Assalamu Alaikum Wa Rahamatullahi Wa barakatu

Dear Parents,

What an amazing and busy term it has been so far. The education team, comprising of the assistant principal Dr Mahmoud Eid, Head of Primary Ms Fatima Arakji and myself, have been enjoying valuable time with our students and being acquainted more with their unique personalities and inspiring aspirations.

This is truly a reflection of one of our essential aims at ICOM, where we encourage and inspire students to become successful learners, confident creative individuals and active informed citizens.

In our previous newsletter, Issue No. 1 5th of February 2015, we specified a number of goals to achieve for our school. We have been extremely busy this term trying to implement our vision in light of those goals.
We, therefore, would like to share with you some of what we have achieved so far:

1. School Structure:
   - Coordinators: school coordinators have been assigned; one per year level
   - Discipline: two discipline coordinators were appointed: primary & secondary.
   - Islamic Department: two coordinators were appointed; one for Arabic and one for Islamic Studies & Quran

2. Professional learning team’s structure (PLTS): different departments meet regularly. They are all provided with data analysis of Students results in NAPLAN and ACER diagnostic test. Based on this data analysis and anecdotal notes & ongoing assessment, the teachers should be able to vary their teaching methodology and adjust their learning programs to address our students’ needs.

3. Staff appraisal: a procedure has been adopted to ensure quality of education across the school. We now have a comprehensive appraisal system including the following:
   A. Formal classroom appraisal
   B. Self-appraisal
   C. Peer appraisal
   D. Walk-through visits to classes on daily basis
   E. Mentoring program and support
   F. Teacher aid appraisal

4. Mentoring Program: all senior staff and coordinators were booked to attend professional Development on Mentoring. New staff members are also booked to attend Professional development to update them on mentoring requirements especially for moving from provisionally registered to fully registered teacher category. Each mentor is required to give 4 reports on each new teacher; one report per term. Supporting new provisionally registered teachers is very important in order to facilitate their work and at the same time ensure the quality of education we deliver at school.

5. Students learning outcomes: in order to improve students learning outcomes, we subscribed to ACER’s diagnostic tests. Results of those tests are used alongside with NAPLAN results to analyse our students learning outcomes. Analyzing NAPLAN and ACER tests results will enable us to identify our strength and weakness and accordingly to differentiate out teaching. This will help the teachers to classify their students into three different ability groups: underachieving, average and advanced. Enrichment and remedial work will be provided accordingly.

6. Library: we purchased new resources for the library to enhance students learning.

7. Interactive whiteboards (IWB): more interactive whiteboards have been purchased for ICT integration. It is very essential to have an IWB in every classroom at the beginning of next year inshallah as this has a great positive impact on students’ learning. In Term 2, we will be restructuring the Arabic and Islamic Studies departments. Will keep you informed of the developments in this regard in the next newsletter inshallah. We hope that these measures will help us to become closer to achieve our goals inshallah.

Dr Abdul M. Kamareddine
Principal

Parent Teacher Interviews:

Parent Teacher Interviews provide the opportunity for parents and teachers to talk together about how their child is progressing, and how they can help them succeed in school. Parent Teacher Interviews are held three times a year, at the end of term 1,2 and 3. The interviews run for 10 minutes each and if there isn’t enough time to discuss everything at the interview, you can schedule another time to come back and talk further. The first Parent Teacher Interview will be held on the 27th of March. This day will be a student free day. Further information will be sent home in the coming week.
Late arrivals/dismissals:

We would like to remind you that all students need to be at school no later than 8:40am every morning. As of the beginning of Term 2, Wednesday the 15th of April the front gates will be closed at 8:40 am. Any students arriving after 9:00 am will be sent back home immediately and students arriving later than 8:40 am will be directed to the office to obtain a late pass and their names will be marked as late attendees. It is unfortunate that the school has to take this drastic action, however we are left with no other choice to protect your child’s education. Students that are late miss out on the morning assembly, important announcements, Dua, Quran recitation, submission of lunch orders and roll call.

Year 9 Box Fit Exercise

Students in year 9 have been enjoying learning about strengthening and conditioning for health and fitness using 'Box Fit' techniques. They learn to safely execute the skills needed to work specific muscle groups and are now beginning to investigate their own programs for health and fitness using a 'Box Fit' Health and Fitness Journal.

Multicultural Day:

On Thursday the 26th of March, The Islamic College of Melbourne will be hosting a Multicultural day. On this day students are encouraged to come to school dressed in clothing from their culture. The students will be participating in various activities on the day, including a parade. We encourage all students to get involved.
Welcome to 2015 ICOM Library

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Ms. Haifa Atatreh and I am the teacher librarian at the Islamic College of Melbourne.

It has been an exciting start to the new year of 2015, al-hamduallah. We started the ICOM library from a small room with few books back in 2013 and Al-hamduallah we now have a new spacious library with different collections including non-fiction, fiction, picture books, Arabic and Islamic books, take home readers, teacher reference books, guided readers and resources.

We have currently catalogued 16,000 books and we are increasing our books day by day al-hamduallah. We have an interactive whiteboard with computers for students to use to find information and complete their work. We are happy to help with researching for a book, finding information or a book recommendation.

Students are borrowing and returning books during their scheduled library session. Library books are to be returned in the return chute.

A friendly reminder that any lost or damaged books will incur a fine.

Ma’shallah let’s keep up the fantastic work of taking care of the books and returning them back on time.

Looking forward to working with students, staff and the community.

Jazak'allah Kheiraan and Thank you,

Ms. Haifa Atatreh
Teacher Librarian

Federal MP Joanne Ryan, State MP Telmo Languiller and Victoria Police Multicultural officer Richard Dove visited the school on Friday, 27 February 2015. Our three guests participated in the morning assembly and addressed the students, took a tour in the school, met with the students in class and enjoyed a breakfast with the school education team.

Would you like to volunteer in the library?

We are currently looking for a volunteer who can help in the school library. Duties will include contacting books, stamping, putting barcodes and call number stickers on the books.

If you are interested, please leave your resume at the office. Also it would be great if you noted down the available days you can volunteer. You must have a current ‘Working with Children Check’ Card.
Year 6A & 6B Fruity Smoothies

During Term 1, the Year 6’s have been learning about Nutrition as part of their Integrated Studies topic. As part of this topic they were involved in making their own Banana and Strawberry Smoothies in class. Students were very excited to participate and even more excited to rate their smoothies.

“I think the smoothies that we made in class were excellent and it gave us an idea of how to make smoothies at home as well” – Huzaifa Qidwai

6A

“First we cut 10 strawberries and 2 bananas into pieces. Then we added 1-2 tablespoons of plain yogurt and 1-2 tablespoons of honey to the fruit along with enough milk to cover all ingredients. We then blended all ingredients together”

Abdullah Mohamed-Aboobucker 6B

“If you want to learn more about healthy eating, download the Healthy eating for children - Brochure on www.eatforhealth.gov.au” – Sabeeh-ur-rahman Imran

6B

“This term has been very interesting because we have learnt how to make healthier choices, how to balance our diet and the daily servings we should be having from each food group” – Yusra Lateefa Khan 6B

“While making our smoothies, we used our maths understanding of measurement and fractions. We also integrated it with nutrition and health” - Lina Taha 6A

“Our school invited Fitnessworx to conduct an incursion called The Amazing Race for the Year 6’s. It was an experience unlike any other!

In small teams, students were put to the test using a series of challenges originating from countries across the globe – aimed at testing their physical, mental and creative ability.

Deciphering puzzles, completing physical challenges, solving problems to do with nutrition, discovering unique facts about health and nutrition and working together led the girls of 6B to be crowned the Ultimate Fitnessworx Amazing Race Champions!

The Amazing Race provided a chance for all to shine by offering a variety of tasks, aimed at letting every individual talent stand out.
Prep C has been very busy over the past few weeks. We have been investigating alphabet letters and sounds. We have been learning to read and write. In Numeracy we have been learning about numbers, shapes, location words, measurement and many other topics. Each day we are always learning new concepts and trying our best. Miss Allen

First Aid Training
St John Ambulance visited our school on Wednesday 25th February to deliver First Aid in Schools training to our students. Through the First Aid in Schools program, trained St John presenter Sharon, led students from Year 5 & 6 through tailored sessions on the importance of First Aid and about delivering CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) and the things they can do to assist in an emergency.

Student Reflections

“I learnt how to do CPR and I learnt how to help someone if they are not breathing.”
Musharraf 5A

“I learnt DRABC and I found it very useful. We also got to try to do compressions on a little dummy. I had fun.”
Khola 5A

“I learnt how to do CPR to someone who faints. It was beneficial. Next time if someone stops breathing, I will help him or her. You are the most important person on the scene, so you have to be careful.”
Abdulrahman 5A

“Next time I see an unconscious person, I will know what to do from the CPR course (30 compressions) (2 breaths).”
Manar 5A