



AICS Connect

AUSTRALIAN ISLAMIC COLLEGE OF SYDNEY NEWSLETTER

10th March 2023



aicsnsw

Principal's Corner

As Salaam Alaikum Warahmatullah Wabarakatu

We are now midway through the first term. It is pleasing to note that a majority of our students, including the new comers, have become used to the school routine and culture. A majority of the students come to school on time and properly dressed in school uniform. The overall student behaviour is very good this year. Moreover, a majority of students have adopted a positive attitude towards school work. These are all signs of an excellent start of the 2023 academic year and good things to come despite teacher shortages and some timetabling issues faced in the secondary school in the first two weeks.

My sincere appreciation goes to 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 and achieve excellent outcomes.

Parent Information Evenings

The AICS held parent information evening earlier in the term for both primary and secondary school parents. These events were organised to provide parents 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 the parents and their enthusiasm have been encouraging with a large number of the parents attending. This is evidence of 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. The parents and guardians who have not been able to attend the sessions are asked to make appointments to see the teachers between 3.40 and 4.00 pm from Monday to Thursday if they need to see them regarding their children's education.

NAPLAN 2023

The dates of NAPLAN test has changed this year, and will be held between **15th March - 27th**

March 2023. The school has implemented several strategies to prepare students well for the NAPLAN tests. Parents are requested to ensure students do sufficient revision work at home and report to school for the tests.

Ramadan

The month of Ramadan - the month of blessing and mercy is starting soon. A Ramadan assembly will be held prior to the starting of the month. A special Ramadan Newsletter will be issued soon to provide further details about school finishing times.

Students Attendance

The Education Act (1990) (Education Act) states that Children of compulsory school-age are required to be enrolled in, and attend, the school regularly and punctually. In line with this Act the AICS requires all children 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 about the child's **absence and reasons for the absence** between 8.00 am and 8.30 a.m. On returning to school after the absence the child should bring a note from parents explaining the absence.

When a child needs to be absent for reasons other than illness, parents need to fill in a form (obtainable from the school website), requesting for leave from the Principal at least a month in advance. The Principal will consider the request and convey his decision to the parents. Please note that this procedure needs to be strictly followed.

From 2015, under changes to the government legislation, any family holiday taken during term time **is not permitted** unless there are exceptional and unavoidable circumstances as defined by the criteria below:

- misadventure or unforeseen event
- domestic necessity such as serious illness of an immediate family member
- attendance at funerals of immediate family

members.

The College has the delegated ministerial authority under section 25 of the Act **not to permit** leave to students without unexpected and unavoidable circumstances mentioned above.

Therefore, parents are strongly advised **not to plan take children on holidays during the school terms**. Leave requests for general holidays or travel related to holidays are not granted during term time and applications for such leaves should not be made.

Long absence from school results in children missing considerable amount of school work. This adversely affects their learning and academic progress when they return to school.

The Years 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 preventing them from appearing for HSC examinations. All parents and guardians are requested to read the 'Student's Leave Policy' sent to you recently and follow the directives contained in it.

I am looking forward to the cooperation and support of all parents and guardians in developing a highly rigorous and disciplined school culture at AICS built upon scholarship, integrity and excellence.

Wassalam,
Dr Imam Ali

Head of Primary School

Mrs. Suzy Lal

Dear Parents and Guardians,

This term has been extremely busy for the Primary School. Over the past five weeks our students have been doing amazing work in all areas of learning. Kindergartens have settled in their classes and we can't believe how much they have learnt already. I would like to encourage all parents to read with their children daily to help them develop their reading skills.

Attendance

Attendance summary letter has been sent to all the parents whose children have been absent or coming late to school frequently. Please read the information carefully, sign the letter and send it back to the class teachers as soon as possible.

Cyber Safety

Our young children require a lot of assistance when using the online apps. They need support with a range of skills including: to interact safely and appropriately with others, to protect themselves and their personal identity, searching skills and reporting to an adult when they feel unsafe or uncomfortable.

Most of the social media apps are not approved for **children under 13 years old**, however I know many of our students frequently use these apps, **including Tick Tock, Instagram, Snap Chat (and many others).**

The eSafety Commissioner has a fantastic website that has a lot of support for parents, children and teachers. If you have visited the website in the past, please revisit it as they are always updating the information and resources. They even have a button for you or your child to report abuse.

[Parents | eSafety Commissioner](#)

Star Student Awards Assembly

Congratulations to the following students for their outstanding effort in class.

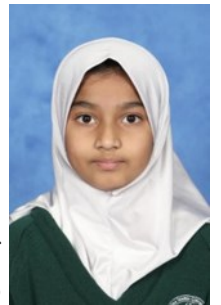




Congratulations to Zaynab Annam Syeda for receiving the Consistent Application Award.

Harmony Day

Harmony Day will be celebrated on 21st March 2023. It is day of cultural respect for everyone who calls Australia home – from the traditional owners of this land to those who have come from many countries around the world. Harmony Day is observed each year to celebrate the diversity, aiming to foster inclusiveness, respect and the idea that people of all different cultures can make a valuable contribution to society. **Students are invited to wear accessories that are orange and bring a gold coin donation.**



Students Lunch

Please ensure your child brings healthy recess and lunch every day. It is compulsory for all students to bring a bottle of water and wear a hat to school. The extreme heat may dehydrate the students.

Kindergarten Excursion

Kindergarten students will be going for an excursion to Calmsley Hill City Farm on Friday 10th March, to see different farm animals in their habitats and participate in a range of activities, such as milking the cow, feeding the sheep, petting baby ducks and chicks.

NAPLAN Exam

NAPLAN exam will be held in March for the first time this year (rather than May). Our Year 3 and Year 5 students will be completing the test from **Wednesday 15th March to Monday 27th March 2023.**

[naplan-information-brochure-for-parents-and-carers.pdf](#)

Here are some things you can do as a parent to make sure your child feels ready for the annual NAPLAN test:

Tips For Handling Test Anxiety

Making sure your child is prepared for the test will help them to feel less anxious about it. There are some other techniques you can use to minimise their anxiety on test day and the days leading up to it, including the following:

Talk to Them About the Test Structure

You can do a lot to assuage your child's test anxiety by talking to them about what to expect from the test. The following are some basic things your child ought to know about NAPLAN:

Questions are multiple choice and short answers;

The **Language Conventions** tests assess your child's ability to spell and use Standard Australian English.

The **Numeracy** tests evaluate their ability to solve problems with and without a calculator (depending on their year)

The **Reading** tests assess their ability to decode words and infer information from a text; it also tests their vocabulary

The **Writing** test assesses your child's ability to appeal to an audience and use proper sentence structure, grammar, and spelling.

- **Ensure Your Child Get a Good Night's Sleep**

It's also essential to ensure your child gets a good night's sleep the night before the test. Ensure they go to bed on time and eliminate screen usage before bed to help them rest well.

- **Stick to Their Normal Routine**

It's best to stick to their regular routine the morning of your test. Encourage them to eat breakfast and do everything they'd typically do. This will help to put them at ease and keep them from getting worked up about the test.

- **Use Positive Language**

When you talk about the test, always use positive language and make sure your tone is encouraging. Talk to your child about the importance of positive thinking and positive self-talk, too.

- **Teach Them Relaxation Exercises**

It might also be helpful to teach your child some relaxation exercises that they can do before they take the test.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS Asthma and Anaphylaxis Plan Updates: Parents whose children have allergies and/or other conditions need to ensure that College records are up to date. If your child is asthmatic or anaphylactic, then he/she must have an Individual Action Plan. Please contact our Office as soon as possible so that your child's Action Plan can be updated.

Primary Star Students

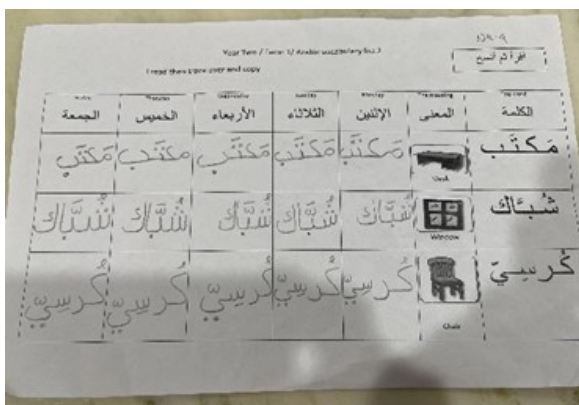
Here is a list of recipients of the Primary Star Student Awards. Congratulations to all our award winners on this fantastic achievement!

Kindergarten			
KA	Aneesah Naboulsi	KB	Malik Noori
KC	Khadijah Thahar	KD	Omer Afzal Khan
KE	Raiyan Islam		
Year One			
1A	Hareem Siddiqui	1B	Ahyan Ibrahim
1C	Nafay Khattak	1D	Rayan Alshammery
1E	Yaminah Shareef		
Year Two			
2A	Liyana Reshin	2B	Abdurrazaq Utomo
2C	Nawaz Hareir	2D	Nuvairah Quazi
2E	Eman Faizan		
Year Three			
3A	Inaya Dawood	3B	Hibbah Batool
3C	Sophia Javed	3D	Alzafir Jinnah
3E	Manha Zaman		
Year Four			
4A	Eshal Zeb	4B	Hassan Usman
4C	Fatima Iqbal	4D	Hamdiyah Zubairy
4E	Aysha Mohmandi		
Year Five			
5A	Zaynab Syeda	5B	Farhan Jamee
5C	Sana Ahmed	5D	Omer Khalidi
5E	Arfa Haroon		
Year Six			
6A	Safa Dayyinah Hermawan	6B	Sameeha Ahmad
6C	Slza Amer	6D	Lingga Nasution
LLI			
Stage 1	Abdullah Moubayed 2D	Stage 2	Ariz Usman 4B
Stage 3	Zaydan Dean 6A		

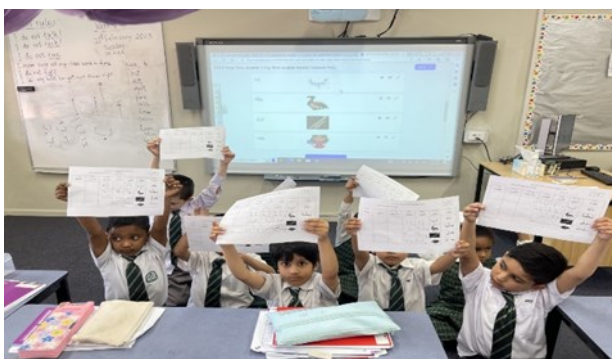
Islamic Studies

Ms Mirvat Alameddine

Teaching! What a rewarding job! How exciting it is to watch our students enjoying learning Arabic and using the Arabic language in class. Students are having fun using Arabic in classroom activities, interacting with the teacher and with each other through pair and group work. In addition, as you know we are using Quizlet: An online learning approach that helps students and their teachers practise and master the Arabic language. The teacher creates class study sets that complement lesson's content with various language games. Quizlet tools are fun, engaging and effective. Students can also consolidate the Arabic they've learned through vocabulary list worksheets with pictures and written examples. Through these tools and many more, we are assisting students in developing their Arabic skills and expressing themselves both orally and in written form.



Sample of writing the vocabulary list
Kaiser – Y2B / Zahra Farough -1C



1B students practiced writing their vocabulary list
after learning their Arabic lesson on Quizlet



Kindergarten little girls practice saying in Arabic

أنا بنت صغيرة

Primary Library

Ms Helen Smith



Library Monitors

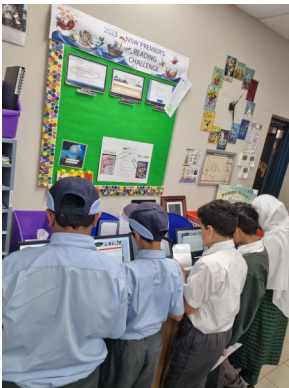
Over 70 students tried out for being a library monitor this year and these are our final 13. These students assist Mrs Smith in making sure our library is the best it can be!

Important Library Dates

- Wk 8: Islamic Book Fair
- Wk 9-10: Ramadan Read-a-thon

Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC)

Again, we step up to take on the PRC! K-2 read 30 books with Mrs Smith in their library lessons. Y3-6 record 20 books they have read and must enter them into the computer to complete their challenge. Check out these awesome students who have already entered their 20 books!

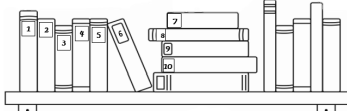


Top PRC class so far...

Year 4	4A
Year 5	5A
Year 6	6B

Ramadan Read-a-thon 2023 K-2

During the month of Ramadan, each time you read an Islamic book, colour ONE in here. Ends 20th April 2023. Can be read independently or listened to. Return your reading record list to Mrs Smith by the end of week 1, Term 2.



Name: _____ Class: _____ How many books I read: _____
Parent signature: _____

Y3-6 Ramadan Reading Record List 2023

During the month of Ramadan, each time you read an ISLAMIC book, write down the MINUTES read under that date, and ask your parent/guardian to sign. Return your reading record list to Mrs Smith by the end of week 1, Term 2.



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
27	28	29	30	31	1 APRIL	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	Total minutes:		

Ramadan Readathon

During the month of Ramadan, our library encourages students to read as many Islamic books as they can! Notes will be sent home **during week 8**. Return your reading record list to Mrs Smith by the end of week 1, Term 2.

Library Bags

All students must bring their library bag on their library day. Students in Y3-6 are also required to have a plastic folder to borrow a library book to keep in the classroom.



New Islamic Books

From our Secondhand Book Sale fundraising last year, the library has purchased a bunch of new Islamic books— just in time for the Ramadan Readathon!!



Kindergarten News

Ms Jennifer Johnston

Hello!

KB has been extremely busy since starting kindergarten this year. We have been learning about the letters S, A, and T and the numbers 1-10. Kindergarten starts every day with a game we call 'cars'. They stand in a line, click on their seatbelts (safety first!), adjust their mirrors, put on their sunglasses, say 'I look fabulous', start their engines, and hold onto their steering wheels. We then drive around the room going over the days of the week as a class, with a beep, beep after Saturday! It is amazing how KB now knows the days of the week – well done KB!

In reading, we can identify how many syllables are in a word. We can also sound out a word and attempt to read it ourselves. We know the cover, title, author, and illustrator of a book and explain that it is important for illustrations to match the text, as it helps us to read unknown words.

We have learned to independently write our names, ensuring that we use a capital letter for only the first letter of our name. We have also discussed topics such as the meaning of 'unique' in Health and explored 'Living Things' in Science.

In art we have learned about Vincent Van Gogh in Art, drawing his sunflowers. As well as doing dot painting, just like the Indigenous Australians.



Year 1 News

Ms Jane Britto

First in English we did a
Recount.....

Which on time connectives
it did mount!

Next for Math Numbers 1
to 50 we can now count
And in History our family
tree was our fount

Then in PE our balance skills we had to give an account
As in Creative Arts our dance moves we did not discount
And finally, in Science our plant life was a surmount.



Year 2 News

Ms Afroza Hossain

Year 2 students are a wonderful bunch of children who are very eager to learn in general. They are already settled in class with a regular routine and have dived into a huge sea of learning.

In Science and Technology, 2B visited the kitchen garden to find out what plants are growing well. They also observed the soil and found out how it looks, feels and smells. After returning to the classroom they created their own sensory map of the soil.



In Mathematics 2B students have been working on Representing Whole Numbers and Combining and Separating Quantities. They are fully engaged in their activities.



Year 3 News

Ms Sema



Year 3 have been busy improving their skills in all key learning areas through experience!

During reading, we have been exploring the concept of connecting the text to our world, ourselves and other texts to further develop our comprehension skills. We

have had to persuade our teachers why we should have ice blocks, why we need our chairs back and many more!

During mathematics we had explored our nature to further understand how mathematics is all around us while also, preparing for NAPLAN that will commence week 7.

Students in year 3 have been very engaged in their learning and are getting ready for their assessments.

Mashallah, they have all settled in and understand their routine and expectations of them as upper primary.



Year 4 News

Ms Shantha Clement

It was certainly pleasing and encouraging to see all students in 4B settling into their class routines and starting off Term 1 with great enthusiasm and positivity. Students have been provided with opportunities to access the school's ICT facilities such as laptops and iPads to carry out and complete research-based tasks and engaging activities while showing great commitment and a willingness to learn and improve. This term, students have been taking part in T-ball for sport, and have been learning new skills such as striking, throwing and catching. They have been showing great improvement in sport each week. It is great to see students supporting each other and showing sportsmanship.

This term, students will be introduced to a range of topics within each Key Learning Area and will be participating in a variety of learning activities to enrich their learning. These activities will involve research-based tasks, group work, independent work and hands-on activities. It is also gratifying to see students setting their achievable learning goals for the year. We all look forward to an exciting year ahead!

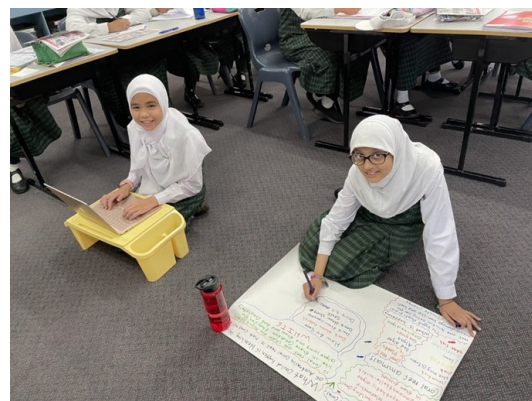


Year 5 News

Ms Inass Khoder

Year 5 have been busy bees indeed throughout the past few weeks of Term 1! I believe it is fair to say that they have successfully settled into Year 5 and into their new classrooms.

They have recently been preparing for exams and participating in research throughout the subjects of Science and History. They are developing independent skills and seem to be enjoying their new found confidence in their research skills.



Physical Education is always one of the favourite subjects for our students, and as you can imagine, particularly the boys! They have thrived in their

batting and throwing skills' practice and find great enjoyment in spending time outdoors.



As for Music, I cannot even begin to express my absolute surprise at seeing the students play tunes on their recorders at every opportunity they got! Before school, recess, lunch and after school. At this rate, we will have students playing for the Australian Orchestra in no time!

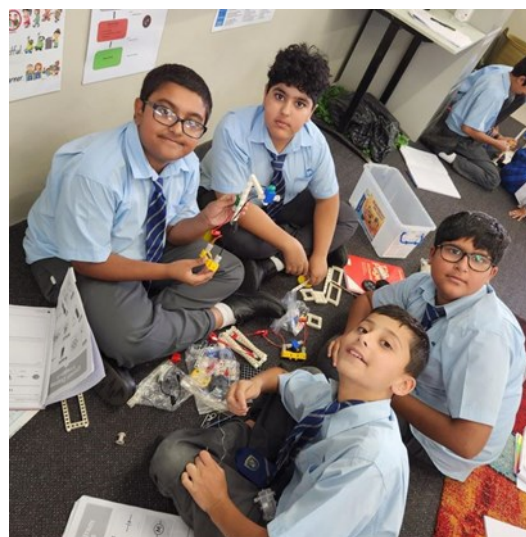
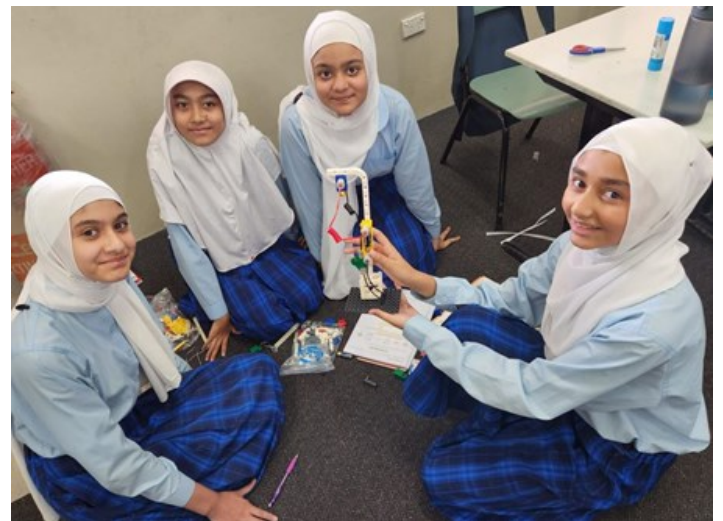


Year 6 News

Ms Mursal Rahimzada

The last couple of weeks at AICS have been full of fun adventurous learning for year 6. In our Science topic for term 1 students have learnt all about forces, energy electricity and circuits. Students created a video based on their understanding of contact and non-contact forces as well as demonstrating real life examples of this in their videos.

Beyond all this they have enjoyed our topic of circuits more than anything else. For many students it was their first-time exploring circuits and learning the concepts involved to building a real-life, working circuit as well as drawing their circuits using the correct scientific diagrams. They are super excited to create and build their very own circuits in the weeks to come.



Secondary Library

Ms Shamyla Anjum

Premiers Reading Challenge 2023

The PR challenge aims to encourage a love of reading for pleasure in students, and to enable them to experience quality literature. It is not a competition but a challenge to each student to read and to read more widely. The Premiers' Reading Challenge (PRC) is open to all students from Year 7 to 10. Challenge opened on **Monday the 27th of February 2023** and will close on **Friday 18th August**.

Students will participate in Library information session to receive updates on PRC and how to use the PRC website to enter online. You can also use a reading log to keep a record of your books. This reading log is available at your school library and will also be given in your library sessions.



NSW Department of Education
2023 NSW Premier's Reading Challenge
Start reading now!

www.premiersreadingchallenge.nsw.edu.au

Key dates for students in K-10:
Challenge opens Monday 27 February
Challenge closes for student entries Friday 18 August



Students can also read ebooks on SORA website by using their student ID to borrow ebooks. You can also access Blacktown library website and read ebooks by using your Public library card number to access a huge number of resources.



Secondary Library

Ms Shamyla Anjum

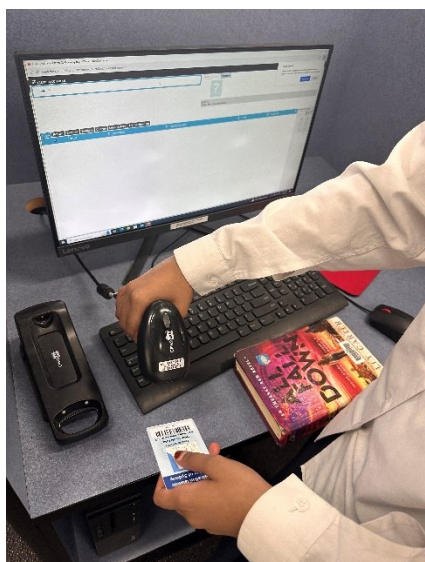
Ramadan Readathon 2023

Ramadan Readathon will be starting with the holy month of **Ramadan on 24th March**. To participate in this challenge, Students will need to read at least 10 Islamic books during the month of Ramadan. All students in Year7- 12 are encouraged to take part in this challenge. Students can borrow books from AICS library or read from their own collection (**age appropriate books**) or online books on **SORA application** using their student ID. A letter to the parents and reading log will be sent closer to the start of Ramadan.

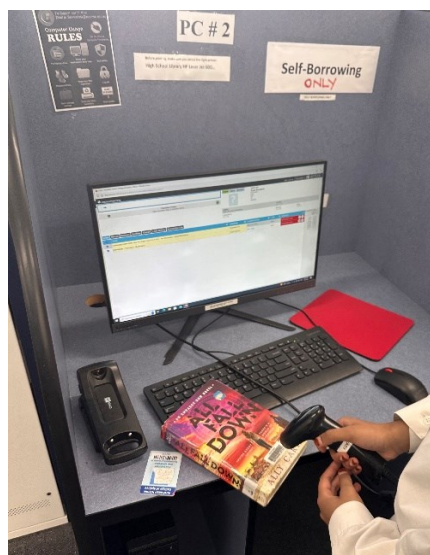


Borrowing at the library :

Students can borrow from school library at recess and lunch time or morning time between 8.10-8.25am. Students are encouraged to use their student ID cards for borrowing so they can use the self-borrowing system. I will be available to help in case if anyone need assistance. So don't forget to keep your school ID card in your bag. Make sure when borrowing a book scan your ID card first, then you scan the **AICS barcode** on the book.



Scanning your ID card first



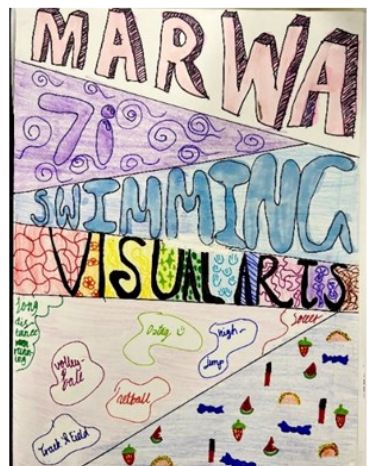
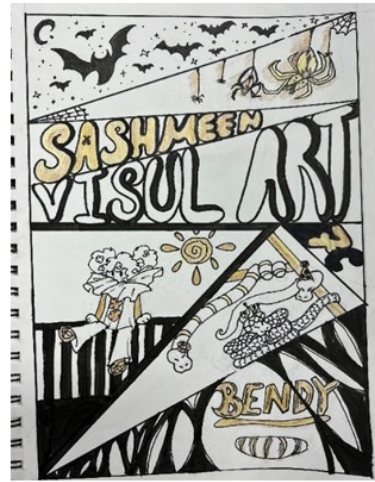
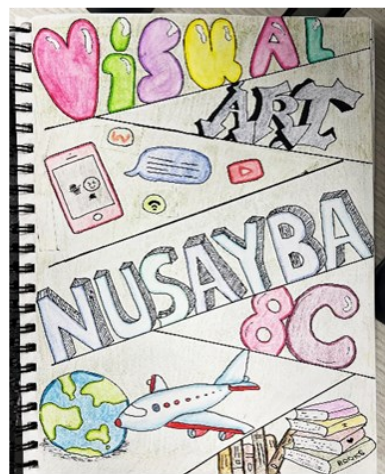
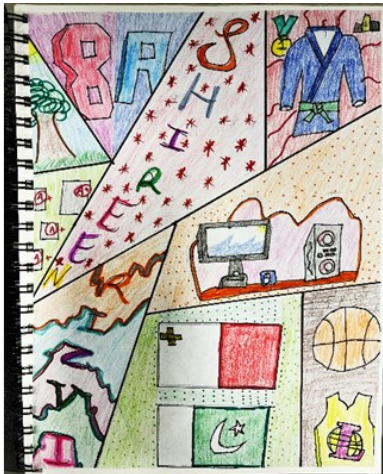
Scanning the book

Visual Arts Department

Ms Sandy Auduong

From week 4-10, the students will be working on their assessment task within class time. Based on the **subjective, cultural and structural** frames to explore the 2023 science week theme 'Innovation: Powering Future Industries'. The Futurist art movement and sub-genre SteamPunk will be studied to highlight how artists and audiences use community identities and social perspectives to make and respond to art. Students will be completing a collage using at least three types of water colour techniques. Students will be exhibiting the completed artwork in the school hall during Science week 2023.

This week's student drawing examples come from 8A, 8C, 7I, 7C and 7S.



HSIE Department

Mr Petre Bichescu

We have hit the ground running in the HSIE Department for 2023! There are so many wonderful initiatives in the works behind the scenes that we are all very excited about. The HSIE Team for 2023 consists of **Ms Aamina Younis, Ms Fatema Faqeery, Ms Mariam Oganessian, Mr Rovindra Deo, Ms Tayyibha Hussein, Ms Waseema Jahan** and **Ms Zuhra Hashimi**. This flexible and versatile team bring a wealth of experience with them to the College. We are all looking forward to a successful year. We have also recently had Ms Demetria Dixon leave us to go on maternity leave, we wish her and her family all the very best with their new bundle of joy.

The HSIE Department offers a variety of subjects across all stages in the Secondary school. **Geography** and **History** are offered to all students in Years 7 to 10, **Commerce** and **Work Education** is offered for Year 9 and 10 elective students, and students in Years 11 and 12 have a variety of options including **Ancient History, Business Studies, Economics, Legal Studies, Society and Culture** and **Studies of Religion**.

Term 1 2023 – HSIE Subject Focus

- **Year 7 Geography** – students are investigating features and characteristics of places across a range of scales that support and enhance people's wellbeing such as community identity, environmental quality and access to services and facilities.
- **Year 8 History** - Students investigate a range of depth studies from the end of the ancient period to the beginning of the modern world (c. 650–1750 ad). During this period, major civilisations around the world came into contact with each other.
- **Year 9 Geography** - Students examine the physical characteristics and productivity of biomes. Students examine the correlation between the world's climatic zones and spatial distributions of biomes and their capacity to support food and non-food agricultural production.
- **Year 9 Commerce** - Students learn how to identify and research issues that individuals encounter when making consumer and financial decisions. They investigate laws and mechanisms that protect consumers including the process of consumer redress.
- **Year 9 Work Education** - provides students with opportunities to develop knowledge and understanding of the world of work, including its dynamic and diverse nature. Students prepare for the working world by developing an understanding of the roles of education, training and employment, and an appreciation of the role of lifelong learning in career development and managing transitions.
- **Year 10 History** – students are investigating the impacts of the Industrial Revolution including mass movement of people through voluntary and involuntary migration. The unit will look into convict and settler experiences.
- **Year 10 Commerce** - Students develop an understanding of the importance, and features of, the economic environment, including markets. They explore the nature, role and operation of businesses in the context of an increasingly globalised economy.

HSIE Department

Mr Petre Bichescu

- **Year 11/12 Ancient History** - This course provides students with opportunities to develop and apply their understanding of methods and issues involved in the investigation of the ancient past. Through archaeological and written sources, students study of a range of features, people, places, events and developments of the ancient world.
- **Year 11/12 Business Studies** - This course provides students with opportunities to develop an understanding of how theoretical and practical aspects of business combine. Students study contemporary business issues through case studies and apply their knowledge to problems encountered in the business environment.
- **Year 11/12 Economics** - This course provides students with opportunities to learn about the challenges and issues in a contemporary Australian economic context. Students develop their analytical, problem-solving and communication skills to make informed judgements about economic issues.
- **Year 11/12 Legal Studies** - This course provides students with opportunities to develop their knowledge and understanding of the nature and functions of law and law-making, the development of Australian and international legal systems, the Australian constitution and law reform. Students investigate the key areas of law, justice and human rights through a variety of focus studies which consider how changes in societies influence law reform.
- **Year 11/12 Society and Culture** - This course provides students with opportunities to develop social and cultural literacy and understand how interactions shape human behaviour. Drawing on cross-disciplinary concepts and social and cultural research methods, students undertake research in an area of particular interest to them and present their findings for external assessment in the Personal Interest Project (PIP).
- **Year 11/12 Studies of Religion** - This course provides students with opportunities to develop their understanding and critical awareness of the nature and significance of religion and the influence of belief systems and religious traditions on individuals and within society.

This is an exciting year for all our prospective Geographers, Historians, Entrepreneurs, Sociologists and Lawyers. The HSIE Department is looking forward to all the wonderful achievements that our students will produce. If you have any questions or concerns throughout the year, please feel free to contact your child's teacher or myself

(petre.bichescu@aics.nsw.edu.au). We are keen to work collaboratively with students and parents to achieve the best education outcomes possible.