A sincere welcome to all new and returning families. We are looking forward to another exciting, productive and successful year in 2014.

**Welcome to the Preps**
Last week 50 students started their schooling in Prep at ISPS. They learnt how to write the word ‘to’, they read, counted, visited the Library and played outside. It was wonderful to see the excitement and enthusiasm on the faces of the newest members of our school community.

**Welcome to Students**
We welcome Thomas Sleep (1T), Maia Malycha (1M), Tarliyah Taylor (2G), Darcie Peters (3C), Sophie Sleep (4/5V) and Milla Deckert (5/6S). We wish them all well and hope that they enjoy their new classes.

**Welcome to Staff**
We welcome Miss Maddy Jones to our staff and welcome back Mrs Aleisha Milne.

**Student Leadership**
At next Friday morning’s assembly (14th February) we will be presenting our School Captains and House Captains with their badges and certificates. The election and selection process for Junior School Council Representatives and the Environmental Leaders is underway in all classrooms. Applicants for Junior School Council write and conduct a speech in front of their class about why they believe they would be a suitable class representative, and what they could do for the school. Speeches will be conducted early next week in classes. Applicants for Environmental Leaders have until Monday 10th of February to submit their letters to their class teacher explaining why they would make a great environmental leader. We wish everyone who applies for these positions the best of luck. Successful applicants will be presented with their badges at assembly on Monday 24th February.

**Open Classroom and Family BBQ**
On Tuesday 25th February we will be holding an ‘Open Classroom’ and family BBQ night. The night will start at 5:00pm with all classrooms being ‘open for inspection’! This is a great opportunity for the students to give their parents a tour of their room and the work that they have been doing. It is a chance to meet your child’s teacher and during the family BBQ to meet other parents in our school community. A BBQ dinner will start at 5:30pm. More information will follow in next week’s newsletter.

**Photos**
Our school photos will be taken on Thursday 20th February. If you wish to have family photos taken please collect an order form from the office. All notes and money need to be brought to school by Friday 14th February.

**Parking**
Many of our students are picked up by car and this can lead to congestion at pick up time. Please park in the designated bays on Belar Avenue and 15th Street. If you park on the other side of Belar Avenue or 15th Street please get out of your car to collect your child. It is far too dangerous for the children to be crossing such busy roads by themselves.
(Continued from page 1)

School Speed Zone
There is a 40km speed limit outside the school between 8:00am and 9:30am and 2:30pm and 4:00pm. These limits are in place for the safety of students and parents at school drop off and pick up times.

Trees
Late on Monday night a large limb fell off one of the trees in the staff car park. Upon professional advice it was deemed necessary to remove all the trees for safety reasons. The area will be landscaped soon.

My Chinese Tutor
Next week all grades will begin with My Chinese Tutor. Each grade will have a 45 minute lesson via Skype with a Chinese tutor in Beijing. We are very excited to be introducing the teaching of Chinese into our curriculum.

Uniform
Our new uniform looks wonderful and the students look very smart. This year is a transition year for the new tops so it is fine to still be wearing the old uniform. Black shoes are part of the uniform and the students only need their runners on the days they have P.E. We thank you for your support in sending your children along in correct school uniform.

Attendance
Regular school attendance is vital for your child’s progress. All children need to attend school daily. The school teaching program starts promptly at 9:00am so we suggest that you make sure your child arrives before this time to get themselves organised and have a chat with their friends. School finishes at 3:15pm, with bus travellers getting on their bus at 3:10pm. Please schedule non-essential appointments outside these hours. EVERY DAY COUNTS

Fundraising for 2014
The first fundraising meeting will be held on Wednesday 12th February at 7:30pm in the school staffroom. This meeting is open to anyone who is interested in being involved with the school or who has a fundraising idea. We encourage any parents to attend as it is also a great way to meet other parents.

Catholic Religious Instruction
Catholic Religious Education will begin on Monday March 17th. This program is offered to children in Grades 1 to 6 only. Please fill in the permission form at the end of the newsletter if you would like your child to participate. Di Eagle and Mrs Puku will run the program in the MPR.

Student Accident Insurance
This is a reminder that the Department of Education does not provide personal accident insurance for students and that parents are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students. The department cannot advise parents/guardians on whether to purchase a student accident policy or which policy to purchase. It is recommended that you seek assistance in this matter with your insurance broker, find a suitable accident insurer in the Yellow Pages or online or come in and see Sharon in the office.
**Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA):**

The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is provided by the Victorian Government to lower-income families to help with education-related costs. If you have a child under 16, and you hold a valid Health Care Card, Pension Card, or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible to receive the EMA. The allowance is paid in two instalments, one in March and one in August.

The payment is intended to assist with education-related costs such as; uniform, excursions, textbooks, and stationery. You can elect to have your EMA paid in one of the following ways:

- Paid by direct deposit (Electronic Funds Transfer) into your own nominated bank account;
- Paid to the school to be held as credit which you can use towards education expenses; or
- Paid by cheque which will be posted to the school for collection.

In 2014, the annual EMA amount per student is:

- $200 for prep students
- $150 for students in years 1 – 6.
- $300 for year 7 students
- $250 for students in year 8 – until age 16*.

* A pro-rata amount is payable for students turning 16 in 2014.

**How to Apply:** Contact the school office to obtain an EMA application form.

**Closing Date:** You need to obtain an EMA application form from the school office and return by 28 February 2014.


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**REQUISITES AND PROGRAM CHARGES 2014**

School Council has set the requisite & programs charges (school fees) at $200 per student.

These fees are set to cover most of the programs within the school (excluding school camps)

Your fees include:

- All work books and writing materials such as a Pencil case and items such as pencils, pens, erasers, glue sticks, highlighters, colouring pencils, textas, etc
- Reading diaries & reading bags
- Calico money bags
- Swimming program in Term 4
- All School incursions
- Bus travel for all sporting events
- Ballet for Prep/One in Term 4
- Bus travel as required during the year
- Supplies for Art/Performing Arts and P.E. programs
- Apps & Programs for Technology programs
- My Chinese Tutor Language program
- Use of netbooks and iPads

All families are asked to make their payment by Friday 7th March 2014.

If not making full payment by 7th March could you please return the payment option list, attached to your family statement, with the preferred option ticked.

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**NOTICE FOR PARENTS OF CATHOLIC CHILDREN, GRADE 4 OR ABOVE**

If you wish your children to receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Communion, please get in touch urgently with Fr Pat Flanagan on 5024-1966. If you do not find him at home when you ring, please leave with his 101 answering service your name and phone number; but please pronounce these slowly, so that he can write them down. The meeting of parents is on Monday evening, February 10. Classes commence Sunday morning, February 16th Term 1 2014 Aussie Hoops

For Boys & Girls aged 5 – 7

Starts Friday February 7th at 4.15pm @ the Toyota Hothouse. Please call 5023 2241 for more details.

How would you like to try Calisthenics for FREE! MILDURA CALISTHENICS CLUB is hosting their ‘Come & Try’ day from February 10th at Medimurski Hall. 1st 2 weeks free. All new participants will go into the draw to win one of 5 Calisthenics Victoria prize packs!

For further information please contact Melissa Woolcock on 0412 088 485 or email tamdavs@bigpond.com.

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Irymple South Primary School Newsletter - Issue 2, Week 2, Term 1, 2014
Introducing
PREP R, 2014

Luis
Ashton
Logan
Isabella
Harper
Conor
Charli
Makeena
Colby
Caelen
Welcome back to the start of the 2014 school year!

This week in Art we have been drawing. All students used their imagination and creativity to draw a variety of things. They also drew a self portrait that will be attached to their Art folio.

Just a reminder that all students are required to have an Art smock for Art. Make sure it is clearly labelled with the child’s name and given to your classroom teacher.

Environmental Leaders Information
Applications are now underway for our classroom Environmental Leader positions. Students should they wish to apply, need to write a letter to their classroom teacher explaining why they would make a great leader. No experience necessary. These letters are due back Monday February 10\textsuperscript{th}. Good Luck to everyone who wishes to apply. Classroom teachers will make the final decision.

Fruit and Vegetable Produce Market
Again this year the Environmental Leaders are going to run the Fruit and Vegetable Produce market again. Our first one will be in March. We are going to trial an after school Market from 2:45pm til 3:45pm. A flyer will go home with the newsletter next week with more details about this. We will once again be looking for donated produce to sell. If you are willing to help donate some produce however big or small please let Tammy or Robyn know.

Catholic Religious Instruction
Yes, I would like my child/children to receive Catholic Religious Instruction this year 2014. (Grades 1 -6 only)

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Signature ___________________________ Date ___________