

ST JOHN'S COLLEGE BULLETIN

Term Three, Issue Two, 2025

From the Principal

This newsletter reflects the rich myriad of opportunities on offer in any given 2-3 week period. I take this opportunity to warmly commend our staff on their efforts to introduce our students to explore new areas and ways of doing things. Life is a journey of understanding yourself, discovering passions and exploration. Our students have had plenty of chances to do this during the recent period.

Success is also a journey – special congratulations to Paris K who, with other members of the Victorian U/15 Girls' Soccer Team, travelled to Oregon, USA to participate in the prestigious Nike Premier Cup. What an awesome achievement!

In memory and appreciation

Wednesday 3 September marked an important moment in the College's relatively brief history – on his recent passing, the life and significant contribution of Father Elias were celebrated.

Father Elias holds a special place in the history and identity of our College – he was the first Orthodoxy teacher when the College began, and for a period he was also the owner of the College alongside Metropolitan Iezekieli of Melbourne after the passing of Father Kourtessis.

Father Elias was also the long-serving parish priest of Templestowe, and many of our Templestowe students and families, together with current staff and our Chair of the SJC Board were present to celebrate his life and to give thanks. In the past, the Templestowe parish was one of our largest, highlighting the strong connection between our school community and Father Elias.

Staff paused to give thanks and offer a prayer to a great founder of our College and contributor to SJC. On Friday 5 September as a further mark of respect our flags in the Senior Agora were flown at half-mast. May he rest in peace.

A proud moment for St John's College!

We are delighted to celebrate and warmly congratulate our alumnus, His Grace Bishop Christophoros of Kerasounta (Class of 1998), on his election by the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate as Assistant Bishop to His Eminence Archbishop Makarios of Australia. Bishop Christophoros, who has remained connected to our school community through events and alumni gatherings, will now serve as Chancellor of the Holy Archdiocese of Australia and Vicar of the Immediate Archdiocesan District. This is a historic and joyous achievement for our community, and we are so proud to see one of our own serve the Church and Australia with faith and dedication. Axios!

Outstanding Success in Greek Language Certification

We are delighted to share that a group of our VCE Greek students who recently sat the internationally recognised Greek Language Certification exam achieved a 100% success rate, with every student receiving a High Distinction.

This exceptional achievement is a testament to the students' dedication and the strength of the College's Greek language program. At St John's College, we remain deeply committed to promoting Greek language learning and continuously seek to expand our Hellenic educational offerings. Congratulations to all students involved—this is a proud moment for our College and a shining example of Hellenism in action.



On Monday, 11th August, the St John's College community was deeply honoured to welcome His Eminence Archbishop Makarios of Australia, who presided over the Small Supplicatory Canon to the Theotokos. We were also privileged by the presence of His Grace Bishop Kyriakos of Melbourne, His Grace Bishop Evmenios of Chora, our clergy and distinguished guests. In his address to our students, His Eminence spoke about the Theotokos, reminding them that no matter where they are or what they do, she is always with them, offering her love, comfort, and protection. A truly memorable and beautiful afternoon for our college.



Feast Day of the Transfiguration – A Celebration of Hellenism in Action
On Wednesday 6th August, a group of students proudly represented St John's College at the Parish of the Transfiguration in Thomastown for the Feast Day of the Transfiguration of Our Lord. Presided over by His Eminence Archbishop Makarios, this special service provided students with an opportunity to actively engage with our Greek Orthodox faith and heritage.



Moments like these exemplify Hellenism in action—where learning extends beyond the classroom and into the heart of the community. Students were able to witness the significance of this important Feast Day and contribute meaningfully, with several taking on the honour of serving as flagbearers during the service. Community engagement is a key pillar of our College's identity, and we thank our students for their participation and our families for their ongoing support.

St Paraskevi Feast Day Celebration

On Sunday 27 July, students from St John's College proudly represented the school at the Feast Day celebration of St Paraskevi in St Albans. Students attended the Divine Liturgy at the Parish of St Paraskevi, joining the local community in prayer and celebration. It was a special opportunity for student leaders to demonstrate their commitment to faith, service, and community. The school's presence reflected a strong connection to the parish and the wider Greek Orthodox community. We thank all students and families who supported the event and look forward to continuing to nurture student leadership through meaningful community engagement.



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STEM WEEK

STEM Week 2025 was a celebration of creativity, innovation, and problem-solving that brought our school to life this August. Across the week, students engaged in an incredible variety of challenges, competitions and workshops that highlighted the importance and excitement of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. This year, Noel H was crowned our Chess Champion, demonstrating strategic brilliance, while Dimitri T (Year 8) and Sebastian M (Year 4) astonished us all by smashing their personal Rubik's Cube records with times of 30 and 40 seconds respectively. Our marshmallow tower competition was fiercely contested, with Elle G, Poppy V, Zoe T, and Athena S ultimately taking the crown for their clever and stable design. Meanwhile, Gabriel T (Year 7) and Kryssa S (Year 6) showed extraordinary patience and precision by tearing their Minties wrapper to an unbelievable 105cm in length! STEM Week was a true showcase of our students' talents, teamwork, and perseverance. A huge thank you must go to all the staff who helped make STEM Week 2025 such a memorable and inspiring event.

Ms Laila Sarraf

Learning Area Coordinator (Mathematics and Science)
Ariston Program Coordinator



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100 DAYS OF SCHOOL

Our Foundation students reached an exciting milestone, celebrating 100 Days of School!

To mark the occasion, classrooms were filled with creativity, joy, and a touch of imagination. Students engaged in fun activities based on the number 100 and dressed up as "100-year-olds" for the day. The celebration was not only a chance to enjoy some light-hearted fun but also an opportunity for students to reflect on how much they have learned and achieved in their first 100 days of school. It's a reminder of the growth, friendships, and hard work that make each school day meaningful.

A big thank you to our amazing staff for all they do each and every day to support, guide, and inspire our youngest learners. We can't wait to see what the next 100 days will bring!

Click on the video below, to see more photos!

[100 Days of School](#)



BOOK WEEK

Our students brought their favourite characters to life with the most creative and colourful costumes. From classic storybook heroes to modern-day favourites, the imagination was endless! The Book Parade was filled with smiles, laughter, dancing, and a shared love of reading. It was wonderful to see our Year 12 students joining our Junior Schoolers in celebrating this special tradition, making Book Week, once again, a highlight of the year.

Alongside the parade, students enjoyed a range of activities, including a book-making competition, an engaging incursion and author visit, and for Years 5 and 6, a lively Spelling Bee. This year's Scholastic Book Fair was our most successful yet, raising a record \$2792 and providing over \$700 worth of resources for our school. The Great Book Swap was also a wonderful success, helping to raise valuable funds for the Indigenous Literacy Foundation.

A huge thank you to our amazing staff for your ongoing support in making Book Week such a joyful celebration of stories, imagination, and the love of reading.

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Annie

Our Year 3 & 4 students had an incredible experience attending Annie the Musical! They caught the train into the city, adding an extra layer of excitement to the day. From the bright lights to the inspiring performances, it was a wonderful opportunity to immerse themselves in the magic of live theatre. Experiences like these spark creativity, build confidence, and bring learning to life beyond the classroom.



Our VCE students visited the Bonegilla Migrant Experience in conjunction with the Greek Community of Melbourne Language Schools, highlighting the power of collaboration and unity. As part of their studies on migration, students walked in the footsteps of their ancestors, exploring the original site where thousands of post-war migrants began their new lives. They engaged with immersive exhibits, including displays from the Dardalis Archives and a special section honouring our College and its founder, Father Kourteassis. A powerful day that brought the curriculum to life and deepened their connection to our shared history.



We are so proud to celebrate our talented student, Paris K, who recently travelled to America with their soccer team, FV Academy, to compete in the world-renowned Nike Premier Cup. This prestigious tournament, sponsored by Nike, brought together some of the globe's most iconic clubs, including Atlético Madrid, Inter Milan, and Chelsea. Over six action-packed days in Portland, Oregon, 12 elite teams showcased their skills on the international stage. FV Academy did exceptionally well, finishing 6th overall — an outstanding achievement and an incredible experience for Paris! Well done!



It was so lovely to have so many dads and father figures join us yesterday to celebrate Father's Day. The morning began with a delicious breakfast before moving into a range of fun activities for dads to enjoy with their children. From golf and soccer to "drawing Dad," reading together, and plenty of other activities, the school was filled with smiles, laughter, and special moments. We thank all our dads and father figures for being part of this wonderful celebration and wish you all a very Happy Father's Day!



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Our Year 5 and 6 students had an unforgettable 5-day camp at YMCA Lady Northcote, near Bacchus Marsh! From the very first moment we arrived, the excitement was contagious, and the students embraced every challenge with enthusiasm. They took on the giant swing, canoeing, the low ropes course, and mountain biking, stepping outside their comfort zones and building important skills like teamwork, resilience, and independence. One of the standout moments was our excursion to Sovereign Hill, where students travelled back in time to the gold rush era. From exploring the Red Hill Mine to making candles and even visiting the lolly factory, they got a hands-on history lesson that they'll never forget.

Throughout the week, it was amazing to see the students support each other, try new things, and grow in confidence. This camp wasn't just about education, it was about making lifelong memories and connections!

Click on the video below, to see more photos!

[Year 5/6 Camp](#)




Anglesea Discovery Camp

Youth Retreat

September 19-21

BOOK NOW

<https://www.trybooking.com/DEPBR>

Disconnect to Reconnect

GO Youth CHORA
GREEK BATHOSMA ARCHDIOCESE OF AUSTRALIA




VillageOSHC Adventures of Oz Holiday Program!

SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

WEEK 1
Tuesday 23rd September
Wednesday 24th September
Thursday 25th September

WEEK 2
Tuesday 30th September
Wednesday 1st October

LOCATION
St John's College

- ✓ Active Sports & Games
- ✓ Teamwork & Confidence
- ✓ Prizes & Rewards
- ✓ Morning & Afternoon Tea

Age Group
5-12 years old

Times
9:00am - 3:00pm (Term 3)

Save up to 90% with the child care subsidy!

Book online at
VillageOSHC.com.au





Key Dates

Saturday 6 Sep	PA Annual Dinner Dance
Wed 10 Sep - Fri 12 Sep	Year 3/4 Camp
Wednesday 17 Sep	Footy Colours Day Fundraiser
Wednesday 17 Sep	Last day of Term 3 for Students
Thursday 18 Sep	Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews (Student Free Day)
Friday 19 Sep	Curriculum Planning Day (Student Free Day)
Monday 29 Sep	Office Opens for Term 4
Monday 6 Oct	First Day of Term 4