



ΕΛΛΗΝΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΟ
ΚΟΛΛΕΓΙΟ
«ΟΙ ΑΓΙΟΙ ΑΝΑΡΓΥΡΟΙ»

Oakleigh Greek Orthodox College "Sts. Anargiri"

Gazette

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CONTENTS

- 1 COLLEGE PRINCIPAL
- 2&3 STUDENT SERVICES REPORT
- 3 SECONDARY SCHOOL
- 4 PRIMARY SCHOOL & ELC

KEY COLLEGE DATES

Term One 2009

2nd February	• Term 1 Commences: Years 1—11
2nd February	• College Assembly
2nd—4th February	• Prep Entry Assessment Days
5th February	• Agiasmos Service • Prep Commencement Day
11th February	• Primary School Infor- mation Evening
13th February	• Primary School Assem- bly
17th February	• Yrs 7 & 8 Information Evening
19th February	• Yrs 9 & 10 Information Evening
24th February	• Yrs 11 & 12 Infor- mation Evening
22nd March	• Independence Day Parade

Term Dates 2009

Term One	2nd Feb—3rd April
Easter	10th—12th April
Orthodox	17th—19th April
Easter	20th April—Easter Monday
Term Two	21st April—26th June
Term Three	13th July—18th Sept.
Term Four	5th Oct—11th Dec

COLLEGE PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

On behalf of the Management Committee, Senior Management Team and staff of the College, I would like to extend a warm welcome to our school community for the beginning of the 2009 school year.

We are all looking forward to a wonderful and productive year together, a year when our students thrive in a learning environment that respects and responds to their individual needs and goals for success in a healthy partnership between staff, parents and themselves.

We welcome both new and ongoing families of the College by reaffirming our Vision Statement as a College and the Guiding Principles that enable us to achieve our goals as a positive and effective school for young people from K3 – Yr 12.

Vision Statement

The College is a community school with a Christian Orthodox perspective. We integrate the Greek Orthodox faith and Greek culture into the education of the child. We provide the best in Australian and global education, in the pursuit of individual excellence of the "whole person" spiritually, emotionally, socially, physically and academically.

1. The College is a community school with a Christian Orthodox perspective.

Guiding principles:

- Each student/parent/staff member will participate fully in the school community to add value to all shared partnerships (community school).
- To create a caring and loving environment for all; one which values equity and justice.

2. We integrate the Greek Orthodox faith and Greek culture into the education of the child.

Guiding principles:

- We honour the role of family and church.
- Celebrate our rich history, traditions and language.

3. We provide the best in Australian and global education, in the pursuit of individual excellence of the "whole person"

spiritually, emotionally, socially, physically and academically.

Guiding principles:

- Members of the school community look beyond themselves and care for others.
- A comprehensive curriculum catering for a wide range of abilities and interests to equip students for life-long learning.
- Differentiating curriculum
- The use of current and innovative teaching practices within and beyond the classroom.
- To professionally develop our teachers to ensure best teaching and learning practices aligned with the philosophy of the College.
- Modern facilities and technologies

I look forward to catching up with you throughout the year. Do not hesitate to call or schedule a time to see any of the members of the Senior Management Team. We are here for your children and to assist you.

Staffing Changes

This year we welcome four new staff to the Secondary School:

- Mr. Jack Pantas: VCE Legal Studies & Business Management, Yr 9/10 Humanities, Yr 9 Modern Greek
- Ms. Bridgette Kennedy: VCE Health & Human Development, Yrs 7 - 10 Health & PE, Yrs 5/6 Sports Skills
- Ms. Mary Spiropoulos: Yrs 7 – 10 English & Humanities
- Dr. Irene Lelekakis: Yrs 7 – 10 Maths & Science

Student Uniform.

I have been working closely with our uniform supplier, JJ's, to ensure that the introduction of the new long-sleeved sports rugby top is introduced close to the start of the new school year. I have been informed that stock will arrive in the middle of February. I am expecting a sample top very soon to put on display at the school so that everyone can see the new design.

2008 VCE Results

The College is proud of the achievements of its students and works with them individually and collectively to provide guidance and support throughout their education at the College. We measure our success, not just by how many ENTER scores our students achieve in the 90's but by the pathway we have provided them to succeed in their post-secondary school life. Our school provides an environment that facilitates the learning and developmental needs of a diverse range of young individuals. We guide our students to enter university, TAFE, apprenticeships or the workforce. Our aim is for them to choose what is best for them and leave our school as level-headed, good-natured young people ready to make a valuable contribution to Australian society in whatever field they have elected to pursue.

We must all be supportive, tolerant and realistic with our children. Let's aim high but let's not push beyond the capacity each individual has during each stage of their development. Our VCE class of 2008 achieved a wide range of ENTER results. Those students who were aiming to continue into post-secondary schooling have succeeded in gaining placements in a range of Universities and TAFE Colleges. Others have gained apprenticeships while a couple have entered the workforce. Just over 25% of the group achieved ENTER scores above the mid-70's but more importantly, 88% have received a first-round offer for a place at University.

We congratulate our 2008 DUX, Nicholas Korlos, who with an ENTER Score of 96.1 has gained a place at Monash University in Science/Engineering. Nicole Tournas (92.05) was offered Engineering – Monash. Joanne Baltos (88.8) received an offer for Behavioural Neuroscience at Monash.

The remainder of the VCE group have received offers for courses such as: Information Technology, Banking & Finance, Commerce, Marketing, Multimedia, Civil Engineering, Architecture, Arts, Criminal Justice, Science, Administration, International Studies and Management.

We congratulate the entire class of 2008 who all completed

their VCE successfully and have received their VCE Certificate.

Thank You

We ended 2008 and have now begun 2009 with some extraordinary support from members of our school community. The College is the hub of our community and when parents, students, staff and businesses band together, we can achieve some wonderful things for the benefit of all.

The College would like to acknowledge Mr. Michael Loupis for his donation of a 5,500 litre water tank, and its installation, located at the front of the College. He was assisted by one of our past students, Basil Kontogeorgos, who we also sincerely thank.

The College and especially Yr 5G is very grateful to Mr. Con and Mrs. Mandy Zoumboukos for the donation of a new portable Electronic Whiteboard for the classroom. This will be appreciated and used extensively by Mrs. Gamas and by all students in that class.

Important Events This Week

Agiastos (Blessing) Service

This Thursday the Agiastos Service will be conducted by His Grace Bishop Ezekiel and Father Iakovos in the Sports Complex at 11.00am. All students must attend school in their College Uniform. Students who have sporting commitments will change into their College Sports Uniform at a convenient time after the service.

Prep Students

Our Prep students begin their school year this Thursday 5th February.

Information Pack

Today we have distributed the College Gazette, College Calendar and a selection of College Permission forms that we would like you to complete. Please assist us by completing the forms this week and returning them to the College by Friday.

Mr. Steve Charisis—College Principal

STUDENT SERVICES REPORT

Welcome back to school after the holidays. It was great to see all the children's energy and smiling faces today and hear exciting stories from the past six weeks. The 'busyness' of the term will soon take hold so I hope that you had an opportunity to spend some time together as a family over the Christmas Break.

I would like to extend a special warm (pardon the pun) welcome to our new families. As you walk around the school you may have noticed posters titled 'Community Rules'. They were introduced last year to specifically stress to our students the importance of the use of manners. As we all know, manners are 'respect in action'. At Oakleigh Greek Orthodox College we support the home by encouraging the children to use good manners whilst they are at school.

The use of good manners is the most important social skill that adults can teach children. Manners help children navigate effectively through their social world and also help them influence others. Good manners begin with the use of 'please', 'thank you' and 'calling people by name'. It extends to an array of social conventions, including: how to eat in public, how to win and lose gracefully and how to answer a telephone call. Sometimes adults need to insist that children treat us in re-

spectful ways. That means that we don't respond to disrespectful treatment. So if a child yells at his mother to get some food a wise parent would remind that child that cooperation only comes with respectful treatment. We need to get across to children that treating others like doormats is not an appropriate way to get their needs met.

To ensure your children develop 'manners' and understand the notion of respectful treatment:

1. Insist that they use 'please' and 'thank you' and variations of these terms in all family interactions.
2. Practise communicating with each other using eye contact. The notion of eye contact ensures openness and understanding and leads to respectful treatment.
3. Discuss the ways that people should be treated at home and at school. Help children identify and elaborate on respectful behaviour and what it means to them.
4. Establish some simple rules with your children to ensure that they, you and your home are treated respectfully.

Wishing you all peace, health and fulfilment!

Con Roubos—Head of Student Service (Primary)

SECONDARY SCHOOL REPORT

I would like to welcome everyone back to school hoping that you all had the opportunity to rest and relax over the summer break. Time is our enemy when we are running so quickly to meet deadlines and appointments, but time is our comfort and friend when it offers us the opportunity to recharge our batteries. I trust all members of the School community are looking forward to the year ahead.

We welcome all new students and families to our College community. In particular we extend a warm welcome to our youngest students in Year 7. The transition to Secondary School is always exciting and at times a little frightening. As with any new beginning, it is important for students to set clear academic goals; these should build on the information from academic reports from last year. I would ask parents to work in partnership with the College on matters of uniform, punctuality and establishing a routine of home study. Our aim is to help students complete their education at Oakleigh Greek Orthodox College as well-rounded individuals who have been given as many opportunities as possible to be involved, inspired and enthused in a wide range of activities.

We embrace all students as an open entry school and we support them to reach their full potential, guiding them along the way to make the right choices for their future.

We celebrate the achievements of all students who undertook the VCE in 2008. Certainly there were some remarkable achievements and we congratulate our top student, Nick Korlos, who is Dux of the School for 2008, and who achieved an ENTER of 96.10. We also congratulate Christopher Piperidis, our Year 11 student, who studied Year 12 VCE Business Management and achieved a perfect study score of 50.

The most important role of all schools is to ensure that when students leave to progress to the next stage of their educational career, they have a range of opportunities available in areas that match their interests, ambition and aspiration, and provide them with avenues for further achievement. We are proud to say that almost all of our students have been able to receive one of their preferred offers.

We wish the students of Class 2008 every success as they move into the wider world beyond school.

STUDENT SERVICES REPORT

I would like to welcome you all back and trust you made the most of your holidays. A special welcome to our Year 7 students and particularly those who have come to our College from other schools.

Congratulations to the Class of 2008

I would like to take this opportunity to share the brilliant outcomes each student has achieved:

42 Students successfully completed their VCE.

37/42 students received First Round Offers

2/5 without First Round Offers have since been offered a TAFE position.

3/5 students without First Round Offers are uncontactable at the time of writing this article.

5/42 students who completed their VCE did not apply to University, TAFE or private providers as they entered employment/Apprenticeships. 3 of these 5 students now have paid employment.

I am sure you will all agree that during these difficult economic times and the data released about reduced places offered in 2009, our results are outstanding. Thanks to all staff, parents and students.

Schools, however, are more than an ENTER score. They are places that parents entrust the education of their children to grow intellectually, spiritually, socially and emotionally. 2009 promises to be a year of continued innovation in both the core curriculum and co curricular areas, in an attempt to meet the needs of all our students. There are radical innovations in teaching and learning that good teachers cannot ignore. I am referring to the planning of a more vibrant curriculum, which takes into account the revelations from neuroscience about the brain and learning and the understanding that technology has impacted greatly on how students access information. We need to build resilience in our young people in order for them to meet the challenges ahead. We need to equip them with the necessary skills to become flexible and creative learners ready to take the necessary risks. We need to change the way we deliver curriculum and to keep improving on known approaches so that we can make them more effective with each update.

We invite all parents/guardians to attend the **Parent Information Evenings** where they will become fully informed on all school programs, policies and procedures. The first of these is the **Year 7 and 8 Parent Information Evening** which will be held on **17th February**, followed by the **Year 9 and 10 Parent Information Evening on 19th February** and the final one, for **Years 11 and 12, on 24th February 2009**. By working together we can help these young people realise their dreams. One thing is clear; at the end of the day neither parents nor teachers can educate students on their own. We need each other and in order for this partnership to work we need to develop good relationships.

Let us be guided by our school motto "Faith and Wisdom". Let our Christian Orthodox faith show us how to live a spiritually fulfilling life, to love and respect one another. Let wisdom guide us. Wisdom is action. It is best defined not in theories, ideas or learning but in the application of knowledge.

"The learned know but the wise do".

I wish everyone a fulfilling year ahead.

Marina Theodore—Head of Senior Years Education

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

PRIMARY SCHOOL REPORT

It is hard to believe that here I am writing my first news-letter for the year. I hope you all have had a restful holi-day with your family and friends.

It is with great pleasure I welcome all the ELC and Pri-mary students, parents and teachers to this 2009 school year and look forward to working closely with each and every one of you to make this an exciting and successful year.

The school year began on Monday 2nd of February for the Year Ones to Year Sixes and I am proud to say that old and new students settled in quickly and quietly, making for an enjoyable and happy start.

I look forward to welcoming all the ELC and Prep stu-dents and their parents in this coming week and I am con-fident that these very special days will end in happy smiles on all of our young faces.

The beginning of each school year focuses on the setting of class and school routines. Students should challenge themselves and work towards reaching their potential as individual learners and as a community of learners from the very beginning of the year, by setting goals and striv-ing to meet them supported by both the school and home.

Goal setting

No matter how old or young you are, there are always certain things that you want to do. Most people have goals and make a plan to achieve them. Of course it depends on your age and your interests on what your goal might be. Some goals may include, “to be able to write my first and last name by the end of the term”, “to be fitter and health-ier by the end of the year,” “to learn how to play chess”. When you have a goal it is something to look forward to. When you reach your goal you can feel very pleased with yourself. Here are some simple steps to goal setting:

- Identify what your goal is and write it down
- Think about the steps that this would take
- DO IT
- Celebrate when you have achieved your goal.

Setting goals and then working towards achieving them ensures that we can take control of the direction in which your life is going. Focusing on positive achievement brings balance and satisfaction to our lives.

I look forward to a successful partnership with our parents and school community, resulting in a trusting, respectful, and collaborative relationship throughout this educational year.

GREAT THINGS TO LOOK FORWARD TO

Instructional Swimming Lessons will begin on Monday 9th February for two weeks for all Year 5 and 6 students. Please ensure all children have their swimming needs on the first day. Observers will not be required during this time.

February

Tuesday 3 rd	- Chess Club Room 1
Thursday 5 th	- Prep Commencement Day - Colledge Blessing Service
Monday 9 th – 19 th	- Years 5/6 Swimming Programme
Wednesday 11 th	- Primary School Information Evening - Primary School Captains’ Election
Friday 13 th	- Primary School Assembly - Announcement of Primary School Captains - Presentation of Year 6 Badges - Announcement of Class Captains
Tuesday 17 th	- Commencement of Active After School Programme (Boot Camp)
Thursday 19 th	- Interschool Summer Sports Competition Begins (O.G.O.C vs St. Andrews) - Commencement of Active After School Programme (Frisbee)
Friday 20 th	-Year 6 Peer Mediation Seminar
Wednesday 25 th	- BDPSSA Swimming Carnival

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

ELC REPORT

Hello to all our families and welcome to the ‘new year’ 2009. The commencement of each year is such an exciting time for all of us and we hope that together we will ensure that the fun and joy of learning will continue throughout the year as relationships are established and strengthened. Term 1 is an important time particularly for our younger 3 yr old children who may be entering kindergarten for the first time. It is also a challenging time for our 4 yr old chil-dren who may be a little unsettled by the move to a much larger and busier classroom with different teachers and experiences. The teachers of the ELC are committed to

ensuring that your child has a smooth transition. Through-out the next few weeks teachers will also be observing and assessing children’s behaviour and interests with the aim of identifying any strengths/weaknesses in their develop-ment for the purpose of catering to your child’s individual needs more effectively throughout the year.

We sincerely thank you for choosing the Oakleigh Greek Orthodox College and ELC for your child’s first educa-tional environment and experience.

Mrs. Elli Lithotomos— Teacher-In-Charge of ELC