



ISC NEWSLETTER

Islamic School of Canberra



From my Desk

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Important Dates

Last day Term 1	10/4/15
First day Term 2	27/4/15

ASSALAMU ALAIKUM

Dear Parents,

Newsletter Week 10 Term 1 2015

Term one has flown, with lots of happenings!! There has been so much excitement around the new ISC House System where students earn points for their house through acts of kindness, keeping our school clean and tidy, making healthy food choices, wearing full school uniform and following the school rules and Islamic values.

The SRC has been busy with organising fund-raisers, the debating team and the walking club have both been active this term. Please look out for term two's clubs!

Students will be starting cross country running training to ensure everyone is ready for the big day in term three.

NAPLAN is being held in week 3 and Healthy Harold is visiting our school from the 29th April.

The Islamic department is holding an information session on Sunday 3rd May from 2.30 until 4.30. Please come along and meet the team who will be happy to answer questions regarding the Arabic /Islamic curriculum. Our parent /teacher interviews were held last week and it was great to see so many parents talking to teachers about their child's learning. Parent engagement is an invaluable part of students school life. Please see the section in this newsletter regarding school and parent engagement.

Sadly we say goodbye to Mrs Bell our grade 2 Tigers teacher who is returning to her home at the South Coast and also to Mr Mohammad who has been assisting the Arabic department for this term.

Ms Pope will be on leave for a term and Mrs. Elmasri will be joining the ISC team on Year 5.

We are also saying goodbye to a very valued staff member Mr Payam Panahinejad who is leaving ISC after 4 years of exemplary service to join his wife in Melbourne. We will all miss Mr P, as he is fondly known, as a person who has gone above and beyond in his work hours and in his free time to help the school in so many ways. We wish him nothing but success and happiness in his future endeavours!!!!

We welcome Mr Tenkate who has been at the school for the last few weeks and has now taken the reigns for the year 7 class.

A huge thank you to those parents who joined in the cleanup of block E and to those parents who take the time to be a part of the Parents and Friends association.

Thank you also to those parents who follow the procedures and report to the front office when visiting the school. Our procedures are for the safety of all students, staff and visitors and our website will have many procedures and policies for your information as we review them for our re-registration that is happening this year. This registration requires all policies, procedures, facilities, staff qualifications and systems to be audited by the government.

Our school is growing and improving; with growth comes change. Change and improvements means working together, communicating and being unified in the common goal of building a beautiful educational environment guided by the Islamic Faith.

REMINDERS

- **Thanking all parents who make arrangements for their children to arrive and leave the school on time!**
- **School hours are from 8.45am until 3.10pm. Supervision of students ends at 3.30pm. Students must be off school premises by this time.**
- **ISC understands the important relationship between healthy child development, growth and learning. We ask parents to provide healthy food options for both recess and lunch, limiting the unhealthy options and saving them for home.**
- **Students are required to wear full- brimmed hats (such as the school hat) at all times while playing or learning outside. Caps are NOT permitted due to inability to protect ears and necks.**

- **FIRST DAY TERM 2, 2015 Monday 27th April !**
- **Term 2 fees are now due along with the \$50 subscription for the Mathletics and Reading Eggs online program.**

Year 4 Newsletter

Dear parents and guardians of Year 4, after incredible hard work and combined efforts to succeed, this term has nearly come to an end. There are some challenges that the new term will bring along with itself and I am happy to inform that we have initiated working hard towards becoming successful.

The year 4 classroom is never been dull. Lessons are varied and students are encouraged to learn by doing and working collaboratively to achieve optimal learning outcomes. I am happy to inform that the Year 4 students have shown improvement in their Literacy and Numeracy skills which we aim to enhance as every term passes by. I would like to thank all the parents who have supported the school and teachers. Special thanks to all the parents who have reinforced the school rules and taken interest in the student's homework to ensure it is completed on time to the desired standards.

The students of Year 4 will receive their usernames and passwords for Mathletics and Reading Eggs this week. These are online programs designed to motivate and excite students about reading and mathematics. The program gives access to a range of reading materials for students at different reading levels and a variety of learning activities that cover all aspects of mathematics. Parents are requested to encourage their child to access the website and make the most out of it.

A few reminders: Library books are borrowed on Monday each week and are due to return on the following Monday. At ISC we understand the importance of healthy eating for learning. Therefore we encourage all students to bring a piece of fruit or vegetable along with some cereals in the form of rice, bread (sandwich), pasta etc. Full school uniform are encouraged at ISC at all times.. Please make sure that the school uniform items are clearly labelled with your child's first and last name.

I appreciate the time and efforts of all the parents who share their opinions and concerns with me and I look forward to work collaboratively in order to bring a positive change in your child.

Hope you all a happy and relaxing holiday

Kind Regards
Gurprit Sandhu

Year 5 Newsletter

WHOA! What an interesting and incredibly fast Term 1. The Grade 5 owls have had a hoot getting to know one another and our class system. At the beginning of the year we made a whole class essential agreement outlining our class rules and values and we got to vote for our Student Representative Council. I am proud to announce that our Grade 5 representatives are Fanta Barrie and Waleed Afridi. Congratulations to our Grade 5 leaders.

This year we have weekly jobs to learn about responsibilities and we have been earning points for being great ISC citizens for both our houses and our individual class dojo.

We have been busy this term learning about the colonisation of Australia which enabled us to go on an awesome excursion to the Mogo Gold Colony. This was an absolutely wonderful experience and we are very happy we got to participate in this external learning. We have been investigating solids, liquids and gases in science, as well as enhancing and further developing our numeracy skills and in the later weeks of term we introduced quick writing. This is where we have an opportunity to express all our knowledge on certain topics which helps us write more comprehensive formal texts.

In business and economics it has been amazing to see the students taking action in regards to the health and well-being of cage vs. free range hens which has sparked an interest for the students to contact the egg companies and find authenticity and truth in marketing.

The children have also been enthusiastic about taking care of our environment by planting seeds, mulching, watering and maintaining the garden environment. If you have an opportunity, check out the Grade 5 garden, near the morning meeting area/junior oval. Watch out for more garden projects upon my return in Term 3.

Mrs El Masri will be with Grade 5 for Term 2 as I am on leave. The children are very excited about the wonderful things they will learn with her next term. Stay safe this holiday period and I look forward to seeing you all again in term 3 ☺

All the best,
Miss R Pope
(Grade 5 Owls)

Year 6 Newsletter

Greetings Parents and Carers,

I have had the pleasure this term to get to know the students of year 6. We have endured many interesting and enjoyable learning experiences so far.

First of all I would like to thank all the parents that gave up their time to attend the parent/teacher interviews, it is greatly appreciated.

Within Science, the students explored the use of 'Prezi', a new form of technology that they used to present their information. I was impressed with the high level of maturity and dedication the students showed towards this research task and presentation.

The History content allowed us to empathise with the diggers in the goldfields in the 1850's. We discussed the harsh life of these dedicated workers and formed a letter that could have been written by the diggers themselves. To reinforce their learning within this unit we joined year 5 on an amazing excursion to the Mogo Gold Colony. The students were given the opportunity to tour a replica of a town that would have been situated on the goldfields. We also got to experience gold panning in the creek water and we actually found some!

Within Technology, the students designed and created either a wind vane or land yacht. They all worked really well within a partnership and displayed great collaboration skills.

I am looking forward to more great learning experiences next term. Please if you ever need to book an appointment with me, do so online through our school website.

Regards,

Mrs Toni Brammall

Year 7 Newsletter

Hi, my name is Kyle Tenkate and I am relieving Mr. P as the Year 7 teacher from the beginning of Term 2, for the rest of the year.

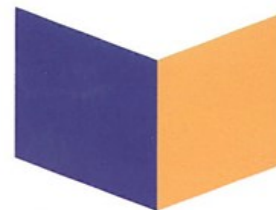
Year 7 have had a busy start to the year. Students have been reading a novel called Parvanna's Journey. After each chapter students have been required to reflect on the themes expressed by the author. By analysing the author's intention we have been able to apply different strategies to investigate the themes and how we think about writing. Likewise, in Drama we have been using our skills to write and perform scripts through the use of stage directions, scene setting and character development.

In Maths, Year 7 has been concentrating on complex angle unit. We have been investigating the properties of triangles and quadrilaterals, the degrees required to find out the internal sum of these types of shapes and the exterior angle of triangle.

Over the last few weeks Year 7 have been investigating how simple machines improve our daily lives. Through researching gears, pulleys and levers we have learnt about force advantage, distance advantage, gearing up and gearing down. Students demonstrated their knowledge and these concepts through with working models and accompanying information behind their purpose, function and impact in everyday machines.

Kind regards

Kyle Tenkate



EDUCATION CAPITAL:

Progressing Parental Engagement Parent Fact Sheet

When families and schools work together, children are more likely to build good relationships and do better at school.

There are simple things parents can do at home, and with their child's school, to help their child to do their best. Showing children that education is important, building their confidence and connecting with their school helps to shape children's learning and well-being.

The impact parents can have

Parents and families are children's first teachers and they continue to help their children to learn and thrive throughout the school years. When their family's love and support is combined with the expert knowledge of teachers, it can have a significant and lasting impact:

- Children can be more likely to enjoy learning and be motivated to do well
- Children can have better relationships with other children, improved behaviour and greater confidence
- Children can do better at school and are more likely to graduate and go on to college, TAFE or university
- Children can be less likely to miss days at school

There are simple things parents can do that have a big impact

At home: Many things families do to help children thrive – such as healthy eating, being active and showing affection – are very important. Parents have the biggest impact on children's learning when they help children to believe in themselves and to enjoy learning new things.

With your child's school: Teachers are experts in learning and can help you to help your child learn. The best starting point is to keep the lines of communication open between yourself and your child's teacher.

What are the most important things parents can do?

Research shows that the following activities at home and with schools can have the biggest impact for children.

At home you can

Believe in your child's potential	Believing in your child rubs off and has an influence on how well they do at school. Showing children that you believe in them and their ability to do their best and go on to be successful is one of the most powerful things you can do.
Read together	Reading together helps children to develop and practise their reading, writing and language skills. Telling stories and talking about things that they're interested in helps them enjoy learning. You can read in the language you speak at home.
Talk with your child	Just spending time talking with your child helps them to learn and grow. Simple ways to do this include talking about what they're learning at school and what they enjoy or find difficult. You can also remember and chat about the fun times your family has spent together or talk about big ideas – such as the things you and your family believe in, science and nature or important issues in the community.
Create a good homework environment	The things you can do to get the most out of homework are building your child's confidence and supporting them to be able to learn on their own – the best ways to help them will change as they get older. Find them a quiet space to study and try to make homework a calm experience. If you are helping your child, try and make sure it's a nice time for you to spend together. It's good to have rules about homework, but it's important to not create confusion by pushing children to do more, or expecting them to do less, than the school asks. You can talk to your child's teacher if you have questions about homework.
Support good relationships	Parents can help children develop friendships and get along with other people, including their teacher. Children tend to do better when they get on with their teacher. Children also tend to enjoy learning and being at school when they have strong friendships.
Learn about the world together	Children learn by exploring new things and finding new interests. This can include everyday activities like cooking or grocery shopping, or going to community events, museums or libraries.

With your child's school you can

Support two way communication	Good communication between parents and teachers makes sure everyone is on the same page. It also helps teachers know if there is anything outside school that may be affecting your child. It's okay to ask for advice to help your child or ask questions about what's happening at school. To work together, parents and teachers should respect each other's roles and experience. Simple ways to stay in touch include information from school (e.g. notes, newsletters and website updates), face-to-face meetings, email and phone contact during agreed contact hours.
Get involved in your school community	Showing children that you believe education is important is one of the best things you can do. One way to do this is by connecting with your school community – getting to know your child's teacher and other families, attending events or volunteering at school, or taking part in school committees.

“I think of it as a triangle – the student, the school and the parents/family. The child has the daily interaction with the school and we have daily interaction with the child, but it’s about keeping the lines of communication open between the school and the parents.”

(ACT Parent)

Am I doing enough?

Many parents feel that they should be doing more at school. For parents who are busy, it is important to remember that supporting your children’s learning at home matters. Teaching your child new things, reading together and supporting their interests makes a big difference. You don’t need to be an expert – supporting and encouraging learning is enough.

Of course, every child and situation is different so maintaining a flexible attitude is important. Children need to develop independence and expectations that are too high can create stress. Like you, schools want your child to be the best that they can be. But putting pressure on schools can reduce teachers’ abilities to meet the needs of all students. Good communication with your child’s school will help you to support your child, and help the school to support your child too.

What do ACT parents have to say?

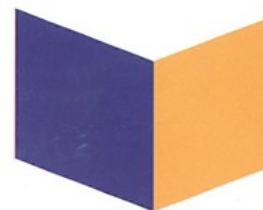
“... one thing I used to do a lot was I always took my kids shopping with me and they thought it was fun, we practiced maths and they took turns on who got to order the cold meat ... ‘I want a quarter of a kilo, how many grams do you need to ask for?’ And that sort of thing.”

“Just being interested in what your child is interested in – so when they show an interest in something, encouraging it, giving them opportunities to learn more, and try it and experiment. I think that’s really important.”

“It’s also about encouraging them to have the right relationship with their teachers, for example. Being able to give proper attention to teachers, and having the right attitude to all that.”

“We’ve found it’s just hard working full-time but I’m fortunate the school do make time available and it’s just over the telephone and internet.”

“You’ve got to think outside the box a little bit with trying to stay in touch with the teacher, but I think it’s important to be working as a team with the teacher. It’s not just their job.”



Where can I find more information?

Parent involvement toolkit – Information on parental engagement and family-school partnerships

www.peopleforeducation.ca/how-does-education-work/training-and-resources/helping-children-succeed-the-parent-engagement-toolkit/

Raising children – Ideas for learning and play with primary school aged children

http://raisingchildren.net.au/play_learning/school_age_play_learning.html

Schoolatoz: Practical help for parents – A comprehensive guide for parents of school aged children

www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/

Our Partners

The ACT Education and Training Directorate partnered with the non-profit Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY), The Catholic Education Office of the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn, the Association of Independent Schools of the ACT, the ACT Council of Parents and Citizens Associations, the Catholic School Parents Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn and the Association of Parents and Friends of ACT Schools. Together, the alliance developed a shared understanding of parental engagement in the ACT, based on what the evidence shows has the biggest impact and the things that matter most to ACT families and schools. The international evidence has been reviewed and parents and teachers have been consulted on what is important to them.

More resources will be available in 2015.



ACT
Government
Education and Training



CATHOLIC EDUCATION
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Association of Independent Schools
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