Dear Parents & Friends,

A few weeks ago we had some young leaders take part in assembly. It was a pleasure to see them develop and speak confidently in front of all their peers, teachers and parents. A part from our whole school assemblies on Monday and Friday, we also conduct special year level assemblies on demand during school hours. Assemblies are important in sharing and acknowledging concerns and achievements.

Our Parent Volunteers have recently had an induction program. We can’t wait to start the Parent Volunteers Program next term. Many students and staff will see some mums who are ready to assist in and outside the classrooms.

**Medications**

If your child requires medication during school hours, please supply it in a container with your child’s name, class, dosage required and the time it is to be given. Parental permission is required along with instructions in a written notice to the teacher. If refrigeration is required please supply it in a cooler bag with an ice-pack. Medications should be handed to the teacher and not left in the child’s bag. The class teacher will be responsible for administering medications.

**Premier’s Reading Challenge 2009** – has now begun and we are seeking expressions of interest from all students. Details of the books and how the program operates are available from www.education.vic.gov.au/prg. Remember, reading is succeeding!

**Winter Uniform**

As of the beginning of term 2 we will formally be changing over to our winter uniforms. Could all parents ensure over the holidays that they have all uniform requirements. Details regarding student uniforms can be found in the Parent & Student Handbook or on the College website.

I’d like to thank the parents who have been waiting outside the buildings to pick children up. This helps traffic flow at 3.30pm and also causes minimal disruptions to classes at the end of the day when there is a lot of commotion. In the best interest and safety of students I wish to remind parents to pick children up on time from school. There are still a significant number of children not picked up until very late and are unsupervised.

**Parent-Teacher Interviews** – are important to exchange information that will help your child’s schooling be happy, enjoyable and successful. It’s a good chance to develop a line of communication, although with the juniors I know this has started much earlier. All staff, including our LOTE, RE and support staff are keen to meet parents. It is best that parents are prepared, have some questions they would like clarified and be relaxed (if there is a problem in the past, strive to keep the lines of communication open and friendly).

After the interviews, have a discussion concerning strengths and areas of improvement with your child. Then negotiate achievable new goals that encourages them to take responsibility for their own learning. All of our staff and students have had a busy start to the year. I hope the holidays will provide everyone to recharge and relax. I’m sure many are happy to have the footy back. I know while in Spain, I’ll do as the Spaniards do and take the daily siesta :)

Ms Evla Han

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**Praise & Encouragement**

The reality is that it is much easier to criticise than it is to compliment. Bad behaviour is more obvious than good behaviour – you’re much more likely to notice your child is filling your shoes with shampoo than you are to notice he’s playing quietly with his toys.

Seeking ways to compliment and encourage children goes a long way towards making them feel good. Using descriptive praise, where you tell the child exactly what it is that you like, works best of all. On top of that, praising a child when he’s behaving well is likely to make him want to keep behaving well. Tips to help your child feel good when you feel good about your child, tell him. See if you can give your child some words of encouragement every day.

**Describe what it is that you like.** We call this ‘descriptive praise’. When you provide a description of what you are happy about, your child knows exactly what you mean. For instance, ‘Gee, I like the way you’ve tidied your room; you’ve found a spot for everything!’ or ‘I love the picture you drew. You really know how to put colours together’. And describing what you like is much more genuine and convincing to a child than vague praise such as ‘You’re a good boy’.

**Encourage good behaviour with praise, rather than pointing out the bad.** This means trying to do more praising than criticising. It takes a lot of praise to outweigh one criticism. Researchers suggest trying to praise your child six times for every one time you criticise them. Look for little changes and successes. If you wait until your child has done something perfectly to give a compliment, you might find yourself waiting forever.

**Accept that everyone is different and love that difference.** Encourage each child to develop and feel excited about their particular interests. Let them feel a sense of pride about being different.

Ms Seda Erdural, School Counsellor

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**Important Dates**

- 2 Apr : Last day for students & Prep Teddy Bear’s Picnic
- Fri 3 Apr: Parent Teacher Interviews 9am–5pm
- 27 Apr : Parents Club Meeting @ 9.30am
- 12-14 May : Gr 3 & 5 NAPLAN
- 1 Apr : National Smile Day & Gr 1 ‘Active Kids Ed’ incursion
- 4 Apr : Last day for students
- 30 Apr : Open Day
- 16 Apr : National Smile Week & Incursion 'Antarctica’ guest speaker
- 2 Apr : Last day for students & Prep Teddy Bear’s Picnic
INFANT & JUNIOR DEPARTMENT: Prep—2

Infant Department Co-ordinator

First term has flown by. Most students have settled in well and are establishing a regular routine with their homework, home reader and are punctual to class. This term the students have enjoyed taking part in activities about themselves. They have had lots to share about their family, friends and buddies. Next term we will be studying ‘Farm Animals’ and will be going on an excursion to the Bundoora Farm.

Our students have enjoyed spending time with their Grade 5 Buddies this term and we hope to take part in many more activities. Thank you to our Grade 5 Buddies for organising our gifts and fruit on Harmony Day.

The Grade Prep staff and students would also like to thank and congratulate Ms Bahar Ulukan on her marriage. We wish her a lifetime of happiness and look forward to having her back in Term 2. Mrs Uzuncakmak has also been a huge support this term and has supported our unit on looking after ourselves and supplied us with toothpaste, toothbrushes, liquid soaps and special gifts. You are very generous and we thank you for your time, energy and efforts.

Good health is important and enables your child to learn. It includes good diet, making sure your children get enough exercise during the day and adequate sleep at night. It is also vital to make sure your child has no hearing, vision or dental problems which often create learning problems.

Enjoy your holiday break. Please continue to read and write with your child during the holidays. Look forward to seeing you all in Term 2.

Mrs Ozlem Oflay, Infant Department Coordinator

Dear Community

We have approached the end of a hard working term. Classroom routines and structures are now firmly in place. Students have been immersed into a range of literacy and numeracy activities and learning is gathering pace. We have had various educational activities during the term such as Harmony Day, the Grade 2 swimming program, Under The Sea (Gr 2) and Healthy Me (Gr 1). The Grade 2 students have benefitted from their excursion to the Melbourne Aquarium. Similarly, we anticipate that the Grade 1 students will gain knowledge, as well as having fun during the Active Kids Education incursion on the 1st of April.

As home-school links are vital to student engagement, we encourage parent attendance to the scheduled parent-teacher interviews on Friday the 3rd of April. The Interim Progress Report provides parents/guardians with an indication of their child’s progress mid semester one and is a very good opportunity for setting future learning goals.

Social and Emotional Learning

Over the years, a number of studies have been conducted that have examined the relationship between young people’s achievements and their levels of development of confidence, persistence, organisation, getting along and emotional resilience. This year we have introduced a new program to develop social and emotional learning called the ‘You Can Do It’ Program, which has these foundations at the heart of the program. Finally, on behalf of the infant team I would like to wish everyone a safe and relaxing holiday break. Finally, enjoy our pictures below from our learning this term.

Mrs. Kevser Kilic, Junior Department Coordinator
Harmony day is a very special day for people
All the people should feel safe on this day
Remember today is a gift
Many people are kind and caring
On Harmony Day we celebrate getting along
No more fighting
You + Me = Us
Do good deeds
And always remember to think about peace
Yes, We Can!

By Koray Atuntas 4B

On the 24th of March Grade 4’s went to visit the Old Melbourne Gaol. They got to find out lots of interesting facts about the life of prisoners in the 1800’s. The children were given a detailed tour of the Gaol itself and had the opportunity to explore the cells. As well as this they were given the opportunity to put on Ned Kelly’s armour which they found to be quite interesting. It was a very informal day and students thoroughly enjoyed the day’s activities.

Mrs. Guldem Gumus

Oh, no! Gr 4’s behind bars!!

Old Melb. Gaol

By Koray Atuntas 4B

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Mrs. Guldem Gumus

Middle School Coordinator

It has been a busy term 1 for the middle department. Students have settled in well and most have fallen into a set routine. Grade 3’s had a great experience at the Dromkeen Literature House, here they were given an insight of what being an author is all about and how a book comes to life. The grade 4’s were very fortunate to attend two excursions to two of Melbourne’s famous tourist attractions - The Eureka Tower and The Melbourne Gaol. The grade 4’s had a fantastic time and have gained invaluable knowledge in the process.

Reporting time has arrived and parents are encouraged to see classroom and specialist teachers regarding their child’s / children’s progress.
I wish all a relaxing and safe term holiday.

Mrs. Mukaddes Guneysu
Middle Department Coordinator
Religion & Values Visitor

A many special thanks to Orhan Karagoz who visited us at school on Monday the 16th of March, 2009. Orhan shared with us his daily struggles, experiences, feelings and was an inspiration to us all. Below is a reflection of the day.

My thoughts and feelings on our incursion with Orhan who was visually impaired...This was possibly the best experience I have ever had. I am so thankful to Allah for creating me with no disabilities. The incursion was held in the multi-purpose room. I never knew that there was such an invention as a talking computer. Orhan is a very lucky man, he wasn't meant to have any vision, but fortunately he has a 10 degree vision, in only his left eye.

I found out that being disabled, isn't about losing all your senses, you become good with the other ones. Sitting down and listening was tiring, but it was all worth it. I really like the idea of having a guide dog and I wish Orhan had one too. If you get teased and don't have any friends you at least have a companion. 

By: Shanzeh, 6 A

My thoughts and feelings about our incursion with Orhan who was visually impaired...are that if I was blind and I couldn't see, I would be extremely sad and down with myself. I would give up very easily and feel very unlucky and the odd one out in the class or somewhere else. But the amazing thing is that Orhan is very confident, intelligent, has a good sense of humour, has respect, excellent memory and is a very nice person with very BIG GOALS in life. Thank you Orhan and good luck in fulfilling your goals. 

By: Emirhan

My thoughts and feelings about our incursion with Orhan who was visually impaired...On Monday the 16th of March, 2009 all the grade 5’s and grade 6’s participated in an incursion. The incursion was about how a visually impaired person feels and does things. To do all this a visually impaired person came to our school and we were so lucky that we were able to ask him anything we wanted. Asking him questions was fun and interesting, but when we got the answers some were very sad. We felt that we should be very grateful to Allah that we have the ability to see.

Everyone was asking Orhan lots of questions. We were very lucky because he had the time to answer all of our questions. Just looking at the way he was using his laptop got me very sad. I just looked at myself for a second. I am able to play, write, type and do everything else like a normal child. But, Orhan on the other hand grew up with all this misery and he lives with being blind all the time. After all this it really surprises me, that he still looks forward to life.

It was great to have two periods to talk to a visually impaired person. We had a lot of fun and we learned so many things. I look at Orhan as a role model. He has a disability, yet he is nice, confident and happy. If there is anything he can’t do, he will just find a way to do it.

After our talk with Orhan I realised that I should be grateful to Allah, no matter what disability I have. So after the incursion day I have learned to be good and accepting of whatever problem I have. 

By: Emre Alpay, 6D

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Upper Department : Grade 5 & 6

Elementary Maths Mastery is a highly comprehensive mental maths program that promotes mastery of fundamental maths skills in all key areas. This year the grade 5 & 6 Maths curriculum will incorporate it into weekly sessions. Already students have made remarkable progress in their mathematical thinking, listening and quick mental calculations. Above all, they are also enjoying the structure of the program.

Ms. Demet Latifoglu, Numeracy Team Leader
This term the grade 5 students have had a rich and readily enjoyable experience learning all about Antarctica. On Monday the 2nd of March grade 5 students attended an excursion to Melbourne Aquarium.

Students participated in a guided tour of the aquarium and discovered how a diverse range of aquatic animals, including penguins, sharks and turtles, have a range of survival needs and features that equip them for their lifestyle.

Students really enjoyed the Antarctic Wonderland Exhibition and were fortunate to see Genkoo and King Penguins enjoying their man-made adaptation of the Antarctic environment.

After the aquarium visit students went for a lovely stroll through Southgate and had lunch at the Queen Victoria Gardens. Overall it was a wonderfully educational and pleasurable day.

Earlier in the term students also went to Imax to view 2 feature films ‘Antarctica’ and ‘Ernest Shackleton’s Great Adventure’. Antarctica gave students valuable visual images of Antarctica’s landscapes and harsh weather conditions. ‘Shackleton’ was an inspiring film of human endurance, depicting the expeditions led by explorer Ernest Shackleton in the early 1900’s. Children enjoyed their lunch at a nearby park, playing ball games and exploring the playground at their own leisure.

Hi! It’s nearing the end of term now and the PPC is in full swing. We’re always looking for more parents to join so we can hold bigger and better events!

Thank you to all those who attended our first Twilight Movie at school. It was a great success and everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The audience were treated to free lollies and even had a snack bar where they could purchase drinks and popcorn. We were also grateful for the fabulous weather. We were lucky to have covered the cost of the cinema screen on the day.

We are now planning our Mother’s Day stall which will be held in term 2. We will have some excellent gift ideas this year so please encourage your child to purchase something from the stall. If you would like to help, your thoughts and ideas are welcome.

Our meetings are held fortnightly in the multipurpose room with the next meeting scheduled for Monday 27th April at 9.30am – 11am. Come along and get involved in the school!

We hope all our families have a fun and safe holiday break.

On behalf of PPC,

Mrs Fiona Kardes
Isik College students have been participating in Inter-school Sports. We are very proud of their achievements and the great sportsmanship they have shown in their matches. The Volleyball Open team is doing extremely well as they have not lost a match as yet. We hope that their success continues.

We would like to thank our teachers: Mrs. Arzu Bardiz, Ms. Demet Latifoglu and Mr. Mehmet Yilmaz who have been involved with the Volleyball and Basketball teams.

Ms. Medine Cilek & Mrs. Nuray Tasci

Round 1– Isik College had to forfeit due to grade 6 camp

Round 2

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Round 3– All matches were cancelled due to wet weather

Round 4

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Round 5

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Above: The team spirit is alive in inter-school sport.