ISIK COLLEGE

We have had an extraordinarily delightful, yet hectic, last few weeks of school. For both our school and our community, the highlights have, without a doubt, been the most stunningly organised Turkish Olympiad and the Anatolian Arts and Cultural Festival. Both have been important celebrations of cultural diversity and acknowledgement of the Turkish- Australian heritage.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the students (and their families) whom competed in the Australian Finals of the Turkish Olympiad. Congratulations to Nurun Albulhamid, in particular, who was awarded first place for her singing in the Turkish as Foreign Language category. Nurun is now eligible to compete at Turkey in mid-May against hundreds of other students from all around the globe. Our prayers are with her! I would also like to congratulate Sezen Gul who was also awarded first place for her singing in the Turkish as a Native Language category. Zeynep Ozdemir came third in the poetry recital category.

We had quite an emotional school farewell for Ms Helena McAloon on the last day of the term. She has been teaching at our school for the last 4 years. We wish her success in her future endeavors’. I would like to welcome Ms Jacqueline Clemons into her new position as PE teacher. A warm welcome also to Ms Eva Curseri who will be our second Art teacher; she will be teaching Yr 7-10 Art and also VCD.

Term 1 Student Reports
In the secondary school, it is standard practice for all student reports to be mailed out the first week of the school holiday period. It is therefore, absolutely essential for parent’s to notify the school of any changes to their postal address.

Parent –Teacher Interviews The Parent-Teacher Interviews for all secondary girls, will be held on Tuesday, 20th of April and Thursday 22nd of April 2010, between 4pm and 7.00pm.

First Day of Term Two The first day of term two is Tuesday 13th of April. Students will be required to wear their school blazers during term 2 and 3.

Ms. Nazan POLAT

NURUN DELIGHTS AUDiences AT THE TURKISH OLYMPIAD

The Turkish Olympiads Australia Qualifications took place in a festive atmosphere in Melbourne on Sunday with the participation of Turkish singer Fatih Kısaparmak and Kadir Çöpdemir, a famous television personality and comedian. The jury, also including Kısaparmak, selected those who will compete in the 8th Turkish Olympiads to be held in Turkey between May 26 and June 10. The event, held at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Center, was organized by the Istanbul Cultural and Arts Center. Those who qualified in the pre-selections, which were held in Melbourne and Sydney, took part in the competition.

Our year 9 student Nurun Abdulhamid, was awarded first place for her singing in the Turkish as foreign language category. In addition, Year 8 student, Sezen Gul was also awarded first place for her singing in the Turkish as a Native Language category.
YEAR 9 STUDENTS’ VISIT OTTOMAN NURSING HOME

During term one, the year 9 Pastoral Care students visited the Ottoman Nursing Home as a follow-up of a discussion from the previous weeks. Students had learned and discussed the importance of parents’ rights over their children and the children’s rights over their parents.

Approximately 26 students attended the Home and gave out little gifts to the elderly residents. Our girls displayed great compassion and sensitivity towards the men and women who had been eagerly waiting for our arrival that day. A resident, “Ender amca” gave our girls a tour around the Nursing Home during which many of their questions were answered.

I would like to thank all those who attended and extend my appreciation to the parents in particular for their patience and help during this event. We look forward to organizing similar events next term and hope to see even more attendance.

Mrs Gulsum Kor and Ms Melike Karaoglu
Pastoral Care Teachers

This is what some of our students had to say about their experience on the day:

The visit to the Nursing Home was an exceptional experience. The elders had smiles on their faces and were very happy that we’d visited them. Seeing them smile with tears in their eyes filled our hearts with sympathy. Hopefully one day we will visit them again.

Rumeysa Cerrah 9B

Our visit to the Ottoman Village Nursing Home was a thrilling experience. It was a great fun meeting the elders. Even though these people were 80-90 years of age I could say they were the happiest people I had ever seen.

9B, Whole Class

I would firstly like to thank the Pastoral Care Department, the staff and the volunteer students who helped organize this trip. It was a very emotional experience; it reminded many of us how lucky we were to have family that we can always rely on and a comfortable home we can always go to. We met many wonderful elders there; each individual had a story with a meaning to it. May God help those in need and bless the ones that offer a hand.

Tuba Sulecik 9Y
The Australian final of the 8th International Turkish Olympiads was held at Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre on Saturday the 20th March 2010. The event was hosted by Kadir Copdemir, a famous TV personality from Turkey. Fatih Kisaparmak, a prominent Turkish folk singer, was one of the panel of judges. Around 1400 people attended the night.

The students competed in 6 categories: Turkish First Language Poetry Recitation and Singing, Turkish Second Language Poetry Recitation and Singing, Essay Writing and Turkish Speaking.

The category winners will represent Australian Turkish learners at the Grand Final to be held in Turkey. Congratulations to Nurun Albulhamid, who was awarded first place for her singing in the Turkish as Foreign Language category. Nurun is now eligible to compete at Turkey in mid-May against hundreds of other students from all around the globe. Congratulations also to Sezen Gul, who was awarded first place for her singing in the Turkish as a Native Language category. Also, Zeynep Ozdemir came third in the poetry recital category, well done Zeynep!

"… The Australian Finals of the Turkish Olympiad was a different, yet a great experience for me. The venue was beautiful, so was the event itself. The competition gave me the opportunity to learn a vast amount of the Turkish language, while meeting new students, friends, teachers, talents along the way. The participants that performed before me were really impressive. I thought that I wasn’t going to go any further. I was programmed on stage as the second last performer. As per usual, I sung my lungs out. I would like to extend my thanks to those who supported and cheered for me throughout this completion. I couldn’t have done it without you….. Wish me all the best for the upcoming finals in Turkey…”

Nurun Abdulhamid, 9Y, First Place - Turkish as Foreign Language Category.
The past few weeks have been exceptionally festive and full of celebration due to the level of our schools involvement in the Turkish Olympiad (Australian Finals) and the Anatolian Arts & Cultural Festival. Turkish celebrity singer, Fatih Kisaparmak and famous TV personality, Kadir Copdemir, were honorary guests (and performers) at both of the events. On 16 March, Fatih Kisaparmak, Kadır Copdemir and their entourage visited our school and delighted the many students and staff. Here is what one student had to say:

“On the 16th of March, we warmly welcomed Fatih Kisaparmak, famous Turkish celebrity singer, and Kadir Copdemir, famous TV personality/standup comedian, to our campus. All of the year 10, 11 and 12 LOTE students were eagerly awaiting their arrival. For some, this occasion was a once in a lifetime experience. Due to their tight schedule, they addressed us only for a few minutes… we were still pleased that we had the opportunity to take great photographs with them… “

Memduha Oztas, Year 10
PHILLIP ISLAND DAY TRIP

Year 12 students had an excursion to Phillip Island on the 27-3-10, Saturday. After a term of hard work, they deserved this treat. The day's activities involved Go-Karting, visiting Nobbies, having a picnic, visiting the Chocolate Factory and a stop over at Amaze'n Things. Then after a restful Sunday, our VCE students resumed their holiday revision lectures at school. Then they will attend the 4 day Study Camp at Jungai Camp site.

Important Dates for Term 2:

10 June 2010, Thursday:- GAT Exam for year 11 and 12s:
The General Achievement Test is a test of general knowledge and skills in written communication, mathematics, science and technology, humanities, the arts and social sciences. These areas are very broad. Each represents a body of general knowledge and skills that students are likely to have built up through their school years. Because it is a general test, no special study is required for the GAT. Students will already prepared for the GAT in past study of subjects like English, Mathematics, Science and History, where they have built up general knowledge and skills in writing, numeracy and reasoning. These are the knowledge and skills that will be tested.

Students can get a good idea of the questions by looking at previous GAT papers. Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with these questions and note that all the information needed to work out the right answer is provided.

Why do Students have to do the GAT?
The GAT is an essential part of the VCE assessment procedures. All students enrolled in one or more VCE Unit 3 and 4 sequences must sit the GAT. Although GAT results do not count directly towards a student’s VCE results, they play an important role in checking that school assessments and examinations have been accurately assessed, and in determining Derived Examination Scores. So it is important to sit the GAT and do as well as possible on all parts of it.
The GAT is used in these ways because achievement on the GAT is a good predictor of achievement on other assessments. If students have done well on the GAT, then their achievements are likely to be high on their school assessments and examinations.
Clearly, some GAT questions relate more closely to achievement in particular studies. The VCAA takes this into account when it calculates students’ expected achievements in each study for each school. For example, GAT results in mathematics, science and technology play only a minor part in calculating students’ expected achievements in humanities studies.

How is the GAT used?
The VCAA will use students’ GAT scores as a basis for:
1) contributing to statistical moderation of School-assessed Coursework 2) reviewing school assessments in School-assessed Tasks 3) checking the accuracy of examination marking 4) calculating the Derived Examination Scores.

8-9 June 2010—Unit 3 Mid Year Exams
16 –18 June—Year 11 Semester Exams
April 2010—UMAT Registrations 28 July 2010—UMAT Exam:
UMAT stands for Undergraduate Medicine & Health Sciences Admission Test. Only year 12 students may sit the test. However it is recommended for year 11 students planning for a medicine & health sciences related career to get prepared in year 11 as they will not have sufficient time in year 12.

Mr Alper CIFTCI, VCE COORDINATOR
As part of our year 12 Chemistry studies students went to Ecolinc in Bacchus Marsh on 23rd of March. The purpose of the visit was for students to undertake one of their SACs. Students used instruments including Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer, Infrared Spectrometer and the UV/Visible Spectrophotometer.

Students used these instruments to determine the concentrations of calcium metal in many different samples of milk, to determine the protein content of the milk, and we obtained spectrograph of the milk samples.

The instruments used by students are very expensive ranging in the tens of thousands of dollars, and as such these experiments cannot be done at school. The day was very educational, and many of our students expressed that they had a good time, and it helped put the theory we had learnt in class into perspective.

Ms Selda MEHMET

“...The day was very educational, and many of our students expressed that they had a good time, and it helped put the theory we had learnt in class into perspective…”

Ebru is testing her milk sample for Protein using the UV-visible spectrophotometer.

The two Busra’s analysing their Goat’s Milk, but one is sleeping on the job!!
STUDENT WORK IN TEXTILES

Here at Isik College we have an exciting and growing activity of textiles. We will be moving into our very own specialist room when the portables are fully fitted. The girls have made a great start to the year and already made a great variety of interesting things.

Here is an example of some of the work they have been working on.

HARMONY DAY

Living in Harmony is a Commonwealth Government program that aims to build on Australia's successful record of community harmony by emphasizing our traditional values of justice, equality, fairness and friendship - and by making it clear that there is no place in Australia for racism and intolerance.

The annual Harmony Day is part of Living in Harmony and provides the opportunity for all Australians to reflect on and celebrate our cultural diversity.

Harmony Day occurs on 21 March and coincides with the United Nations' International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

Each State and Territory Government is invited to hold multicultural events that coincide with or culminate around Harmony Day.

“..Always aim at complete harmony of thought and word and deed. Always aim at purifying your thoughts and everything will be well ..”

Mahatma Ghandi
‘WELCOME’ TO OUR SCHOOL

MS JACQUELINE CLEMONS

Hello my name is Jacqueline Clemons and I have been appointed as the new Physical Education (PE) teacher at Isik College. I am extremely excited to be part of the school and look forward to becoming part of the wider school community. I am currently in my second year of teaching and was previously employed at Mount Waverley Secondary College, which is situated in the South Eastern suburbs of Melbourne.

Since commencing my duties at Isik College I have enjoyed every moment, as the school community including the staff, students and administration have been very hospitable and empathetic.

I am passionate about teaching and hope to introduce fresh ideas into the school and in particular into the PE department. I am avid about physical activity and sport as I have been involved in a number of high level sporting teams including netball, basketball and volleyball. Some other interests of mine include dance, swimming, athletics, cross-country and aerobics.

At the end of term 2 there are a number of teachers going away on a school trip to Turkey. I am looking forward to the expedition and during this time I hope to gain a better understanding and further knowledge of the Turkish culture. I also hope to learn a number of Turkish words.

Ms JENNY MANGAN

I would like to close the week with a topical reflection that I hope will begin our week-end on a positive note!

As you know, I have only been teaching at Isik for three weeks and during this time I have learned a great deal about Turkish culture. I have very much enjoyed getting to know what makes the Isik girls tick!

When I first arrived at the school, the first impression you gave me was one of great warmth and pride in your school. The famous cultural hospitality was on display when on my first day, a number of you introduced yourselves by saying: “Welcome to our school Ms Mangan!” In fact, it’s safe to say that I am bowled over by your good manners, hospitality and industrious spirit.

Last weekend, I thoroughly enjoyed the Turkish festival: the wrestling, the dancing and of course the majestic, brightly colored marching band. It was incredible to witness the throngs of people from all walks of life and ethnicities enjoying Turkish culture. At the festival I spoke to: Lebanese Australians, Macedonian Australians, Eritrean Australians, Anglo Australians and I never feel so glad to be alive as I do when I am walking amidst humanity from all over the globe.

This leads me to reflect on the significance of today, tomorrow and all our future days. Today I am wearing an orange skirt in support of World Harmony Day. This special day was brought about so that for at least 24 hours, the people of every country should be prompted to forget their differences, cease hostilities and acknowledge that we are all equal under the eyes of Allah. Peace on earth and tolerance are indeed the greatest virtues!

Therefore, as you enjoy the Turkish Olympiad tomorrow night which will doubtless be a roaring success, please remember that Isik girls come from all corners of the planet, from as far away as Eritrea and as close to home as New-Zealand; it is this cultural diversity that brings the light to Isik Light College.

As we move into next week and our greatly anticipated Easter break, remember this sentiment from journalist Douglas Floyd:

“You don’t get harmony if everyone sings the same note. It’s our individual voices and identities that create the beautiful symphony that is the human race.”