Principal's Message

Dear Parents & Friends,

I’d like to welcome all our students, teachers and parents to a very exciting new year in 2009.

My name is Ali Goru and I am the new principal of Eastmedows Primary. My academic life began after completing university in Turkey. I worked in various schools, including the department of education, as a science teacher and deputy principal for 17 years. Then after coming to Australia I joined the Isik family at the Geelong campus as a principal for nine years. Now, in 2009 I am very honoured to be working with the great staff at Main campus.

Every new year, we meet new faces. This year we have an additional grade six class and some more new students in our other year levels and of course some new teaching staff. I am always happy to be working with an enthusiastic team of professionals and families. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone to Isik College and trust that your experience will be a positive and enriching one.

Next week grade six students and teachers are travelling to Canberra. This camp is part of our Outdoor Education curriculum. The necessary information has been sent to parents by administration. I anticipate students will benefit and enjoy this trip.

The newsletter is an important means of communication between the college and families. It is distributed on a regular basis and is also available online.

You will find in this issue some of the events to date and other important matters.

I look forward to meeting all of you throughout the year.

Sincerely,
Mr Ali Goru

Hi everyone!

I would like to give a warm welcome to all the students beginning this year and I am much exited to be aboard the Isik College Primary department. We began a new year and fresh start to the counseling services, aiming to assist students and their families with their personal, social, and emotional difficulties. We aim provide individual and/or group counseling, to provide programmed workshop in relation to the needs of the student as well as provide consultative advice for parents’, students and staff.

Information regarding our services, upcoming events such as parents’ seminars or programs and articles will be generated through the school newsletter. Parents can contact counselling services if they feel they would like to discuss concerns regarding their child.

Ms. Seda Erdurul

Outside School Hours Care
(Before/Afterschool Care)

Welcome back everyone. Last year the College introduced the OSHC service for families in need of before or after school hours care. I am also seeking all forms to be returned to me in full and signed. Also if you are interested in enrolling your child please see me. Finally, if parents have toys or towels they wish to donate we will gladly make good use.

Mrs Kadriye Ocal

Food Sharing

A reminder to all our parents and friends, tt our school there are a number of children with food allergies. To ensure the safety of our children we ask our parents to be considerate when packing lunches. Foods such as peanut butter, nutella and other items with nuts are not recommended. Children across the school are not permitted to share foods and therefore birthday sweets are not advised. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.
I’d like to welcome all our students, teachers and parents back to school in 2009. I hope everyone managed to have a well rested break. It’s quite amazing to see how much children grow and develop over the holiday period!

We have a number of new students and staff this year. Ms Emel Tanriverdioglu joins us from the Shepperaton campus. Mrs Najma Anis-Reusch will be team teaching with Mrs Safak Goker-Kamisci and Mrs Nuray Tasci has returned from her maternity leave to engage our new grade 6 class. We also have a few new LOTE teachers, Mrs Hatice Polat, Mrs Ummu Yilmaz, Mrs Serap Sinik and Mrs Nuray Ali will be working in TSL (Turkish as a Second Language) classes. Mrs Esra Oz will work with Mrs Pulic in the literacy department. We have a new counsellor Ms Seda Erdurul, who has a most beautiful demeanour and a love of helping young children develop their well being. I trust our parents and community will make these staff members feel very welcome and I hope they will enjoy their time with us at Isik Primary. We also wish Ms Filiz Cansiz the best in her future endeavours as she has decided to move abroad.

I have been informed that most of our Preps are adjusting well to school. Mrs Oflay the prep team have certainly prepared the students well with the transitions programs held late last year.

One of our aims this year is to develop social and emotional well being in all young children. Research demonstrates significant improvement in academic performance, if children have positive social and emotional skills. Last year the College trained staff and invested in a program by Prof. Michael Bernard, called You Can Do It! which is highly recommended and implemented in many schools in Australia and overseas. We are confident that the 5 keys and characters will open up the doors to success for each and every one of our students. Stay tuned for more information about this fantastic program.

A reminder to parents and students that this term hats are to be worn at recess, lunch and during Sport classes. The College ‘No Hat, No Play’ policy states that children without hats must remain in shaded areas. It is also school policy that caps are not to be worn as they do not provide appropriate sun protection. All primary students are to wear the College broad-brimmed hats. Could parents please support us in this important matter especially considering the extreme weather conditions in recent times. Furthermore, parents need to ensure children wear the full school uniform.

Finally, our Parents’ Club did an amazing job last year at the carnival. Thank you to all the wonderful mothers (including dads and grandparents) for their dedication and efforts. A special appreciation to Mrs Refika Donma for lunch and being an excellent host. We can’t wait to see what this year holds for us, but be sure our mum’s have great expectations and ideas. If you are interested in joining the PPC please join us at our meeting on Monday 2nd March between 9-10.30am.

Happy reading,

Ms Evla Han

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**Nurse, Mrs Ors Says...**

Hello and welcome back to all staff and students! It has been great seeing every body so refreshed and happy. It has been an interesting and busy few weeks for all staff and students. Keep up the great work! To all parents and students please make sure you do not come to school if you are feeling unwell -especially when you have nausea/vomiting and abdominal pains as I am seeing too many students coming through the sick bay with those signs and symptoms and I am having to send these students back home. We as a school are very vigilant of infectious and contagious viruses and do not want such bugs going through our school, so please assist our school community by keeping these viruses to a minimum. I’m sure no parent wants their child to get sick while they are at school. To all parents that have not returned their Child’s Medical Form must do so immediately as it is imperative so all Care Plans/Action Plans can be sent out and completed, also this is for your Child’s safety and our records to be updated in case of an emergency. please forward these forms as soon as possible to the class room teacher. Apart from all of the above I am requesting that students that have asthma should be bring in their Ventolin puffers to school and parents should also be encouraging and reminding them to use it correctly or bringing it to sick bay so qualified First Aid staff can monitor and administer medication as per Asthma Action Plans.

Mr. Nurdan Ors,
School Nurse

PS—Parents are advised to clean and check their child’s hair for headlice as we usually have such experiences during the start of the year.
Dear Community,

Welcome to the start of the 2009 school year. The children have now settled into their grades and a lot of wonderful, interactive learning is going on. A big thank you to parents, children and teachers for their tremendous efforts to make the start as smooth as possible.

I am overjoyed at the level of enthusiasm and expertise that our staff brings to our college. We have a new staff member to complement the existing Infant team, Miss Emel Tanriverdioglu. We welcome her and hope that she enjoys her teaching at our school. It should be another fine year.

Home-school communication is crucial for effective learning and engagement. At any time if you have a question or concern please see your child’s classroom teacher. If for some reason you wish to seek further clarification you may see myself, the deputy principal or the principal. In line with our values we wish to respond and help find a solution for any questions as soon as possible.

Grade 2 Swimming Program

The grade 2 swimming program will be commencing soon. It will be an intensive program running over eight days, starting on the 10th of March. All students are expected to attend as this is an important part of our Health and Physical Education curriculum. More details will follow shortly.

Mrs. Kevser Kilic
Junior Depart (Gr 1&2) Coordinator

School tours are now available for prospective families on the first Tuesday every month from 9.30am. Contact the primary office for bookings.
MIDDLE & UPPER DEPARTMENT: Grades 3-6

Congratulations SRC Leaders!
A big congratulations to all our students elected as class SRC leaders. Mrs Arzu Bardiz will work together with students to help make our school a better place. I am confident all our leaders will be great role models for all students in the school.

Grade 3A Atilla Baser
Grade 3B Adem Husein
Grade 3C Evren Tamer
Grade 4A Meryem Tintas
Grade 4B Aleyna Mimi
Grade 4C TBA
Grade 5A Salih Bol
Grade 5B Oner Kucuk
Grade 5C Acelya Erbay
Grade 6A Goksu Sahin
Grade 6B Bilal Mimi
Grade 6C TBA
Grade 6D Dilan Bas

We are also looking for candidates for the following positions:
Gr 6 School Captain
Gr 6 Vice Captain
Gr 6 Sports Captain

Congratulations SRC Leaders!

The Link between Home & School—How you can help

* Talk with your children about the value of hard work and about the importance of education;
* Meet with their teachers;
* Talk about what’s happening in school;
* Find time to spend with your children;
* Praise their efforts;
* Encourage them and show your children you have confidence in them;
* Teach children to do things for themselves;
* Limit their television watching;
* Have books and other reading materials in the house;
* Look up words in the dictionary with them;
* Share favorite poems and songs with them;
* Let them see you read and read with them;
* Take them to the library—get them their own library cards;
* Take them to museums and historical sites, when possible;
* Discuss the daily news with them;
* Find a quiet place for them to study;
* Let children know homework is important and needs to be done;
* Review their homework;
* Read report cards and messages that come from school;
* Take part in school events when you can;
* Listen to them and pay attention to their problems; and
* Share family stories.

Gr. 6 Camp

Dear Parents,

Once again this year we are excited to have the opportunity to attend a national capital camp. Taking part in an educational tour of Canberra and its attractions will complement our curriculum based studies of Civics and Citizenship, assisting students to gain a better understanding of our history, culture, heritage and democracy.

We have made every effort to ensure the best possible facilities and programs with the assistance of the Australian Government contribution funding programme (PACER).

Thank you very much to all the parents who attended the Information Session held on the 12th February, with Ms. Emma Tabone of G.E.T Educational Tours. She shared her experiences and provided answers to some concerns. Naturally, the grade 6 camp is entirely different to the grade 5.

Stay tuned in the next issue of the newsletter for lots of great photos and highlights.

Grade 6 Teachers

2009 School Bell Times

- Assembly: 8.50am
- Roll Call: 8.55am
- Period 1: 9.00-9.50am
- Period 2: 9.50-10.40am
- Period 3: 10.40-11.30am
- Lunch: 11.30-12.30pm
- Period 4: 12.30-1.20pm
- Period 5: 1.20-2.10pm
- Recess: 2.10-2.40pm
- Period 6: 2.40-3.30pm

(Students have a fruit break during their morning Literacy Block)