



ΕΛΛΗΝΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΟ
ΚΟΛΛΕΓΙΟ
«ΟΙ ΑΓΙΟΙ ΑΝΑΡΓΥΡΟΙ»

Oakleigh Greek Orthodox College "Sts. Anargiri"

Gazette

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Χριστός Ανέστη!



Christ Is Risen!

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KEY COLLEGE DATES

Term Two 2009

12th-14th May	• NAPLAN Testing
15th May	• Primary School Assembly
18th-21st May	• Year 7 Camp —The Grampians
22nd May	• College Open Day
26th May	• Year 12 Tertiary Information Evening
27th May	• Yr 7 2010 Information Evening

Term Dates 2009

Term Two	21st April—26th June
Term Three	14th July—18th Sept.
Term Four	5th Oct—11th Dec

COLLEGE PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Χριστός Ανέστη/Christ is Risen

National Schools Event - Adelaide

Last week our College sent a touring group of 39 students and 5 staff to Adelaide for the 2009 National Greek Orthodox Schools Event.

Students participated in Soccer, Netball, Basketball, Volleyball, Futsal, Table Tennis and the Spoken Arts festival. Our students competed enthusiastically and with great pride for their school against St. George (Adelaide), All Saints (Sydney), St. Spyridon (Sydney), St. Euphemia (Sydney), St. Andrews (Perth) and St. Johns (Melbourne).

Our College was victorious in Volleyball (Boys) and Volleyball (Girls), while they also put in enormous efforts in the other sports. This year the Spoken Arts Festival was performed for the first time at the Event Dinner on Thursday night, as opposed to other years when the participants performed to an audience of no more than 50 people. I would like to acknowledge the efforts of Sylvia Korlos and Kristina Alexopoulos who performed in Greek a scene from "Antigone" in front of nearly 400 people. The girls, who also dressed in costume for their performance, did a wonderful job and made us very proud.

You will be pleased to know that our students, who ranged from Yrs 9 – 12, were great ambassadors for our College. They conducted themselves with great respect and pride throughout the event and always presented themselves beautifully in their touring uniform.

I would like to acknowledge the great work of Mrs. Jill Rabin, who planned and coordinated our visit to Adelaide so comprehensively and faultlessly, while the other staff who also attended with the students – Mr. Greg Joyce, Mr. Steve Zafiroopoulos, Mr. Billy Natsioulas and Ms. Bridgette Kennedy spent long days caring for and coaching the students in a way that made the entire trip a delight.

The Principals of each College also attend this annual event. We have established a strong network where we share details of initiatives at our own schools and initiatives

we can undertake together. It is valuable for all of us to discuss the current educational landscape in each state, especially as it pertains to faith-based schools.

One project that we have committed to and which is now in the final draft stage is an Orthodox Studies Curriculum program that is obviously a very specialised area of the school curriculum and can be taught in each of our schools.

At last week's meeting we also discussed our individual school's positioning with government grants, development of our facilities, further curriculum initiatives and cultural diversity with the introduction of International and non-Greek students to our sister schools in Adelaide, Perth and Sydney.

We thank St. George College for their excellent organisation of this year's event. They welcomed us with great warmth and friendliness, making this year's event one of the best so far.

St. Euphemia College in Sydney will proudly host the 2010 Event.

Mothers' Day Breakfast

Last Friday our Parents' Fundraising Association organised a Mothers' Day Breakfast. In attendance were over 120 mums who came together to celebrate their special day. Each mum received a "goodies bag" and was entertained by George Kapiniaris while enjoying a delectable sample of pastries, scones, pancakes and muffins.

Thank you to the all involved in the organisation of the event, especially Mrs. Helen Smirnacos and Mrs. Nikki Telios. The ladies successfully achieved their aim of bringing together a large number of mums to enjoy each others' company and be made to feel special for the day. Thank you to all who attended making this a most successful and enjoyable event. The morning raised \$1470 towards the PFA's fundraising efforts. A further \$343 was raised from the ELC Mothers' Day stall and \$1008 from the Primary School's plate decorating activity as a gift for their mums.

Mr. Steve Charisis—College Principal

SECONDARY SCHOOL REPORT

NAPLAN Tests

This week students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 will be sitting for the **NAPLAN (National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy)**. All students in these year levels in schools across Australia will undertake the same tests on the same days. Students will have their skills assessed in **Reading, Writing, Language Conventions (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar), and Numeracy**. All students are encouraged to participate in the national tests and special provisions are made to meet the needs of individual students with special needs. NAPLAN tests have been developed in a collaborative process between states and territories, the Australian Government and non-government schools sectors.

These national test results are meant to provide information on how students are progressing and also support improvements in teaching and learning. The Government advises that parents and carers should assist students by making them feel comfortable about the nature and purpose of the tests. Children can be assured that the assessments will give them an opportunity to show what they have learned in class. Parents anywhere in Australia will be able to know how their child is achieving against national minimum standards.

The Government states that these national literacy and numeracy tests will provide useful information for teachers and schools on individual student performance on a national basis. From this information, teachers and schools will know how well their students are performing, and will be able to identify areas of strength and where further assistance may be required.

The results will be released to the public in two stages. The first stage will be a national summary report that will show results at each year level and domain by state and territory, as well as nationally. This will be released during **September 2009**. The second stage will be released before the end of the year.

There is an ongoing debate about the effectiveness of standardised testing. Many schools feel pressured to practise

for the NAPLAN literacy and numeracy tests to ensure that their students will perform well. Teachers cannot “teach to the test”! This will surely narrow the opportunities for effective teaching and learning. These tests measure a narrow band of attainment in a limited number of skills in the areas of literacy and numeracy. They do not measure how students learn or how their progress can be tracked in some way. They do not measure how young people interact with each other, how they learn to socialise effectively and treat each other with respect or what they can achieve long term. Schools exist for more than just literacy and numeracy tests. They are also social institutions that reinforce the moral values that teach young people how to lead effective lives. This is why parents choose the schools they do for their children; because they are aligned with their religious and cultural values.

Please make a point of contacting us if you require more information about these tests.

Year 7 Camp

Year 7 students will be leaving for their camp on Monday 18th May heading to the Grampians- Victoria’s most beautiful spot. We are looking forward to 100% support from all parents and students. Camps are an integral part of the co curricular program of the College and offer the students a wonderful opportunity to experience a range of activities in the natural environment and develop an understanding of the need to preserve it. They foster a sense of responsibility for self, others and the wider community.

Information Evening for Year 6 Parents

We are looking forward once again to welcome all our prospective parents of Year 6 students from our College and from other Primary Schools to attend the **Information Evening – Year 7, 2010**. The scheduled date was Wednesday 20th May but because of the Year 7 Camp being on at the same time we would like to reschedule the date to **Wednesday 27th May**. Invitations will go out shortly to all the families.

Marina Theodore—Head of Senior Years Education

2009 NATIONAL GREEK ORTHODOX SCHOOLS EVENT



Last week 39 students accompanied by 5 staff members represented our College at the National Greek Orthodox Schools Event. Our students represented the College with pride and were competitive in all sports that we competed in.

We won 2 Premierships: Girl’s Volleyball and Boy’s Volleyball.

This year each coach nominated a player for the MVP award. The following students were selected from OGOC.

SOCCER	Dion Potamitis
NETBALL	Gina Lithotomis
BASKETBALL (Boy’s)	Vasilios Kiatos
BASKETBALL (Girl’s)	Ashlea Kerimidopoulos
TABLE TENNIS (Boy’s)	Damien Christou
TABLE TENNIS (Girl’s)	Toula Kastanis
VOLLEYBALL (Girl’s)	Natasha Varsos
VOLLEYBALL (Boy’s)	Michael Kalatzis
FUTSAL (Boy’s)	Anthony Stratikopoulos
FUTSAL (Girl’s)	Stephanie Arvanitis

Jill Rabin—College Major Events Coordinator

Year 7 & 8 Fun and Games

How quickly time passes with Term 1 now a distant memory. Most of our Year 7 students had a smooth and trouble free transition and are now more comfortable with their new environment and the routines of the Secondary School. The Year 8 students also acknowledge the fact that they are no longer the youngest members of the Secondary School. They will all build on their respective experiences and make their way through adolescence in the coming years. At Oakleigh Greek Orthodox College we nurture and support the children in a caring environment and help them to build inner strength and resilience.

During Homegroup sessions, last term, we had opportunities to do some team building activities as well as focusing on equipping the students with the necessary skills that will support their learning journey. We continue with that program in Term 2 placing special emphasis on:

- The proper use of the School Diary,
- managing homework
- their study environment
- developing a personal weekly planner
- examination techniques and strategies for examination preparation.

Our role is to guide them academically and to nurture them personally to be the best they can be in every possible way. We ended Term 1 with a 'Fun & Games' session which included sack races, egg and spoon races, balloon games and more. The attached photos show what a great time students had!

Pili Varsos and Penny Takos
Directors of Teaching and Learning Years 7 & 8



STUDENT SERVICES REPORT

Uniform

It is now 3 weeks into second term and the Winter uniform should be worn. Please assist us to assist your children in coming to school well presented by wearing the correct College uniform. All girls are to wear either grey tights or white socks, not both and definitely not black tights or stockings. Boys are to wear grey or black socks, not white sports socks. Many students like wearing scarves in Winter. The College permits this as long as they are plain grey, cream/white or ma-

roon, once again not black and not striped, checked or any other patterns. Many students still choose to wear colored nail polish and jewellery. We accept no responsibility for the safe keeping of items if removed so ask they are not worn to avoid any losses.

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

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM UPDATE

Bouzouki – I am pleased that bouzouki lessons have recommenced at the College and parents and students alike have shown a keen interest. Peter Lithotomos is taking classes on a Saturday morning, in the Band Room of the Secondary building. These lessons are open to College students and others in the community. If you are interested in lessons, I would suggest contacting me soon because I have a feeling places will fill up fast!

The Big Sing – Our first year level concert will be taking place very soon. On the evening of Thursday May 28, all Year 5 and 6 students plus members of the Choir will be performing in "The Big Sing". Students have been preparing for this

performance since early last term, and the singing and choreography is getting very polished!

Please note that **this is a part of student assessment for Year 5 / 6 Music, and therefore students are expected to attend the evening.** If there is an unavoidable clash that prevents a child from attending, the parent must write a letter to Mr Perry or to the class teacher as soon as possible to explain their absence. It is not fair on other students to "carry the can" if so many children are absent. If you do not have a permission letter, please contact the College as soon as possible.

David Perry- Performing Arts Co-ordinator

Tutoring Available

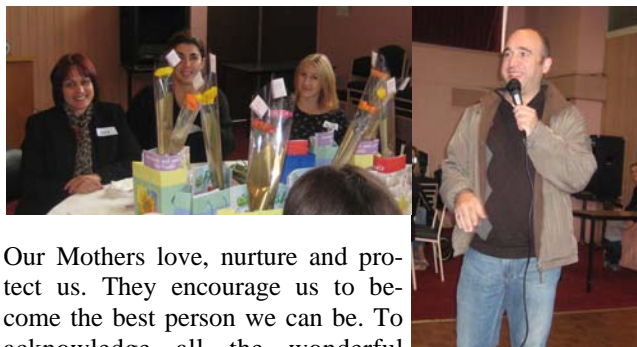
Marios Anthakis, 2006 Dux of our College, is available for tutoring especially in the area of maths. Mario is currently in the 3rd year of a double Engineering/Commerce degree at Monash University.

For all enquires please contact Mario via email: mant12@student.monash.edu.au

PRIMARY SCHOOL REPORT

I hope you all had a lovely day with your mums on Sunday. We have a very busy month so be sure to read the newsletter so you don't miss out on any activities.

Mother's Day Breakfast



Our Mothers love, nurture and protect us. They encourage us to become the best person we can be. To acknowledge all the wonderful things that they do each day with so much love and care to keep our lives in order, always putting family before themselves, we celebrated Mother's Day on Friday with a Breakfast in the College Assembly and Conference Centre. We started the day with a very 'healthy' breakfast of muffins, pikelets, scones, jam, cream, coffee and tea. Our special guest was comedian George Kapiniaris, who sang, joked and later signed autographs. All mums left with goodie bags, flowers, prizes and smiles on their faces. The children also contributed by decorating beautiful plates and making cards for their mothers. Thanks must go to the Parents Association for organising such a wonderful morning!

Prep Teachers Networking

"It used to be said that teaching was the second most private activity that one can engage in."

Today teaching is not a lonely activity. We have teachers team teaching in the same classroom for part of the day. We have teachers planning units together to hear about what others are doing. Professional development is now experienced in many forms and networking is one of its most powerful tools. It gives us an opportunity to share ideas and practices that support each other. Teachers of Early Years foster the understanding, social and communication skills of the children. They focus on optimum child development and preparation for a successful primary school education. I have been speaking to other Junior Heads of Independent Schools for some time to organise a network on a local basis, according to local clusters or 'like schools.' The opportunity arose recently and last Thursday O.G.O.C- Primary School invited the Prep teachers from Huntingtower, the Knox School and St. John's Greek Orthodox College to discuss ideas, have conversations about resources, projects, and generally what Prep teachers are doing at these different schools. Mrs. Williams and Ms. Rutko chaired the first of many such meetings and were pleased with the outcomes.

What does this mean for teachers?- for teachers networking compares what students are doing, the curriculum, student learning and it promotes continuity for students and their learning experiences.

The next such meeting will be held at the Knox School during Term 3.

Year 6 Camp Meeting

On Wednesday 6th May the Year 6 teachers held a Canberra

Camp meeting in the Multi Purpose Hall. Mrs. Proctor and Mrs Athanasopoulos went through the itinerary and general information regarding the trip. It was most informative and I am quite sure that all parents and students are looking forward to such a well thought out and busy week in Canberra.

Celebrating Success!

Congratulations to the group of students who attended the Annual Paschal Dinner on Sunday 3rd May in the College Assembly and Conference Centre. Many thanks to the children, parents and the staff and a special 'Thank You' to Mrs Zoumboukos, Mrs Cacoutas, Mrs. Grivas and Mr. Sarankitsos for their hard work.

Premiers Reading Challenge

Who?

All Victorian students in Prep to Year 10, including students who learn at home.

Why?

The Challenge aims to promote a love of reading. It is not a competition, but a challenge to each student.

When?

The 2009 Challenge will close on Monday 31 August.

More Sporting News

The BDPSSA Cross Country Meet will be taking place next Tuesday 19th May. We wish all the competitors best of luck and most importantly have fun!

NAPLAN

Our Year 3 and 5 students will participate in the **National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN)** from Tuesday 12th May to Thursday 14th May, 2009.

Year 7, 2010 Information Evening

Due to the Year 7 Camp which had to be scheduled on the 20th May, we have postponed the Information Evening til **Wednesday 27th May. This is a very important meeting for Year 6 parents to attend and ask all the questions they need answered for their children's Secondary School education. Please make every effort to attend.**

Getting in Early for Kids Mental Health

Everyone's good at something! Supporting kids' confidence.

Children who lack confidence in their abilities sometimes try to avoid even having a go at some things. This can get frustrating for parents and carers. It can also stop children from developing the skills they need to tackle tasks confidently.

How confidence develops

For most children starting school means spending more time on learning and less on play. It also means more expectations of them – from parents, carers, teaching staff and also from themselves.

Primary school children typically start out with high expectations. When they see how well they do things compared to others, their view of their own abilities often changes. They learn that they are good at some things and not so good at others. They also see how other children and teaching staff respond to what they do.

These things influence children's confidence in their abilities. They also influence how willing they are to have a go in situations where they feel unsure.

How parents and carers can help

Confidence improves through building on small successes. Parents, carers (and teaching staff) can help by:

- explaining to children that skills develop with practice
- encouraging children to persist when they don't succeed straight away
- praising effort, persistence and improvement
- making sure that goals are achievable by breaking down large tasks or responsibilities into small steps
- being ready to help when necessary, without taking over.

Confident thinking

Self-esteem is an important part of confidence. Having good self-esteem means accepting and feeling positive about yourself. Confidence is not just feeling good but also knowing you are good at something.

Particular ways of thinking are very important for building confidence. Helpful ways of thinking include:

- believing that, if you try, you can succeed
- finding positive ways to cope with failure that encourage having another go
- enjoying learning for its own sake by competing with your own performance rather than that of others.

Dealing with disappointment

Everybody fails to achieve their goals sometimes. Parents and carers (and teaching staff) can help by:

- Responding sympathetically and with encouragement, e.g. "That was disappointing, but at least you had a go."
- Helping kids focus on what they can change to make things better, rather than thinking that the situation is unchangeable or that there is something wrong with them, e.g., "What can you try that might make that work better next time?"
- Challenging 'I can't' thinking by showing, and saying, you believe in them and reminding them of what they have achieved.

Optimistic thinking recognises what has been achieved more than what is lacking. It looks at the glass as half full rather than half empty.

Parents and carers can help children focus on their own effort and on achieving personal goals as the best way to measure success.



Inquiry Learning

Oakleigh Greek Orthodox College is broadening students thinking skills through the *inquiry process*. The process defines the characteristics of students who are aware of, and

sensitive to, the experiences of others. The process creates a profile of qualities for our students- one which promotes global mindedness. As life long learners, children need to embrace these characteristics. Please spend some time becoming familiar with the Learner Profiles so you as parents will be better able to reinforce and model them at home.

- **Inquirers:** Ask questions. Does not give up easy.
- **Thinkers:** Using what they know. Link with something new. Building on other people's ideas.
- **Communicators:** Following directions. Express feelings, thoughts and ideas in words, maths, art, music. etc
- **Knowledgeable:** Learning more about themselves and the world around them.
- **Risk Takers:** Willing to try and do things in different ways.
- **Principled:** Being honest. Making decisions. Being a responsible learner.
- **Caring:** Recognizing they are part of a group.
- **Open-Minded:** Listening to other people's thoughts. Accepting that there is more than one way to look at things.
- **Well-Balanced:** Learning more about the importance of being healthy. Using time wisely. Being organized.
- **Reflective:** Think about what they do and say. Think about their learning. Think about different ways things could have been done.

My Word Origin Segment

scot-free • In Medieval England, a *scot* was a special tax imposed by the sheriff, usually to meet his salary and payroll. To go "scot-free" meant to avoid paying taxes, a privilege normally available only to the rich and powerful.

Reminders.....

May

Friday 15	Assembly
Monday 18	Excursion Sovereign Hill Year 5
Tuesday 19	District Interschool Cross Country Carnival
Thursday 21	Church Day Years 5 & 6 Sts Constantine & Helen Feast Day
Friday 22	College Open Day
Tuesday 26	Excursion IMAX Year 2 Epilepsy Trivia Quiz
Wednesday 27	Year 7, 2010 Information Evening
Thursday 28	THE BIG SING Year 5 & 6
Friday 29	The Big Morning Tea Assembly

Ms. M. Adams—Head of Junior Years Education

LIBRARY NEWS

The library will be holding its 1st scholastic book fair for 2009. This time the theme is 'Jurassic book fair' and is held from the 11th to 14th of May in the library. We are trying to improve our sales every year so that our commission will be improved as well. Last year we managed to collect about

\$3000 and added about 500 new resources to the library. We appreciate your contribution every time to our book fairs. This year we want to do better. All are welcome!

The library staff

CANTEEN NEWS

Tuesday 19th May is a Red Food Day. The canteen will be selling Hot Dogs on this day.

Hari & Jo—Canteen Ladies

STUDENT SERVICES REPORT

PRIMARY SCHOOL CLASS CAPTAINS TERM 2 2009

Prep A	Harry Anestopoulos	Helen Hatziminas
Prep S	Deana Giannaros	Theodore Nianiakas
1P	Stevie Garth	Athan Korderas
1T	Renee Zafiroopoulos	Dimitrios Koumouris
2P	Patricia Rozakis	Harry Iosifidis
2V	Nasis Panopoulos	Jonathan Zaharakis
3K	Samantha Kagarakis	Rigas Giovanis
3M	Christopher James Mertikas	Helena Manoussios
4C	Spiros Houpis	Niki Liolios
4T	Georgia Tsiagalos	Kristen Yiannakakis
5G	George Tsitouridis	Sophie Kagarakis
5P	Argyris Dikeos	Sophie Antonellis
6A	Kimon Diamantopoulos	Victoria Balderanos
6P	Nicola Karris	Matthew Sarris

Year 4C Guidelines

One of the greatest feelings a teacher may have is working with students that are connected and committed to achieving their greatest potential individually and as a team. I was privileged to enjoy such an experience when I stepped into Year 4C last Friday to take the morning English session whilst Ms Cassimatis was away on sick leave. What was most amazing about that lesson was the fact that these students could have worked in the same way without a teacher present. The children had what I would like to call integrity!

What is integrity? My favourite definition is this one:

Integrity is doing the right thing even when no one is watching.

– Dennis Janson

Guiding students to reach that level of responsibility is one of our most important duties as adults. These students will make mistakes, as we all do, however, they have made the decision to be the best they can be. And rather than having seen the writing on the wall, they have placed the writing on the wall themselves

. . . literally. As I looked to one side of the room, there, next to the entrance was a beautifully presented poster explaining why they were able to create such a pleasant learning atmosphere in that classroom. Let me share with you their 'guidelines':

Raise our hands before we ask to speak. Spiro

We work as a team! George

We work quietly! Evan

We are to be patient! Sophia

We may share things! Emily

We are to be kind to others! Maria

We must keep our environment clean! Nicholas

We are to play carefully and safely! Anthony

No violence is permitted! Theo

Always listen to the person that is talking! Fotis

We aim for good marks! Kristin

We are always courteous! Liam

We are to respect everyone! John

We must always behave and listen! Mary

It's helpful to be helpful! Paras

Show sportsmanship! Phillip

We must help our sick and injured peers! Niki

We must try to include others in what we do! Christos

We must always try hard to do the best that we can each do! Ms Cassimatis

PRIMARY SCHOOL VIPS AND STUDENT OF THE WEEK AWARDS—1/5/09

Prep A	Nicole Bizilis	Stavros Markos
Prep S	Floria Takos	Despina Hadjiangeli
1P	Jordan Bizilis	Elli Biziou
1T	Demi Zafiroopoulos	Nicholas Panopoulos
2P	Dion Halikopoulos	Mary Alabournos
2V	Jenna Menelaou	Jordan Kollatos
3K	James Henry	Ioanna Nianiakas
3M	Terry Kalogiros	Zoe Menelaou
4C	Paras Gamas	Christos Tsourekas
4T	Georgia Noutso	Mahi Pappas
5G	Christopher Alevizos	Teonnie Dimitrakis
5P	Evelyn Dimopoulos	Gabriel Giannetakis
6A	Dimitrios Gotsis	Paris Dagres
6P	Leah Chatoglou	Dean Antos

Thank you 4C for making my day!



Sand Sculptures

Our student's artistic and creative abilities are proudly displayed in their classrooms and around the school for parents and peers to admire. It is quite unfortunate though that there are some other types of creations, that only last a couple of minutes before they're destroyed, willingly I might say by their creators. So I thought it would be nice if we could display some of these in this week's newsletters.

We have some amazing artists, chefs, engineers and town planners in our Primary School. You can see them working busily in the sand pit every day. I sit and watch in awe at what their minds devise and what their hands create. It makes Yard Duty a delight!

Con Roubos—Head of Student Services (Primary)