



ST JOHN'S COLLEGE BULLETIN

Term One, Issue Two, 2025

"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

Our start to 2025 has been a very positive one from a number of perspectives:

- Our largest commencement of new students and lowest student exits for the past decade
- Student attendance at school has also seen a significant improvement (over 10% comparative to the same period in 2024)
- The engagement of our students and in particular the manner in which they have welcomed new students and staff
- Much improved uniform standards (refer to recent SEQTA comm from Ms Pimpini)
- Voluntary homework / study group after school – in the case of one year level, up to 50% of the student cohort are meeting on a regular basis to support each other
- Excellent Information Night attendance
- Some very promising student (test) performance data
- New initiatives such as Project Plato

All of these little things (the one percenters as they are called) add up, to improve performance overall by very creditable margins. I warmly commend students, staff and families for this 'lift'.

The story of the NZ All Blacks comes to mind – three key lessons for life:

- Little things (10 x one percent improvements when combined), add up to a big shift in overall performance OR aim for low the hanging fruit first, easily available and gathered
- Train as you expect to play, train under pressure
- Tidy the sheds – take responsibility for the mess you create, never be too big to do the small things

Let us continue our journey of good to great.

GRIP Leadership Program for all Year 6

I was delighted by the very active involvement and participation of our students at this all schools event both 'on stage' as well as in 'the audience'. Great work Year 6!

Mr Andrew Ponsford - College Principal

Parents Association Welcome Picnic



A big thank you to all the families and staff who joined us for the St Johns PA Welcome Picnic! It was a fantastic evening filled with great company, delicious food and plenty of fun. A special shout-out to Miss Dough and Our Daily Bread for serving up amazing food and to Blacky's Hampers for their generous Valentine's Day hamper. Your support truly made the night even more special! We're looking forward to many more exciting events together this year—stay tuned!

Whole School Divine Liturgy



Last Thursday, 27th February, our college community came together to participate in the Divine Liturgy, a cherished tradition held each term. The service was presided over by His Grace, Bishop Evmenios of Chora, and provided a profound opportunity for our students to unite in prayer as the body of the Church.

A special acknowledgment to our Byzantine Chanting Group, whose exceptional chanting added deep reverence to the service. The liturgy not only strengthens our spiritual connection but also reinforces our students' learning of the Orthodox Christian faith.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Fr Ierotheos, Fr Leo, Fr George, Fr Kyriakos, Fr Phillip, Fr Dejan, and Fr Kliment for their presence and participation in this blessed occasion.

Antipodes Festival



Last weekend, our talented students proudly embraced their Greek heritage, delivering outstanding performances at the annual Antipodes Festival. Despite the heat and rain, our Greek dancing groups and Greek Band captivated the crowd with their exceptional performances! A heartfelt thank you to everyone who visited the SJC stall - whether you got creative or simply stopped by to learn more about us, we appreciate your support. Congratulations to all our students for their dedication and passion. You made us proud!



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Athletics Carnival

ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

What a fantastic day we had yesterday at the Athletics Carnival! Well done to all the students who participated – your energy, sportsmanship, and team spirit made it such a fun day! A big congratulations to **AESOP** for taking the win! Thank you to all the amazing staff and teachers who made the day possible. We couldn't have done it without you!



SJC Koulourakia Bake Off



The sweet smell of freshly baked koulourakia filled the air in the food tech room as students at SJC took part in the highly anticipated Koulourakia Bake Off! This fun and creative event saw our students twist and shape their dough into traditional Greek Koulourakia, under the guidance of Mrs Konstas. The excitement didn't stop there — once the baking was done, it was time for the all-important judging. Our panel of 'expert' judges, Mr Ponsford, Mr Raspa, and Ms Pimpini, took their roles very seriously as they carefully tasted each koulouraki, considering flavour, texture and presentation. After much deliberation, all judges agreed that Team E — Billy L, Andrew C, and Noel H — were the winners, impressing everyone with their perfectly golden, buttery koulourakia. Congratulations!

A special mention must go to Andreas X and John S for coming up with the brilliant idea for this bake off. Their enthusiasm and creativity brought this event to life, and we're so proud to see students taking the initiative to organise such engaging activities for their peers. Congratulations to all the students who participated. Events like these not only celebrate cultural traditions but also foster a sense of community and fun within our school.

Key Commencement Events and Dates

- 10 Mar - Labour Day Public Holiday - No School
- 12 - 24 Mar - NAPLAN Yr 3, 5, 7 and 9
- 13 Mar - Junior School Assembly
- 13 Mar - Year 10 Orthodoxy Incursion
- 14 Mar - Year 5/6 Interschool Sport
- 21 Mar - Harmony Day
- 21 Mar - Whole School Drumming Practice
- 21 Mar - Year 5/6 Interschool Sport
- 24 Mar - Year 8 Interschool Sports - Tennis
- 25 Mar - Flag Raising Ceremony for Greek Independence Day
- 25 Mar - Greek Independence Day Service & Wreath Laying
- 26 Mar - Greek Independence Day Assembly
- 27 Mar - Year 11 & 12 Orthodoxy Incursion - Importance of Lent
- 28 Mar - Year 5/6 Interschool Sports
- 28 Mar - Year 7 & 10 Immunisations