The Lord’s Message
“To yield and give way to our passions is the lowest slavery, just as to rule over them is the only liberty.”

St Justin Martyr

From the Acting Principal

Dear students, staff, parents and friends of St John’s,
Yiasas and Da jia hao!

On time (8.30am) for school every day
Once again, I seek the support of parents to ensure that our students are at school, on time, every day at 8.30am. Punctuality is an important, and lifelong, attribute. Future employers will expect all employees to be on time – and we must also expect our students to be on time. It is a sign of respect and courtesy for others to be punctual and prepared for learning.

School Camps (3/4, 5-8)
My thanks to all those staff involved in our 2016 camps program. This is a big commitment and your efforts and commitment are greatly appreciated. We wish all students participating in our school camps a marvelous learning experience.

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 Program 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.

Review of College Homework Policy
Recently I have commenced a process to review the College policy on homework. The policy review process will involve consultation with staff, students and parents. At the conclusion of the process I shall work with the College Executive to forward a recommendation to the College Board to approve the policy.

Attached to this newsletter is a series of questions to provoke some thinking and views on the topic of homework.

Parents of the College are therefore invited to forward their views on homework to me via email principal@stjohnspreston.vic.edu.au and/or to attend a discussion group here at the College at 6.30pm on Tuesday 1 March in the Senior Staffroom.

Best wishes for the week ahead.

Don Walkley

Important Dates

Term 1
Week 5
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, 11.30am

Week 7
Monday 7 March
Immunisations Year 7 Students, 11.30am

Tuesday 8 March
PA Meeting, 6.30pm

Friday 11 March
Athletics Carnival (at St John’s College)

Week 8
Monday 14 March
Labour Day – Public Holiday – School Closed

Week 9
Monday 21 March
Parent Teacher Conversations F-12

Tuesday 22 March
Greek Independence Day, Whole School Assembly, 8.45am

Friday 25 March
Greek National Independence Day

Roman Catholic Good Friday – Public Holiday

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

Term 1 Concludes
Thursday 24 March, 3.15pm
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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Session Time</th>
<th>Session Fees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>After School Care</td>
<td>3:15pm – 6:00pm</td>
<td>$22.00 less applicable</td>
</tr>
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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 incursion 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
HOMEWORK POLICY
Consultation

Guiding questions for discussion:

1. Why have homework?
2. What is the purpose of homework?
3. What should be the content of homework?
4. When should homework be done?
5. How much time should be allocated to homework?
6. What should be the consequences if homework is not done?
7. Should homework be set on weekends?
8. Should homework be set during holidays?
9. Should homework be optional?
10. What is the parents’ role in homework?

Junior School News
All Smiles No Tears!

The Preps have settled into school life. They have been involved in various hands on activities. They are really enjoying learning their sounds and numbers. They will be having a Teddy Bear Picnic this week and they can’t wait to bring in their favourite toys!

Mrs R Kordas
Prep Teacher

Year Ones
The Year Ones at St John’s College have been introduced to Narrative writing. They have been talking about what fiction is and what non-fiction is and deciding which genre each story they read fits into. They have also started learning about the structure of a Narrative. To help them remember the order of events in a Narrative they made some Narrative Ropes. The Awesome Ones (referring to our Dojo class name) now know what happens at the beginning, middle and end of a Narrative story. What clever cookies the Year Ones are! 😊

Ellie Doulgeris
Year 1 Teacher
Senior School News

Debating 2016
Year 7, 8 and 9 Students interested in being a member of the 2016 Debating team please see Mr. Savopoulos asap for registration and more information. More details regarding venue and times will follow later.

Parent Code of Conduct
The Code highlights the importance of the partnership between school staff and community members for the benefit of the students at school and reflects the school’s mission and vision. Parents, caregivers and community members are expected to:

• Value the ethos of the College and demonstrate a commitment to the Orthodox/Christian values.
• Ensure regular and punctual attendance of their child at school.
• Ensure their child is wearing the correct uniform to school.
• Ensure that their child is well-nourished and well-rested to maximize learning potential.
• Inform the College on the morning of their child’s absence.
• Value staff as professionals and recognise the strong partnership between home and school.
• Accept and abide by decisions made by the staff as being professional, discrete and based on the best interests of all parties.
• Work in partnership with the school to enhance the learning outcomes and support the well-being and conduct of their child.
• Attend all parent/teacher/student conversations during the year.
• Respond to correspondence from the College regarding inappropriate behaviour from their child.
• Maintain regular communication with teachers regarding their child’s progress.
• Ensure their child completes all homework tasks.
• Be aware that threatening behaviour and harassment of staff or students is unacceptable.
• Respect and comply with reasonable requests or directions of the Principal or other members of staff.
• Understand their responsibilities as stated in the enrolment form.
• Actively support Home Learning initiatives, including Cyber-Safety protocols.

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

SPORTS NEWS

St John's College Athletics

Please note the St John’s College athletics will be held at the college on the 11th of March and not the Coburg athletics track.

Mr D. Sherwood
Head of Health and PE

EVENTS DURING TERM 1 BREAK

Important Notification:
✓ Drummers
✓ School Leaders
✓ and students will need to represent our College to the wider community at the following events which coincide with Term 1 break.

Protaprilia Event: Sunday 3/4/16
St Andrew’s Church, 201 Mahoneys Rd, Forest Hill,
➢ 10.00am Church,
➢ 11.15am Marching with Drummers & Wreath laying ceremony

Battle of Crete Event: Sunday 10/4/16
➢ College Leaders at St Eustathios Church (at 10.00 am) for Doxology
➢ Drummers & students at the Shrine of Remembrance at 11.30am for Marching & Wreath laying Ceremony.

DRUMMERS
Are reminded that they will need to attend THREE out of the four events.
• Greek National Day
• Protaprilia
• Battle of Crete
• Orthodox Good Friday

* All Drummers need to wear clean white gloves*

STUDENTS
Are reminded to wear clean summer uniform including blazer and have polished shoes. Girls need to wear yellow & light blue ribbons in their hair.

Parents and students please support the above Events

Maths Help Club

Every Tuesday
Time: 3.30pm to 4.00pm
Location: Library

Mr. J. Failla
Head of Maths and IT
You are invited to a

Twilight Picnic

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The Parents’ Association would like to kick off 2016 by inviting all our families of the College, especially our new families, to a Twilight Picnic on Thursday 10th March, 2016 from 5-7pm at the school oval.

Bring your picnic blanket, dinner, snacks and drinks. Kids bring your footy/soccer ball. Please remember we are a nut free school, therefore nut products are not permitted. Light refreshments will be available for purchase.

Looking forward to seeing you all there and welcoming our new families of the College.

Agapetois ginveis,

O Syllogos ginvon sas kalle se piknik tina Pimpti 10 Martiou, 2016 apo tis 5-7mu sto gepeido tou scholeiou. Elate na sas gnorismoume kai na kalosorismoume tis kainodories oikogeneies tou Kollegeiou mas.

Mporite na ferete faghta kai pota (parakaloume chrise fosstikia).

Regards,

Parents’ Association
Secondary School Vaccine Program – Year 7 Students

Transfer of contact information to local council

Dear Parent/Carer,

The secondary school vaccine program helps ensure students and communities are protected from diseases such as diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, human papillomavirus and chicken pox.

Local councils deliver the program and schools distribute the vaccine consent forms.

Recently the *Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2013* were amended to authorise schools to release parent and student information to local councils so that councils can follow up with parents after the consent forms have been distributed.

This means that we will provide your local council with your contact details and a local council representative may contact you with vaccine program information. If you do not wish for your details to be provided to your local council, please advise me in writing before close of business 28 February 2016.

If you are unable to contact me by the above date you will need to contact the officer responsible for the vaccine program at your local council in the event that you have queries about your contact details.

Every day immunisation saves lives and makes it possible for Victorians to live free from illness and the disability caused by many infectious diseases. All Victorian secondary students can receive these vaccines for free through the school-based program.

The next step will be to return the student’s vaccine consent forms to the school. Without returning the consent form, a student may miss the opportunity to be vaccinated. It is important the consent forms are completed and returned to the school, regardless of whether you agree that the student will be vaccinated or not as part of the school-based program.

For further information please go to the following links: [http://immunehero.health.vic.gov.au](http://immunehero.health.vic.gov.au)

Yours faithfully,

[Signature]

Mr Don Walkley
Acting Principal