**The Lord’s Message**

“What saves and makes for good children is the “It is madness for a Christian to be envious. In Christ we have all received infinitely great blessings.”

*St John of Kronstadt*

**Important Dates**

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<th>Term 1</th>
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<td><strong>Week 2</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday 4 February</strong></td>
<td>Agiasmos Service, Blessing of the College, 8.45am</td>
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<td><strong>Sunday 7 February</strong></td>
<td>School Officers &amp; Students attend Coburg Church Liturgy, 9.30am - 11.30am</td>
<td>Coburg Festival, 10.00am – 2.00pm</td>
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<td><strong>Week 3</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Monday 8 February</strong></td>
<td>College Curriculum Information Evening 6.30-8.00pm</td>
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<td><strong>Tuesday 9 February</strong></td>
<td>PA Meeting, 6.30pm</td>
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<td><strong>Wednesday 10 February</strong></td>
<td>Student Leadership attends St Haralambos Church Liturgy, 9.30-11.30am</td>
<td>Foundation Year – No School</td>
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<td><strong>Friday 12 February</strong></td>
<td>Year 12 Chemistry Excursion</td>
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<td><strong>Week 4</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday 17 February</strong></td>
<td>Foundation Year – No School</td>
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<td><strong>Week 5</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Monday 22 February</strong></td>
<td>Whole School Liturgy, Sts Methodios &amp; Cyril Church, 8.40am</td>
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<td><strong>Wednesday 24 February</strong></td>
<td>Foundation Year – No School</td>
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<td><strong>Saturday 27 February</strong></td>
<td>Antipodes Festival</td>
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<td><strong>Sunday 28 February</strong></td>
<td>Antipodes Festival</td>
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**2016 Camps**

- **Years 3&4**
  - Wednesday 24 –Friday 26 February
  - YMCA Lady Northcote Recreational Camp

- **Years 5&6**
  - Monday 29 February –Wednesday 2 March
  - Campaspe Downs

- **Years 7&8**
  - Monday 29 February –Friday 4 March
  - Campaspe Downs

**From the Acting Principal**

Dear students, staff, parents and friends of St John's,

Yiasas

And welcome back to the 2016 school year.

May I convey a special welcome to our new students, staff and parents. We sincerely hope you enjoy the community experience of St John’s. On Monday there was a huge contingent of parents at our school to start the new school year. This is just terrific. You are most welcome to continue to join our weekly assemblies, every Monday at 8.30am, in the college gym.

**2015 VCE Results**

We congratulate our 2015 Year 12 students who achieved wonderful results in their ATAR scores – our College was ranked 66 out of over 500 schools in the state of Victoria. I have been informed that this is the best result in nearly 15 years. Thank you to all staff and parents who supported and guided our 2015 VCE students over 13 years.

**The Year Ahead – 2016 Curriculum Night**

The College will hold its annual curriculum night for parents next Monday 8 Feb in the Multi Purpose Room at 6.30pm. The evening will consist of a general overview to all parents (Junior and Senior) for the year ahead followed by the opportunity for parents to meet with the teachers.

**Working Bee**

My thanks to Louie Petrou and the Parents’ Association for organising a working bee last Saturday. Much appreciated and it was a great help to get the school cleaned and ready for the school year.

**Keeping in contact**

As we journey forward, should you have any questions or concerns about your child’s progress, I would encourage parents to make contact with their child's teacher or myself. It is important that your questions or requests, however small, are answered efficiently and appropriately. This is the essence of a good partnership between home and school.

Best wishes for the week ahead.

*Don Walkley*
**Senior School News**

**Welcome Back!**
Welcome to the new school year! I hope everyone had a relaxing summer break, and that we are all ready for a wonderful start to the term. I would also like to welcome all our new students and families to the College.

**OUTSTANDING VCE RESULTS - 2015**
The St John’s College Community wish to extend its sincere congratulations to the 2015 VCE students who achieved exceptional VCE results: 100% of our students received their VCE certificate while 28% of students achieved an ATAR score above 90. Georgios Mylonopoulos achieved a score of 99.25, followed by Joanna Rassias 93.40, Konstantinos Kavaleris 92.45 and Vasilios Psarakos 85.65. St John’s College is currently ranked 66th out of 550 schools with a median study score of 33. 15% of our students achieved scores over 40.

These remarkable results reflect the College’s 3 Year strategic plan designed to improve VCE results. These include the taking of a symbolic oath by VCE teachers to improve VCE results by 10% each year, the introduction of SMART goals for staff and students and the development of the 3 way partnership between, students, parents and teachers. These strategies have been successful.

Students have also received the Premier’s VCE Award for perfect study scores of 50 in English (2014 – Octavian Catrinei) and Greek (2015 – Georgios Mylonopoulos). In 2014 St John’s College was ranked 84th (an increase of 340 places in 3 years) with a median VCE score of 30 and a percentage of 12.5% of scores over 40 (an increase of nearly 10% over 3 years). These results have been surpassed by the class of 2015.

Close to 30% of our students received first round offers from Melbourne University, while 18% received offers from Latrobe University and 36% received offers from RMIT. The courses selected by our students include Commerce and Science (Melbourne University), Health Sciences and Engineering (Latrobe), Accountancy, Economics and Finance, Legal and Dispute Studies and Osteopathy/Health Science (RMIT).

These remarkable achievements reflect the dedication, diligence and willingness of our teachers, students and parents to embrace change and the commitment made by the College to improve outcomes for our students. Sincere congratulations to the Class of 2015!

**Kind Regards,**
Mr J. Savopoulos
Head of Senior School

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**EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES**

**Opening Of The Legal Year**
On the first day of school, St John’s Legal Studies students together with their teachers Mr A. Lonie and Mrs A. Papakonstantinou, took part in the procession for the 2016 opening of the Legal Year. The ceremony took place at St Eustathios Church, in South Melbourne. After church, our students had the chance to talk to people of the Legal profession, during morning tea. Students who participated were: Tiana Stavros, Ellena Athanasiou, Dean Ioannidis, Harry Karakoutos, Steven Athan and George Melitas.

Mr A. Lonie with the Year 12 Legal Studies students and Supreme Court Judge Hon. Emiliou Kyrou.

His Grace Bishop Iakovos with St John’s Legal Studies students.

Mrs A. Papakonstantinou Greek Teacher and Events Coordinator
January 20, 2016

Dear Principal

IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO PASS ONTO PARENTS

Please find below some important information regarding Victoria’s student and concession travel ticketing arrangements for 2016, which will be of interest to your school community. We encourage you to make this information available by inclusion in your school newsletter or intranet page.

Proof of concession entitlement

All students aged 17 years and over, or those requiring a half yearly or yearly Student Pass (regardless of age), are required to obtain a 2016 Victorian Public Transport (VPT) Student Concession Card as proof of their concession entitlement. Application details and a copy of this year’s form are contained within this letter. It is important to note that school issued student identification cards are not accepted as entitlement to concession travel on public transport.

2016 Victorian Student Pass

The Victorian Student Pass provides travel for students on all metropolitan trains, trams and buses, all regional bus services and all V/Line train and coach services operating wholly within Victoria. The Victorian Student Pass is issued on a myki.

2016 Regional Transit Student Passes

Regional Transit Student Passes provide travel for students on buses in the Geelong, Ballarat and Bendigo Transit Systems and limited V/Line rail services in these transit areas. The Regional Transit Student Pass is issued on a concession myki. Regional Transit Student Passes for Southwest Transit, Colac Transit and Portland Transit will continue to be issued as paper passes.

How to apply for a 2016 VPT Student Concession Card and/or a Student Pass

The 2016 VPT Student Concession Card & Student Pass Application Form (enclosed) can be obtained from:

- metropolitan premium train stations
- PTV Hubs (Southern Cross Station, Docklands, Geelong & Bendigo)
- V/Line staffed stations and ticket agents
- PTV Call Centre by calling 1800 800 007
- online at ptv.vic.gov.au.
- **Students wishing to purchase a Half Yearly ($285.00) or Yearly ($546.00) Victorian Student Pass** will be required to obtain a 2016 VPT Student Concession Card, regardless of age, as proof of their concession entitlement. The standard $9 fee applies. Students can have their 2016 Yearly or Half Yearly Victorian Student Pass loaded to their existing myki card at a metropolitan premium train station, a myki-enabled V/Line staffed station or from a PTV Hub (located at Docklands, Geelong or Bendigo). If the student does not already have a myki, the Student Pass will be loaded onto a new myki. This myki will be issued on the spot with the myki card fee waived.

- **Students 16 years and under, who do not wish to purchase a Student Pass** are not required to obtain a VPT Student Concession Card but can still get a child myki for concession travel by visiting a metropolitan premium train station, a myki-enabled staffed V/Line station, a myki retailer, visiting [ptv.vic.gov.au](http://ptv.vic.gov.au), or calling 1800 800 007. A $3 card fee applies.

- **Students 17 years and over, who require a VPT Student Concession Card** as proof of their concession entitlement can obtain a VPT Student Concession Card and apply for a free concession myki (if required) at the same time. Students will need to complete the enclosed form and lodge it at a metropolitan premium train station, a myki-enabled staffed V/Line station, the PTV Hub at Southern Cross Station or the PTV Hub at 750 Collins St, Docklands. They will then be issued with their 2016 VPT Student Concession Card ($9 fee applies) and a free concession myki (if required). Those students who already have a concession myki can continue to use it and only need to renew their concession entitlement by completing the 2016 VPT Student Concession Card form.

**Registration**

Registration is optional for students that hold a student pass. It is, however, strongly recommended that students register their myki online at [ptv.vic.gov.au](http://ptv.vic.gov.au) or by calling 1800 800 007. Benefits of registering a myki include:

- The balance on the myki is protected if it is reported lost or stolen
- Option to manage myki with an online account
- Option of auto top up for ‘set and forget’ convenience

If a myki is not registered, there is no way for a student to recover the value held on the card in the event it is lost or stolen.


I would be grateful if you could share this information with your staff and students.

Yours sincerely

Alan Fedda
Director, Customer Experience
Public Transport Victoria