Hello, everyone. We finally had some dry weather and began work on the playground and surrounds. Then the rain came... and came some more... and some more... Please join me in praying for some dry weather, not just for the College and our playground plans, but especially for the thousands of people across NSW who have been badly affected by the recent floods. Before the rains came, we were able to do some much-needed temporary drainage work, which has prevented further flooding of the new building on the main campus, and we have completed much of the awning covering the walkway from the lower entry to the toilets and canteen. We are grateful for the small progress that was made and look forward to the final product, which will provide much needed recreational space for our children.

The Year 8 Camp was a great success and I would like to thank Mrs Narouz for her efforts and for her organisational skills, which ensured the smooth running of the event. Mrs Narouz was ably assisted by Mr Shenouda (whom we also thank) and I was fortunate to be able to attend for some time. The work of our Year 11 Peer support Leaders (Joshua Mikhaeil, Nick Verway, Christina Shenouda, Roula Sargious and Yeshi Bogale) was a significant factor in the smooth running and success of the camp. The camp focussed on teamwork and interpersonal skills. They are a vital component of your children’s education. The children who attended had a sensational time and learnt a lot from their experiences.

Our primary students attended the first term liturgy last Tuesday. They were exceptionally well behaved and most reverent in their worship. The wonderful spirituality encouraged by the College should not be underestimated when considering the worth of your child’s total education. We are helping to shape the community of the future. I thank Fr Botros for the strength of his leadership and guidance. We are truly blessed with his presence and the presence of the ordained sisters within our college community.

The school is looking to reinvigorate the P and F, with many of the parents who have carried the load over recent years having moved on. If you are able to assist, please become involved. We thank the many parents and friends of the College who have given so much of their time and talents to help in so many areas. This is your school. Your involvement sends an important message to your children about the worth of their education. Mrs Ferrett (mother and teacher’s aide/lab assistant) is prepared to take on an active role in shaping our new P and F. If you would like to become involved in this endeavour, please contact Mrs Awadalla and pass on your details or make contact with Mrs Ferrett.

Last Tuesday, we held the first of what we hope to be regular Parent Forum Meetings. A number of issues critical to the College’s growth were discussed. I thank all of the parents who were able to attend and for the views expressed. All of the issues raised will be examined. Many can be dealt with quickly. Some will take long term planning. We are in a position that now allows us to expand in numbers. Growth is critical for the College’s survival. This expansion can allow us to procure better resources for our children. If you are happy with the College tell your family and friends; if you are not happy tell us, so that we can respond to your concerns. We must work together to build up our College. Our children deserve no less. We hope that these regular meetings will allow our parent body to have greater involvement in forging the direction of our College.
In response to requests made, over coming weeks we will provide parents with the statistical data that is available that shows how our College is doing. The good news is that we are doing well, much better perhaps than people may realise. For today, I will print the data presented at our orientation evening that highlights our relative performance in last year’s HSC. This data is taken from the Better Education website:

- St Bishoy is ranked 139 on the Better Education website (www.bettereducation.com.au)
- One more mark in Advanced English by any one of three students and our ranking would have risen to 86! (Small cohorts make the ranking quite volatile. Larger schools are less subject to this volatility)
- St Mary’s Senior High (partially selective) 114
- Mountain View Adventist, Doonside 186
- St Pauls, Greystanes 225
- Catherine McCauley, Westmead 239
- St Andrew’s, Marayong 296
- Richard Johnson, Oakhurst 320
- Penrith Anglican, Orchard Hills 348
- OTEN 358
- Xavier, Llandilo 406
- Tyndale Christian, Blacktown 431
- Terra Sancta, Schofields 443
- Emmaus Catholic, Kemps Creek 444
- Nagle College, Blacktown South 495
- Loyola Senior, Mount druitt 522
- Mitchell, Blacktown 566
- Rooty Hill, Rooty Hill 581
- Blacktown Girls, Blacktown 596

Our ranking is the highest of non-selective schools from Girraween to Penrith! The other colleges listed are schools that students from our College have transferred to in the past year, often citing academic results as the reason. We can be proud of our academic achievement.

As always, your families are in my prayers. I pray that God continues to bless our College community.

Mr Stephenson
College Principal

CHANGE OF DETAILS
Please notify the school office of any changes of personal details including name changes, addresses, phone numbers or emergency contacts. This is to ensure that we can contact you in case of emergencies and so the school reports are sent to the correct addresses.

UNIFORM SHOP
The College Uniform Shop will be open on: Tuesday 8.30 am to 9am and 2.30pm to 3pm, Thursday 8.30am to 9am and 2.30pm to 3pm and Saturday 7pm to 8pm

SCHOOL WEBSITE
Take a look at our school website! The website has many links. There are photos, the year’s calendar as well as many other areas. Take a look http://www.stbishoy.nsw.edu.au, you may even see a picture of yourself on there 😊

ABSENT
Please call the school reception to let the College know if your child will be absent for any reason.

PAYMENTS
Instructions to Parents for All Payments (Photos, Excursions etc..) EXCEPT School Tuition Fees
1. Please write your child’s full name on an envelope. (One envelope for each child).
2. Write your child’s Year and class (for example “4A” Year 4 Class A )
3. Please write the amount of money you will be placing in the envelope on the outside of the envelope.
4. Please include the permission note – without this, students are not permitted to attend excursions etc).
5. It is the parents’ responsibility to ensure the correct amount is placed in the envelope.
6. Please do not approach Reception to get change.

By doing this you are helping to contribute to the smooth running operations of the College.

We thank you in anticipation of your cooperation in this matter.
KIDS CORNER

Sudoku

1 2 3 4
4 2

Joke

What day do fish hate?

“fry-day”

http://www.activityvillage.co.uk/animaljokespart1.htm

PARENT TIPS

It is important for our children to stay hydrated during the school day. It is fine to include some juice or flavoured milk but, it is most important for children to drink water. The recommended amount of water for primary school aged children is between 500mls to 1 litre per day. It is very important that every child has a drink bottle containing water everyday with their lunch and recess. Studies have shown that an adequately hydrated child/student performs better during the school day and also in school exams.

Five More Ways to Praise Your Child..............................
* Remarkable
* Super Star
* I Knew You Could Do It
* I'm Proud of You
* Fantastic

P.S. Remember, a smile is worth a thousand words!

TERM 1 SPORT

Students have participated in the Oz Sport program this Term and are really enjoying the different activities. Here are some photos of the students having fun!

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2011 WORK EXPERIENCE

At the end of last year, our Year 10 students participated in Work Experience Week. It was gratifying to see that many of the students were able to go out and seek work experience with business and retail industries in their area.

Work experience is beneficial in that it allows the students to understand the difference between school and working as well as giving them an opportunity to learn new skills.

A number of retailers were extremely pleased with the students and offered them permanent positions. These same students are now in year 11 and are working part-time e.g. Christina Shenouda is working at Mt Druitt. Abaoub Wasif worked throughout the holidays and the employers could not praise him enough for the effort and sense of responsibility that he showed at all times.

Congratulations to all those who participated in Work Experience and we hope that this year we will be able to have more students participating and being role models to everyone in the working world.

Mrs. Valentina Nadj. (Career’s advisor)
YEAR 7 CAMP

Year 7 went on a camp with some of the High School teachers and Mr Stephenson. The kids had a great time and really enjoyed the different activities that were organised. Thank you to all the teachers who made the camp a success and I am sure the students are looking forward to the next camp already!

ANGELOS CHILD CARE

Open 7am till 6pm
REBATE AVAILABLE
Fees start as low as $11.00 per day
Including ALL meals
53-59 Methven street Mount Druitt
PH: 96753320
Web site: www.angelosccc.vpweb.com.au
Email: angelosccc@stbishoy.org.au

VACANCIES EVERY DAY FOR ALL AGES, ALL MEALS PROVIDED, FRIENDLY AND EXPERIENCED STAFF
OPEN 7AM TIL 6PM MONDAY TO FRIDAY

ADVERTISEMENTS

FIRST IN BEST DRESSED

There is a resort to rent at Forster 3.5 hour North of Sydney for a weekend $200.00 or the whole week for $600.00. Cleaning fees to be paid upon arrival ($39.00) flat rate.

This includes using all the facilities on site (tennis court, table tennis, lawn for a soccer games play area, giant trampoline swing for the kids) board games and balls also available, bike riding swimming pool, boat hiring for fishing or riding at a low rate half or full day.

The unit accommodates 6 people regardless of age. 2 bedroom fully equipped kitchen with microwave TV DVD BBQS in front of the units.
All units are one story level. Close to shops beaches and parks.

Camp site also available with your own tent and use the same facilities. $20.00 per day. Cleaning fees to be paid upon arrival ($39.00) flat rate.
Available during the whole year excluding school holidays.
For booking please ring Eva on 0405 180533 after 3.30pm
Dear Parents,

Greetings and blessings of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In light of some recent circumstances in the Vacation Care and due to the April break being during our Orthodox Easter services, we have decided to **not** run the Vacation Care during this coming April school holidays.

We will utilise this opportunity and time to refresh and replan the way forward with Archangel Michael & St Bishop Vacation Care.

We apologise for the inconvenience that we may have caused you, and we look forward to seeing you in the July 2012 break.

We do look forward to seeing you in the Parents Meeting on the 11th March 12:00pm in the main church.

With best regards,

Fr Gabriel Yassa

1st March 2012
INFORMATION REQUIRED TO HELP DETERMINE FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS FOR NON-GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS

PRIVACY NOTICE

This notice is from the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR), to advise you that DEEWR has requested your child’s school to provide the following three pieces of information to DEEWR:

- Students’ residential addresses (not student names)
- Students’ level of education (primary or secondary)
- Students’ boarding school status (boarders or day students)

DEEWR is bound by the provisions of the Privacy Act 1988 (the Privacy Act). Section 14 of the Privacy Act contains the Information Privacy Principles, which prescribe the rules for handling personal information about individuals. DEEWR will not use or disclose the information provided by your child's school other than in accordance with the Privacy Act.

Purpose of collection

DEEWR is collecting this personal information for the purpose of administering funding to non-government schools, and to determine payments of Australian Government assistance to non-government schools, including under relevant legislation such as the Schools Assistance Act 2008 (Cth). DEEWR will only use this information for this specific purpose.

Disclosure of information

The information provided by your child’s school may be disclosed by DEEWR to contractors working for DEEWR for the purposes of verifying the information. The contractors will not use the information for any other purpose.

DEEWR may also provide this information to the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA). ACARA will use this information in developing and evaluating Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage (ICSEA) formulas and school values.

In other instances the information will not be disclosed without your consent, unless where authorised or required by law.

Contact

If you have any questions regarding this Privacy Notice please phone the DEEWR SES Funding helpline on 1800 677 027 (free call) or send an e-mail to: SAAMailbox@deewr.gov.au.