From the Principal

Dear Families and Friends,

It’s been a great start to the year, with children well settled into the school routine, their new classes and learning. Thanks for supporting your children’s success by helping them get to school on time and well prepared in correct uniform, with their healthy snacks and minimal waste lunches. Thanks also to those who have downloaded and are already making the most of the new school app. I trust more of you will upload and use the app as it proves of great use in keeping you conveniently updated on school happenings.

This week, the R-5 classes have been involved in swimming lessons, which have brought about much excitement. Many of you would have or will be involved in the ‘book a chat’ which are important for us as we develop the important partnership between home and school.

Reminder – Mobile Devices
Students are reminded that all mobile phones and iPads etc. must be handed in at the office in the morning and then collected at the end of the school day.

Cyber safety, social media and your child

At IHM we understand the substantial benefits that are provided through Information Communication Technology, especially to young learners. We are also aware that with these benefits there are potential dangers. Online safety and awareness is a very important topic for young people.

At IHM we have a User Agreement for every student and have internet filters which protect the students from accessing inappropriate content. Children are also taught about Internet and Cyber Safety as they progress through our school as part of our Child Protection Curriculum.

This week the year 5-7 students had a guest speaker from SAPOL, who shared important information on the dos and don’ts of social media and cyber safety. It is important that parents and carers are fully aware of how your child uses the internet and social media. While school internet connections provide a level of protection, some students have unsupervised and unfiltered access using computers, tablets and phones outside of the school environment.

Monitoring your child’s online behaviour at home is a parental responsibility and the easiest way to do this is to abide by the social media age limits. For example, no child of primary school age should be accessing Facebook, Instagram or Snapchat.

As your child’s primary caregiver, there are many things you can do to support your child to be safe online. As educators and parents it is always important to talk to our children/students about safety on the net.

There are some suggestions from the SA Police on our website for your information.


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Learning Environments
Some of you may have noticed some changes in our learning spaces. As a professional team, the staff are constantly building their knowledge using current research to inform best practice in teaching and learning. Our classrooms are learning spaces, which have been strategically and intentionally designed to be flexible and inviting so that we can cater for individual learning styles and promote creativity, communication and a love of learning. We use our learning spaces combined with strong teaching to allow every child to develop the important dispositions of independence, resilience and risk taking along with the capabilities of literacy, numeracy and problem solving.

There is an article attached with this newsletter that explains in more detail the reasons for the changes in classrooms you will see and hear about this year.

Information Session for Parents
There will be an information session on Wednesday 24th Feb at 9.15am, which will give you a chance to hear about the what, how and why of teaching and learning at IHM, including the Australian Curriculum. I hope you can come along to hear about and discuss these. (Reply slip below)

Beginning of the School Year Missioning Mass
I hope to see many of you at our special Mass this Sunday, to mark the beginning of the school year and our journey together in to 2016.

Mathletics
Each child at IHM, from Reception to Year 7, has their own username for the numeracy website Mathletics. This is an award winning interactive site that aims to improve children’s numeracy skills through fun activities.

This website can be accessed from any computer at home or school. Learning is individual - at their own pace so children can complete activities they would like to do or complete activities set by their teachers. Activities are adjusted to meet each child's ability.

Most of the classes have already begun using the site and you would have had information about it from your child’s teacher. Please see our website or your child’s teacher for more information.

Have a great week!

Pauline Kinsman - PRINCIPAL

Reply Slip - Parent Information Session
What, how and why of teaching and learning at IHM

Name/s: ____________________________________________

I / We will be attending the information session on Wednesday 24th February at 9:15am.

Have you downloaded our new free School App?

Here is how to get the app:

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 Immaculate Heart of Mary School into the search THEN select your school.
4. When you have finished, use the Back button to return to the Settings page, then select Done to return to IHM.

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 CHOIR

At IHM, we are lucky to have the opportunity to be involved in the Catholic Schools Music Festival. Students in Years 5, 6 and 7 are invited to join the choir, which will begin rehearsals on Tuesday 23rd February, in Week 4, from 2:25pm-3:10pm in the music room.

Consent forms are being distributed today. For more information, visit the website: http://musicfestival.cesa.catholic.edu.au/

Melanie Harrald - MUSIC TEACHER
ICE BLOCKS THIS FRIDAY RECESS - $1.00

We will commence selling ice blocks this Friday at recess from the canteen, and then every Wednesday and Friday. (Limit one per student)

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

School Missioning Mass

Everyone is invited to our Parish Mass this Sunday at St Michael's Church.

Immaculate Heart of Mary School is part of the Findon/Hindmarsh Parish and so it is the ‘Parish’ community who will commission and bless the staff, board members and all student leaders in their roles this year. It is a wonderful opportunity for all families of our school to celebrate the very heart of our tradition – the Eucharist, by coming along to Mass. We would love to see you there.

When: Sunday 21st February - 9am

Where: St Michael's Chapel - Michael’s College Primary Campus - 78 East Avenue, Beverley

The Season of Lent

“We are invited to embark upon a journey on which, by defying routine, we strive to open our eyes and ears, but especially to open our hearts, in order to go beyond our own ‘backyard.” Pope Francis

Shrove Tuesday

A special thank you to each and every one of you who were able to donate ingredients for our yummy pancakes. Also thank you to Nadia Rowe for cooking them all and to Elisha, Therese, Nicole, Mina, Antoinetta and Jacqui for mixing, serving, washing and cleaning up.

Ash Wednesday

It was lovely to have parents and parishioners join us for our first whole school Mass which coincided with Ash Wednesday – the beginning of Lent. Fr Mark helped us to understand what Jesus is asking of us during Lent:

1. Pray often
2. Fast – or go without something
3. Help others

Lent and Environment

Catholics from around the globe will fast and pray during each of Lent’s 40 days, calling for strong action to solve the climate crisis. Here in Australia, Catholic Earthcare will be fasting on March 17. On this day, they invite each of us to fast from either food (for example missing one or two meals), and/or from carbon (by taking alternative transport such as walking, biking or public transport, or by cutting personal or organisational energy consumption).

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

We are so pleased to see so many of you making great efforts to pack a waste-less lunchbox. Here is Alexandra showing us how.

Easter Eggs

Yes - they are already in the shops. This Easter consider where the cacao beans are harvested and by whom. Many children are trafficked onto plantations. Please check out this link for your “Good Egg guide” to a Traffik Free Easter.


Basketball Season 2016

This week our Under 9 basketball team will play their first game and we hope that they have lots of fun playing and representing IHM.

Game Time – Friday 19th February

IHM vs Whitefriars Wild Cats @ 5:10pm Ct 4 at St Clair

Under 9 Training

Training will commence tomorrow Thursday 18th February at 8:00am. Please meet on the basketball court. Thank you to Daniel Fry for offering to coach the Under 9s. (Sam Doherty and Gary Fry will supervise this week)

Kanga Cricket – Saturday 20th February

This Saturday the IHM Kanga Cricket team will also play their first game at the Woodville Oval, Oval Avenue, Woodville South at 8:30am.

Training takes place on Tuesdays after school until 4pm. Thank you to Sam Doherty who has offered to be the team manager/coach.

Swimming Trials – Year 4-7

Students who would like to represent IHM at the SACPSSA Swimming Carnival in March will need to take part in the swimming trials on Monday 22nd February. If you did not receive a swimming trial letter please see Julie in the office.
We wish all of our new Receptions and our Year 1s a very warm welcome to our school. These first weeks have been a transition as new learning environments are explored and the challenge of becoming familiar with new faces and names is presented!

So, in light of this our Inquiry Learning for the term, centres around questions such as:

- What is a friend?
- Who am I?
- Who are we?
- What are my wishes and dreams?
- Who is my family community?

In order to engage the curiosity of the children and invite them into the learning, we presented them with the sudden appearance of a mystery box and a clue to its contents! Lots of wondering ensued from this initial provocation! To see what your child wondered come for a wander into our learning space!

One of the many books supporting our learning so far has been “It’s Ok to be Different’ by Todd Parr; this was shared at assembly last Friday. It has been a delight to see the varied images the children have created of their faces which we have put into a gallery in our learning space.

Sophie Mihelios and Angela Kernahan
RECEPTION/YEAR ONE TEACHERS

Swimming Week – Year 3/4 MW

3/4MW have had a fantastic time swimming this week! Some of the highlights of swimming include:

- Swimming in our clothes - Ava, Matthew and Sam
- Using the flippers and the life jackets - Finn and Morgan
- Swimming through the seaweed obstacle course - Shylah and Isabella
- Jumping into the deep end - Kane and Atticus