Generation Y

Mention the terms future, commitment, career and saving and many young adolescents internally roll their eyes, switch off and think "generation gap".

To our children it seems that these concepts are folk-tolls from ancient times. According to Bernard Salt’s latest book, The Big Picture (2006), Generation Y is the generation into which our Secondary students loosely fall. Salt espouses that the traits of Ys we enormously differ from their parents' generation. Ys communicate predominantly using SMS and MSN; they think that being totally 'random' is a positive personal attribute, they do not commit as they may be given a better offer and when they want something they acquire it immediately.

GOAL SETTING - A THING OF THE PAST?
Initially the primary concern for me, when reading on the subject of Generation Y, was recognising that they generally do not seem to set long term goals. Today’s world offers an unpredictable future into which few want to plan. But how can they possibly achieve success without goals? We know that people with goals succeed because they know where they are going. We all want our children to succeed and to achieve their own personal best.

Where does this leave us as parents and educators of this generation? Firstly, let us not lose hope. It is comforting to remember that God is the same "yesterday and today and tomorrow" (Hebrews 12:8) so too are the foundations of humanity, based on God’s Word. We simply need to accept the generational differences and work with them.

We are aware that the secret of success is not only in setting goals but following up with hard work in order to achieve the desired result. Theodore Roosevelt summed this up by saying, "Work hard - Nothing worth gaining was ever gained without effort". We have seen, or personally experienced, the positive effect of sheer hard work, perseverance and patience.
Up Coming Events:

Tues-Thur 13th-15th May
NAPLAN

Friday 16th May
Yr 7-12 Debating
Competition

Tuesday 6th May
3-6 Monastery Visit

Friday 23rd May
Yr 3-6 Debating
Competition

Week 6
Year 11 Half Yearly Exams

When working towards improving our fitness, losing weight, completing further education, rearing great children or building positive relationships, we have verified that setting goals and working towards achieving them is what gives us focus and direction.

At St Bishoy Coptic Orthodox College, our Mission and Vision Statement indicates our focus, as with many organisations and businesses. Individually, the staff at SMMCOC has been encouraged to write personal mission statements and goals for this year. Goals help to set direction and generate a measure to maintain our focus.

AIMING FOR A TARGET WITH GEN YS

Don’t shy away from expecting, encouraging and challenging Ys to consider their individual potential to develop. As students enter Secondary School there is a shift in the accountability for setting educational focus to include young individual adults as well as the class teacher. It is time for the students to claim responsibility and to confirm that they are maturing into independent, self-regulating young men and women. It is all part of the growing up and maturing process.

This term, I have challenged the students to set for themselves a realistic and achievable target. This will challenge those who have not independently owned their education previously. The students, in their Care Groups, have been recording the area of learning that they are targeting this term. For some, their target may be to focus on a particular subject that they would like to improve, others may be targeting their assessment results and some may be targeting their focus on the set tasks in class. Habakkuk 2:2 reminds us to “Write the vision and make it plain”. The diary has pages set apart for the purpose of writing targets, a plan of action and evaluating the achievements, successes and failures each term. However, it is significant to remember Thomas Edison’s comment regarding failures, “I have not failed. I’ve just found 10,000 ways that won’t work.

It seems that Ys want us to be direct, say it as it is and be specific. If that is their language then let’s join them and encourage them to forget the seemingly too hard to achieve long term goals and focus on specific targets. For targets to be achieved they need to be realistic and manageable. Working towards achieving a target teaches perseverance, patience, diligence, commitment, good work ethics and the ability to know you can make a difference. It has been said that the greatest waste in the world is the difference between what we are and what we could become.

Kindy Craft
Take a look at these artworks by Kindergarten. They used shapes to make a boat!

Milica
Oliver
Meriam
MEETING WITH YEAR 12 PARENTS

I enjoyed speaking last Monday Evening at the Year 12 parents meeting.

The real advantage of a small school is so often the zeal of all who work there – an energy that is manifest everywhere in all those people - students, staff and parents who feel they “own” the school and in the most productive of ways, run with this ownership to make THEIR school the best it can be.

I saw this sense of ownership in the parents, P&F body, Staff and the Executive. Daily, I witness the optimism of the teaching staff at St Bishoy, both in primary and secondary.

I am not the only one to say that he/she has never worked with a better staff. Whenever we hit a problem in organisation, teachers immediately raise their hands with a solution and take on something extra beyond the call of duty. We are still investing so much in terms of improving and developing more efficient systems, better discipline procedures and even things as mundane as how we best run Parent/Teacher evenings and organise them.

In our School, we are growing a school culture. We are designing a small world and we have the power to make it a good or bad world. DESIGN is a key word when we talk about schools. Every subject on the curriculum is about DESIGN. In English we design texts or respond to the design of texts created by others. In Science, we respond to theories about our world designed by others. We test the validity of those designs. In Mathematics, an equation is a design...and so on for each and every subject.

We invite all our parents to this partnership. We invite you to sculpture the future of our College together.

K-12 launch of HSIE, Maths and English on-line

It is with the greatest pleasure that the St. Bishoy Coptic Orthodox College on-line program will be launched next week. Parents will receive a user name and password to access learning materials from K-12 free-of-charge. This is an excellent resource and I encourage all of you to make use of this service in working partnership with the College.

Mrs Awadalla

Congratulations go to Mrs Awadalla and her family on the newest addition to their family... Sophie-Marina Awadalla!!

Congratulations

Congratulations also go to Fr Botros and his family on the wedding of his son Bishoy and his fiance Sarah.
ANZAC

On April 25th 2014, three St Bishoy students braved the cold and the darkness to attend the ANZAC Day Dawn Service at Blacktown RSL. Riley Ferrett, Katie and Jack Mellross laid a wreath for our college on behalf of the college and it's students and staff. The service was very moving with a focus of reminding us all that there are still many Australian Men and Women still serving our nation so that we can live in country that provides peace and shelter for all who dwell here and of course the many who have gone before and served.

Lest we Forget

Awards

KR: Meriam Gobrial, Aaron Roffaell, Emanuella Garas, Daniel Faragalla

1J: Ann Sergious, Veronia Shenouda, Carlos Elmaet, Anna Marie Farah, Adrian Guirguis

2K: Olywatosin Thomas, Merone Bogale, Shandy Gobrial, Jamiel Del Pilar, Tiana Read, Rafael Fakri

3P: Marina Habashy, Arpita Prakash, Khwashish Thakker, Mary Wasif, Mina Milad, Salim Assad

4H: Patrick Ayad, Jennifer Ibrahim, Demiana Gerges, Miriam Todary

5H: Joseph Gobran, Emmanuel Pelipos, Raneen Hashim, Chloe Atteya

6A: Stephanous Escandar, Andrew Bolis, Marina Rushdy, Monica Wasif

6G: Marc Adam Del Pilar, Antony Fouad, Marina Guirguis, Mariam Kamal
College Mass

On Tuesday, 6th May, K-12 students attended a College Mass lead by Fr Botros. It was lovely to start the term in a blessed way united as one.

Kindergarten Excursion

Kindergarten went on an excursion to Featherdale. They had a great time and learned a lot about the animals.

PRIMARY SRC CORNER

On Monday the 31st of March, the primary SRC had the privilege of attending the Halogen Foundation, National Young Leaders Day. There were two thousand students in the audience from all around Australia.

The SRC listened to five motivational speakers; Mike Martin, the Hon. Bob Carr, Coen Ashton, Andy Griffiths and Ida Buttrose. The main theme of the day was ‘I always wondered why somebody didn’t do something then I realised... I am somebody.’ With that in mind the SRC learnt a lot of things like the need to believe in themselves and to not give up in doing the right thing, even when everyone is telling you otherwise.

During lunch they had the opportunity to meet and have their books signed by the famous children’s author Andy Griffiths. Mathew Tadros was also chosen out of two thousand children to represent our school and ask a question to the Hon. Bob Carr. The SRC had a wonderful time proudly representing our school and learning about what it means to be a great leader.
Healthy Harold
Week one this term, K-6 participated in a Healthy Harold program that allowed them to learn about a healthy lifestyle and what was important to stay safe. Students really enjoyed the program and they were excited to see Healthy Harold.

Stage 3 Canberra Camp

Students in years 5 and 6 have been fortunate enough to go on a camp to Canberra, the capital of Australia. They engaged in many activities and visited many places in this city including the Parliament House, the Australian War Memorial, The National Electoral Education Centre Programme, Australian Institute of Sport and the CSIRO.

Through this education tour of the national capital, students were given the opportunity to participate in a variety of educational programs with a focus on Australia’s history, culture, heritage and democracy.

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. To assist families in meeting the cost of the excursion the Australian Government is contributing funding of $20 per student under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate program towards those costs. The rebate will be paid directly to the school. This was an essential excursion as it provided the students with fantastic experiences to get a better understanding of how our government works and how our past has helped to shape Australia.
To celebrate the launch of the seventh Tom Gates book *A Tiny Bit Lucky* we invite you to enter the super amazing Tom Gates drawing competition!

The good news is the competition runs until August so you have plenty of time to enter. You don’t have to be the world’s best drawer, you just need to pick up a pen or coloured pencil and have a go.

The winner will be named Australia’s BEST DOODLER and receive a Tom Gates book pack and....drum roll....A YEARS SUPPLY OF CRAYOLA!!

There will be another 10 book prizes to be awarded to runners up.

**HOW TO ENTER:**

Start with a plain A4 piece of paper and doodle whatever you like on it.

For inspiration you might draw some of the characters from Tom Gates or a similar style OR you might want to use your very own style of drawing. It can be colour or black and white, you decide.

Once complete send your entry to:
**Tom Gates Best Doodler Competition**
Scholastic Australia
Reply Paid 579
Gosford NSW 2250
(no stamp necessary).

The author Liz Pichon will choose the winner.


**Mother’s Day Stall**

On Thursday 8th May, the P & F along with the Fundraising committee held our annual Mother’s Day Stall. This year, the Mother’s Day Stall was a huge success with us selling out of all our gifts!

Thank you all for your support we have raised $450 to be used to purchase resources to assist our students in their learning endeavours.

The College would like to thank the following Mums for giving up there time to run the Mother’s Day Stall, Mrs Georgi, Mrs Latai, Mrs Bulis and Mrs Farah. God Bless you ladies we could not have had a successful fundraiser without your help and dedication.

Once again thank you to everyone who supported the 2014 Mothers Day Stall.
Science and Engineering Challenge
Organised by Miss Dinh

Students from a combination of year 9 and 10 Science are invited to participate in the annual Science and Engineering Challenge in Campbelltown on the 24th of June. Student will be given various hands on activities challenging their creativity, problem solving and teamwork skills to projects. Students will use everyday materials to build structures and were tested against a criterion. Some of the activities include, building bridges, making a hovercraft, making a car for the mission to mars.

Reviews from previous students:

Chloe Habir
“ I liked how it was something different than what I have ever done, it was great because we saw a whole other side of science. I felt I learnt a lot and enjoyed working in pairs with other schools”

Lucia Naim
“The most enjoyable part about the Science and Engineering Challenge was how the challenge assigned us the “hover frenzy”, it really tested our understanding and capabilities and allowed us to be creative. I managed to learn quite a lot about the science behind the challenge and will undoubtedly keep that knowledge with me until I can apply it to a certain part of my life. Overall the Science and Engineering Challenge was a great experience that was certainly worth undertaking”.

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

Crunch and Sip
At St Bishoy, healthy eating and positive health choices is very important. Everyday, we run Crunch and Sip. Students are given time throughout the day to eat fruit, vegetables and drink water.

CRUNCH:
Easy-to-eat seasonal fruit such as a small apple, a container with hulled strawberries, a mandarin or banana

OR Canned fruit in natural juice with a spoon

OR Vegetables such as carrot or celery sticks, cherry tomatoes or snow peas

AND SIP:
A clean, clear water bottle filled with plain water.
National Walk Safely to School Day

Walk Safely to School Day (WSTSD) is an annual, national event when all Primary School children will be encouraged to walk and commute safely to school. It is set to be on Friday 23rd May. It is a Community Event seeking to promote Road Safety, Health, Public Transport and the Environment.

It will be held throughout Australia on Friday 23 May 2014

The objectives of WSTSD are:

- To encourage parents and carers to walk to school with primary school age children and reinforce safe pedestrian behaviour.
- To promote the health benefits of walking and help create regular walking habits at an early age.
- To ensure that children up to 10 years old hold an adult’s hand when crossing the road.
- To help children develop the vital road-crossing skills they will need as they become mature pedestrians.
- To reduce the car dependency habits that are being created at an early age and which will be difficult to change as children become adults.
- To promote the use of Public Transport.
- To reduce the level of air pollution created by motor vehicles.
- To reduce the level of traffic congestion.

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12 friendship skills every child needs

Friendship skills are generally developmental. That is, kids grow into these skills given exposure to different situations and with adult help.

Kids can be picky about who they play and mix with. Popularity should not be confused with sociability. A number of studies in recent decades have shown that appearance, personality type and ability impact on a child’s popularity at school. Good-looking, easy-going, talented kids usually win peer popularity polls but that doesn’t necessarily guarantee they will have friends.

Those children and young people who develop strong friendships have a definite set of skills that help make them easy to like, easy to relate to and easy to play with.

Here are twelve essential skills that children have identified as being important for making and keeping friends:

1. Ability to share possessions and space
2. Keeping confidences and secrets
3. Offering to help
4. Accepting other’s mistakes
5. Being positive and enthusiastic
6. Starting a conversation
7. Winning and losing well
8. Listening to others
9. Starting and maintaining a conversation
10. Ignoring someone who is annoying you
11. Cooperating with others
12. Giving and receiving compliments

Friendship skills are generally developmental. That is, kids grow into these skills given exposure to different situations and with adult help.

In past generations “exposure to different situations meant opportunities to play with each other, with siblings and with older and younger friends. They were reminded by parents about how they should act around others. They were also ‘taught’ from a very young age.

Arrested development

The NEW CHILD grows up with fewer siblings, fewer opportunities for unstructured play and less freedom to explore friendships than children of even ten years ago.

A parenting style that promotes a high sense of individual entitlement rather than the notion of fitting in appears to be popular at the moment.

These factors can lead to delayed or arrested development in these essential friendship skills, resulting in very unhappy, self-centred children.

Here are some ideas if you think your child experiences developmental delay in any of these essential skills or just needs some help to acquire them:

1. Encourage or insist that kids play and work with each other. Allowing kids the freedom to be kids is part of the message here but parents have to be cunning with the NEW CHILD and construct situations where kids have to get on with each other. For some kids “Go outside and play” is a good place to start.
2. Play with your kids; interact with your kids through games and other means so you can help kids learn directly from you how to get on with others.
3. Talk about these skills: If you notice your kids need to develop some of these skills then talk about them, point out when they show them and give them some implementation ideas.

Kids are quite ego-centric and need to develop a sense of other so they can successfully negotiate the many social situations that they find themselves in.

As parents we often focus on the development of children’s academic skills and can quite easily neglect the development of these vitally important social skills which contribute so much to children’s happiness and well-being.

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For more ideas, support and advice for all your parenting challenges visit: www.parentingideas.com.au

While you are there subscribe to Happy Kids, Michael’s hugely popular email newsletter.

**2013-2014 Family Energy Rebate**

DON'T MISS THE DEADLINE!
Apply before 5pm Friday 13 June 2014

2 MINUTES TO FILL IN A FORM
* eligibility criteria apply

WHAT IS THE FAMILY ENERGY REBATE?
The Family Energy Rebate helps to cover the costs of energy bills for NSW households with dependent children. In 2013 – 2014 the rebate gives:

- A $125 credit against electricity bills for eligible applicants who receive electricity from an electricity retailer.
- A $137.50 direct payment to nominated bank accounts for eligible applicants who live in a caravan or mobile home park and receive electricity from the park operator.

AM I ELIGIBLE FOR THE FAMILY ENERGY REBATE?
To be eligible you MUST:

- Be eligible for Family Tax Benefit A or B during 2012-2013 and have received a relevant payment; and
- Be an account holder with an electricity retailer, OR a long-term resident of a caravan or mobile home park, whose name appears on the electricity account for supply to her/his principal place of residence.

YOU CHOOSE HOW YOU WANT TO APPLY FOR THE FAMILY ENERGY REBATE

- **ONLINE** – it takes a few minutes to submit and processing starts immediately.
- **PAPER** – download a form from the website, complete and submit by email, fax or post.

FOR MORE INFORMATION & ASSISTANCE

PHONE Service NSW 13 77 88
EMAIL fer.program@trade.nsw.gov.au