Kindergarten 2017

Vacancies still exist available for Kindergarten 2017. If you have any friends or relatives interested in enrolling their children, please ask them to contact the Primary School Secretary for an application form. The School also has some vacancies in some of the other grades. Any interested friends, neighbours or relatives, can also contact the Primary Secretary for an Enrolment Form or they can download it from our website www.steuphemia.nsw.edu.au. Interested parents wishing to tour the School can contact the Primary Secretary for an appointment with the Director of the Junior School.

Anaphylaxis Alert

To ensure the safety of the students with anaphylaxis at our School, all parents are reminded that we are a nut free school. When packing your children’s lunches please do not include the following foods: peanut butter, nutella, muesli bars that contain nuts or anything else that has traces of nuts. Please remind students that they are NOT to share food with their friends. Even the slightest contact with the sufferer’s skin may be life threatening for some students.

School Fees

A reminder that School fees must be paid prior to the commencement of each term. If there are any parents who have not yet paid, please make arrangements to do so as soon as possible. (Last day for 2016 is Wednesday 7 December). Thank you to the parents who are up to date with their payments. Parents who have provided the School with their email address will now receive their statements by email, starting from this month. If you have not provided your email, you will continue to receive your statements via mail to your home address.

Sport/Bus Transport Levy

Any outstanding bus fees for Term 4 Sport for Years 3-6 must be paid to the class teacher by Friday 4 November, 2016. The cost for this term is $30. Students who have not paid this amount by the due date will not be going away for sport.

Kindergarten 2017 - Orientation Day

On Tuesday 8 November, St Euphemia College will be holding its Kindergarten Orientation for the newest members joining our School community in 2017. Orientation Day will begin at 9:30am in the New School Hall and will include performances from the current Kindergarten classes as well as a tour of the School. Morning tea will be provided for the parents/caregivers and their children. After morning tea, the new students will have the opportunity to join the current Kindergarten students in their classes for some enjoyable learning activities. We look forward to seeing all our new students and their parents/caregivers on the day.

Kindergarten Transition Program

Our Kindergarten Transition Program is held in Term 4 over three weeks. Prospective students attend these visits to familiarise themselves with the School, allowing them to experience the School organisation and routine. During the Transition visits, the students will be visiting the Kindergarten classrooms while the parents will take part in scheduled meetings held in the Conferencing Room, located next to the Primary Library. The parents and their children are to enter through the Stacey St entrance. These gates will be opened at 1:40pm.

The Transition Program is scheduled to take place on the following dates: Thursday 10 November, Thursday 17 November and Thursday 24 November from 1:45 to 2:45pm.
Selective Schools Results 2016
Congratulations to our Year 6 students Chrissy Griffith, James Klianis and Anastasia Lamprinos in being successful in your Selective School tests. Congratulations also to Pamela Casiou, Anastacia Kyriakidis and Styliani Koliris for securing a reserve list placement. We are extremely proud of you all and wish you the very best as you continue your studies in our High School.

St Euphemia College Preparatory School 2017
St Euphemia College is now gauging interest into the possible opening of our own Preparatory School starting in 2017. If your child turns 4 in 2017 and you are interested, please fill out and return the form that the students brought home at the end of October. If you are in need of a form, copies are available at the Front Office. Please note: a minimum of 2 days attendance per weeks is required.

Remembrance Day – Friday 11 November
At the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918, an armistice was reached which signalled the end of one of the most horrific events in the world’s history: World War 1. Remembrance Day is recognised globally each year to remind the generations of the futility of war and the devastation and loss that is synonymous with it. May we too, in our comfort and peace, remember those who bravely fought for freedom, independence and human rights.

Kindergarten Graduation Ceremony
Parents and friends are invited to attend the Kindergarten Graduation Ceremony. This special event will be held on Friday 25 November starting at 9:00am. During the ceremony the Kindergarten students will be escorted by their Year 6 buddies and will receive their Kindergarten Certificates for completing their first year of ‘big school’.

Christmas Concert
This special event will be held on Tuesday 29 November starting at 1:00pm. During the afternoon, all the classes from Kindergarten to Year 6 will entertain us with a collection of delightful performances. We invite all our parents/caregivers to attend and enjoy an afternoon which I’m sure will showcase some excellent talent. Parents and friends are invited to attend the Primary School Christmas Concert.

K-6 Christmas Dance
St Euphemia College will be having a Christmas Dance for Years K-6 on Wednesday 30 November in the school hall. The cost of the dance is $5 and includes entry, snacks and a drink. Money is payable to the class teacher by Friday 25 November. The dance will be split into sessions as follows:

K-2: Periods 1 & 2
3-4: Periods 3 & 4
5-6: Periods 5 & 6

Students can come dressed in Christmas outfits or costumes! A separate flyer will also be sent home closer to the date.

6th Greek Student Film Festival
It is with great pride that we announce that St Euphemia College has participated in the 6th Greek Student Film Festival for 2016 for the first time. Stay tuned for more information and results from the competition.

Excursions...

Kindergarten
On Wednesday 30 November, Kindergarten will be going on excursion to Monkey Mania in Bankstown. The cost of the excursion is $35 including lunch, payable to the class teacher by Friday 25 November. Students will depart school at 10:30 am and be back by 3 pm. Students are to wear their summer sports uniform. In the event of wet weather the excursion will proceed as planned.
**Years 1 & 2 Theatre Excursion**  
On Friday 25 November, Year 1 and Year 2 will attend the performance ‘Twas the Night Before Christmas’ at the Sydney Opera House. The cost of the excursion is $40 payable to the class teacher by Friday 18 November 2016. Students will need to bring a packed lunch, including a water bottle. They are to wear their summer uniform including their hat. **In the event of wet weather, the excursion will proceed as planned.**

**Year 1**  
On Thursday 10 November, Year 1 will be going on an excursion to Sea Life Aquarium in Darling Harbour. The cost of the excursion is $35 payable to the class teacher by Friday 4 November. Students will need to bring their own packed recess and lunch as well as a water bottle. They are to wear their full summer sports uniform and bring their hat. **In the event of wet weather, the excursion will proceed as planned.**

**Year 2**  
The Year 2 excursion to Taronga Zoo has been rescheduled for Wednesday 2 November 2016. Students will need to bring a packed lunch, including a water bottle. They are to wear their sports uniform including their hat. **In the event of wet weather, the excursion will be cancelled.**

**Years 3 & 5 ‘Cares’ Excursion**  
This term, Years 3 and 5 will be attending the CARES – Bicycle Safety program situated in Bass Hill. The program is run by NSW Police and will assist in teaching students how to ride on a bicycle safely. The students will participate in a classroom session, a skills track session and a road track session. On the road track, students will follow a police officer around on bikes, for a few laps. The students will be separated into groups based on riding ability upon entry. The program caters for all degrees of riding experience including non-riders.

**Year 3: Wednesday 23 November 2016**  
**Year 5: Thursday 24 November 2016**

The cost of the excursion is $15 per child.

All students need to be at school by 8.30am as the bus will depart 8.35am. Students will be returning to school by bus at 3.10pm. Students will be required to wear their full summer sports uniform. Girls must make sure their hair is tied back in a low ponytail (to ensure proper fitting of the helmet). **In the event of wet weather the excursion will be cancelled.**

Students are required to bring a packed recess, lunch and water bottle in a small backpack. Also, their own helmet (if they have one) by Friday 18 November 2016 as CARES will be visiting our school for a brief introduction prior to the excursion.

**Years 3 & 4**  
On Wednesday 7 December, Year 3 and 4 will be going on an excursion to AMF Bowling in Liverpool for bowling and skirmish. The cost of the excursion is $40 and includes lunch. Students are to bring their own packed recess, including a water bottle and be dressed in their summer sports uniform, including their hat. **In the event of wet weather, the excursion will proceed as planned.** Money is payable to the class teacher by Friday 2 December.

**Years 5 & 6**  
On Wednesday 7 December, Year 5 and 6 will be going on an excursion to Kingpin Darling Harbour for bowling and skirmish. The cost of the excursion is $40 payable to the class teacher by Friday 2 December. Students will need to bring their own packed recess, including a water bottle and a packed lunch if they do not wish to eat McDonalds. They are to wear their full summer sports uniform and bring their hat. **In the event of wet weather, the excursion will proceed as planned.**
Last month...

Debating
On Tuesday 18 October, our Year 6 debating team visited Danebank Anglican Girls School for the 2016 Gala Day. Students took part in a range of debates for a variety of topics. Our first team who versed Danebank the hosting school, had to prepare for the topic that “Australia is the best country in which to live”. Our team had to argue the negative side for this topic. After much hard work and a lot of effort, they celebrated with a win. Our second team had to prepare for the topic “Computer skills are more important than handwriting”. Again our team came up with some convincing arguments and proved too strong for the competing school. Congratulations to all the students who took part in this day and thank you to all the teachers who guided and mentored the Year 6 students for the debating competition.

Bankstown Library Book Week Winner—Michael Kydoniefs
Congratulations to Michael Kydoniefs of class 2A for winning the K-2 entry in the Book Week 2016 Drawing Competition for Bankstown Library. Michael’s drawing has now been added to a special booklet made by the library. Congratulations, Michael!

‘OXI’ Day Commemorations
Thank you to the students and teachers who represented our School for the 28 October Commemorations. During the service at our parish church of St Euphemia Bankstown, students read poems which were significant to the importance of this day and listened to speeches outlining the events of 28 October 1941.

Ms Xanthoudakis
Director of Junior School
The Greek Australian VEMA

What it meant for me to attend Greek Orthodox College in Australia

BY ANTONIA KOMARKOWSKI

My schooling life at a Greek Orthodox College began 12 years ago, in January of 2003. I was five years old at the time and so excited and ‘ready for big school’. I even told my parents they didn’t need to hold my hand or walk me through the gates as I was ready to enter the school grounds like a ‘big girl’.

Last year (2015) I graduated from St Euphemia College, and now as a first year student at the University of Sydney, I can sit back and reflect on my childhood education, which offered English curriculum, whilst also teaching aspects of our Greek Orthodox culture.

This special experience, I wholeheartedly believe enhanced my identity as an Australian born Greek.

Firstly, I believe language is a fundamental part of any culture and learning Greek allowed me to better understand so many other aspects of Greek customs, society and people. As part of the school curriculum, I learnt how to speak, read and write in Modern Greek as lessons in language were taught three times a week.

We also performed plays, songs and recited poems in Greek—especially for major celebrations including the 25th of March, Battle of Crete and Justice for Cyprus Remembrance Day.

While learning the Greek language, I was also taught about important dates in Greece’s history—such as the 25th of March 1821 being a double celebration. Commemorating ‘The Annunciation of the Theotokos’ and the beginning of the Greek Revolution—when Greece declared its independence.

All Greek Orthodox schools around Sydney celebrate this important day by attending church service and marching in the Annual Greek Schools’ Independence Day March. For major school events they all unite and attend church service at the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia, in Redfern.

Greek dancing lessons in primary school were also a mandatory activity and took place for an hour each week. It wasn’t just the steps and dances, which were taught—It was more about the history and words to the songs we learnt, which helped with my Greek vocabulary. We also had several opportunities throughout the year to showcase our dancing skills—including the school fete, annual school ball, and feast days.

For me, important to my Greek Orthodox background, is my religion.

Spiritual religion lessons were also included in our curriculum and when church was open in the mornings before school started, I would light a candle. If there was a service, I would sit and listen for a few minutes, before class started.

Our morning began with a prayer, and the concluding afternoon classes finished with prayer.

Every fortnight of a Thursday morning, high school students would hear the Liturgy in English and were able to partake in Holy Communion, if prepared.

We were taught to understand the meaning of preparing ourselves for ‘Kionia’ (holy communion) and also learnt the reason we kneel during liturgy, when praying with the priest.

Furthermore, during our religion lessons we learnt we were “all brothers and sisters in God’s eyes”, and it definitely felt true as I made friends at school that I know will be dear friends for life. They are like my family and even though we have graduated and now studying at different universities, we are still close.

Learning about my Greek Orthodox religion and having priests guide us in our daily schooling lives felt special, as they were always there to help us with any matter.

It must be noted that students who attend Greek Orthodox schools, are not just Greek, but come from various cultural and linguistic backgrounds and we were all taught to strive for academic excellence, spiritual growth and positive Christian values. We were encouraged to respect ourselves, fellow peers, teachers and everyone—regardless of race and religion. And even though it may not be for everybody—reflecting back, I am appreciative and grateful that I was a student at a Greek Orthodox school.

To learn about our Hellenism was a gift, and for it to be a part of my childhood education—for me—is priceless.

I enjoyed being taught the Greek language, history, Arts, culture and I have a desire to learn more, which is why I am majoring in Modern Greek from Sydney University.

I want to be able to pass this gift on to future generations to my children and my children’s children—so they can learn about their beautiful and rich Hellenic ancestry and to be just as proud as I am of being a Greek Australian.

Source: Greek City Times
Congratulations

Michael Kydoniefs

For your winning K – 2 entry in the Book Week 2016 Drawing Competition

Friday 23 September 2016
Thank you for participating in Jeans for Genes 2016 and helping to create a healthier future for all children.
St Euphemia College Uniform Shop

Thursday 6th October 2016 2-4pm - Term 3 holiday opening.

Phone the uniform shop- Athena, on 9709 8950 on a Tuesday or Thursday from 2-4pm in term time to make an appointment outside these hours.

**Orientation Day 8th November - 12.00 - 4.00pm 2 shop assistants working**

**Christmas Holiday Openings:**

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**Regular School Days:**

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