The Lord’s Message

“Why are vigil lamps (kandylia) lit before icons? In order to teach us that just as the vigil lamp cannot be lit without our hand, so too, our heart, our inward vigil lamp, cannot be lit without the holy fire of God’s grace, even if it were to be filled with all the virtues. All these virtues of ours are, after all, like combustible material, but the fire which ignites them proceeds from God.”

St Nikolai Velimirovich

Important Dates

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Orthodoxy Day

Friday 12 August

Nuns’ Visit

Exhibition: Books, Vestments & Icons by Fr Leonidas and Fr Demos

The Dormition of The Theotokos

Monday 15 August – School Closed

From the Co-Principals

Senior School News

Welcome Back

Welcome back to everyone for term 3 and I trust you had a relaxing break!

New Students

I would like to warmly welcome our new students and families to the Senior College. Year 11- Yongqian (Barry) Huang and Year 7 – Alexandros Tato.

Staff Changes

There are some short-term staff changes at present.

Mr Armenopoulos is taking long service leave until the 29th of July. His short term replacement will be Mr Fernandes who is a qualified science/chemistry teacher.

Mrs Bitsas is also taking long service leave until the 29th of July. Her replacement will be Ms Giannos who is an experienced VCE English teacher and currently teaches Year 10 English at the College.

Mr Sherwood is taking personal leave until the end of the year. His replacement is Mr Varkopoulos who is a qualified physical education/health teacher.

We welcome Mr Varkopoulos and Mr Fernandes to our College and would like to reassure you that we remain committed to providing the best possible educational experiences that can be delivered to our students.

Debating

On Thursday 21 July, our Senior debating team consisting of Elith Gentikoglou (Year 8), Elyssa Velvès (Year 9) and Evangelia Eliades (Year 9) competed in round 4 of the Debaters Association of Victoria (DAV) 2016 competition against Ivanhoe Grammar. The topic was ‘we should ban internet gambling’ and we were the affirmative team. At the end of the debate, St John’s were victorious after producing a strong, coherent and logical debate. Well done to all the students who competed and a huge thank you to their parents for supporting our debating program! Also, congratulations to Evangelia who was awarded Best Speaker on the night. This was her closing summary: ‘Good evening everyone. I’m Evangelia the 3rd speaker for the affirmative team.

I would like to rebut the negative team’s arguments.
1. The negative team argued that internet gambling provides a more wholesome environment than real-world casinos.
Rebuttal: Offshore Internet gambling sites sweep dollars out of Australia into largely unknown, often criminal hands. The potential threat of identity theft and fraud is high for the individual player. The risk posed to our national security from terror and criminal organizations that control such sites or used them for money laundering purposes is real.

2. Next, supporters of internet gambling say that gambling is a legitimate form of entertainment, and that only a small number of participants have a problem with gambling to excess.
Rebuttal: Problem gambling can lead to serious psychological and physical as well as financial harm. Individuals who become "hooked" frequently lose their jobs, homes and marriage and sometimes even contemplate suicide.

3. The negative team believe that the majority of people looking for a good time shouldn’t be punished because of the problems caused to the minority.
Rebuttal: Problem gambling costs society billions annually. The social costs of gambling addictions will eventually impact careers, physical and mental health issues, bankruptcy, divorce, crimes, and treatment. The gamblers will eventually rely on welfare or unemployment benefits, impacting the government, and the costs could reach several billions of dollars per year.

4. The negative team also argued that taking traditional gambling online is an acceptable development in line with many other services moving online, and cite the benefits of increased tax revenues to government from this entertainment.
Rebuttal: The tax revenue received from gambling affect the government’s ability to make a fair decision on this matter. The government is compromised in this area. The government will be influenced to make decisions in favour of the gambling industry.

5. They also say that internet gambling offers support services to those at risk of problem gambling- such as self-exclusion and counselling services.
These support services vary greatly in the levels of support they offer problem gamblers. Increased internet gambling will only put further pressure on these agencies and reduce their capacity to offer support to people in need. Eventually the government will have to increase funding to deal with this growing problem.
I would now like to summarise our arguments. Our first point focused on the role of the government in regulating gambling in Victoria.
We argued that the number of government and non-government support services in Australia introduced to assist with the issue of problem gambling will eventually have to increase funding to deal with this growing problem.

Our next point focused on the potential of criminal activity to impact on internet gambling such as identity theft, credit card fraud and corruption.

We also discussed the risk that a number of gamblers experience problems with their gambling or are unable to control their impulse to gamble.
This may lead to diminished job performance; increased family stress; fraud or theft in order to pay one's gambling debts; indeed, financial ruin. As result problem gambling costs society billions annually.
Our next point argued that gambling exploits the vulnerable. That is the poor, the young and the elderly.
By targeting the young, the poor and the elderly where they live, Internet gambling takes gambling too far.
Finally, we argued that internet gambling will destroy legitimate jobs associated with the entertainment industry.
These are the reasons why we should protect our citizens by placing a ban on Internet gambling.'

Child Safe Standards policy
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.
Meeting the Child Safe Standards
The Child Safe Standards will be implemented in two phases. To give schools time to prepare, schools have until 1 August 2016 to meet them. Ministerial Order No. 870 sets out specific actions that registered schools need to take to meet the Child Safe Standards. As a result of Ministerial Order No. 870, the following consultation process has been followed at the College:

11 May: Information regarding Ministerial Order No 870 and the Child Safe Standards requirements presented to the PA.

18 May: Information included in the College Newsletter informing stakeholders of the Ministerial Order No 870.

30 May: Information included in the College Newsletter informing stakeholders of the standards included in the Child Safe policy.

8 June: a draft copy of the Child Safe Standards policy sent to staff for reading and consultation. Teachers were required to respond by 20 June.

8 June: Information regarding Ministerial Order No 870 and the Child Safe standards again presented to the PA.

8 June: a draft copy of the Child Safe Standards policy sent to Mr Petrou, President of the PA, for perusal and consultation. Response requested by 20 June.

15 June: Information again included in the College Newsletter informing stakeholders of the standards included in the Child Safe policy.

16 June: received the PA response to the draft copy.

20 June: received staff feedback relating to the draft copy.

27 June – 7 July: Amendments made to the original draft copy including the development and inclusion of a Staff Code of conduct, Staff Code of Ethics for employees of the College and a Parent Code of Conduct.

8 July: Updated draft sent to Board for approval by 1 August.

18July: Staff informed of their responsibilities as part of the compliance process.

21 July: Staff to read updated CSS policy including the Mandatory reporting requirements as part of our compliance process.

28 July: Staff to sign the Staff Code of Conduct as part of the compliance process.

Kind Regards,
Mr J. Savopoulos
Co-Principal

Junior School News

Rostered Playgroup
Rostered Playgroup has commenced. Your child needs to have turned 3 by the end of April. Sessions are held every Tuesday from 8.45am – 11.45am. Please contact Miss Galanis for more information.

2017 Prep Transition
Our Foundation Transition program has commenced for all students who are enrolled in Foundation in 2017. Sessions are held on Tuesday afternoon from 12.15pm – 3.15pm. 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.

Parents’/Visitors’ Toilet
We would like to inform all parents and visitors that they can now use the visitors’ parent toilet which is located in the multipurpose room. All visitors must collect a key from the junior school reception in order to gain access to the toilet.

No adult is allowed to use the student toilets.

Junior School Carpark
Please take care in the Junior school carpark. A number of parents are not being vigilant and are not adhering to the safe use of the carpark. I have noticed a number of parents driving around other cars rather than patiently waiting to drive off safely. The safety of our children is paramount and we need to ensure that we do not place our children in an unsafe situation.

Mobile Phones
Please note that junior school students are not allowed to have mobile phones at school. In exceptional circumstances where students need to bring a mobile phone to school a note should be written to the Principal requesting permission to do so. If students are caught with a mobile phone it will be confiscated and parents will be asked to come and collect it.

School Uniform
A number of students are wearing beanies, scarves and gloves to school. Please note that all items must be navy in colour.
Welcome To Our School
We would like to welcome the following new students to St John’s College.
Nikiforos Rigas (Yr 4)
Despoina Isari (Yr 5)
Peter McQueen (Yr 6)
We wish them a long and rewarding journey.

Wish List For School Performances
Confident seamstress
Onesie – one size outfit of a fruit or vegetable (x3)
Aprons
Blanket (x2)
Grandma’s Glasses with no lens in them
Plain white t-shirts (any number)
Black socks (not paired)

Wish List For Thursday After School Activity (Prop Design)
Velcro
Green cardboard paper A2 or A3 size (for green leaves)
Sticker labels (large in size)
Dentist Masks
White Cardboard A2 or A3 size
If you are able to sew any of the above costumes or make a donation please let Mrs Chochlaka know.

After School Activities
The after school activities have been very popular in term 2. In order for the program to run effectively we are requesting the following:

• If you enrol your child then it needs to be a commitment for the whole term
• If your child will not be attending please inform the supervising teacher
• Ensure your child has work to go on with particularly during homework/maths club
• Pick your child up by 4.15pm (except for Friday dance - 4pm)

Term 3 Afterschool Activities
A list of term 3 activities was sent home last week. Please enrol your child only if they are going to benefit from participating in the activity. Activities such as homework club/maths club are not intended to be a child minding service but an opportunity to support children with homework/maths tasks. When children attend and don’t have homework they interrupt the learning of others.

We are requesting a voluntary term fee of $50 per family. Money raised will be used to purchase resources for the afterschool programs.

Kindest regards,
Mrs A. Anamourlis
Co-Principal

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Την Κυριακή 17 Ιουλίου και μέσα στα πλαίσια των εκδηλώσεων για την μαύρη επέτειο της τουρκικής εισβολής στην Κύπρο, η Συντονιστική Επιτροπή Κυπριακού Αγώνα, ΣΕΚΑ τέλεσε μνημόσυνο πεσόντων εις τον Ιερό Ναό του Αγίου Ευσταθίου. Αντιπρόσωποι του μαθητικού σώματος του Κολλεγίου Άγιος Ιωάννης με λάβαρα και έκδηλο τον νεανικό παλμό έδωσαν σθεναρά το παρών τους στο μνημόσυνο για τα θύματα της βάρβαρης εισβολής.
Στο μνημόσυνο παρέστησαν ο Γραμματέας του Υπουργικού Συμβουλίου της Κύπρου κ. Θεοδόση Τσιόλας, η Ύπατη Αρμοστής της Κυπριακής Δημοκρατίας κα Ιωάννα Μαλλιώτη, ο πρόεδρος της ΣΕΚΑ Κωστάκης Ελισέου, ο πρόεδρος της ΠΑ.Σ.Ε.Κ.Α. Κώστας Προκοπίου καθώς και εκπρόσωποι παροικιακών οργανισμών.
Στη φωτογραφία οι μαθητές του Κολλεγίου με τον Γραμματέα του Υπουργικού Συμβουλίου της Κύπρου κ. Θεοδόση Τσιόλα, την Ύπατη Αρμοστή της Κυπριακής Δημοκρατίας και Ιωάννα Μαλλιώτη, τον πρόεδρο της Π.Α.Σ.Ε.Κ.Α., κ. Κώστα Προκοπίου, τον πρόεδρο της ΣΕΚΑ κ. Κώστα Ελισσέου και άλλους επίσημους.

ΕΥΧΑΡΙΣΤΗΡΙΟ / ΔΕΝ ΞΕCHΝΩ

Ευχαριστούμε τις οικογένειες Θεοδωρέσκου, Κουκλατζή, Καρακούτο, και Ηλιάδη οι οποίες βοήθησαν με αυτή την εκδήλωση. Οι μαθητές που αντιπροσώπευσαν το Κολλέγιο ήταν: Φλωρέντια και Μιχαέλλα Θεοδωρέσκου, Χρύσα Κουκλατζή, Χαράλαμπος Καρακούτος, Κώστας και Ευαγγελία Ηλιάδη.

Mrs. A. Papakonstantinou
Events Coordinator

Parents’ Association News

Father’s Day Hampers

The Parents’ Association is seeking donations of items that can be included in the Father’s Day Hamper(s). Any items that you believe can be included in a hamper, should be provided to the Parents’ Association via the School. Any items that parents wish to donate should be provided by 31 August 2016.

Dinner Dance Donations

The Parents’ Association are also seeking donations of any goods or services that can be raffled or auctioned at the Dinner Dance. Any donations can be left at Reception or you can contact the PA directly on 8373 4344 or via email: pa@stjohnspreston.vic.edu.au.

The Parents’ Association sincerely thanks you for your donations.

Thank you as always.

Kind Regards,
Parents’ Association
St John’s College

Mrs A. Papakonstantinou
Events Coordinator
Simple Truffles With Cocoa And Coconut!

Ingredients:
- 100 g unsweetened cocoa
- 200 g sugar (depending on how sweet you want it)
- 200g grated breadcrumbs
- ½ cup desiccated coconut
- 200g chopped walnuts (optional)
- water (as much as needed to make a firm dough)
- 1 tsp vanilla essence
- Extra desiccated coconut or cocoa or nuts

Method:
1. Mix all the ingredients (except the extra coconut) until you get a firm dough.
2. Make balls and dip in the extra desiccated coconut
3. Chill for a few hours to firm.

Easy Oven Baked Donuts

Ingredients:
- 2 1/2 cups plain flour
- 1 1/2 tsp yeast powder
- 1 cup soy milk
- 4 tablespoons fasting margarine
- Pinch of salt
- 1 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 cup and 2 tablespoons sugar

Method:
1. In a bowl add the flour, 1 teaspoon cinnamon, 2 tablespoons sugar and salt.
2. Warm the soy milk to lukewarm and dissolve it in the yeast.
3. We make a well in the flour and add the milk with yeast, then and add one tablespoon of margarine and knead for 5 minutes with the mixer or 10 by hand. (The dough will be a bit sticky and become very elastic)
4. Grease a bowl and put it into the dough to rise for one hour.
5. Deflate the dough and knead on a floured surface, roll the dough out to a 1.5 to 2cm thick.
6. Cut circles with a round cookie cutter and cut out a hole in the centre with a smaller round cookie cutter
7. Place on a grease cookie tray and let stand 20 minutes to rise.
8. Bake in preheated oven at 190 with air until lightly browned, for about 12 -15 minutes.
9. Mix remaining sugar with cinnamon together in a bowl
10. When donuts are cooked brush with melted margarine and dip in sugar/cinnamon mixture.