FOOD FOR THOUGHT; A Spiritual Message:

Welcome – or welcome back! – to St Bishoy for the 2015 school year. I trust and pray that it’ll be a happy, healthy and encouraging year for you all.

Maybe you’re inclined to feel that the weekend is the “reward” you get for surviving the week at work. Or the holidays are the “reward” you receive for getting through the working year. If so, the chances are that you’ll think work is bad; and rest or leisure is the ‘good’ that helps you get through. However, that’s not the way the Bible sees things. In Genesis 2:15, in a world untainted by evil of any kind, God puts humans into the Garden of Eden...to work it and take care of it. Work isn’t a “necessary evil”; both our work and our leisure are good gifts from God, and part of our human existence. Due to the fact that we try to take the running of our lives away from God into our own hands, the Bible agrees that both our work and leisure can be difficult and unsatisfying. However, it also promises an end to that burden, with the work of Jesus, on our behalf, offering us the satisfaction of eternal rest that no-one and nothing can match...

WELCOME MESSAGE

Welcome to 2015! I trust that the holidays were a time of refreshment and recreation, and that you are looking forward with enthusiasm to the new school year.

It has been an exciting time welcoming back our students to St Bishoy’s routines or, indeed, beginning their learning journey at St Bishoy, on either Thursday or Friday last week. It was commonly evident at the “gates” to the School that our students were to be gratefully partnered again under our staff’s care and responsibility.
Underpinning this (and not always overtly) is our Christian ethos. However, the way this was expressed variously to me last week was in terms of authenticity and integrity. In other words, what we say we do and how we advertise ourselves is seen clearly in action: it is experienced and understood by both parent and student. This is further support for the importance of our values here at St Bishoy; and Respect in particular.

“A sensible plan for the future does not depart from the work of the past: rather it seeks to reaffirm and consolidate what has provided St Bishoy with its character- as an ‘unmistakable Christian school’ God has demonstrated His grace and providence in providing a unique location for St Bishoy and it would be my prayer to seek His blessing as we seek to commend Jesus Christ to young lives. We earn this right by providing a quality education for each and every student in the School. A student centred school is one where each individual is regarded as unique, made in God’s image and therefore is of intrinsic significance. Every purpose, initiative, endeavour and operational decision must be concerned with improving the educational experience of our students.”

I trust that we continue to aim towards this goal, bearing in mind the high expectations that come with it (much like our catchphrase ‘well known, well cared for and well taught’). In strong partnership, students, parents and staff can achieve a continual improving educational experience.

I hope you have enjoyed the holidays and that you prosper in the coming year!

PRIMARY MATTERS

Spotto!

“People are like sticks of dynamite; the power’s on the inside but nothing happens until the fuse gets lit.”
~ Mac Anderson

Do your children ever play ‘Spotto’ as you are driving? If you have no idea what I am talking about, ‘Spotto’ is a simple game where you try to be the first person to call out, “Spotto!” when a yellow vehicle of some kind is seen. As I drove up and down the coast in the holidays, my children and I sometimes played this game to ‘pass the time’. You may ask: “Why are only yellow vehicles selected?” I asked the same question of my children. Why not choose pink or green vehicles? The answer is related to the perceived ‘just the right amount’ of frequency of appearance of yellow vehicles – indeed, our ‘holiday research’ of playing the game seemed to confirm this. There always seemed to be just enough yellow vehicles to keep everyone’s interest in the game. There were far too many white, red, silver and black vehicles. There were still too many green and blue vehicles. There were too few orange, pink and purple vehicles. Yellow vehicles seemed to match the ‘Goldilocks and the Three Bears principle’ – it seemed ‘just right’.

As I drove and contemplated the above information, I kept thinking about the need to play ‘Spotto’ with our students. It’s not that we should all sit and watch the traffic go up and down Beecroft Road – we (parents and teachers) need to consider our input and our encouragement and try to get it ‘just right’ as well. Every child needs to be affirmed at the right frequency. In certain situations and at certain times, it is no good splattering a child with too much encouragement – this can lead to reliance on ‘reward’ rather than ‘developing their own burning desire’. It is equally not useful to offer too little positive reinforcement – doing that tends to lead to a ‘lack of interest’, a ‘lack of well-known’ perception. There is a need to consider each child’s ‘individual need for encouragement’, ‘at a given point of time’, so that parents and teachers can effectively ‘play Spotto’ with the children’s learning.

I encourage parents to look at their child; to consider their learning needs and to ‘play Spotto’ in their child’s educational journey this year.

“Instruction does much, but encouragement everything.” ~ From a letter to A.F. Oeser, Nov. 9, 1768

STAFF MATTERS

From the Acting Principal: M Atteya
Change of Details

Please notify the school office of any changes of personal details including name changes, address, phone numbers or emergency contacts. Also, if your child’s medical condition has changes, please notify the office in writing. 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. IMPORTANT: If you have become an Australian Citizen, please bring in the original Certificate to the office.

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.

Welcome to St Bishoy Coptic Orthodox College

We would like to Welcome the 2015 Kindergarten students to the College. We wish them all the best this year and many more to come. Here they are making patterns out of blocks!
Welcome New Teachers

"Miss Su is a Music teacher that has graduated with a Bachelor of Music at the prestigious Sydney Conservatorium of Music and a Master of Teaching at the University of New South Wales where she was awarded most outstanding graduate teacher of the year by the Australian College of Educators in 2013. Miss Su's expertise is in Classical Piano, however she has over the years learnt many other instruments including guitar and Japanese Taiko drumming where she uses her skills to perform all over Sydney. Miss Su is also a piano accompanist for her local Christian church. She is particularly passionate about motivating students through Music as she believes it brings many educational and social benefits to a child's life including discipline, tolerance, group skills and of course enjoyment. Miss

Dr Joe Clark, the new ESL teacher, comes to us with decades of experience teaching in New South Wales schools. He has a BA, MA and PhD in History from Macquarie University, a Bachelor of Divinity from Melbourne University and a certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL), also from Macquarie. Dr Clark is an officer in the Royal Australian Naval Reserve and plays music at his church and here at school. He is looking forward to serving God here in the community at St Bishoy.

Awards

KR Christian Mikhail, Arpit Ajay Prakash, Eveleen Kaur Grewal, Theodora Basta, Isabella Welela
1J Raphael Gobran, Milica Miletic, Geo Mathew Sachin, Jeswin J-Abraham, Daniel Faragalla
2H Jacob andrawis, Georgina Ghaly, Margaret Gerges, Anamarie Farah, Mina Takla
3A Karas Awad, George El-Chami, Rafael Fakri, Allayna Anna Sachin, Joice John L E Tawedrous
4K Matthew Abdelmasieh, Mark Saif, Swayam Kumar, David Bolis, Theodora Michael, Mary Wasif, Marym Azer
5H Jennifer Ibrahim, Abboud El-Chami, Jeremiah Mikhail, Mena Takla, Mark Makram
6P Jack Mellross, Bedaba Habeeb, Merry Dankha, Salwa El-Chami, Mahrael Milad
Japanese Students Visit St Bishoy

During week 4, St Bishoy had the real pleasure of hosting Japanese students all the way from Iwate Prefectural Sumita High School. The Japanese students were visiting with the goal to learn and practice English and our students were more than welcoming, helpful and encouraging. Whilst Year 3-12 were at the annual swimming carnival on Friday, Year 2 attended a workshop that was organised by the Japanese students. They learnt how to fold origami paper and made complicated paper planes. Additionally, they also gained an insight into Japanese pop culture and were introduced to some popular anime and Japanese music. Year 2 had such a fun time and it is a shame to bid farewell to them so soon. We are so thankful for the efforts and enthusiasm they showed to get to know our students. We welcome them back in the future and look forward to learning more about their wonderful culture.

Miss Su
Welcome back to all students and parents! On behalf of St. Bishoy Coptic College, we would like to send a warm welcome out to our new students, in particular, the year 7 students.

For the year 7 students, there is a big difference between high school and primary school, and it can be a little confusing at the beginning. Don't hesitate to reach out to any of the friendly staff to speak to them about any concerns you may have. All new students have an allocated locker which will be both convenient for them and beneficial for their learning, which will hopefully promote improved education for them.

Suzan Narouz
Head of Stages
Food Technology

The beginning of Term 1 has been an exciting time for all, particularly because we have began a new elective course called Food Technology for Year 9 and Year 10.

The students have been learning about healthy eating and have already created some delicious food including their recent nutritious salads in our new state of the art kitchen.

There are also numerous cross-curriculum projects that the students will be engaged in such as food competitions, running a real life café and also inviting the community, including parents, to our future food events.

Miss Su
Swimming Carnival

On Friday the 20th of February we had our annual Swimming Carnival at Blacktown Leisure Centre, Stanhope. The event held is greatest participation with 248 students attending from year 3 through to year 12 and with a large number of parents supporting their children.

The day was filled with so much fun and excitement from both staff and students. Many students participated across several events, and for those that did not swim, cheered their house mates to victory, representing their house colours with pride. I am so proud of all the students for getting in there and just having a go, being supportive classmates and representing St Bishoy.

I would like to give thanks in particular to the students that were life guards, swimming helpers for the younger grades, assisted in marshaling, time recorders and messengers. It was so overwhelming to the amount of requests to help on the day. To the staff who participated in the days event and to Mrs. Court for accompanying me in our near victory against the students. I just pray that all future carnivals be as jam packed and exciting as this one.

Kind Regards
Mr. Concha
AFS Australia, world leader in High School Student Exchange to over 57 countries are kicking off their 2015 information sessions and invite you to come along and find out if a student exchange program is for you.

An AFS student exchange is all about excitement. New countries. New cultures. New friends. There are heaps of countries to choose from. If you want to experience something new, take the leap and join the hundreds of young Aussies who head overseas with AFS every year. Students in years 10-12 can spend anywhere between 2 weeks to 11 months studying abroad, learning a language and becoming a part of a whole new culture. Learning by doing. You'll be supported the entire way by AFS.

We will be running a free information session for you and your parents to find out more:

**When:** 6:30pm Thursday 19th February  
**Where:** Penrith Library Theatrette, 601 High St, Penrith

For more information and to register your attendance or to see the many other locations of upcoming Information Sessions, head to [www.afs.org.au/opendays](http://www.afs.org.au/opendays) or call the AFS Sending Team on 1300 131 736 or email ausafs@afs.org

On the evening there will be returned students eager to share how the AFS experience has impacted their lives, and keen to encourage you to take a chance and study abroad.

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**Premier’s Reading Challenge (PRC)**

The Challenge aims to encourage a love of reading for leisure and pleasure in students, and to enable them to experience quality literature. It is not a competition but a challenge to each student to read, to read more and to read more widely.

The Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC) is available for all NSW students in Kindergarten to Year 9, in government, independent, Catholic and home schools.

The rules and book lists for each grade are located online at: [https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html](https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html)

Students are more than welcome to borrow PRC books from any local library as well as from the School Library.

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Mike Baird MP  
Premier
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.

محامون ومدعون بال الحقوق المدنية

في مكتبتنا القانوني لإستعادة الحقوق ، نحن كشركة متخصصة نركز على تقديم خدمات شخصية بشكل مهني محترف و بطريقة فعالة و مؤشرة من حيث التكلفة.

نحن مختصون في تقديم المشورة لتناسب احتياجات و تدابير كل فرد على حدة لضمان حصول عملائنا على أفضل حصول ممكنة

لماشالهم و أقرار احتياجاتهم.

خبرتنا تسمح لنا بتقديم المشورة العملية بلغة إنجليزية سهلة.

نحن نعمل بجد لتوفر الخدمات القانونية، فنجاكم هو نجاحنا.

المجالات التي نتخصص فيها هي:

- بوصايا الميراث و العقارات ومدى ثبوت صحتها
- لملكيه نقل الملكية (سكنى وتجاري)
- قانون الأسرة
- الاتفاقيات التجارية والمعاملات
- قانون العمل و التوظيف
- لتقاضي المدني
- حل النزاعات الأسرية

اتصل بنا:

Contact Us
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W: www.restorativelaw.com.au
NSW Parents’ Council
Parents Congress

Be a better parent, quiz experts and get answers!

This is a Free Event!

The Parents Congress is your opportunity for as little as 90 minutes on a Sunday afternoon to hear about some of the most advanced ideas about better parenting, engaging with teachers and schools, and the pathways to quality learning outcomes.

Meet our well renowned speakers and have your questions answered regarding parent engagement and educational policy and options.

Register and attend local venues (and receive a free parent kit!) in your region. If you can’t attend a face to face session you can register to watch the live webcast and have your questions submitted online.

Date: Sunday, 8th March 2015
Time: 1:30pm – 3:30pm AEDT

Presenters: There are a panel of 13 expert presenters!

Location: Attend the live event at the Wesley Centre, Pitt Street, Sydney or from various locations around NSW. If you can’t attend a face to face session, you can register to watch the live event online at your own computer.

Please register by contacting the email below. To guarantee your free parent kit, you will need to register for a local region venue or the Sydney CBD venue by clicking the attend in person button. Remember you can also register later for the event online if you are unable to attend in person. You will need to register

For any questions please email: community@parentscouncil.nsw.edu.au or ceo@parentscouncil.nsw.edu.au