**The Lord’s Message**

“I lifted up my eyes to the mountains - from where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made the sky and the earth.”

Psalms 120:1-2 (LXX)

**From the Co-Principals**

**Senior School News**

Christ is Risen!

**Our Mission, Vision and Democratic Principles**

We believe it is timely to once again articulate the College’s Mission, Vision, Democratic Principles, our values, aims and expectations as we approach the end of Semester one.

**Mission Statement**

In partnership with families, our mission is to provide high quality education and care for our students within a vibrant, innovative, stimulating, progressive, tolerant and diversified learning environment that integrates the Hellenic and Orthodox Christian ethos, spirituality and tradition. Through learning from best practice, we provide experiences, knowledge, skills and values to prepare students for higher education, training, employment and life in a changing world.

**Vision Statement**

St John’s College strives to empower our students to become independent learners, develop a strong sense of compassion, mutual respect and social responsibility. We aspire to be the school of choice for all families and aim to achieve excellent student results and high levels of student, staff and parent satisfaction.

**Democratic Principles**

The programs and practices at St John's College support and promote the principles and practices of Australian democracy. These principles include:

- Elected government
- The rule of law
- Equal rights for all above the law
- Freedom of speech and association
- The values of openness and tolerance.

This is reflected in our everyday involvement in the total life of the College where we encourage each member to support our values.

**Our Values**

St John’s College is committed to Excellence in Education and is dedicated to providing a vibrant,
stimulating learning environment where each student can achieve their personal best while developing self-esteem and responsibility for their place in the community. St John’s College is committed to achieving our students’ full potential with a wide curriculum and co-curricular program imbedded in our LEAD program.

College Aims
Our Senior School aims to provide a positive and successful learning environment by ensuring that each student reaches their potential, and acquires the attitude, skills and knowledge to cope with the demands of their future. This includes:

- Creating an appropriate environment for the staff and students in which core values and beliefs of high expectations flourish
- Providing the best educational opportunities by reviewing performances and systems in an ordered fashion, as well as responding to situations as they arise
- Nurturing the partnership role between school, teachers, parents and the wider community
- Assisting in the placement of students by working with and supporting the efforts of the Careers Advisor
- Providing students with the opportunities to assess pathways
- Developing high self-esteem, optimism and a commitment to personal excellence
- Respecting the rights and beliefs of others
- Providing opportunities for students to participate actively in decision making.

College Expectations
We expect students to:

- Respect others, be kind with their words and actions
- Respect school and classroom rules
- Be punctual to class and follow routines
- Take care of personal and school property
- Display good manners and courtesy at all times
- Value openness, respect and tolerance
- Bring and use their Student Planner/Diary to school everyday
- Bring a note if they are absent from school signed by parent/guardian stating reason for absence
- Wear correct school and sports uniform, otherwise a note is required
- Work independently and interdependently
- Solve problems through the use of various strategies.

Within our classrooms, we aim for fairness, equality and consistency through discussion and shared decision-making. A positive approach is used, focusing on good manners, self-discipline and generally good examples, rather than always drawing attention to the negative.

These values, aims and expectations (democratic principles) are communicated to staff, students, parents and guardians and the school community via newsletters, College website, assemblies, student diaries/planners, and annual report.

We would also like to emphasise the following:

- Our commitment to our students is clearly articulated in our Mission and Vision statements and further defined in our Values and Aims policies and embedded in our LEAD program. These policies have been scrutinised and evaluated during the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA) audit and were found to be compliant with standards and legislation outlined by the VRQA.
- We are mandated by the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) to implement the Australian Curriculum dimensions and standards. Our curriculum from Foundation to Year 10 is based on the Australian Curriculum and was found by the VRQA audit to be compliant with the standards.
- We are also mandated by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) to implement the VCE curriculum based on the study designs prepared the VCAA and articulated in their documentation. Last years’ VCE audit established that our VCE practices and procedures were compliant with the expectations and standards of the VCAA.

General Achievement Test (GAT)
All St John’s College students enrolled in one or more VCE Unit 3 and 4 sequences MUST sit the 2016 GAT:

DATE: Tuesday 7th June
TIME: 10.00am to 1.15pm
VENUE: Room 18

Each student may take an English and/or bilingual printed dictionary into the GAT, but not a thesaurus or a combined thesaurus-dictionary. Electronic dictionaries and calculators are not permitted. Each student will need pens, pencils, sharpeners and an eraser to complete the GAT. Each student must use either a blue or black pen to complete the two writing tasks and a pencil for the multiple-choice answer page.

Students are NOT permitted to bring into the examination room: blank sheets of paper and/or whiteout liquid/tape. No calculator is allowed in this examination and mobile phones will be collected at the beginning of the GAT and returned at the end.

All students are required to remain in the room until the end of the GAT. Copies of previous GAT papers are available on the VCAA website at www.vcaa.vic.edu.au

What is the General Achievement Test (GAT)?
The General Achievement Test is a test of general knowledge and skills in:

- written communication
- Mathematics, science and technology.
• Humanities, the arts and social sciences.

These areas are very broad. Each represents a body of general knowledge and skills that students are likely to have built up through their school years.

The GAT is a general test; no special study is required for the GAT. Students will already have done preparation for the GAT in past study of subjects like English, Mathematics, Science and History, where they have built up general knowledge and skills in writing, numeracy and reasoning. These are the knowledge and skills that will be tested. If you require further information please see us.

The Child Safe Standards
The Victorian Government is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people. Ministerial Order No. 870 sets out specific actions that registered schools need to take to meet the Child Safe Standards.

As part of the Victorian Government's commitment to implementing the recommendations of the Betrayal of Trust report, there is a new regulatory landscape surrounding child safety, underpinned by new Child Safe Standards. The Child Safe Standards are compulsory minimum standards for all Victorian schools, to ensure they are well prepared to protect children from abuse and neglect.

To create and maintain a child safe organisation, an entity to which the Child Safe Standards apply must have:

1. strategies to embed an organisational culture of child safety, including through effective leadership arrangements
2. a child safe policy or statement of commitment to child safety
3. a code of conduct that establishes clear expectations for appropriate behaviour with children
4. screening, supervision, training and other human resources practices that reduce the risk of child abuse by new and existing personnel – child safe officer
5. processes for responding to and reporting suspected child abuse
6. strategies to identify and reduce or remove risks of child abuse
7. strategies to promote the participation and empowerment of children.

The College will develop these standards and consult with staff and parents before implementation on 1 August 2016.

As part of the Child Safe Standards the Senior College has previously held educational sessions on 'Say No to Bullying' with students and will continue to do so this year. The information was sourced and developed from the Alannah and Madeline Foundation.

SAY NO TO BULLYING!

TYPES OF BULLYING
There are four kinds of bullying.

Physical bullying
Physical bullying includes hitting, kicking, tripping, pinching and pushing or damaging property.

Verbal bullying
Verbal bullying includes name calling, insults, teasing, intimidation, homophobic or racist remarks, or verbal abuse.

Covert or hidden bullying
This sort of bullying is often harder to recognise and can be carried out behind the bullied person's back. It is designed to harm someone's social reputation and/or cause humiliation. Covert bullying includes:
- lying and spreading rumours
- negative facial or physical gestures, menacing or contemptuous looks
- playing nasty jokes to embarrass and humiliate
- mimicking unkindly
- encouraging others to socially exclude someone
- Damaging someone's social reputation or social acceptance.

Cyberbullying
Cyberbullying can be overt or covert bullying behaviours using digital technologies, including hardware such as computers and smartphones and software such as social media, instant messaging, texts, websites and other.

Cyberbullying can happen at any time. It can be in public or in private and sometimes only known to the target and the person bullying. It includes:
- Abusive or hurtful texts emails or posts, images or videos
- Deliberately excluding others online
- Nasty gossip or rumours
- Imitating others online or using their log-in.

WHAT CAN I DO IF I'M BEING BULLIED?
Here are some things you can do:
- Tell someone, even if you don't think it will help. Just talking about a situation can help put it in perspective. You could talk to a friend; a parent; or a trusted teacher who you know will take what you're saying seriously
- Keep a record of incidents
- Call the Kids Helpline (1800 55 1800).

Bullies win when you're upset, so here are some things you can practice:
- Act unimpressed: pretend not to notice if you're excluded or if the bullying is verbal, say something like, 'yeah, whatever' or 'Oh, OK'
• Walk away
• Pretend to agree 'yep, that's what I'm like alright' 'Yeah, I've got red hair. Tried dyeing it but decided it was better red than green'...
• Look around for other friendship groups in or out of school
• Get involved in clubs or activities at school where you'll be safe.

If you are being cyberbullied, you can:
• Block senders
• Keep messages by sending them to someone else. Don't look at them yourself
• Change passwords
• Don't retaliate
• Talk to a friend, parent or teacher
• If there are threats or calls to harm yourself, report abuse to the police and also the ISP or website.

WHAT CAN I DO IF A FRIEND IS BEING BULLIED?
Bullying is bad for everybody – not just the person being bullied. It can make places like school or your sporting club seem unsafe and make you feel as though you don't want to go there.

If a friend, or someone you know is being bullied you can do something about it. Even if you don't feel as though you can step in and stop the situation yourself, there are still things you can do, like:
• Don't stay and watch or encourage bullying. Walk away.
• Don't get involved in harassment, teasing or spreading gossip about others off or online.
• Don't forward or respond to offensive or upsetting messages or photos.
• Support the person who is being bullied to ask for help. For example, you could go with them to a place they can get help or provide them with information about where to go for help.
• Tell a trusted adult who might be able to help.

Debating
On Thursday 19 May our D Grade debating team consisting of Elih Gentikoglou (Year 8), Elyssa Velves (Year 9) and Evangelia Eliades (Year 9) competed in the second round of the DAV 2016 debating competition against Marcellin College. The topic was, ‘That schools should provide free meals for their students’ and we were the negative team. After a close debate the adjudicator awarded the debate to the Marcellin 226 to 225. Congratulations to all team members on a well-planned and cohesive argument and thank you to the parents, siblings and relations for supporting our students on the night.

Junior School News
Χριστός Ανέστη!

Rostered Playgroup
We are seeking expressions of interest from parents who would like to enrol their child in a Rostered Playgroup. Your child needs to have turned 3 by the end of April. We are looking at running the session on Tuesday from 8.30am – 11.45am. Please contact Miss Galanis for more information.

2017 Enrolments
Do you have a child who will be commencing Prep in 2017 or know someone who is interested in coming to St John’s? Enrolments are now open and application forms can be collected from the front office. Please complete and submit your enrolment forms to Miss Galanis. You can also schedule an appointment to meet with Mrs Anamourlis.

Grandparents’ Morning
Grandparents’ morning will be held on Thursday 23rd of June. Information will be sent out in the next couple of weeks.

Junior School Exams
Junior School exams for Years 3 – 6 have been scheduled for Monday 30th of May to Thursday 2nd of June. Please note that Friday the 3rd of June is report writing day and students are not expected to attend school.

Lateness
It is imperative that students come to school on time. School commences at 8:30am. Latecomers miss out on the vital introduction to the lesson. Furthermore, students who arrive late cause disruption to the class.

Greek Books
We are requesting donations of Greek books that are in good condition to start up a take home reading program this term. Please place all Greek book donations in the box provided in the Junior Office.

Uniform Donations
If you have any uniforms that no longer fit your children and are still in good condition then we would greatly appreciate them being donated to the school. These uniform items will be forwarded to various families.

Kind Regards,
Mrs A. Anamourlis
Co-Principal

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**EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES**

**ΕΥΧΑΡΙΣΤΗΡΙΟ**
Ευχαριστούμε την αντιπρόεδρο της Κεντρικής Φιλοπτώχου της Ιεράς μας Αρχιεπισκοπής, κ. Γενοβέφα Γούλα για την οργάνωση του Πασχαλινού Απογεύματος στο Κολλέγιο μας.

Ευχαριστούμε επίσης τις κυρίες: Φιλίτσα Λεονάρδου, Μαρία Παντελή, Παρασκευή Ατζέμη, και Πόπη Βράκα για τα Πασχαλινά τσουρέκια και κουλουρίσια που πρόσφεραν στους μαθητές του Κολλέγιου.

**THANK YOU**
We would like to thank the Vice President of the Central Philoptohos of our Archdiocese, Mrs Genovefa Goulas and the other ladies for organising the Easter Tea at our school and donating all the Easter treats, tsourekia and koulouria.

**Parents’ Association News**
Congratulations to Paul Ketikidis on winning the sumptuous hamper at our Mother’s Day Stall. Congratulations also to Panteli Charisiou and Peter Tsaltas on their winning hampers.

The Parents’ Association would like to extend an enormous thank you to PAMPER HAMPER GIFTS for their very generous donation of the hamper for the Mother’s Day stall. We were told it was amazing...

Just another reminder that the Annual Dinner Dance is to be held on 27 August 2016 so make sure you...

Kind Regards,
Parents’ Association
St John’s College
Spaghetti and Meatball Birds
By making your favourite meatballs and some plain spaghetti with a little olive oil and seasoning you can create these adorable spaghetti bird’s nests with adorable songbird meatballs.

Octopus Pot Pie
Make a beef/ chicken or any pie you like and transform the pie crust to make an octopus. Your kids will be so excited to eat this flaky, fun pot pie crust!

Croissant Crab
This cute crab is a super fun way to get your children to eat all their vegetables. Use the croissant as the bread for a sandwich (fill in the middle with cheese, ham etc) and stick baby carrots along the back for legs. The front claws are made from red pepper. This happy crab will surely be eaten in record time!

Fruit Trees
Give your children this healthy dessert and snack. Sliced banana and strawberry make palm trees while orange pieces make the sand. Making fun designs with fruit and vegetables will help convince picky eaters to eat their meals.

Cheese And Carrot Coins
Peel the carrot, then cut into thick slices or rounds. Cut slices of cheddar cheese to a similar thickness to the carrot rounds. From each carrot round, cut a shape using a mini cutter. From a slice of cheese, cut a shape using the same cutter. Slide the cheese shape into the carrot round. Repeat until you have as many ‘coins’ as you need. Mix them up with different cutter shapes, or you could hunt out some rainbow carrots to make them even prettier.