand experience of how preferential voting works in Australia. The day's activities concluded with a tour of the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS). Here, students were amazed by the state-of-the-art facilities and inspired by the stories of athletes who have trained at AIS to achieve their dreams.

Day 2 began with an interactive session at Geoscience Australia, where students explored the wonders of Earth science through hands-on activities. The day continued with a solemn visit to the Australian War Memorial, where students reflected on the sacrifices made by Australian servicemen and women. This was followed by a driving tour of Canberra's embassy district. Next was a visit to Parliament House. Highlights included a parliament sitting session in both the Senate and House of Representatives, in which the students got to see debates and voting of a bill. Students also role-played as parliamentarians in a mock debate at the Parliamentary Education Office. The day ended with a visit to iPlay, where students had fun with various games.

Day 3 began with a visit to St Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, in which students chanted and learned all about the church. The camp concluded with a fun-filled visit to Questacon, where students engaged in interactive science activities and mind-bending exhibits.

The camp was a perfect blend of education and recreation, providing students with opportunities to grow, connect, and experience the richness of Australia's capital. Year 6 Camp 2024 will be remembered as a highlight of the students' final primary school year. Thank you to the teachers who joined the students on this trip, providing care and ensuring their safety throughout the journey.



The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit the national capital as part of their Civics and Citizenship education and has provided assistance to our families in meeting the cost of the excursion by contributing funding of \$30 per student under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate program towards those costs. The rebate is paid directly to the school upon completion of the excursion.

Year 6 Teachers

Christmas Card Competition



Our students were recently involved in the Watson Christmas/New Year Card Competition for primary school students. This competition encouraged students to design their very own unique holiday card. The winning design will not only spread cheer but also earn a \$200 library voucher for their school, helping to stock up on new books and resources. This was a fantastic opportunity for students to showcase their artistic talents while supporting their school's learning environment.

Miss Moshos
Year 4 Classroom Teacher



College Chaplain's Message

On the Eighth Sunday of Luke, our Holy Church recalls the Parable of the Rich Fool (Luke 12:16-21). This parable cuts to the heart of our human tendency to selfishness and reminds us of the eternal aim and purpose of our earthly life.

Our Lord Jesus Christ speaks to us about a rich man whose land brought forth abundantly, yet whose response to his blessings reveals a profound spiritual poverty. This parable is not just a story about one man long ago; it is a mirror held up to each of us, inviting us to examine how we use the blessings God bestows upon us.

The rich man's success was undeniable, but it was also not a result of his own doing. Following a good season which he could not control, his fields yielded a bountiful harvest, and his barns could no longer contain the abundance. Faced with this predicament, the man decided to tear down his barns and build larger ones. At first glance, this might seem like a reasonable and prudent decision. But as the story unfolds, we see that his heart was consumed not with gratitude to God, but with self-indulgence. He said to himself, "Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; take your ease, eat, drink, be merry."

This man's error was not in being successful - there is no sin in hard work or material prosperity. The problem lay in his attitude. His focus was entirely on himself. He thought of his riches as his own achievement, his own possession, and his own security for the future. He did not once consider that all he had was a gift from God, entrusted to him for a greater purpose. He did not consider those in need; those who could be helped with his abundance.

The Lord's words to him are chilling: "Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?" With these words, we are reminded of a truth we often ignore: our lives are fleeting, and the treasures we accumulate in this world cannot accompany us into eternity. As the Psalmist says, "Man, though rich, does not remain; he is like the beasts that perish" (Ps 49:12).

The Lord concludes the parable with a warning: "So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." Here lies the crux of the matter. To be "rich toward God" means to use the blessings we have received not for selfish ends, but for the glory of God and the benefit of others.

As Orthodox Christians, we know that everything we have - our material possessions, our talents, our time, even the breath in our lungs - is a gift from God. And every gift carries with it a responsibility: to use it wisely and in a manner that draws us closer to Him. The rich man in the parable failed to understand this. Instead of asking, "how can I glorify God with what He has given me?" or "how can I use these blessings for my salvation?" he asked, "how can I enjoy this for myself in the here and now?"

The Church Fathers often remind us that the blessings we receive are not meant for us alone. Saint Basil the Great, in his homily *I Will Tear Down My Barns*, writes: "Who are the greedy? Those who are not content with what suffices. Who are the robbers? Those who take what belongs to everyone. Are you not a robber, you who consider your own that which has been given to you only that you might manage it? That bread which you hoard belongs to the hungry; that coat which you guard in your closet belongs to the naked."

This teaching echoes the words of Christ Himself: "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for Me" (Matthew 25:40). When we share our blessings with those in need, we become rich toward God, for we are using His gifts as He intended - loving Him by loving our neighbour.

Practically speaking, what does it mean to be rich toward God in our lives today?

The first step is to cultivate a spirit of gratitude. Every day, we should thank God for the blessings He has given us, great or small. Gratitude shifts our focus from what we lack to the abundance we already have and reminds us that all we possess comes from Him.

Gratitude naturally leads to generosity. When we recognize that our blessings are not ours to hoard, we will joyfully share them with others. This might mean giving charity to the poor, supporting our Church food pantry, or simply being attentive to the needs of those around us.

Generosity is not limited to material wealth. God has also given us talents, time and opportunities. Are we using these gifts to serve His Kingdom? Are we seeking to grow in faith and to help others do the same?

Finally, we must remember that our security does not lie in barns filled with grain or bank accounts filled with money. True security comes from trusting in God's providence and aligning our lives with His will. As St. John Chrysostom says, "riches are not forbidden, but the pride of riches is."

The parable of the rich fool is a wake-up call. Let us not fall into the trap of thinking that our lives consist in the abundance of our possessions. Instead, let us strive to be rich toward God by using His gifts for our salvation and the salvation of others.

Let us resolve to be grateful, generous, and mindful of the needs of those around us. Let us remember that every act of kindness, every offering of love, and every sacrifice we make in the name of Christ stores up for us treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in and steal (Matt 6:20).

Fr Peter Mavrommatis

[Click here for Parish Calendar](#)



Sustainability Exhibition 2024

Have you ever heard the story of the hummingbird? No? Well listen close...

One day a terrible fire broke out in a forest - a huge woodland was suddenly engulfed by a raging wildfire. Frightened, all the animals fled their homes and ran out of the forest. As they came to the edge of a stream they stopped to watch the fire and they were feeling very discouraged and powerless. They were all bemoaning the destruction of their homes. Every one of them thought there was nothing they could do about the fire, except for one little hummingbird. This particular hummingbird decided it would do something. It swooped into the stream and picked up a few drops of water and went into the forest and put them on the fire. Then it went back to the stream and did it again, and it kept going back, again and again and again. All the other animals watched in disbelief; some tried to discourage the hummingbird with comments like, "Don't bother, it is too much, you are too little, your wings will burn, your beak is too tiny, it's only a drop, you can't put out this fire."

And as the animals stood around disparaging the little bird's efforts, the bird noticed how hopeless and forlorn they looked. Then one of the animals shouted out and challenged the hummingbird in a mocking voice, "What do you think you are doing?" And the hummingbird, without wasting time or losing a beat, looked back and said, "I am doing what I can."

Our world is a raging bushfire. Global warming, climate change, and an ever growing mountain of rubbish we call pollution is continuing to threaten our home and future generations. But we too, can be like the hummingbird. We too, can be a small spark of change, a droplet of water. Our actions may seem insignificant and ineffective, but they hold great power in taking the first steps to healing our planet. This is what we, the environment and sustainability prefects, learnt at the 2024 Sustainability Exhibition.

On the first day of the expo, we walked to our first destination which was the Sustainable House owned by Michael Mobbs. Michael Mobbs talked us through his life in creating sustainable electricity and water systems all fully functioning and saving him tens of thousands of dollars a year by this change. He then explained how this was a very controversial decision to make as Sydney water was not accepting of the change for creating his own water system and not paying anything just like everyone else. He emphasises the usage of his solar panels which is the most common product of sustainability through thousands of households in Australia. He explained to us the thousands of liters that go into growing or producing the food we eat, and how unnecessary it is to be so wasteful. After our break we made our way to Banish, a sustainability shop. As soon as we walked inside, we saw huge buckets with some filled more than others of bottle caps. They break down the bottle caps and make mini pots, pens, and carabiners.

On the second day of the Expedition, schools from all around Sydney gathered at Hills Grammar School in Dural. It was an astounding campus where we listened to a presentation by Ben Dessen, a wildlife advocate, who informed us on the dangerous threats closing in on our native Australian wildlife. Did you know 38 species have gone extinct in Australia just last year? How truly troubling. This passionate speaker, who expressed his love for all the unique critters in the world, showed us that we have a power to positively impact our world, and that it all happens by us just putting the effort in to start. His journey from highschool student, to now director of the Hills Wildlife sanctuary was inspiring and ignited a motivation I've never seen before in the crowd of youth present. Shortly after Ben's presentation, Sophia Skarparis, a 21 year old uni student (and yes she's greek), spoke about her journey from teen to present and the impacts she had on the world of sustainability. At the age of 14, Sophia collected over 12,000 handwritten signatures to support banning single use and heavy retail plastic bags in NSW. She informed us of her journey from the local council, to the courtroom, and how she stayed passionate to pursue her goals, the crowd was left in awe.

Together with the support of St Euphemia and its board, we have great plans and dreams for our ever growing school. From bin audits, to 10 cent return and earn bins, and even a study app that will help grow trees, St Euphemia and its sustainability team are going to put in all their effort to make the school a better place, one that adds large amounts of water to our raging fire.

Cayla and Antonia



Primary Sport

PSSA

The following scores are from round 9 - Friday 15 November.

Team	Played Against	Score
Senior Boys' Basketball	Malek Fahd	Loss 8 - 12
Senior Girls' Basketball	Malek Fahd	Win 54 - 0
Junior Boys' Basketball	Bankstown West	Loss 4 - 2
Junior Girls' Basketball	Bankstown West	Won 20 - 16
Softball Girls	Bankstown	Win 5 - 1
Softball Boys	Bankstown	Win 12 - 10
TBall Girls	Birrong	Bye
TBall Boys	Birrong	Bye
Senior Cricket	Georges Hall	Win 149 - 105
Junior Cricket	Georges Hall	Loss 100 - 77

The fixtures for round 10, which will be the last round before we go into semi-finals and finals, for Friday 22 November are as follows:

Team	Playing Against	Venue
Senior Boys' Basketball	Bankstown	Bankstown Basketball Stadium
Senior Girls' Basketball	Bankstown	Bankstown Basketball Stadium
Junior Boys' Basketball	Condell Park	Bankstown Basketball Stadium
Junior Girls' Basketball	Condell Park	Bankstown Basketball Stadium
Softball Girls	Bye	Kinch Reserve
Softball Boys	Bye	Kinch Reserve
TBall Girls	Bankstown	Training at O'Neil Park
TBall Boys	Bankstown	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. I wish all teams the best for the last round of PSSA Summer.

Gina Vourtsanis
Primary Sport Coordinator



Secondary School Sports News



Alexander Rigas competed at the Valour State Relay Championships on Saturday 16 November 2024. He was a part of a 4 people team that competed in the Men Shot Put Relay 16s-17s (U18) 5kg event. With a combined team result of 43.54m; Alexander and his team came a commendable third place. Congratulations Alexander!

SWISSA Volleyball Competition

This Week's Results

Senior Boys	v Redeemer	WIN 2-1
Junior Boys	v St Marouns	WIN 2-0
Junior Girls	v St Marks College	WIN 2-0

Volleyball Finals

Congratulations St Euphemia Volleyballers! All four teams will be progressing into the finals as undefeated defending champions. We wish them all the best in the last competition to come.

Finals Draw

Senior Boys	v St Marks College
Senior Girls	v All Saints Grammar
Junior Boys	v St Marks College
Junior Girls	v St Mary and Minas

Monique Lou
Secondary School Sports Coordinator



Primary School Disco Update

Our next P&F meeting will be held in the Primary Library at **6:30pm** on **Wednesday, 27 November**. We look forward to seeing you all there!

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

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

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

P&F Primary School Function



[Click here to purchase your tickets before 26 November](https://www.trybooking.com/1314530)



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@stephemia.nsw.edu.au



St Euphemia College

stephemia.nsw.edu.au

Uniform Shop New Opening Hours
3pm- 5:30pm Tuesday's and Thursday's

Holiday Hours

To view our special holiday hours or to book an appointment please click the link provided below.

stephemiauniformshop.com

