FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Mrs Gina Kadis

RELATIONSHIPS MATTER to me…. Transparency matters to me…. Above all else, your children sincerely matter to me…. I wish to sincerely apologise to all the Year 7 students and parents who were recently upset by a teacher who was dealing with their own grief in relation to the redundancy process recently undertaken by the College. I also wish to apologise that I could not share this news with you before your children were approached by this teacher, on Friday, 6 November. We are required to follow our legislative requirements and give people who expressed an interest in a voluntary redundancy an opportunity to look for employment before the end of the term.

On Friday, 6 November after the 11.30am meeting, the teacher in this instance was offered wellbeing support along with the other teachers involved in the restructure and given the opportunity to come back on the Monday and say their farewells to students, parents and staff. As I explained to the students on Monday, 9 November, as soon as I was able to speak to them – as a College we have an ethical and legal obligation to give staff affected by this process, time to seek employment as soon as possible.

We are delighted that Mr David Albano advised us recently that he has gained employment. We knew such a talented teacher would be snapped up quickly. As I explained to the parents who contacted me, I too was absolutely devastated that an adult would upset so many young students on a Friday afternoon. I personally agonised over this restructure and took advice from experts and counsellors to ensure this process was undertaken legally and delivered within a private, ethical setting, away from the children.

I can tell you that there were 18 teachers here at the College that took part in an interview on Wednesday, 28 October 2015. At this interview, more than 70% of participants expressed an interest in a voluntary redundancy. This was a critical factor in arriving at our final decision, as to the final staff who were made redundant. All of our 18 teachers interviewed are outstanding. This matter of redundancy and letting go of the oversupply of good teachers that our College has had to do – is nothing to do with performance management. It is about making sure we can address the imbalance, drawn to my attention by Dr Neville Highe on my first day at St George College, Monday, 21 September at 4pm, at an open meeting for everyone to attend.

The College staff:student ratios were far too generous and not sustainable. As part of our rebuilding the senior campus in particular, we need to reduce the running costs of the College. We definitely will not be running composite classes - that is not the model that St George College will follow.

We apologise that the written report has not been released to the College community yet. Dr Neville Highe presented his summary to whole school community – parents, staff, students, Board members on Monday, 21 September. Based on these findings, together with my executive team, we commenced our preparations for 2016 planning. Dr Highe has just returned from overseas commitments he had made before the College engaged his services. He will present the final written school improvement report to the Board of Governors on 25 November and it will be released to our community in due course. Many thanks to parents that contacted me last week, and asked when they could read this report.
From the Principal

If you would like to make an appointment to speak to me in person, please contact Polyxeni Levendis on 8159 8117. In closing on this matter, once again I wish to acknowledge the dedicated work of the staff leaving St George College as a result of this process. The service that these employees have provided to the College over the years has been outstanding and the College regrets that they no longer continue in our employ. We wish them every success in the future. They will be missed by staff, students and parents.

We show our appreciation to the following staff who have left us: David Albano, Anthony Dimech, Greg Kanakaris, Vlad Kanter, Robbie Newland, Jenny Panopoulos, Adam Papazaharoudakis and Zora Wenham.

Best Wishes to our Graduating Year 12 Students

We celebrated with the Year 12 students at their Graduation Ceremony at 2pm on Wednesday, 18 November and then in true Greek style, we had a night of fun and reflections over dinner with Year 12 parents, grandparents, staff and students at the Adelaide Pavilion at 6.30pm on Wednesday, 18 November.

Thank you to all our graduates for the amazing contribution you have made to St George College. Many thanks to our parents for entrusting your precious children in our care. Special thanks to Miss Drakopoulos for the amazing memories she created for us all from this day’s events.

Your child matters to me…. Please allow me to share with you my Principal’s address at this recent Graduation ceremony:

“Good afternoon: Father Kon, distinguished parents and friends, our special and very important Graduating Year 12 students, Miss Kosmetos, staff and students of St George College.

It is with much sadness and pleasure that I address you today.

I am sad – because I barely had enough time to get to know each and every one of you more personally before you graduate. For those families who leave us today – I have barely had a chance to make myself known to you and tell you how much our College community appreciates the fact that you entrusted your child in our care for one, two, five or 13 years. For this I thank you.

I take great pleasure in having read every Year 12 students’ school report at the end of last term and have been going through final school assessment SACE Result sheets that are going off to the SACE Board as I speak. I have learnt a lot about the many personal successes of this group of amazing young men and women before us, from Miss Drakopoulos, Miss Kosmetos, Mr Rodas and Mrs Ruan – this brilliant group of graduates, looking as gorgeous as ever – even in those American style graduation gowns! (Just kidding Miss Drakopoulos – I do love them).

Your dedicated teachers have shared lots of stories with me about you. I have enjoyed chatting with you as a group in the heart of our College – our church – a place for reflection and resetting the many competing demands constantly thrown our way. These senior teachers have helped me select and recommend to the SACE Board one, of these many fine Year 12 graduates before us today, who has best met the criteria required to be nominated for the prestigious South Australian Governor Commendation Award – showing brilliant contribution to our own St George school community, offering commitment and service to the wider Adelaide community and working consistently with distinction in their personal lives, to achieve their absolute best. This was no easy task – as we have so many fine graduates before us. We are not allowed to share this name with you today but I do wish our nominee every success for this prestigious award. Only 8 such awards are presented out of approximately 19,000 students undertaking their SACE studies this year.

Why do I mention this Award then? The Criteria for this award are interesting – it is broader than the Academic Dux of the College – they let the school award DUX PRIZES after the SACE results come out and we present this honour to our Dux recipient at our College Merit Assembly in February next year. Instead the SACE Board is looking for the best “all-rounder” graduate. They are looking for an individual who finishes their secondary schooling, having made an outstanding contribution to their own life and the life of their peers and those they have touched in the wider community.

I mention this matter to you because these qualities are so closely aligned to my own educational leadership values and those of St George College and those of the parents in this hall. We all want the same thing. We want to nurture and equip our students to graduate knowing their culture, more about our Christian faith, a language other than English, some Greek and give them confidence and a really strong sense of self to take on the journey of life, well equipped and happy

As I stand before you today Year 12s – I know you have given your absolute best - especially this year – putting in lots of late nights to finish Year 12 school assessments and meet moderation deadlines and be prepared for examinations. It has been tough – but you got through it!! Well done!!

We live in a world where we are constantly tuned-in to the lives of others – whether it is social media, technology or living in our fast-track family lives – with everyone expected to be perfect and achieve perfection – with little leisure time and time to re-focus and get some balance in our lives. And yet – why is it so many people – young and old – feel so lonely and disconnected.

I think I have an answer to this – make time to build relationships that matter. Make time for your family and friends to meet in person, to talk, to laugh. Don’t just ‘watch the life of others on facebook’ – but get out there and live your life fully, passionately and with conviction – setting goals and aiming to be the best person you can be.

I am proud to say, you have survived this tough year. You have made it. You have used your unique gifts to create memories for yourselves as a year level, and for all of us that have walked this journey with you. You leave behind lots of funny and special memories – lots of memories that our younger students in our
I hope you make time today, as we celebrate with your families at our special Year 12 Graduation Dinner at the Adelaide Pavilion to say ‘thank you to your parents and grandparents’ who have given you the opportunity to be educated in this great school, filled with outstanding staff that value and respect you and have encouraged you to excel and get through your work and just be there to keep encouraging you to stay strong and never give up.

The education you have received at home and at our College has equipped you with ‘a big bag of tricks’ to tackle the ‘curlies that life throws your way’ head-on – to be resilient and never stop believing in yourself and never stop believing that you can’t make a difference to your own life and those around you.

Finally, whether you have made a contribution to our College through playing sport and your beloved ‘real football – soccer’, excelled in school productions, sung in the College choir, got involved in the Greek Dancing group, represented our College at many Glendi festivals or were fortunate to travel overseas on the prestigious recent Greek Trip or just focused on your academic subjects – your life is richer and so is ours.

Parents regularly tell us, they want more than academic excellence for their children in our school – they want strong pastoral care opportunities to help our students to develop a strong moral compass, ready to depart this genuine loving College community and move into the big wide world with courage and confidence. Giving service to others makes us better people. It helps us deal with the pressures we put on ourselves to be the best we can be.

Some say every speech should finish with a quote….. But I am a bit of a quote freak – so bear with me – I have 3 special ones for you:

Firstly, I googled ….. Best graduating Greek quote. This one resonated with me and made me chuckle…. “ AS LONG AS YOU HAVE THE BLESSING OF YOUR PARENTS IT DOES NOT MATTER EVEN IF YOU LIVE IN THE MOUNTAINS”. For those taking a gap year in the mountains of New Zealand next year – know your home and school family is with you! Have fun. Stay safe. How special – how true…. Family is so important to each and every one of us in this community.

Secondly, this quote from “unknown Year 12 student” touched me…..”I'M OKAY TODAY. I'LL BE OKAY TOMORROW. AND THE NEXT DAY AFTER THAT I'LL STILL BE OKAY. BUT IN A YEAR YOU WILL SEE ME, I'LL BE AMAZING.” Don’t judge yourself only by your Year 12 results. You are more than that. So many people achieve their best, after Year 12. Aim high. Only you can control what you say and what you do.

In summing up, I leave you with this special traditional Gaelic blessing that I have shared with many Year 12s that I have been privileged to teach and guide over the last 30 years:

May the road rise up to meet you
May the wind always be at your back

May the sun shine warm upon your face
The rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of his hand.

Best wishes to you all”.

Welcome to our new Deputy Principal—Mr Peter Karamoshos

I have much pleasure in announcing the appointment of Mr Peter Karamoshos as Deputy Principal and Head of Senior Campus of St George College. His appointment adds to the talented staff already here at the College and he will be a welcome addition to the senior leadership team.

He will commence on 11 January 2016.

Mr Karamoshos is currently the Assistant Head of Senior School at Pedare Christian College where he has demonstrated experience as an exceptional school leader and member of the College executive team. He has extensive experience in leadership in the independent school sector, serving as Head of Middle School and Head of Mathematics at Prince Alfred College over an 8 year period.

He brings strong international educational experience, as the Head of Mathematics at the Australian International School in Singapore for two years. Mr Karamoshos has been responsible for introducing innovative and holistic student programs, achieved by creating a strong team commitment through consultation and collaboration. These programs have resulted in improved student outcomes and increased enrolments. In the earlier years of his career, Mr Karamoshos worked in the Public sector in Victoria and New South Wales.

Mr Karamoshos is an exceptional classroom teacher of mathematics and science – teaching from Years 7 – 12. He has comprehensive knowledge of the SACE, Australian Curriculum, International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program, International Baccalaureate Diploma Program, New South Wales Board of Studies and HSC.

He recently took part in the “Positive Education Schools Association Conference” and “Grip Leadership Conference for Schools – from Good to Great” and attended the “IB Middle Years Conference” in Dubai. Mr Karamoshos chaired the “One-to-World Laptop Program” at Prince Alfred College and has extensive experience with the South Australian Mathematics Teachers Association, focusing on “New Technologies in Mathematics”.

He has a Masters of Education – Leadership and Management from Flinders University; Bachelor of Science (Applied Mathematics) from Monash University and a Diploma of Education from Victoria College.

Mr Karamoshos is married with 2 adult children. He has served as a senior coach in Football and Cricket Clubs. We are extremely fortunate to have him join our St George College family, and we warmly welcome him.

Mrs Gina Kadis, Mr Peter Piliouras and Mr Bill Gonis
FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL—JUNIOR

Miss Stephanie Kosmetos

Special Welcome to new students for 2016

There is nothing better than the sound of children in a school. Talking, listening to and watching our students every morning as they slowly fill the corridors, classrooms and school yard is a special time. Schools need children in them to come to life.

Over the year, our staff have enjoyed participating in professional learning and discussions about how we can continue to improve and support your children on their educational journey.

Our belief in forever excelling is about our staff as much as it is about our students.

Last week we welcomed 25 new students in the Junior School from Reception to Year 4 who came for their orientation visit, and for some, joined our St George College Community for the first time. One of the genuine pleasures of working in a school is the arrival of new faces and all our new families were welcomed at different year levels.

It was wonderful to observe the way in which the existing students embraced their new friends and helped them to settle quickly and feel welcomed in their new learning environment. One of the strengths of our school is the community and welcoming nature of it.

Playful in Pyjama’s!

Our fun filled pyjama day for charity

This morning we didn’t have to get dressed for Pre-school. There was no uniform today. Today was pyjama day.

The children were full of giggles and excitement as they entered the ELC this morning. We had a fun day in store! We were raising money for our litter of guide dogs, and what better way than with pyjama day!

We wore our favourite sleep wear and played and learned looking our best for bed. We watched one of our favourite Disney movies and made some yummy popcorn to complement our movie. There was so much fun to be had, and it was all for a very important cause.

All money raised went to a special litter of guide dog puppies being trained by Guide Dogs SA.
Physical Education Week—Reception to Year 7

Physical Education week commenced on Monday, 10 November in South Australia. To celebrate Physical Education Week, ACHPER ran a special ‘Active Skills and Fun Day’ for primary school students, to participate in a range of different sports and activities and to highlight the importance of being active and having a healthy lifestyle.

Mrs Vogiatzis’ and Mrs Caon’s Year 5 classes had the fantastic opportunity to participate in the Active Skills and Fun Days. The sports activities students undertook were Lacrosse, Gymnastics, Athletics, Orienteering, Rugby, Netball and Hockey.

All the students thoroughly enjoyed learning and playing new sports and being part of Physical Education Week.

Unfortunately, due to high temperature weather on their allocated day, Mrs Theodoracopoulos and Miss Goudie’s Year 2 classes were unable to attend their fun day.

Memories from PE Week

‘Our favourite sport was the Orienteering because it was a great challenge to find all the markers. We had to use a map to find nail punchers to stamp our map. It was enjoyable but a tiring job’.

‘At Lacrosse it was hard but fun because it was tricky to scoop the ball up with the lacrosse stick’.

‘When we went to Netball we got trained by professional SA netball players. It was fun having a goal shooting competition’.

‘At our lunch break we were given free Milo and apples. They were delicious’.

Overall we had a fabulous day and wish to go again!

By Year 5P and 5V students

Miss Daniella Marciano
R-7 Physical Education Coordinator

Year 10’s Musical Visit to Year 4 Students

Year 10 music students: Dimitrios Apoefis, Maria Bakopanos, Luka Bojanic, Ioannis Canatselis, Yat Hin Choy, Constantine Lalic, Kosta Thalassinos, Constance Venetsanos and Vanessa Weah exchanged their musical skills with Mrs Moro’s Year 10 students last week.

The Year 10 students, as a group, designed a Nursery Rhyme program and booklet as well as using their skills to teach Mrs Moro’s class how to sing and coordinate actions along to their chosen songs.

Much delight was expressed by the Year 4 students as they clapped and moved to the music, displaying their natural interest for music.

Thank you to Mrs Moro for allowing the Year 10 music students to present their unit of work to her class. Well done to all students!

Ms Rosemarie Andreacchio
Music Focus Teacher
Year 12 SACE Art Show

On Friday, 6 November we held the annual Year 12 Art Show, which exhibited work from the 2015 graduating Year 12 Visual Arts students. As part of the SACE Stage 2 course, students were to create two artworks reflecting their ideas and technical and practical knowledge and ability. This year the students created a wide range of artwork and use of media.

This year we are also proud to announce that works by Evangelia Frazis and Anthony Nicola have been selected to be exhibited at the prestigious 2016 SACE ART SHOW. It was wonderful to see this event supported by the students, families and staff members.

Australian Science Olympiads

The Australian Science Olympiad Competition is a national extension program for top performing secondary science students which culminate in the International Science Olympiads – the Olympic Games for science students.

Year 10 and 11 students can sit one or more of the four Australian Science Olympiad Exams on offer in the disciplines of Biology, Chemistry, Earth and Environmental Science and Physics.

In August this year, Year 10 student Michael Leventeris, sat the physics exam. He achieved an outstanding result by finishing in the top 40% in the country. Michael was awarded a certificate for his achievement.

We congratulate him on accomplishing such exceptional results.

Vicki Sakellariou

SATA News

Important University Dates

- **Main January offer round**: Tue 19 Jan 2016. Response deadline Wed, 27 January 2016
- **Late January offer round**: Thurs, 28 Jan 2016. Response deadline by Mon, 1 Feb
- **First February offer round**: Tues, 2 Feb 2016. Response by Fri, 5 February
- **Second February offer round**: Thurs, 4 Feb 2016. Response by Mon, 8 Feb
- Change of preference deadline is Mon, 4 January.

For International Applicants

Main offer round will be sent in mid to late December as soon as possible after results are released. Offers are sent by email. Respond directly to Universities. Further offers: January, 8, 12 and 15.

Main offers to University on 19 January: Emailed progressively by 5pm. Automatic acceptance recorded for offers to first preferences. Offers to other than first preferences will still need a response by the applicant. Express service available to check offers on 19 January. No access to “My Application” services (Change of preference/respond to offer/status service etc) until Wednesday, 20 January 2016.

Results Release


Tertiary Entrance Statements posted on same day. ATAR available on web vis SACE Board or SATAC (link available on SATAC website).