

ST. MARY'S COPTIC ORTHODOX COLLEGE



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Dear Parents and Students

What better way to celebrate books and a love of reading by a day of festivity and fun. St. Mary's Primary school celebrated Book Week on Friday 5 September. Students arrived to school in an array of colours and characters, full of excitement. The day started with a performance of "The Gingerbread Man" presented by the library team. The audience was captivated as they joined the Gingerbread man on his journey. The day proceeded with a Book Parade and a theatrical production. Staff, parents and students went to an enormous effort to make this year another memorable event. A special thanks to the library team who organized the performances and Book Week classroom activities.

Maria Siderakis – Literacy Coordinator (Primary)

INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION AND TECHNOLOGY

Last term Grade Five and Six teachers introduced a new and exciting program to their students called **Superclubs Plus Australia**.

Students are able to log into a protected online social learning community where they can meet new friends, share their interests, discuss a range of interesting topics. It is through this interface that the teachers have been able to teach their students how to build their own homepage using images, sounds and animations.

Kate Tsiolas
Mathematics and Technology Coordinator (Primary)

Secondary students again took part this year in 'Operation Christmas Child', filling shoeboxes full of gifts for disadvantaged children around the world. We made 24 shoeboxes in total, a fantastic effort.

Thanks to everyone who donated items for the shoeboxes, there will be many happy children as a result this Christmas!

Lisa Bairstow
Head of
Humanities
(Secondary)

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents and Students

I am inviting you to read this amazing story about a man with a mission. It is the story of St Julius of Akfah whom we celebrate his martyrdom 2nd October every year:

On this day also, St. Julius of Aqfahs (El-Akfehasi), the writer of the biography of martyrs, was martyred. The Lord Christ appointed him to care for the bodies of the holy martyrs, to shroud them and to send them to their hometown. The Lord brought blindness into the hearts of the governors, and no one objected to him. They also never forced him to worship idols. The Lord kept him to care for the martyrs. He used 300 young men for this purpose. They wrote the biography of the holy martyrs and sent it to their hometown. But he used to minister to the holy martyrs by himself and dress their wounds. The martyrs blessed him, saying, "You must shed your blood in the Name of our Lord Christ, so you can be counted among the martyrs."

When the reign of Diocletian the Infidel came to an end, Constantine the Righteous reigned. The Lord Christ wished to fulfil what the saints had prophesied to St. Julius; to be counted among the martyrs. The Lord commanded him to go to Arkanius, governor of Samanoud, and to confess the Lord Christ. St. Julius went there, and the governor tortured him with many tortures, but the Lord strengthened him. The governor ordered to bring him to worship the idols. This saint prayed and the earth opened and swallowed up the 70 idols and the 140 priests who were serving them. When the governor beheld the destruction of his idols and their priests, he believed in the Lord Christ.

The governor went with the Saint to the governor of Athribis who tortured Saint Julius with great severity, but the Lord Christ strengthened him.

Once there was a feast for the idols and they decorated the temple with ornaments, lamps, statues and with palm branches. They closed the gates till the following day to start celebrating the feast. The saint asked the Lord to blot out their idols. The Lord sent his angel who cut the heads of the idols, blackened their faces with ashes, burnt up all the palms, and all the idols in the temple. On the following morning when the people came dressed to celebrate the feast and saw what had happened to their gods, they recognized their weakness. The governor of Athribis 5 and a large number of people believed in the Lord Christ.

The Saint then went to the city of Towa 6 along with the governor of Samanoud and the governor of Athribis, and they met Iskandros its governor. First he refrained from torturing them, but later on he ordered his men to cut off their heads. Julius and his two sons, Tadros and Yunias; his slaves; and the governors of Samanoud and Athribis and many people were martyred. They numbered 1500. They took his body with the bodies of his sons to Alexandria for it was their hometown.

His intercession be for us, and Glory be to our God, forever. Amen.

Fr. Tadros Sharobeam

A POSITIVE REWARD

A recent development at St Mary's has been the introduction of a new positive reward system for students. The idea behind this innovative scheme is the belief that our students are generally very well behaved and also have a very positive approach to their studies.

In order to acknowledge the majority of our students who do so much to make St Mary's a place where we all enjoy working, the merit system was introduced at the beginning of Term 3. This system positively rewards those students who, quite often, work quietly in the background. While it is easy to spot those who are trying to be somewhat disruptive, those who are working well are often overlooked. Now staff can reward those students.

Each student has been issued with a merit book in which staff award merits. As the merits mount up, so the students are rewarded with certificates and book vouchers. Every 10 merits is worth 1 Bronze Certificate. A student collecting 5 Bronze certificates receives a \$10 book voucher. When 10 Bronze are gained, the student receives 1 Silver Certificate and a \$15 book voucher. Finally, when 5 Silver certificates are gained the student is rewarded with a Gold Certificate and a \$25 book voucher.

The Merit System continues throughout their time at St Mary's, giving every student the opportunity to receive certificates for good work and behaviour. It is hoped that students will value this system and the certificates: it is our way of telling them that we appreciate their good work.

Peter Shay Head of Mathematics & Science (Secondary)