



The Irfan Times

DECEMBER 2016

IMPORTANT EVENTS IN TERM 1 – 2017

**ORIENTATION DAY for
ALL PARENTS & STUDENTS**
Friday, 27th January

FIRST DAY OF TERM 1
Monday, 30th January

YEARS 5-8 SCHOOL CAMP
Monday, 20th March to
Wednesday, 22nd March

HARMONY DAY
Tuesday, 24th March

MONTH OF RAJAB BEGINS
Wednesday, 29th March

**PARENT/TEACHER
INTERVIEWS**
Friday, 7th April

LAST DAY OF TERM 1
Friday, 7th April

TERM 1 HOLIDAYS
Monday, 10th April to
Friday, 21st April

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Principal's Message

Dear Irfan Families,

Assalamu Alaykum wa Rahmatullahi wa Baraktuhu. I pray this newsletter finds you in the best of health and faith. Alhamdulillah, we have come to the end of another very hectic and fruitful year.

Term four is usually one of the busiest periods of the academic year. This term we had the opportunity to refine and develop a number of important areas including our vision, staff allotment for 2017, and annual school improvement plan.

Irfan College has been working towards becoming an established and functional school since its inception in 2013. Next year will be Irfan's fifth year of meeting the educational needs of Sydney's Muslim community. In this next phase of our school's growth, major investments will be made to improve the quality of education provided at Irfan College.

Vision

The first major improvement that is instrumental to the growth of our school is a clear vision. We will be starting 2017 with the following vision:

'Raising thinkers and leaders who have confidence in their Australian-Muslim identity, with a deeply rooted motivation to actively do good in the world'.

These are the attributes we are looking to cultivate in our graduates. We want graduates who are thinkers and leaders. We want our graduates to be able to make meaningful and informed decisions in regards to their future careers.

We want graduates who are confident with their identity and are comfortable with being an Australian and Muslim concurrently, rather than perceiving them as incompatible entities. The more we deem the two entities as conflicting, the longer it will take for our communities to integrate and develop a voice that is truly reflective of Islam's compassionate nature.

We want graduates who have a deeply rooted motivation to actively do good in the world. A deeply rooted motivation stems from a strong moral purpose based on Islamic ethical principles and humanitarian values. We want our students

to be active citizens who are agents of unconditional goodness to all of humanity.

Staff Allotment for 2017

Staff allotment was another area that kept us really busy this term. Our executive team conducted a number of interviews to finalize our teacher needs for 2017. We will be commencing our secondary department with well-experienced and overly qualified teaching staff Alhamdulillah. Likewise, we also had the opportunity to gain some new teaching staff in our primary department. The learning support department was also an area that we have enriched in 2017 with one learning support coordinator, two full-time primary learning support teachers and one part-time secondary learning support teacher (please refer to back of newsletter for staff allotment of 2017).

Annual School Improvement Plan

Our annual school improvement was also refined and developed this term as we decided on our priorities for 2017, teaching comprehension, enhancing teacher performance, and developing an effective wellbeing model and behaviour management system. We have chosen teaching comprehension as a priority to address one of our school's concerns which is low literacy levels. As a result of the Schools Leading Learning project which will be ending this year, we have identified English as an Additional Language/Dialect (EALD) as the main contributor for our low literacy levels and therefore, in 2017 we will be developing EALD pedagogies such as teaching comprehension through phonemic awareness. All of our school's professional development initiatives will be based on this priority to develop whole school approaches and improve teacher quality.



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K-2 Literacy and Numeracy Action Plan

We would also like to use this opportunity to inform our families that Irfan College has been enlisted to partake in the K-2 Literacy and Numeracy Action Plan (LNAP). The LNAP is a state funded initiative provided to schools from a low socio-economic status that will be funding our college with \$64,000 per annum for the next four years. The aim of this project is to improve student outcomes in literacy and numeracy in the foundational years of kindergarten to year two.

ACER Review

Another highlight of this term was the independent review conducted by the Australian Council of Educational Research (ACER) at Irfan College. ACER conducted the review based on the National School Improvement Tool (NSIT). The NSIT was endorsed by the Standing Council on School Education and Early Childhood (SCSEEC) at its meeting on 7 December 2012 and has been made available to all Australian schools for use in their school improvement planning from 2013. The NSIT Review is specifically designed to equip Principals, Boards and Staff with the data they need to plot their school's current position against international effective practice and to plan a focussed approach to school improvement appropriate to the context of their school. Alhamdulillah, the ACER review confirmed that the measures being implemented at school are evidence-backed and deserve commendation. Below is a snippet from the review:

'Irfan College has developed an effective school operation in a very short period of time since its opening. The current leadership team is driving a strong agenda for the provision of a holistic notion of quality education into the future. The Governing body, staff and parents are supportive of this notion.'

End of Year Presentation Night

Like every year, we spent the last couple of weeks preparing for the end of year presentation night.

The program was filled with a number of protocol speeches from federal and state MPs, student performances, and award ceremonies. A lot of positive feedback was provided by the parents regarding this year's presentation night.

I would like to thank our dedicated team at Irfan College for their extraordinary efforts this year. From the executive team to teaching staff, admin to maintenance, everyone did an amazing job to ensure that students were getting what they deserved. Finally, I would like to extend my best wishes to our year six graduates. I pray to Allah (swt) that He bestows His assistance and grants them success in this life and the next.

May Allah (swt) provide you and your family a safe and enjoyable holiday.

Kind regards,

Mr Ali Arabaci

TEACH
encourage
instruct
MENTOR
PRAISE
influence
GUIDE
INSPIRE

Wellbeing Coordinator's Message

Assalamu Alaykum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuhu,

Irfan College endeavours to create a school environment in which students are safe, secure and feel cared for. Student wellbeing is a priority for all staff and within all school programs. Students are encouraged to become active and empowered members of our school community.

We are currently in the process of designing our own wellbeing model. In this model, there will be a focus on positive emotions, engagement, relationships, meaning and accomplishments. There will be a clear description of this model at the start of Term 1, 2017. The new well being

model will be explained to parents on the Orientation Day, 27th January 2016.

The Wellbeing Department and ICMG Youth Sydney have competed with passion and determination. Unfortunately, we have lost in the semi finals. Next season we are looking to expand the number of entrants to accommodate for more students.

I pray that you all have a safe holiday period and return back revitalised and motivated for Term One.

Wasalaam

Mr Mustafa Ayvaz



Executive Staff in 2017



Mr Ali Arabaci
Irfan College Principal



Mr Ahmet Taslak
Business Manager



Mr Mustafa Ayvaz
Wellbeing Coordinator



Mrs Mehtap Tekin
Primary Coordinator



Mrs Sameema Ali
Secondary Coordinator

Admin



Mrs Sharine Khan
School Secretary

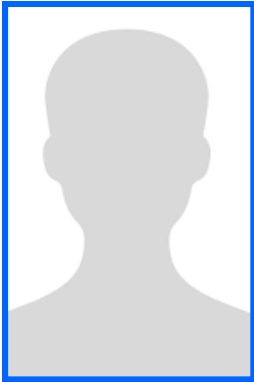


Mrs Rukiye Cetinay
School Secretary



Mr Hasan Sula
Asst. Business Manager

Primary Staff in 2017



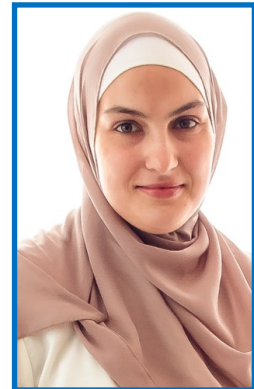
Kindergarten and Year 1 Teachers to be confirmed



Ms Bilgesu Sezer
Year 2 Teacher



Ms Samah Taki
Year 3 Team Teacher



Mrs Eman Aweida
Year 3 Team Teacher



Mrs Sevda Itil
Year 4 Teacher



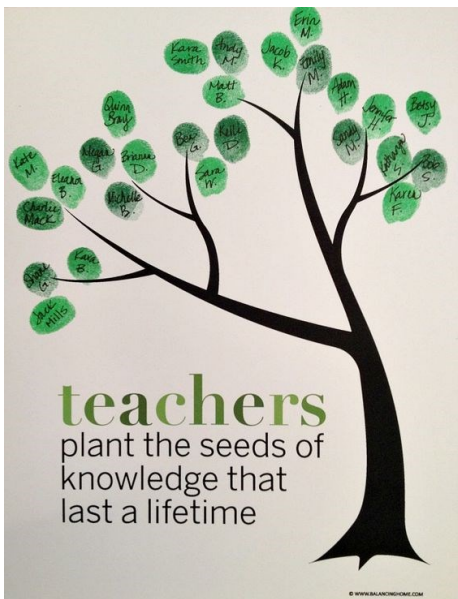
Mrs Derya Er
Year 5 Teacher



Mrs Elif Tirzik
Year 6 Teacher
Currently Senior Secondary English Teacher at Al-Noori Muslim School



Ms Betul Tunali
K-6 PDH Teacher
Currently Research Assistant at the Western Sydney University (Health Science)



"The mediocre teacher tells, the good teacher explains, the superior teacher demonstrates, the great teacher inspires."

Secondary Staff in 2017



Mr Ozan Angin
Secondary English and History Teacher
Currently Secondary English Teacher at Southern Cross School in Ballina
PHD Candidate at University of New England



Mr Mustafa Ayvaz
Mathematics and Technological and Applied Studies (TAS) Teacher



Mrs Zina Al-Nakeeb
Science and PDHPE Teacher



Mrs Sameema Ali
Geography Teacher



Ms Saliha Kaso
Creative Arts Teacher



Mr Ali Arabaci
Islamic Studies Teacher



Specialist Teachers in 2017



Mrs Sumeyye Cavuslu
Turkish Teacher



Mrs Irem Sula
Assistant Turkish Teacher



Mr Rami Almomani
Arabic Teacher



Shaykh Jalal Kassem
Qur'an Coordinator and Primary Islamic Studies Teacher



Mr Abdulsamed Sari
Assistant Qur'an Teacher

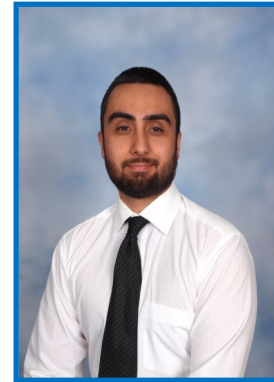
Student Services in 2017



Mrs Hadla Trad
Learning Support Coordinator
Currently Learning Support Coordinator
at Miller Technology High School



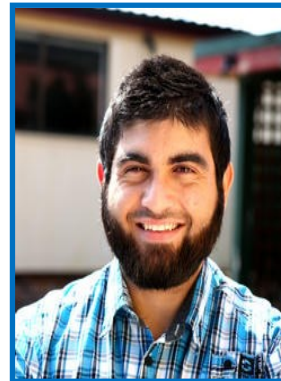
Ms Zeynep Kadayi
Primary School
Learning Support Teacher



Mr Erol Kaso
Primary School
Learning Support Teacher



Mrs Zuhul Adalis
Secondary School
Learning Support Teacher



Mr Yusuf Acar
School Counsellor

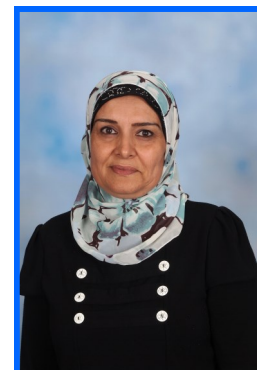
Non-teaching Staff in 2017



Mr Sait Ozturk
Security and Maintenance



Mrs Mesude Secim
Janitor and Canteen Hand



Mrs Turkan Salih
Canteen Hand

School Events of Term 4





Class Highlights of Term 4

KS

An Open Letter to
Kindergarten

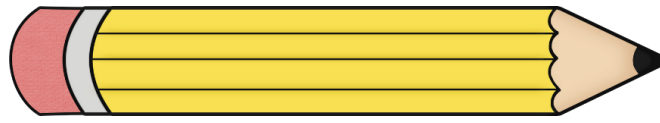
By Ms Sewda Itil

It has reached the end of the year. The closing of one door and the opening of another. I want to thank each student for all the warmth, the memories, and the learning that we have shared this school year.

To my students, I say THANK YOU! For when I teach, I also learn. This past year we have grown together. You have grown heavier, taller, wiser and more responsible. Although you would have attained your growth despite of me, it has been my pleasure and privilege to watch your personality unfold day by day and marvel at the splendid miracle of your development.

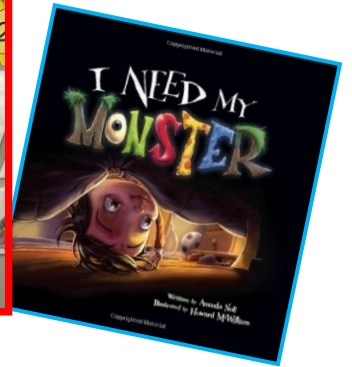


Class 1Z



I Need My Monster!

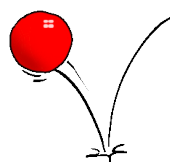
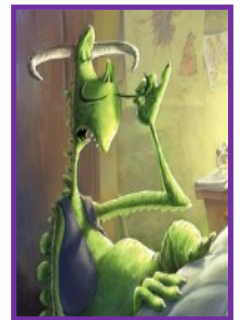
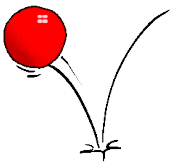
This term, Year 1 has been studying the book 'I Need My Monster'. The story presents a story about a young boy whose monster disappears to go fishing! 1Z was excited to depict an illustration of their favourite monster from the story book. They were encouraged to exert their creativity and draw the scary features of their most loved monster. Year 1 presented fantastic illustrations!



Sport!

PE is one of Year 1's most favourite subjects. They enjoy being active and applying their sporting skills with their classmates.

Year 1 was mostly involved in exerting their throwing skills this term. Students from 1Z were taught underarm, overarm and chest throws to exercise their sporting techniques and abilities.



By: Zuhal Adalis

Class 2Z

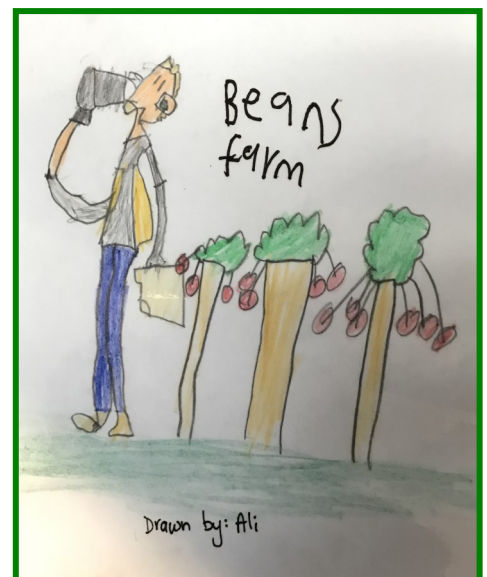
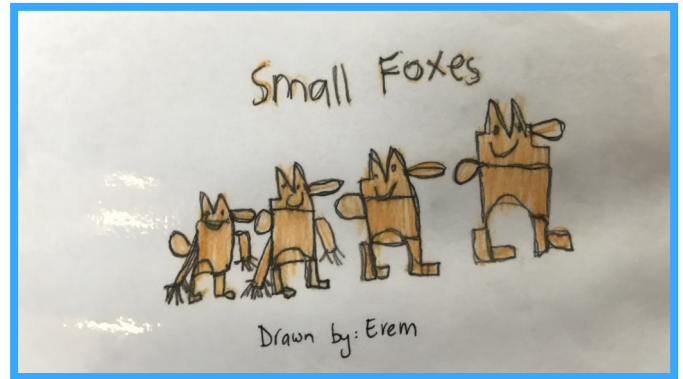
This term 2Z read their first novel Together. Each week, we read two chapters as a class on our interactive whiteboard.

Students really enjoyed the story by Roald Dahl. His creative writing and interesting use of language helped the students with their own creative writing process.

We were able to do many lessons which had Fantastic Mr. Fox integrated into them, such as Mathematics, Geography and Creative Arts where students were able to express their artistic abilities as well!

Overall, we had a great term and year Together. I enjoyed every moment getting to know and teaching my students and I hope they enjoyed it just as much as I did. Insallah all students have a beautiful summer holiday. See you next year!

Ms Zeynep



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Year 3

I had an enjoyable and interesting time teaching year 3 this term. Here are some highlights from the year 3 students themselves:

Semanur: 'My favourite subject was Science because we did lots of experiments.'

Zawiya: 'I enjoyed writing tasks that Ms Aysun gave and I liked Ms Saliha's group work'.

Rabia: 'To me Science is fun because I can do Science better than anything else.'

Tuana: 'This year I enjoyed watching the Science Show. It was like magic and fun to watch.'

Baki: 'The best thing that I got to do in my school was going to 'sohbet' club and playing soccer .'

Kadir: 'I enjoyed Maths the most because my teacher gives me hard questions'

Selin: 'I like Science experiments because they are so much fun. I love all my teachers.'

Mert: 'My favourite thing is Sports and Music and playing with my friends.'

Ahmet: 'Maths is my favourite subject as it is fun and easy to learn.'

Siraj: 'My favourite subject in Ms Saliha's class is Maths and English.'



Ece Su: 'I enjoy Science. I learnt about Hot and Cold. When I grow up I will be a scientist.'

Ahmad: 'My favourite thing in school is when we went to the computer lab and I wrote a recount.'

Beyza: 'What I like about school is I like that I learn new things that I haven't learnt before.'

Malik: 'My favourite part of school is the computers because we got to type on the computers.'

Eren: 'I enjoyed Science because it is fun. I like using the thermometer to measure the temperature.'

Emre C: 'The best time of school was going to Powerhouse Museum. It was huge and had everything in history.'

Emirhan: 'I like Science the best because you learn interesting things like hot and cold.'

Ahmed: 'I like Maths the best because I'm good at it.'

Emre P: 'In Science we put 3 glasses of water outside. One was black and one was white and one was red. The temperatures were higher for the black and the lowest was the white.'

Senanur: 'I love school because we get to learn a lot of things.'

By Saliha Kaso



Year 4



This Term Year 4 students were involved in many hands on activities and exciting lessons. For their Mathematics unit 'Area', students created 1m squared newspapers and explored the areas around their school. Students had the opportunity to work in groups and discuss their findings.

Furthermore, in Creative Arts lessons this term, 4A students participated and practiced a drama performance for their end of year presentation. Students demonstrated excellent body language forms and expressions. They worked very hard over the term to create a wonderful play for everyone and should be commended for their efforts!



It has been a great pleasure to see the students of 4A grow over the year into the young individuals they are now. Inshallah I have made a positive effect in their lives, just the way they have made in mine! :)



By Aysenur Kiran

Year 5



5D – Goodbye 2016!

Term 4 has been an exciting term for Year 5. We had our Captain and Vice Captain elections where students nominated their peers and then the nominees presented a speech outlining why they should be elected. 2017 school Captain and Vice Captains elected were Ayse Secim and Enes Perkovich. Wishing them all the best!

This term in Science, students have been exploring 'Earthquakes'. Using plasticine, students have made models representing tectonic plates. They had the opportunity to explore how earthquakes occurred, how they are linked to tectonic plates and the various types of movements that take place during an earthquake. Students added captions using cardboard on toothpicks. They labelled and described their understanding of how each plate moves, what happens at the plate boundary during this movement and how this might cause earthquakes. Furthermore, students also investigated how scientists study and record earthquake activity using seismometer.



Overall, students have been engaged with lots of interactive learning experiences covering a range of key learning outcomes.



Farewell my dearest students. It has been an absolute pleasure teaching you all this year. Each of you is unique in your own ways. Like stars, may you all shine bright. I would like to say thank you for making this year truly amazing and special for me. Remember always aim high because your only limit is the sky.

Enjoy your break Year 5!

By: Ms Derya Er

Year 6

The end of this wonderfully busy term was a 'Hair Raiser' (literally); as we journeyed to Luna Park, Sydney to celebrate the end of a huge milestone. 6S have worked incredibly hard throughout all KLA's and had definitely deserved this thrill-tastic farewell that was full of excitement, laughter and joy.

It has been an honour to be part of each individual's learning experience throughout the last two terms alhamdulillah and a blessing to witness their growth in literacy, numeracy and inquiry skills. All 6S students have overcome challenging obstacles with resilience and trust in Allah (swt) in a mature manner; proving that they are well-prepared for what high school has in stall for them. I make dua that Allah (swt) continues to facilitate each student with the tools required to allow them to journey their next chapter in life with ease and success. I trust that each one of them will continue to grow into responsible citizens that will help contribute positively into our society.

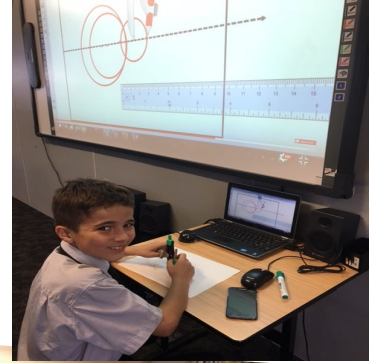
I thank all my 6S students for their dedication and hard work and wish each of them the best of luck in year 7!

Ms Samah Taki



LOVE (Turkish)

In Term 4 have learnt a lot of songs during Turkish lessons. Kindergarten had lots of fun learning the song. On the presentation night we have chosen Year 5 to perform a play about Canakkale. The play of Gallipoli has helped our students understand our culture and history at a higher level. Year 1 has enjoyed playing a puzzle called The Final Word (Kelime Bulmaca). Students have also practised how to draw a Turkish flag.



By Sumeyye Cavuslu

Lote (Arabic)

2016 has ended very fast and we had a very busy and productive year in Arabic. We have learnt the 'Five Pillars of Islam' song in Arabic where the year 5 students have performed during our Presentation Night.

Upper primary students have enjoyed playing the game 'Fishing' in Arabic. The student who uncovers two of the same pictures and says the correct name for the picture is the winner of that round.

Mr Rami will miss all his students and wishes them a safe and enjoyable holiday.



By Mr Rami