



## AUSTRALIAN ISLAMIC COLLEGE OF SYDNEY

### Newsletter

33 Head corn St Mt Druitt NSW 2770

Phone: 9677 2613 Fax: 9677 2648

[info@aics.nsw.edu.au](mailto:info@aics.nsw.edu.au)

From the Principal

Assalaamu Alaikum Warahmatulahi Wabarakatu

Dear Parents,

The second semester of 2017 is well under way now and the students and staff have settled completely into the routine of the school. Like the first semester, this semester has two terms – the third and fourth terms. The third term will end on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2017. The fourth and final term will begin on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October and end on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2017.

#### NAPLAN Results

The NAPLAN 2017 results are expected to be announced by the middle of this month. The individual student results are issued to students as soon as they are available. All parents are requested to check their child's results. If you have any difficulties understanding the results, please feel free to contact your child's teacher.

#### Year 12 Graduation Ceremony 2017

A graduation ceremony will be held on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2017 to mark the end of secondary schooling for the Year 12 students. An invitation will be sent to all parents and guardians of Year 12 to attend the ceremony.

#### School Fees

All parents and guardians are reminded that the school fees for the third term of 2017 are now overdue. Please ensure third term fees and any fees in arrears are paid as soon as possible.

#### Procedures for Parents' Visit to School

I would like to remind parents that they are welcome to discuss their children's progress in school work and other relevant issues with the school. However, in order to do this certain procedures have to be observed. These are listed below:

1. Ring the school office to make an appointment to see the class teachers, the Assistant Principals or the Principal.

The teachers are available after school from 3.30 p.m.

2. Report to the office staff on your arrival at the school.

3. The office staff will inform the teacher of your arrival and the Assistant Principal or the teacher will come to the front office to see you as soon as it is convenient.

4. Parents are not expected to enter the classroom at any time without prior permission from the Principal or Assistant Principal.

5. The Assistant Principal and Principal are able to see you at scheduled appointment times during the day.

Please note that parents and carers are not expected to come to school to see the teachers or senior executive staff without prior appointment as this interferes with their work and disrupts children's learning.

Any parents, guardians and relatives who arrive during recess and lunch times are not expected to approach the children directly in courtyards. They must report to the office and the office staff will fetch the children for them. These measures are put in place in accordance with the Child Protection and Duty of Care policies of the school and for the safety and welfare of children and teachers.

### Year One Newsletter Contribution

This term, Year One are learning about narratives. The students have learnt how to retell a well-known narrative, write an alternate ending for a narrative and write their own narrative with an orientation, complication and resolution. Students in 1A were asked why they enjoy learning about narratives and here were their responses.

Question: What do you like most about learning about narratives?

"I like learning about narratives because it is good for us" - Maleeha Ali

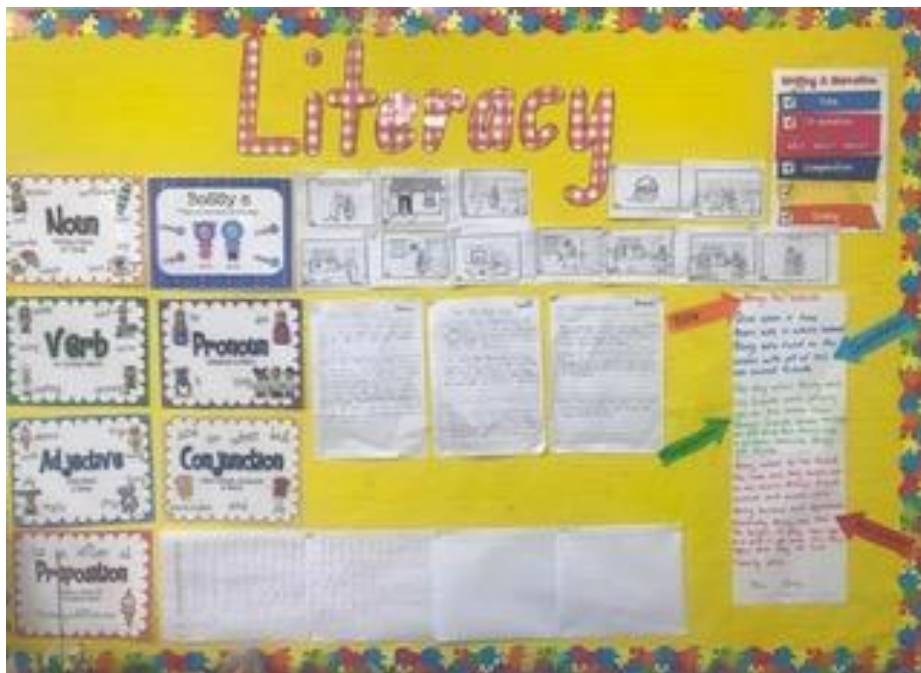
"Because it makes me learn and I can tell my family about the stories"- Kiran Baig

"I like reading narratives because the stories are amazing"- Sabrina Abbasey

"I love narratives because the stories are good"- Ibrahim Iqbal

"I like learning about narratives because I like them"- Safiyya Hidayat

"I like narratives because they are fun and the characters are cool" – Zubair Khan



## A word from our Assistant Principal (Secondary) Use of Technology at Home

Every year teachers grapple with various forms of bullying in our college. In response we have had policy discussions, professional learning, undertaken surveys, implemented programs and sought expert advice. The bullying is both online and in person. I have read multiple texts and online articles about banning the tools; mobile phones, iPads and social media. The latest article I read was a principal's response to his school community's request to do just that - ban technology.

"The answer to ending bullying or misuse of social media is not to ban it ... what we need to do is talk about the behaviours that are unacceptable," he said. "These problems are not new. They've been around in other forms with paper and pencils and pens, but we don't ban those tools. So why would we ban cell phones? As adults we must model the correct way to use tools such as cell phones to connect with the world and learn."

Many issues that I deal with are as a result of students having access to their iPads and mobile phones late at night. An expert has advised our parents/carers that allowing your children access to technology after lights out was akin to dropping them off at one end of the Elizabeth Street Mall at 2:00am and collecting them at the other end an hour later. As parents we just wouldn't do it as it would be too dangerous! You would not know who they might bump into. An option might be to turn off WIFI access at a certain time each night and therefore not allow your child to have online access into the early hours.

Parents/carers and schools must set clear rules and expectations for children to use technology, enforce those rules and support each other in their application. It may be worth considering limits to be imposed not only on the times your children may access their devices but also the degree of privacy allowed in relation to such access. Passwords and PIN numbers should be given to parents. Parents should let it be known that they will require access to their children's devices occasionally. The use of devices behind locked doors may be considered inappropriate.

Kidspot advises that, 'While teachers have an important role to play in fostering online skills, it really is the parents who are most responsible for shaping their child's digital footprint. Real-world social skills are formed relatively early in a child's life, and similarly social media skills are best learned through observation and modelling of behaviour from their parents.'

<http://www.kidspot.com.au/how-to-role-model-positive-online-behaviour-to-your-kids/> - 24 July 17

We have your child's best interests at heart and want everyone to feel supported and nurtured.

**Zulqarnan Malik**  
**Assistant Principal Secondary**

### News from AICS Library

**NSW Premier's Reading Challenge** is coming to an end for 2017. The closing date to submit entry forms is 25<sup>th</sup> August. Students must submit their entry forms to their respective library before 25<sup>th</sup> August. Alternatively, if you have a user name and password please log on to the following website and make your entries.

<https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html>

**Book club** catalogues for Issue 5 2017 are also available for students in both libraries. Book Club provides a great opportunity for students to read and keep their favourite books. We would like to encourage our students to keep reading their favourite books as this enhances their literacy skills significantly. Books from these catalogues can be purchased online and it also supports the school library to get some new books for students.

<http://www.scholastic.com.au/schools/bookclub/assets/pdfs/bc517.pdf>

**Shamyla Anjum**  
**Teacher Librarian**

Just some of the **EXCITING** new titles on Issue 5!



GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP DAY & SCIENCE WEEK

## **FUTURE EARTH**

AUSTRALIAN ISLAMIC COLLEGE OF SYDNEY

---

**22<sup>ND</sup> AUGUST 2017**

9.00AM-11AM – ASSEMBLY FOR STUDENTS AND GUESTS  
2.30 PM-4.00PM – EXHIBITION OPEN TO PARENTS

**“APPRECIATE EARTH EVERY DAY BEFORE IT’S TOO LATE”**

---

National Science Week is Australia’s annual celebration of science and technology and thousands of individuals. The theme for this year’s Science Week is ‘Future Earth’ and it aligns with United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals. The future of our Earth depends upon the future of our citizens. Global citizenship educates and prepares young people for their role in a modern world. This begins with an exploration of different cultures, languages and economies. Crucially, active global citizens care about the world they live in, and take action to support causes that have a positive impact for other communities and future generations.





## **Year 9 NAPLAN results and the HSC minimum standard Message from NESA**

### **HSC minimum standard required to receive the HSC from 2020**

Literacy and numeracy skills are the foundation for success in life after school. This is why eligibility for the HSC is changing. From 2020, students will need to show they have the basic literacy and numeracy skills needed to complete everyday tasks.

### **Your child will have a number of opportunities from Year 9 to Year 12, and even after the HSC to show they meet the HSC minimum standard**

Some students will meet the requirement early through their Year 9 NAPLAN results in reading, writing and numeracy. However, most students will show they meet the standard by passing short, online reading, writing and numeracy tests in Years 10, 11 or 12.

### **Year 9 NAPLAN reports available in mid-August**

Your child's Year 9 NAPLAN report will indicate which online HSC minimum standard test/s (if any) they will need to pass to be eligible for the HSC certificate. Remember your child has three more years of learning before the HSC and can take the HSC minimum standard online tests in Years 10, 11 or 12. Year 9 NAPLAN is a good chance to check they are on track or get support to meet the minimum standard by Year 12.

If your child has achieved a Band 8 or above in reading, writing or numeracy, the NAPLAN report will indicate that they have "Met the HSC minimum standard early" in the respective area/s.

School newsletter copy July 2017 1 of 2

### **Your child can sit the online HSC minimum standard tests when they are ready**

There are three separate 45 minute online tests: reading, writing and numeracy. Students don't have to pass all three tests at once and can attempt each test up to twice a year.

The reading and numeracy tests each contain a maximum of 45 multiple choice questions.

The writing test will require students to respond to a question about a prompt or stimulus. You can try some sample reading and numeracy questions at

<https://hscliteracynumeracy.nesa.nsw.edu.au/> **For more information visit**  
[www.educationstandards.nsw.edu.au](http://www.educationstandards.nsw.edu.au)

### Youthink Magazine Launch

On Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> August proud AICS students attended the launch of the 2017 edition of *Youthink* Magazine in a celebration held at Lakemba Mosque. The magazine is the culmination of 5 weeks of planning, writing and editing articles on a range of issues.

The pieces were developed as part of the *Write it Out* Program, run by the *Lebanese Muslim Association*, which saw over 30 students, from 5 schools, write over 30 articles, in 5 weeks. AICS was proud to be a part of this ambitious project.



From Sarah Majeed's moving piece on discrimination, to Shawana Anwar's commentary on women in the workforce, all students involved produced exceptional pieces of writing.

Now, as published authors, student voices will be heard well beyond the school grounds. Copies of the magazine will be placed in the NSW Parliament and the State Library of NSW. Politicians can read Areeba Iqbal's thoughts on representations of Muslims in the media. Shagufta Nasir and Laiba Farooqi's reflective and insightful pieces will also reach many readers in the community.

If you would like to read students' work, a copy of the magazine is available in the AICS Secondary School Library.



**Miranda McCallum**  
Head of English Department