

IPECS INFORMER



*Here is the land, and here is the sky;
You are my friends, and here am I.*

Thank you to the Ngunnawal people for looking after the land in which we play on.

Save the Date

Wed 29 Aug– Father’s Day Breakfast

Tues 21 Aug -Book Week Dress up—Rubies/Amethysts

Thurs 23 Aug—Whole school book week dress up

Notes due back

Swimming– K-2 by 15 Aug

Zumba– Kinder only by 17Aug

Salaka– K-2 and Rubies/Amethysts by 22 Aug

Term Dates

Term 1 Feb 5 - April 13

Term 2 April 30 - July 6

Term 3 July 23 - Sept 28

Term 4 Oct 15 - Dec 21

	Mon 13/08	Tues 14/08	Wed 15/08	Thurs 16/08	Fri 17/08
Wk 4		School satisfaction survey opens	Breakfast Club	Dr Walker’s Science Show 9.15 P-2	Backyard Rangers
SCIENCE WEEK					
	Mon 20/08	Tues 21/08	Wed 22/08	Thurs 23/08	Fri 24/08
Wk 5	Author visit	Preschool book week dress up Dental care presentation Yr 1/2 Kindy Zumba	Breakfast club	B-8 Book week dress up Whole school gathering	Backyard Rangers Money & gifts due for Father’s Day stall
BOOK WEEK					
	Mon 27/08	Tues 28/08	Wed 29/08	Thurs 30/08	Fri 31/08
Wk 6	Salaka drumming performance	Kindy Zumba Father’s Day stall	Father’s Day Breakfast		Backyard Rangers Father’s Day stall
SWIMMING LESSONS K—2					

IPECS PRIDE

- Play
- Resilience
- Integrity
- Diversity
- Effort

Mission Statement

To engage and equip children as lifelong learners and empower families as partners in education and care.

Principal, Kate Woods.

Deputy Principal, Katie Brown.

Business Manager, Trish Coughlan.

Board Chair, Ewan Stuart

GEMS President, Michelle Ayers

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Facebook—Isabella Plains Early Childhood School

Webpage-
www.ipecs.act.edu.au

From the Principal...

On my most recent classroom walkthroughs I have been most impressed by the engagement levels of children during their inquiry time. The educators have put great effort into developing the shared learning spaces as areas that facilitate children's curiosity, wonder, and investigation while supporting them to independently take their learning further and deepen their knowledge of concepts. Children also explicitly develop their learning assets, skills and dispositions during these sessions as they work together with others collaboratively on their learning.

This term across the school the inquiries are:

Preschool	Kindergarten	Year 1/2
How can I be creative?	What is it made of? How does it move?	What happens when you mix different materials?

All parents will have received the term overview by now which outlines the learning that will be taking place across the key learning areas. If you have any questions, please speak with your child's class teacher. We hope that you enjoy being part of children's everyday learning through the digital portfolios (Seesaw). These portfolio's allow us to capture and share learning in real time as well as enabling you to provide feedback directly to your child on their learning. These portfolios remain active and are yours to keep now and into the future.



Three Year old Preschool Announcement

Many of you would have heard the recent announcement about the introduction of free preschool for three year old children. Substantial evidence shows that equitable access to quality early childhood education creates a greater likelihood that all young children will develop and grow with an equal chance at better school achievement and improved social, emotional and health outcomes.

The ACT Government has started a conversation with parents, the early childhood sector, schools and the wider community about developing an Early Childhood Strategy to ensure every child in the ACT gets the best start in life. As a key part of this strategy, the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development has announced that the government would like to introduce free, universal quality early childhood education for three-year-old children in the ACT. This would be a staged approach commencing in 2020, initially focusing on children who would benefit the most.

To learn more or provide feedback, join the conversation at the [Your Say](#) website.



Construction and upgrades taking place at IPECS

We have a lot of works in discussion or underway. Below are some of the things that you may see or hear about across IPECS in the coming months.

- New outdoor learning classroom behind library (due to finish by Week 6)
- New playground equipment to be installed in the Olive playground (due to be completed by 31st August)
- New perimeter security fence to be installed
- Evaporative cooling to be installed in Building 7 (year 1/2)
- New ceiling fans in kindergarten, year 1/2 and specialist teaching area buildings

We are excited to have these projects coming to fruition after many years lobbying for some of the them take place. We are also purchasing three new Interactive Whiteboard panels for the year 1/2 teaching space. Kindergarten will be scheduled to have IWB upgrades in 2019.

I have included some photos today of the Corals excursion to the Canberra Museum and Gallery. The children have many excursions and incursions coming up this term. We look forward to sharing these experiences with you over the coming weeks via our social media pages and through seesaw.

Be sure to get out there and engage in some Science activities next week as part of Science week!

Kate



The 2018 School Satisfaction Surveys will be conducted later this term.

Parents and carers and school staff will be asked to participate in these important surveys. The survey results will contribute to school research and improvement processes.

Although the survey is voluntary, we hope you will want to participate. It won't take much of your time and will help us improve our school for your child and future students. A letter or email about the parent and carer survey will be sent to you in August. The key ACT results from the 2017 School Satisfaction Surveys have been published on the Education Directorate website (www.education.act.gov.au) and a summary of our school results is provided in our 2017 School Board Report.

Are you leaving IPECS at the end of 2018?

Planning for the 2019 school year is underway and class placements and teacher recruitment is based on student numbers for the following year. It is essential that we know who will be staying and who will be leaving. If your child is currently in preschool, kinder or year one, please use this [Google form](#) to inform us of your enrolment intentions for next year. The form will close 1 September and we would appreciate it if families could complete it before then.



Book Week 2018.
20-24 August
This year's theme is
'Find your Treasure'

In the weeks leading up to Book Week, students are encouraged to bring in an item or photo of something that they treasure to contribute to our library Book Week display.



Activities for Book Week 2018

Mon 20/08:

Author, Dr Stephanie Owen Reeder will visit the school from 10-12:30. Stephanie is an author, illustrator, reviewer and editor based in Canberra. She has written and illustrated 10 children's books which have all been published by the National Library.

"Where has all the treasure gone?" This mystery will need to be solved using the hidden clues.

Tues 21/08:

In class writing experience based on Monday's mystery. Amethysts and Rubies dress up as their favourite book character and parade.

Wed 22/08:

In class book show; students will need to bring a teddy, stuffed toy or cardboard box to dress up as a character from a book of their choice using various recycled materials. They will have the opportunity to present their creations to the rest of the class.

Thurs 23/08

Whole School Gathering; Birth - Year 2 dress up and parade.

How can we keep treasure safe? Children will invent, design and/or create something to keep a treasure safe.

Fri 24/08

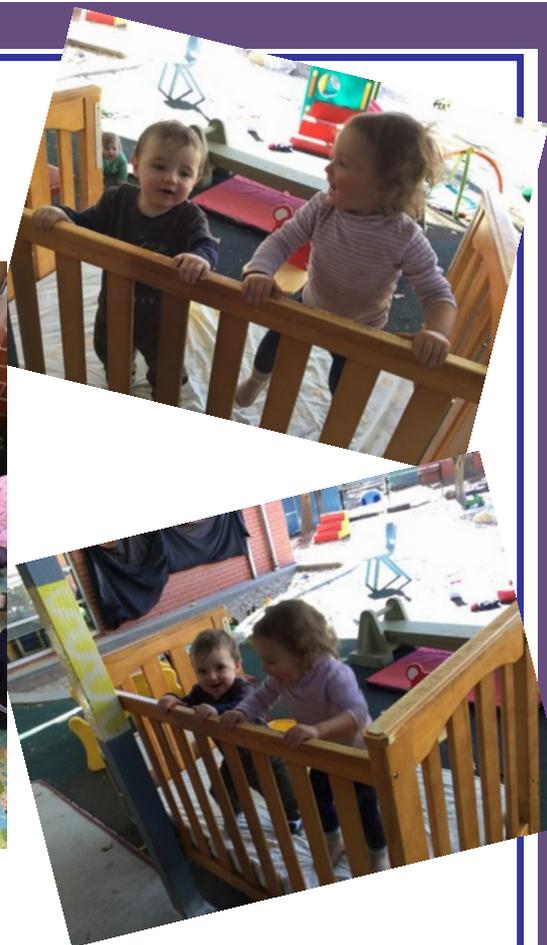
In class activity based on the concept of treasure.

From the Pearls

We have been participating in many group times throughout the day. In these group times, we focus on making sure our learning of literacy and numeracy skills are fun and engaging!

As we've been learning about counting over the last two weeks, we have been using catchy and interactive songs to engage our Pearls children. We have sung along to different counting songs, including; 'One Little Finger' where the Pearls will show us their counting fingers, and 'Five Cheeky Monkeys' which is where we count along to the unfortunate cheeky monkeys who meet a snapping crocodile. Audrey and William J also adapted this learning to their outside dramatic play experiences. Great job, Pearls!

Krissy, Syeda, and Rhiannon



Makerspace

Term 3 will see the children moving ahead in the Digital Technologies space. The K-2 children have gained great confidence within the Makerspace room and have become whizzes with the many technologies on offer. This term we will be focussing on the Digital Technology curriculum and incorporating media arts. We will be using media arts and communication technologies to design, produce and distribute media artworks.

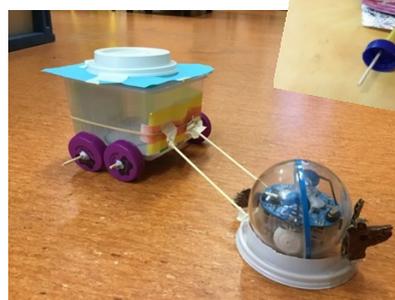
We have started by collaborating with Sue in the Arts creating a plasticine model to retell either a well known nursery rhyme or story. During Makerspace sessions the children will work on the Digital production of their Claymation to present their stories to an audience. Once the children have created their pieces and have put their story together we hope to share these with you via Seesaw. You may have seen a few of our practice pieces on Seesaw this week. The iPad apps the children will be using this term to create their work is 'Stop Motion' and they will continue to learn basic coding in Scratch Jnr, both apps can be found in the app store and are free to use if the children are interested in furthering their development at home.

What did we get up to in Makerspace in Term 2?

Throughout term 2 we worked very hard on our moving toy projects. Children were asked to make a moving toy. The toy was required to have a moveable part or a piece of technology to help it to move.

Here are some of our finished moving toy assignments and experimenting along the way.

Mel.





Congratulations!

GEM OF THE WEEK AWARD WINNERS

Nathan, Xavier, Darian, Samuel, Madelynn, Kaison, Xavier, Nathan,
Ryan, April, Oscar

PRINCIPALS AFTERNOON TEA

Bella, Emma, Michael, Gordon, Jackson and Blake

PRIDE Bear will be spending some time with the Ambers for displaying effort.

Congratulations



Medication at school

If your child needs to take medication at school, please do not leave it in their bag. Parents are required to bring the medication to reception and complete the necessary forms. This will ensure that your child receives the correct dose at the right time as well as ensuring that the medication is stored appropriately and securely, away from other children. This includes non prescription, over the counter medications such as Panadol, Nurofen, cough medicines and throat lozenges. We appreciate everyone's cooperation with this important matter.



FATHER'S DAY BREAKFAST

JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL BREAKFAST
AND CELEBRATE ALL SIGNIFICANT
MEN IN CHILDREN'S LIVES
THANK YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU DO

WEDNESDAY 29 AUGUST
STARTING AT 8.15AM
IN THE HALL





Exciting things up ahead!

Thanks to the GEMS fundraising efforts and your support, we have two special guests coming to visit us at IPECS very soon for Science Week and Book Week!

Dr Graham Walker



Since 2001, Dr Graham has taken science to over a million people in Australia and around the world using exciting live science shows, TV, hands-on activities, and workshops. From killer bowling ball pendulums to embarrassing 'shrinkage' in freezing liquid nitrogen, his shows are jammed with intriguing science aimed to inspire audiences to laugh, learn, see the wonder of the scientific method and highlight the careers available.

Stephanie Owen Reeder



Stephanie Owen Reeder is an author and illustrator who lives in Canberra she spent most of her working life as a Hansard Editor at Federal Parliament, but now she is doing her dream job writing and illustrating books for children and adults alike. Her books include internationally acclaimed lift-the-flap picture books - I've Got a Feeling, and Dance Like a Pirate. She also writes history-based non-fiction titles like Lost! A True Tale from the Bush and Amazing Grace: An Adventure at Sea.



Please remember to bring your gifts and shopping money to the Front Office by: Friday, 24th August 2018

Shopping at the Father's Day Stall will be on:

Tuesday 28 August 2018 and Friday 31 August 2018

HEADS UP:

Next GEMS meeting tonight!

Wed, 7pm, 08 August
at the Family Room

Come and discuss how things are going, add your ideas, here from the Principal and other groups around the school.

Children are welcome, and a hot cuppa is on offer!



COMING UP:

Father's Day BREKKY

August 29th

Science Week Visit from

Dr Graham Walker

August 15th

Book Week Visit from Author Stephanie Owen Reeder

August 20th

Father's Day Markets

August 29th & 31st

KEEP UP TO DATE & IN TOUCH WITH GEMS!



Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/IPECS.GEMS/>



Mail Chimp Mailing List

[Click here to subscribe](#)



Gmail Address

ipecs.gems@gmail.com

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

Voluntary Contributions form an integral part of the annual school budget used to resource educational programs for children. While voluntary contributions are optional, we strongly encourage parents to pay the full amount, or any amount that they can comfortably afford to assist the school. At Isabella Plains Early Childhood School, families also have the option of paying into a tax deductible Library fund. The school board suggests a yearly contribution of \$65 per child or \$95 per family.

Our preferred methods of payment are Quickweb or Direct Deposit.

Quickweb: Go to the school website page <http://www.ipecs.act.edu.au/payment>

Direct Deposit Details: Westpac BSB: 032 777 Account No: 001439

Name: Isabella Plains Early Childhood School Management Acc

Details: Volcon and family surname **OR** Library and family surname

(Please ensure donations to the Library Fund are not combined with other payments)

If you have any questions, concerns or comments please contact a member of the school board or leadership team.



DON'T FORGET!!!



All gifts will be sold for \$5

To help make this event a success you need to:

- 1. Donate a gift** – if your child would like to purchase multiple gifts, please consider donating additional gifts.

AND

- 2. Return your \$5 Shopping Money** in a sealed envelope to the GEMS mailbox in the front office. Please ensure your child's name and class is clearly marked on the envelope.

Gifts and Shopping Money are due by:

Friday, 24th August 2018.

The Father's Day Stall will be on:

Tuesday 28 August 2018

Friday 31 August 2018



**HAPPY
Father's
Day!**



Isabella Plains Early
Childhood School

Communities@Work

Suspension, Transfer or Exclusion of Students in ACT Public Schools Policy

Community Consultation

Suspension, Transfer or Exclusion of Students in ACT Public Schools Policy Review.

The ACT Education Directorate is seeking feedback from students, families, teachers, support staff and others about its review of the *Suspension, Transfer or Exclusion of Students in ACT Public Schools Policy* and related documents.

The revised policy aligns with current research and includes a greater focus on a prevention and early intervention approach to behaviour support to reduce the incidence of behaviours that potentially lead to suspension, exclusion and transfer.

All input will be considered and will help to ensure the revised policy documents are clear, current and relevant to meet the needs of schools and the community. Please refer to the Education Directorate's website under "What's New" for further information and links to participate in the consultation www.education.act.gov.au/home.

Education staff are available to explain the policy documents and record feedback from individuals who would prefer to provide this verbally. Individuals wishing to use this alternative should contact Colette Brown on 6207 0457 or etdstudentwellbeing@act.gov.au. Colette will arrange a time for verbal input to be provided either by phone or in a face-to-face meeting.

ABN: 79 166 067 189

SUBURBAN CONCRETERS



T: 0447470035
E: paul@suburbanconcreters.com.au

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Kelly Dawe

Rodan + Fields - Independent Consultant

0402 264 851

kelly@cmkmakeup.com.au

<https://kdawe.myrandf.com/au/>

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- and Sheeting

Belle Photography

Portrait photographer - specialising in baby photography, child photography, natural lighting family photography, in Canberra

www.bellecanberra.com

www.facebook.com/BellePhotographyCanberra



Learn Tae Kwon Do here at the school!



Walsh Martial Arts conducts Tae Kwon Do lessons for children and parents each Thursday at 6.30 pm in the Isabella Plains Early Childhood School hall. Fees are reasonable: just \$20 a week for a family. Contact John O'Keefe on 0415 150 670 or come along for a look any Thursday evening.



Handwriting help from raisingchildren.net.au

<http://raisingchildren.net.au/articles/handwriting.html/context/246>

Why handwriting is important

Even though many children and adults use computers, tablets and phones at home, school and work, handwriting is still an **essential life skill**.

For example, children who can write smoothly and clearly are better able to use writing to record their thoughts and ideas. When handwriting is automatic, their ideas can flow. Children also need to write to do homework, tests and assignments.

We also need handwriting skills to do many tasks later in life like writing birthday cards, filling in forms and signing important documents.

How children learn handwriting

Handwriting is a **complex skill that develops over time**. To learn handwriting children need to combine fine motor skills, language, memory and concentration. They also need to practise and follow instructions.

Handwriting starts with scribbling and drawing then moves on to forming letters and words.

You can encourage your child to develop an interest in handwriting by giving her opportunities to draw, scribble and write. This prepares young children for the formal handwriting they'll learn at school.

Left-handed writing in children

Most children choose to write and draw with their right hands. But some children choose their left hands. is OK. If your child chooses his left hand to write with, there's no need to make him swap hands.

Preschoolers: getting started with handwriting

Children usually start to draw **straight and circular lines** in the preschool years. Your preschooler might even be putting these lines and shapes together to draw people and objects. She might also be starting to form letters.

Lots of opportunities to draw will help your child keep developing the skills he needs for handwriting. Here's how to help:

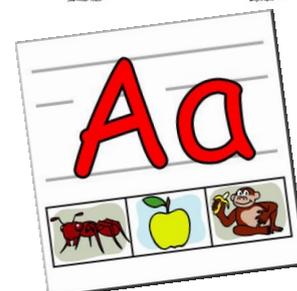
- Keep giving your child **chunky crayons** and chalk until she has developed the finger and thumb grip she needs to hold a pencil.
- Encourage your child to **trace** simple top-to-bottom and left-to-right lines on a page, trying to stay on the lines all the way to the end. Make up a story to add interest to the activity – for example, 'Help this puppy find the way home'.
- Practise drawing **anticlockwise circles** that start at the top of the page. This is the pattern we use to form letters.
- As your child gets more control over the crayon or pencil, encourage him to draw simple stick figure people. If you put your child's pictures on the fridge or wall, he'll feel proud of his work.
- Help your child to recognise and write her name by helping her to trace over the letters of her name. At first you might need to put your hand over your child's hand to help her.
- Help your child learn the **alphabet sequence**. A fun way to learn is by clapping your hands in a steady rhythm while you say the letters together.
- Give your child opportunities to write and draw with other materials – for example, drawing lines in sand or mud, tracing over letters on signs with his finger, forming 3D letters from playdough, and so on. Take photos of these drawings if you want to print them out and display them.



Handwriting: encouraging your school-age child

Here are a few tips to encourage your school-age child's handwriting:

- Make a place for writing at home. Have a stable chair and a surface at the level of your child's belly button. If your kitchen table is too high, you could use a cushion or tall chair to raise your child higher, with a footstool to support her feet.
- Ask your child's teacher for a sample sheet with the starting points for each letter clearly marked. This can help your child practise at home what he's learning at school.
- To help your child learn to form a letter, write it lightly and correctly yourself and get her to trace over your letter. Show your child where to start drawing the letter by putting a green dot at the starting point and a red one at the finishing point.
- Say the letter's name and practise saying the letter sound with your child as he's drawing or tracing the letter.
- Use everyday opportunities to practise writing. For example, get your child to add items to the family shopping list, write notes to grandparents, help with birthday and other cards, or make labels with post-it notes.
- Make it fun. Use a stick to draw large letters in the ground or at the beach and fill the letters with pebbles or shells. You could use non-permanent markers on a window to trace a letter over many times. Bath crayons are also good for this activity.



This