



ISC Newsletter

Islamic School of Canberra

'In Knowledge Lies Strength'

Dear Parent/Carer *Salaam Alikum*

"To such as God rejects from His Guidance, there can be no guide: He will leave them in their trespasses, wandering in distraction"
(Al Araf: v.186)

As we approach the end of term it would be appropriate to make a few comments associated with the Registration Panel report and the Parent/Teacher interviews that have recently concluded.

It was evident for the Registration Panel comments that our school is working well at continuing to improve on the quality of our teaching and learning practices. It was also mentioned a number of times, the tremendous high quality of our teaching staff. It was clearly stated by the panel that the schools success over the last few years has been a direct result of the staff and their commitment to the learning of their students.

To place this in perspective we need to recall the challenges this school has been under over the last 3 years. The lack of funding, fluctuating enrolments and compliance issues has placed our school community, especially our teaching staff under enormous personal and professional pressure. Our staff rose above these concerns and now should be acknowledged for their resolve, resilience and passion to remain at our school- I am very proud of them all.

We now have additional challenges that we as a community must address:

COMMUNITY AND PAYMENT OF FEES

I am sure that you are aware that our school fees continue to be some of the lowest of all the Canberra private schools. There is a continued attempt to ensure that these fees are manageable and provide access to our school for as many families as possible. This is difficult as we attempt to balance fees with the purchase of resources that are desperately needed to consolidate student learning.

Unfortunately we have families that continue to delay payment of school fees.

I find this behaviour extraordinary as it calls into question the value some families place in the education of their children. I regularly meet with families who are struggling to pay for fees and options are provided, which is a blessing.

What is disappointing are families who are able to pay but do not OR who are contacted and say that they will pay and fail to do so.

Our community needs this school and a delay or refusal to pay for school fees places us in a very fragile position. I ask all in our community to support our school through regular payment of fees and if this is not possible an honest committed and sincere conversation with the Principal is expected.



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PARENT/TEACHER COMMUNICATION

The success of our school depends on the work of our teachers. We are lucky to have committed teachers who have ensured that the Islamic School of Canberra continues to thrive. I have noticed that some parents/carers are communicating to staff in a way that can be seen as abrasive, sharp and in some cases disrespectful.

We may not always get things correct and it is expected that communication from families takes place so we may continue to ensure we respond to any parent/carer concerns. What the school does expect is that this communication is polite, dignified and respectful.

If something has happened at school that is concerning, it is critical that the school is provided with time to investigate to ensure that the response given is grounded in facts and that these have been obtained in a thoughtful and thorough manner. Opportunity is then provided to discuss this with the family as required.

As Principal I will not tolerate any threatening, disrespectful or offensive exchanges directed at staff at anytime regardless of the form of communication used. The staff at the Islamic School of Canberra are highly professional and need to be treated as such.

If concerns are significant and creates a degree of emotion that may be difficult to control you are asked to manage this and make an appointment to see the Principal- so the issue can be managed in promptly.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend - InshA Allah!

Kind Regards

Mr David Johns- Principal



Students at the junior oval



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