

ST JOHN'S COLLEGE BULLETIN

Term Three, 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

Year 10 Youth Leadership Conference

Welcome back

A warm welcome back to all students, staff and families for Term 3 and the second half of the school year.

In doing so, we extend a very special welcome to new staff and students – I truly hope that these people are made to feel at home at our College as quickly as possible – this is the responsibility of each and every one of us and my personal expectation of you all. To:

- Mr Amanatidis – former SJC student who will teach Years 7, 8 and 9 Humanities, and Year 7 Active Citizenship
- Ms Ojha – as a teacher of Science, Ms Ojha will have responsibility for Years 7 and 9 Science and Year 11 Chemistry
- The following students and their families: Dibora – Yr. 7, Sienna – Yr. 8, Yiannis and Ariana in Junior School.

I hope that we can all draw inspiration for this term from what has occupied the world's attention over the last 12 days. With an estimated viewing audience of 1000 million (a billion) people, I refer of course to the Paris Olympic Games.

A competition that was developed by the ancient Greeks 2800 year ago:

- To develop and showcase talent and promote effort and excellence among the Hellenic community
- To develop unity by bringing people together
- To promote peace
- To create a better world without discrimination of any kind
- To strive to go faster, higher, stronger and by doing so, to be better

It seems to me that those qualities, attributes and goals are as relevant today as they were in 776 BC when the Games were first held.

- The Olympic Creed says:
The important thing in life is not the triumph, (not to have won), but to have fought well (to have done your best).
- What does that mean for us this term?
- Train to be the best version of yourself – seek out opportunities to do so and
- Encourage and celebrate that in others and
- By doing so, to promote peace and create a better world for all, free of bias and discrimination.

My best wishes to you all for a wonderful term and none more so, than our Yr. 12 students who undertake their last full term of secondary school!

Special wishes and Congratulations

Fr Vasili Kourtessis received special recognition on Tuesday 6 August and I was delighted to be present to observe this, together with over 30 students, staff and families of the College at the Parish of the Transfiguration of our Lord in Thomastown. Fr Vasili was promoted by His Eminence Archbishop Makarios of Australia to rank of Archimandrite (the highest rank of priesthood) along with a name change to Fr. Ierotheos, the former name of his uncle and the founder of St John's College.



St Johns College is proud to announce the successful completion of the inaugural Year 10 Youth Leadership Conference, held with the generous support of the Beniko Family Trust. The event, which took place at St Johns College, brought together students, educators, and distinguished professionals to explore the principles of youth leadership and the initial stages of developing leadership skills.

The conference featured a series of insightful sessions, focusing on the psychological well-being essential for effective leadership. Miss Blagica Nikolovska delivered a compelling presentation on the importance of 'Mindsets,' emphasizing their critical role at every stage of the leadership journey. Mr Dylan Edge discussed the value of mentorship, highlighting how guidance and support from experienced leaders can significantly impact a young leader's development. Miss Ashlee Walsh also shared her expertise on essential leadership attributes and the importance of self-reflection throughout the leadership journey.



In addition to the enriching presentations, attendees had the unique opportunity to network with esteemed guests from various professional backgrounds. We were honored to welcome Tom Hunt from Heinz Law, Abraham Pitros and Alexandra Eshaq from 88 Real Estate, Con Lazos from Fusion Martial Arts, and Nikolas Lazos, an aspiring international junior MotoGP rider. These professionals shared insights into their industries and personal leadership journeys, providing students with valuable perspectives and inspiration.

The conference aimed to equip students with the foundational knowledge and skills needed to embark on their leadership journeys. By focusing on psychological well-being, mentorship, and essential leadership attributes, the event sought to inspire and empower the next generation of leaders.

Child Safety

SCHOOL GATES OPEN AT 8:20AM & CLOSE AT 3:25PM

In the interest of student safety and welfare, parents are reminded that staff supervise the school grounds from 8:20am in the morning and until 3:25pm each afternoon. We thank you for your co-operation in ensuring that the school grounds are vacated outside these times, unless directly supervised in our OSHC program or one of the nominated outside of school hours activities, such as sport or dancing/music.

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Work Experience

At the end of last term our students successfully participated in work experience placements across various industries! This invaluable opportunity allowed them to gain hands-on experience, develop professional skills, and explore potential career paths in sectors such as business, technology, hospitality and the trades. We are proud of their dedication and hard work, and we are grateful to the many businesses in the community for providing these enriching experiences. Our students' enthusiasm and commitment to learning continue to inspire us, and we look forward to seeing the incredible impact they will make in their future careers!



Year 5 & 6 Team Building

At the start of the term, our Year 5 & 6 students kicked off their exciting "on-boarding" program as our blended classes came into action. The week was packed with engaging activities that helped everyone:

- Set up classrooms, belongings, and spaces
- Establish routines and expectations for success
- Share feelings about the start of Semester 2 and appreciate each other
- Commit to 'action' one thing that may positively impact the learning and environment of others around us.

We also took new 'family photos' as a memento of the first day of the new semester, capturing the joy and enthusiasm of our young learners. The activities and discussions were filled with laughter and banter!

On Friday, curiosity reached a peak when our Library windows and doors were mysteriously blocked out in red. Students from F-6 wondered what was happening, but the 5/6 Team had some surprises planned to cap off our week of fun and connection.

The day started with a sports session with Mr. Neilson, and after recess, students gathered to watch an Aussie series about a school kid who wanted to fit in his new school... friendship, comradery & communication were vital! The highlight was a surprise pizza party in the 'Breakout Room,' where everyone enjoyed delicious pizza, drinks, and some winter sunshine.

To wrap up our fantastic week, each student shared their thoughts and feedback about the program before gearing up for Week 2. What a wonderful way to start the semester!



Whole School Divine Liturgy



Presided over by His Grace Bishop Evmenios of Chora, our Term 3 Divine Liturgy was a spiritually enriching event held at the Kourtessis Sports and Art Centre. Attended by all students, staff, and college families, the service was beautifully enhanced by our Byzantine Chanting Group, led by Fr George Frangos. It was a wonderful way to commence the second week of the term. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Fr Vasilii, Fr John, Fr Kyriakos, and Fr Phillip for their presence at this beautiful service.

Student Achievement - George P



A big congratulations to George P of Year 5/6AC, who has recently been competing in clay target events (Trap, Skeet, and Sporting) and has been successful in winning his grades. He enjoys the atmosphere of event day and is looking forward to competing at next year's national title. George is coached by his father and shoots a Beretta 12g 682 combination trap sporter.

Well done George, we wish you all the best in your future events!

House Tshirts Available Soon



Confirmed Calendar Dates

- 12th - 16th August - STEM Week
- 13th August - Immunisations - Year 7 & 10
- 13th August - Street Science Show - Whole School
- 13th August - Spiral Potato Food Truck
- 15th August - Dormition of the Theotokos - School Closed
- 16th August - Performance: Chinese Dance Group - Whole School
- 16th August - 100 Days of School Celebration - Foundation
- 16th August - GOA Northcote Youth Conference