

# Irfan Times



## Principal's Message

Dear Irfan Families,

I pray this termly newsletter reaches you in the best of health and faith. It is with the grace and blessings of Allah (swt) that we have come to the end of Semester One, 2017.

Term 2 was yet again very productive with various changes and improvements to our school. Ramadan was undoubtedly one of the highlights of term two. It was with your support that we were able to collect 220 Ramadan food packets through our humanitarian aid organisation, Hasene. Each food packet contained supplies to feed a family of four through the month of Ramadan. May Allah (swt) accept the fasting, prayer and donations we have offered in this great month.

It was also in this month that we received the outcome of the Development Application we made to Penrith Council. Penrith Council has refused our school application and we as a school have decided not to refer the matter to the Land and Environment Courts. One of the main factors in making this decision is the safety of our students, and proceeding with the application in an area that threatens their wellbeing is too great a risk. We would like to thank all the locals of the Penrith LGA that supported our application. We believe that everything happens for a rea-

son and that Allah (swt) has something better in store for us.

This term also saw the signing of the contract for our College's first building complex. The successful tender for the development was Nationwide Builders who will be finishing the project late 2017. The two storey classroom complex will be ready for the academic year of 2018 inshaAllah. We finished off the term with the 'Turning of the Sod' ceremony to mark the commencement of construction. I would like to thank the Hon. Julia Finn MP (Member for Granville), Turkish Consular General for Sydney Hon. Melih Karalar, Fairfield City Council Councillor Ms Sera Yilmaz and the Islamic Community Milli Gorus Australia President Mr Hasan Guresen for attending the ceremony.

There were also a number of academic developments this term. Most students have demonstrated a sound knowledge and understanding of the main areas of content in Semester One. The Literacy and Numeracy Action Plan (LNAP) has had a significant impact on the teaching and learning taking place in K-2, and the pedagogical understanding for teachers in 3-6. Academic reports will be mailed out to parents during the second week of the holidays.

Another very exciting and historic moment for our College was the commencement of the co-curricular activity, the Young Scholars Program (YSP). Students who are part of the YSP are picked up from home with a special service that brings them to school by 7am, and students finish their memorisation by 8:40am. The YSP is a four year long course that is open to students who display strong academic rigour and social skills. Throughout this four year program, students will memorise a good portion of the Qur'an, if not the entirety of it, be exposed to the traditional Islamic Sciences such as Fiqh, Hadith, Tafseer, and will also take part in leadership theory and programs facilitated through the youth branch of ICMG Sydney.

I would like to thank our parents and community for their continuous support and entrusting us with the education of their children. I would also like to thank my dedicated team for always ensuring that our students get the best possible experience at Irfan College. I hope that you enjoy your break and look forward to meeting you in term three.

Yours Sincerely

Mr Ali Arabaci

Principal

Special points of interest:

### FIRST DAY OF TERM 3

Tuesday 18 July 2017

### BELL TIMES

School starts at **8.45am**

School ends at **3.30pm**

### LAST DAY OF TERM 2

Friday, 30th June

### TERM 3 HOLIDAYS

Monday, 25 September

to

Sunday 8 October 2017

### TERM 4 RETURN TO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS

Monday 9 October 2017

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# WELL-BEING COORDINATOR'S MESSAGE

Mr Mustafa Ayvaz

## Keeping a balance: Self-regulation

### How does self-regulation develop?

Sensitive and comforting care from warm, supportive and trusted adults helps children develop self-regulation. Children can also learn how to regulate their feelings by watching their parents and carers manage their own feelings and behaviours. Seeing their parents and carers effectively manage their own feelings and behaviours helps children learn how to do this for themselves.

### Why is self-regulation important for mental health?

Self-regulation skills are linked to how well children manage many other tasks during early childhood. For example, as a child learns how to self-regulate, skills such as concentrating, sharing and taking turns develop. This enables a child to move from depending on others to beginning to manage by themselves. Most children at some stage will struggle to manage their feelings and be-

haviours, particularly when they are tired, hungry or facing new experiences. When this happens, they might become upset, sulky or angry. This is all part of being a young child and is not necessarily cause for concern. However, difficulties in emotional and behavioural self-regulation that occur often, across a number of settings and over long periods of time can be warning signs

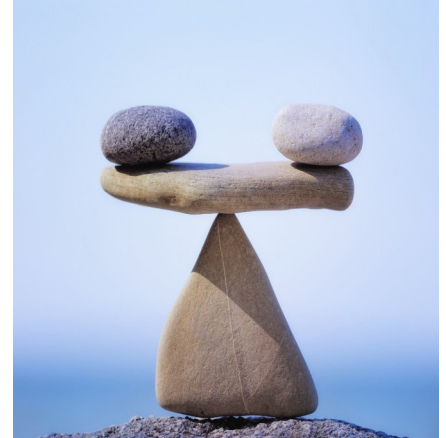
that mental health difficulties may be present. Examples of self-regulation difficulties in children include ongoing difficulties with concentration (eg being able to listen to a story), looking very sad and uninterested in daily activities (eg playing with other children), or becoming easily upset and worries so they are unable to move on. In this situation talking with a health professional may be useful.

**“Most children at some stage will struggle to manage their feelings and behaviours, particularly when they are tired, hungry or facing new experiences.”**

### What helps develop self-regulation?

Parents, carers and staff play an important role in helping children learn to self-regulate their feelings and behaviour. There are many opportunities for this in the normal routine of day-to-day life. Some of the ways adults can support children's development of self-regulation skills include:

- Closely observing a child to help you to see what they are coping with and where they might need more support.
- Providing the support children need at times when they are upset, tired or angry helps them to develop their self-regulation skills.
- Breaking down complicated tasks into manageable parts so that children can practise self-regulation without becoming overwhelmed. Activities like learning to get dressed, turn taking, listening to others and working out differences give children an opportunity to practise their self-regulation skills with the support and guidance of a trusted adult.
- Demonstrating effective self-regulation of their own feelings and behaviours. Children learn how other people behave by watching the people around them. When parents, carers and staff effectively manage their own feelings and behaviour they model self-regulation skills to children. Adults model behaviour every day, such as the way that they talk to people, wait for the traffic lights to change or decide what TV program to watch, for example. These all require self-regulation of feelings and behaviour.
- Using words, gestures and touch as cues to help children regulate their feelings and behaviour. Naming feelings for young children like: "You sound angry"; or "I wonder if you are frustrated?" help children recognise their emotions. When gentle touch and words are used together this can act as a cue for children to start calming themselves, for example, 'let's relax' or 'I am here to help you'.



# HIGHLIGHTS OF TERM 2

## RAMADAN

Undoubtedly, one of the biggest highlights of term 2 has been Ramadan. It has dominated most of our activities at school and at home. Students and teachers alike used this beautiful month as a time to reflect and make positive changes in their lives, and work towards improving their spirituality.

Amongst the numerous activities that were planned were the Ramadan assembly at which students performances celebrated the gift of Ramadan. The distribution of the Ramadan prep kits enabled students to prepare for this holy month and gave little reminders about the way in which their fasting could be enhanced through additional ibadah. This was made possible by the generosity of the school and staff.

Our students and staff, with the support of their families helped to collect and pay for 220 food packets as part of the Ramadan Food Campaign. This was organised through Islamic charity organisation Hasene and was made possible through the efforts and kindness of our school families and community. The P&C committee were also

involved with the setting up of Ramadan stalls which allowed students to make small purchases to gift their families, as well as raising awareness of the spirit of Ramadan.

Ramadan is over for 2017, but the beauty and togetherness it brings for Muslims around the world will be greatly missed. May Allah (SWT) accept our fasting and our efforts, and guide us in continuing our deeds in this world and the next. Ameen.

## TURNING OF THE SOD CEREMONY

Another huge highlight for term 2, the Turning of the Sod Ceremony is a time honoured tradition which marks the beginning of a new chapter for Irfan College. This proud event attended by a number of VIPs, marked the beginning of construction of our permanent buildings.

It was an event which generated lots of excitement from our students and staff as they began to visualise the future in what would become their permanent classrooms and playgrounds. We pray that Allah

(SWT) will bless our efforts as we move forward with our school.

## NAPLAN

NAPLAN 2017 brought with it the usual nerves associated with such a big event on the school's academic calendar, and even more so because it was the first time Irfan College had a Year 7 cohort participating in the assessment. NAPLAN is held over three days, from Tuesday – Monday, with a make-up day on Friday for students who may have missed an exam.

This year we had 27 students from year 3, 21 students from year 5 and 27 students from year 7 in our overall NAPLAN group. Teachers worked tirelessly throughout the year to prepare students mentally and psychologically for this assessment so that our students were comfortable with the expectations and conditions of this type of testing. We wish all our students the best of luck and pray that Allah (SWT) rewards their effort.



## HIGHLIGHTS CONT.

### ICAS TESTING

ICAS testing for 2017 have commenced with information and permission notes going out to families. This is an independent skills-based assessment which recognises student achievement. Students from over 20 countries participate in this assessment and it is the most comprehensive general academic assessments for Primary and Secondary students. The assessments, which are produced by Educational Assessment Australia (EAA) assess the areas of Digital Technologies, English, Maths, Science, Spelling and Writing.

Currently, participation in ICAS is voluntary and we encourage all of our students to attempt one or more of the assessments. They are a good way to indicate the level of student achievement, and reward students for participating through achievement-based certificates.

### SCHOOL PHOTOS

Early this term our students and staff were all spruced up for the annual school photos. Our staff looked very fine indeed in their photo clothes and our students made us proud as they showed off their best looks in full school uniform. Looking forward to next year's photos as the school grows. Insha'Allah we will have our new building as the backdrop of our whole school photo.

### SKOOLBAG APP

The school has invested in a number of initiatives to help improve communication between home and school, and one of these initiatives is the Skoolbag app. This app will allow parents and students to access information to help plan for the school year. For example, the school's newsletter, information about excursions and information about other important dates throughout the year will be made available on the Skoolbag app. This will be launched early next term and an information

note will be sent home to provide download and other information.

In addition to the Skoolbag app, the Irfan College website is also under review and will be launched early next term. We are excited about the new look website and hope that it will provide an abundance of information for existing and new parents, and our school community.

### PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENTS

In an effort to improve safety for our students, the school has made changes to the K-2 play area with the installation of rubber ground in the equipment area. This has also decreased the height of the play equipment as the floor has been raised to allow students to make use of the equipment safely. The new school colours were used to add to the aesthetics of our playground and garnered much interest from the students who sat and watched patiently as work was being carried out. From the reaction that was received when the play area was complete, it is fair to say that it is a popular part of our playground. We ask Allah (SWT) that he always keeps our children safe from harm, and keeps them out of harm's way. Ameen.

### LITERACY AND NUMERACY ACTION PLAN

Teachers in K-2, with the assistance of the Learning and Support Team, have been working all term to ensure the implementation of the Literacy and Numeracy Action Plan (LNAP). The LNAP is a whole school approach that begins in Kindergarten. It helps teacher to identify the literacy and numeracy needs of students so that they receive the right intervention.

LNAP also focuses on teaching practice and our teachers have worked with consultants from AIS as they develop programs that implement the LNAP. K-6 Teachers have also been part of this professional development and have also gained more skills to assist them in improving student outcomes.

### SOCCER

Soccer is something many of our students and teachers take very seriously and this



### HIGHLIGHTS CONT.

term Ms Zina and Mr Ahmet had the opportunity to take out year 7 and 8 students to the Michael Clarke Recreation Centre at Carnes Hill to participate in the South Western Sydney Soccer competition. Eight school teams from across the public and private sector participated in this event to earn a spot in the regional competition.

Our students displayed the kind of exemplary behaviour we expect at Irfan College and made very proud as they learnt about sportsmanship through a number of rigorous games. What they lacked in wins they made up for in enthusiasm as they built on their soccer skills against other school teams. Next year will give our students another opportunity to prove their prowess on the soccer field. A job well done!

### PRC UPDATE

As reported last term, our school students are participating in the Premier's Reading Challenge. The competition began on 6 March and is set to close at midnight on Friday 25 August. Our students are making good progress and working hard to read as many of the books on the Premier's list as possible. We are looking forward to some pleasing results from our most avid reads. May Allah guide their efforts.

### New Car Park Procedures

In order to manage the safe and efficient arrival and departure of students from school as a result of the construction taking place, the management team have outlined a number of rules and procedures which we would like all parents to adhere to when dropping off or picking up students. A n information letter has been sent home to outline the new proposal, with maps to help guide you in helping us to manage this. Your cooperation and patience is greatly appreciated as we work together to build our school.



# TERM 2 IN KINDERGARTEN

A B C D E F Gee what a fun filled term it has been!

With all praise and glory to Allah (swt) Kindergarten has adjusted well this term to daily routine and school life. In Term 2, the butterflies of kindergarten were busy being little Scientist's investigating and ob-

serving Living Things. Through discovery learning Students planted their very own Alfalfa seeds, made predictions, and maintained their plants daily.

Kindergarten made significant links to the creation of all living things and the Glory of Allah (swt) and ac-

knowledge that He is the only source of power to enable life.

Kindergarten invited the 'Kindy Farm' to Irfan College this term for an exciting and engaging incursion about Living animals. KA spent some time learning about a variety of different farm animals and had the experience of feeding and patting them too!

in this class  
we are  
friends teammates  
creators  
artists explorers  
authors world  
dreamers changers  
scholars HEROES  
family



## TERM 2 IN YEAR 1

In year one this term, students have been learning a wide range of topics. In English and literature studies, students were exposed to different text types such as explanations and key elements in their structure. They also explored important grammatical concepts such as plural nouns and articles as well as continued their intensive work in reading. In Mathematics, year one continued building on their number skills and also looked at

learning the names of the months and seasons. Numeracy is an extremely important skill in everyday life, thus it is important students continually apply concepts to real-life situations.

Students also looked at a wide range of topics in Science involving living and non-living things. To supplement their learning in this area, year one students were privileged to have real-life animals visit our school and had the opportunity to see

and touch the animals.

Year one were also regularly engaged in exciting hands-on projects in Creative Arts and P.E. where they continually explored their imaginative sides as well as improved on their athleticism.

I hope students continue to have a productive and exciting term three and continue building on what they have learnt.

**Ms Gulser**



## TERM 2 IN YEAR 2

This term has been a sporty one for year 2 as they worked on improving their gym skills as they learnt about gymnastics. Students had the opportunity to creatively explore and practise skills safely while building self-confidence and self-esteem.

To support the skills they were learning about in PE, Year 2 had an excursion to the Sydney Olympic Park Sports Centre where they had qualified coaches teaching them gymnastic skills. Students were given the opportunity to use gymnastics standard equipment including vaults, balance

beams, sprung floors, trampolines and a variety of boxes and soft landing mats.

Overall it was a fantastic day. Not only did we all have fun, but we learnt a little more about how to keep our bodies healthy.

Ms Bilgesu





# TERM 2 IN YEAR 3

Term 2 has been action packed and productive for our 3E/S superheroes, alhamdulillah!

Year 3 had sat their very first NAPLAN exams in the early weeks of the term. We are extremely proud and congratulate all our students on the way they have applied themselves and handled the exam period. Well done!

Before we knew it, it was time to welcome

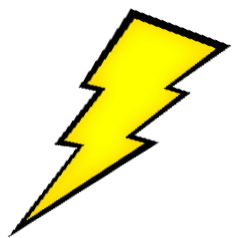
the holy month of Ramadan. 3E/S participated in a cake stall to raise money for the Hasene food campaign. May Allah (swt) reward all those who purchased our cakes and donated to our class money box.

Throughout the term, year 3 have developed their skills in reading and group work with guidance from our Learning & Support team. Each week, groups are allocated a book and need

to predict, question and summarise the texts. Many students have been expressing their outstanding leadership qualities and are all gaining skills on how to work collaboratively.

We wish all our students and their families a very happy Eid and are looking forward to a fantastic second semester.

Ms. Eman and Ms. Samah.



## TERM 2 IN YEAR 4

Term 2 has been a busy term for Year 4. This term students worked together to raise money for the Rahma charity program. They organised stalls at lunchtime to sell various sweets, and worked as a team enthusiastically to reach their goals. It was clear from the way they worked together that they understood the purpose

of the project, and showed a willingness to help the community.

In the classroom, Year 4 students worked in teams to solve mathematical problems via manipulative techniques. As an example, they used manipulative tools to understand how to measure the capacity

and volume of various containers. They learned a lot of about their world and had fun doing it!

I am looking forward to another term with year 4 and know that we will all work together to achieve even more things.

Ms Malika



# TERM 2 IN YEAR 5

This term, 50 students were involved in many exciting new activities. In Dance, students had a wonderful time studying the Aboriginal culture and people. They acknowledged that movement is a symbolic representation of their beliefs spiritually. Students in groups composed and performed a dance

sequence to communicate a story portraying specific animals such as; kangaroos, emus and cranes.

In Visual Arts, students explored Aboriginal designs and Ebru water marbling an extraordinary form of graphic art. As an alternative to water marbling students used shaving

cream to create their own marble painting.

In Physical Education, students have been learning gymnastic skills. To consolidate learning students went on an excursion to Sports Centre at Sydney Olympic Park. The students enjoyed the physical activities in the program.

Ms Derya



## TERM 2 IN YEAR 6

Our year 6 students have had yet another fun-filled and exciting term. They have had the opportunity to learn about the amazing world of chemistry during Science; research how Australia has changed during the 20<sup>th</sup> Century during History and have worked collabo-

ratively to present a puppet show for the younger grades during Creative Arts. Year 6 students have participated in a number of learning experiences throughout all subjects and have gained important knowledge that will help shape their futures. Most impor-

tantly, we were all blessed to have reached the month of Ramadan, may Allah (SWT) accept our deeds. I pray that we all have an enjoyable Eid with our loved ones. Have a great holiday.... See you all in term 3!

Ms Elif



## TERM 2 IN YEAR 7 & 8

High school students have been busy this term preparing for the holy month of Ramadan. They have prepared Ramadan prep kits for all Irfan College's students and staff. Students also hosted a Ramadan assembly with *nasheed (ilahi)* and role play performances presented by year 7 girls.

Year 8 students hosted the first annual high school, ANZAC assembly. The assembly featured students reading excerpts from soldier diaries and a Turkish guest speaker Mr Halil Cilem who spoke to the students about his experiences working in the Turkish defence force.

Ms Zina



## TERM 2 IN ENGLISH

### Year 7

Students busily worked on their mini-newspapers in the first half of Term 2 before moving onto a film study of *Hugo*.



### Year 8

Students were excited to have the opportunity to visit a Seymour Theatre production as part of their Shakespeare Study in Term 2 of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.



Mr Ozan

## TERM 2 IN MATHS

### Year 7

Assalamu Alaykum,

This term students have investigated common angle relationships, decimal numbers and also the ability to plot points on the number line and the number plane. Students have had their half yearly examinations conducted. The results will provide teachers and students valuable information in to what is needed to ensure students are working effectively.

Also, we will be continuing to use Mathletics as a resource throughout the year. Students have been given their username and password to begin using Mathletics. Parents should monitor their child's progress regularly. Students at times will be allocated activities to reinforce content

covered in class. Mathletics can be utilised at all time to reinforce content knowledge.

### Year 8

This term students have been introduced to the concepts of patterns, relationships, variables, expressions, unknowns, equations and graphs. Students have used graphs and tables, discussing them and using information contained in them. Competence in reading and drawing graphs and tables will be the goal. Graphs are an effective non-verbal form of communication. Also, students have gained an understanding of area and volume.

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using Mathletics. Parents should monitor their child's progress regularly. Students at times will be allocated activities to reinforce content covered in class. Mathletics can be utilised at all time to reinforce content knowledge.

Kind regards,  
Mustafa Ayvaz

## TERM 2 IN SCIENCE

**Year 7 science students have been studying about the Earth's resources and separating different types of mixtures. They have also learned how to use the Bunsen burner and have received their Bunsen burner licences.**



**Year 8 science students have been exploring the systems that make up the human body. They have modelled human blood by making 'blood cocktails' and have dissected a variety of sheep body organs to examine their structure and function.**



Ms Zina

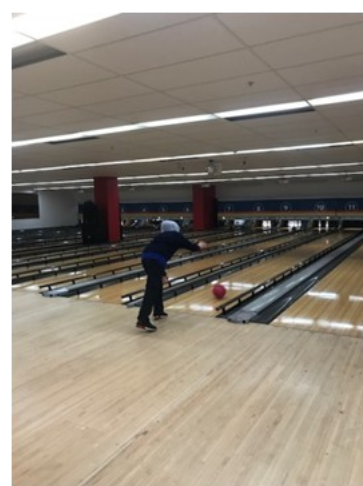


## TERM 2 IN PDHPE

**Year 7 and 8 students have competed in the Liverpool region's Futsal competition. Our students gained experience in leadership and teamwork skills.**



**Throughout the holy month of Ramadan high school students have been going to bowling for sports. Students have learned the skills of bowling and teamwork.**



## TERM 2 IN HISTORY

### Year 7

Students have been studying the Ancient Past with a particular emphasis on Aboriginal culture in Term 2.



### Year 8

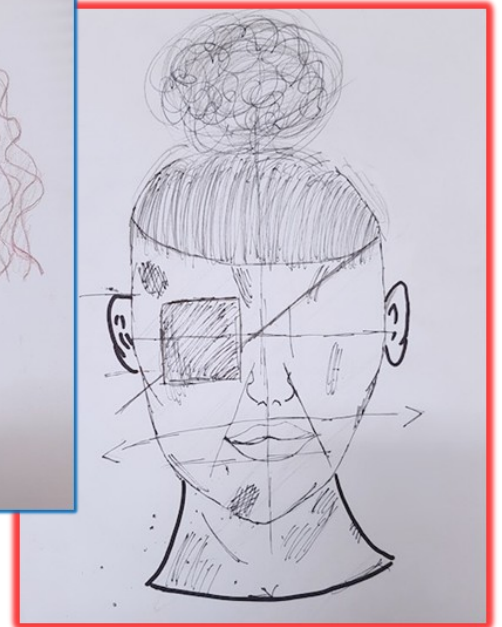
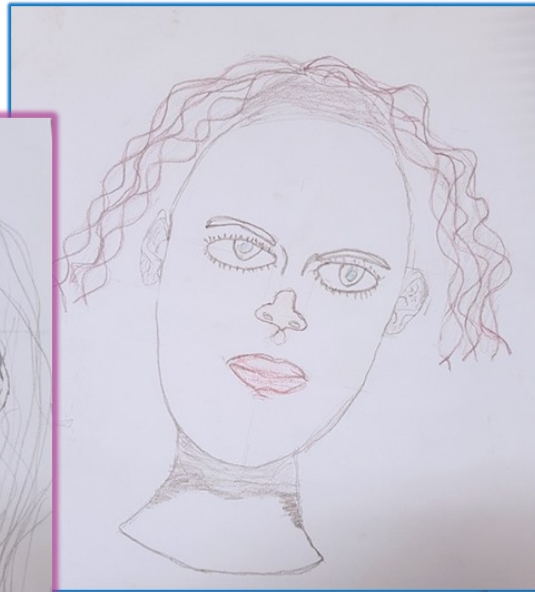
Students have been studying Polynesian cultures and history in Term 2.



## TERM 2 IN Creative Arts

This term Year 7 and Year 8 have been studying 'Portraiture' in **Visual Arts**. Students have been learning about the design elements of portraiture through their utilisation of proportion and symmetry. Year 7 and Year 8 have also been studying **Music**, with the topic this term being 'Popular Music'. Students have been exploring popular music through various music genres such as rock, teen pop, hip hop and modern electronic music. Students additionally have been working on their individual skills to compose and perform music using the keyboard.

### Miss Amber



## TERM 2 IN ISLAMIC STUDIES & QURAN

Assalamu aleykum wa rahmetullahi wa barakatuhu dear parents and caregivers, Alhamdulillah, we leave behind another eventful and fruitful term at Irfan College. In Islamic Studies and Qur'an studies, students have been working very to gain expertise in some very important topics and learning areas. These include Islamic jurisprudence, akhlaaq and adaab. Students also had the chance to research

and present different topics in Fiqh to allow them to truly appreciate this very important area of Islamic Studies.

Perhaps the most exciting event of term 2 in the Islamic Studies and Qur'an department is the commencement of the Young Scholars Program. Students began with the Qur'an memorisation (hifz) component which they undertake every morning of the school

week. It is hoped that further aspects of the program will be added with time.

It is hoped that students will continually benefit from the exciting programs Irfan College has to offer. If you would like to discuss your child's progress in Islamic Studies and Qur'an, please do not hesitate to schedule an appointment with me.

Wasalaam  
Mr Erol Kaso



## TERM 2 IN TURKSIH

This term in Turkish students had the opportunity to extend their knowledge of the Turkish language. Students learnt to name objects by matching pictures to their correct words. They also learnt how to name and describe basic features of objects.

Students also learnt to distinguish past and present tenses and use these in sentences to show their

understanding. Older students have been using more complex sentences, and have been looking at ways to ask and answer questions using a variety of grammatical features.

The highlight of this month has been the month of Ramadan and students have also been reading stories and completing tasks which describe

the importance of this month.

Next term will be even more challenging as students build on their knowledge and usage of the Turkish language.

Ms Yuksel



## TERM 2 IN ARABIC

Asalaamualaykum dearest parents and students,

Alhamdulillah this term has gone by quickly. Students have been very productive in their Arabic class. I'm extremely proud of all my students in Arabic. They have been working hard to achieve learning goals.

The students have been engaging themselves with lots of Arabic conversations in class, especially year 1. Students in year 5 and 6 have been busy writing interesting sentences in Arabic. Kindergarten students are learning to write their name in

Arabic. They are learning to identify the letters in the beginning, middle and end of a word. Well done kindergarten.

Year 2 students were required to give a short talk in Arabic in front of the class about their weekend. All the children did a super job at speaking in Arabic.

Year 3 student have been learning some Arabic grammar this term. One type of grammar is the proposition of words. Students were shown pictures of objects and where they were place. Then they were required to describe where that object

was.

Year 4 students enjoy learning Arabic through play. Students engage themselves in a variety of activities set by the teacher which incorporates the Arabic language. A popular game the students enjoy is the naming game with cards.

I would like to thank parents for their support and dedication during this term. If you have any enquiries please come and speak to me.

Asalaamualaykum.

Mr Rami Almomani



# TERM 2 IN THE LIBRARY

## LIBRARY HAPPINESS

We have opened the door of Irfan College Library this term for our students to explore the world of books and since then the Library has been buzzing with activity. Students have taken great interest in borrowing new books.

May was the read aloud month, so together we read many new books and stu-

dents were encouraged to borrow books to fuel their interests.

This term we were lucky enough to celebrate "NATIONAL SIMULTANEOUS STORY-TIME" on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2017 in our Library, where we read the most hilarious book- "THE COW TRIPPED OVER THE MOON" from K-6.

Term 3 is going to be even more exciting. We look forward to having the bookmark

competition in weeks 1 and 2 and the book review competition in weeks 3 and 4 across K-6, followed by "BOOK WEEK" starting from 16<sup>th</sup> of August till 22<sup>nd</sup> of August.

Ms. Iram Siddiqui

**Knowledge is free at the library. Just bring your own container.**

