COLLEGE NEWSLETTER 4

May, 2012

Message from Father Paul Fox

I would like to congratulate Dr Angela Evangelinou-Yiannakis, all the staff and students on the College ANZAC Day Service. It was very well done and a real credit our College! This term we will begin a Hymn singing period and Benediction in the College Chapel once per week. It will be a good lead up to an important Feast Day on 24th May; Our Lady Help of Christians, Patroness of Australia. We will celebrate this Feast in a special way at the college and it will include a small procession and some treats for the children!

Message from the Principal

Dear Parents, Guardians and Friends of Immaculate Heart College

CHRIST IS RISEN! (Christos Anesti! – In the Greek language)

Term Two commenced on Monday 23 April for both staff and students. On that day, we welcomed new Year 1 student, Hayley Dobbe. On Friday 27 April, we held our Inaugural ANZAC Day Assembly. Since then, there have been 5 more enrolments at the College, the students of which will commence in the next few weeks. There have also been numerous enquiries for next year and beyond. This is a great start to the term and a strong measure of the growing confidence from the local community regarding the progress of the College.

Parents/guardians, I will start my newsletter message by asking you to please READ every section of the College Newsletter so that you are well informed with regard to news and future events of the College, and also with regard to the education that your child is receiving. The College Newsletter is distributed at the start, middle and end of each term. However, parent notes and letters are also distributed on a regular basis through your child’s IHC Student Homework Diary. Please endeavour, therefore, to read these notes and letters as well. Your diligence in this regard is much appreciated.
It is always a joy to hear good news. Congratulations are extended in this regard to Mr and Mrs Green, parents of Noah (Kindergarten) on the birth of their seventh child. May God bless the newborn!

Term Two
Term Two is traditionally one of the hardest working terms of the year with the cooler weather setting in and the lead-up to mid-year formal reporting. The Teacher/Parent/Student Interviews that were held at the end of Term One served to identify both progress (Stars) and areas of need (Wishes) for each student in the school. Parents were then asked to pursue various strategies at home to assist with the achievement of the Wishes. At the College, the teachers are working towards improved performance from each student through more direct and explicit teaching methods. They are also testing learning outcomes in different ways and more than once so as to determine each student’s achievement of these. Further to this, new concepts are also being taught in literacy and numeracy, as well as in all other Learning Areas. The Tutorial System continues to be a strong support for the teachers and their endeavours in terms of improved student outcomes.

Whole-school Approach to Teaching Literacy and Numeracy
During the school holidays, the teaching staff, Mrs Anastasiades, and I met to discuss and plan our whole-school approach to teaching literacy and numeracy at Immaculate Heart College. Following on from input provided through our on-going Professional Learning sessions this year, and after much fruitful discussion, we agreed on specific areas of focus. For the teaching of literacy (English) these are:

- Oral language use in the classroom;
- Teaching the ‘Metalanguage of English’ (explicit teaching of Functional and Traditional Grammar); and
- Promotion of student ownership of learning.

For numeracy (Mathematics), the three areas of focus are:

- Teaching the ‘Metalanguage of Mathematics’ (explicit teaching of the literacy of Mathematics);
- Following the sequence that exists in the teaching of Mathematics (using the Scope and Sequence documents of the Australian Curriculum for Pre-primary to Year 3, and the Scope and Sequence documents of the Curriculum Framework for Kindergarten); and
- Being aware of the ‘Hot Spots’ (ensuring that all students have understood the concepts being taught, especially the more challenging concepts or ‘Hot Spots’).

With an agreed and shared moral purpose, the College is well on its way to developing a whole-school approach that will serve its students well now and in future years. It also guarantees a collegial approach to programming from the staff, ensuring that there is always open dialogue and sharing of ideas to further strengthen the teaching and learning that is taking place at our school.
The Catholic Faith, Virtues, and Tradition

Of course, the focus on teaching the Catholic Faith remains paramount. The *Virtue of the Month* of April was **Perseverance**. Due to the school holidays, this virtue will be pursued into the month of May. May is also a special month because it is dedicated to Mary, the Mother of God. Plans are well underway with regard to celebrations related to this tradition. On Thursday 24 May, the College will celebrate the Feast of Our Lady Help of Christians (Patroness of Australia) with a Procession and Crowning Ceremony of the Statue of Our Lady. Specific information relating to this event will follow in due course. Hence, we are all looking forward with great anticipation to the continued academic, social and spiritual growth that will take place for every child at the College.

Inaugural ANZAC Day Assembly

On Friday 27 April, Immaculate Heart College held its inaugural ANZAC Day Assembly before an audience that included two of the College’s Directors, Father Paul Fox and Mrs Doris Anastasiades, as well as parents, grandparents, and extended family members. All students from Kindergarten to Year 3 were involved in the simple but moving tribute to the ANZAC legend.

Held in the paved courtyard of the College, the well-rehearsed Assembly presented a formal air of reverence for the occasion with polished performances from both the staff and students. The items included an Easter Message and Blessing from Father Paul Fox; an opening address from Year 3 students, Connor Conduit, Trinity Fraser, and Carla Vicedo; a reading of *Psalm 23* from Year 2 student, Lisa Pudhota; and the recital of an original poem about Private Simpson and his donkey from the Pre-primary/Year 1 students. Miss Clark, Mr Phillips and I were involved in various readings which included the moving inscription on the War Memorial at ANZAC Cove, a speech about the significant service provided by the donkey throughout the history of humanity, and a poem relating to the donkey and Palm Sunday.

The highlight of the Assembly was the Wreath-laying Ceremony where, two by two, the students placed a hand-made poppy at the College’s ‘War Memorial’ beneath the Australian Flag. The solemn and respectful manner in which the students executed this important ritual, despite their very young age, was an inspiration to all who witnessed it, adding to the reverent tone of the occasion. *The Ode* was then read by Ronan Conduit and Savannah Zarb from Year 2. As *The Last Post* was played, the Flag was lowered to half-mast.
by Flag Monitor, Connor Conduit. A minute’s silence was observed by all and then the Flag was raised with the playing of The Rouse. The Assembly ended with The Australian National Anthem.

Despite the short week in which to prepare for the Assembly, and the young age of the students, I was thoroughly impressed with the calibre of performance and their exemplary behaviour. Likewise, the effort put in by Mrs Byrne, Ms Laundy, Miss Clark, Mrs Carson, and Mr Phillips regarding the preparation of the poppies, wreaths, original poetry, and the historical background information provided to the students was of a high order, helping to fulfil my expectations of the event.

Successful Ventures of the IHC P&F Association

Congratulations and thanks are extended to the IHC P&F Association for the following successful ventures that have brought money to the College:

1. The Easter Egg Raffle – A total of $574 was raised through the donation and raffle of Easter Eggs at the end of Term One.
2. The ‘2012 IGA Schools’ Wish List’ competition – IHC won first prize ($5,000.00) in the category of most coupons per student. This would not have eventuated without the hard work of a number of members of the P&F Executive, but in particular, Mrs Jillian Westbrook. The results were also published in The West Australian (28/4/12, p. 26)
3. On-going sale of delicious home-made jams and pickles.

Please continue to support the IHC P&F Association in all its ventures as the benefits of these efforts are directed back to the students.

Caritas Australia

A total of $67 was raised through the Free Dress Day held on Friday 30 March. Students donated a gold coin for the privilege of not having to wear uniform on this day. The total also included the money that was donated by the students during the month of March as part of their observance of the Virtue of Secret Sacrifice. A cheque for $67 was sent to Caritas Australia. Thanks are extended to Mrs Cathy Byrne who initiated the Free Dress Day.
College Ramps
Work on the ramps, stairs, platforms and railings of the College, was completed prior to the commencement of Term Two. The workmanship is of a high standard and has served to add a very warm and inviting feel to the College grounds. Above all, it has added the element of safety that was previously missing.

Winter Uniform
The custom-made IHC pocket has been sewn onto all existing girls’ dresses to identify the dress as being part of this College’s uniform. Future stock will now include the pocket. The uniforms also were ready in time for the ANZAC Day Assembly. Parents will be informed as soon as the remainder of the winter uniform items arrive.

School Photo Day
The Photo Day for Immaculate Heart College was on Wednesday 2 May. All students were dressed in their smart winter uniform with attention to hair, shoes and other uniform regulations. The College’s Photographers (msp photography) were very impressed with the organisation of the day which ran smoothly and helped to complete the photographic session on time with minimal disruption to lessons.

Dedicated Bus Service for IHC
All parents who live further than 4.5kms from the College are urged to complete a Public Transport Authority (PTA) form and to submit this to the College. From there, it will be sent to the PTA which is keen to offer us a dedicated bus service but which needs to have a committed group of families first in order to do so. Please collect a form from the Principal.

College Website
Father Paul Fox, Mrs Doris Anastasiades, Mr Johan Rossouw (IT Specialist for IHC), Mr Fred Bewick (Parish website designer) and I met on Saturday 21 April at Immaculate Heart College to discuss the College’s website. After much fruitful discussion, it was decided to develop an interactive website for the College with a Home Page that has a similar ‘feel and look’ to the latest flyer for the College used in holiday ‘Letter Drop’. Mr Bewick has taken away the relevant information and will apply his skills to the designing of a College website.

Languages Education Update
Mr George Anastasiadis has been recuperating from minor surgery. He will return to the College on Wednesday 9 May to continue teaching Modern Greek for two periods per week in Pre-primary/Year 1 and two periods per week in Year 2/3. The students, staff and I look forward to Mr Anastasiadis’ return as he has made a significant impact to the education of the children in a language that is considerably challenging and academic.

As an example of the academic status of the Greek language, it is interesting to note the following announcement in The West Australian on 30 March, 2012.

Classes Return at New School (By Bethany Hiatt)
Australia’s first “classical Christian” school is set to open in WA next year, offering subjects such as Latin, Greek, logic and rhetoric to students from
kindergarten to Year 12, partly in response to the perceived “dumbing down” of modern education. St Augustine’s Classical Christian College has received approval from Education Minister Liz Constable to be established as a school after offering private tutoring to home-schooled students in Middle Swan since 2008. Its website says classical education is experiencing increasing success internationally “in response to the dumbing down of Western education”.

The article goes on to explain that students at the new school will be “tackling Greek” in the high school. In contrast, students at Immaculate Heart College are tackling Greek from Pre-primary onwards and with amazing results!

NAPLAN Testing Dates and Arrangements
Our Year 3 students will commence the National Assessment Program for Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) on Tuesday 15 May with Language Conventions and Writing. Reading is tested on Wednesday 16 May and Numeracy is tested on Thursday 17 May. These tests are held in the morning before Recess so as to maximise the students’ alertness. During the testing, the Year 2 students will be supervised by the other teaching staff of the College so that the Year 3 students are not interrupted in any way during the testing.

Parent Information Evening
A Parent Information Evening is being planned for Week 6 of Term Two (Monday 28 May – to be confirmed) to address the following key areas:
- The College’s areas of focus – Catholic Faith and Academic Excellence
- The focus on Literacy and Numeracy
- Languages Education
- Other
- Question and Answer Session
The evening will also include input from the teachers regarding their approach to the curriculum in their respective classrooms. At the conclusion of this segment, a Catechistic Class will be presented by Father Paul for all present.

The Parent Information Evening will take place in the evening (7pm-9pm) at the Lower Chittering Hall to accommodate working families. A note with details pertaining to the event will be disseminated in due course.

Congratulations to Mrs Kelly Carson!
Mrs Kelly Carson, Education Assistant for the Pre-primary/Year 1 class, has announced her pregnancy (second child). As a result, Mrs Carson will be lessening her working hours at the College as of next week (Week 3) so that she can have more rest. Ms Marie Laundy, Education Assistant for the Kindergarten class, will be taking on the extra two days of EA duties in the Pre-primary/Year 1 class.

Mrs Carson has been an excellent EA for Miss Clark and has developed a strong bond with the children of the class, along with all of the other students at the College. However, it is accepted that Mrs Carson will need more rest as time goes on and that her hours at the College will be reduced. She will remain with us, however, until the arrival of Sister Teresita
and Sister Ramona from the Philippines, after which Mrs Carson’s duties will be shared by the Sisters.

On behalf of the College Community, therefore, I would like to congratulate Mrs Carson and to thank her for the dedicated service that she has provided thus far, and will continue to provide to the College.

Messages from the Staff

Year 2/3
The Year 2/3 Class has had a great start to Term Two! This term we are learning about animals and the students have already completed some activities that categorise animals.

In Religious Education, we are learning about the Resurrection of Jesus. The virtue for the months of April and May is perseverance. We have been learning the connection between Mary persevering through the road that her Son, Jesus, travelled and the difficulties we face in our lives. This provides us with an excellent example of how we should deal with our own lives.

We are also experiencing the technology of aquaponics where fish and vegetables are grown in one system. We are learning about the many benefits of growing food in this environment.

The students have also been editing and then word-processing their Recounts of their holidays during English. The Year 3 students have been preparing for NAPLAN by focussing on the use of persuasive language.

Mr Darryl Phillips
Year 2/3 Teacher

Pre-primary/Year 1
We have begun our ‘Australia’ theme this term by learning about our inspirational heroes, such as Private Jack Simpson and his perseverance to rescue his fellow soldiers during the First World War. This correlates beautifully with our new virtue for April/May: Perseverance. Furthermore, the students recited the ANZAC poem, ANZAC Hero (about Jack Simpson and his donkey) exceptionally well for the ANZAC Day Assembly last week.

This term we are also learning about the human body and skeleton, and later in the term, we will look at the skeletons of other living creatures, such as mini beasts and
dinosaurs. The students’ reading and writing is progressing well and this is assisted by the increased workload that usually comes with Term Two.

Over the next few weeks, will also be doing some beautiful art and craft works to tie in with Mother’s Day. So, mums, be on the lookout for some wonderful gifts coming your way!

Miss Mary Clark
Pre-primary/Year 1 Teacher

Kindergarten
Welcome to Term Two! It is great to see the children back at school, bursting with enthusiasm and keen to start learning.

This term, we are learning about dinosaurs and later in the term, we are learning about outer space. Every Tuesday is a ‘Shape Day’ and this week our shape was the square. In literacy, we will be focusing on rhyming words and writing our names.

On another note, due to a lack of variety in fruit over the winter period, we are happy for the children to bring in healthy alternatives to fruit for Fruit Time; for example, popcorn, crackers, cereal, cold meats, cheese, celery, carrots, or dried fruit.

Mrs Cathy Byrne
Kindergarten Teacher

Dates for Term Two

TERM 2 (11 weeks)

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<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>23 April</th>
<th>Start of Term 2 – Staff and Students</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>25 April</td>
<td>ANZAC Day – College Closed</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>27 April</td>
<td>ANZAC Day Assembly</td>
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<td>The Month of May</td>
<td>Dedicated to Mary, the Mother of God</td>
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<td>Tues- Thurs</td>
<td>15-17 May</td>
<td>NAPLAN Test Days</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>24 May</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>15 June</td>
<td>Feast of The Sacred Heart</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>6 July</td>
<td>End of Term 2 – Staff and Students</td>
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