

ST JOHN'S COLLEGE BULLETIN

Term Two, Issue Four, 2024

"We should Pray God to give inspiration. God enlightens everyone, especially mothers, and gives them inspiration. This is the only way we can bring up children."- Saint Sophrony of Essex

Commemorating the Battle of Crete



Over the weekend, students from St John's College participated in a series of significant events to commemorate the Battle of Crete, a pivotal moment in World War II. The weekend's activities underscored the enduring friendship between Greece and Australia and honored the ANZACs who fought alongside the Cretan people. This year's commemoration was particularly special, as we were honored to have a military delegation from Greece join us in these solemn ceremonies.

On Saturday, May 25th, our students attended a poignant wreath-laying ceremony at the Shrine of Remembrance. This event paid tribute to the shared sacrifices of Greek and Australian soldiers. Following this, the students moved to the nearby Australian-Hellenic Memorial for the official ceremony, where they honored the fallen heroes of the Battle of Crete. The presence of the Greek military delegation added a profound sense of unity and respect to the proceedings.

The commemorations continued on Sunday, May 26th, with a memorial service at the Transfiguration of our Lord Church in Thomastown. This service honored the fallen heroes of the Battle of Crete with reverence and respect. After the memorial service, students attended the official unveiling of the World War II memorial monument in the church courtyard. This monument serves as a lasting tribute to the bravery and sacrifice of those who fought in the Battle of Crete.

At St John's College, we place a strong emphasis on Hellenic education and the development of our students' identity. Participating in these events allows our students to connect deeply with their heritage and understand the significant historical bonds between Greece and Australia. The weekend's events were a profound reminder of these ties and provided our students with a meaningful opportunity to honor and remember those who gave their lives for freedom.

Kristian Raspa - Head of Hellenism

Hellenism of Pontos Competition

Celebrating Success in the Hellenism of Pontos Competition

We are thrilled to announce the exceptional achievements of our students in the state-wide Hellenism of Pontos competition, organized by "Hellenism of Anatolia" in collaboration with St John's College. This competition celebrates the rich cultural heritage of the Pontian Greeks.

Our students demonstrated their deep understanding and appreciation of Pontian culture through their remarkable submissions. We are proud to recognise the following award winners:

- Christos K - 2nd in his category
- Evangelos N - Special mention in his category
- Paris K - 2nd in her category
- Vaia K - 2nd in her category

A special congratulations to Despoina K, who won 1st place in her category and the **main prize: a Silver coin from 157 AD (4 Drachmas) depicting King Oroferni of Cappadocia**. We are grateful to Despoina and her family for agreeing to display this historic artifact at our school until the end of the year.

All our students did excellent work, reflecting their dedication to preserving their heritage. Having strong cultural roots is essential for our students' holistic development. Their achievements highlight the importance of understanding and honoring our rich history. We encourage all students and parents to celebrate these accomplishments and continue fostering a deep connection to our heritage. Congratulations to all our participants!

Kristian Raspa - Head of Hellenism



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Ariston Program

Zoo Excursion

Rostrum 'Voice of Youth' Public Speaking

On Sunday, 19th May, Year 8 students Andrew C, Diahna F, and Paras M represented St John's at the regional heats of the Rostrum 'Voice of Youth' Public Speaking competition. Each prepared a six-minute speech on original topics – Andrew, on the benefits of space exploration for humankind in today's world and in the future; Diahna, on the varying perceptions of the British monarchy across generations and its media interactions; and Paras, on the destructive impact of smoking and vaping and the urgency of banning vapes. Congratulations to all three students on their achievement and excellent speeches.

Laura Wilcox - Ariston Coordinator

9C had an amazing time exploring Melbourne zoo last Friday.

Showing a great curiosity for the animals and their habitats as well as demonstrating their ability to travel on Melbourne trains seamlessly!



Computational and Algorithmic Thinking (CAT) Competition

On Wednesday, 22nd May, seven St John's students sat the Computational and Algorithmic Thinking (CAT) Competition, run by the Australian Maths Trust. The competition involves mathematical problem-solving using algorithmic skills as students create their own informal algorithms to test data, and encourages them to explore an interest in computer programming. Well done to Year 8s Eleni G, Alyssa B, Mary P, Andrew C, Timothy W, and Alexander M, and Year 11 Jaskaran S.

Laura Wilcox - Ariston Coordinator

OSHC and Events



Confirmed Calendar Dates

- 6th June 2024 - Year 7/8 Orthodoxy Excursion to Coburg Parish
- 6th June 2024 - Year 11 & 12 Exam Success Strategies Inursion
- 7th June 2024 - Year 5 & 6 Interschool Sports - Soccer and Netball
- 10th June 2024 - King's Birthday Public Holiday (No School)
- 11th June 2024 - Axion Estin Feast Day
- 12th June 2024 - Junior School Assembly
- 14th June 2024 - Year 5 & 6 Interschool Sports - Soccer and Netball
- 15th June 2024 - Parents' Association Annual Dinner Dance
- 18th June 2024 - General Achievement Test (GAT)
- 19th June 2024 - Year 3 & 4 ACMI Stop Motion Excursion