The Lord’s Message

“Why are vigil lamps (kandylia) lit before icons? So that the vigil lamp would be our small sacrifice to God, Who gave Himself completely as a sacrifice for us, and as a small sign of our great gratitude and radiant love for Him from Whom we ask in prayer for life, and health, and salvation and everything that only boundless heavenly love can bestow.” –

St Nikolai Velimirovich

Important Dates

Term 1
Week 9
Monday 21 March
Parent Teacher Conversations F-12
Tuesday 22 March
Greek Independence Day, Whole School Assembly, 8.45am
Thursday 24 March
Term 1 Concludes, F-12
Friday 25 March
Greek National Independence Day
Roman Catholic Good Friday – Public Holiday

Term 2
Week 1
Monday 11 April
Term 2 Commences for students
Wednesday 13 April
PA Meeting, 6.30pm
Thursday 14 April
School Photos F-12, Full Winter Uniform including blazer
Week 3
Monday 25 April
ANZAC Day – Public Holiday
Friday 29 April
Greek Orthodox Good Friday – No School
Friday 29 April
Greek Orthodox Easter Sunday
Week 4
Monday 2 May
Greek Orthodox Easter Monday – No School

From the Acting Principal

Thank you

Today I write to send my best wishes to the St John’s College Community.

Since May 2015 I have once again had the opportunity to be a part of a very caring and engaging community – the day to day life at St John’s is a wonderful experience.

May I firstly acknowledge and thank His Grace, Bishop Iakovos, for the great partnership we have had over this past twelve months. His Grace is a very prayerful and professional man, blessed with many of God’s graces. May I thank the staff for their ongoing efforts to provide for our students in so many ways, and at so many levels. Special thanks to the College Executive, Mr. John Savopoulos, Mrs. Agatha Anamourlis and Mrs. Hari Vlahos for their great sense of team and for their wise counsel.

My thanks to all of our students who capture the spirit of St John’s through their interactions and efforts. I have appreciated their friendship and respect.

My thanks to members of the College Alumni Committee and Parents Association Committee for the continuing efforts to support the development of St John’s. It is terrific to see the increasing number of parents involved in the life of the College.

As I leave St John’s I would now encourage the community to support the leadership of the two Co-Principals, Mr Savopoulos & Mrs Anamourlis, who will manage the College until a permanent Principal is appointed.

May our God bless the St John’s College Community.

Best wishes.

Don Walkley
Junior School News

Year 5 students have had a very busy term! We have been reinforcing place value, multiplication, estimation and rounding in numeracy. During literacy lessons we have focussed on building vocabulary and extending speaking skills. In Science, Year 5 have enjoyed learning about the rare qualities of Earth in comparison to the other planets, while Year 6 have studied the devastating effects of natural disasters on Earth's landscapes and people. Through Class Dojo, we have discovered the secrets of the brain and put these into practice whilst on camp, by trying new and challenging things.

Senior School News

Farewell and Thank You

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Walkley for all his support, leadership and guidance at St John’s College over the past 12 months and wish him all the best in his future endeavours.

We would like to remind parents and students of certain guidelines and expectations in preparation for Term 2:

Morning Assembly

Morning assembly starts at 8.30am and students are expected to arrive at school by at least 8.20am. Late arrivals must report to reception and sign in. It is important that all students are punctual to school and classes. As we all recognise, lateness to school or class without a very good reason is disruptive to everyone else in the school who is trying to work and study. Arriving to school on time emphasises the importance of being ‘reliable’. Please support us in instilling good habits in our students.

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.

Guidelines for using Mobile Phones at St John’s College

- Mobile phones are not to be used for any purpose on school premises, grounds or during off-site activities i.e. camps, excursions; unless prior permission is granted
- Students are required to hand in their mobile phone to the front office for safe keeping and at the student’s request and it will be returned to them at the end of the day.
- Parents and carers may contact children if required by leaving a message with the school office.
- If a student requires the use of a telephone in the case of an emergency, they are required to use the phone in the school office.

Consequence of students using digital and electronic devices

Where a student is found to have a digital or an electronic device, it will be confiscated for collection by the parent/carer at the end of the school day.

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

Maths Help Club

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

Mr. J. Failla
Head of Maths and IT

Parents’ Association News

A sincere thank you to all the families who attended our ‘Twilight Picnic’ on Thursday 10th March. It was very encouraging to see so many families take part and, even though the weather wasn’t kind to us, we all had a great time. We’d also like to thank Mrs Anamourlis for making Greek coffee which went well with the delicious cakes and donuts generously donated by Damian Spyrou from The Village Bakery (38 Grantham St, Brunswick West).
The students enjoyed ‘Gelato Day’ held on Tuesday 8th March. This time the weather was perfect! Thank you to all the families who supported this event.

A reminder that the PA General Meeting has changed to the second Wednesday of each month at 6.30pm (held in the Senior Staff room). We have had a very healthy turn out to our meetings thus far and we continue to ask for your assistance in building a strong and engaged PA. The PA is working on a number of achievable initiatives that will benefit the school and we are looking for more parents to come along and become involved.

The PA would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Walkley for being a strong supporter of the PA and we wish him every success in his new role.

And finally, please remember to ‘Like’ our Facebook page ‘St John’s College Preston-Parents Association” to see photos from our events.

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The Parents’ Association is once again pleased to offer Lambathes (Πασχαλινές Λαμπάδες) for Easter. We will have a wide range of new designs for children of all ages on sale in Term 2.

We will also have an Easter hamper which will be raffled. Raffle tickets will sell for $2 each.

This year, the Parents’ Association will also be selling home-made τσουρέκια in the days before Easter.

We invite you to purchase your Lambathes (Πασχαλινές Λαμπάδες) from our selection in Term 2.

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The Parents’ Association is seeking donations of items that can be used for the making of Lambathes (Πασχαλινές Λαμπάδες) for Greek Orthodox Easter. Any items such as tulle, netting, ribbons and religious items for decorations that you may be able to donate should be provided to the Parents’ Association via the School. If possible, please provide these items prior to the conclusion of Term 1.

The Parents’ Association is also seeking donations of items that can be included in the Mother’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 20 April 2016.

The Parent’s Association sincerely thanks you for your donations.

Kind Regards,
Parents’ Association
St John’s College

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The Parents’ Association (Πασχαλινές Λαμπάδες)

Lambathes

Mother’s Day Hampers

The Parents’ Association is seeking donations of items that can be used for the making of Lambathes (Πασχαλινές Λαμπάδες) for Greek Orthodox Easter. Any items such as tulle, netting, ribbons and religious items for decorations that you may be able to donate should be provided to the Parents’ Association via the School. If possible, please provide these items prior to the conclusion of Term 1.
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

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**Greek Sweet Treats**

**Baklava Muffins**
Makes about 12

**Ingredients**
**For the Filling:**
- ½ cup chopped walnuts
- ½ cup sugar
- 1 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 3 tablespoons butter, melted

**For the Muffins:**
- 1 cup + 7 tablespoons all purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- ½ teaspoon baking soda
- ¼ cup sugar
- 1 large egg
- 3 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted
- 1 cup + 2 tablespoons buttermilk (substitute: ¾ cup plain yogurt + ½ cup low fat milk)

**For the Topping:**
- about ½ cup honey

**Instructions**
1. Preheat the oven to 400F and prepare a 12 hole baking pan with liners
2. For the filling: Mix all the ingredients in a small bowl, set aside
3. For the muffins: In a large bowl, combine flour, baking powder, baking soda and sugar.
4. In a small measuring jar, lightly whisk together the egg, buttermilk and butter.
5. Make a well in the dry ingredients and pour the egg mixture. Stir gently. Its okay if its bumpy.
6. Fill the muffin cups one third, add the filling and then top with the muffin mixture again till the cup is two thirds full.
7. Using any remaining filling as a topping. Bake for 15 minutes until golden brown.
8. Take out from the oven and transfer to a wire rack, still in the muffin liners. Drizzle with honey and serve warm.