Issue 1 - March 2011
www.isikcollege.vic.edu.au

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Principal's Message

Dear Parents & Students,

I would like to give a warm welcome back to all of our teachers, students and parents. I hope the 2011 education year brings us prosperity, success and achievement in all areas of school life. I also would like to take this opportunity to give a big welcome to our new students and parents.

Our youngest students, the preps have now settled in their new class after attending 4 times a week program during last month. Everyone can witness their joy of starting a new school and having new friends. I believe they will gain a strong knowledge and learning foundation at Isik College.

The educational success of a child does not only depend on school or teachers. Important part of the success relies on the individual effort of the student and the support of the parents. Therefore, we encourage our parents to be actively involved with their children’s education by helping them out with their school work, motivating them to read and write and keeping in touch with teachers and follow their advice.

As you may all know, students from grade 3 to grade 6 have been using an interactive online program called Mathletics to further their basic Math skills. We ask our parents to get their children to use this program at home often and take full advantage of its benefits.

On Saturday, 26th of February, some of our students, parents and teachers participated in Geelong’s famous PAKO Festa. It was an exciting and colourful day in which our students paraded along Packington Street in their beautiful and vibrant traditional clothes and costumes. Some of our female students have performed hip-hop and Turkish folkdance at stage in a brilliant way. We were all proud of their performance in front of an audience. I want to thank all the parents, teachers and students who participated at the parade for their support to represent our school in the best way.

I hope once again 2011 to be a wonderful and a successful year for our school community.

Mr. Ruhi Zeybek

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Important dates to put on your calendar

14th March - Labour Day (No school)
6th April - Grade 5/6 Camp
28th April - Term 2 begins
30th of March - Last day of swimming
8th April - Last day of term 1 (Holidays begin)
9th of May - School Photos

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Dear Parent(s),

Welcome to the 2011 educational year. I anticipate that it will be a fulfilling and pleasurable year to teach and learn. The Grade One’s have very quickly got back into the swing of things and, the Grade Prep student’s are adapting well to school life. This term we are familiarising with routines, beginning to gain literacy and numeracy skills. Our thematic topic is All about Me and My Toys.

This year, as you are aware, the Grade Prep students’ attended school for four days a week for the first four weeks to make it a smoother transition for them. It is now week five and the Grade Prep students’ will attend a full week from now on. The Grade Prep/One students’ will also commence the LOTE subject- Turkish as of week five.

Thank you to all the families who have already supplied a box of tissues and sanitiser for their child, if you haven’t supplied these items yet, please do so. Your support is greatly appreciated. Students’ are required to have an art smock at school for art lessons, to protect their uniform. Please ensure your child has hers/his and, also ensure that it is waterproof so that liquids such as food dye or acrylic paints do not seep through onto uniforms.

Just a reminder for the early days of schooling: please remember to have a spare change of clothes for your child in case of an ‘accident’. Young children do get very busy and sometimes forget to do the essentials.

School lunches: please ensure your child has a wholesome and nourishing lunch and snacks- try to limit pre-packaged foods packed with sugars/salts/fats. Fresh fruit and vegetables are a great choice, and students’ should have those ‘sometimes’ foods sparingly. All students’ are advised to have a fresh bottle of water on their desks daily. If your child is going to have a lunch order, please make sure that you write your child’s order on a lunch bag, so that the class is not loosing valuable time on writing out individual orders. All families have been given a canteen list with pricing.

Student handbooks have been issued; please read and be aware of school policies. An important point is uniforms. Students’ must be in the correct uniform at all times, in the correct colours. Girls’ should not have leggings showing under their dress/kilts. If it is a cold day, wear white or navy cotton/wool tights. Hair should be neat. The correct school shoes should be worn. Self presentation is very important; it is the parent(s) responsibility to ensure uniforms are clean and presentable.

The Grade Prep/One students’ have commenced daily homework routine- reading each night, practicing magic words and one page of homework tonight. Please be supportive of your child. Children should also be encouraged to be responsible and look after home reader books that go home. I have given each child a plastic pocket to keep their home reader books in, to avoid books getting wet from drink bottles, etc. Also please check your child’s diary each day and sign it. The diary is a great means of communication between home and school.

We have been on our first excursion, and it was a great success. The students’ really enjoyed and benefitted from the experience- seeing the science behind toys. We have also started our swimming program. As mentioned in the diary note given last week, a little bit of preparation from home will help your child immensely.

If you have any further queries, please don’t hesitate to contact the school.

Regards,

Ms. Ayfer Karatekeli
Dear Parents,

What a beautiful grade I have the pleasure of teaching this year. The grade 1/2 students have been very busy learning and having fun while completing various activities. We recently went on an excursion to the National Wool Museum in Geelong to see an exhibition about ‘Toys’. The students learned about various forces required to put toys into motion. They enjoyed participating in the hands on activities and helping to solve simple science experiments in relation to toys.

Last week in science students made aeroplanes using a straw and strips of paper. They were given the opportunity to take their planes outside to test how they worked and conduct some various experiments with them. They learned that the small circle had to face forward and if you added a paper clip to the wings it went further. Aydin noticed that if you don't push it so hard it can actually go further.

It has been great to see students completing their homework, reading their reader and practicing their spelling. It is important that this hard work continues. If you are unsure what needs to be completed a note is put into the diary on Monday’s explaining the weeks homework along with the spelling words for the week.

Don't forget that the diary is a great communication tool. If you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to ask.

Regards,

Ms Natalie Todeschini
Dear parents, it’s hard to believe that we are already half-way through term 1. We have had a great start to the year. Last week the children were very excited to attend their first swimming lesson. This term our integrated topic is The Environment. The children have been learning about ecological footprints, global warming and the carbon cycle. Here is what the children had to say about the topic.

Kind Regards,
Mrs Dickens

I learnt that when an animal dies the carbon is released from the animals and goes into the atmosphere. Musahib

I like the idea of wind turbines because they make electricity without polluting the environment. Kayla

I learnt that factories make a lot of pollution which is bad for the environment and it kills the animals which is also bad because we need them to survive. Chelsea

I learnt that plants need carbon dioxide, water and light. I had previously thought plants need oxygen to breathe. Meena

I did an experiment to learn how the earth gets hot with global warming. Ebru

I know that plants and trees need water, light and carbon to live and produce oxygen. Ali Naqvi

I liked doing the experiment to discover how too much carbon in our atmosphere is making our earth hotter. Emre

I learnt how carbon gets into the earth. When a tree dies and falls down it releases carbon. Aleyna

We are making our earth hotter and hotter because we are burning coal and wasting electricity. Selin

I learnt about my ecological footprint. In my lifetime I will use lots of toothbrushes and this will pollute the environment. Noor

I learnt the earth is getting hotter because we are polluting it. If it gets too hot the polar ice-caps will melt and we will have more floods. Farah

I liked doing the experiment to learn about global warming. Enes

I liked how Mrs Dickens told us about factories burning coal to make power. Arbnor

We watched a documentary about the Human Footprint. It showed me how rubbish is ruining the earth. Emad

I learnt that a lot of food grown in China has dangerous chemicals on it, now they are selling that food in Australia. Ceyda

I learnt that the environment and it kills the animals which is also bad because we need them to survive. Chelsea

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Dear Parents,

Welcome back to a new year. The children have settled well into school and are working towards establishing a routine within the classroom. It is always a bit hard in the beginning of the year, as students try to fall within the different ways in which a new teacher likes to do things in her classroom. We are currently getting to a point where students are starting to understand what my expectations are of each and everyone of them, both from an academic and behavioural point of view. Please also ensure that your child has some form of routine at home as this credits stability and encourages discipline. One of the things we are working on in class is for students to start taking responsibility for their own learning. For example—the students have identified some weakness in different areas of the curriculum and set some goal to achieve by the end of term. From here, they looked at what it is that they need to do to achieve them. For example if time-tables are a weakness, then spend 15 minutes at night to practise them. Once a week they reflect at how they are going; and if they are not achieving what they set out to do, what is it that is stopping them from doing so. Your child was given a copy of these to take home, to be placed in a area where it is visible. Please ensure that it is in an area where they can be constantly reminded of the goals they have set for themselves. One last note. A big thank you to all families who participated at Pako Festa, as I know some of you came from Melbourne. Also a big thank you to the girls who performed. You were absolutely brilliant and gave a great performance showcasing the Turkish culture.

Regards,

Sandra Presa

‘The Journey to School’ DVD

Families will soon be receiving the City of Greater Geelong’s ‘Journey to School’ DVD. The DVD runs for a quick 7 minutes and is designed for parents and children to sit together and watch interviews and a story about how families travel to school.

This DVD is both entertaining as well as informative.

Happy viewing.
Dear parents and guardians; the grade 5/6 students have adjusted quickly to the classroom. I would like to welcome all my new students. Students have been busy with different tasks in the grade and at home. There will be some homework assigned where your child will need to use the computer/internet. Children who do not have access to a computer will have the time to complete tasks at school. There is homework to be completed every night unless stated otherwise in the students’ diary. Once you have checked your child homework please sign the diary. If you have any concerns or questions the student diary is the teacher/parent communication tool. Please try to be helpful with your child’s homework. The value of homework extends beyond school. We know that good assignments, completed successfully, can help children develop wholesome habits and attitudes. Homework can help parents learn about their children's education and communicate both with their children and the schools. It can encourage a lifelong love of learning.

In addition to helping with homework, there are many other important ways that parents can help their children learn. Parents can encourage children to spend more leisure time reading than watching television. They can talk with their children and communicate positive behaviours, values, and character traits. They can keep in touch with the school. They can express high expectations for children and encourage their efforts to achieve. I hope helping your child with homework can lead all of you facing the challenges of raising children one step closer to success. Indeed, family involvement in education is crucial if we want our children to succeed in school and throughout life. Homework is an opportunity for students to learn and for parents to be involved in their children's education. A parent's interest can spark enthusiasm in a child and help teach the most important lesson of all—that learning can be fun and is well worth the effort.

Pick a Place—A study area should have lots of light, supplies close by, and be fairly quiet. It doesn't have to be fancy. A desk in the bedroom is nice, but for many youngsters the kitchen table or a corner of the living room works just fine. Your child may enjoy decorating a special study corner. A plant, a brightly colored container to hold pencils, and some favourite artwork taped to the walls can make study time more pleasant.

Remove Distractions—Turn off the television and discourage social telephone calls during homework time. (A call to a classmate about an assignment may, however, be helpful.). If you live in a small or noisy household, try having all family members take part in a quiet activity during homework time. You may need to take a noisy toddler outside or into another room to play. If distractions can't be avoided, your child may want to complete assignments/homework in a nearby library.

Show an Interest—Make time to take your child to the library to check out materials needed for homework (and for fun too), and read with your child as often as you can. Talk about school and learning activities in family conversations. Ask your child what was discussed in class that day. If he/she doesn't have much to say, try another approach. For example, ask your child to read aloud a story he/she wrote.

Monitor Television Viewing—Australian children on average spend far more time watching television than they do completing homework. In many homes, more homework gets done when television time is limited. Once you and your child have worked out a homework schedule, take time to discuss how much television and what programs he/she can watch.

Camp: Geelong and Sunshine campus will be attending camp at Northcote lady in Bacchus Marsh. The camp will be between 6-8th of April. Parents may start paying the camp fee in instalments. If you have any questions please don’t hesitate to reach me at school.

Regards,

Ms Gocmen
Parents, students and teachers of Isik College Geelong gather together to support the school.

Principal, teachers and students proudly walking along Geelong’s Pakington Street.

Folk dance girls dance a mixture of hip hop along with Turkish Folk dance.

Atakan & Emrah

Diversity in our school
Each of us apart
None of us a part