Why a Coptic School?

Should you send your child to a Coptic school? What difference does it make? Is there a Biblical directive to do so? These questions are some of the questions that Christian families struggle to answer.

The first part of this answer has to do with the role of the parent. The parent is the God-appointed leader and teacher of a child. This should come as no surprise to everyone including a non-Christian. The overwhelming task of raising a child is in the hands of the parents. But teach them what? Clearly, God has a great deal to say about this. And before that question is answered, another must be dealt with: "What or who is the most important thing or person for the child to know?" The answer is, "God is the most important person for a child to know." The goal of Christian parents is for their child to know God in a personal way and to know all about God. Nothing could be more important.

There is a common misconception that Coptic schools shield children from every temptation and sinful exposure. This is not true, nor is it even possible. Christian schools have the same types of kids non-Christian schools have—sinners! The difference in the Coptic school is that the Christian school brings the Word of God to every situation in the lives of the children. The Christian school is able to apply the Word of God to every

Congratulations to our 2013 Year 12 HSC Students

On behalf of the College staff and Executive, I would like to congratulate our 2013 Year 12 students on some excellent results! The cohort saw some outstanding achievements including tertiary entrance to Dentistry, Speech Pathology and Actuarial Studies. Well done to our students— we wish you all the very best.
Up Coming Events:

Wednesday 2nd April
Year 11 Excursion

Tuesday 8th April
3-6 and Selected High School students Cross Country
Kindergarten Excursion

Wednesday 9th & 10th April
Stage 3 Camp

Thursday 10th April
Last day of Term 1

Tuesday 29th April
First day of Term 2

Wednesday 30th April
Life Education lessons being held from Wednesday 30th April until Friday 2nd May

Tuesday 6th May
3-6Monastery Visit

instance of sinful thought or action, and by God's grace, renew the mind of the child.

What about the Academic Standard? Does the Coptic school focus on religion at the cost of academic achievement?

Absolutely not! In fact, using Christ as our example we promote an atmosphere where our children strive for perfection in all that they do—academically and socially. The culture of the school is such that with like-minded peers, children are less likely to be distracted from academic objectives and often work to compete against themselves to excel and achieve the best possible results that they can within their individual capabilities.

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.

Year 12 Half Yearly Examinations

Year 12 Half Yearly examinations commenced on the 24 March 2014.

We wish Year 12 the very best for their examinations and ask for the co-operation of parents and students as they make their way quietly around the classes where the examinations are held.

PDSSSC

Congratulations to Riley Ferrett who represented St Bishoy at the PDSSSC. Riley did very well finishing 1st in his 50m Freestyle heat and 4th in the 100m Freestyle heat. We look forward to seeing Riley compete again next year!
Parent Information Evening - 24 February 2014

The St. Bishoy Welfare Policy was launched in the Parent Information Seminar on the 24 February 2014, as was a guided tour of our new facilities including the new Food Technology Room.

It was also a great opportunity to answer questions parents may have and to meet new parents and welcome them to the college community.

Please feel free to request a copy of the Welfare Policy from the Front Office.

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**Awards**

**KR** Geo Mathew Sachin, Emanuella Garas, Daniela Faragalla, Milica Miletic, Bishoy Nazzier, Oliver Shenouda, Marell Wasfy, Dolagy Bakhourn, Bennett Jo Binoy, Aaron Roffael, Joice Ghaly, Julya Youssef, Vraj Bhatia, Priscilla Biar, Andrew Bolis, Raphael Gobran

1J Ann Sergeiye, Abraham Welela, Carlos Elmaet, Karoulin Gadalla, Margaret Gerges, Shavin Chand, Suhana Kumar, Mariam Matta, Adrian Guirguis, Nammarie Farah, Georgina Ghaly, Veronia Yassa.

2K Amam Guot, Teme Thomas, Merone Bogale, Martin Zaki, Karas Awad, Brayen Awad, Karas Awad, Jamie Del Pilar, Veronika Ragheb, Tiana Read, Sandra Jabo, Maximus Girgis, August Latai.

3P Salim Assaf, Swayam Kumar, Heaven Michael, Katerina Said, Melos Kebede, Aneesh Chakravartulu, Maximum Bolis, Youliana Hanna, Marilyn Nazir, Maree Mankarious, Marina Daoud, Christina Bolis, Binitta Binoy, Shwuah Farah, David Bolis, Matthew Abdelmasieh, Mina Milad, Nataly Shenouda, Kirmena Iestafenous.


6A Kirollos Georgi, Triun Pineda, Mariam Ghanammi, Marina Rushdy, John Kamal, Philomena Daoud, Monica Wasif, Gideon Atteya, Matthew Tadros, Nahren Mikhael, Andrew Bols, Beemnet Deregen, Stephanous Escandar, Youhanna Yowakem, Mary Yassa, Kirollos Georgi.


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**Library Monitors**

These students have been chosen to be the Library Monitors this Term.

2K
Veronika Ragheb
Tiana Read
Brayen Awad

3P
Andrew Ghname
David Bolis
Youliana Hanna

4H
Jeremiah Roffael
Gerges Fouad
Tatiana Salama

5H
Chloe Atteya
Carolyn Galdas
Daniel Abdelmasieh

6A
Youhanna Yowakem
Nahren Mikhail
Monica Wasif

6G
Antony Fowad
Elbrat Nissan
Marina Guirguis
Here are some great images from the January/December Vacation Care.

The SRC went to Young Leadership Day on Monday 31st of March. The students had a great time with Mrs Gayed and learned a lot about being leaders. Here are some photos.
On Friday 28th March, students had the opportunity to dress up as what they want to be when they grow up. Here are some great pictures. Thank you to all the parents who helped on the day.

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**Go4Fun**

*Fun’s the name of the game!*

Most parents know it can be a battle to get their child away from the TV and outside playing or switching from a can of soft drink for a bottle of water. Now there’s a free family lifestyle program in the Blacktown and Mt Druitt areas that helps children and their families lead a healthier life.

It’s called Go4Fun and the emphasis is on the fun. Run over 10 weeks, Go4Fun is aimed at children 7 – 13 years who are above a healthy weight range. Children attend with a parent and enjoy fun and interactive games, healthy eating advice, a supermarket excursion and goal setting exercises.

Go4Fun Coordinator, Michelle Nolan says, “Over 630 families have participated in the program in Western Sydney, and the results have been very encouraging. We’re seeing significant improvements in children’s weight, waist measurement, activity levels, nutrition habits and self-esteem”.

Importantly, families enjoy attending with comments such as “Our family is more active and smiling”, (Karina, 8) “It’s fun”, (Chelsea, 12). Mother of 2, Rebecca says, “We love Go4Fun because there is good practical information about healthy eating for kids they can use in their everyday life”.

Healthy habits formed early can stay with a person beyond childhood. To register today for this FREE program call 1800 780 900 or visit go4fun.com.au
ipads Galore!

Great news! The school has purchased ipads to use in the classrooms. Students have had a lot of fun using the ipads to play educational games and even play chess. Here are some great photos.

Swimming!

Students from grades 3-12 participated in the annual St Bishoy Swimming carnival. The event took place on February the 21st March and the students had a great time. The students also had a visit from the Parramatta Eels! A huge thank you to Mrs Macri and the Year 11 and 12 students. It was great to have the senior students looking after the younger students and encouraging them to complete the races. Here are some photos.

Canteen Help

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Do you have some spare time during the day? If so, and you would like to assist in the canteen, please notify the front office of your availability days and times.
Parents and Guardians:
There are extension classes being offered during the two week holiday to Year 12 students. Please contact the subject teacher to find out more.

UMAT Preparation
Students interested in pursuing medicine and other health courses need to sit the UMAT on 30 July 2014.

MedEntry is a government accredited Registered Training Organisation specialising in UMAT preparation. MedEntry offers discounts of up to 40% for groups, and numerous scholarships.

For more information, please visit [www.MedEntry.edu.au](http://www.MedEntry.edu.au)

Terrific Technology
The Year 8 students were designing original cereal boxes using cardboard. They used paint and collage to create their masterpieces.

On Tuesday 1st April, 2014, The Giants came to visit grades 5-12. They spoke to the students about the sport and answered the students questions. They even autographed some footballs. Here are some great pictures that were taken.
From the head of Faculty

Exciting Events For English and HSIE

Our students are really keen to participate in the choir at the St Mary’s Feast. Ms McNally (our Music and Drama teacher) will be offering the students practise sessions every Tuesday, during the lunch break, in Term Two.

We have a range of exciting possibilities and opportunities coming up in Term Two. Firstly, we are preparing for the Inter Coptic School Debate competition. By the end of this term we should have finalised out top debaters to represent the college. Secondly, with input from the Student Leadership Team, the college is pleased to announce the following new activities to be held next term.

The St Bishoy Spelling Bee Championship: We will organise a spelling and grammar competition across stages 4, 5 and 6. The winners of each stage will receive a $50 gift voucher from the college. The competition will test the students’ ability to spell important words in the Subject Areas of English, HSIE, PDHPE, Science, Mathematics and general knowledge of current events. The finals will be held in Week Five of Term Two. Students are free to nominate themselves for the preliminary rounds which will be held during a Lunch Break in the first week of Term Two.

We are pleased that we commenced the new academic year on a really positive note. Our new staff members within our faculty: Ms Haral, Mrs McNally, Ms Court and Mr El-Haddad, have brought valuable skills and experiences with them to enrich the teaching and learning experiences at the college. We wish them a very warm welcome to the St Bishoy family.

We made a good start to the year with some students entering the write4fun English (poetry and Short story) competition this month. We wish them success and hope that their creative compositions will be recognised by the judges.

ART ATTACK!

Here are some great art works by Year 7 students!

By Demyana Wasif

Look what Year 2 has done in Art too!

By Mariam Assad

By Yustina Awad
**The St Bishoy Reading Club:**
The College is keen to provide students with the opportunity to discuss the books that they have enjoyed reading and share their input with other students. This will be conducted once a fortnight (the day of the week will be announced at the start of Term Two). Light refreshments will be served for members who are consistent in providing meaningful inputs.

**The St Bishoy Public Speaking Award:** To enable our students to become excellent communicators for the modern world, we will organise public speaking competitions biannually.

I trust our new initiatives will enable our students to go beyond the teaching and learning within the classroom and enrich their experiences of school life.

I look forward to your continued support and cooperation.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Mr P. Joseph

Head of Department

(English/HSIE/Music)

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**Did you know Art Can Strengthen Cognitive Skills**
Cognitive abilities are the brain-based skills and thinking processes that one uses to carry out any task — from the simplest to the most complex. Firstly to understand how art can strengthen your Child cognitive skills please visit [http://sydneyartschool.com.au](http://sydneyartschool.com.au)

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### May

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Visit to Sydney Jewish Museum

On Wednesday 2nd of April, Year 11 Studies of Religion and Society & Culture students, accompanied by Miss Harra, went on an excursion to the Sydney Jewish Museum in Darlinghurst to learn more about the religion ‘Judaism.’ They explored the core beliefs and sacred texts of the Jewish tradition and thought the exhibition on the history of the Holocaust was fascinating. Overall it was an enjoyable learning experience and the enthusiastic group of Year 11s are already planning their next one!

Miss Harra

National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy

The tests will be conducted across Australia on the same days for all students according to the following timetable:

Tuesday 13 May - Language Convention test (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar) and a separate Writing test.

Wednesday 14 May - Reading test

Thursday 15 May - Numeracy test (Number, Algebra, function and pattern, Chance and data, Measurement and Space)

In the Numeracy tests students do not require any measuring tools such as rulers or protractors. In Years 7 and 9 there will be two Numeracy tests: one where a calculator is allowed and one where calculators are not used. For the calculator test the student should use the calculator that they currently use at school.

Friday 16 May - A make-up day is scheduled for students who missed a section of the test or were absent on a particular day.

Additional information for parents about the National Assessment Program can be found on this website: http://www.naplan.edu.au/parents/parents.html

Stage 3-Years 5 & 6 visiting Canberra

Student and Year 5 and 6 will be visiting Canberra. They will be learning about the Parliament house structure and Democracy.
VOLLEYBALL COMPETITION

On Thursday 3rd April, St Bishoy hosted a Volleyball Competition for schools in the surrounding areas. Everyone had a great time and students watched on in anticipation to see who would win. It was also a great opportunity for our students to get to know the students from the other schools. Here are some pictures.
Confident kids are competent kids. Past experience has taught them that they can be successful. One way to help develop a sense of competency is to give kids opportunities to help out at home. There is no need to overburden children with jobs, but a sensible allocation of chores according to their age, study requirements and interests is not only a great help to you, but good training for them. They develop the skills of independent living when they help at home, and the notion that they are capable.

It’s best to expect children and young people to help without being paid. By all means provide them with pocket money but avoid linking it to chores. Helping out in exchange for money develops in children a notion of ‘What’s in it for me?’, which is a self-centred view of life.

Many parents have difficulty getting their children to help. Some spend so much time nagging children to do jobs that they often give up asking and expect little of them. Here are some ideas to encourage your children to help out at home:

1. **Keep it real**. Kids can sense when parents give them jobs to keep them busy. Make sure the jobs you assign make a real contribution to your family’s well-being.

2. **Balance the personal chores with family jobs**. Chores are generally divided into two areas. Jobs such as keeping a bedroom tidy benefits a child and jobs such as setting the table benefit the family. By doing this kids learn to contribute positively to family-life.

3. **Place the more arduous or difficult tasks on a roster**. Children can refer to it when needed, which takes the load off you and removes the need to remind them. Rotate the unpleasant tasks frequently.

4. **Use Grandma’s principle to make sure jobs are done**. Grandma’s principle means you do the less pleasant tasks first. That is, make sure jobs are finished before mealtimes or before starting pleasant activities such as watching television.

5. **Avoid doing jobs for children**. When children get the message that no one will do their jobs for them they will be more likely to help out.

6. **Show your appreciation for their help**. Make a fuss when they help so they know that their contribution to the family is valued. If you do it often enough they may even show their appreciation for all you do for them.

7. **Keep your standards high**. Don’t accept half-hearted efforts or half-completed jobs. If you think your child is capable of putting the cat food back in the fridge and pacing the spoon in the dishwasher then insist that he or she does just that, rather than leaving the cat food on the sink. A job properly done is valued in the world of work, which they will eventually enter.

8. **Rebrand the term ‘chores’ as ‘help’**. The term ‘chores’ definitely has an image problem. Use the term ‘help’ as it is easier on the ear and really does indicate what you want from your kids.

Here’s a challenge: Step back and assess if your children are doing enough around the house, to help. Get your free Chores & Responsibilities Guide from my website and use this to help you work out the helping tasks that they could and should be doing. Go to www.parentingideass.com.au/parents and get your FREE Chores & Responsibilities Guide.

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www.parentingideass.com.au