It was truly inspiring. I know that these sentiments were shared by all that I spoke with at the time. My thanks go to Tasoni Erini and Tasoni Mary for all the hard work that went into the preparations and, of course, we must thank the children involved for their dedication, sacrifice and application and for sensing like angels. In addition to the hymnology competition, our primary students were also involved in the Combined Coptic College’s Public Speaking Competition. All of our students performed with distinction, with a number of students receiving major awards. Everyone who competes in these competitions is a winner. More importantly, it was a wonderful event characterised by good sportsmanship and great camaraderie between the three Coptic colleges.

The first debating competition between the three colleges has concluded and has proved to be a valuable addition to the co-curricular activities of the colleges. Over the course of the competition significant improvements were evident. The competition provided valuable opportunities for our students to develop the ability to speak in front of an audience, think on their feet and argue cogently. These skills will have many applications across many areas of the curriculum. We are hopeful that in 2011 the competition will expand to allow students from Years 5-11 to compete. Participation in a range of activities is a major advantage for students applying for entry into the more competitive university courses. A number of excursions have taken place recently. The importance of these excursions should not be underestimated. They provide a breadth of experience that underpins learning and responses across a range of key learning areas and have a significant role to play in maintaining enthusiasm for learning. Our students have received praise for their behaviour and participation at all the venues they have attended. The Commonwealth Government actively supports excursions to Canberra through their 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. Our Year 12 students are now working towards their HSC examinations that begin early in Term 4; please keep them in your thoughts. We have received confirmation of funding for the purchase of 47 new computers for the College, with further funding to follow as the College expands. Please continue to pray for the College’s success with our current funding applications. The power of prayer should never be underestimated. We are hoping to receive sufficient funds to not only complete all the buildings, but also to remodel the playground as well, upon the removal of all of the portable classrooms. Remember that the continued growth of the College and the services that we can offer our children is very much based on attracting more students to the College. Our new facilities will allow us to comfortably provide for many more students. Our College Community are our best advertisers. Please let your family and friends know about the work being done at the College and encourage them to bring their children to experience the benefits of a Coptic education. My requests from the last newsletter bear repeating. During the construction phase, parking and drop-offs will continue to be an issue. I ask all parents to take particular care and follow the instructions of any teachers who may be on duty. Cars on school grounds at awkward times will always be a problem. Where ever possible, deliveries and movements will be restricted to times where students are not in the playground, but, where this is not an option, all vehicle movements are to be at walking pace, with a teacher leading the movement. The College handbook has been changed to reflect this procedure. In the morning, please use the lower car park as a drop-off zone. If you must park, please park near the bottom gate. Always park rear to the kerb so that you drive out. This dramatically improves safety for our children. Please vacate the premises as quickly as is possible in the drop-off times. Your patience and understanding during the construction phase is appreciated.

NEW PICK-UP ARRANGEMENTS FOR K-6

From tomorrow, Wednesday 15th September, pick-up for our primary students will be from their classroom from 3:00-3:10pm and from theirs or a neighbouring classroom between 3:10-3:30pm. During this time Kindergarten and Year 1 will be paired, as will the two Year 2 classes, Years 3 and 4, and Years 5 and 6. We request that every effort is made to pick the children up before 3:30pm. Where this has not occurred, any remaining children will be moved to the reception area.

As always, know that you and your families are in my prayers and I pray that God continues to bless our College Community.

Rob Stephenson
Principal
PRIMARY PICK UP

Please note: Primary students will remain in classrooms from 3:00-3:30pm under teacher supervision for parents/guardians to pick them up. You will be required to sign out before taking your child. This will begin as of Wednesday the 15th of September in order to ensure student safety. Thank you for your cooperation.

AWARDS

Kindergarten: Adriana Khalil, Jennifer Ibrahim, Jeremiah Roffael and Christopher Sidaros.

Year 1
Carolyn Galdas
Botros Michael
Joseph Awadalla
Barbara Said

Year 2O
Stella Yousif
Mariam Ghannami
Sarvpreet Singh
Mark Zaki

Year 2R
Marina Guirguis
Eliana Youssef
Pavlee Butros
Philopater Shaker

Year 3
Bishoy Bakhoum
Daniel Sawiha
Macrina Girgis
Jerome Yassa

Year 4
Damiana Said
Fibronia Abdelshahid
Peter Ayad
Abanoub Daoud

Year 5AW
Michael Daoud
Olivia Latai
Andrew Riad
Yustina Metry

Year 5AG
Haziem Fahmi
Augustinious Shenouda
Mardeen Mikhael
Ghion Kebede

Year 6
Toufic Maimoun
Youssef Yowakem
Christine Galdas
Annemarie Hanna

Bronze: Infants
Kashana Nolan (2R)
Stephanous Escandar (2R)

Primary
Mariam Morkos (6P)
Elleanor Yassa (5AG)
Monica Saad (6P)
Christine Galdas (6P)

SILVER!!!!!
What an amazing achievement!!! Well done to Christopher Sidaros (K), Tatiana Salama (K), Augustine Girgis (K), Jeremiah Mikhail (K), Keriakos Mikhail (K), Augustine Guirguis (K), Abdelmasieh Fakri (1J), Emmanuel Pelipos (1J), Marina Guirguis (2R), Sean Reddy (2R), Philomena Daoud (2O), Ellyana Yassa (5AG) and Eleiah Tanyous (5AG), Annasimone Wanis (6P), Annemarie Hanna (6P).

GOLD!!!!!!!
Congratulations to these people: George Sidaros (2O), Matthew Tadros (2R), Angela Sidaros (5AG), Lydia Bishay (5AW), Phebie Haroun (5AG).

Pen Licence
Wow!! Well done to Daniel Wasif (5AW) for receiving his pen licence.

UNSW COMPETITIONS

Well done to all the students who participated in the UNSW Writing and Science Competitions.

These are the students who achieved a Credit in the UNSW Writing Competition
- Bishoy Bakhoum (Year 3)
- Marina Hanna (Year 6)

These are the students who achieved a Credit in the UNSW Science Competition
- Maria Philopos (Year 4)
- Demiana Said (Year 4)
- Elaria Hanna (Year 5)
- Marina Hanna (Year 6)

FUNDRAISING

Every Thursday, the High School students will be fundraising during recess. A range of snack food will be for sale to all students (eg. cupcakes, jelly cups, popcorn etc…) All items will be priced between $0.50c and $1 each. Please support the students for their great contributions.

COLES SPORTS FOR SCHOOLS

Please bring all your vouchers that you receive when you shop at Coles from the 2nd of September to the 31st of October, 2010, and place it in the box placed outside the school office. The more vouchers we collect, the more sport gear we will get! Come on kids, collect those vouchers 😊
ST MARY CELEBRATION
The college held a celebration for our Mother St Mary on Monday the 23rd of August. The event took place in the English church with both Primary and High School students. It was great to see the students involved and singing beautiful hymns.

Well done to everyone who took part and Thank you to all our students for celebrating our Mother St Mary.

BOOK WEEK
Week 6 was book week! What an amazing week, the students had a great week filled with stories, books, a play and a Book Parade. Well done to all the students who participated and a huge congratulations to the people who helped organise the week. Here are some pictures we took.

KINDERGARTEN EXCURSION
On Tuesday 31st August Kindergarten went on their first excursion to Featherdale Wildlife Park at Doonside. They had a very enjoyable experience touching different animals, feeding the goats, walking around with the emu's and watching a wildlife show. They also asked the wildlife staff a lot of interesting and clever questions about the habitats of different animals. Overall, they had a fantastic day!

Miss Hanna (K)
YEAR ONE EXCURSION
On the 31st of August 1J went by bus for an excursion to Blacktown City Library. It was fun and we watched a reader’s theatre named "The Bear and the Chook". On the way back we had ice cream thanks to Mrs. Sayegh and Mrs. Said.
Mrs. John (1J)

STAGE 3 IMAX EXCURSION
On Tuesday the 24th of August, Years 5 and 6 went on an excursion to the LG IMAX theatre in Darling Harbour. It is the world’s biggest IMAX theatre.
When we got to Darling Harbour, we stayed inside until 11:40am. Then we went into the theatre. They gave us 3D glasses and we went inside. There were about 5 other schools. We took up 61 seats. When the movie ‘Under the Sea’ started, everyone went really quiet. The movie was about the lives of fish and their predators. Parts like when the sharks were coming at you scared a lot of the kids. When the movie finished, a lot of people felt dizzy. We walked out then walked through a shopping centre to go back to the school buses. That day was really fun and we know that a lot of people really enjoyed it.
By Natalie Saad and Annemarie Hanna (6P)

HIGH SCHOOL CAMP
At 6.30 am on Thursday the 19th of August, 40 students from years 9, 10 and 11 were on our way for an overnight camp to Canberra! We are looking forward to the unfolding of unforgettable experience and a gathering of lifelong memories.
Our first stop was Questacon, where the free fall was the highlight. The war memorial was an eye opener. The exhibits and the presentations left us in awe of the fallen soldiers and made us acutely aware and grateful for the sacrifices of the martyrs.
The evening at the cabins was a blast. We did not stop eating and had heaps of fun just being the teenagers that we are. The dining room was awesome as was the chicken and the salads. The next day we were enamored by the New Parliament house. With the federal election just 2 days away, we had loads of questions for our guide, who answered us brilliantly. We loved the interactive slides at the Old Parliament House museum. The legal studies students were very excited to see some of the work on ‘women’ and the related legislations.
We would like to acknowledge the funding received from PACER (Parliament and Civics Education Rebate)
Rebka and Susan (Year 9)
Prayers for Kiesha

Nikolaos Stavrou

The Mt Druitt community will gather this Sunday to pray for missing six-year-old girl Kiesha Abrahams.

St Bishoy Orthodox Church, just streets away from where Kiesha was reported missing, will host the service at 3.00pm.

Father Gabriel Yassas told the Mt Druitt-St Marys Standard that everyone was invited, regardless of their religious beliefs.

‘This is now a community matter as the service is not a denominational issue – it’s open for the whole community,’ he said.

‘We’ve been praying for this young girl in our service and it will continue, as we do the something that will involve the community.

‘One parish comes from the Mt Druitt area and they’re obviously upset about what’s happened and are keen to do something about it.

‘We hope for the best in this difficult situation and will pray for the safe return of this child.’

He stressed the importance of community solidarity and was heartened by the show of support for Kiesha.

‘We usually pray when we are stuck – this service will be an open time to pray.

‘It will be a simple, basic time to ask the Lord for answers,’ he said.

Church function organiser Adel Shenouda maintained the point that ‘the church doors are open to everyone’ on Sunday.

‘Everybody is free to come where she lived, so we feel obliged to do something and pray for her safe return.

‘That’s what we do anyway in our outreach service – and we want the whole community to come and join us,’ he said.

The service will run for five minutes from 3.00pm, with coffee and tea to follow.

Meanwhile, forensic squad investigators are continuing their hunt for answers, with officers this week knocking on streets near the Woodstock Ave home where she was reported missing on August 1.

Last week’s search of Strangways Reserve in Doonside failed to turn up clues in the Kiesha case, but did solve the mystery of missing Carlileinfeld woman Kristi McDougall, whose remains were found at the site.

A police spokesman said a shower had been found at the reserve, but DNA testing revealed nothing relevant to Kiesha’s disappearance.

Community unites to pray

Susan Liu

They come from far and wide to pray at St Bishoy Coptic Orthodox Church for missing six-year-old girl Kiesha Abrahams on Sunday.

The church is close to Kiesha’s Woodstock Ave home.

About 150 members of the parish and the wider community attended the special service.

Father Antonios Kallass told the Mt Druitt-St Marys Standard he was humbled by the sign of community spirit and hope.

‘Everybody imagines themselves in the parents’ place. It’s a horrible feeling but it’s nice for everyone to express their hope,’ he said.

‘It was a lovely chance for people from different backgrounds and faiths to get together.’

A letter from Kiesha’s family to the congregation was read aloud during the service.

‘Thank you for your prayers and support,’ the letter stated.

‘Although we are not strong enough to attend, we are very grateful.

A minute of silent prayer was held for Kiesha and people were asked to pray to ‘-guard Kiesha, bless her and keep her family and her loved ones’.

Father Antonios encouraged the congregation to think of Kiesha’s family.

‘They must be going through terrible anxiety. It’s been weeks now, but his heart goes out to them,’ he said.

‘As we think of Kiesha and her family, we pray for them and hope they have some comfort in this difficult time.’

A touching hymn of hope was sung by Silvana, a young member of the parish, whose voice echoed through the church.

Bidwill residents Diana and Lester Pasley said they decided to attend the service after they read about it in the Standard.

‘I know how the family are feeling and I feel for them. Rocky Hill grandparents Charlie and Carmen Quattromani were among the last to leave the church after the service.

‘We have kids and grandchildren. It’s so sad,’ Mrs Quattromani said. ‘She is such a beautiful child.

‘The recent police search at Strangways Reserve in Doonside failed to shed light on Kiesha’s fate.

Invitation to candlelight vigil

This public is invited to a candlelight prayer service for Kiesha Abrahams outside her Mt Druitt home at 7pm on Friday.

Those attending are asked to bring a white candle with them. Bidwill resident and friend of the Abrahams family Alison Anderson said the invitation was open to everyone.

‘It’s not knowing that’s hard. We don’t know if she’s still alive. We don’t know if she’s still with us,” Ms Anderson said Kiesha’s mother Kristi was ‘holding up as good as can be expected.’

‘She’s got two other kids she needs to care for so she’s staying strong for them,’ she said.

Mt Druitt-St Marys Standard August 25th, 2010

Mt Druitt-St Marys Standard September 1st, 2010
COPTIC COMPETITION

On Monday the 30th of August, our students from years three to year nine went to St Mary and St Mina’s church in Bexley to perform in the annual Coptic Hymnology competition. The schools competing were St Bishoy, St Mary and St Mina and St Mark’s. Primary started first with their hymns then high school. We had a break then went in the church to see the final results. Primary won first place, in primary solos years 3 and 4 won third place and years 5 and 6 won third place. Our high school group came first and solos year 7 and 8 came second while year 9 solos came first! In the group hymn, St Bishoy came first! It was awesome and fun, we had a great time. This is an experience; we would love to do it again.

Richard Habashy (6P)

FATHER’S DAY

On Friday the 3rd of September, we celebrated Father’s Day in the church. It was great to see some of our father’s come and share in the celebration. During this time, it is important we remember our fathers here with us but also our heavenly father, God. It was great to see all the students singing for the dad’s! Thank you to Mrs Kelly and Mr Popovski for organising the morning.

MARKET DAY 2010

Sausage Sizzle Only $3.00
Soft Drinks at the low price of $1.00
Fairy floss at $1.00
ICE BLOCKS CHEAP 50C

ONLY ON THURSDAY 23/09/10
**OCTOBER 2010 REGISTRATION FORMS ARE DUE BACK NOW!**

October VC registration forms are available from school office from Thursday 19th August 2010 and are due back no later than Sunday 5th September 2010.

**VC OFFICE HOURS:** Monday and Thursday 9.15am till 4.30pm  
Tuesday 9.15am till 3pm  Or by appointment

**October 2010 VC Dates:**  
Week 1 = Monday 27th September 2010 till Friday 1st October 2010  
Week 2 = Tuesday 5th October 2010 till Friday 8th October 2010  
Week 3 = Monday 11th October 2010

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<th>Week 1</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 27th Sept</td>
<td>Creative Cookies &amp; Muffins</td>
<td>In Centre</td>
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<td>Y3&amp;4 Camp at Long Point</td>
<td>Out</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Complete attached Camp form, return to VC with yellow rego and payment</td>
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<td>Tues 28th Sept</td>
<td>Craft with Eugenie</td>
<td>In Centre</td>
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<td>Y3&amp;4 Camp at Long Point</td>
<td>Out</td>
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<td>Wed 29th Sept</td>
<td>Don Bosco</td>
<td>Out</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thur 30 Sept</td>
<td>K-Y4 Starkids and McDonalds @ Olympic Park</td>
<td>Out</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Y5&amp;6 Archery @ Olympic Park</td>
<td>Out</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 1st Oct</td>
<td>“Giant Games” Spectacular</td>
<td>In Centre</td>
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<th>Week 2</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 4th Oct</td>
<td>Public Holiday – VC Centre Closed</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Y5&amp;6 Camp to Long Point</td>
<td>Out</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Complete attached Camp form, return to VC with yellow rego and payment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 5th Oct</td>
<td>K-Y4 Tik ToCs Entertainments Centre</td>
<td>Out</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Y5&amp;6 Camp to Long Point</td>
<td>Out</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 6th Oct</td>
<td>Indian Culture &amp; Entertainment</td>
<td>In Centre</td>
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<td>Thur 7th Oct</td>
<td>K-Y5 Kites - Make, decorate and fly</td>
<td>In Centre</td>
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<td>Y6 Graduation and “My Restaurant”</td>
<td>In Centre</td>
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<td>Fri 8th Oct</td>
<td>K-Y4 Monkey Mania</td>
<td>Out</td>
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<td>Y5&amp;6 Roller Blading</td>
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<th>Week 3</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 19th July</td>
<td>Movies and Munchies</td>
<td>In Centre</td>
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**New Enrolments:** Please contact me on 0416051487 to complete the necessary forms as soon as possible.

**PAYMENT OF FEES:** Prompt payment of fees is appreciated. **Outstanding fees must be paid before we can process the current VC registration form.** Please speak to me if you are having problems.

For your convenience you can pay directly into our account, please ensure you include the child’s first and last names as a reference.

- **Bank:** Commonwealth Bank  
- **Branch:** Marrickville  
- **BSB:** 062199  
- **Account:** 10314179  
- **Account Name:** Archangel Michael & St Bishoy Coptic Orthodox Church Vacation Care

We appreciate your commitment to the ongoing improvements at our Centre.

Annie Massey  
Coordinator (Mob: 0416051487)

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**ADVERTISEMENTS**

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 deductible receipt. The advertisements for this week are located on the last page of the newsletter.
**ADVERTISEMENTS**

**FIRST IN BEST DRESSED**
There is a resort to rent at Forster 3.5 hour North of Sydney for a weekend $100.00 or the whole week for $250.00 cleaning fees to be paid upon arrival ($30.00) 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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**LP 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