



IMMACULATE HEART NEWS

ISSUE 1 WEEK 2 TERM 1

HARPER KUHN – YEAR 4

Message from the Principal's Desk

Mrs Samantha Da Luz

Welcome to a new school year, everyone! It gives me great pleasure to introduce you to some new faces (and welcome back some familiar ones too) on staff for 2024:

- Ms Adriane Markham: Pastoral Care and Student Wellbeing Coordinator
- Mrs Emma Robinson: Year 10-12 Program Coordinator
- Mr Dara Connors: Secondary English and HASS
- Mrs Shevaun Van Der Laan: Secondary Education Aide
- Miss Elizabeth O'Callaghan: Liturgical and College choirs
- Mrs Hasoly Tran: SEQTA, Publicity and Year 6
- Mrs Claire Hubeck: Year 5
- Mrs Natasha Shuker: Year 3

We wish you all a rewarding experience at IHC and are very grateful for your expertise and care with our students.

Due to some medical emergencies in the school holidays and more recently, our staffing placements have had to adapt and change to best meet the needs of our cohorts. The college is still investigating all avenues to find some staff to fill particular areas. Please be patient with us as we navigate through these shortages. On that note, we keep Mrs Hughes and Mr Heatherly in our thoughts as they are both in the recovery phase of their medical journeys. We also extend a warm welcome back to Miss Siegart who is continuing her journey back to good health and is thankfully able to work with us in a relief capacity. Please keep all our staff in your prayers and I know you will all join me in looking after them!

Congratulations to the new P&F Committee who held their first meeting last week and I had the opportunity to join via Zoom on that occasion. It was very difficult to hear all the conversations clearly so I would like to reiterate my offer which was made that night to please get in touch with me directly if you have any major concerns or questions that have not been addressed through our college's procedures. I would like to refer you to a link at: <https://ihc.wa.edu.au/about/college-policies/> on our college website to some of the more pertinent policies that parents agree to abide by and are guided to follow when enrolling their children at IHC. The Parent and Community Code of Conduct #SM08 and Community Dispute and Complaint Resolution Procedure #HR01 are two such policies that parents often enquire about. With so many new families to our college, it is a timely reminder to be familiar with all operating procedures, especially when in communication or interacting with staff, students and other parents, particularly whilst on college grounds.

Also, please let me remind all families that our college (as other schools and colleges) insurance does not cover loss or damage to students' personal items. You are strongly encouraged to cover these items under your own household and personal insurance policies. In addition, if your family or contact details have changed since originally enrolling, please let us know in writing what these changes are so we can update all our records for school purposes and communication.

My thanks go to all staff and parents/carers who attended our recent information sessions this week. I believe some more are still occurring. This is a great opportunity to get some pertinent information about what is happening in your child's class and/or cohort and to know who to go to when you have any questions or concerns. I know the weather has been extremely uncomfortable but please remember that the staff offer up their time to keep in close contact with you. Your attendance and support at these meetings are often critical in getting specific information directly from your children's teachers.

I have been informed that there have been some questions raised regarding some of the composite classes we have been running at IHC. I have enclosed an additional information document with this newsletter to perhaps answer some of those questions. I understand that some parents may have some reservations regarding these composite classes. Please let me reassure you that the longitudinal studies into the factors that influence academic achievement show that composite classes make no difference to the academic outcomes of students learning. The factor that has the largest margin, is teacher quality and we have ensured that the teachers who are teaching the composite classes are some of our more experienced and highly regarded teachers at IHC. Education experts also agree that composite classes are not educationally detrimental for the acceleration of gifted students. Your child's teachers collaborated last year to ensure that the correct placements were made. If there are other mitigating factors that the school is unaware of that may negatively impact such placements, then please make contact with your child's teacher or Head of School who are the best placed personnel to discuss your concerns. I am confident in all of our teachers' expertise to continue to meet our children's needs where they are at and to effectively bring them to success.

Please stay well and 'cool', until next time.

God bless.

Save the Dates

For further details, please visit the College Calendar:
<http://ihc.wa.edu.au/calendar/>

Week 3

Mon 12 Feb: Sacrament Information Evening
Tue 13 Feb: Shrove Tuesday
Wed 14 Feb: Ash Wednesday Mass
Thu 15 Feb: Primary Assembly

Week 4

Mon 19 Feb: Year 7 Retreat
Tue 20 Feb: Loving 4 Life - Secondary
Wed 21 Feb: Secondary School Swimming Carnival
Thur 22 Feb: Secondary Assembly

Week 5

Mon 26 Feb: Swimming Lessons Begin - Primary
Mon 26 Feb: OLN Years 11 & 12 Testing Begins
Thu 29 Feb: Primary Assembly

Week 6

Mon 4 March: Public Holiday - College Closed
Thu 7 March: Last Day of Swimming - Primary
Fri 8 March: Primary School Swimming Carnival

From the Heart



The first couple of weeks of the new school year feature some memorable items in the Church's Liturgical Calendar. For example, on the day the students returned, we celebrated the feast day of St John Bosco. He was an Italian priest who devoted much of his life to teaching poor young people in the industrial city of Turin. St John wanted to educate the children in a rural setting, much like our own campus, away from the ugly city centre. The first school week of 2024 ended on Candlemass. During this Mass, the priest blesses the candles that will be used throughout the year.



It commemorates the fourth Joyful Mystery of the Rosary, when we remember Jesus (Who is the Light of the World) being presented in the Temple. This event is reported in Luke's Gospel, and it is the basis for the Catholic devotion that is central to our College: the Immaculate Heart of Mary. At Our Lord's Presentation at the Temple, Simeon prophesied to Our Lady that her Child was destined to suffer, but not only Jesus. Simeon told Our Lady: "... and a sword will pierce through your own soul also". This old Hebrew prophet was announcing the pain that the Virgin Mary would suffer in her heart as she witnessed the death of her only Son on the Cross more than 30 years later. This should inspire all of us that whatever we may suffer, God has an ultimate plan that ends in Heaven. It all hinges on our cooperation with the graces God wants to send us through His mother. Neither Jesus nor Mary are strangers to suffering. St Paul encourages us in his letter to the Colossians that we should unite our own suffering with that of Jesus on the Cross.

*Mr Paul Kelly
Head of Theology, Faith and Liturgy*

The First Day of Secondary School

Mrs Kim Hughes

Last week we 'warmly' welcomed our new intake of Year 7 students to the secondary community. The beginning of the day was spent in Pastoral Care Groups (PCG) where students became familiar with routines and expectations, and they had the opportunity to meet their PCG teachers and peers. Mrs Hughes allocated the lockers and then spent most of the morning helping the 44 Year 7 students learn to open their locks! The extreme summer heat was relentless and students were able to spend their recess and lunch breaks inside with the air conditioners. The past week has seen students fumble with their locks, go to the wrong classrooms and search through the many books in their lockers. But it has also seen smiles and laughter, friendships blossom and true resilience shine. This is going to be a wonderful year!



Visual Arts

Mrs Kelly Burton

The Year 7 Art Group have hit the ground running with their Grotti Lotti inspired birds. Students sketched using various shapes and a variety of lines with injected colour, using beautiful pastels, to create their fun and adorable birds. All in preparation for their canvas creations and a wonderful way to explore the Elements of Art!

