The Lord’s Message

“Whoever is ignorant of the enemy’s ambush is easily slain; and whoever does not know the causes of the passions is soon brought low.”

St Mark the Monk

From the Acting Principal

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

Yiasas and Da jia hao!

Thank you, thank you, thank you to our staff, students and parents for your recent attendance at:
- Coburg Greek Festival.
- Annual Curriculum Night.
- Parents Association meeting.

This is a great demonstration of participation in, and support for, our community.

Greek National Day March - 6 March

Following a terrific suggestion from a member of our community, I would like to extend an invitation to our parents and Alumni to join the staff and students for the Greek National Day March – so that we march as a whole community. In due course, I will inform you of the meeting time and place.

Canteen Helpers: 12.45pm to 1.15pm

Once again, I am seeking volunteers to help out in the College canteen each week day for half an hour. Hopefully, we can develop a Monday to Friday roster from 12.45pm to 1.15pm. If you could spare the time please contact Christine at the Senior School Office.

After School Care – Term 2

Once again, I am seeking expressions of interest to join an After School Care Program commencing in Term 2. The After School Care will be operated by Camp Australia. Please see attached letter with full details. At least 10 students per day are needed to be registered for After School Care to enable it to be offered. Please communicate your expression of interest to register your child in the 2016 After School Care Program by Friday 26 February to Lisa at the Junior School Office.

Allowance for school camps

I wish to inform those families who hold a concession card that you may be eligible to apply for an allowance from the government to offset the costs of school camps. More information, and a copy of the application form, have been sent home. Please contact Lisa at the Junior School Office for more information.

Best wishes for the week ahead.

Don Walkley

Important Dates

Term 1
Week 3
Friday 12 February
Year 12 Chemistry Excursion
Week 4
Wednesday 17 February
Foundation Year – No School
Week 5
Monday 22 February
Whole School Liturgy, Sts Methodios & Cyril Church, 8.40am
Wednesday 24 February
Foundation Year – No School
Saturday 27 February
Antipodes Festival
Sunday 28 February
Antipodes Festival
Week 6
Friday 4 March
Darebin Division Senior School Inter-School Swimming
Sunday 6 March
Greek National Day 25th March To The Shrine-Yrs 2-12, 11am
Week 7
Monday 7 March
Immunisations Year 7 Students, 11.30am
Tuesday 8 March
PA Meeting, 6.30pm
Friday 11 March
Athletics Carnival

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
2016 After School Care – Message from Camp Australia

Thank you for the opportunity to provide information for After School Care (ASC) for the children at St John’s College Preston. In the pages that follow we have provided specific information in answer to your queries.

Proposed Program Hours and Session Fees
We will aim to provide services that meet the needs of St John’s College community using the program hours and fees outlined below:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Session Time</th>
<th>Session Fees</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>After School Care</td>
<td>3:15pm – 6:00pm</td>
<td>$22.00 less applicable Government Rebates</td>
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Placement of Bookings
Parents will be able to make, change or cancel bookings at any time online, or they can call our Customer Care Centre to manage bookings. We have a ‘real time’ view of each child that is expected at the program and can manage our staffing levels appropriately. Parents can establish permanent bookings with us at a reduced rate, or they can use the Service on a casual basis as needed (if their work involves rotating rosters, for example).

Even at short notice, we can accommodate any child that requires care after school. Our automated system sends alerts to the Service Coordinator via email and SMS to advise them when children have been booked in at the last minute. This ensures that the child is expected, and is added to the roll.

If the addition of casual bookings means that we need to roster an additional carer with short notice, we manage this centrally to ensure that carer-child ratios are maintained.

Homework Club
Part of customising the program to suit your school community would mean including setting up an afternoon homework club so that students can study after school with their friends, leaving evenings at home free to enjoy more quality time with their families. Camp Australia take a flexible approach to programming and will be happy to discuss customisation with the School at any time.

Afternoon Snack
The After School Care program harnesses the energy and enthusiasm of the children at the end of the school day. After a friendly welcome from familiar educators, children are offered a healthy snack of fresh fruits and vegetables before they settle into a variety of fun activities for the session. They have time to enjoy active and passive play, creative art, craft and games, build friendships, and get a head start on any homework. Whatever they choose to do, it is with the full attention and supervision of enthusiastic OSHC educators who know the children individually, and care for their safety and wellbeing. Planned and spontaneous activities keep the children happy, busy and engaged until it is time for them to be picked up.

Programming – Fun, Variety and Choice
The students at St John’s College After School Care will have a wide variety of well-supervised, age-appropriate and fun activities to choose from. Every program includes elements from each of the following areas:
- Outdoor Play Time – sport, skills development, gardening, general playground activities and inclusive games that keep kids active and promote physical well-being and friendship
- Construction and Manipulative Play – to develop fine motor dexterities and spatial skills through creative arts and crafts, construction, cooking and indoor games
- Creative Time – expressive outlets such as drama and musical appreciation to extend or encourage children’s interests, imagination and self-expression
- Life Skills – community involvement, role playing, negotiation, co-operation, communication and social skills development
- Homework and Quiet Time – because sometimes kids want to recharge, relax and do their own thing, or choose to get a head-start on their homework so they can enjoy more quality time with their families when they go home
- Unique Experiences – children experience different sports and artistic pursuits, such as: circus skills and ball sports.

Program Fees – Cost to Parents
The actual Out of Pocket Cost to families at St John’s College when government rebates (CCB and CCR) are applied to the Session Fees will be approximately $8.00, this figure is also dependant on the family’s combined annual income.

Trained Educators
The St John’s College team will have experience and be trained educators specifically matched to your school community.

Team members have:
- Children Services Qualifications
- A current Working with Children Check
- Anaphylaxis Management Training
- Emergency Asthma Management Training
- First Aid and CPR Training

Staff Background Checks
- Any person working within the program is required to hold and maintain a valid and current police Working With Children Check. This applies equally to staff, and any visitors (such as excursion providers or parents assisting in the program)
- During the recruitment process, prospective team members are required to provide a copy of their current Working With Children Check
- Once employed, copies of checks are stored centrally within the Records Management team, and are verified every six months using the online check system
- Staff members are also required to maintain a copy of their most recent police check at the Service
Senior School News

NEW STUDENTS

Welcome to the new families who have joined our senior school community this year. I hope your stay at the College is rewarding and we wish you every success. Welcome and best wishes to the following students:

Sophia Ioannidis: Year 7
Athanasi Triantafilou: Year 7
Panagiota Ventougeri: Year 7
Anastasia Dimitriadis: Year 10

LOCKERS

Students were allocated lockers on Monday 1st February and they will be responsible for the maintenance of their locker throughout the year. This year, students will be allowed to bring their own lock to safeguard their locker and belongings or they may use the padlock they used last year. They must also bring a spare key in an envelope clearly marked with their name, Year Level and locker number. These will be kept at senior reception. If a student misplaces their original and spare keys, they will need to change the lock. This will require us having to cut the existing lock. Let us know if you require further information.

UNIFORM

All students are expected to wear the correct school uniform at all times. Please support the College by ensuring that your child shows pride in the College by wearing the College uniform correctly. Uniform details are published in the Student Planner. All Year Level Coordinators have been asked to monitor the correct wearing of uniform and students not wearing the correct uniform will be excluded from classes and parents notified.

Kind Regards,
Mr J. Savopoulos
Head of Senior School

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Divine Liturgy at “The Presentation of our Lord”

Our College Leaders represented St John’s at church, on the feast day of Ypapandi (Presentation of our Lord) on Tuesday 2 February and promoted the school to the wider community.
MANDARIN CHINESE
汉语 (Han Yu)

Hello everyone!
Da jia hao!
大家好!

Mandarin Chinese is here. For the first time, St John’s College has introduced the Chinese language in 2016 to Foundation and Years 1 and 2.

This term in Mandarin Chinese, the main focus is to give the children a positive introduction to the Chinese language through the use of Mandarin songs, rhymes and craft activities. The lessons will assist the students to become familiar with the sounds of the language by studying greetings, Chinese numbers and how to write simple Chinese characters. Throughout the study of the Chinese language, children are exposed to various aspects of Chinese culture and traditions. During the first term of this year, the main cultural focus will be the Chinese New Year celebrations. I hope the students enjoy the language learning journey that awaits them.

Bei Min Chen
蓓敏
Chinese Language Teacher
Zhongwen laoshi
中文老师

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government’s commitment to breaking the link between a student’s background and their outcomes.

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)
School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors, excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works and sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF will be provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:
- $125 for primary school students
- $225 for secondary school students.

HOW TO APPLY
Contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

MORE INFORMATION
For the CSEF application closing dates and more information about the fund visit www.education.vic.gov.au/csef