From the Principal

Assalaamu Alaikum Warahmatulahi Wabarakatu

We have now completed the first six weeks of the 2017 academic year. It is pleasing to note a majority of the children, including the new comers, have become used to the school routine and culture. Nearly all students come to school on time. A vast majority of students also behave very well and demonstrate a positive attitude towards school work. This is a very good start to the 2017 academic year.

I would like to thank all teachers and parents for their efforts in making this possible. Your continued support and cooperation will facilitate our efforts to provide the highest quality of education to your children.

Parent Information Evenings

The AICS held a parent information evening on 15th February 2017 for both primary and secondary school parents. The information session was organised to provide parents with an opportunity to meet with their children’s teachers and exchange information about their children and their studies.

I am glad to report that the response from parents has been encouraging with large numbers attending. This is evidence of a strong partnership between parents and teachers in the education of our children. On behalf of the teachers I would like to thank all those parents and guardians who attended. Any parents or guardians who have questions, but were unable to attend the sessions, are encouraged to make appointments to see teachers between 3.30 and 4.00 pm.

Student Attendance

It is a requirement for all children at the AICS to come to school regularly and punctually. Only the Principal has the authority to give permission to a child to be absent for any reason other than illness or other unforeseen circumstances. When a child is sick, parents are required to inform the school between 8.15am and 8.30am on returning to school the child should bring a note from parents explaining the absence.

When a child is absent for reasons other than illness, parents need to fill in a form (obtainable from the school), requesting leave from the Principal at least a month in advance. The Principal will consider the request and convey his decision to the parents. This procedure was introduced in 2015 and is now strictly followed.

Parents are strongly advised not to take children on holidays during the school terms. Long absence from school results in children missing a considerable amount of school work. This adversely affects their learning and academic progress when they return to school.

The Year 11 and 12 students are required to fulfil specific attendance and work coverage requirements.
in order to sit for HSC examinations. Absence from school for long periods may prevent these students from meeting the requirements and thus prevent them from obtaining their HSC.

Wassal
Dr Imam Ali

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL’S COLUMN

Dear Parents,
It is with considerable pleasure that I write my first column in the AICS newsletter. As a new member of the school, I’ve been heartened by the manner in which students and staff alike have quickly settled into a routine that I’m sure will prove fruitful. I’d also like to take this opportunity to thank the many parents that have warmly welcomed me since arriving at the school.

Our Year 12 students are fully engaged in their studies as they set their sights on HSC exams. Extra classes (in all subjects) are also underway and are proving invaluable in consolidating their knowledge and skills. In Years 7-11, we have increased our focus on Numeracy and Literacy, particularly in Years 7 and 9 where student preparation for NAPLAN is already underway. In the Primary school, students have now settled into the full swing of routines and are busily engaged in their classwork and associated activities. I am also pleased to say that our Student Representative Council (SRC) is already displaying impressive community leadership qualities by offering their support at the recent Parent Information Evening. Whilst speaking of the SRC, all new members will be officially inducted in our school assembly at 9am on Friday, March 3rd.

Please feel free to approach me should you have any queries or concerns and I look forward to your support in ensuring your children have an enjoyable and successful year.

Warm regards,
Mr Scott.

MESSAGE FROM THE SRC

Assalamu’alaykum wa-rahmatullahi wa-barakatuhu,

The Student Representative Council (SRC) welcomes teachers and students back to the 2017 school year.

2016 ended on a high note after the successful effort of SRC senior captains and prefects at the Presentation Day Ceremonies for Kindergarten- Year 2, Years 3-6 and Years 7-11. Senior Captains presented and helped plan programs for each Presentation Day Ceremony. They also participated in the 2016 Graduation Ceremonies for Kindergarten, Year 6 and Year 12. The Primary School captains took a leading role in hosting the Kindergarten Graduation ceremony.

The SRC enjoy being involved in planning, organising and conducting numerous school events and activities. For example, the senior captains and prefects actively monitor the front of the school every morning as parents and students arrive. We also assisted during the Parent Information Evening and during the visit of the religious speaker, Sister Maryam Saeed.

Furthermore, we assisted in running the elections and counting the votes for the 2017 School Representative Council. The successful candidates will be announced in the next edition of this newsletter.

The SRC look forward to progressing as a team. Every fortnight, we have meetings in which school events are discussed. Mrs Moukahal and Mr Malik chair these meetings. Insha’Allah, we will continue to participate in improving our school and we are always open to any advice or ideas from our fellow students.

Term 1 upcoming school events
- Fiji Appeal
- Clean-up Australia Day
- Harmony Day

Wassalaam.

Student Representative Council
Dear Parents,

Assalamu-Aleikum.

The Australian Islamic College of Sydney is proud to work in association with the Islamic Association of Western Suburbs Sydney (IAWSS) to raise funds for the Fiji Appeal.

Our brothers and sisters in Fiji have suffered a lot in the last few years due to natural disasters. Thus, the Campaign focuses on the reconstruction of a historic Islamic Primary School in the country for students to use it. IAWSS is a solely Australian organisation, helping people and countries in need of humanitarian aid. The main focus is to provide food aid and education, and protect families and children in need as well as assisting in reconstructing national heritage icons.

Allah (SWT) has blessed us with many things that we should be grateful for. Therefore, it is our duty to partake in this great cause which is giving and sharing what Allah (SWT) trusted us with; our sustenance. Funds are urgently needed to be delivered to this great cause.

The College aims to raise $10,000., and this could be achieved if each student donated $2 per day for the next 15 days. We ask for your support in sustaining and encouraging your child to take part in this campaign. This drive will help to assist in building this great heritage building.

The campaign will commence on Tuesday 21 February 2017 and will conclude on Friday 10 March 2017. Donations will be collected each morning during the campaign and will be forwarded to IAWSS to assist with relief efforts without delay.

Giving charity purifies us from sins. Our beloved Prophet (PBUH) said, “Charity extinguishes sin as water extinguishes fire” (Narrated by Al-Tirmidhi)

On behalf of the IAWSS and the Australian Islamic College of Sydney we would like to thank you for your cooperation and support.

Dr Imam Ali
(Principal)

Mr Nasib Mohammed
(Secretary IAWSS, and AICS Board Member)

Ms Abir Moukahal
(Organising Teacher)
As the school year begins, the pressure of starting school, moving schools, changing classes, finding new friends and meeting new teachers will be at the forefront of many young people’s minds. It’s normal to feel nervous when beginning a new school year and there are many things that students, as well as the school, can do to make the transition easier.

Our College strives to offer the best guidance from an academic and moral perspective. In terms of welfare, The College welcomes students in special individual assemblies for Years 7 to 12. Year Advisors greet students and remind them of their responsibilities for the new academic year. This year, the College Principal Dr Imam Ali and Deputy Principal Mr Scott addressed the students, reinforcing the academic expectations of the College.

The College also held various programs for students and parents such as the HSC parents’ information night. Hosted by Elevate, the session sought to help parents of HSC students support their children during their important, final year of schooling. For HSC students, sessions were held to encourage, motivate and provide them with different study tips.

In addition, a separate gender assembly was held to remind our students about Islamic values and ethos. These values are practiced daily in our College environment. The school board arranged different speakers for boys and girls from AlHuda International to address students about strengthening our faith.

Furthermore, we are happy to inform you that our School Representative Council nominations are now completed for 2017 and we will inform you about our College leaders in the next edition Insha’Allah. Look for the next edition for more information on upcoming events.

Wassalam

Mrs Abir Moukahal
Secondary Female Welfare coordinator and Year 12 Year Advisor.
Dear Plants,

Thank you for keeping us alive through your many ways! Thank you for providing oxygen for us and animals to breathe. You take in our waste; carbon dioxide and filter out carbon and other pollutants in the air. In this way you regulate global climate and help slow down climate change.

You provide us with energy in the form of food as well as drinks; coffee and tea, oils; palm and coconut, flavourings; cocoa, vanilla, sugar and spices. Some vitamins and minerals only found in you are what we humans need. Not only do we humans benefit but animals also need you as a primary food source. We would not be able to sustain a healthy diet and in fact herbivores would die out.

Many common medications use parts of you as ingredients to treat or cure many diseases; diabetes, malaria, arthritis, heart conditions etc. Homeopathic and herbal remedies rely on the healing powers of you.

You provide habitats, shelter and safety for us and animals and maintain biodiversity to the 5 million species on Earth. You have a cultural and spiritual significance for Indigenous people. We use you for firewood and timber for housing. Many industrial products such as rubber, oils, gums, waxes, dyes etc. are produced from you, as well as everyday products such as cosmetics, toothpaste, balls, tyres, paints, polishes, and deodorants. You even prevent soil erosion and screen us from nosy neighbours!

People don't realise how incredibly important you are in sustaining life on the planet. So I thank you from the bottom of my heart once again.

Yours Faithfully,

Juwairiya Ahmed
Dear Plants, Trees and Living Organisms,

I thank you for your co-operation on this decision between us humans and the environment, as the deal was to exchange oxygen and carbon dioxide for each other needs to support one another.

You provide the animals a food and shelter as they shall mean no harm. They provide humans with raw materials to use for housing and medicinal purposes to cure diseases.

You also provide a beautiful scenery with your blooming flowers and delicious fruits with the shades of your leaves and strength to the soil of the mountains and hills with your strong roots.

You make the environment looks beautiful with your vibrant colours of different shades of green. To the living organisms, thank you for providing food chains for humans and animal. You help in pollenating fruit trees and flowers and fertilise the soil.

As we know, all living organisms are made of cells, which are the units of life as we speak. You give us humans food like cows, lambs, chicken and many more.

Once again we do thank you for the efforts you did from the beginning of life.

Sincerely, Selina 8R2
Kitchen Garden 2017 Update

Students have worked hard to rescue the Kitchen Garden after a challenging start to the year. Due to the installation of floodlights along the boundary wall, the Kitchen Garden was dug up to lay the underground cables. Students assisted by clearing away left over building materials to make way for new growth. The garden beds were then raised with fresh loads of soil.

Adding to our challenges then came the terrible scorching heat wave. Sadly, many plants did not survive but an olive tree, chilli plants, a grape fruit plant and a large bush of cherries are all still standing. We are starting to replant some of the students’ favourite produce such as salad greens, garlic, sweet peas, mint and radishes.

We would like to thank all students and staff for refraining from picking the fresh produce. Requests for items can be made when it is time to harvest. We also remind anyone working in the garden to return all tools to the shed and ensure the hose is left attached so that fresh water is readily available. In other exciting developments, we will be composting all organic waste this year to ensure the regular supply of our own soil and fertiliser to the garden.

If you have any questions about the Kitchen Garden, please feel free to contact us.

Ms Nuzhat Ejaz
Chair Person Science Committee

Students in Photos are from 5B.
Daniel Hilabi, Melad Shersy, Irfan Napis Muhammad, Nadhif Natapradja, Hasan Sattar, Rosanna Anaquita Yahya, Areebah Syed Tariq, Kiran Altaf, Alisha Farhan.
What a wonderful creative Term 1 we have had so far! Year 7 students have been busy finishing their title pages and learning about the Elements of Design. They have begun creating their assessment tasks based upon linear perspective, line, shape, texture, colour and tone. Students have been using artworks such as 'Composition 8' by Wassily Kandinsky to understand composition and variety using lines and shapes.
Year 8 students have also started their assessment tasks based upon the Principles of Design. They have been using artworks such as 'The Starry night' by Vincent Van Gogh and the ‘The Great Wave” by Katsushika Hokusai as their main influences. Both year groups will be learning to use watercolour techniques to create some colourful A3 size paintings. Keep an eye out for the wonderful finished artworks in the end of Term 1 newsletter.
There are many ways to make learning fun!
I would like to tell you about an interactive language learning website known as, Quizlet, which we are using with Year 4 students in Arabic. Quizlet is an online learning tool created by Andrew Sutherland. It was originally conceived in October 2005 and released to the public in January 2007. Quizlet trains students via flashcards and various games and tests.

**Some interesting facts about Quizlet:**

- 2 billion study sessions viewed
- 125 million user-generated study sets
- 40 million users every month

Quizlet holds annual language competitions in French, German and Spanish. Students in Year 4 have already begun using Quizlet for Arabic language practice. Aside from being something students really enjoy, Quizlet provides many benefits for students learning a language. Quizlet allows language practice to be a continuous process. Your child can practise at home and can score and compete in online games, boosting the level of fun.

27 learning sets, representing the Arabic alphabet, have already been prepared and uploaded onto Quizlet. The sets contain around 120 new Arabic words, carefully selected to assist students in reading the holy Quran and covering elements of the Year 4 Arabic Curriculum.

I would like to thank all parents for encouraging their children to practice Arabic at home and for working closely with teachers to improve student learning.

Mr. Faisal
Kindergarten News

Kindergarten have had an exciting and enjoyable start to their first year of schooling. It has been lovely to see them become more confident and happy in their new surroundings as they make new friends. They are starting to learn their letter sounds in class through hands on activities; using play dough, games, even paint and chalk! By learning letter sounds, Kindergarten will develop their reading skills as they begin to put their knowledge of sounds together to form words. Kindergarten students receive two home reader books each week. They are encouraged to read every night as it is a great opportunity for you to read with your child and see them further develop their new skills.

We are all so proud of their great efforts and progress they have made in the short time that they have been here.
Keep up the great work Kindergarten! 😊

Ms Louise Grady, KD
Year 5 Excursion to Hyde Park Barracks

Year 5 students spent the day learning about convict life in the early days of colonial Australia as a part of their History unit when they visited Hyde Park Barracks on Thursday. Students learnt about the experiences of male convicts who lived in the barracks between 1819 and 1848. They learnt about the personal experiences of individual men and boys who were housed there. Students also tried out the hammocks, handled leg-irons and learnt about some of the other punishments the men faced if they broke the rules. Students were then issued with a shirt marked with the board arrow and got a taste of convict work by laying some bricks. The students then explored the different parts of Hyde Park, the oldest public parkland in Australia. This included visiting the ANZAC War Memorial, the Archibald fountain, Captain Cook’s Statue, Sandringham Gardens, the Obelisk and many more of the park’s monuments.

Mr Smith
The Year Ahead in Primary

Primary SRC were presented with their badges at 3-6 Assembly last week. We look forward to their efforts in bringing about many positive changes in the upcoming year.

The executive staff and teachers have spent many hours planning for a great year of learning and wonderful new experiences. Excursions are beginning to be booked and the calendar is filling up quickly. Once excursions and dates are approved, these are being loaded into our Skoolbag App - be sure to download this onto your phone by searching for “Australian Islamic College of Sydney” on your phone.

Cameron Warne

School Chaplaincy Program

As stated in our previous newsletter, we are pleased to offer Chaplaincy services for all College students. Under the guidance of our Chaplain Professor Kamal, the Program aims to support the emotional and spiritual wellbeing of our students. The Chaplain will be available Monday-Friday during the following times: 8.30-9.30am and 2.30-3.30pm.