Dear Students, Parents and Staff,

We have just completed a very active and dynamic term 2. The Year 12 VCE mid-year exams and Yr 7-11 exams took place in the last two weeks of the term. I would like to thank all those parents who have supported, encouraged and motivated their children during the stressful exam week and made it easier for them to organize their study time.

Semester 1 reports (Yr 7-12) have been mailed out with this newsletter. Parents will get the opportunity to discuss their child’s academic and behavioral progress at the Parent-teacher Interviews which will be conducted on Tuesday, 22 July (Yr 7-9) and Thursday, 24 July, between the hours of 4.00-7.00pm. It is, however, absolutely essential for students to make appointments with their teachers by using the Parent-Teacher Appointment slip, which has been included with the reports.

You will need to ask your child to arrange interview times with her teachers by Wednesday, 16th July 2008. We have provided an interview sheet for you to conveniently record each of the requested interview times. As always, 5 minutes is allocated for each meeting. We ask for your co-operation in complying with the 5 minutes limitation and in being punctual to each of the interview.

I would like to take this opportunity to warmly welcome Ms. Nurdan Orse our new School Nurse, to the Eastmeadows campus. Her office and clinic are located on the ground floor of the primary school building (adjacent to the primary office). Parents are more than welcome to make an appointment with her to discuss any health issues their daughter may have. We will also be handing out a Health Action Plan to a select group of students who have health issues. It is absolutely essential that these Action Plans be returned within the first week of next term.

I hope all our students have ample time to relax and recuperate throughout the vacation period. I hope you all have a safe and productive school holiday.

Kind Regards,

Ms. Nazan POLAT

Award Presentation Night

The Isik College Award Presentation Night for the Eastmeadows, Upfield and Dandenong campuses was held on Wednesday, 7 May, 2008 at the Clocktower in Moonee Ponds.

Parent Teacher Interviews
By Appointment Only
Tuesday 22 July (Yr 7-9)
Thursday 24 July (Yr 10-12)
Organizational Skills Are the Key to Your Success

Students do not always know how to organise themselves and often find that disorganisation leads to inconsistency and chaos, leaving them frustrated and with little motivation.

Parents can help students with organisation skills by providing the following:

- An area in the house that is a designated ‘study only’ area.
- A large calendar that marks deadlines and upcoming events (in the study area);
- A regular study time e.g. 6.30pm – 8.30pm uninterrupted ‘quiet’ study time;
- A filing box/s that will hold all relevant school work;
- A box for stationary staplers, highlighters, pens, post it notes etc storage / access;
- A ring binder/ folder with plastic dividers and reinforced A4 paper, this allows the student to have all subjects together and the student often feels less disoriented;
- A tutor for added support, the best support is sometimes closer attention; this will often boost your child’s confidence in an area that they are struggling with.

Computers and televisions should be located in a public area of the house, minimising too many hours spent online or watching the box.

Some students tell me that whilst their parents want them to succeed, they often end up nagging them, rather than setting up a system at home to better assist them. Setting up a regular system/routine at home will often minimise arguments and give both you and your child a solid study base with keys to success.

Many parents say they would like to help their child but do not know how. As a parent you can help watch over the home environment, materials, and skills, assisting when necessary and without emotion, communicating acceptance and love toward the child.

Parents need to know also that children do not have a system to protect themselves against words like, “you are so lazy” and “try harder” when it is obvious that the student is struggling. These words will stick with them forever. Parent can contribute positively to the academic success of their child by overseeing the organisation system, making sure materials are in their proper place, checking assignments, providing a quiet atmosphere to study, and being a cheerleader for their children’s successes.

Ms. Serife Ucar:
Psychotherapist:
ISIK, Student Welfare and Counselling Services

Students may write letters to the Editor. So put your thinking caps on and write about a local, national or global issue that concerns you.

Hanife Tasgin, Year 10

Mother to a Child

Angels east,
Angels west,
North and south,
Just do your best,
To guard and protect
My Baby
While I rest.

Hatice Orman, Year 10

Four Color Pen

I’m being used,
I knew it from the moment
She laid eyes on me.
She keeps clicking me:
My spring’s going up & down.

It’s a four color choice.
She keeps changing her mind.
If only I could give her a sign,
Or just say, “Stop! I am mine.”

She keeps clicking me.
It’s such a bumpy ride.
My ink is really low,
So she puts me aside.

Now that I am useless,
I think that I have won.
She goes for a while.
But returns with another one.
I know this isn’t the end.
Next will be my turn to lend.

Hanife Tasgin, Year 10

Letters to the Editor

Students may write letters to the Editor. So put your thinking caps on and write about a local, national or global issue that concerns you.
As part of the agreement made between schools and the Commonwealth Government to secure federal funding, schools in all sectors are now required to publish a range of performance data. All schools have to present specified information once a year, relating to the previous school year. The information applies, therefore, to 2007 unless otherwise stated.

**Student Attendance:**
Our students’ average

**Staff retention:**
Teaching staff remaining at the school from 2006 to 2007 was 93%

**Professional learning:**
All teachers took part in professional learning activities during 2007. Activities included school-base meetings conferences as well as attendance at external conferences and workshops in different areas.

**Teacher Qualification:**
All teachers in ISIK Colleges are registered with the Victorian Institute of Teaching.
Bachelor Degree: 100%
Graduate Diploma: 43%
Masters Degree: 16%

**Student satisfaction:**
Students identified the following as the top perceived strengths of the school:
- My teachers give me extra help when I need it.
- I feel safe at this school
- Students are encouraged to participate in school events
- I am involved in making decisions about my education

**Parent Satisfaction:**
Parents identified the following as the top perceived strengths of the school:
- My child is happy at this school this year
- This school provides a safe and secure environment
- I am comfortable about approaching my child’s teachers
- Teachers are enthusiastic in their teaching
- Teachers at this school really want to help my child to build moral values through Pastoral Care.

**Teacher Satisfaction:**
Teachers identified the following as the top perceived strengths of the school:
- School encourages teachers to attend professional development.
- Students at this school are focused on their studies.
- This school provides a safe and secure working environment.
- I am comfortable about approaching administration regarding any issue.
- The school is always looking for ways to improve the services it provides.

**Year 12 Outcomes and destinations:**
Our class of 2007 produced a fine set of VCE results.

**Value added:**

**University offers:** have increased from 86% to 96% from 2005 to 2007. ISIK College continues to be the number one school in terms of university offers in the north western region.

**World Tours:** continue to be the highlight for year 12 students completing their studies at ISIK College. In addition, to our compulsory camping program in senior primary and junior secondary selected students attend interstate camps and activities.

**VCAL:** was introduced in 2006 to provide an alternative pathway to students not wanting to go to university. The program has allowed students to continue further study at TAFE or start an apprenticeship. VCAL students have been studying a TAFE course of their choice one day a week in addition to literacy, numeracy and personal development studies.

**Pastoral Care:** is an integral part of the school culture. Pastoral Care teachers and mentors work hand in hand with academic staff, parents and students to provide students with individual care and support in all areas of child and adolescent development. Pastoral care also allows students to develop social skills and understanding of one another.

**Values Education:** has become a whole-school commitment after a pilot programme in 2006 and community forums held in 2007. Aspects of the programme involve senior students mentoring junior primary students; students visiting and developing a relationship with residents in a local retirement home and student performances.

**Extra and Co-Curricular Activities:** are an important part of our school. Activities may vary from campus to campus; however, there is a large variety on offer to students such as Arabic, Language, Astronomy, Choir, Debating, Drama, Folk-Dancing, Food Technology, Forensic Science, Horticulture, Instrumental Music, Maths Extension, Ottoman History, Table Tennis, Textiles.

**Debating:** which year 7-11 students became involved in last year has expanded to include year 12 students. As a result, students have added to their repertoire of speaking and argumentative skills.

**Sports:** are an important part of our curricular and extra-curricular program. Our primary students actively participate in interschool sports. Our secondary students compete annually in the FUTSAL competitions and continue to maintain their success in national and international wrestling competitions.