IMPORTANT DATES

Fri 16th Sept – Last Day Term 3, 2.30pm dismissal  
Tues 11th Oct – Variety Night rehearsal  
Wed 12th Oct – Interschool basketball & table tennis  
  
Tue 18th Oct – Interschool girls cricket  
Wed 19th Oct – Interschool boys cricket  
Fri 21st Oct – MSC Visit ISC  

Principal’s Report

Farewell

I will be finishing my term as acting principal at the end of this week and want to thank the school community for your support over the past three terms. I have enjoyed my temporary return from retirement and it has been a productive period with staff working on the implementation of the new School Strategic Plan, following the school’s review in 2105. It has been good to catch up with students who were here in 2013-14, especially to see our current year 10’s who have grown into responsible school leaders. Getting to know the year 7’s and 8’s has taken some time and I am impressed with the calibre of the young people we have at Irymple SC and their enthusiasm for learning and for life in general. The school is about to enter an exciting new phase with a new principal and funding for a major building project. The appointment of Ms Jo McQuinn as principal is an outstanding choice and I am very optimistic about the future of Irymple SC under her leadership and guidance. There are many positive elements to the school and Jo and her leadership team are charged with building on those positives and growing the school.

We have a productive and supportive school council in place to work with Jo and her leadership team. The staff is a committed group, with many going above and beyond for our students and families. They will be a key element in the school’s improvement journey over the coming years. The school community is the true strength of any school and I would encourage you all to be active participants and partners in every aspect of your child’s education.

I will be eagerly following the progress of the school. It is never possible to separate yourself from a workplace where you have had the opportunity to work with people who make school worth attending each day. I wish you all the very best for the future.

K2LD visioning workshops

The school’s architects visited this week and ran four visioning workshops, as well as meeting with Jo McQuinn and myself. There were workshops for students, staff and parents to determine some common threads in the priorities for the building works and were a great introduction to the K2LD team. The school community and K2LD will be spending a lot of time working together over the next 18 months.

Parent teacher interviews and course information evening

Thanks to all parents and students who attended these two sessions and we hope it provided students and families with valuable information to support their learning and pathways selection. The elective selections are currently being returned and collated and students will have the opportunity to confirm their selections when the elective blocking is finalised early in term 4.

China sister school visit

We have heard from our travellers in China and the sister school visit is going very well. We have 13 students, along with Ms Kate Douglas and Ms Ali Callahan, travelling for two weeks visiting Dali and other key cities in China. International travel is a powerful learning experience for young people and is vital to developing understanding of other cultures. No doubt there will be a full report and photos on their return.
Child Safe Standards

The Child Safe Standards have been developed and implemented in response to the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry's *Betrayal of Trust* Report. The report made 15 recommendations aimed at protecting children from all forms of abuse and neglect. All Victorian schools are required to complete a self-evaluation of their current policies and practices and to sign off against these by 28th September. The school is in the process of ensuring we meet all the standards.

More information will be communicated to students and parents as part of the process in early term 4, with the inclusion of several relevant documents on the school’s website.

Student drop off and pick up

Parents are reminded that there is a drop off and pick up zone located at the southern boundary of the school. The school driveway and main car park are very busy with school delivery vehicles, buses and staff traffic at the start and end of the school day. Parents are requested to avoid using the main driveway and car park at these times as it is a student safety issue.

*Mrs Robyn Blackie – Principal* blackie.robyn.m@edumail.vic.gov.au

Assistant Principal’s Report

**Naidoc Celebrations**

Last Monday Irymple Secondary College conducted a whole school assembly as part of NAIDOC celebrations. Our assembly began with a smoking ceremony and the playing of the didgeridoo by Uncle Willy, and then Koorie Engagement Support Officer, Victoria Van Schie led the celebration. Activities followed with emu feather craft, indigenous games and art, supported by staff from MDAS. A big thank you to Victoria and staff member Maryann Porker for their organisation of the morning and providing an opportunity for the school community to come together to officially receive a plaque acknowledging the traditional owners of the land on which the school is built and which will be proudly displayed in the foyer.

**Course Information Evening**

We saw a large attendance of parents and students at our Course Information Evening for current Year 8 and Year 9 students. This evening was well supported by staff and a number of outside providers from TAFE, Trade Training Centre, and information on school based apprenticeships were on offer. All selection forms were due back on Monday 12th September. Early in Term 4, students will receive confirmation of their selected course for 2017. Thank you to Jackie Horkings for assisting with the organising of the evening. We hope that your students have felt well informed about the extensive range of students that Irymple Secondary College will offer in 2017. Any further inquiries can be directed to either Jackie Horkings, Loretta Clyne, Sarah Doolan or Anne Symes.

**Whole School Assembly**

Our most recent whole school assembly offered a showcase of talent on display. Congratulations to our Students of the Month and to all students who were nominated by their respective subject teachers.
Year 9 2016 School for Leadership and Year 8 School for Leadership in 2017
It has been a big few weeks for students who have applied for the opportunity to attend their respective School for Leadership. I was fortunate to be on the panel with Year 9 Coordinators Sally Corless and Kara Taylor to select a team of students for a place in Term 4, 2016. Nine excited students from our school have secured places at Gnurad Gundidj Campus. Our students are: Georgia Leutner, Edie Hopgood, Conner Irwin, Ipali Piawi, Mele Lauteau, Lachlan Deem, Hayley Young, Michael Penna and Beau Smith. We wish them well. The successful year 8 Alpine team will be announced in the next newsletter.

Farewell and thank you
This week concludes the contract of Mrs Robyn Blackie, our Acting Principal for Terms 1, 2 & 3. Robyn has worked tirelessly for our school in her time here this year and has supported our school in its focus to provide innovative 21st Century education that caters for all of its students and their pathways choices. Thank you Robyn and all the best in your 'retirement'!

* Next term we look forward to welcoming our new principal, Ms Jo McQuinn to Irymple Secondary College.

Mrs Anne Symes – Assistant Principal symes.anne.as@edumail.vic.gov.au
Central Australia Trip, breakdown by students - James Prictor, Louisa Stevens, Trinity Harcoan, Chloe Barker and Ashely Higgens.

On the 4th of August, Year 8 campers had all woken early and were at the school by 6am, ready to get on the bus and start their trip to Central Australia and be the first ISC year 8’s to represent our school there. On the trip we had 48 students, 4 staff, 1 parent, 2 cooks and 1 bus driver, who all did their best to make the camp very enjoyable. Once on the bus we got comfortable as we were going to spend our first 6 hours of the trip sitting down.

When we got to Spear Creek Station we learned how to set up our tents and how our nights were going to work. After the tents were up we set off for a quick hike to see what some of our days would be like. After that we went to a viewing site and we got to watch the glorious sunset. When we got back we had dinner which comprised of soup, a main meal and dessert. After dinner we were off to bed as there was a big day ahead of us on day 2.

Day 2. On our second day we went from Spear Creek to Coober Pedy. We had an early start, waking up at 6.00am and packing everything up. We stopped at Port Augusta on the way, we had a climb on the rocks and saw a dolphin. We continued on our way to Coober Pedy at around 6:00pm and enjoyed a tour in an underground house, then we had a tour in the Opal Cave and learnt about opals. We set up our stuff in an underground hotel and had dinner, then got ready for bed, preparing for our long trip the next day.

Day 3. On our third day in Central Australia we travelled from Coober Pedy to Yulara, which is just out of Uluru. On our way there we stopped at a salt lake named Lake Hart, which is normally dry but we were lucky enough to be there when it had water in it. We all went for a walk in the water and our clothes ended up white from the salt. When we got to Yulara we set up our tents for the night, then we went for a walk to the viewing area at the caravan park to watch the sunset over Uluru. We then had tea and got ready for another early start to the next day.

Day 4. On our fourth day we stayed in Yulara, on this day we went to Uluru, we left around 8.00am. We had a tour guide named Leeroy who took us on a walk half way around Uluru. For most of us it was our first time seeing the rock in person. Leeroy told us many stories about the place. After our walk around Uluru we went to the Olgas and had a walk around them. After our day was complete we went back to watch the sunset over Uluru. The rock changed colour as the sun went down further and it looked amazing!

Day 5. On day 5 we woke up pretty early had some brekky, packed up and drove to Kings Creek Station. When we got there we set up for the night then we travelled another half hour to Kings Canyon and walked the Kings Creek Valley walk to give us a taste of what day 6 was going to be like. The views were great, but it was so hot.

Day 6. On day 6 we woke up at a decent time, had brekky at 7, got ready, packed up and were off to Kings Canyon, but this time we were doing the rim walk. Everyone pretty much stopped half way. We all eventually got up and split into groups and started walking. The views were absolutely extraordinary. My favourite part was the garden lookout which was actually a water hole unless we went the wrong way. After that we did a bit more walking, but were then stopped and for the first time it wasn’t because of Mr.
Morrish’s group, but a helicopter. After we finished the 3 ½ hour walk, we went back to the bus and had lunch. After lunch we were back in the bus for a long trip to Alice Springs.

Day 7. On the 7th day we went for a walk at Ormiston Gorge, which took about an hour and a half to complete. At the end we were rewarded with a swim in a beautiful waterhole. It was freezing cold, but very fun. Afterwards we got back on the bus and went to Stanleys’ Chasm. It was really cool because there were rocky walls on each side of us and at the end there were many trees and bushes, it was fantastic. For the rest of the day we went on a tour of Alice Springs on the bus. At the end of our tour we went to Anzac Hill which is a memorial to the fallen soldiers and we also got to see the whole town from a birds’ eye view. The next morning Mr. Horkings had a bit of trouble taking his tent down due to 25 pegs hammered in by Ashley.

Once we were all packed up we went to see John Flynn’s grave. Geoff our bus driver told us a bit about Flynn and the Royal Flying Doctor Service. After that we went shopping around Alice Springs for souvenirs. We then got on the bus to start our long journey home. On the bus we watched some movies and at 10:00 we started to try and get some sleep, which was really difficult sitting on the bus. The next day we got home at around 4.30pm. We were all happy to be home and it was a terrific trip.

James Prictor, Louisa Stevens, Trinity Harcoan, Chloe Barker, Ashely Higgens.

“On behalf of all the students that were privileged enough come on this camp we would like to thank Mrs Horkings, Mr Morrish, Lisa O’Neill and a huge thankyou to Mr Horkings for organising this amazing camp. Also we would like to thank Mr Vandijk for coming on the camp and taking great photos for us. We are very appreciative of everyone who helped make this camp happen.” – Brooke Hards
Sunraysia Volleyball has a number of activities coming up that will provide boys and girls the opportunity to play volleyball.

Sunraysia Volleyball has been running **Volley Stars Talent Search Clinics** in schools over the past couple of weeks. Boys and girls identified **AND any other boys and girls aged between 6 and 14 who are keen to come along** can attend the **FREE Volley Stars Trials**.

**Volley Stars Talent Search Trials**  
SJC Stadium, 11th Street, Mildura  
9:30am – 11:00am  
Trial 1 – Saturday, September 3  
Trial 2 – Saturday, September 10

The **Volley Stars Program and Competition** will begin on October 8 and run during Term 4. Any boys and girls that are aged between 6 and 14 keen to take part should come along to the **Registration Day** (Registration fees $50 annual sign up + $5/week).

**Volley Stars Program Registration Day**  
SJC Stadium, 11th Street, Mildura  
9:30am – 11:00am  
Saturday, October 8

“All are welcome!”
INTERSCHOOL ATHLETICS

The Interschool Athletics were held in fine and sunny conditions on Tuesday 7th September. Our team performed reasonably well to finish 3rd overall. It was a battle between St Joseph’s College and Red Cliffs Secondary College for 1st and 2nd position throughout the day but we weren’t far behind. As it turned out, SJC pulled away in the relays eventually winning by about 60 points from Red Cliffs. We were a further 20 points behind them.

There were many individual and team placegetters on the day with the following students winning their event(s) or coming Second in and subsequently qualifying for the Loddon Mallee Region Athletics to be held in Bendigo on Thursday 6th October (first week back next term).

Chloe Barker - 14 Yrs 100m, Triple Jump and 1500m (2nd)
Paige McLean - 13 Yrs 1500m (2nd)
Jordan Stainer - 14 Yrs 1500m
Regan Kerslake - 15 Yrs 1500m (2nd)
Courtney Ransome - 16 Yrs 1500m
Lachy Robertson - 15 Yrs 100m and 200m
Claudia Bozzi - 14 Yrs 400m
Annabel Hocking - 14 Yrs Discus
Jordan Sievewright - 15 Yrs High Jump
Mele Lauteau - 15 Yrs Javelin
Beau Smith - 15 Yrs Javelin (2nd)

Shae Fitzgibbon, Brooke Hards, Chloe Milne and Chloe Barker combined to win the 14 Yrs Girls 4 X 100m relay as did Jarod Harcoan, Fynn De Toerkenczy, Beau Smith and Lachy Robertson in the 15 Yrs Boys 4 X 100m relay.

Congratulations to all winners and placegetters and a big thank you to all participants on the day.

Magpie Season

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning has been contacted about the male magpie residing in the trees along the path leading towards the Karadoc Avenue front fence. We ask that all students please keep away from the two magpies in our grounds. We have been informed that the situation should be resolved by the end of the holidays. If there are any further magpie concerns next term, please notify the front office staff immediately.

Irymple Secondary College kindly acknowledges the following sponsors: