

ST JOHN'S COLLEGE BULLETIN

Term One, Issue One, 2024

"There is no better way to teach a child Christianity than to live it truly and from the heart. You cannot teach what you do not live." - Saint Silouan the Athonite

From the Principal

I do trust that this communication finds you well and you are enjoying the final few days, of what I trust has been a most relaxing and rewarding holiday period. A very warm welcome to the new school year; may 2024 be a standout, memorable and success rich year for you. I take this opportunity to also extend a very special welcome to the 50 new students and their families, that join us this year.

Reflecting back on 2023, there were a number of significant achievements, with improvements to our facilities – two updated Resource Centre areas, substantial enhancements to our gymnasium, now named the Kourtessis Centre, along with several important program updates. A huge thank you to all those involved.

Without doubt the highlight for me, was the vastly improved financial strength of our College, through the remarkable generosity of the Beniko Family Trust, together with the assiduous work of our College Board of Directors across several fronts. I feel blessed to have the remarkable support and active encouragement of these groups, together with the spiritual sustenance of our Archdiocese and His Eminence Archbishop Makarios, His Grace Bishop Evmenios, our Reverend Fathers as well as the practical expertise and commitment of our College Board, chaired by Father John Frangos.

In a similar manner to B.O.T.A.T in 2023, we are keen to continue to grow our program offerings to inspire and challenge the current and future generations of SJC students. Enhancements in place for the 2024 year include:

- Additional provision for digital learning and extension
- An expanded elective program for Years 8, 9 and 10
- Further on-site opportunities in Music performance
- A Middle School production for 2024
- 3 Levels of Greek teaching across Years 5-10
- The Ariston Program that seeks to extend and enrich students with specific talents and interests
- More regular opportunities for our VCE students to receive 'internal' tutoring.

The central focus of SJC is on educating our young people and educating them well. Our students, parents and staff will be surveyed during the first term. This information will play an important role in developing our next 5-year strategic plan, overseen by the College Board that will take us forward from 2025.

We look forward to welcoming our students and SJC families back to build on the momentum and the positive relationships and care for each other that is so important for growth and success.

A SPECIAL MEAL WITH THE ARCHBISHOP

For me, the new school year commenced with a wonderful gathering of the Greek community with His Eminence Archbishop Makarios of Australia at the Cretan Village on the evening of Sunday, 21 January.

Apart from being the Archbishop's name day, the occasion held additional special significance, 2024 being the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Holy Archdiocese. While there are 9 Greek schools nationally, being the only Archdiocese school in Australia the year is a particularly significant one for St John's College. In October we look forward to the Apostolic Visit of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. SJC will have the honour of hosting the Patriarch, the only school to do so.

It was lovely to spend this night with – His Grace Bishop Evmenios, Father John, Father Leo, Mr Sherwood, our new Head of Junior School Ms Pimpini, Ms Giannos, Mr Raspa, Ms Krikelis and our School Captains – Pantelis S, Angelique F, Daniel B and Peter D.



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New Staff

We are grateful to the following staff who will join us this year and wish them every success:

Stefanos Chrisoulis - Director – Operations

In addition to teaching 3 classes, Stefanos will oversee daily organisation, thereby releasing Derek Sherwood to spend greater time in the Deputy and Principal roles. Over the last 10 years Stefanos has worked in several significant positions of responsibility that required high degrees of management and organisation.

Dean Emmanuel - Primary Teacher

Over a 25-year period, Dean has gained experience teaching across numerous year levels in schools in Australia and in the United Kingdom and sites his excitement at joining St Johns College as a 'proud Greek-Australian residing in the local area'.

Lillian Gale - Mathematics

Since 2017 Lillian has worked at several prestigious independent schools most recently undertaking advanced professional development (VCE Mathematics Method studies) at the University of Melbourne in 2023, which saw her placed in the top 10% of the cohort. A passion for Science is also held. That saw Lillian achieving a Dean's Honour award. We look forward to her contributions in the Mathematics and Science areas in particular.

Kayla Harvey - Mathematics / Science

Graduating from Monash University with a double degree in Mathematics and Science, Kayla joins SJC following a highly impressive teaching practicum at the College. Kayla lists her passions as Microbiology, Music and Reading.

Natalie Kakalas - Learning Support Officer

Previously working in the state sector, Natalie will bring a wide range of life experiences to the College as well as practical skills gained as a LSO where she was held in very high regard. She is fluent in Greek and commented that "she is excited to be joining St John's and connecting with the wider Greek community".

Adrian Lam - STEM and Digital Technologies

Adrian has significant teaching experience in the area of Digital Technologies where for the last 4 years he has led this practice at Haileybury (Castlefield Campus).

Julie Li - Health and PE

Julia is a passionate and high achieving secondary Health and Physical Education teacher, who has been working at Rangitoto College in Auckland since 2019. Julia holds a Master of Education degree from the University of Auckland, where she achieved first-class honours and conducted groundbreaking research. Julia's academic achievements include graduating as a Senior Scholar and being recognized as the top overall achieving student in the Bachelor of Physical Education program.

Blagica Nikolovska - Director – People and Programs

Appointed to this new position for 2024, the role seeks to ensure that SJC takes a people-centric approach as well as a strategic focus on growth and improvement; Blagica will bring lead experience gained over a lengthy period in these key aspects of development.

Romina Pimpini - Head of Junior School

With a wide range of experiences across all levels of education as a Deputy Principal, Head of Junior School and Head of Senior both within the independent and government sectors, Romina recently completed a Master of Educational Leadership in 2023. St John's College is the fourth F-12 school Ms Pimpini has been a part of, providing the landscape to witness student growth and development at all stages.

Stacey Spanos - Humanities Teacher

With a Graduate Diploma of Education (Secondary) and 12 years of experience, Stacey is an accomplished English, Literacy and Humanities Teacher across Years 7- VCE. Stacey comments that she is excited to find that her qualifications, along with my Greek Orthodox faith, aligns closely with the College values and principles.

John Yong - Learning Support Officer

An accomplished musician and Music Teacher with previous independent school experience, John is now seeking to develop his general classroom teaching skills as part of his career progression and will support and assist learning within our primary school.

Key Commencement Events and Dates

- 16th Jan 2024 - College Office Opens for 2024
- 25th Jan 2024 - New Staff Professional Development
- 29th Jan 2024 - Staff Professional Development
- 30th Jan 2024 - Student Orientation/Transition Sessions:

Foundation	(9:30am - 11:30am)
Years 7 - 10	(9:30am - 12:00pm)
VCE	(1:30pm - 3:00pm)
- 31st Jan 2024 - Term 1 Commences - All Students

2024 Timetable

A friendly reminder that the school start and finish times will be changing slightly in 2024, with 5 periods instead of 4.

- The College gates will open at 8:25am
- Prayer and Preparation (PP) will commence at 8:40am
- The school day will conclude at 3:05pm

8:40am	PRAYER & PREPARATION	10mins
8:50am	PERIOD 1	60mins
9:50am	TRANSITION	5mins
9:55am	PERIOD 2	60mins
10:55am	RECESS	25mins
11:20am	PERIOD 3	60mins
12:20pm	TRANSITION	5mins
12:25pm	PERIOD 4	60mins
1:25pm	LUNCH	40mins
2:05pm	PERIOD 5	60mins
3:05pm	FINISH	