In the years that I spent doing tertiary studies, I became intrigued by one of my fellow students and how he tackled our examinations. Where many of us (myself included) would spend a lot of time frantically scribbling down all we could remember in order to answer the questions, this fellow’s approach was quite different. For most of the exam he would devote his time to planning his responses carefully; then he would spend a relatively short time crafting answers that were rarely more than a page in length. The fact that he would regularly achieve top-class honours in these exams was, for me, a prime example of the old adage that ‘less is more’.

While we may recognise that there are definitely times that ‘less is more’ rings true (certain attempts at interior design, for example, come to my mind!), we don’t live in a society that is particularly supportive of the concept. We can be easily persuaded to focus on getting more, for instance, if we’re tempted to compare ourselves to our neighbours, or work colleagues, or friends who just seem to have been far more successful in acquiring ‘stuff’ in their lives. We might say we admire those with a ‘simpler lifestyle’; but do we really want to be in that situation ourselves?

Having things isn’t wrong, of course; but it seems to me that the more we acquire, the less we remember that this “stuff” we come to depend upon will eventually fail to deliver what it promises, be it sooner or later. If we rely less upon things, we can be drawn more to depend upon the One who’s been kind enough to provide them – and, in fact, all we have. It’s the kind of dependence that Gideon, a farmer whom God appointed to rescue His people Israel from their enemies (Judges chapters 6-7), had to adopt – especially when God told him to reduce his fighting force from 22,000 to 10,000, and then to 300. Those numbers seem absurd; but for Gideon, less is more, as he and his motley force are victorious, in God’s strength and not their own. The challenge for us: on what, or who, do we depend?
Changes

Please notify the school office of any changes of personal details including name changes, address, phone numbers or emergency contacts. This is to ensure that we can contact you in case of an emergency and so the school reports are sent to the correct address. Also, if your child’s medical condition has changed, please notify the office in writing. IMPORTANT: If you have become an Australian Citizen, please bring in the original Certificate to the office to update your child’s records.

When your child is absent

We are currently using an SMS system to enquire as to why your child is absent. You need to simply SMS your reply with the reason your child is absent or you can still call the office on 9675 7433. This does not replace the absent note you need to provide to the classroom teacher as it is a Board of Studies requirement.

Uniform Shop

The uniform shop is open every Monday, Tuesday and Friday from 8:30am-9:30am.

Mr Concha

As you may or may not know Mr Concha is a World Champion Muay Thai fighter. On the 7th August 2015, Mr Concha fought in Melbourne representing Full Force Gym at Blacktown. He fought Full Thai rules against Sone Vannathy from Arch Angel Thai Boxing New Zealand in the 61.5kg weight class for the Trans-Tasmin Prestige Series Title Belt, in the main event of the show.

It was a tough fight, but Mr Concha won by points decision after dropping his opponent twice throughout the fight for a well deserved win!

Congratulations Mr Concha St Bishoy College Staff and Students are very proud of you!!
Mr Edmond Atalla MP Visit

On Friday, 14 August, St Bishoy College’s high school and Year 6 were honoured by the visit of local Mt Druitt state parliament representative, Mr Edmond Atalla. Mr Atalla is the first Coptic to be elected to state politics and calls St Bishoy Coptic Orthodox Church his home church.

Mr Atalla spoke of his background; coming to Australia at the age of eight without knowing any English. He also spoke of his commitment to studying and working towards goals. For him, the goals included becoming an engineer, Blacktown City councillor and finally, NSW state member for Mt Druitt. His decision to enter politics was driven by a burning desire to help the less fortunate in our community.

After speaking about himself, Mr Atalla opened the meeting up for questions. At least 20 students asked questions, ranging from “What was your favourite subject at school?” to “Why aren’t there more women in politics?” Perhaps the question with the greatest impact was from a high school boy asking, “What do you think about the program ‘Struggle Street’ on SBS?”

Mr Atalla spoke passionately about the negative way he believed the program showed aspects of Mt Druitt and some of its people. “Not everyone in Mt Druitt is on drugs. Not everyone in Mt Druitt is unemployed. Not everyone in Mt Druitt has a dysfunctional family. That program was NOT Mt Druitt. This - is Mt Druitt!” With the latter statement, Mr Atalla swept his arm across the entire audience of young St Bishoy students, indicating they belonged to the REAL Mt Druitt.

Father Gabriel, who grew up as a friend of Mr Atalla, concluded the gathering with several anecdotes of Mr Atalla, including how Mr Atalla obtained permission for church activities to proceed beyond 9 pm, despite council concerns about the possible dangers. Afterwards, Mr Atalla stayed to meet many students who shook his hand and thanked him for coming and for his work in the Mt Druitt community.
Spectacular Science
This term, students have been using the Science Lab to learn some really cool Science! The students had a fabulous time. Thank you to Mrs Woodbury and Mrs Ferrett who organised this great learning experience for the students.

Week 5 Primary Awards

KR Ritta Younan, Jerome Michael, Josiah Cimino, Zachariah Sidra
1J Geo Sachin, Dolagy Bakhoum, Vraj Bhatia, Priscilla Biar
2T Karoleen Habeeb, Carlos Elmaet
3A Maximus Girgis, Mahraeel Makram, George El Chami, Allayna Anna Sachin, Joice Tawedrous
4K Maree Mankarious, Marilyn Nazir, Joshua Farah, Matthew Abdelmasieh, Heaven Michael
5H Ay Thomas, Marie-Ann Girgis, Jessica Jebbo, Keriakos Mikhail, Sarah Youssef, Jeremiah Mikhail, Mena Takla.
6P Milania Abdelshahid, Emmanuel Pelipos, Joseph Gobran, Salwa El Chami, Mahrael Milad

BRONZE
Geo Sachin, Sarah Youssef, Shahd Gobrial, Mena Takla, Steven Yousif, Jessica Jebbo, Abanoub Shafik, Arsany Yassa, Marie-Ann Girgis
2016 Kindergarten Enrolments

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are now enrolling students to start Kindergarten in 2016! All you need to do is see Reception for an Enrolment Package.

Here is a picture of Kindergarten students having a go at skipping.

St Bishoy Coptic Orthodox College provides many opportunities to students to take part in extra activities.

Subject Selection Night

This term, High School students attended a Subject Selection Night. Thank you to everyone who helped out on the night. The students had an insight into each of the subjects and enjoyed completing short tasks.
High School Camp
The High School students went to camp this term and they had a great time! They took part in many activities including canoeing and archery. Thank you to all the teachers who helped organise the camp.

Buddy Time!
Kindergarten had the opportunity to work with their Year 6 buddies to work on Mathematics tasks and use the ipads too!

All the students had a great time and Kindergarten look forward to seeing their buddies.
What's Up West Conference

The What’s Up West youth conference was a 2 day youth conference which ran on the 16th and 17th of July at the University of Western Sydney. Organised by Youth Action, the peak organisation representing young people and youth services in NSW, the conference featured speakers and workshops from a variety of organisations.

The first day featured a variety of events and activities, the first of which was by MC and later panellist Yasmine Lewis, a current law student and talented wordsmith, opening the event with a spoken word poetry piece based on the stereotypical perception of society by various generations and the lack of youth involvement in society’s decisions.

Shortly after came the keynote address by Nishan David, the founder of Bloodless, a street-wear label which partners with social entrepreneurs in developing countries to help raise funds for local community projects. He gave a speech motivating young people to go out and create change, sharing reflecting on his work and its impact, and how creating an impact in society and the world was within everyone’s reach.

Wrapping up the opening, we were sent off towards the first activity called World Cafe, where we rotated through 3 out of 6 possible sessions where we discussed the session's issue in small groups, our experiences with it, and what solutions to it there were. The workshops I'd chosen were "Racism & Social Inclusion", followed by "Climate Change, Environment, & Sustainability", and "Homelessness and Housing Affordability", all issues influencing the present and futures of youth in society. These sessions allowed myself to hear the stories of others and their ideas about the topics, as well as to meet new people and to hear from them in regards to how these topics affects them and what can be undertaken to address these issues.

Next was the first of three workshops, with this one aptly named "A Sustainable Planet", hosted by Greater Sydney Landcare. The workshop revolved around the environmental problems we face and the consequences of not addressing those issues, with the majority of time spent discussing in small groups ways in which we can better live our lives so to minimise our environmental footprint.

Following lunch came the panel "Who's Afraid of Making Change?", with panelists discussing questions asked by the audience revolving around the potential for change, social justice, the panelists employment and what they undertake and do.
Our Flag

You may have seen our beautiful flagpole and plaque as you arrive at school or when you come to church on the weekend, if not please feel free to go and have a closer look. St Bishoy was very fortunate to receive a government commemoration grant to commemorate the centenary of our ANZACs. During the war at Gallipoli Australia and Egypt supported one another forging a remarkable bond between the two nations. Our flag, flagpole and plaque is a daily reminder of the men and women who have fought to protect our great nation, provide a secure home for all of us and freedom of choice for us all.

Teachers Teaching Teachers

Exciting News! Mrs John and Miss Rezk attended a conference and gave a presentation about teaching Number Sense in Mathematics. They both had a great day and had a wonderful experience teaching other teachers about this crucial area of Mathematics.
Solicitors & Attorney

At Restorative Law Practice, we are a boutique firm focused upon providing professional personal services in a cost effective fashion. We are specialists in providing individually tailored and strategic advice to ensure our clients have the best possible prospects of resolution to their needs.

Our experience allows us to provide practical advice in plain English. We work hard to provide legal services, as your success is our success.

Contact Us
P: (02) 9630 9011
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