



ΕΛΛΗΝΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΟ
ΚΟΛΛΕΓΙΟ
«ΟΙ ΑΓΙΟΙ ΑΝΑΡΓΥΡΟΙ»

Oakleigh Greek Orthodox College "Sts. Anargiri"

Gazette

Issue # 16/09 – Tuesday 27th October 2009

COLLEGE PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Sts Anargiri Feast Day Celebration

This Sunday 1st November our Community and College are celebrating the feast day of our church. The event will begin at 11.30am and conclude at around 8.00pm.

We are expecting a big crowd and there will be an array of activities throughout the day for people of all ages. Activities include:

- *Rides - Cyclone, Giant Slide, GI Jane Eliminator, Jumping Castle, Chair-o-plane, Bungee Challenge, Laughing clown caravan*
- *Live Entertainment by the Meraklides and College Bands*
- *Traditional Greek Dancing from all over Greece*
- *Silent Auction with lots of unique and special items*
- *Raffle Wheel with prizes every half hour. Sponsored by Laiki Bank*
- *College Art Exhibition showcasing our students' best work*
- *Stalls & Showbags, Lucky dip, Christmas stall, Face painting/ Crazy hair, Sand wizard, Plaster mould painting, Animal farm. Sponsored by Lazogas Real Estate*
- *3XY Radio Hellas live broadcast on the day. Sponsored by Nikos Quality Cakes*
- *Authentic Greek food including gyros and slow roasted pork, Greek sweets and student cake stall, full bar and cafe provided by BREW Coffee Bar and The House of Bread & Pastries*

Come and join in the fun!!

WE NEED YOU!

The Primary School staff and children have been working hard with a few parents to prepare their stalls for the day. These stalls need to be manned between 12.00 and 5.00pm. At this stage we have not had the response from parents that we had hoped to get. Although we know that our parent community always supports this event, we now need you to come forward and nominate a one-hour period during the day that you can help at the stall operated by your child's class. Please see your child's teacher before Friday and acknowledge the efforts of our students and teachers by volunteering your support.

Yr 12 - Class of 2009

We would like to formally acknowledge the contribution our Year 12 students have made to our College as we celebrate the end of their schooling at Oakleigh Greek Orthodox College.

Our 2009 College Captains have been active in their support of College and Community obligations and events throughout the year. I have been extremely proud of their commitment and the manner in which they presented themselves as ambassadors of Oakleigh Greek Orthodox College. My sincere thanks go to Toula Kastanis, Jonathan Daviotis, Gina Lithotomos and Leigh Kelepouris.

On behalf of the College Community I would like to wish each of our valued students the best of luck for their VCE Exams which begin on Friday 30th October. This is the important final step of their schooling before they make the transition from this stage of their life to adulthood and the pathway they have identified, with the support of their parents and the College, which we hope contributes to their success in life.



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College Uniform

The College has been monitoring and assessing the provision of the College Uniform during the last couple of years. We recently completed this analysis and determined that it would be in the best interests of the school community to return this service to the College.

I am pleased to announce that as at the beginning of 2010, all College Uniform sales will be available exclusively through the College. We are currently working with manufacturers to ensure the quality and supply of our College uniform is improved even further.

We are in the process of setting up a Uniform Shop on the College campus. The project is due for completion by the end of the school year, with interim arrangements made for fitting our students and ordering garments in time for the start of the 2010 school year.

It is anticipated that the Uniform Shop will operate during key times throughout the week for the convenience of parents and students. We are seeking expressions of interest from any parents who would like to be considered for the role of coordinator of our Uniform Shop. Retail experience in the clothing industry would be deemed essential. Please address your CV and expression of interest to the College Principal.

Student Banking

Our College and Community's relationship with the Bank of Cyprus has seen us work together to offer a Student Banking package for our students.

In September we distributed an envelope with full details about this opportunity for your children to open a Junior Smart Saver account with the Bank of Cyprus. Upon creation of the account, your child will receive a

personalised deposit book and moneybox.

Children can deposit money into this account each week by simply returning their bank book to the College or you can make deposits at the Oakleigh branch of the bank. There are no monthly account keeping or transaction fees and an amazing at call interest rate.

If you have not received a Student Banking Package, you can pick one up at the General Office or at the Bank of Cyprus in Oakleigh. If you have yet to return the Application Form, you can still do so.

We have had a reasonable response to date, with participating students receiving their Bank Book and Piggy Bank. Please consider supporting this initiative for your children as it is a wonderful way to begin teaching them about the value of money and how to save.

World Teachers' Day

The UNESCO-declared World Teachers' Day is a great opportunity for teachers and students to participate in some fun activities. In Australia, Friday 30 October is your chance to say 'thank you' to teachers and show them how much they're valued.

In 2009, World Teachers' Day explores the question 'What makes a great teacher?', and celebrates the important qualities and attributes of Victoria's teachers. The Victorian Institute of Teaching is highlighting the work of a number of Victorian registered teachers as seen through the eyes of their students in a World Teachers' Day short film competition. The students of Oakleigh Greek Orthodox College have submitted their entry in this competition.

Mr. Steve Charisis—College Principal

KEY COLLEGE DATES

| Term Four 2009 | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 28th October | . OXI Day . Grandparents' Day— Primary School Concert |
| 30th October | . World Teachers' Day |
| 1st November | . Sts. Anargiri Feast Day Celebration |
| 2nd November | . Curriculum Day— No School (ELC, Primary & Secondary) |
| 3rd November | . Melbourne Cup Day— Public Holiday |
| 13th December | . Presentation Day/Night |

STUDENT SERVICES REPORT

Activities Days- Back by Popular Demand

Expressions of Interest Forms have been sent home to all families with children in Years 7-9. We have now finalised the numbers for those attending from: Tuesday 8th December- Thursday 10th December 2009. A final notice requesting the money will be sent soon.

St Anargiri Feast Day Celebrations

We look forward to seeing you all this Sunday 1st November to celebrate St Anargiri Feast Day, there are rides, a spinning wheel, dunking machine, stalls and wonderful food.

Year 12 Examinations

We wish our Year 12's all the best for their final exams, the first are on Friday 30th October 2009 – those are English followed by Specialist Mathematics.

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

2010 TERM DATES

| Term 1 | Term 2 | Term 3 | Term 4 |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 February - 26 March | 12 April - 25 June | 27 July - 17 September | 4 October - 10 December |

SECONDARY SCHOOL REPORT

Valedictory Dinner

Every year we farewell our students with our formal Valedictory Dinner. The word “valedictory” comes from the Latin meaning to “say goodbye”. In the morning the Year12 students attend Church for the Blessing Ceremony. Father Iakovos’ wise words resonate with the students as he advises them to work hard and aim to succeed, even at this late stage of the year. He asks them to pray to God for strength and courage and stresses that luck is not involved just focussed work.

In the evening we all come together as equals: students, parents and teachers. We celebrate their time at the College with speeches and we symbolically welcome them to the world of adulthood. They leave Oakleigh Greek Orthodox College well grounded in their faith, their culture, their sense of self and identity. They are ready to play their part as responsible citizens of the 21st Century, and contribute positively to their community, their country, their world.

This year was particularly emotional for me as I also farewelled my son as part of the 2009 VCE cohort. As a mother and an educator, I could not help but realise that we can only advise, guide, support and be there for them when they need us. We are the “bows from which our children as living arrows are sent forth”. The following is a parent’s reflection that I read somewhere and it expresses everything I wanted to say:

*I gave you life, but cannot live it for you.
I can teach you things, but I cannot make you learn.
I can give you directions, but I cannot be there to lead you.
I can allow you freedom, but I cannot account for it.
I can take you to church, but I cannot make you believe.
I can teach you right from wrong, but I cannot always decide for you.
I can buy you beautiful clothes, but I cannot make you beautiful inside.
I can offer you advice, but I cannot accept it for you.
I can give you love, but I cannot force it upon you.
I can teach you to share, but I cannot make you unselfish.
I can teach you respect, but I cannot force you to show honour.
I can advise you about friends, but cannot choose them for you.
I can tell you the facts of life, but I can't build your reputation.
I can tell you about alcohol and drugs, but I can't say "no" for you.
I can tell you about lofty goals, but I can't achieve them for you.
I can teach you about kindness, but I can't force you to be gracious.
I can warn you about sins, but I cannot make you moral.
I can love you as a child, but I cannot place you in God's family.
I can pray for you, but I cannot make you walk with God.
I can tell you how to live, but I cannot give you Eternal Life.*

I wish them to live their life with optimism, courage and dignity; to be resilient in the face of adversity, and to embrace any failure as an opportunity to learn and to continue to move forward with confidence. As our school motto states: live life with **Faith and Wisdom** .

Marina Theodore—Head of Senior Years Education

VCE Valedictory Evening

The Valedictory Evening is always one of the highlights of the school year, with the Year 12 students, their parents, teachers and other members of the College community coming together for a dinner to farewell our final year students before they embark on their VCE Examinations.

This year’s Valedictory Evening was a highlight on a number of levels. Guests entered a spectacularly arranged and decorated Community Hall, which had been transformed into a chic and stylish black and white themed dining room, while strains of some highly professional Greek music welcomed everyone to their seats. Dinner was delicious to say the least, with a generous and creative range of beautiful dishes on offer. We must thank Andrew and Kerry Georgiou of Southside Catering for the splendid food and table arrangements, and Michael Lithotomos, Anthony Kotatzis and James Agiazis for their fine musicianship.

We have very much valued being in the lives of our Year 12 Class this year. They have been strong and caring young people who we know will go out into the world to make significant contributions of their choice. The Valedictory dinner brought together much of the sense that passing from a safe, protected and nurturing environment into the unknown but always hopeful future brings. We naturally wish our valedictorians every success in their future lives.

As a last, but much more relaxed event for our Year 12 Class, we embarked on a pleasant bus trip to beautiful Sorrento the following morning, where we indulged in a fine barbecue and relaxing in copious sunshine as a final shared relaxation before the books have to be opened once again.

Year 12 students, do yourselves justice, reach for the stars, and no regrets.

Erik Rinkel—Head of VCE

PRIMARY SCHOOL REPORT

Oxi Day – Grandparents’ Day

This Wednesday 28th October the Primary School students will celebrate Oxi Day, with grandparents, parents and friends. The day will start with our Primary School Leadership Group attending church in the morning. After the completion of the liturgy we invite all grandparents to come and enjoy the children’s performances that will be starting at 12.00pm. Later we will be serving coffee and cakes in the Multi Purpose Hall.

Froniditha

On Thursday 29th October, a group of students from Year 3 and 5 will be visiting the Old People’s Home, Fronditha. They will help the residents of Fronditha celebrate Oxi Day by performing Greek songs and dances. What a wonderful way to show respect and give back to our more aged members of our community.

Special Assembly

There will be a special assembly held on Thursday as the State Member of Oakleigh, Mrs Ann Barker, will be a guest at our school. Mrs Barker will be distributing the certificates of the Premier’s Reading Challenge that was held earlier in the year. We would like to thank Mrs Barker for all her support and friendship.

World Teachers’ Day

This Friday 30th October is World Teachers’ Day. This is a day when we celebrate the achievements of teachers across the nation. Teachers play a crucial role in equipping young people with knowledge, skills, confidence and desire to become life-long learners. This commitment to having all students achieve the best possible education is central to teacher practice and to the well-being and development of the children at Oakleigh Greek Orthodox College. It is timely on World Teachers’ Day for families, students and the school community to express appreciation for the commitment and dedication of the teaching profession in assisting children learn and to say a special thank you to their teachers who have made a difference to the children they have taught. Let’s celebrate our teachers this Friday by remembering to say thank you and making this day a more special one.

Sts Anargiri Feast Day Celebration

It is just under a week now until the Sts. Anargiri Feast Day Celebration, which starts at 11.30am on Sunday 1st November. Thank you to all the parents who have contributed items for the various Primary School Stalls and who have put their names down on rosters. **We are counting on all our students and their families and friends to support our school by purchasing in advance All Day Passes for the many exciting rides available. We look forward to everyone joining in and having FUN, FUN, FUN!!**

ELC Working Bee

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents who helped at the “working bee” on Sunday 25th October. It was great to see parents and teachers getting together to beautify and maintain our ELC playground. Thank you to those families who do-

nated sand, equipment and resources. Your generosity was greatly appreciated by staff and children.

Dates To Remember.....

October

Monday 26th – 29th
Wednesday 28th
Thursday 29th
Friday 30th

ELC Celebrating Children’s Week
Grandparents’ Day
Church attendance for Leadership group
Year 3 students visiting Fronditha
Special Assembly celebrating Premier’s Reading Challenge
World Teachers’ Day
Years 5 & 6 Family Life Day

November

Sunday 1st
Monday 2nd
Tuesday 3rd
Wednesday 4th
Thursday 5th
Friday 6th

Sts Anargiri Feast Day Celebration
Curriculum Day **No School**
Melbourne Cup Day **No School**
Years 1 & 2 Excursion to Planetarium
Dimitria Chess Competition Day
Year 6 Excursion to Geelong Monastery
Prep Orientation Session 1
Years 5 & 6 Family Life Day

Ms. M. Adams—Head of Junior Years Education

PRIMARY SCHOOL VIPS AND STUDENT OF THE WEEK AWARDS—23rd October 2009

| | | |
|--------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Prep A | Tiah Menelaou | Panagiotis Doumas |
| Prep S | Chrissie Micallef | Despina Hadjiangeli |
| 1P | Stevie Garth | Jenna Sakellarios |
| 1T | Jasmine Arvanitakis | Dallas Kogiannakis |
| 2P | Dean Dymos | Harry Iosifidis |
| 2V | Nasia Panopoulos | John Lelekakis |
| 3K | Maria Pappas | Nick Goumas |
| 3M | Electra Tsiros | Liam Diamantopoulos |
| 4C | Fotis Konstantellos | Liam Theodore |
| 4T | Nicholas Gioulekas | Julia Drakopoulos |
| 5G | Chris Dalamagas | Teonnie Dimitrakis |
| 5P | Christine Nikolopoulos | Ioannis Tsourekas |
| 6A | Marina Mendrinou | Dimitrios Gotsis |
| 6P | Dimitrios Xanthoulis | Ellie-Rose Mertikas |

STUDENT SERVICES REPORT



It was cool to walk to school!

On Wednesday 22 October, our school participated in Walktober Walk to School Day. All students were encouraged to walk to school on that day. This was a state wide event organised by Vichealth to raise awareness of the importance of walking and we will be entering the competition. To be eligible for a prize we needed to demonstrate the greatest increase in the number of students walking, compared with the previous day.

From the data collected from our teachers, 33 students walked to school the day prior to the event, while on the day 135 students walked at least part of the way to school. What a fantastic improvement!!!

With rising concerns of increasing childhood obesity, traffic con-

gestion and the spiralling cost of petrol, there has never been a better time to encourage children to walk to school!

Epilepsy Trivia Challenge State finals

Congratulations to our Year 4 team Ellen Kanellos, Phillip Dimio, Sophia Koutsoulis, Liam Theodore who competed in the grand final of the Epilepsy Trivia Challenge on the 18th October at Monash University. We are proud of their efforts, cool-headedness, rational thinking, knowledge and team work! The Trivia Challenge Program has helped our students to become more aware and understanding of the issues that arise with epilepsy. My thanks to the parents who so positively supported our children on the day.

Con Roubos—Head of Student Services (Primary)

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