Dear Parents and Students

We are about to complete the first term of 2007 school year. I hope our new students have settled in well and are ready for future challenges. I also hope our new parents are happy with their son’s quick and successful induction. At the start of Term 1, we had our new parents’ information night in which the participation was unfortunately below average. In the middle of this term we invited all ISIK College Upfield Campus parents to our “2007 Welcoming BBQ”, almost 400 people registered and attended the event. We were very pleased to see such a good turn-out. We are hoping our positive communication with parents will continue.

At ISIK College, we put a strong emphasis on Parents-School Dialogue. Through such dialogue, we hope to yield very productive outcomes by sharing the experiences of the two most significant factors in a students’ education: the home and the school environment. Our parents will be able to examine their son’s progress through Term 1 Interim Reports distributed at the end of the term. I strongly recommend our parents to make appointments to see our teachers at the start of Term 2 on the Parent-Teacher interview day. An appointment letter will be distributed next week. Year level coordinators are monitoring critical/conditional students very carefully and closely and will be contacting those parents by the middle of Term 2 to evaluate their children’s Semester 1 progress.

Our parents must have received a Parent and Friends’ Association Membership Letter during last week. We are about to establish the P&F Association for Secondary Boys this year. In order to do this, we need your support and suggestions. For those who returned their membership forms, the Committee Election will be held on Wednesday, 28th of March, at 6pm in the Upfield Campus Library.

One of our most valued objectives at ISIK College Secondary Boys in 2007 is encouraging student involvement in school life by taking an active part in events organization and starting new initiatives. Our VCAL boys organized a Handball Tournament amongst years 7 to 11. Our Coordinating Principal, Mr. Harun Yuksel; Secondary Girls’ Principal, Mr. Mehmet Koca; and Primary School Principal, Mr. Omer Ayvaz, were cordially invited by these students to attend the Grand Final of the tournament. I would like to thank these gentlemen for supporting our students by attending the Grand Final and our VCAL boys, VCAL teachers and VCAL Coordinator Mr. Ahmad Helou for organizing the event. I would also like to congratulate the Year 11 students for winning the tournament after a very competitive match against year 10B.

Our Debating Teams are to start their marathon this week against some very prestigious schools. One out of four ISIK College Secondary Boys’ Teams was runner up in their category last year. With this being our second year in the competition we expect better results from 1-year experienced Teams in 2007.

Hope you enjoy the newsletter.

Kindest Regards,

Mr. Deniz Erdogan
Differences are richness for Harmony

On 21 March each year since 1999, the day named Harmony Day, coinciding with the United Nations International Day, has been celebrated across Australia to build a peaceful and productive future for all of us by making a harmonious multicultural society. In celebrating it each year, we take a stand against racism, prejudice and intolerance, and we re-commit to the common values such as: respect, goodwill, friendship, and justice towards all backgrounds.

As we celebrate differences as richness on that day, we should remember that the real message was given to mankind very clearly 1400 years ago. If the universal message of Islam on this topic had been really appreciated, we would all be living in a world where love, peace and brotherhood are truly shown themselves.

The ancestor of all human beings is the first person, being Prophet Adam (as). Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) said: “We are all sons of Prophet Adam”. Throughout history, different races, colours and languages have always existed. During this time, we did not choose our parents, the place and time we were born. All these happened with the will of God.

The Qur’an embraces all humankind with a universal divine message, without making any differences between nations, races and colours. God says in it: “O mankind! We created you from a single (pair) of a male and a female, and made you into nations and tribes, that you may know each other (not that you may despise each other). Verily, the most honoured of you in the sight of Allah is (he who is) the most righteous of you. And God has full knowledge and is well acquainted (with all things)” (49:13). With this verse, God prevented all misleading sayings between different races and cultures. The verse says that differences between human races, tribes and nations is to know of each other; in the sight of God the most valuable is the one who is the most righteous and obeys God’s commands.

God has forbidden people from seeking superiority among themselves in terms of race, colour and ethnicity. As a matter of fact, it is mentioned in another verse of the Qur’an: “O you who believe! Let not some men among you laugh at others: it may be that the (latter) are better than the (former); nor let some women laugh at others: it may be that the (latter are better than the (former): Nor defame nor be sarcastic to each other, nor call each other by (offensive) nicknames: evil is a bad name after faith; And those who do not desist are (indeed) doing wrong.” (49:11).

It is quite natural for someone to love his family, nation, and to protect and own his history and traditions. No one can object to that. However, if someone views his race and forefathers as being superior to other human beings, and says: “The most superior and the best race is my race” this is Islamically not acceptable. No one came to this world by choosing his parents. It is not realistic for someone to brag with qualities that God gave him and say that he is superior to other human beings through those characteristics. Nor has such a claim an ethical or scientific value.

Living in harmony is the commandment of God and the practice of his messengers. Therefore, we should always emphasize our common values and respect, rather than question differences amongst us.

By Mr Sadik Kirazli
Religion and Values Teacher

Debating

Each year, the Debaters Association of Victoria runs a schools competition. The 2007 competition has just begun. There are over 250 schools and 1300 teams competing in this year’s competition across four grades.

This year, Isik College has four teams entered in the Coburg Region. We have two D grade teams comprised of Year 7/8/9 boys, one C grade team (year 10), and one B grade team (year11).

Debating is now an elective for boys in the lower and middle secondary years. This means that our debaters are able to spend time together on a regular basis, brainstorming ideas, discussing current issues, fine tuning arguments, preparing speeches and participating in mock debates.

The first round of debates was on Wednesday 21st of March, at Mercy College in Coburg. Our two D grade teams had mixed results. The boys debated the premise: “That we should greatly increase the price of water”. Both teams were up against Penola Catholic College. When the adjudication had been done, Isik College found itself with one victory and a narrow defeat.

Upfield 1 (Won by 1 point) Onur Deger, Baturay Ozcelik. (Best speaker), Burak Calhan.

Upfield 2 (Loss by 4 points) Gokhan T., Samir A., Muhammad E.

The debaters have a lengthy season ahead, as preliminary rounds of debating stretch across three terms. Round 2 is on Wednesday 2nd May.

Good luck to all the boys who will represent the school this year.

By Mr Rohan Chiu
English & Debating Teacher

Prepared by Rohan x 2
Internet safety is a growing concern: for not only schools but the whole population. Crimes committed affect many aspects of society and usually cause irreparable damage to society members. At ISIK College, the ICT Faculty (Upfield) is in the planning stage of implementing a school-wide Internet safety campaign that will aim to protect our members. Such an undertaking will require immense support from teachers, students and parents. One could obtain multi-million dollar security systems and cutting edge technology in battling internet crime; but without solid community support, it would all be a waste. We are counting on our whole community for support, so watch this space for further information regarding our internet safety campaign.

In the meantime, here are some tips in ensuring a safe internet experience for our children.

1. Consider using internet filtering software, walled gardens and child-friendly search engines. Use your browser's controls as some offer differing degrees of security for each family member.

2. Check out what child protection services your Internet Service Provider (ISP) offers - do they filter for spam, for instance? If not, ask them why.

3. Keep the computer in a communal area of the house, where it's easier to monitor what your children are viewing.

4. Tell children not to give out their personal details. If they want to subscribe to any services online, make up a family email address to receive the mail.

5. Children love to chat, but make sure they only use moderated chat rooms and encourage them to introduce you to their online friends.

6. Encourage your children to tell you if they feel uncomfortable, upset or threatened by anything they see online.

7. Involve your children in writing your own family code of acceptable internet use. Remember that what's acceptable for a teenager isn't necessarily OK for a primary school-aged child, so get their input.

8. Computer kit is expensive, so bear in mind that a child with a laptop may be vulnerable when carrying it to and from school.

9. The Web is a great resource for homework, but remember to use more than one site in research to get broad, balanced information and always reference your research sources; and remember to always cite your references to avoid plagiarism.

Surf together. Go online with your children and become part of their online life. The key to safe surfing is communication.

By Mr Ilker Abak
ICT Faculty Coordinator (Upfield)

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**VCAL Handball Tournament**

After a busy two weeks of competition, the VCAL handball tournament final was held on the Friday afternoon of Week 7. A number of special guests were in attendance, and the two finalists were well supported by their respective classmates.

The final was contested between a Year 11 team and the 10A homegroup. All players demonstrated skill and athleticism in all aspects of the game, and also showed great respect to the decisions of Burak and the linesmen. The early ascendancy was taken by the Year 11 boys who looked like they would run away easy winners. However, an inspirational half-time huddle from Mustafa Dursun welcomed the near capacity crowd and then Burak Karip took control of the referee's whistle.

The second half of the game saw the lead change hands many times.

When the final whistle blew, the Year 11 team was ahead by eight goals to six.

**Congratulations** to all the participants and to all of the people, students and teachers alike, involved in the organization of the tournament. The school community looks forward to many more similar activities.

**ICT Internet**

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By Mr Ilker Abak
ICT Faculty Coordinator (Upfield)
Year 9 Graphics Excursion

Important events that enrich the lives of young people at Isik College are our incursions and excursions. Not only do students get to interact with the outside world, but they also get to hear and meet highly qualified professionals.

Year 9 Graphics students went out to the Sneakers Exhibition at the International Gallery on St.Kilda Rd, on Wednesday 14th March. We were treated to a one hour speech, which began with the history of sneakers. The Dunlop tyre company was one of the first sneaker producers, naming their shoes OC’s, or Orthopaedic Correct. We then learnt how designers were employed to make sneakers more appealing to sports people and fans. Fads and customised designs for high profile celebrities were created to create hype and generate more sales. Our lecturer consistently linked the evolution of sneakers to the Graphic Designers and artists involve with their shape, materials and colours. Of interest were the limited edition Anaconda skin sneakers valued at $3,000 a pair, the Michael Jordan range, as well as the beautifully painted personalised sneakers. This excursion got the boys to thinking that if you design a simple product that looks good and everyone can use, then you can become a very wealthy person indeed!

By Mr Rohan Morrison

CSIRO Incursion

All Year 8 students had an incursion on Wednesday 14th of March, 2007. There were two CSIRO demonstrators who conducted ten experiments. The theme of these experiments was "Thinking Scientifically". The main areas of Science they were practicing were scientific methods, these being:

1. Questioning,
2. Hypothesis
& 3. Variables.

By Mr Bihter Altuntas
Head teacher of Science

OUR BUDDING ARTISTS

Our year 7 & 8 Art students have been working enthusiastically and have started to bring life into their home rooms. We began the year with observation drawings and realistic paintings of fruit, vegetables and other objects. Year 7’s then learnt about how lines have been used to represent movement and feelings since prehistoric times. Year 8’s have been working with tone and are learning to draw castles. This ties in with their SOSE classes and they will get to see the tone on Kryal Castle for their excursion.

The following students are performing particularly well: Ali Yilmaz 7A, Ismail Naim 7B, Imran Guler 7C, Yusuf Balkis 8A, Ibrahim Kurban 8B, and Taner Saban 8C. There are many other students hot on their heels and I hope to mention them in up and coming newsletters.

I would also like to thank: Hakan Tarakci, Halis Ercliyas, Anil Zirek, Sukru Cetiner, Turgut Fanoscu and Musab Yildirim. These students- now in Year 9, have provided excellent work for display. You’ve inspired a new generation and students still say, “That’s mad, who did that!!”

By Mr Rohan Morrison

Promotional poster showing, Nike, Converse, Puma and Adidas brands.

Volkan Can participated in the lego architecture activity at The International Gallery, before our speech on sneaker design.
Insight of volcanoes

Whenever there is a major volcanic eruption in the world, you'll see a slew of newspaper articles and nightly news stories covering the catastrophe, all stressing a familiar set of words - violent, raging, awesome. When faced with a spewing volcano, people today share many of the same feelings volcano-observers have had throughout human history: we are in awe of the destructive power of nature, and we are unsettled by the thought that a peaceful mountain can suddenly become an unstoppable destructive force!

While scientists have cleared up much of the mystery surrounding volcanoes, our knowledge has not made volcanoes any less amazing. In this article, we'll take a look at the powerful, violent forces that create eruptions, and see how these eruptions build volcanic structures like islands.

When people think of volcanoes, the first image that comes to mind is probably a tall, conical mountain with orange lava spewing out the top. There are certainly many volcanoes of this type. But the term volcano actually describes a much wider range of geological phenomena.

Generally speaking, a volcano is any place on a planet where some material from the inside of the planet makes its way through to the planet's surface. One way is "material spews from the top of a mountain", but there are other forms as well.

By: MUHAMMAD KHALID MEHMOOD

The eruption of Mount St.Helens in 1980, Washington State, USA.

Prepared by Rohan x 2
? PROBLEMS ?
OF THE MONTH—
FROM MR. OKAN ALKIN

Question

Dennis does odd jobs for Mr. Gamble after school. Mr. Gamble, true to his name, pays Dennis in an unconventional way. Each week on Friday he places money into six envelopes:

- Two envelopes get $1 coins.
- Two envelopes get $5 notes.
- One envelope gets a $10 note.
- One envelope gets a $20 note.

For his week's wages, Dennis gets to choose two envelopes at random. (So, the least he can receive is $2 and the most is $30.) To earn your wages this week, your task is to determine the average amount Dennis will earn each week if he continues in Mr. Gamble's employ for a long time. HAVE FUN 😊

Mr Okan Alkin

Jokes!

A history joke
What was Camelot?
A place where people parked their camels!

When a teacher closes his eyes, why should it remind him of an empty classroom?
Because there are no pupils to see!

A maths joke
Teacher: How much is half of 8?
Pupil: Up and down or across?
Teacher: What do you mean?
Pupil: Well, up and down makes a 3 or across the middle leaves a 0!

What would you get if you crossed a vampire and a teacher?
Lots of blood tests!

A history joke
Who invented King Arthur's round table?
Circumference

What did Noah do while spending time on the ark?
Fished, but he didn't catch much. He only had two worms!

What are the small rivers that run into the Nile?
The juve-niles!

Amazing Isometric Maze!
The Kite Runner  

by Khaled Hosseini

In flashbacks, Hosseini recreates the day-to-day existence of Amir and his father, a highly successful merchant in Kabul in the 1970's, creating a warm and emotionally involving story of childhood and its traumas and stressing the importance of family in times of trouble, as he follows the lives of Amir and his father until Amir is in his late thirties. But this is more than the story of Amir and Baba. It is also the parallel story of Hassan and Ali, their servants, who represent an entirely different world.

Amir and Baba are Pashtuns, while Hassan and Ali are Hazaras, descendants of the Moguls who are also Shi’a Muslims, and it is in these parallel tracks that we come to see the variety of life in Afghanistan, its traditions, and its hierarchies. Just as Baba and Ali have been closer than most masters and servants, Amir and Hassan grow up together, are best friends, and even get into trouble together. Hassan, however, always knows he is Amir’s servant, and he is often cruelly mocked by others who consider him inferior.

A New Kind of Dreaming  

by Anthony Eaton

Jamie Riley is not a bad boy, but his lack of family support, and a rather unfortunate attitude mean that he has had his fair share of trouble. When he is sent to Port Barren as an alternative to going to jail, he is put in the care of a social worker, Lorraine, and is boarded with the sage Archie. His troubles begin almost immediately, when Elliot Butcher, the local police sergeant, harasses him. He soon finds out that the town has an evil atmosphere and an unfortunate history. Two young people have mysteriously disappeared: one, a problem kid from the city like Jamie; and the other, a young girl, a survivor of a massacre on a refugee boat.