



ΕΛΛΗΝΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΟ  
ΚΟΛΛΕΓΙΟ  
«ΟΙ ΑΓΙΟΙ ΑΝΑΡΓΥΡΟΙ»

Oakleigh Greek Orthodox College "Sts. Anargiri"

# Gazette

Issue # 15/09 – Tuesday 13th October 2009

## COLLEGE PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

I would like to welcome back our students and staff for Term 4, an important and significant term in so many ways.

Next week we will be farewelling our Yr 12 students at their Valedictory Dinner, an occasion when we acknowledge and celebrate their contribution and life at our College. The VCE exams begin on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October so the last two weeks for our Yr 12 students will be an important exam preparation time for them. Last week, the students were sitting practice exams in order for their teachers to assist them further to prepare comprehensively for their VCE Exams.

We wish our students the very best in their endeavours. We support and urge them to give it their all in an attempt to leave open as many doors as they can to assist them in choosing an appropriate pathway in life beyond their Secondary schooling.

The students will also be acknowledged by the entire student body and staff at a College Assembly this Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October.

### 2009 Presentation Day/Evening

OAKLEIGH GREEK ORTHODOX COLLEGE  
"ST. ANARGIRI"

2009 PRESENTATION DAY/EVENING

SUNDAY 13<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER  
KINGSTON CITY HALL (MOORABIN)

2.00pm - ELC/Primary School Presentations

7.00pm - Secondary School Presentations

Our end-of-year College celebrations will be held on **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December** during two separate events, one for the ELC & Primary School during the afternoon and in the evening for the Secondary School.

This year we have shifted the events to a new venue – the **Kingston City Hall in Moorabbin**. This celebration day involves all students of the College so your and their attendance is **compulsory**. Further information about ticketing will be distributed soon.

### Student Uniform

During the first two weeks of this term there is a transition period for the change from Winter to Summer Uniform. This means that students can wear either during this period. From Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October all students are expected to attend school in their Summer Uniform.

### National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN)

The NAPLAN was administered in May to all Year 3, 5, 7 & 9 students throughout Australia. The reports for this testing arrived during the last week of Term 3 and individual student reports were distributed at that time to students who were not attending camps. All student NAPLAN reports should now have been received by parents.

NAPLAN results add value to teacher assessment and reporting by showing how their students' achievements compare to a wider group of students across the state and Australia. It is important to remember that the results reflect each student's performance at a single point in time. Teachers assess their students' learning in literacy and numeracy on a regular basis. NAPLAN testing complements but does not replace the information that teachers gather.

Our College will be doing a comprehensive analysis of our students' results but a review of our College's results clearly indicates that our students have performed exceptionally well when compared with other students from across Australia.

If you have yet to receive your child's NAPLAN Report, please contact the relevant Head of School.

### After-School Care

After the relationship with Camp Australia was ended at the end of Term One this year due to very small attendances, the College made interim arrangements for families by directing these children to the College Library until 4.30pm each day.

We have liaised with other external providers but have not received the response we had hoped for due to the low level of interest reflected in the survey we conducted with parents.

As a result, the College has made the decision to operate an After School Care program from 2010 that is run by the College. Families can now plan for 2010 with some certainty. We will be distributing 2010 application forms for After School Care later this term.

### Student Achievement

The College acknowledges the exceptional achievement of James Karvelis (Yr 8B) who once again made the Victorian Soccer team for the Under 14's. James competed in Coffs Harbour from 2<sup>nd</sup> October to 10<sup>th</sup> October 2009. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row he has been selected for this representative team and we are very proud of him. Well done James.

### Introduction of the Victorian Student Number

Our school is working with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to allocate a Victorian Student Number (VSN) to each student at the school.

The VSN is a student identification number that is being assigned to all students in government and non-government schools, and students in Vocational Education and Training Institutions. The number, which is unique to each student, will be used as a key identifier on a student's school records, and will remain with the student throughout his or her education, until reaching the age of 25. The VSN is nine digits long, randomly assigned, and tied to stable information about the student (name, gender, date of birth).

The introduction of the Victorian Student Number will provide the capability to accurately detect patterns of student movement through, and departure from, the Victorian education and training system. It will greatly improve the collection and analysis of timely and accurate data about education in Victoria. The Department collects information to track improvements made to the education system, identify areas that require further improvement, and to analyse trends and identify future needs. The VSN will improve the accuracy, reliability and completeness of this information, providing a better basis for assessing needs and developing policies to meet them.

You will see the VSN appear on student report cards, enrolment confirmations, and exit confirmations.

If you want to know more about the VSN please see;

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/management/governance/vsn/overview.htm>

Mr. Steve Charisis—College Principal

## SECONDARY SCHOOL REPORT

### VCE Students

Term Four is the most anticipated term of the year. The Spring weather brings a certain optimism with it and one can only dream of the summer months ahead. In the mean time, however, there is much that needs to be done! The VCE students know this very well. They began the term with trial examinations last Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Whilst it is not the only indicator of end of year results, it does bring the realisation that the real examinations are around the corner and much work still needs to be done.

As a parent of a VCE child, for the second time, I am all too aware of the stresses and strains that are put on all family members. There are nights when it feels like we are walking on eggshells because no matter what we say it is not welcomed. Words of wisdom are wasted on children who are stressing about their future. My word of advice to VCE parents is to try and say as little as possible, feed them well, keep out of their way and tell them that you are there if they need anything. Just survive the next month or so!

The **Valedictory Evening** is due to be held on **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October** in the Community Hall. Parents are invited to share a meal with their children and the teachers and to acknowledge all that the Year 12 students have achieved in their time at Oakleigh Greek Orthodox College. It is a time to celebrate their transition from their life as secondary students and adolescents into the world of further study, work, adulthood and independence. It is a time when we farewell them from our school community but welcome them into the broader community in which they will play their parts as contributing citizens of the 21st Century. We look forward to a wonderful evening.

### Exodus Week at Oakleigh

The Biblical term is befitting of the last week of Term 3 when most of the secondary school is out. Camps were held for students in Years 8, 9 and 11: Snowy Mountain, white water rafting and abseiling, City Cite experiential learning and skiing at Mt Buller; work experience for Year 10 students meant that they had the opportunity to experience the work place and see if the job suited their future career path; a special cross curricular program for Year 7, titled "Being a Global Citizen", opened their eyes to the

world and especially the people who live in developing countries. For VCE students it meant the final stage of completing SACs and core work before their examinations. Each year level had the opportunity to be involved in something different that enhanced their overall co curricular experience. Young people need to experience a range of learning opportunities if they are to develop into successful and resilient adults. Further, they need to learn the responsibilities of living within a community and understanding the obligations of commitment this involves.

It concerns me deeply when some students, unwisely choose not to participate in all areas of the School life. The learning program at Oakleigh Greek Orthodox College includes the spiritual and the aesthetic and it also covers the physical and the intellectual. It seeks to provide opportunities to build upon each individual's strengths, talents and abilities. Parents should always encourage their children to take part in all aspects of school life.

### NAPLAN-National Assessment Program for Literacy and Numeracy

The NAPLAN results were sent home with students last Tuesday. Parents of students in Years 7 and 9 need to look at the results and approach the school if they need any clarification. This is the second year that about a million students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 were tested simultaneously on aspects of literacy and numeracy using the same year level tests. Each child's achievement level is graphed against the national average and the spread of the middle 60% of students (a kind of simplified box and whisker plot). Australia is proceeding down the path already taken by US and England. This sort of testing-national, standardised and used to compare students, states and schools- has caused a lot of debate in educational circles.

We are pleased with the overall performance of our students and our school, specially in the writing and spelling component. The test has informed teachers on what strengths our students have and what we may need to focus on in the future. We will need to discuss these tests and results with the students and use the testing procedures to truly inform learning and teaching.

*Marina Theodore—Head of Senior Years Education*

### KEY COLLEGE DATES

Term Four 2009	
16th October	. College Open Day
21st October	. Year 12 Assembly . VCE Valedictory Dinner
22nd October	. Year 12 Picnic
23rd October	. Primary School Assembly
28th October	. OXI Day . Grandparents' Day— Primary School Concert
1st November	. Sts. Anargiri Feast Day Celebration
13th December	. Presentation Day/Night

### STUDENT SERVICES REPORT

#### Welcome back to our final term for 2009

There are many exciting areas of the College to report on beginning with:

#### Year 10 Work Experience

Once again thanks to all the organisations and those responsible for supervising our students. Many opportunities have already been created as a result of our outstanding students applying their skills and initiative to add value to a number of work places. – Well Done.

#### Years 8-11 Camp Programs

Special thanks to all the dedicated staff who attended overnight stays so these camps can continue. All camps were successful with the College only needing to follow one incident which is unfortunate for all concerned.

#### Year 12's completing their secondary education

On behalf of all staff and students at the College, we wish the Class of 2009 all the best in their future endeavors as they leave the College to further their education. In honor of their contributions we will host a number of events:

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2009-** College Assembly

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2009-** Valedictory Dinner

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2009-** Picnic Day

#### Uniform

1. Thanks to all those who have ensured Summer Uniforms are available with hems adjusted as required
2. Please support the College to support your child to come to school well presented
3. Sport uniforms can only be worn on days when students have EISM – for all other trainings, dance etc, they must change.

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

## **PRIMARY SCHOOL REPORT**

### ***Welcome Back***

I would like to welcome everyone back to school for Term 4. While the weather wasn't ideal in Melbourne during the holidays, it was a wonderful opportunity for everyone to relax after an extremely hectic Term 3. I hope everyone is refreshed and ready to take on the challenges of Term 4.

### ***Spotlight on Greek Singing and Performance***

As the music programme has grown so too have the number and variety of musical activities taking place in our school community. I have some exciting news to share with our students, staff and parents of our school. There will be a new teacher with new ideas joining our wonderful school starting this term. Mr Ladopoulos, the Consul of Educational Affairs, has appointed Ka. Fotini, a music teacher seconded from Greece to commence work with us three days a week. She will be working closely with Mr. Perry and Mr. Manassis to enrich our school music programme. Ka. Fotini has many years of experience and has performed with the very best music directors in Greece. Her focus this term is to start a School Choir to perform in the Greek language. I would like to welcome Ka. Fotini to our school and to Melbourne. I look forward to working closely with her to the end of the year and beyond. This is a great opportunity for our children to sing and perform in the Greek language.

Stay tuned for some more exciting plans in this area!

### ***NAPLAN***

During Term 2 this year all children in Years 3 and 5 participated in the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy. All children took home their individual reports on the last day of Term 3. The results for O.G.O.C Primary School were outstanding. Credit for these results is due to the excellent teaching skills of all staff at the school, the dedication and commitment the children have to their learning and the wonderful support that is offered by the parents. I would especially like to thank Mrs Kimonides, Mrs Menegatti, Mrs Geras and Mrs Patsaris for their good work in preparing the children of Years 3 and 5. Congratulations to all!! If parents have any questions regarding their child's report do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher.

### ***Dress Code***

Our College is proud to be a 'Sunsmart' school. This means that hats are worn during Term 1 and Term 4. Please ensure that your child has a school hat for Term 4. All children must wear their school hats during playtime breaks and outdoor school activities such as sport. It is very important that we protect our children against the harmful effects of the sun's UV rays. The majority of children are wearing the appropriate hat but there is a group of children who are always borrowing hats from the teachers. Could parents please ensure that their children are dressed according to the Dress Code. I have also observed some students wearing coloured t shirts under their polo shirts, this is not part of our Dress Code. I am seeking parent support on these matters.

### ***Swimming Program***

On Thursday last week the Preps and Year 1's started their swimming program at the Monash Aquatic and Recreation Centre- Waverley Rd. Glen Waverley.

All parents who are able to assist please meet the Preps at the pool at 11.40 and the Year 1's at 11.00 am. Thank you for your assistance.

### ***Library- "BOOKFAIR"***

"Bookfair" will commence this Monday 12<sup>th</sup> and will end on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October.

**Open: 2.30 - 3.30pm for purchasing.**

### ***Dates to remember...***

#### **October**

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup>**

Preps Excursion  
– Melbourne Aquarium

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Year 4 Excursion

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup>**

– Geelong Monastery  
Student Leadership Team  
– St. Eustathios Church

**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup>**

Grandparents Day

**CALLING ON ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS TO ASSIST ON STS ANARGIRI FEAST DAY CELEBRATION ON SUNDAY 1<sup>st</sup> NOVEMBER**

*Ms. M. Adams—Head of Junior Years Education*

## **LIBRARY NEWS**

The College library will be holding its last scholastic book fair for 2009. We invite all the students and parents to join our 'Book Fair Safari'. It will be held from the 12<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> of October in the library. Being the last book fair for the year there will be lots of bargains available. Christmas is only a few weeks away - this will be a perfect opportunity to get a head start on your Christmas shopping.

With your help we managed to collect about \$2000 from the last book fair and added new resources to the library with the money raised. We appreciate your participation in our book fairs and thank you for making it successful every year.

*The library staff*

## **BANK OF CYPRUS**

Last term envelopes from the Bank of Cyprus were sent home with all students. This "welcome pack" introduced families to the Bank of Cyprus Australia "Junior Smart Saver" Account.

We have received a good response however there are a fair few envelopes still outstanding. Could all families please return their child(en)'s envelope indicating whether they are or are not interested in this offer. We are required by the bank to account for all envelopes.

## STUDENT SERVICES REPORT

### CLASS CAPTAINS — TERM 4

Prep S	Rydon Tochovitis	1P	Kosta Pliatsikas	3M	Peter Argiropoulos	5P	Gabriel Giannetakis
Prep S	Victoria Turewicz	2P	Keely Nicopoulos	3M	Zoe Menelaou	5G	Timotheos Iosofidis
Prep A	Nicole Bizilis	2P	Andrew Asimakopoulos	4C	Mary Markos	5G	Taylor Prokopiou
Prep A	Andonis Kolokithas	2V	Anthea Arampatzis	4C	Alex Farmakis	6A	Peter Zaharakis
1T	Athan Tochovitis	2V	Chris Giannaros	4T	Elaina Nikolakakis	6A	Parys Drakopoulos
1T	Stamatina Gotsis	3K	Sophia Alexia Kay	4T	Pantelis Loupis	6P	Ellie Rose Mertikas
1P	Elli Biziou	3K	Kristen Moshos	5P	Evelyn Dimopoulos	6P	Stefan Karydis

### PRIMARY SCHOOL VIPS AND STUDENT OF THE WEEK AWARDS—11th September 2009

Prep A	Natalia Kypreos	Harry Anestopoulos
Prep S	Crystal Karakostas	Deana Giannaros
1P	Jana Arvanitis	Cassandra Gonis
1T	George Gamas	Lia Bauzon
2P	Kosta Anestopoulos	Mia Diamantopoulos
2V	Jenna Menelaou	Jeremy Micallef
3K	Maryellen Zantali	Kristen Moshos
3M	Julia Paladino	Sarah Dimitrokallis
4C	Evan Panagiotou	Niki Liolios
4T	Sophia Thomson	Renee Derimboglou
5G	Danielle Kantarias	Michaela Takos
5P	Kellie Smirnakos	Argyris Dikeos
6A	Olga Tsoni	Anthony Angelis
6P	Stefan Karydis	Genevieve Vafeas

### PRIMARY SCHOOL VIPS AND STUDENT OF THE WEEK AWARDS—9th October 2009

Prep A	Jenni Babatsias	Evangelia Starakis
Prep S	Anna Palaskas	Floria Takos
1P	Dean Kantarias	Vasili Tsourekas
1T	Dimitrios Koumouris	Katie Lelekakis
2P	Dion Halikopoulos	Vayia Karanikas
2V	Angelica Theodore	Helena Katsipodas
3K	Rigas Giovanis	Panagiota Karambatos
3M	Electra Tsiros	Christina Gougoussis
4C	Theo Arvanitis	Paris Karanikas
4T	Evangelia Loupis	Sophia Thomson
5G	Victoria Maltezos	Michael Panayi
5P	Stefanie Papdimitriou	Andrew Kassabian
6A	Paris Dages	Tomas Theodore
6P	Genevieve Vafeas	Francesco Macri

### Walktober Walk-to-School Day

Mark Wednesday 21 October in your calendars as our school will be taking part in the state wide Walktober Walk-to-School event. This event gives children, parents, school teachers and community leaders an opportunity to be part of a global event as we celebrate the many benefits of walking as a part of International Walk-to-School Month. In 2008, millions of walkers from around the world walked to school together all hoping to create communities that are safe places to walk.

In primary school, children become more independent in their travel – as pedestrians and cyclists. Parents/carers can help them prepare for increased independence by providing plenty of *practical supervised experience* in using the road safely and by *modeling* safe road use. Your children learn by watching what you do!

Here are some tips to help prepare your children for Walk-to-School Day. Remember that younger children need to be supervised on or near roads by an adult parent or carer.

- Together with your child, plan a safe route to walk to school. If possible plan a route that makes best use of paths and roads that are away from busy traffic conditions.
- Practise walking the route with your child, observing any potential traffic hazards.
- Remind your children to STOP, LOOK, LISTEN and THINK when crossing a road.

We are aware that many of our students live too far away to walk to school. **'Part way is OK'** is a means to ensure that these students can still have the opportunity to

enjoy walking to school.

The concept of 'Part Way is OK' aims to improve the level of student participation from nothing to something. A great idea is to park at least 500 metres away and together with your children walk the rest of the way to school.

This year the Victorian Government has provided an extra incentive to get students participating in this event. Prizes will be awarded to schools based on the number of students who walk to school on the day, as a percentage of the total number of students enrolled.

1. All schools that participate in Walktober Walk-to-School 2009 will go in a draw for the chance to win one of two *Tabloid Sports Carnivals*.

2. The two schools that demonstrate the greatest increase in the proportion of the student population walking to school on Walktober Walk-to-School Day compared with the day prior will win the *Golden Shoe Award* for one year.

3. The top 10 schools from each category to achieve the greatest proportion of the student population walking to school on Walktober Walk-to-School Day will win a \$300 *HART Sport* equipment voucher.

Let's not forget, though, that the key objective of the Walktober Campaign is to raise awareness of the physical, environmental and social benefits of walking and to get our children in the habit of walking.

*Con Roubos—Head of Student Services (Primary)*

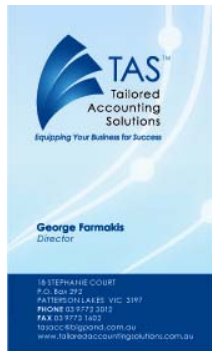


# Thank You!!

The Parents' Fundraising Association would like to thank the **470 people** who attended our **Annual Ball** and ensured it was a **FULL HOUSE**.

We would like to acknowledge the generous support of our College community and sponsors for helping us raise over **\$23,000.00**.

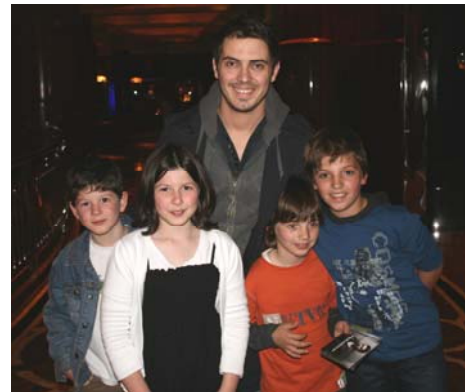
## Platinum Sponsor



## Gold Sponsors



## Silver Sponsors



The Panagiotou and Thomson families were overwhelmed with excitement when they had their meet and greet with Mihali Hatzigianni, which they successfully bid for as an auction item donated by [www.greeksingers.com.au](http://www.greeksingers.com.au) on the night of the Annual Ball.

### Fathers' Day Breakfast

What a fantastic breakfast! All were treated to a very satisfying spread of bacon and eggs, cereal and toast. We would like to thank CARNEGIE DELI for donating the eggs and bacon, Nippy's for donating the juices and Oakleigh Market Bakehouse for donating the bread. Also a big thank you to all who joined us and to the event organizer Mary Comninacis.

### Bunnings Sausage Sizzle

Thank you to all the parents who kindly volunteered a few hours of their time on Sunday 13th September, cooking and serving up sausages to Bunnings customers from 8.00am – 5.00pm. We would also like to thank the following for their kind donations of goods—Thanassis meats, the Pashos family and the Slavenitis family. A special thank you to the organiser of the event, Mrs. Georgina Turewicz.