Immaculate Heart College

Through Mary to Jesus: “The Way, the Truth and the Life”
John 14:6

COLLEGE NEWSLETTER 1

February, 2012

Message from the Directors of the College
Last week saw the wonderful and very positive start to Immaculate Heart College. This is a dream come true for us as Directors, for we have all prayed and worked very hard to establish the College. What seemed like insurmountable obstacles at times, have all been overcome through the grace of God and the intercession of Our Lady and St Joseph. Immaculate Heart College will provide the students with every opportunity to reach their full potential in all the Learning Areas. We are very fortunate to have Doctor Evangelinou-Yiannakis and a committed team of teachers. This augurs well for a very successful year!

Message from Father Paul Fox
On Wednesday, the first day of school, we began by singing a little morning offering to God with the students. This offering is sung by each class at the beginning of the school day. In addition to this, we began the Virtue for the Month - Manners and Respect. This virtue will be taught across the Learning Areas and parents will have the opportunity to teach this also in the home with some useful resources provided.

The Religious Education programme: ‘To Know, Worship and Love’ will be used in the College. It is the programme approved by Cardinal Pell. Two Religious Sisters from the Missionary Congregation of Mary (MCM); Sisters Teresita and Ramona, will be arriving from the Philippines soon and they will be coordinating the Religious Education and Virtues programmes, and preparing the children for the Sacraments. We celebrated our First Mass for the students and staff in the College Chapel on Friday. The students were complimented on their good manners and respect during the Mass. This was a great start for the year!

Message from the Principal
Dear Parents, Guardians and Friends of Immaculate Heart College

Welcome to the readership of the College’s Inaugural Newsletter! It is anticipated that the College Newsletter will be disseminated three times a term (start, middle and end), and that it will eventually be distributed electronically for environmental reasons. For the time being, however, and until our electronic database is established, the Newsletter will be sent home in hard copy via the students (the eldest where there are siblings).

Information included in the College Newsletter will be relevant to the day-to-day operations of the College, covering important past and upcoming events as well as the dissemination of messages to parents and the wider community. In time, the College
Newsletter will also include work samples from students, along with relevant photographs. On this, the Class Teacher’s letters, which have already been disseminated by hand, ask parents to state if they do not wish for their child’s photograph to be included in school or wider publications. As we have not heard from any parents regarding this matter, we have assumed that there are no objections.

Parents/guardians, as you will see from this and forthcoming publications, a great deal of effort goes into the preparation of the College Newsletter. Hence, you are asked kindly to **PLEASE READ EVERY SECTION** so as to be fully informed of events at your child’s school.

**College Contact Number**
Currently, the only contact number for Immaculate Heart College is: 9571 8158. Eventually, the number for Reception will be: 9571 8135. If you wish to speak to the Principal, please ask for your call to be transferred.

**Introduction of College Staff**
The number of staff members at the College has grown as we now have two Temporary Education Assistants while we wait for Sister Teresita and Sister Ramona to return from the Philippines. We also have a Caretaker; Mrs Cheryl Falconer. Listed below are the members of staff at IHC:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Father Paul Fox</td>
<td>Parish Priest, Director, Chair of College Board, Religious Education Teacher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Doris Anastasiades</td>
<td>Director, College Board Member, Education Assistant, Music Teacher, Receptionist (Interim)</td>
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<td>Dr Angela Evangelinou-Yiannakis</td>
<td>Principal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sister Teresita Salapang Sajelan, MCM</td>
<td>Deputy Principal, Education Assistant</td>
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<td>Sister Ramona Fabe Pandan, MCM</td>
<td>Education Assistant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Sangeeta Pudhota</td>
<td>Bursar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs Cathy Byrne</td>
<td>Kindergarten Teacher</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Marie Laundy</td>
<td>Education Assistant (Kindergarten)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miss Mary-Therese Clark</td>
<td>Pre-primary/Year One Teacher</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs Kelly Carson</td>
<td>Education Assistant (Pre-primary)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr Darryl Phillips</td>
<td>Year Two/Year Three Teacher</td>
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**Open Day (Sat 21 January 2012)**
On Saturday 21 January, from 10am to 2pm, our College had its first Open Day. This was a significant occasion as it not only attracted families that have already enrolled their children
in the College, it also attracted other interested local and wider community visitors, many of whom showed considerable interest in the school and its ethos. In fact, some of these families took enrolment forms home for their young children (not yet of school age).

The success of the day can be attributed largely to a small but very dedicated group of people who are thanked collectively in this Newsletter but who have been acknowledged individually as well. Without their initiative, drive, and enthusiasm, not to mention hard work in the lead-up to the event as well as on the day; Open Day would not have eventuated. This is because the Directors, School Board, Staff and I were extremely busy with preparations for the start of the academic year. Having said this, the teachers; Mrs Cathy Byrne, Miss Mary Clark, and Mr Darryl Phillips made special trips to the school during their holidays to prepare their classrooms for Open Day. And, as all those who were here would agree, the classrooms were a shining example of the fresh and exciting educational journey that all children will experience at Immaculate Heart College. A heartfelt thanks, therefore, also goes to the teachers of our school.

Registration of the College
I am particularly proud to report that Immaculate Heart College has been successful in becoming a Registered Educational Provider. This means that the College has met all of the necessary requirements needed for a new school. Registration will be for one year only as this is common practice with new schools. Therefore, at the end of 2012, the College will undergo the Registration process again to ensure that all is in place so that a longer time-frame for Registration can be offered (usually 3 to 4 years).

Unfortunately, we have experienced some set-backs with the carpentry but these are being addressed. Also, for the complete safety of the children, we have secured temporary fencing around the ramps and platform areas of the College until such time as the railing has been completed. In this regard, we thank all of the children and parents/guardians for their patience and understanding.

Professional Learning for Staff and Letter from the Minister of Education
The academic year began for the teachers and for me with a Professional Learning (PL) day on matters relating to the Australian Curriculum (AC). As you are aware, the College is offering Phase 1 of the AC in 2012; that is, English, Mathematics, Science and History (in part). While the teachers and I are familiar with the curricula for these Learning Areas, a refresher course was necessary to update us all on recent developments.

The PL, which was organised by the Association of Independent Schools of WA (AISWA), of which we are a member school, was excellent in that it provided us all with the necessary background and documentation required to commence the year in confidence where the new national curriculum is concerned.

Confirmation that we are on the right pathway came via a letter from the Minister for Education (30/1/12) wherein Dr Elizabeth Constable stated the following:

_As you know, an important consideration has been the timing of the introduction of the Australian Curriculum. Over the last two years I have insisted on a cautious approach by waiting until we have the full package of materials available before expecting you to begin implementation in your school. These materials became available only a few weeks ago so, in WA, we will now be ready to start the three-year__
formal implementation period in schools in July 2012 for the Phase 1 subjects of Mathematics, Science, History and English.

First Day
Excitement, nervous anticipation, separation anxiety, trepidation – these are just some of the descriptive words and phrases that could be used to paint a picture of the emotions of the first day of the year at a brand new school; and they don’t just relate to the children! Everyone was eagerly waiting for Wednesday to come along so that the ‘first day jitters’ could become a thing of the past. And this is exactly what happened.

It wasn’t long in the morning before the stunning Immaculate Heart College uniform emerged from family cars, worn by our Kindergarten to Year 3 students. Clinging tightly to parents’ hands whilst holding school books and other items with their free hand, the children made their way to the classrooms to meet their teachers and to settle in. For the most part, the transition from home to school was painless, although many tears and cries could be heard emerging from the Kindergarten room in particular. However, even these dissipated by the time Recess had come around as the children enjoyed playing with the various educational games, drawing, colouring in, and reading. In fact, many of the older students were simply keen to get down to the business of learning!

A wander through the classrooms at various times of the day confirmed that everyone who might have been a little distressed had calmed and that teaching and learning was well underway. The children even experienced their first Religious Education lesson with Father Paul, Mrs Anastasiades and Mrs Howe (visitor from South Australia). By midday, the Kindergarten students were ready to go home and whilst no one complained about that, some showed an eagerness to stay longer in their classroom. As for the older students, one was heard saying to his parents at 3.00pm, “That was the best day ever!” (Ronan Conduit – Year 2). Well, let’s hope that this sentiment will last the whole year through!

Foundation Photographs and Poster
Thankfully, the Foundation Day of Immaculate Heart College has been captured in some exquisite photographs by msp photography, the College’s Photographer. The natural and very beautiful photographs taken during the first few hours of February 1 have been provided to the College to be used in future publications, historical records, publicity and Newsletters such as this one. In addition, msp photography will prepare a poster of all of the Foundation students and staff on Day One, taken on our grassed Playground Area. This poster will then be displayed at Reception for all to see and admire now and in future years when the College grows to a much bigger educational institution than it is at present.

College Uniform and Bags
Thank you to all of the parents who have purchased the College Uniform and College Bag and Library Bag, all items of which are compulsory. I am certain that you will all agree that our students look wonderful as the uniform is very smart and striking. Congratulations are extended to all those who were involved in its design.

Some of the smaller sizes in the sports uniform are not available at present but orders have been placed. Please, however, do have your child try on the next size up as this is sometimes a more appropriate size for growing children.
I have noticed that some children are still wearing inappropriate footwear. Please check the College Handbook and/or the IHC Student Homework Diary for details pertaining to the correct footwear for children in the various year groups.

**Books and IHC Student Homework Diary**

Because we did not have the luxury of time in 2011 to deal with Booklists, I endeavoured to have the booklist items pre-packaged through Wooldridges for every parent’s convenience, ensuring in this way that all students would be fully equipped for the academic year ahead. To this end, I thank all of those parents who have purchased the pre-packaged booklist items, even though the financial outlay may have been more than if items were purchased separately from various providers. In Term 4 of 2012, booklists will be distributed to the students so that parents can determine what items they do or do not need to purchase, saving money where possible and making the order more personalised.

The *IHC Student Homework Diary 2012* has now been distributed to students. This College-specific Diary will serve children from Pre-primary to Year 3 for the entire year in terms of recording Homework, Reading Logs, and other special notices. Furthermore, it will constitute the primary mode of communication between you and the teacher, monitoring thus the progress of your child from day-to-day. Please ensure, therefore, that your child brings his/her Diary home and to school every day, and that good care is taken of it.

**College Fees**

Immaculate Heart College is a low-fee school as the College Fee Schedule, which is attached to this newsletter, will testify. Parents/guardians are urged to attend to the payment of fees as soon as possible. In fact, it is a **condition of enrolment** that the $100 Enrolment Fee is paid before children attend the College. Therefore, if you are one of those families that have yet to pay their Enrolment Fee of $100, please do so as soon as possible.

Our College Bursar, Mrs Sangeeta Pudhota, is at her desk from 9.00am to 3.00pm. Please see Mrs Pudhota for the payment of fees. Also, please note that there are a number of options available for the payment of the annual fees. These include an upfront payment which will attract a 2% discount, term-by-term, monthly, fortnightly or weekly payments. It is important to note also that these options do not attract a penalty. Immaculate Heart College has endeavoured to make the payment of fees as painless as possible for its parent body. If there are any issues regarding the payment of fees, please make an appointment to see to me.

**Incomplete Enrolment Forms**

Parents, a number of Enrolment Forms are incomplete. This includes important details within the Enrolment Form but also attachments such as a copy of your child’s Birth Certificate and Immunisation Record, both of which are legal requirements, as well as a copy of the Baptismal Certificate and past School Reports, where relevant. If you are one of those parents whose Enrolment Form is incomplete, please endeavour to see me in order to update and complete the process. Otherwise, expect to be contacted to the College to provide the required information. Also, as stated previously, the Enrolment Fee of $100 must be paid by all families of the College upon enrolment.
College Resources

Parents, you will be pleased to learn that the College has already secured thousands of dollars’ worth of literacy and numeracy resources in the form of Reading Books, educational games and toys, electronic items such as Interactive Whiteboards, play and other equipment. Furthermore, the teachers are receiving extensive professional development in the following areas: Implementation of the Australian Curriculum and Whole-school Literacy and Numeracy Planning. Therefore, hand-in-hand with the resources purchased already, and resources yet to be purchased, Immaculate Heart College is in a position to offer a high standard of education.

AISWA Grants

I am delighted to report that we have been able to secure a number of grants for the College already. These are directly related to the above-mentioned Professional Learning (PL) opportunities that we are undertaking. The grants secured thus far are: Implementation of the Australian Curriculum at the College, Numeracy Seeding Grant, Literacy Seeding Grant, and Extraordinary Supplementation for Literacy Grant. In total, the grant money received thus far is in excess of $12,000.00. This money will assist us to further embellish the resources of our growing College.

Languages Education

Languages Education (formally known as LOTE – Languages Other Than English) is a compulsory component of the Curriculum Framework and the new Australian Curriculum. This is because there are many virtues to learning a language other than one’s own. Apart from the fact that the study of another language enhances the academic capabilities of learners, the horizons of every child are widened through learning about the language and culture of another country. This helps children to appreciate the many and varied cultural and ethnic backgrounds that exist in Australia but also in all other parts of the world; helping thus to foster a community of understanding (not ‘tolerance’ as this has negative connotations) and fellowship.

Unfortunately, Australia is often referred to as being a ‘mono-lingual country’, not because many different languages are not spoken here (on the contrary, there are many), but mainly because there has tended to be an overriding attitude against the learning of languages. Thankfully, this has changed in recent years and the promotion and endorsement of the teaching and learning of other languages at all schools around the nation has assisted greatly in the change of this attitude.

The introduction of the teaching of a language other than English in a school is at the discretion of the school, so long as it takes place by Year 3 and onwards, and is taught at regular intervals throughout the week and consistently throughout the year. As a Languages Education specialist, and one who has had first-hand experience in the teaching of Modern Greek and French in schools since 1980, I can firmly vouch for the introduction of a language other than English (any language for that matter), as early as possible. This is because children internalise the language much more easily at an early age and are able to use it without hindrance (the clutter of other thoughts as we get older can interfere greatly with the learning of another language).
However, a persistent problem with regard to schools offering Languages Education is the unavailability of suitably-trained teachers. This has been our experience to date in the search for an Italian teacher (the language that we had decided on for the College). Despite heavy advertising through key channels, the distance of the College from the Metropolitan area has interfered with the availability of a teacher for this language.

Ironically, and through no intervention on my behalf, we have had an offer from a Greek-government appointed teacher (free service to the College) to teach Modern Greek to the children three times a week. The teacher concerned, Mr George Anastasiadis (no relation to Mrs Doris Anastasiades – also spelt differently) is a former colleague of mine and a person whom I respect dearly. Mr Anastasiadis has been granted another year of ‘secondment to Australia’ and, as a result, is in a position to offer the students of Immaculate Heart College free tuition in Modern Greek. This will take place every Monday, Tuesday and Friday for children in Pre-primary to Year 3 and on Tuesdays for half an hour for the Kindergarten students. Furthermore, as this is an area of expertise for me, I will be helping to integrate the language throughout the curriculum, ensuring in this way that the children are receiving Languages Education with the best pedagogy possible.

PTA and Dedicated Bus Service
The College has investigated the possibility of a dedicated bus service through the Public Transport Authority (PTA) to cater to surrounding areas where working parents cannot deliver their children to school. If you are interested in a dedicated bus service for your child, please endeavour to collect a form from Reception or download a form from the website: www.schoolbuses.wa.gov.au/Portals/0/sbs/pdf/mainstream%20Application%20Form%200310_v2.pdf
Please complete the form and return the hard copy to Reception. That way, we will be able to determine how many families are interested in the provision of this service. Without commitment to the service, the PTA will not endeavour to start up a dedicated bus service for our College.

On the other hand, if you are in a position where you live more than 4.5kms from the College but can drive your child to school, please complete the section titled ‘Conveyance Allowance’. This will provide you with some financial assistance in the transportation of your child to school.

School Nurse and Health Screening Programme
Our School Nurse, Mrs Christine Pietraszek, has already sent out forms regarding the Health Screening Tests that will be undertaken at the College. To this end, please note the following dates:

**Wednesday 21 March** – Kindergarten Health Screening Test
**Thursday 29 March** – Other Year Levels Health Screening Test

We are grateful to Mrs Pietraszek for this very important service to our school. Early detection of health-related issues in children is paramount to a healthy future.
Fortnightly Whole-school Assemblies
An assembly will be held for the Pre-primary to Year 3 students every fortnight in the shaded courtyard of the College. At these assemblies, the virtue of the month will be discussed, important messages will be disseminated, class items will be performed, and students will be rewarded for good work and behaviour. The first assembly (held on Friday 3rd of February) included a visit to the Chapel where the students learned how to behave during Mass. The next assembly will be held on Friday 17 February at 9.00am. All parents are welcome to attend.

The Future
Parents/guardians, the College Directors, Board, Staff and I are very optimistic about the future of this special school of ours. We continue to receive enquiries about the College and our enrolments are increasing in a steady manner from day to day. We also have considerable support from the authorities; AISWA and DES.

A recent article in The Weekend West (28-29/1/12) confirmed that low-fee schools can in fact achieve great results.

Schools that charge little or no tuition fees were more successful than Perth’s most expensive schools at getting a higher proportion of their students into their first choice of university course. Figures obtained this week from the Tertiary Institutions Service Centre under Freedom of Information laws reveal the proportion of students from each school to be accepted into their preferred university course.

The article goes on to name the low-fee schools that were highly successful in this regard.

However, the best advertising that a school can receive is the positive word-of-mouth comments made by parents regarding their child’s school. Therefore, please spread the word and let’s witness together the growth of Immaculate Heart College!

God Bless!

Dr Angela Evangelinou-Yiannakis
Principal

Messages from the Staff

Kindergarten
We’ve had a wonderful few days in the Kindergarten and Mrs Laundy (Education Assistant) and I have been very impressed with the confident, well-mannered and happy children that have come into our care this year.

Please be reminded that Kindergarten will be running full days as from next week. The children will need to bring in their own packed lunch as well as a piece of fruit for shared Morning Tea. We encourage healthy eating at Immaculate Heart College and are a nut and kiwi fruit aware school. It may be a good idea to pack an ice brick in your child’s lunch box during the hot weather. Please make sure all containers are labelled. There are a few children who still need to bring in a small lounge cushion and towel for rest time after lunch. This term in the Kindergarten the theme is ‘Being Me and Belonging’. As part of this topic we will be talking about ourselves, our families and our homes. If possible, could you please
supply us with the first names of all the members of your child’s immediate family? It would also be greatly appreciated if you could send in a photo (printed on paper preferably) of the front of your home and a close up of the numbers on your letterbox (for our Mathematics programme) by the end of Week Four.

We desperately need people to help us cover all of our beautiful new books in contact. We will supply all of the contact, and the books can be taken home for you to cover at your convenience. If you can spare a few hours to help us in this way, please see me.

Thank you, parents, very much for your co-operation with these matters.

Mrs Cathy Byrne
Kindergarten

Pre-primary/Year 1
Congratulations to the Pre-Primary and Year One students for settling in so well in the first week! Mrs Carson (Education Assistant) and I look forward to a happy learning journey together.

Parents, you are kindly asked to provide your child with a piece of fruit (or salad vegetable) suitable for our ‘Crunch and Sip’ time at around mid-morning, please. Also, please let me know if your child has allergies to any fruit or vegetable. Thank you.

Miss Mary Clark
Pre-primary/Year 1

Year 2/3
The Year 2/3 students have had a wonderful start to the year! They have been learning about the virtue of Respect and have enjoyed their scientific observations of Creepy Crawlies. They were also excited to receive a bundle of new literacy books this week and cannot wait for their electronic projector (one of Perth’s first) to be installed in our classroom this Thursday!

Mr Darryl C. Phillips
Year 2/3
Foundation Day (1/2/12)
SCHEDULE OF FEES 2012

Immaculate Heart College is a low-fee school. Therefore, it is an expectation that all parents/guardians endeavour to pay their College fees in full and on time. These fees do not cover uniform items, books and stationery, excursions, sporting fees or other miscellaneous extras.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Per Year</th>
<th>Per Term</th>
<th>Per Week</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten</td>
<td>$660</td>
<td>$165</td>
<td>$16.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pre-primary to Year 3</td>
<td>$1,200</td>
<td>$300</td>
<td>$30</td>
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Other fees per year

- Amenities: $245
- Building Levy: $100
- Enrolment Fee: $100

Discounts

- Paying all fees upfront attracts a 2% discount
- There is a 10% discount on the fees for the 2nd child enrolled at the College
- There is a 20% discount on the fees for the 3rd child enrolled at the College
- There is a 30% discount on the fees for the 4th child enrolled at the College

Payment of Fees

It is preferred that parents/guardians pay the College fees at the start of the year and in full, attracting thus a 2% discount. However, where this is not possible, parents can pay on a term-by-term or week-by-week basis. Arrangements for such payment options will be made through the College’s Bursar. Fees can be paid by cash, cheque or direct payment (Bursar has details).

Concessions

Families experiencing difficulties in paying the College Fees must make an appointment with the Principal to discuss the matter. Every effort will be made to assist such families in this regard, keeping in mind that the College also has to cover its own operational expenses. However, no child will be rejected for financial reasons. Discussions held on the matters will be done so in the strictest confidence. The Principal will then pass on her recommendation to the College’s Bursar who will make the necessary adjustments to the fees.

Written Notification

Parents/guardians wishing to withdraw their children from the College must give one term’s notice in writing to the Principal in order to receive reimbursement of the unused portion of their fees, where these have been paid in full for the year. Failure to provide advance written notice of intended withdrawal will result in a refund that is less one term’s fees.