



The Irfan Times

SEPTEMBER 2016

IMPORTANT EVENTS IN TERM 4

FIRST DAY OF TERM 4
Tuesday, 11th October

ATHLETIC SPORTS CARNIVAL
Thursday, 20th October

**PUBLIC SPEAKING
COMPETITION**
Friday, 11th November

YEAR 6 FAREWELL
Friday, 25 November

PRESENTATION NIGHT
Thursday, 8th December

**PARENT/TEACHER
INTERVIEWS**
Thursday, 12th December
Friday, 13th December

LAST DAY OF TERM 4
Wednesday, 14th December

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on your smartphone.



Principal's Message

Dear Irfan Families,

Assalamu Alaykum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuhu. I pray this newsletter reaches you in the best of health and faith. It is with the grace of Allah (swt) that we have once again come to the end of a very productive term.

Irfan College commenced this term with a refined and revitalised vision, mission, and team, alhamdulillah. Our vision as an Islamic college is to facilitate a system and standard of education that focuses on the 'whole' child. A 'holistic' approach to education considers the academic, social, spiritual, physical, and psychological excellence of our students. It has become a common practice among Islamic and independent schools to streamline students according to their learning abilities, thus focusing solely on their academic skills. Unfortunately, this approach undermines the fact that Allah (swt) has created every human being in a unique way. Hence, Irfan College will be working on developing platforms that dignifies and brings the best out of our students by focusing on their strengths.

We started the term by collaborating with professionals from the Association of Independent Schools (AIS). The AIS was given a briefing regarding the areas that required improvement to achieve the new vision of our college. This collaboration allowed us to identify two areas of concern: 'Professional Learning and Development for Teachers' and 'Developing Whole School Pedagogical Approaches to Teaching Literacy and Numeracy'. Within the coming months, our teaching staff will be attending a number in-school and external professional learning sessions to address these areas of importance. Our teachers are our greatest assets, so the more knowledge and experience they acquire, the more our students will benefit inshaAllah.

We have also received our NAPLAN results this term and alhamdulillah, the results of this year have improved in comparison to the previous years. A whole school professional learning session will be conducted in week 10 of this term titled, 'The AITSL Teacher Standards and NAPLAN'. In this session, teachers will be given concrete and practical examples of how curriculum can be linked with the teacher standards.

Irfan College hosted many events this term including Education week, Science week, and Book week, each event being more successful than the other. We were privileged to have Dr Jan Ali, Head of Islamic Studies at the Western Sydney University to come in for Educa-



tion week and deliver a presentation on 'The concept of knowledge in Islam'. Science week was carried out in style with a whole school assembly conducted by Fizzics Education. Book week was celebrated with its fourth annual 'Book week parade', bookstalls, and a book donation competition for the school library. Please peruse our website for more information regarding our events.

We also conducted our entrance exams for year 7 and 8 alhamdulillah. Ms Sameema, our new secondary coordinator, will be coming in two days a week in term four to establish the foundations of secondary school. In regards to our College's first permanent structure, construction will be commencing in late November, early December. Currently we are about to initiate the tender process.

Last but not least, we have implemented a new three tier structure by departmentalising our college into three levels, lower, middle and upper primary, and a lead teacher has been assigned for each level. The purpose of this initiative is to develop specialised teams of teachers who are able to establish a culture of collegiality, collaboration and communication.

I would like to thank all our staff for the passion, eagerness and commitment they displayed this term. Looking forward to seeing you all in term four inshaAllah.

Kind regards,

Mr. Ali Arabaci

Wellbeing Coordinator's Message

Assalamu Alaykum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuhu Dear Parents,

The role of the Wellbeing Department at Irfan College is to address and provide for our students' physical, personal, social, emotional and their overall wellbeing. 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. Further details will be provided in term four.

The Wellbeing Department and ICMG Youth Sydney have also started a new initiative by pro-

ducing our very own soccer team comprised of nine players from years four to six. Our soccer team will be competing in a local junior soccer tournament for ten weeks. Next season we are looking to expand the number of entrants to accommodate for more students.

Also, the student representative council (SRC) has worked very hard this term by helping out with organising and supporting all programs run at school. In particular, during the book week parade and also the book week stall.

Mr. Mustafa Ayyaz



New Staff in Term 3



**Shaykh Jalal Kassem
Quran Coordinator**



**Mr Abdulsamed Sari
Assistant Quran Teacher**



**Ms Sameema Ali
Secondary Coordinator**

School Events of Term 3



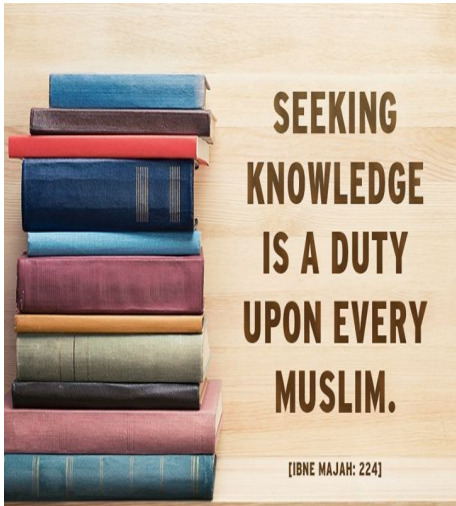
School Visit by State MP Hon. Julia Finn

It was an absolute pleasure hosting State MP Hon. Julia Finn, Member for Granville, at Irfan College. We had the opportunity to inform Ms Finn about our school's history and philosophy as well as some of our achievements and future projects. Our school's management took Ms Finn on a tour of the school in which Ms Finn visited each class and addressed the students. Irfan College is grateful to have such sincere people representing our communities in the NSW parliament.



School Visit by Head of Islamic Studies of Western Sydney University, Dr Jan Ali

Irfan College was honored to host Dr Jan Ali, at our Education week assembly. Students from year five and six presented two spectacular performances that highlighted the importance of education and environmentalism. The performances were then followed by a brief address from Dr Jan regarding the concept of knowledge in Islam.





Science Week

Irfan College held a Science Week event on Wednesday, 10th of August where students were able to participate in various science activities whilst enjoying a sausage sizzle during their lunch break.



Book Week

Irfan College celebrated the 2016 Book Week with a book character parade and various displays by classrooms. During the week students were able to purchase and donate books towards the library.



Class Highlights of Term 3

Kindergarten

Kindergarten have taken their studies outdoors this term! As part of our Living Things topic for Science, students were given the task of discovering the living things in their immediate environment. I was elated to find that the class used their higher order thinking to think about living things and how their needs are both the same and unique from one another.

One student's reflection highlights the type of deep learning that was possible from Kindergarten. Towards the end of our unit on Living Things, Alihan Goruken came to a significant realisation about the nature of plants and that they too have needs in order to survive.

"What! These flowers will die if they don't have sun and water?", he exclaimed opening his eyes wide open at what he was witnessing.

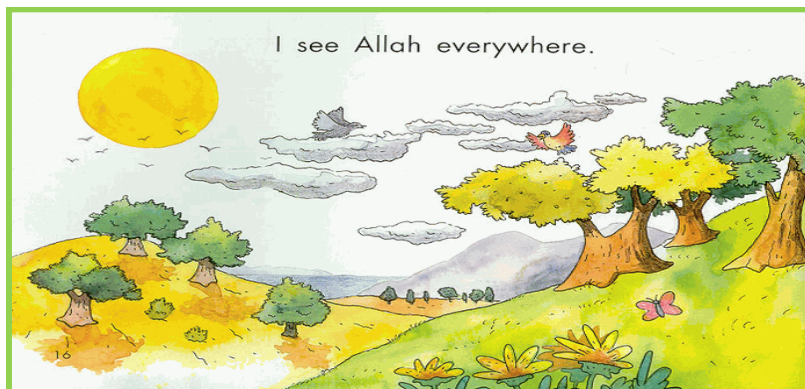
"Yes, but why do you think that is?" I replied.

"Because everything is Allah's creation?"

"and...?" I urged on.

With his eyes now fixed on the sky he answered, "*Because everything needs Allah and if there was no Allah everything would die!*".

It struck me how our youngest of students can come to the most profound of thoughts that every living thing has needs and everything in essence relies on Allah. In saying this, I'm really looking forward to more study sessions outdoors as I found it to really open the minds of our little ones.

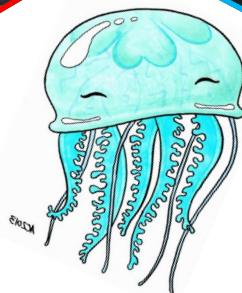
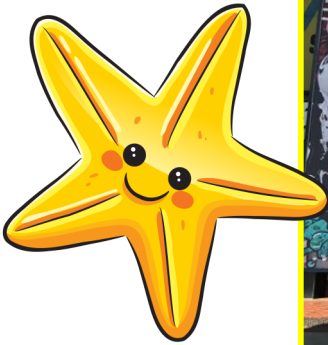


By: Sevda Itil

Year 1 and Year 2

Year 1 and Year 2 enjoyed an exciting excursion this term travelling to our beautiful city centre. The students were in awe of the Sydney Harbour Bridge and Sydney Opera House. They were especially excited to experience the phenomena of Imax Theatre. Both classes loved the viewing of the short film 'Under the Sea 3D' which presented an extraordinary underwater 3D adventure. Our students came face to face with the most unusual and mysterious sea creatures the amazing ocean has to offer. Each student was astonished by the striking wilderness and creations of this world. It is vitally important for our students to understand the features and structures of our planet which is currently being studied in our unit of work in Geography.

A great job to classes 1Z and 2Z for a wonderful experience!



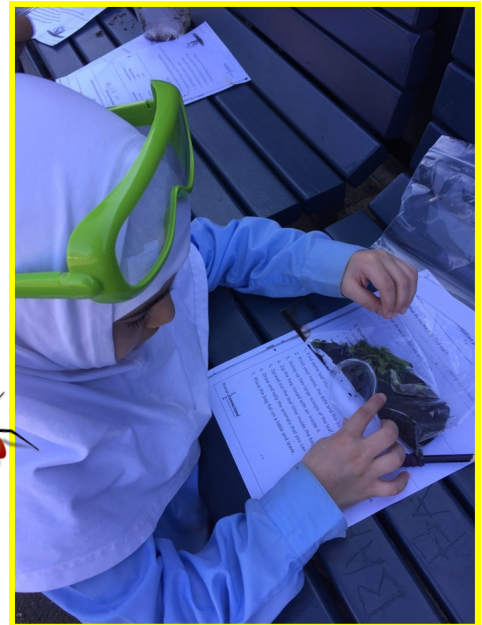
By: Zuhail Adalis & Zeynep Kabadayi

Year 3



This term year 3 students have been undertaking the unit of work called 'Feathers, Fur or Leaves' in Science. Firstly, students prepared themselves for an experiment by wearing their safety glasses and gloves to examine various types of soil in the school. Students scooped up a sample of the soil and then examined by using a magnifying glass to see if they could find various animals within the soil.

Students then classified the animals into groups and summed up their data into a graph. They were excited to share their results with the class to enhance cooperative learning.



Year 4



This term in Science, Year 4 students had the opportunity to explore the life cycles and interactions between flowering plants, bees and ants. They investigated the process of pollination and seed dispersal. To further develop their understanding of the topic, students attended an excursion to the Wildlife Sydney Zoo, which was a very hands on experience.

Furthermore, in Creative Art lessons, Year 4 students learned about the lives and artistic styles of famous artists. Inspired by these artists' very distinct styles, students created their own artworks and used different forms and techniques to best represent the qualities of the subject matter.



Year 5

5D has been learning about factors that shape places in Geography. We looked into how rainforests shape its places and integrated them into our Visual Art lessons where the students displayed their understanding through making artwork.

Students made a collage using different materials such as paper, fabric, cardboard, textured paper, wool and paint to reflect the many features and layers of the rainforest. Students discussed key features and implemented various elements of art such as colour, texture, space, composition and focal point to their art work. To further enhance student learning experience 5D went on a venture to Jenolan Caves and explored the Lucas Cave. This excursion tied in well to supplement the factors that shape places unit of learn-



By Derya Er

Year 6

It's been a busy and fun-filled term for 6S. We've been creating mini movies by photographing scenes with characters made from clay - this technique is known as 'Claymation.'

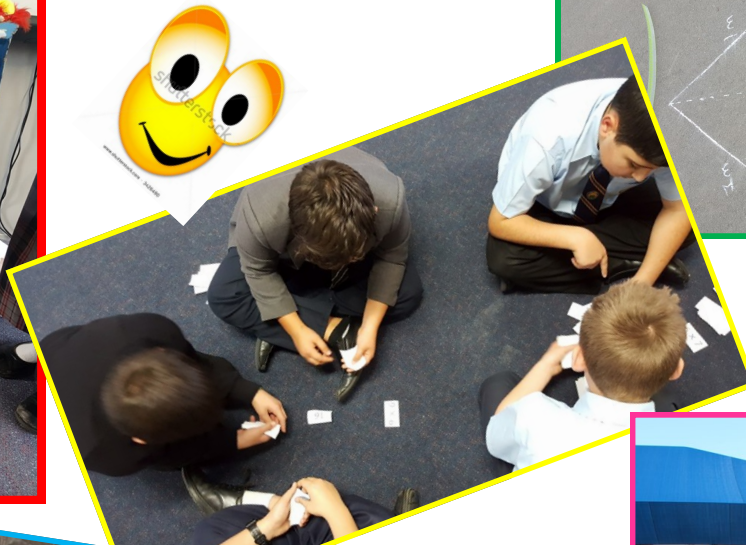
During English, 6S have been engaged in creating wonderful imaginative pieces including narratives with various plots and genres. We have even managed to publish and frame our hard work to display in the classroom for all to view.

In Mathematics, we have been engaging in a variety of indoor and outdoor games to further consolidate our understanding of key mathematical concepts whilst having fun.

6S have also introduced recycling as a whole school initiative. Every Friday afternoon we collect the mini recycling bins located in each classroom and dispose of the rubbish responsibly.

We also had the wonderful opportunity to spend the day in a World Heritage listed site- Jenolan Caves. Here we explored Lucas Cave- famously known for its chambers and its wide range of limestone formations. This excursion has tied in well with to supplement our Stage 3 Geography topic- 'A Diverse World'.

Overall, it's been a jam-packed wonderful term, Alhamdulillah!



By Samah Taki

PD and Health

Assalamu Alaykum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuhu Dear Parents,

During Personal Development and Health (PDH) lessons this term, there was a focus on 'Personal health choices'. Personal health choices examine the process of making lifestyle decisions and putting them into practice. This strand considers the personal health decisions that students make about their lives relating to nutrition, hygiene, consumerism, drug use, the environment and disease prevention. Lower primary focused on some general concepts of discerning between healthy and unhealthy foods, practices and environments. Middle and upper primary have also explored these concepts at a deeper level while also looking at drug use and disease prevention. It is important that families are consolidating what has been studied at school by showing clear guidance concerning appropriate healthy eating practices and behaviours whilst at home.

I pray that you all have a safe holiday period and return back revitalised and motivated for term four. Wasalaam.



Islamic Studies

During Islamic lessons this term students have gained an understanding of the Islamic creed (Aqaa-id). The focus was to instil the understanding of Islam as a complete way of life focusing upon the concepts of Tawheed (Belief in the Oneness of Allah), Risalah (Belief in Prophethood), Al-Akhirah (Belief in the hereafter) and Ibadah (Servitude). It is important that parents support their children in revisiting these concepts.

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By Mustafa Ayvaz

LOVE (Turkish)



Associate Professor Doctor from Inonu University in Turkey has visited our school. He played reed musical instruments for us.



We have been playing traditional Turkish games such as 'Yağ satarım bal satarım' and 'Aç kapıyı bezirgan başı'.

We have also made 'Elf Paintings' (çini boyama) and they turned out really beautiful. Well



By Sumeyye Cavuslu

Learning Support

Dear Parents/Caregivers ,

As part of a new initiative for our school, the MultiLit Program was introduced into my learning support classes. MultiLit is a teaching program designed for students who are placed on the program after a placement exam. The MultiLit Program assists students to focus on sight words and reading skills developed by Macquarie University.

During Term 3 I have worked with K-6 students guiding them through each literacy lesson which has three main components:

Sounds and Words Activities – where the students learn to pay attention to the different sounds in words and to associate them with the letters of the alphabet.

Text Reading – which gives the students the chance to practise their new skills.

Story Book Reading – which involves the teacher reading and discussing a story book with the students, to help improve their vocabulary and comprehension.

Term 3 was a great, busy and productive term filled with a lot of fun. I look forward to working with the K-6 students next term.



By Bilgesu Sezer

The Pyjama Day



Enrolments close Friday 4th of November

Kindergarten Orientation Day - Tuesday 29th of November

Note: Please contact us for further information regarding enrolment procedures

