Parents and Friends’ Barbeque

On Sunday 16 March a “welcome” barbeque was held at the Isik College Upfield campus. The day was a big success thanks to the close cooperation and valuable efforts of the members of the Parents and Friends’ Association, the teachers and staff.

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Important Dates:

- Monday 7 April: Curriculum Day (No school for students)
- Tuesday 8 April: Students return to school.
- Tuesday 15 April: Years 7 to 9 Parent Teacher Interviews.
- Thursday 17 April: Years 10 to 12 Parent Teacher Interviews
Dear Students, Parents and Friends of Isik College,

We have completed Term 1 of the 2008 school year very smoothly. As I mentioned in my previous message, the Upfield campus is now being used exclusively by our secondary boys. Consequently, we are experiencing greater ease and efficiency this year.

I am sure our new students and staff members have settled in and are ready to offer more of their qualities to the Isik College family in Term 2.

Term 1 has been short and quite busy with its own routine. We have held several events including; two New Parents’ Information Nights, one for parents of new students in Years 11 and 12, and one for parents of students in other years; the Year 7 and 8 school camps which were of great benefit in terms of building long lasting friendships; a very competitive hand-ball competition that was proudly organised by our VCAL students; the annual parents and friends’ barbecue that enabled us to extend our warmest welcome to all our parents (albeit in the heat of a 37°C afternoon); and the opening of our new conference room on the very meaningful occasion of celebrating the Birth of Prophet Mohammed (phuh) for which our Pastoral Care Department invited Mr Mehmet Seker, author and columnist of Zaman Newspaper, to address our students.

Term 1 Interim reports will be posted to parents within the first week of term break. I encourage all parents to examine their son’s Interim Reports and make an appointment via the letter enclosed to discuss their sons’ progress.

As you know membership renewal time for our Parents and Friends’ Association has recently ended. Our committee will go through the applications and send letters of invitation to a General Meeting to be held at the start of Term 2. During this meeting, elections for new committee members will take place.

Have a nice and safe Term break.

Yours truly,
Mr Deniz ERDOGAN
PRINCIPAL

Parents and Friends’ Association Barbecue (from page one)

The event provided an opportunity for the Association members and teachers to socialise with parents in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

The members of the Parents and Friends’ Association would like to extend their warmest thanks to those of you who attended on what was an extremely hot day. Without your presence, the day would have been meaningless.

For those who were unable to attend this year, we look forward to seeing you at next year’s event.

We look forward to seeing you all at the forthcoming General / Election Meeting for which invitations will be sent out shortly.

Ilhan Demet,
President
Parents and Friends’ Association

A wide variety of barbecued meats, salads, dips and desserts was enjoyed by all.

Children enjoyed the food as well as the colouring-in corner.
Dear Parents,

The evening of 19 March 2008 was Mawleed Night (Mevlid Kandili), the night mankind was given the greatest of gifts, and the whole universe was honored with the birth of our beloved Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him. The Islamic world celebrates this wonderful day usually by the giving of sermons, prayer, gifts and, of course, by the remembrance of the Prophet (saw) and his exalted personality, life and deeds.

The Pastoral Care Department endeavours to celebrate all significant and special days of the Islamic calendar. To better inform and promote an understanding of these, the evening for Mawleed was held on 19 March in our new conference hall.

God was gracious to the believers when He raised up among them a Messenger from themselves who recites to them the verse (of His Book) and shows them His signs [in themselves and in the universe], purifies them [of their sins and their deviations of thought and beliefs], and instructs them in the Book and the Wisdom. They were evidently in manifest misguidance be (Al iImran, 3.164).

The evening included beautiful readings from the Quran by Mr. Adem Soylemez, examples of the life of Rasulullah (saw) was given by our talented year 9 students, a lovely reading by Mr. Kadir Emniyet, and the enlightening sermon given by Mr. Mehmet Seker. They bought clarity and understanding to our minds, and peace to our souls. A big thank you to all involved for helping make a very enlightening and uplifting celebration.

The matter of loving the Prophet (pbuh) has presented the Prophet as the most ideal example and invites those who love Him to obey His Messenger as a proof of their love. Moreover, Allah wants us to obey the Prophet sincerely, not just as a duty. This kind of obedience can only be possible if the Prophet is loved with a sincere heart.

I would like to wish all our students and their families a safe and happy holiday break,

Insallah,

Mahir Kara
Deputy Principal (Pastoral Care)

The Pastoral Care Department endeavours to celebrate all significant and special days of the Islamic Calendar.

The VCAL boys organized a very successful handball competition during Term One of 2008. The competition covered Years Seven to Eleven as well as a team of teachers. The first match was held in week six and continued for two weeks from which, finally, the champions arose. On the day of the finals the keen VCAL boys cleverly organized a school sausage sizzle as well as an out-of-uniform day. This not only encouraged students to get into the spirit of the game, but also gave students the opportunity to celebrate the event in style. Unfortunately, during one memorable match, Ercan Sakaryà was hit in the face by one of the opposing year 10 students causing a near fatal blow to the teachers’ team. This was the only injury sustained by any competitor. All students showed great sportsmanship throughout matches and VCAL students conducted the tournament professionally. The teams that made it to the finals were 10B and 11B, with 11B emerging victorious. Thank you VCAL students and congratulations 11B.

By Ibrahim Akbay & Mr Ahmed Rajab
“WOMBAT!” Those were the first words of Ali Ocal as he woke to the sounds of the scratching and ripping of the tent material. Ibrahim Mohammed Ali heard Ali’s screech and woke only to be confronted with a baby wombat, which at three o’clock in the morning seemed very scary. Savas Semirli, who wasn’t phased by this minor event, picked up the torch and flashed it at the eyes of the fearsome beast, only to visually clarify that it was a cute little wombat. Serdar Bal another member of the group in the tent, was fast asleep during this whole event, not even waking to the fact that the wombat walked over him, on the way in, and on the way out.

The second day had arrived and the boys were taken to a grassland ecosystem, to observe its environment. That was the only activity for the day, and the students had the rest of the day to themselves, to do as they please.

All in all, Wilson’s Promontory was an amazing experience, one that will never be forgotten by students nor teachers. The boys learnt many things on their trip, but most of all they had fun. On behalf of the students, THANK YOU to all the teachers and people who participated in organising this wonderful event, without whom these amazing experiences may not have taken place. By Savas Semirli 11A