Welcome parents and caregivers to 2017! I am very excited to working in close partnership with you and your child. Thankyou to those parents who have come and introduced themselves to me already. I anticipate I will have the opportunity in Book-a-chat in Week 3 (February 13th – 17th) to meet more of you then!

At IHM in the Year 6/7 Class we promote and strive that each student will be:

**Communicators** - to be able to share and receive ideas and information in many ways

**Principled** - to be fair, honest and responsible

**Inquirers** - to be curious, ask questions and to develop a love of learning

**Reflective** - to think about their own learning, their strengths and weaknesses in a constructive way

**Risk Takers** - to be brave and courageous and to explore new roles, ideas and strategies

**Thinkers** - to apply their thinking skills critically and creatively to make good decisions and to solve hard problems

**Balanced** - to take care of their bodies, minds and feelings

**Open-minded** - to appreciate their own cultures and the views, values and traditions of other individuals and cultures

**Caring** - to show sensitivity towards the needs and feelings of others

**Knowledgeable** - to recognise and value their own capacity to learn and to know about their world near and far.

The Upper Primary Curriculum is designed so that students are all able to access learning that is appropriate, challenging and engaging. Our curriculum is largely determined by the content of the Australian Curriculum which is being introduced in stages and is under constant review and change.

At IHM we believe:
- Students learn best when school and home work in a mutually supportive way.
- Students feel valued in a safe and secure environment.
- Parental involvement is important.
- Teachers should be approachable, engaging, informed, enthusiastic and positive role models.
- Students, teachers and parents should treat one another with respect and courtesy.

Our learning environment should be one where students are encouraged to take risks, develop independent learning and organisational skills, and promote individual excellence so that each student can achieve to their own potential.

**School website and School Stream app**
To keep up to date about what is happening at IHM please go to the school website or download the School Stream app. All school newsletters, notes and important dates can be found either on the app or on the school website.

[www.ihm.catholic.edu.au](http://www.ihm.catholic.edu.au)

**Wipe out Waste**
In 2017 IHM will continue to have an ecological sustainability focus. We encourage students to bring less packaging to school by placing their recess and lunch in reusable containers.
Brain break
Every morning students will stop for fruit snack and fitness. Students will need to bring to school fresh fruit, dried fruit or vegetables to eat during this break time. Drink bottles filled with water can be left in the classroom for students to access whenever they need it.

Our theme during Term 1 will be “Identity, Hope and Leadership “

Students will be engaging in an integrated unit of work surrounding Identity/Hope and Leadership across the curriculum exploring key figures associated with the rich IHM history (including Jules Chevalier and Matthew Beovich as well as Marie Hartzger). I hope to inspire the leader in each and every one of them through undertaking a research investigative approach to our theme.

Religious Education
The Religious Education Units being explored this term are ‘Discipleship and the Reign of God – exploring Jesus and a contemporary role model (linked with the Term theme), Being Connected and Easter. The 6/7 students will also be presenting “The Way of the Cross” a moving dramatization reflecting Jesus’ last moments with his Disciples and friends for Holy Week later this term.

English
The English program will include a wide variety of activities to engage the students in their learning. The writing genres we will cover this term are Biographical Recount, Narrative and and Persuasive argument. Students will select an leader (in any given field) and write a biography about them.
Our reading program will present your child with many opportunities to read and respond to texts individually, in small groups and as a whole class. We encourage reading at home to take many forms, both silent and out loud, and expect that your child is recording their reading in their diary from Monday to Thursday.
Students will participate in the ‘Words their Way’ spelling program this year. This program enables teachers to develop spelling activities that are tailored specifically to the needs of individual students. Spelling activities will be completed during class time and there will be a spelling test at the end of every week. Your child will record their words in their spelling books at the beginning of the week so that you may assist your child in learning those words at home if you wish.

History and Social Sciences / Civics and Citizenship
This term the students will learn and explore ‘Investigating the Ancient past and HOW Federation evolved in Australia’. which will also connect with their Civics and Citizenship topic of Government and Democracy. The Science topic for the term will explore Energy and Forces

Arts
A major theme this term in VISUAL ARTS will be hands on exploration of different mediums and textures in exploring WHO AM I – HOW AM I IDENTIFIED with various artwork styles and Artists researched. Students will be also undertake and participate in DRAMA activities and tasks leading up to the Tableaux Montage of “The Way of the Cross”.

Melanie Harald will be taking the students for Music lessons on Tuesday.

Design and Technology
The Senior students will be involved in the Bowden Brompton art project and apart from the hands on participation will reflect and research ‘Sustainable Designs in the Community’.

Mathematics
We aim to provide interesting, engaging and challenging activities during our mathematics program this year. Our program will include whole class discussions, individual tasks, group activities, games, interactive computer tasks, mathematics journaling, hands-on activities and mathematics investigations. Topics we are covering this term are; Number and Place Value / Algebra, Fractions and Decimals and Measurement / Geometry.
Health & PE
PE will be taught this year by Nadia Morris as a specialist subject. She will prepare the students for Sports Day, which will be in Week 9. In the lead up to sports day, Senior Unit students will have the opportunity to nominate to be a Sport Captain for their school team; Chevalier, Beovich or Hartzler. This will be an excellent opportunity to develop leadership skills. Through our health program we aim to present learning opportunities which will assist your child to develop resilience, positive self-esteem, empathy, cooperation, friendship skills, social skills and management skills. These skills are important life skills which support children in better managing issues associated with bullying that they may experience or observe.
As part of our Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum, we will be covering ‘Rights and Responsibilities in Relationships’ as well as ‘Power in Relationships’.

HOMEWORK
As I help your child prepare for Secondary School, homework will be set to assist in the development of time management and organisation skills. The activities are designed to enhance your child’s knowledge and understanding and to help further challenge them in key areas of the curriculum (Mathematics, English and Research). I understand the business of life and from time to time due dates cannot be met. If this occurs, please put a note in your child’s diary preferably before the due date. Weekly homework will be set and discussed on a Monday and will be due in on the Friday of the same week, unless otherwise stated. Class time will be given, to accommodate homework needs where I will be available to discuss any issues or misconceptions. Students are required to bring their homework books into school daily.
I would also hope that your child reads for 20-30 minutes each night and records this reading in their diary. I also encourage you to support your child with their times tables knowledge if they have difficulties with this as being fluent in number facts will assist their mental computations and Mathletics tasks. One of the best ways you can support your child to learn multiplication facts is by listening to them recite their times tables or testing them verbally.

Diaries

Note: Students will start recording their spelling words in Week 3

Each student in 6/7 Fahey will receive a school diary. This is an important tool in developing important organisational skills. We would like each student to use their diary as a reading log as well as a means of communication between home and school. Please feel free to write any relevant notes to us and we will do the same. Students will bring their diary home on Friday for you to sign at the end of the week and they will be checked at school on Monday morning. I thank you in advance for your assistance with this.

Important dates for your diary:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Friday 9th February</td>
<td>6/7 Assembly</td>
<td>9am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td>13th – 17th February</td>
<td>Book a chat</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Thursday 23rd February</td>
<td>Swimming Trials 4-7</td>
<td>11.30 – 1pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td>1st March</td>
<td>Ash Wednesday</td>
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<td>Week 7</td>
<td>Monday 13th March</td>
<td>ADELAIDE CUP HOLIDAY</td>
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<td>Week 8</td>
<td>Friday 24th March</td>
<td>6/7 Class Mass</td>
<td>9am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 9</td>
<td>Friday 31st March</td>
<td>SPORTS DAY</td>
<td>3.45 – 6.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 11</td>
<td>Thursday 13th April</td>
<td>End of Term 1</td>
<td>12.30pm DISMISSAL</td>
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My classroom doors are always open to parents / caregivers and visitors to arrange a suitable time for a chat or discussion. I can be contacted via email: mfahey@ihm.catholic.edu.au

I am looking forward to further developing and nurturing a strong partnership with you and your child this 2017 school year.

Ms Milda Fahey

Year 6/7 Teacher