

# ST JOHN'S COLLEGE BULLETIN

## Term Two, Issue One, 2024

*"Fathers and Mothers: Go and lead your Child by the hand into the Church."* - Saint John Chrysostom

### From The Principal

A very warm welcome back to all students, staff and families. I wanted to express my heartfelt thanks to those who worked over the break to improve our school. Our state-of-the-art, podcast facility housed in the Senior School Resource Centre, is a wonderful facility to complement and further extend our IT program. I applaud the fact that as a community we are regularly taking positive steps to improve, to be a little bit better than before - and in doing so, transitioning from good to great. I sincerely hope this is the case this term for our students - what can I learn from the recent P/T interviews - where am I doing well and why and where can I make some simple adjustments that result in positive improvements.

#### Canteen

On the theme of improvements and growth, I received exciting news that our Canteen will expand its hours and will be open Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. I am very thankful to our hardworking PA on this initiative. Please get behind the group - either through registering your interest as a volunteer (once a month would make a big difference to our service) or purchasing a wonderful home-cooked lunch occasionally. I would also like to warmly welcome Anna Saklaras who has stepped up to manage the Canteen. Please note that the 3 day a week offering is being trialed for this term. Your strong support will see it continue.

#### New Staff and Students

I know you will join me in welcoming the following staff and families to our community:

Staff:  
Mrs Ashlee Walsh – Health PE Teacher  
Mrs Anastasia Koutsouroupas – Greek Language Teacher  
We welcome back Mrs Rebekah Thorburn from maternity leave.

Students:  
Saad S - Year 7                      Leonardo C - Year 9                      Daniela C - Yr 8  
Elena S - Year 8                      Anastasia S - Yr 5                      Nikolina S - Yr 10  
Monica F - Yr 10

#### Student Achievement



Congratulations to Christos K in Year 8 who qualified through to the final of the Junior Stawell Gift over the Easter long weekend. Out of a competitive field of 88 participants, he excelled to claim 7th place, in an outstanding performance. Christos' hard work and dedication have truly paid off—Well done on this impressive achievement!

#### Commonwealth 75

It was with real pleasure and excitement that I advised students and staff at our Assembly on Day 1 Tuesday, 16 April that St John's College is one of 4 Australian schools to participate in a very special celebration later in the year.

The school has been invited to Westminster Abby in the presence of King Charles to celebrate 75 years of the Commonwealth and its 76 member countries. Only 600 guests from commonwealth countries around the world have been invited to attend. SJC will be there! Our school will also have a 2-page feature in a special commemorative book to be circulated throughout the world; 400,000 copies will be sent to special people and groups.

Quite an honour and a once in a lifetime opportunity! October will be a very special time for us as we celebrate with a King and soon after, host the Patriarch here at our school; the only school in Australia to do so!

My very best wishes to you all for a wonderful term



#### Vaping

Parents, carers, schools, and community all play an important role in protecting children and young people from, and educating them about, the harmful effects of smoking and vaping.

Research from the Royal Children's Hospital shows many parents and carers are not aware of the harmful effects or how their views about smoking and vaping can impact the likelihood of a young person taking up smoking or vaping.

The Department of Education has developed resources to help you learn more about the health risks of smoking and vaping. The resources include advice about how to talk to children and young people about vaping, and where to get support. To access the resources, go to <https://www.vic.gov.au/smoking-and-vaping-advice-parents> You can also view this video on smoking and vaping from experts at the Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne for health advice and tips for starting a conversation with young people.

Please note the following changes to school sites and the new Vaping Policy for Victorian schools:

- In Victoria, a person must not smoke or vape on school premises within 4 metres of any pedestrian access point to school premises.
- The prohibition on smoking includes vaping and applies whether or not the e-cigarette contains nicotine.
- Cigarettes and e-cigarettes cannot be sold to people under 18 years of age.
- Smoking and vaping are not permitted during school events and excursions held off school premises.
- Smoking in these places is a fineable offence.

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## Term One, Issue Five, 2024

### Independence Day

On Sunday 14th April 2024, The College participated in the annual Greek Independence Day parade. The event was not only a resounding success but also a profound demonstration of our community's pride and spirit.

The day was filled with memorable moments that beautifully showcased our cultural identity and collective talents. From the solemn opening of the March, which featured a special band tribute to the late Stelios Tsiolas, to the vibrant display of our flag bearers who carried our banners high with unmistakable pride. Each step taken by our students in the march resonated with the deep respect and honour we hold for our heritage.

Our Byzantine chanters moved many with their hymn to the Virgin Mary, creating a reflective and poignant atmosphere that touched the hearts of all present. Additionally, the choir's rendition of the national anthems was nothing short of spectacular, echoing our joy and pride across Lakeside Stadium. Regardless of our student cultural background, it is during occasions like these that we are reminded of the strength and unity of St. John's College.



### Greek Parliamentary Delegation



On Tuesday 16th April, St. John's College proudly hosted an esteemed delegation from the Greek Parliament in an enriching event that underscored the school's strong international ties and commitment to Hellenic heritage. The event was graced with the presence of The Hon. Theodora Tzakri, Member for Pella and A' Vice President, Parliamentary Council for Greeks Abroad; The Hon. Evangelia Liakouli, Member for Larissa and B' Vice President, Parliamentary Council for Greeks Abroad; and The Hon. Asimina Skondra, Member for Karditsa, Member of the Parliamentary Council for Greeks Abroad. The assembly began with the school choir's moving rendition of a hymn to the Virgin Mary, followed by the Australian and Greek National Anthems, setting a reverent tone for the proceedings.

Rev. Father John, Chair of the St. John's College Board, shared his reflections on the historical and enduring connections between the school and Greece, highlighting the institution's dedication to fostering Hellenic education and values. His words set a foundational context for the remarks that followed.

The parliamentarians then took the stage, engaging the audience with discussions on the vital importance of Hellenism in the Diaspora and the significant role of the Greek language in maintaining cultural identity. Their speeches resonated with both students and teachers, inspiring a renewed appreciation for their heritage.

The assembly concluded with a morning tea, where guests and school leaders held productive discussions about strengthening ties and collaborative initiatives between the Greek Parliament and St. John's College. Commitments were made to work jointly on promoting Hellenic education and culture abroad, further enriching the school's international educational outreach. This visit not only provided our students with a rare opportunity to engage with global leaders but also reaffirmed St. John's College's role as a prominent advocate of Hellenic culture and education in Australia.

### GOANNSE - May 7th - 10th 2024

The upcoming Greek Orthodox Archdiocese Of Australia National Sports Event is almost here! Please see the link provided below for access to the GOANNSE website and Instagram page.



Website - [www.goaanse2024.com](http://www.goaanse2024.com)

Instagram - [GOANNSE\\_2024](https://www.instagram.com/GOANNSE_2024)

### Confirmed Calendar Dates

- 23rd Apr 2024 - Year 7 2025/2026 - Grade 5/6 Parent Info Night
- 24th Apr 2024 - St John's College Open Morning
- 25th Apr 2024 - Anzac Day - Public Holiday (No School)
- 26th Apr 2024 - Anzac Day Assembly - SS Agora
- 26th Apr 2024 - Year 5 & 6 Interschool Sports
- 29th Apr 2024 - Bullying Incurion - Year 7 & 8
- 2nd May 2024 - Junior School Assembly - Easter Hat Parade
- 3rd May 2024 - Orthodox Good Friday - No School
- 4th May 2024 - Orthodox Holy Saturday
- 5th May 2024 - Greek Orthodox Pascha
- 6th May 2024 - Greek Orthodox Easter Monday - No School