Dear Parents and Students,
I would like to extend my warmest Term 2 welcome to everyone in our school community. My name is Ruhi Zeybek and I am the new principal of Isik College Geelong Campus. I would like to briefly introduce myself. My teaching career began at Isik College in 2003. I started working at Isik College Eastmeadows Secondary Campus as a Math teacher. I have taught Math from years 7 to 11. Starting from year 2004 until the end of 2008 I was responsible for managing Prestige Education Centre and at the same time continued my teaching at Isik. I am privileged to be part of the Isik Geelong Campus school family.

After so many years of waiting, finally our school had a new playground built. I thank all of our students, teachers and parents who were involved in chocolate fundraising last year for the new playground. With the effort of our school community we have raised about $5900.

In March, our school for the first time in its history participated in Geelong’s famous Pako Festival. It was very exciting and wonderful to see our students in their traditional costumes parading along Pakington Street. I again thank all of our parents and teachers for being with us and supporting our students in this colourful event.

In order to keep up with the current technology and improve the education facility of our school we have purchased an interactive smartboard system. This new technology will be very helpful for our teachers to utilize tools of multimedia effectively in their classes and stimulate students learning process in an interactive audio-visual platform.

The recent devastating bush fires that swept across Victoria have sadly destroyed and shattered many lives. To show our heartfelt sympathy and support to those who were affected by the fires, our school with all the other Isik College campuses have raised a fire appeal charity. I want to express my gratitude to everyone making donations to this appeal.

One of the most exciting highlights of the last month was Jayden Watts, a graduate of our school, who won the Turkish poetry reading competition to enter the International Turkish Language Olympics. He will be competing against students from 110 different countries in Ankara, Turkey. We wish him all the best of luck.

In this issue of our newsletter, you will find some of the events to date and other important matters. I look forward to meeting all of you throughout the year.

Sincerely, Ruhi Zeybek

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Students form all grades enjoyed their free sausage sizzle on April the 2nd. A big thank you to the parents that helped on this day.

**Important dates to put on your calendar**

- **Sunday 24th of May** Open Day
- **Monday 8th of June** Queens Birthday
- **Friday 19th of June** Last day of term 2

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Issues 1 — May 2009
Dear Parents,

It's been a very good start to school life for the grade preps. During first term we've established daily routines, class expectations, homework and, general school etiquette.

Our theme topic for term one was 'All about Me', and because it is a familiar topic, most students showed a lot of interest and participation. In literacy, we've established a sound knowledge of the alphabet and sounds. In numeracy, we've focused on numbers zero to ten, not only by rote but more importantly, to understand the value of the numeral. We've focused extensively on handwriting as this is the foundation to written literacy skills. We will continue to work on these skills.

The theme topic for term two is 'Food', and as living beings our 'Needs and Wants'. The swimming program is running very successfully with students gaining confidence in the water and learning water safety skills. Above all, it is a lot of fun! Just a reminder to the parent helpers at swimming, in fairness to all students, please remember we do not purchase hot food from the canteen. When students come back to school they will eat their lunch.

A fortnight ago we've started our library visits to the Corio library. It was a great first experience. Please remember if you live in Geelong you need to get a Library Card for your child.

As the weather is cooler now please ensure your child has a coat. We should also encourage to use tissues, and washing hands.

Regards,

Mrs. K.

Jayden Watts a graduate of Isik College Geelong Campus will be going to Turkey soon to compete in the International Turkish Language Olympics. Jayden now is in year 9 studying at Norlane High School. This year in February Jayden started to prepare himself for the Australia wide Turkish language competition held in Sydney. In early April he went to Sydney and competed against students from other states of Australia. He has won the competition under the poetry reading category. Now Jayden will go to Turkey to compete in the finals. Our Turkish language teacher Mr. Fatih Karabiylk has been training Jayden for the last 4 months.

Jayden will be reading a poem called “Anadolu Sevgisi” which means “Love for Anatolia”. The poem basically is about the scenic beauty of the landscapes of Turkey and the kindness, hospitality and friendship of its people.

Jayden will be touring various cities in Turkey including Istanbul where they'll visit historical buildings and touristic sites.

International Turkish Language Olympics is held in Turkey for the last 5 years. This year, students from 110 different counties will be competing during a week long event in the city of Ankara. All of the students attending the competition are from a non-Turkish speaking background. The whole event will be broadcast live on TV. This competition is one of the most anticipated events in Turkey and watched by millions of people. Turkish President, Prime Minister, Ministers, foreign consulate generals and diplomats will also attend this event.
Dear Parents, we are already into the fifth week of term 2 and the children are busy learning about many new topics and concepts. In integrated lessons, students are learning about the weather, climate and seasons. They will explore the differences between the seasons and come to understand how the weather impacts on nature and the way we live. They will learn how the seasons differ according to what part of the world you are in. If you are visiting the campus, please come and take a look at some of the children’s work which is displayed in the hallway.

An integral part of our literacy program will now include a fortnightly visit to the Corio library. We had our first visit last week and the children were very excited with the large amount of books they had to look at and read. The librarian showed the students where to find fiction and non-fiction books. Students who come to school on the bus will be able to borrow 2 books which must stay at school; Geelong students are able to borrow 2 books which they may take home with them. There have been some issues that are of concern that I would like to bring to your attention. All students are required to wear the correct school uniform at all times. There are some students in the class who are wearing a white polo t-shirt, this is not the correct uniform. Girls and boys must wear a white shirt. Home work needs to be completed every night in a neat and tidy manner. Some students are bringing homework to school that is very messy and written in coloured texta or coloured pencils. This work is incredibly difficult to mark, therefore, if a student produces messy homework, they will be asked to re-do the work again in their lunch time. As a way of communicating with parents I write homework and other notices in the diary. Please ensure that diaries are signed every day.

Kind regards,
Catherine Dickens
Dear Parents

The grade 2/3 students have been working very hard this year. Here is a recap of what they did during term 1

Term 1:
During the first few weeks of term 1, students completed a variety of assessment tasks in the area of numeracy and literacy. These assessment tasks were able to show results, which help with future planning and understanding the level of each individual student.

For integrated studies, students looked at the “Local Community and Beyond” in SOSE and “Plants” in Science. Everyone particularly enjoyed having class plants in the room. During this activity, students were put into pairs and given a plant to transplant into a larger pot. The students, in their pairs then gave their plant a name. Over the term the students measured the plant each week to check for growth. Some of the plants grew over 13cm. Students learned about the five needs that a plant must have to survive. These are soil, temperature, water, sunlight and air.

In SOSE students learned and looked at “The local community”. They discussed the various cultures within the classroom, their community and within Australia along with briefly looking at Australia’s history and how it has changed since its first discovery. Students also looked at special places that are important to them and their family and drew a map where these things are in relation to their house.

The first few weeks of term 3 proved to be difficult especially for the Grade 3 students as their workload, compared to last year doubled. But they worked hard and have continued to do so to ensure they keep up with and understand what is required of them.

Term 2:
Students returned back to school all refreshed and ready to continue on with the school year.

Most students are attending the swimming program at the Corio Swimming Pool. Firstly, thank you to the parents that have shown up the last couple of weeks to help in the changing room, it is greatly appreciated. All students that are attending are enjoying the program. I would also like to congratulate all the students on their wonderful behaviour. We have had feed back from the swimming pool and they are always happy to have our school there as our students are very well behaved.

This term in SOSE students are looking at communication. So far they have read, discussed and learned about the television, signs, signals, braille, the alphabet, sign language, media to name a few. On Thursdays reading session as a whole class students read an information text on a variety of different communication tools. This helps link in information into SOSE. During Science students are looking at Solar Energy and its uses. So far students have looked into photosynthesis and how the sun gives humans energy – including Vitamin D.

The reading program has changed this term. On Wednesdays, students read and answer questions in groups. Students read a text that is at their level of comprehension. At times students will be bringing these books home either to read or to complete questions. Please note that this is different to their home reader that they read daily.

If you have any questions or concerns please let me know in the diary or contact the school during my specialist times and I will discuss them with you.

Kind Regards
Ms Natalie Todeschini

On February 7, 2009, Victoria was devastated by the events that unfolded on that ‘Black Saturday’, where so many lives were lost and so many families were displaced. It is with great sadness we will remember this day.

It was not long before relief efforts were at an international scale. Isik College was also part of this relief effort. It is with great sincerity and gratitude that as Geelong Campus we contributed $260. As part of Isik College, we thank all families who made a contribution.
Dear Parents/Guardians; we have completed term 1 with success and have started term 2 with enthusiasm. In term two we are focusing on great ‘Inventors and Inventions’. Students have presented their projects and some are on display in our classroom. I would like to thank those parents and students who put in a lot of effort to complete the project. The students will be tested frequently on this topic as there is a lot to cover. If you visit your local library I would appreciate if students could borrow books on inventions to bring into the grade.

For writing, the students looked at recounts in term 1. In term 2 we are looking at explanations. Students focus on language features and why we write in different genres for different reasons. The students get to type out their own example of the genre studied during ICT time. In ICT students also look at how to research and use various applications.

Homework is completed daily. Please check the indicated page for the student to complete. Once you have checked your child’s homework then you are to sign the diary. Please check the diary for notes and reminders. Students have a reader to read every night plus spelling sentences to complete. The grade 5 students complete a chapter of reading followed by a text response. We are also reading Momentum books. These readers mostly look at factual writing. Once the student has read the book they are then to complete the comprehension worksheets linked with the book. Encouragement with homework and support from parents/caregivers helps students to have a positive and productive approach to homework.

Homework is important because it bridges the gap between learning at school and learning at home. It reinforces work done in class. It helps develop skills such as research and time management. Homework helps to establish the habits of study, concentration and self-discipline. Parents/caregivers have the opportunity to see the progress of their child.

What you could do to help your child is to;

- Take an active interest in your child’s homework
- Support your child in setting aside time each day for homework
- Provide a dedicated place for homework and study if possible
- Assist teachers to monitor homework by signing completed work and be aware of the amount of homework set
- Communicate with teachers any concerns about your child’s approach to homework
- Encourage your children to read and take an interest in current events

Lastly if you are planning for a holiday overseas during the school period, please fill out the overseas leave form before you leave. You can get one from the office or a form will be sent out to you with your child upon request. There are certain guidelines that the students and parents need to know before leaving for a holiday. I would like to thank all parents for sending in a box of tissues and liquid soap in term one and a box of tissues in term 2. As the winter months approach students do tend to catch the flu. If your child is unwell please keep them at home until they are feeling well as we would not like the other students to get infected. If your child is absent regarding your child’s homework please write an absent note. If you have any reason issues please don’t hesitate to write it in the diary.
Dear Parents:

Term 2 is upon us, and we are currently onto our fifth week. This term will see students learning new and various interesting concepts, some which will be quite challenging.

In integrated, students will be learning about sustainability. Through this topic, they will learn about the human impact on the environment, how what we do everyday affects the issue of global warming, how our ecological footprint impacts the balance of social, economical and environmental sustainability. Through this knowledge and further understanding of the topic, students will come up with solutions for everyday life, to reduce their ecological footprint and become more sustainable. Next week, two different surveys will go home. One is so that children can work out their ecological footprint and the other is an energy audit. I would like to ask all parents to please help their children with these tasks, as through the results from this, students will be working on a project, which they will start at school and will complete at home during the next school holidays. We are also going on an excursion on the 22nd of May to CERES Community Park, where students will be doing three different activities in regards to sustainability.

In literacy students have started reading their whole classroom novel, and have just started their first text response for the first five chapters. So far I have been very impressed by the amount of though that is going into these text responses, and how the students, specially, those in grade 5, are starting to read beyond the text. This term we are looking at writing information reports, and students have been busy learning the difference between action and passive voice, first and third person, relating and active verbs, as information reports are written in the third person, using a passive voice and have a combination of relating and action verbs.

I would like to take the opportunity to go through some issues, which have been of some concern in the last few weeks. One is the issue of school uniform. All students are required to wear correct school uniform at all times. For boys this includes grey trousers, white shirt, a tie, school jumper and navy or black socks. For girls, kilt or pinafore, white shirt, a tie, school jumper and knee white socks. If the girls want to wear tights under their skirt, they need to be black. Their sports uniform should include the Isik College sports uniform, a white polo shirt, white socks, and proper sports shoes, not fashion shoes, as if students don’t wear appropriate shoes, this can cause injuries which can be quite harmful. As in regards to homework, this needs to be completed every night. All homework is written in the student’s diary every day. If parents go to the Isik College web site, it states that students in grade 5 and 6 should be doing up to one hour of homework each night, including reading. Students should take more time and put more effort into writing their sentences and specially their double journal entries, as this requires students to think about what they read. In regards to diaries please ensure that diaries are signed every day, as this is the only way I can communicate with parents, and by signing the diary, it lets me know that parents have read the information in them.

Last term students learnt about our democratic system and about children’s human rights set by the United Nations in 1959. We also looked at the Aboriginal Stolen generation and how these people were affected in the long run. Students read a song by Archie Roach called ‘Took the children away’ and wrote a text response for it. This was the first text response for grade 5 students, and they did quite well. I was also very impressed on how the grade 6 students have improved from last year. I thought I would share one of these responses with you. This response was written by a grade 6 student.

Regards, Sandra Presa

At the end of February, Geelong celebrated its annual multicultural festival, and this year Isik College Geelong was part of it. Several students from P-6 participated in the parade, wearing various multicultural costumes representing the various cultures within our school. We also had the participation of a number of school parents, which showed what a tight knit community our school is. In all everyone commented on what a great experience it had been to be part of the celebration.
Question: Give examples to show how the Aboriginal people's human rights were violated

Text Response

One of the human rights violated was the right to have the love of a family. It is crucial to have the love of a family because they are the only people who can feel your pain and help you get through the rough times. However these young Aboriginal children missed out on the love from their family. It was a very vital part of their childhood, and this was ruined because the white man thought that they were savages. How could these children show compassion to their kids, if they have not been exposed to it? Love is not optional you must get love. These children should not have waited until they were eighteen to be able to look for their parents and get some love given to them, they should have been given love by the people in the foster homes. Foster parents must of taken them in to get money from the government, as the song says ‘sent us to foster homes, as we grew up we felt all alone’. The only reason that these children felt alone was because they did not get any attention and the love they most desperately needed.

This was not the only human right violated, but one of many. Another violation was the right to live free with dignity. These children were not only taken away from their family, but on top of that, they were humiliated and fenced in like animals. It is very important for people to have dignity and self-respect. However, these kids lost all self-respect once they saw they were caged like beasts. How can a child have self-respect and self-esteem, when they are being told everything they do is wrong? In a way white man has contributed to the state that the young Aboriginal children are in today. The half-casts were basically told to follow and to adapt to a different culture that was not theirs. They were torn away from the things that really mattered to them.

The most important right violated would be the right to have an identity. The children who were taken away from their loved ones would have no individuality, as they would be brought up the same way at the mission. Your identity not only comes form how you look, but from your religion, your name, your culture and were you come from. These children would soon forget about their culture, as it was not written on paper, but passed on through stories and from walkabouts. Just imagine not knowing who you really are. As the song says ‘cause they were acting white, yet feeling black’.

This was a very sad time in history. It is very sad how these children were taken away from their families and treated very badly by the white man, just because they were different, when in fact they had been living here way before the white man.

Written by
Iman Adan

Extract from the song
Took The Children Away:

This story's right, this story's true
I would not tell lies to you
Like the promises they did not keep
And how they fenced us in like sheep.
Said to us come take our hand
Sent us off to mission land.
Taught us to read, to write and pray
Then they took the children away,
Took the children away,
The children away.
Snatched from their mother's breast
Said this is for the best
Took them away.

The welfare and the policeman
Said you've got to understand
We'll give them what you can't give
Teach them how to really live.
Teach them how to live they said
Humiliated them instead
Taught them that and taught them this
And others taught them prejudice.
You took the children away
The children away
Breaking their mothers heart
Tearing us all apart
Took them away
Told us what to do and say
Told us all the white man's ways
Then they split us up again
And gave us gifts to ease the pain
Sent us off to foster homes
As we grew up we felt alone
Cause we were acting white
Yet feeling black

Written by
Iman Adan