NEWS FROM THE PRINCIPAL - Robyn Brooks

CARNIVAL
WOW! What a wonderful night the ISPS community had at the Carnival. There was some wonderful food and drink, great stalls and activities, fantastic singing by the choir and an awesome exhibition of our students’ artwork. Thanks to everyone who helped organise the event and run the stalls on the evening. We raised $4000 on the night. There are photos of the Carnival further on in the newsletter.

STAFFING 2015
I am pleased to announce that Ben Milsom has been appointed as the Assistant Principal for 2015. Miss Bonnie Foreman will also be joining ISPS as a classroom teacher. We are sad to be saying goodbye to Miss Lauren O’Connor who has been teaching with us for the past two years. The class structure and teaching appointments will be announced shortly.

END OF 2014 and START of 2015
The end of Term 4 is coming closer. The school year ends on Friday 19th of December at 2:15pm. All students are expected to attend school until this date. In the final week of school a number of activities are planned to celebrate the hard work that has been done throughout the year. The Grade 6 Graduation presentation is one of these. On Monday 15th December the whole school will get together to celebrate the achievements and successes of many of our students. All families are invited to attend, have dinner and celebrate a fantastic year of learning completed by all of our students. School resumes in 2015 on Friday 30th January, for students. Teachers commence on Wednesday 28th January and will be involved in professional learning on this day and on Thursday 29th January. All students will commence on Friday 30th January.

REPORTS
Student reports are being written at the moment. These will be distributed on Thursday 18th December. All students will receive a hard copy of their report which will include their academic level of achievement, their level of achievement in relation to our core values, teacher and student reflections, annotated work samples, teacher comments and an overview of the specialist programs that the students have participated in.

2014 FAMILY CELEBRATION DINNER
On Monday 15th December the whole school will get together to celebrate the achievements and successes of many of our students. This will include the Grade 6 Graduation, Award Presentations and Formal Announcements of 2015 School and House Captains. All families are invited to attend, have dinner and celebrate a fantastic year of learning completed by all of our students.

BOYS SOFTBALL
Our Boys Softball (Bailey Anderson, Jack Barrot, Gasper Cavallo, Jack Chiswell, Anthony Cua, Dustin Doolan, Tyson Giles, Paddy Hamilton, Billy Phelan, Julian Rayner, Lachie Scott, Levi Stanbrook and Frankie Zaccone.) competed in Melbourne last Friday. The boys played incredibly well and came 3rd in the state!
Thanks to Mr Smith for accompanying the students.

**SPELLING BEE**
The winners of our Spelling Bee will be presented with their trophies at Monday morning’s assembly. Congratulations to Sam Tassone, Rose Livingston, Tarliah Taylor, Joseph Zaccone, Jayshree Barrett, Georgia Topp, Caleb Davis.

**JSC**
After the first successful ice-cream stall, the JSC will be selling ice-cream on Wednesday 10th and 17th December. Vanilla ice-cream in a cone with optional sprinkles will cost $1. Monies raised will be going towards the purchase of a student notice board.

**CHOIR**
Our carollers will be performing at the Irymple Carols by Candlelight on Sunday night. They did an outstanding job at the Carnival last Friday night. The Carols are being held at Henshilwood Oval, Irymple commencing at 5.25pm. Our choir will be performing at 5.45pm and it would be wonderful if you could support them by attending the Carols by Candlelight. The choir will also be going ‘On Tour’ on Tuesday 9th December to sing at Oasis Aged Care, Princess Court Homes and Bupa.

**PERFORMING ARTS**
On Friday 21st November the Grade 1 students will be performing a dance at assembly that they have been rehearsing in Performing Arts with Mrs Milne. On Friday 28th November the Grade 2 students will also be performing. Everyone is welcome to attend and watch their dance.

**CAMP QUALITY**

**PUPPETS**
This week we were fortunate enough to gain a visit from Camp Quality. The Primary School Program supports Australian children and their families living with cancer in Australia. The program consists of a puppet show that aims to educate students on what it might be like for a class mate returning to school during and following cancer treatment. The program promotes compassion, acceptance and has a strong anti-bullying theme. All students from Prep to 6 participated in the show.

**FEES**
We still have 8 families yet to finalise their fee payment for the year. The fees cover the Swimming Program, bus transport, My Chinese Tutor program and resources for the classrooms. Please finalise these payments as soon as possible.

**EMA**
There are important changes to EMA in 2015. Please read the information at the end of the newsletter if you have been a recipient in the past.

**GRADE 6 2015 T-SHIRTS**
Next year’s Grade 6 class have taken home a note about their Grade 6 2015 t-shirt order. The students are in the process of designing the shirt. Sample sizes are available Rooms 8 & 9. The t-shirts will be $35 each. Orders and payment need to be finalised by Monday 8th December. T-shirts will be available for collection on the first day of school next year.

**PREP EXCURSION**
Today our Prep students set out on the end of year excursion. We look forward to hearing about their adventures next week.

**BALLET**
On Tuesday 2nd December the Prep and Grade 1 students will be attending the Mildura and District Ballet Guilds performance of Coppelia at the Arts Centre.

**PREP TRANSITION**
Yesterday 48 new Preps for 2015 came to school for their second transition day. The children had a great time counting, making number placemats, using the iPads and working with our current Prep students. They will be coming back again next Thursday to work with Mrs Rowland and Miss Piscioneri.
Last week we had our Grade One excursion. We travelled by bus to visit Coles supermarket, Woodies Gem Shop, Jaycee Park, Banjo’s Bakery and The Fun Jungle. After our big day of exploring places around Mildura, we came back to school for afternoon tea and games. We stayed late until 7:00pm and we had a delicious tea cooked for us by Darren Lay. It was a great day and we had lots of fun!
What a fantastic night we had! There were lots of activities to keep everyone entertained and busy, plenty of wonderful food to eat, stalls to visit, artwork to view and carols to listen to! The visit by Santa on the fire truck was a crowd pleaser!

A HUGE thank you to Natalee Johnson and her wonderful team who helped make the Carnival such a great success by generously donating their time, expertise and purchasing goods for their respective stalls.

Friday 21st November 2014
NOVEMBER
Cooper Waylen (24th)
Shelby Winzler (27th)
Eliza Congress (27th)
Oscar Brighton (28th)

Happy Birthday

LIBRARY BOOKS
Please start hunting under beds and in bookcases for misplaced Library Books and take home books. We have many books missing and we would appreciate books being returned as soon as possible. We will be beginning our stocktake shortly.

2014 End of Year Family Celebration Dinner
You are invited to our end of year celebrations!

On Monday 15th December, at 6:00pm, we will be celebrating the end of the 2014 school year.

The evening will include:
* Grade 6 Graduation Speeches
* Grade 6 Dance
* Award Presentation
* Buddy Presentation
* Formal announcement of School Captains
* Formal announcement of House Captains

Bring your own picnic dinner or purchase dinner from the Enjoy Wine Catering stall. (A percentage of food sales will go towards our school.)

Soft drinks and water will be available for purchase.
Bring your own chairs and or picnic rugs.

All members of the school community are invited to attend.

Tuning in to Teens™ Parenting program
Parenting program available for parents of 10-18 year olds!
*Tuning in to Teens* shows you how to help your teen develop emotional intelligence.
This program is a six week evidence based program for parents of 10-18 year olds run for 2 hours per week.
It was developed by Mindful Centre at Melbourne University.
The program will teach you how to manage your own and your adolescent’s emotions in ways that help you to remain close and keep communicating. By learning these skills, you are less likely to have as much conflict within your family and your teen is more likely to talk to you about the challenging issues they face. These are factors that have been found to reduce the risk of mental health and substance abuse problems.

First Tuning in to Teens Session for 2015 will be run in Term 1

ENVIRONMENTAL LEADER EXCURSION
On Tuesday our Environmental Leaders went to Wentworth Public School to have a look at their Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden. The students were involved in gardening and cooking. They had a wonderful time and it was a fantastic experience.
Prep and Grade 1s have been busy dancing their feet off. We have continued dancing, but have tried to including some feet movements in our dances. They have also been able to make up their own short dances.

Grade 2s will perform their ‘barn dances’ tomorrow at assembly. They will continue with dance for the rest of this term, but will look at other genres including hip hop. The students will also get the opportunity to make up their own dance.

The grade 3s have been busy rehearsing their folktale play and have focused on memorising their lines, remembering when to come on to the stage and when to exit. They have also been given the opportunity to add their own acting flare to the character they are portraying. The students will perform these in either week 10 or 11, more information will follow.

The Grade 4/5/6s have studied film clips and noticed how they have changed over the years. We noted what is included in film clips including camera angle, dancing, singing, acting. Using this information they have begun to create their own.

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Last Friday the boys Softball team played in the School Sports Victoria State softball final. We played at the Waverly Softball Association in Melbourne. In our first game we played Strathmore North and won 3 – 1. In the second game we played Elwood and lost 7-3. In the third game we played Preston and had a good win 7-2. We had to wait to see if we made the final. We missed out by percentage only in making the grand final. We finished 3rd in the state. A big thank you to Terri for coaching the team, Scott for driving the bus and for the parents and family that came to support us.

Our Art Exhibition was opened last Friday. All students have a number of items on display. There are paintings, sculptures, drawings, collages and 3D creations. All the Mildura Show entries and the winning Water Week Poster entries are also on display. Thankyou to all the visitors to our Art Exhibition. The comments have been wonderful. A BIG thankyou to Sonia Forrest, Narelle Bruhn and Bec Kontrec for helping with the set up and preparation of work.
### CALENDAR 2014

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#### Term Dates 2015

First day of school for 2015 will be Friday January 30th.

**Term 1**
- 30th January - 27th March

**Term 2**
- 13th April - 26th June

**Term 3**
- 13th July - 18th September

**Term 4**
- 5th October - 18th December

### ICE CREAM

JSC has vanilla ice cream in a cone with optional sprinkles for sale.

**$1.00**

Wednesday 10th December

Wednesday 17th December

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#### CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

As Christmas approaches we are looking for donations of non-perishable items to use for our Christmas raffle. Baskets will be in the Office foyer from November 20th and donations for each classroom can be placed inside.

Raffle tickets will also be available from November 20th. The raffle will be drawn on Monday 15th December at the 2014 End of Year Family Celebration Dinner.

Any queries please contact Jo Smith on 0402052691

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#### R.I. Christmas Break-Up

All children who participate in Religious Instruction are invited to the Christmas Break-up on Monday, December 8th at 12.30pm in the Multi-Purpose Room. Parents and grandparents are most welcome to attend. Could all students attending please bring a plate to share for lunch.

*Thank you*  

Di Eagle and Mrs Puku
EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE 2015

From 1st January 2015 the government will no longer be providing the Education Maintenance Allowance to Pension/Health Care Holders. While those schools who have a lower-socio-economic rating will receive extra funds, Irymple South does not fall into this category and therefore will not receive funds to cover this allowance.

This change to how the money is distributed was required by the funding agreement with the Commonwealth government to make sure Victorian schools receive increased funding that will benefit all students and, in particular, those from schools with concentrated disadvantage.

Supporting students from low income families

Commonwealth Government financial support for low income families

The Commonwealth Government provides a range of payments and services to help families look after their children’s education, health care and other family issues.

Family Tax Benefits A and B

This is a two-part payment to help with the cost of raising children. To be eligible for Family Tax Benefit Part A, the parent must care for a dependent child who is:

* aged 0-15 years, or
* aged 16–19 years, paid until the end of the calendar year in which they turn 19, and: undertaking full-time education or training in an approved course leading towards a Year 12 or equivalent qualification with an acceptable study load, or has been granted an exemption from education or training requirements

Parents also need to satisfy an income test, meet residence requirements and be caring for the child at least 35 per cent of the time. The amount paid for Family Tax Benefit Part A depends on family income, the number of children in the family, and how old they are. The maximum rate per fortnight for a child aged 0-12 years is $176.82 or $4,597.32 per year. The maximum rate per fortnight for a child aged 13-19 years is $230.00 or $5,980.00 per year.

Family Tax Benefit Part B gives extra help to single parents and families with one main income. An example of this may be where one parent stays at home to care for a child full-time or balances some paid work with caring for a child. To be eligible for Family Tax Benefit Part B, the parent must have care of a child for at least 35 per cent of the time who is:

* a dependent child under 16 years of age, or
* a dependent full-time secondary student up until the end of the calendar year in which they turn 18.

The rate of Family Tax Benefit Part B is based on an income test and the meeting of residence requirements. The amount paid for Family Tax Benefit Part B usually depends on the age of the youngest child in the family. The maximum rate per fortnight for a child aged 5-18 years is $105.00 or $2,730.00 per year.

If a parent/family qualifies for Family Tax Benefit Part A or Part B, they may be entitled to other payments and services such as the SchoolKids Bonus (see below), Parenting Payment, Child Dental Benefits and many others.

Health Care Card

The Health Care Card provides help with the cost of prescription medicine under Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, Australian government funded medical services, and access to state, territory and local government concessions. Families may be eligible for a Health Care Card if they get specific Commonwealth payments or supplements or the maximum rate of Family Tax Benefit Part A.

SchoolKids Bonus

The Schoolkids Bonus is a Commonwealth Government payment to assist eligible families with education costs. The Bonus is automatically paid by the Commonwealth Department of Human Services in two instalments each year. Parents do not need to make a claim for this payment.

To be eligible for the Schoolkids Bonus, the parent/carer must:

receive Family Tax Benefit Part A for a dependent child in primary or secondary education
have a primary or secondary student turning 19 years or younger in the calendar year, who receives certain government payments
satisfy an income test (applicable from 1 January 2015)

From 1 January 2015, eligible families will receive the SchoolKids Bonus in:

2 instalments of $211 for each child in primary school - a total of $422 each year
2 instalments of $421 for each child in secondary school - a total of $842 each year.

School Council will determine the fee structure for 2015 at their forth coming meeting.