



ΕΛΛΗΝΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΟ
ΚΟΛΛΕΓΙΟ
«ΟΙ ΑΓΙΟΙ ΑΝΑΡΓΥΡΟΙ»

Oakleigh Greek Orthodox College "Sts. Anargiri"

Gazette

Issue # 13/09 – Tuesday 18th August 2009

LETTER FROM GREECE

Dear All,

Wish you were here enjoying sun, sea and Greek lifestyle in Halkidiki.

All the children are well and enjoying the activities at the camp, including the nightlife. Their chaperones are having a good time too, by the way.

We have been on several excursions including Vergina, Veria, Thessaloniki, Naousa and Marmara. The activities are keeping the children busy while the kiosk is doing a roaring trade.

The children have enjoyed playing soccer, Basketball, beach volleyball, trampolining, extreme sports, table tennis, chess, art/craft activities, Greek language lessons (in which they have excelled!!), going to the beach, swimming in the pool and performing in a YUPPI-wide concert with all campers from Australia, USA, Canada, Cyprus, Serbia and the local Greek children.

It is quite a sight to see our children washing their own clothes and becoming self-sufficient to some degree. The food is typical camp-style Greek food. There have been a lot of local visitors who have come to see their young Aussie relatives. Time has passed quickly and although we still have 10 more days here, we have no doubt that this will pass us by in no time.

We are planning a few more local excursions during our remaining days to Afitos, Kalithea and Zervorohoria, the municipality that is sponsoring our group. All the children have already received gifts from the municipality - T-Shirt, cap and backpack.

The children love their shopping opportunities especially at the Greek Chaddy equivalent - COSMOS Shopping Centre.

The staff and children have enjoyed spending time with our new-found friends from around the world and many have exchanged email addresses.

It's almost lunchtime so it's Yia Sas and Kali Orexi from us.

Ms Mary Adams, Mrs Kiki Patsari and Mr Steve Charisis.



SECONDARY SCHOOL REPORT

“Teachers open the door; you enter by yourself...”

Congratulations to Ms Lewis for organising such a successful **Careers Expo** last Thursday. Representatives from most Universities and Tertiary providers were invited to come to our College and speak to our 10-12 students about different courses and pathways. What impressed the presenters was how well behaved and attentive the students were. It is the kind of compliment we like to hear from outsiders. It makes us proud to showcase our school and our students.

Pride was also something we all felt when our past students came to share their journeys with us. What amazing young people they are! What incredibly successful careers they have forged for themselves! Their advice to the students was to follow their dreams, their passions. They all said that it was ok not to always know exactly where their chosen path would take them, but to trust that in the end they would find their way. They all acknowledged their school as a place that offered them a safe and nurturing environment and they thanked the teachers who helped to guide them by sharing their knowledge and passion. They stressed the importance of hard work, perseverance and good organization to succeed. Their advice was to also network and not to be afraid to put themselves out there.

As a follow-up for the **Year 10 students we have the VCE Information Evening this Wednesday 19th August at 6.30 p.m.** Parents and students will have the opportunity to hear and ask questions about the VCE and the subjects that are available for selection. VCE teachers will be there to talk about their individual subjects and to give relevant information about assessment and prerequisites. The VCE handbook will be distributed as well as the subject selection forms. It is imperative that all attend.

On **Thursday 20th August** we will also hold an information evening for the **City Cite program for all Year 9 parents and students.** Letters have gone home and return slips should be given to the Homegroup Teachers. We look forward to seeing everyone on the night.

It surprises me when I hear students say that they are not going on camp. It disappoints me when parents do not ring to speak to me about their concerns but are too ready to give in to their children’s wrong choices. Children need to be taught the skills and learn the confidence to encounter the unfamiliar and meet the challenges presented by that which is unknown. And this requires confident and responsible parenting, which not only fosters independence and thought, but also provides the structures and boundaries within which children may flourish.

Schools also play an important role in developing these skills, both inside and outside the classroom. Our camping program, for example, is an important aspect of a rich learning experience because it allows students to challenge themselves in a way that their protected upbringing at home does not. The goals of the carefully structured camping program is to provide young people with safe risk and safe challenge so that they learn to meet the unfamiliar, overcome difficulty, cope with discomfort and, at times, deal with consequence. Students learn to cooperate, collaborate and coexist within a small group away from home. Surely these skills are important to develop in our young people. I urge all parents to support this valuable experience for their children’s sake. Please contact me if you have any concerns.

Marina Theodore—Head of Senior Years Education



Mathematics activities

Various Mathematical activities have been taking place this semester. The Mathematics Department is eager to provide opportunities for students to push their boundaries and explore mathematical aspects beyond the classroom program. Whilst we have various enhancement programs for stronger Mathematics students we also aim to encourage and support students who require extra assistance with their mathematics skills.

Year 8 students participated in the Mathematics Games Day at Penleigh and Essendon Grammar (photos below).

Mathematics Games Days give an opportunity for students to develop their mathematical talents and thinking skills in a setting where mathematics is regarded as fun and worthwhile with like-minded students from a diverse range of schools. It is an ideal way for students to participate in mathematical activities without the usual class room pressures and is a very effective vehicle for getting young people – particularly in the middle years of schooling – excited about mathematics.

On Wednesday 19th August students from years 4-11 are taking part in the ICAS Mathematics Competition. This also gives an opportunity for students to extend their Mathematical development as well as to gain a measure of their achievement in an external assessment situation.

This semester we are also focusing on students in years 7 & 8 requiring support in Mathematics. Years 9 & 10 Mathematics is streamed to cater for differences in learning, however years 7 & 8 are mixed ability classes and some students may need extra support. Our department has organized after-school tutorial groups (free of charge) for these students every Monday 3:30pm-4:10pm, which will provide extra assistance in the basic mathematical skills. We aim to support these students to master the basic mathematical concepts without disrupting their normal classroom program.

Angela Korlos - Head of Mathematics

KEY COLLEGE DATES

Term Three 2009	
18th August	. Inter-House Cross Country (Secondary School)
19th August	. Yr 10 VCE Information Evening
20th August	. Yr 9 City Cite Information Night
21st August	. Greece Trip Returns
24th August	. Parents Fundraising Association Meeting 7.30pm
26th August	. College Open Day
31st August	. Yrs Prep—3 Church Attendance
1st September	. Yrs 4—6 Church Attendance
5th September	. College Annual Ball

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STUDENT SERVICES REPORT

2009 Careers Expo

On Thursday students in Year 10, 11 and 12 attended the Bi-Annual Careers Expo.

Below is a snap shot of the Opening Address which was presented by outstanding past students:

- 1. Joanna Moschos:** Joanna will complete Commerce/Law at Monash University in 2009 and has secured a position in Sydney for 2010. She spoke of her experience and participation in extra curricular activities.
- 2. Anna Kourbasis:** Completed Biomedical Science in '07 and Honours in Epidemiology (Public Health) in '08. Anna is also teaching a Public Health subject for first year Medical and Biomedical students at Monash Uni. She will most likely starting her Phd in Sleep Medicine sometime September.
- 3. Kerri Kourbasis:** Won a scholarship for her folio and design abilities. She is an artist in her own right and has held a number of successful exhibitions. Kerri knows what it takes to succeed in the creative arts industry and offered advice in relation to interviews and folio presentations.
- 4. Michael Koukouras:** Will complete Engineering /Science at Monash University in 2009. He has been working part time in the engineering field, designing schools and other buildings. Michael spoke of his change in attitude from Year 10 and was able to finish with an ENTER in the high 90's.
- 5. Gina Lioudakis:** Graduated with a Commerce Degree from Deakin University. She has worked in Human Resources and Banking and Finance. Gina loved humanities as a secondary school student but said the secret to success was all about working hard and networking.



Sincere thanks also go to the following presenters:

1. Associate Professor Peter Hoffmann [RMIT], Aerospace Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineer
2. Reem Beanini, [Deakin University]-Information Technology
3. Lorna Walsh, [Deakin University]-Film & Television
4. Ali Terai, [Monash University]-Monash Overview
1. Kate Fenech, [ACU]- Exercise Science
2. Carol Glover, [MIBT] – Pathways to Deakin University
3. Alex Sims, [Swinburne University] Creative Arts/Design
4. Virginia & Emma Bebe [Swinburne University] – Engineering
5. Defence Force [Army & Navy].
6. Craig Treyvoud- [Holmesglen]- Apprenticeships
7. Cindy Morrison- [Monash University] – Science Degrees
8. Alice Hannan- [Box Hill] Options
9. Craig Brittle- [Box Hill] – Apprenticeships
10. Barry Clearwater [Engineers Australia]- Engineering
11. Debbie Day [Victorian Police Force]
12. Nikki Strathikopoulos- past student [Brighton Bay & RMIT] Textile design
13. Dino Kapetanakis [Holmesglen] – Hospitality
14. Helen Bauzon [Parent, Dietician, Author, TV presenter]
15. Zac Vlahandonis past student [RMIT] Public relations.

Thanks to Mr Steve Zafiroopoulos for organising our past students and Miss Bean for her assistance in timetabling.

Mary-Anne Lewis—Head of Student Services (Secondary)

Sts. Anargiri Feast Day Celebration: Silent auction

Dear parents,

As part of the community-wide celebrations planned for the Feast Day of Sts. Anargiri on November 1st, the Year 11 Business Management class will be organising and administering a Silent Auction on the day. The planning and organisation of the event will form a major component of the VCE assessment for the students. The auction will be selling items with an intangible value, along with various other goods and services.

Items that may be sold at the silent auction may include:

- Sporting memorabilia and equipment
- Beauty, hair and make-up services
- Book and cinema vouchers
- Mechanical services
- Weekend holiday house rental
- Jewellery
- Designer clothing and fashion
- A case of wine
- Any other items you are able to offer!

If you are able to donate any relevant items or know someone that can, we would love to hear from you.

Please contact the College on 95696128 or email Mr. Harry Floros (on the students behalf) at hfloros@ogoc.vic.edu.au.

We look forward to hearing from you in order to make this event as successful as possible.

Thank you.

The Year 11 Business Management Class



RMIT Guest speaker: Dr John Bonacci outlines where a career in Medical Science can take you.

Deakin University: Leonie Keilour gives a presentation on Commerce at Deakin, here she is explaining the Law component.



PRIMARY SCHOOL VIPS AND STUDENT OF THE WEEK AWARDS—14th August 2009

Prep A	Eleni Pantelidis	Stavros Markos
Prep S	Nina Ligidakis	Rydon Tochovitis
1P	Theodore (IJ) Kalogeropoulos	Zena Makantasis
1T	Wilkon Alszegi	Georgia Farmakis
2P	George Athanasopoulos	Stavroula Sideris
2V	Andreana Gamas	Denise Polymeropoulos
3K	Nick Agiazis	Eleni Athanasopoulos
3M	Natasha Momcilovic	Liam Diamantopoulos
4C	Anthony Stabelos	Liam Theodore
4T	Maria Liouas	Nicole Papazois
5G	Raphael Voulgarakis	Tia Vlahopoulos
5P	N/A	N/A
6A	Anthony Angelis	Jonathan Lithotomos
6P	Anthony Derimboglou	Christina Liatsos

STUDENT SERVICES REPORT

The NED Show

On Thursday the 6th of August Oakleigh Greek Orthodox College hosted the NED Show. The presenter, Steve, did a fantastic job of keeping the children's attention throughout the show. Our students all responded with wonderment and awe as they could not believe that someone could do so many things with a yo-yo. The NED Show is a program experienced by nearly 2 million children a year worldwide. The assembly combines a great message with yo-yos, humor, and audience participation to teach students how to develop three valuable characteristics involved in becoming champions at school and in life.....Never give up (focus, persistence) Encourage others (kindness, shared learning) Do your best (diligence, excellence).



Epilepsy Trivia Challenge Finals

Congratulations to Ellen Kanellos, Phillip Dimeo, Sophia Koutsoulis, Liam Theodore, the four members of our Year 4 Trivia Team who have reached the state finals of the Epilepsy Foundation's Trivia Challenge, which will be held on Sunday 18th of October at Monash University. More than 30,000 students across Victoria participate in the Trivia Challenge. It is a great credit to our team that they have qualified for the grand final, meaning that they are in the top ten teams for their year level in the state...a wonderful effort. We wish them well on the day.

Church attendance for the Primary

- Year Prep -3: Monday August 31
- Year 4-6: Tuesday September 1

Year 3 and 4 Musical Evening

It was fantastic to see so many parents and friends at the Years Three and Four musical presentation "It's all Greek to me!" I was absolutely amazed by the standard of the performances. The children did a brilliant job not only performing, but also entering and exiting the stage and floor. They were a credit to their school, showing much poise and confidence. Special thanks must go to Mr Perry for his stewardship and creative vision, and to Mrs Maramis who worked so hard practising and rehearsing with the children. A special thanks also to all parents and teachers who lent a hand in ensuring the whole night carry through with great success. Finally, to all the parents, grandparents, students and friends who came, you were such a great audience!

Con Roubos—Head of Student Services (Primary)

IT'S ALL GREEK TO ME

Put a song in the air and it can go

Places you will never know

All Around the World

All Around the Wide World – Fay White

"We are all Greeks" – Jorge Luis Borges (1899 – 1986)

By this, Borges meant: the way of thinking and living that we are all so accustomed to in the West, originated in the writers,

thinkers and politicians of Ancient Greece. Their ideas have now swept "All Around the World". What a lesson for our children - empires, countries, dynasties, money and power can rise and fall, but ideas - good ideas - will always remain.

Last Thursday night was a tribute to a variety of good ideas. Students in Years 3 and 4 sang, danced, played and acted to a receptive audience of family and community members, showing us all just how capable they are of using ideas and artistry to create something *beautiful*. The evening culminated in a performance of *Daedalus and the Labyrinth*, using techniques from Ancient Greek Theatre such as the Chorus, declamation, gesture, music, and suggestion.

Congratulations to all students involved and my sincere thanks to all staff and parents who assisted with the concert. Thanks to the funds raised on the evening, we hope to purchase more of the melodic percussion instruments that you saw used in the performance.

Here's to good ideas!!!

Mr David Perry—Head of Music

