Hello, everyone. Another year is nearly over. My thanks go to all the parents and students who attended the annual award ceremonies last week. It is always a source of great joy to celebrate the successes of our students. I was most heartened to see awards presented to a larger spread of children than was the case last year and I hope that this was indicative of much effort from many students. Many students who worked hard did not have their efforts formally recognised – not everyone can receive an award. To those students who did not receive an award, I encourage you to redouble your efforts and work even harder next year, remembering that the satisfaction of having done your best is the greatest reward of all.

This year, for the first time, the University of Western Sydney provided the College with a wonderful scholarship to be awarded to an outstanding Year 11 student. A $500 monetary allowance is provided to help with Year 12 expenses and a $20,000 tuition scholarship is provided to assist with university costs subject to the student enrolling in a course at the University of Western Sydney and achieving an ATAR of 90+. The College awarded the scholarship to the student with the highest level of academic performance who has expressed an intention to attend the University of Western Sydney. This year’s recipient was Sylvana Moussa. We are hoping to add further scholarships from other tertiary institutions in the future for the benefit of our student body.

The School Certificate results have arrived for Year 10 and once again demonstrated our students’ outstanding abilities in Science and Mathematics. Our English results were sound and our results in Geography and History were reflective of an attitude and application that is less than desired in this important area. I appeal to the parents of the College to understand the importance of these subjects and the skills that can be acquired through their study and to foster in your children a desire to succeed in these areas. Good habits learnt earlier in schooling are more readily applied in the senior years. Our performance in the Computing Skills test was sound, but I am sure that our students will benefit from the new facilities that will be available from next year.

We keep praying for the success of our HSC students, who should find out their results later this month. We look forward to our students’ achievements with some confidence, in the knowledge that they have worked well and have given their utmost. As will always be the case, there are a few students contemplating what might have been achieved if they had begun to work more strenuously slightly earlier in the piece. This is a timely reminder to all students that there is no moment like the present to begin working hard and to always do your best.

As stated on many occasions, no student has ever regretted working to the best of their ability. We have an obligation to use God’s gifts to the best of our ability. As stated previously, there will be plenty of room to expand, so let your friends and relatives who are yet to bring their children to the College know about the exciting new facilities and encourage them to consider St Bishoy Coptic Orthodox College as the school for their children. We hope that you are proud of the College’s achievements on many levels. We believe that we provide a sound spiritual, physical, cultural and academic education for our children. If you are happy with the College, tell me, so that we can continue to improve the educational offerings that we provide.

I hope that during the coming weeks that you will be reading more about our school in the various Coptic publications in an effort to attract more enrolments. We hope that our HSC results will be worth talking about. The unusually persistent rain has caused a few delays, but we still expect our buildings to be operational in the new school year, with the College having an additional 22 rooms, a new library and hall progressively coming on board. As stated previously, there will be plenty of room to expand, so let your friends and relatives who are yet to bring their children to the College know about the exciting new facilities and encourage them to consider St Bishoy Coptic Orthodox College as the school for their children. We hope that you are proud of the College’s achievements on many levels. We believe that we provide a sound spiritual, physical, cultural and academic education for our children. If you are happy with the College, tell others; if you are not happy with aspects of the College, tell me, so that we can continue to improve the educational offerings that we provide.

With God’s grace, this may be the last time that we have to post this safety message, as the construction phase of the College is nearly finished. My thanks go to all of the parents who have responded to our requests to improve the safety for children around the College, particularly in the afternoons. Please remember to reverse into parking spots in the afternoon, so that you may drive out. Your patience during the construction phase is appreciated. Let us maintain our vigilance to ensure the safety of our children. The car park area will be redesigned in the New Year to dramatically improve the safety for our children and to aid the ease of drop-off and pick-up.
We have had a number of very successful overnight stay excursions for our senior primary students and our high school students this year. The recent Year 5 and 6 Canberra excursion was a great success and was made possible through the generous support of the Federal Government’s PACER funding. This funding allows us to reduce the costs of excursions to Canberra and supplement expenses for families in financial difficulty. We thank the government for their support. My hope is that we will be able to expand our program next year to include a number of camps. The practice of regular camps for the high school was discontinued due to lack of support. These camps offer many valuable learning and life experiences. Parents will be surveyed in the New Year to gauge the level of support for the reinstatement of camps into our programs.

Finally, I must give thanks to the volunteers who contribute so much to the College. Your witness of service in action is most powerful. Thank you to the parents who have entrusted their dear children to our care. Your support of the College is pivotal. Thank you to the children who have contributed so much; remember that you are God’s children. Thank you to the staff of the College. You are dedicated, resourceful and committed. We are blessed by your presence.

Have a safe and enjoyable holiday and a happy and holy Christmas Season. I pray that God continues to bless our College Community and all of its endeavours.

Rob Stephenson
Principal

**AWARDS**

**Kindergarten**: Miriam Tadory, Mark Makram, Jennifer Ibrahim and Jeremiah Mikhail

**Year 1**
Joseph Awadalla
Rafe Stewart
Botros Mikhail
Juliana Andrawis

**Year 2O**
Joyce Todary
Kirolos Georgi
Mehratty Michael
George Sideros
Philomena Daoud

**Year 2R**
Mary Yassa
Youhanna Yowakem
Nahren Mikhail
Jayson Ibrahim

**Year 3**
Macrina Girges
Bishoy Bakhoum
Daniella Wasif
Susan Taktak

**Year 4**
Veronica Pelipos
Peter Ayad
Abraam Boktor
Daniella Gobran

**Year 5A**
Yasmin Girgis
Michael Daoud
Yostina Boktor
Maina Awad

**Year 5AG**
Monica Girgis
Elaria Hanna
Andrew Guirguis
Andrew Habashy

**Year 5AG**
Yostina Medhat Hanna
Mardeen Mikhail
Angela Sideros
Nagi Dimitri

**Year 6**
Joe Habashy
Marian Morkos
Natalie Saad
Youssef Yowakem

**Pen Licences**: Congratulations to Eleiah Tanyous (5AG), Haziem Fahmi (5AG) and Bishoy Boulos (5AG).

**KIDS CORNER**

**Sudoku**

**Joke**

Where does a lamb get his hair cut?

**PARENT TIP**

We all want our kids to be healthy and it is important that exercise plays an important part in our children’s lives. As much as they enjoy playing computer games and video games, we also need to emphasise how important it is to be active. Take the holidays as an opportunity to promote a healthy lifestyle and adjust children’s diets with low sugar food. It is a good idea to have take away foods as a treat every once and a while as opposed to an everyday meal. Remember: A healthy body is a healthy mind.
STAGE 2 EXCURSION

On the 18th of November Years 3 and 4 went to laser zone skirmish for their excursion. First Year 3 walked to laser zone and the person in charge instructed them to go in the room. It was dark and their vests were glowing. They started to shoot Mr. Stoneburner. It was so cool! After they had finished they went to a park and ate their food.

**IT WAS SO FUN AND EXCITING!**

Then Year 4 went to laser zone skirmish. When they arrived they got told what the rules were. Then they went in and started shooting each other with lasers. It was so awesome! After they finished they went to an open area and sat down to eat.

**IT WAS THE BEST EXCURSION EVER!**

By: Demiana Said and Bishoy Bakhoum

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PRINCIPAL’S BREAKFAST

Congratulations to the infant students who achieved the Gold badge this year. They attended the Principal’s breakfast and enjoyed a great breakfast with Father Botros, Mrs Awadalla the student’s parents and their teachers. A huge thank you to the Parents and Friends Committee who organised the morning.

YEAR 6 GRADUATION

On the 15th of November, Year 6 had their Graduation Ceremony. It was a wonderful evening experienced by all. We were blessed with the presence of Father Botros, Mr Stephenson, our principal, teachers, students and parents. We enjoyed a great meal and the children presented wonderful slide shows reflecting their memories shared throughout the year. I wish them all the very best next year.

Mr Popovski

UNIFORM

**New Sports Uniform Available**

New sports uniforms have arrived. They will be available in January in the New Year. The old sports uniform will still be sold at half price, and continue to be sold until 2012. The old uniform will remain as part of St Bishoy’s uniform until 2012.

At the start of 2013 school year, we will expect students be wearing the new sports uniform.

The Uniform Shop will be opened on the following Saturdays in January: 15th, 22nd and 29th from 6.30pm to 9pm.
CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Father Botros for his ordination anniversary that was celebrated for his 13 years as a priest. The children all celebrated his anniversary and asked his questions regarding priesthood. We also had a cake…yum!

HIGH SCHOOL

Love...

Love a desert of free air
The caring of a single tear
The light of my darkness
The door to my heart
The changing of my life
It cries when I cry
The strength of my strong hold
The foundation of my long hope
The regret to let it go

I look through the forest where goblins fool
Where is my love I wonder out my door?
The struggle of my foundation which is hard to hold
My secret to never let go people see but my coveted show
I am to have one to share the love with is dear
For my love see it bound with one which I believe
For marriage is not a pain
The world it's the love in which they believe
Love is my shield
For my heart will not be reviewed naked
My love will take its place
The love in which I speak is my God who retains me for
Love is (HIM)……..

By Monroe Collins
If you would like to advertise your business, the school will be more than happy to advertise for it in the school newsletter each week. It will cost $25 per term or $100 for the year and we will provide a tax deductable receipt. The advertisements for this week are located on the last page of the newsletter.
FIRST IN BEST DRESSED

There is a resort to rent at Forster 3.5 hour North of Sydney for a weekend $150.00 or the whole week for $300.00 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. $15.00 per day Available during the month of Sep., Oct., Nov., Dec., Feb. excluding school holiday

For booking please ring Eva on 0405 180533 after 3.30pm

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**SDS Driving school**

Special offer: $30 per lesson for the first four, get the fifth lesson for **Free**

HURRY!!!!!! Make sure you don’t miss it...BOOK YOUR LESSON NOW!

COMFORT... SUCCESS... SAFETY... enjoy the new Honda Civic

For more information don’t hesitate to contact Gehane on 0434 109 661

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**Mona’s Maths Tutoring**

Years 7–10 (All Levels)

Years 11–12 (General, Mathematics & Ex 1)

**Years of Experience**