Dear Parents & Students

I would like to give a warm welcome to all of our teachers, students & parents back to school. I hope the year 2010 will be full of joyful and exciting events. I also would like to take this opportunity to give a big welcome to our new students and parents to Isik College.

At Isik we strive to give quality education through experienced teaching, improved curriculum, specialized educational resources and close parent-teacher interaction. I want to point out that apart from school, the success also depends on the commitment and determination of each student and the support of parents. Therefore we want to see more of our parents involved with their children’s progress by assisting them at home with their school work, keeping in touch with school and teachers and following their advice.

As you all know, we have started the year with a new online educational program called Mathletics to improve our students’ math skills. Mathletics is an interactive math program designed for students to access it both at home and at school. The system encompasses all topics of math with numerous questions, exercises, activities and quizzes from prep to year 12. Students can compete with students from all around the world and challenge their math skills in many competitions. We ask our parents to encourage their children to use this system at home more often and take full advantage of its benefits.

On Saturday 27th of February, many of our students and parents participated in Geelong’s famous PAKO Festa. It was an exciting and colorful day in which our students paraded along Pakington Street in their beautiful and vibrant traditional clothes and costumes. I especially want to thank the parents and teachers who participated at the parade for their help and support to represent our school in the best way.

I hope once again 2010 to be a wonderful and a successful year for our school community.

Kind Regards,
Ruhi Zeybek

Important dates to put on your calendar

- Thursday 25th of March - Students last day
- Friday 26th of March - Parent teacher interviews
- Tuesday 13th of April - Term 2 begins, Students return
- Wednesday 14th April - Swimming begins
Dear Parent’s,

We've had a lovely start to the New Year, and the children have been very enthusiastic. A big welcome to the Prep students, who have all leapt into school life really well. They are making sound relationships and getting use to the routine of school. My lovely grade One’s have also contributed to helping the Preps settle in.

During first term, our Integrated topic is ‘Healthy Me!’ . We are learning and encouraging healthy eating, exercise, rest and breathing clean air. In literacy, grade Prep have been focusing on Phonetics, and beginning to form their handwriting. Grade One have focused on revision and familiarizing with the high frequency words. In Math both grades have been working at age and ability appropriate levels, Prep familiarizing with numbers zero to five and, Grade One extending on their number knowledge and basic operations. Both Grades have been involved with Mathletics, and it has been an addition to the topics covered in class. Please encourage your child to engage in Mathletics at least a couple of times during the week for 10-15 minutes. It is a fun and interactive way to learn and revisit math topics. There is a compulsory fee for this, a note has been sent home. Please make some arrangement for this.

Most students have brought in a box of tissues and liquid hand soap, thank you. Just a reminder to do so, for the parents who have not sent these in. Some students have also bringing in hand sanitizing gel– this is optional, please label them and your child with keep this on his/her desk and it is not for sharing.

The food that your child consumes is very important, and it is related to our topic please encourage healthy eating habits by providing healthy lunch and snacks. Provide a variety of fruits and vegetables rather than relying on heavily on packaged snacks.

Earlier this term the Prep parents all completed a confidential survey for the school nursing program. Karen is the School Nurse assigned to our school. She will be visiting our school next week.

The student diaries are a effective form of communication between school and home. Please ensure you check and sign it daily.

Due to the alarming number of you children’s injuries in car accidents, the State Government has introduced new safety laws effective as of November 2009. These laws affect all children under the age of seven years. Please read the information from the ‘Keeping Kids Safer in The Car’ broucher produced by Vic Roads. For further information please use the information that was given to each child.

Regards, Ms K.
Dear Parents

The grade 1/2 students have been working very hard during term 1. They have done a fantastic job getting used to a new classroom and new routine. They particularly enjoy reading groups during the morning sessions.

*I was recently reading an article on how to make reading fun at home, I found some points in particular interesting. I thought that I would share them with you.*

- Make time each and everyday for quiet book time where the focus is off the TV and on the bookshelf
- Give a story a new ending.
- Instead of reading a book to the end, stop halfway and make up your own ending together
- Take advantage of your local library. Lots of libraries offer programs that encourage kids to read and make it enjoyable for them
- Make one corner of your home a “reading and writing” area. Fill it with magazines, newspapers, papers, pencils etc. Encourage your child to spend time there.

Mathletics has been a huge success in the grade 1/2 classroom – all the students enjoy this way of learning. It is important to note, that if students are using mathletics at home, they are the ones that are answering the questions and not another member of the family as this does not actually help the child learn.

This term students have been learning and investigating about healthy eating. The students have learned about the food pyramid, what we should be eating daily, everyday and sometimes food along with eating more when we are exercising for energy. Also, thank to all that bought in food pamphlets during the term.

Please remember to sign the diary daily. If you have any questions please don’t hesitate to ask.

Regards
Ms Natalie Todeschini
Dear parents,

It’s hard to believe we are nearing the end of term 1. The students are enjoying studying about Canada and the Winter Olympics. Each week the students write a letter to their epals in Canada and they love receiving letters back. Shortly we will begin putting together a package to send our friends in Canada.

Some parents have not yet paid for Mathletics or swimming. Please be aware that payment is due by the last week of school. These are both very important and worthwhile programs that will benefit your child.

With the cooler weather this week I have noticed that some children don’t appear to have a school jumper while others are wearing their sports jackets. Sports jackets must only be worn on sports days.

It has been pleasing to see that the majority of children are completing their homework, spelling and reading each night. It is important to establish a routine for completing homework. Even if you feel your child is a competent reader, please make time to occasionally listen to them reading and ask comprehension questions to see if your child can tell you what they have read about.

Thank you to the families who attended Pako Festa. It was a wonderful to see so many of you in traditional costumes.

Kind regards,

Mrs Dickens
Dear parents/guardians;

The grade 4/5 students have settled in well in the grade. Students have established routines for homework. Homework is set every night. Students should be completing one page of the homework book, three or four sentences of the spelling words and if you have the Internet at home 20 minutes min on Mathletics. A parent should sign the diary once they have checked the homework. Students will need assistance at home, please guide your child the best way you can. You can read their sentences or guide them with the homework page.

This term we have looked at the topic Space. I would like to thank all those students and parents who went out of their way to borrow space related books from their local library. Most appreciated. Students have been working well with the mathletics program. I set tasks for the students to complete during their mathletics time. Some tasks will be set as homework. Students have the opportunity to challenge students from around the world. The fee for mathletics is $30; please pay this amount by the 22nd of March 2010. This is a compulsory program for the students.

Student booklets were given out to all students last year. In this booklet it states the correct uniform for both girls and boys. Please make sure your child is wearing the correct uniform at all times. Uniforms should be clean and ironed. If for any reason your child is unable to wear the correct uniform for the day please write a note in the diary.

Regards
Ms Nesrin Gocmen.
Dear Parents,

We are arriving at the end of our first term this year. All students have been working hard to achieve success in all areas covered so far. Our topic this term has been on poverty. We have mainly concentrated how poverty affects children around the world, the different levels of poverty and what factors lead certain countries to become poor. At the beginning of the topic, students had a very simplistic view about being poor, they have now realized that people around the world don’t become poor by choice, and in some cases it leads to mortality. The decision to do this topic was to create some empathy in students towards the billions of people around the world who live in poverty, in fact 80% of our world’s population live in poverty. We are also discussing how each individual can make a difference and can help these people.

Around the world, a child will die every 3 seconds from hunger, and this is something to think about if we as individuals can help prevent this.

Students have also been experimenting with different styles of poetry, and some hidden poets have come to the light. We have been looking at metaphors and similes, and students are getting better using this type of figurative language to enhance their poetry writing. Children have also been enjoying the mathletics program. We go into the computer lab once a week and we work together through tasks and later students enjoy playing against each other in live mathletics. For those parents who haven't paid for this yet, would encourage you to do so as this program acts as an extension of what we are doing in class and provides many challenging activities for each of the students allowing them to improve in their mental computation as well as extending them in different mathematical strands.

On the 27th of February many students from Isik College participated in the prade at Geelong’s Pako Festa. Pako Festa has been running for the last 27 years, and it celebrates the diversity of cultures in Geelong. The students looked fantastic in their traditional costumes and by being there, they also celebrated the diversity within our school, as well as exposing Isik College to the wide Geelong community, as we had inquires on the day. Thank you to all that participated.

Regards

Sandra Presa