From the Principal

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

I take this opportunity to welcome you all back to a new school year. To those of you who are new to our community we hope you get to know everyone quickly and feel comfortable soon. Today each family will receive the 2016 Parent Information Booklet. It outlines who we are, what we do and how we work together. I encourage you to read through it and to keep it handy for future reference. I trust that all members of our community will experience the warmth, love and joy of IHM this year.

New Students

A very special welcome to the 21 new students at IHM whose names are featured further in the newsletter. We have a lovely, curious and energetic group of new Receptions taking that very first step in their school life as well as some older students continuing their learning journey here. We wish you all well and hope that your time at IHM this year is fabulous!

2016 Staff

Two new teachers have joined the excellent IHM teaching team. We warmly welcome Angela Kernahan and Nick Patzel to our school community. I hope the photos of staff members included in this newsletter will help to put faces to the names. Our staff are very friendly and approachable and we value parent and community relationships, so don’t hesitate to say hello!

New Developments

We have exciting many new developments and projects already on the way and more to come! Some of these are outlined briefly here.

School Theme for 2016: The school theme for 2016 “Love”, is one of our school pillars. The theme and motto “Let all you do be done in love” from 1 Corinthians 16:14, call us into reflection and action on how we can be the face of love for our world and for all those we meet.

School App: We are excited to launch our new school app to the community today. Instructions for downloading the app are included in this newsletter. It’s free and will give you current updates of all that’s happening at school at the touch of a finger!

ICT: We have continued to upgrade of our ICT network with new laptops and iPads continuing to upgrade of our ICT network with new laptops and iPads.

School Camp Guidelines: We have new guidelines for school camps, which have been developed, based on what we deem as appropriate for the children’s ages. These guidelines were discussed and approved at School Board last year. For more information please check the 2016 Parent Information Booklet.

Parent-Teacher Book-a-Chat

Getting to know your child is important to us in ensuring the best learning opportunities. As parents, you know your child better than anyone, and we value the partnership that education brings. Therefore, in the next few weeks all teachers will be holding ‘Book-a-chat’ sessions where we invite parents to book a chat time with class teachers. The purpose is to meet informally and to share your expectations and hopes along with your child’s strengths, unique qualities and learning needs. An invitation notice about this will be coming home today.

Feedback

Your views and ideas are important to our community building and moving forward with a collective vision. At the end of each newsletter you are invited to provide comments and feedback about what has been happening at IHM.

You are also always welcome to come and have a chat about any concerns, thoughts or exciting ideas that will help us make IHM a wonderful place to be. Warmest wishes to all for a love filled, brilliant year!

Pauline Kinsman
PRINCIPAL
School News

WELCOME TO IHM

A big welcome to the following students and their families who commenced at IHM this year:

Isabella Kapac       Riley Whelan
Isaac Ha            Annabella Yem
Maia Beverdam      Oliver Bentley
Huy Lam            Tina Pham
Asha Lovegrove      Harper Stanley
William Cooper-Rogers Isabella Yem
Alexandra Nikolas  Noah Raven
Riley Lane         Ruby Skehan
Jasmine Samra      Danny Young
Jett Lovegrove     Jasper Henderson
David Yem

Welcome To Our School

SCHOOL STREAM APP INSTRUCTIONS

1. From your mobile device go to the App Store (iPhone/iPad) OR Google Play (Android) search for School Stream and download the app to your phone.

2. Make sure you agree to push notifications.

3. Once School Stream has finished installing, open the app. type in Immaculate Heart of Mary School into the search THEN select your school.

How to select alerts and notifications

1. From the slide-in menu, go to Settings
2. Under Edit/Alerts select My Schools and select your School to open the Notifications page
3. Toggle notifications on or off individually (e.g. Alerts, Events, Newsletters, etc.)
4. When you have finished, use the Back button to return to the Settings page, then select Done to return to IHM.

Return at any time to change the notifications you receive.

Absentees

Parents can advise of absentees by completing the form on the APP. An email will be sent directly to the school Office to advise us of your child’s absence saving you the inconvenience of having to telephone the school.

Alerts

Receive important reminders or notifications from the school such as cancellation of sport training or advertising special events happening at our school.

School Finance

All families will receive their School Fee accounts by the end of this week. Thank you to all who have paid their 2016 Resource Levy and commenced paying the 2016 School Fees.

The Resource Levy $415 is payable at the beginning of the school year.

A 5% discount is offered on Tuition fees if paid in full by 18th March 2016.

School fees are to be paid in full by 30th September 2016.

Payments can be made via regular Direct Debits, in 3 instalments or via other arrangements as agreed with the school.

- Instalment One - due 15th April 2016
- Instalment Two – due 8th July 2016
- Instalment Three – due 30th September 2015

School Card Application Forms are available via our website or from the front office. Please lodge your application as soon as possible.

Please do not hesitate to phone, email or make a time to see me if you have any question regarding your school fees account.

Tracey Kermond - BURSAR

IHM Rainbow Connection

New art installation - Rainbow connect, connecting family, friends and community. Thanks to the City of Charles Sturt Council, artists Jacqui Hunter and Paul Anderson and helpers Michael Mullan, Otis and Sam.
SHROVE TUESDAY (9th February)

Shrove Tuesday or more commonly known as Pancake Tuesday is coming up next week. The history of making pancakes on Shrove Tuesday comes from needing to use up the supplies of fat, butter and eggs in one’s house – foods that were once forbidden during Lent. Today we do not have the same restrictions placed on us but we do keep the tradition going.

Students will be able buy pancakes next Tuesday for a GOLD COIN DONATION.

For many years at our school we have made pancakes for the community. If you are able to help with the cooking of the pancakes could you please let Julie in the Office know.

We will begin at 9:00am and all are most welcome to come for all the time or for any time that they are able to spare. The more the merrier and the easier the task!

Any donations of the following items will also be gratefully appreciated; items can include:

- SR Flour, Eggs, Milk, Jam, Butter, Sugar, Maple Syrup, Honey, Lemons, Paper towels

Please leave any ingredients in the Office by next Monday 8th February. Thank you.

LOVE – “LET ALL YOU DO, BE DONE IN LOVE”

The charism of IHM is founded on the heart spirituality of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart. Fr Jules Chevalier (the founder) wanted people to know the Gospel message of God’s love and care for everyone. He wanted people to be moved by their experience of his love in order to be filled with love in relationships with self, God, others and environment.

This year we will explore this concept and what it means for the children, our staff, families and community. What can we do for others as a result of the love that fills our hearts? Ultimately we hope to create opportunities for everyone to share their faith, hope and love with others throughout the year.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday next week begins our Lenten journey towards Easter. It also marks the beginning of the annual Caritas Project Compassion appeal. The theme for Project Compassion 2016 is “Learning more, creating change”.

As Pope Francis says “Education is an act of hope”, so this year Project Compassion celebrates the power of learning, and the many ways in which Caritas Australia is working with local partners around the world to provide vital learning and renewed hope to children, women and men most vulnerable to extreme poverty and injustice.

SACRAMENT PROGRAM

For those families interested in preparing their child to receive the Sacraments of the Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation, there will be an important information session to be held on Monday February 8th, 7pm at Our Lady of the Manger Catholic Community Church, 176 Crittenden Road, Findon. This is a compulsory attendance for those seeking Sacrament preparation.

HELP REQUIRED

Approximately once per month we require the assistance of someone who can launder and iron the small white cloths we use at Mass in the chapel. If you think you can help us, please let Julie know.

NUDE FOOD AND WOW

This year we will continue our focus on ‘wiping out waste’ to do our little bit to make our planet sustainable for the future generations. So one important step is that of reducing packaging in lunch boxes. Last year we saw a significant reduction of waste going to landfill, thanks to your great efforts. Let’s keep the momentum going.

TRY TO PACK – A Waste-Less Lunchbox

- Snacks and drinks in reusable containers.
- This includes zip lock bags which can be washed and reused many times.
- Reusable utensils when needed
- A reusable lunchbox or backpack

AVOID – A Disposable Lunchbox

- Lunches packed in plastic bags or cling wrap, foil or wax paper that cannot be reused.
- Disposable forks and spoons.
- Pre-packaged single-serve snack items.

Encourage your children to bring home uneaten food to eat after school – we will do the same.

Playtime is also important, so discuss with children how much they can reasonably eat at recess and lunch. Often children throw uneaten food as they have either had enough or eating time is over and they want to play.

If you’re not sure how much they can eat at school, start small. E.g. a piece of fruit and a sandwich, and build it up if they are asking for more.

THANK YOU

We would like to say a big thank you to all the families who very kindly looked after the garden and grounds over the school holidays.

A special mention to those that repaired our soccer goals – the children are be very grateful.

Thank You!
Your Comments and Feedback

With each newsletter you are invited to provide comments and feedback about our school; these will be forwarded to the Principal, Ms Pauline Kinsman.

What has been going well: ......................................................................................................................

What can be improved: ..............................................................................................................................

Any further comments: ...............................................................................................................................