

# IPECS INFORMER



**PRIDE**  
Play Respect Integrity Diversity Effort  
**Everyone Belongs**



*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 on which we play.*

## Week 10

Tuesday 17 December— Last day for Rubies and Amethysts.

Wednesday 18 December— Reports sent home.

Thursday 18 December— Last day of school for P-2.

## Like and follow us for regular updates

Facebook—Isabella Plains Early Childhood School

Webpage—  
[www.ipecs.act.edu.au](http://www.ipecs.act.edu.au)

## From our Leadership Team

Dear Children and Families.

Welcome to our final newsletter for 2019. What a year it has been! It was a privilege to attend the Year 2 Farewell Gathering morning tea on Thursday that celebrated the learning and development of our year 2 children, some of which have been part of the IPECS community since birth. Our year 2 children and families ought to be proud of themselves for their growth in learning at IPECS. While sad to say goodbye, we are confident that your time at IPECS has given you the best start in life and we look forward to you returning to visit us. We would also like to say a big farewell to children from other year levels who will be transitioning to new schools in 2020.

### Art Show and Mini Fete

Last weeks' Art Show and Mini-Fete was a true celebration of the wonderful community we have at IPECS. I was simply amazed by the quality of the children's artwork, both the individual and collective pieces. Thank you to the families who bidded at the auction and for making considerable donations to IPECS. A big thank you to our GEMS P&C, particularly Frances, Katrina and Nicole for your organisation of the mini-fete. Thank you to our class connectors and all adults who volunteered to assist with stalls. While a significant fundraising activity for our school, the other purpose of the Art Show and Mini Fete is to come together as a community and celebrate the year. This was a wonderful celebration of 2019. The money raised from the fete will be donated back to the school by the GEMS P&C and will go towards installing a shade structure above Olive Playground.

### 2020 Staffing

As well as saying goodbye to some families, next week we will also farewell some of our staff. Mel Moore and Kathryn Hope will be transferring to new schools in 2020. You might also recall our music teacher Lavy Orugtani. Lavy was on leave this year however will

## 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,**

**Simon Parker.**

**Deputy Principal,**

**Katie Brown.**

**Business Manager,**

**Jane Harrold.**

**Board Chair,**

**Ewan Stewart.**

**GEMS President,**

**Frances Stanton**

return to work in 2020 in a new school. Claudia White will also be taking leave from her current position however we will still see Claudia working as a relief teacher at our school across the year. We would like to thank, Kathryn, Mel, Lavy and Claudia for their contributions to the IPECS community and wish them both well on their next journeys. In 2020, we will be welcoming some new teaching staff members including Kylie Neylan, Erica Teding, Rose Donnelly and Karen McQuellin.

## 2020 Classes and First Day Arrangements

Our 2020 classes have almost been finalised. During the break, each child will receive a letter in the mail from their 2020 teacher. This letter will inform children who their teacher will be in 2020 and also contain some key dates and other important information regarding the beginning of the school year. While we do not expect any changes to classroom teachers or class group placements, it is always possible that things can unexpectedly change over the break and we appreciate your understanding and flexibility should this occur.

## Important Dates for 2020

Please see below some important dates for 2020 including dates for the first day back at school, community events and getting to know you yarns.

- Monday 3 February - preschool (beginning of week groups) and kindergarten children return; new year 1/2 children are invited to visit between 9.00 - 10.30
- Tuesday 4 February - all year 1/2 children return
- Thursday 6 February - preschool (end of the week groups) begin
- Thursday 6 February - 5.30pm Welcome BBQ
- Monday 10 February to Friday 14 February - Getting to know you yarns

Thank you for your ongoing support of our school in 2019. We look forward to seeing you back in 2020 and wish you a happy and safe holiday.

Take care,

Simon  
Parker  
Principal





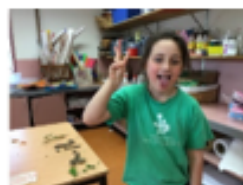
# Class of 2019

## Quotables

Sherry: I love that we get to play soccer.

Benji: The best day was the Questacon excursion for the whole day. We got to go to the galleries.

Ethan: I will remember seeing the best principal ever – Simon.



Miah: What I love about IPECS is that we share and have lots of friends.

Riley A: I love Makerspace.

Elizabeth: I like that there's lots of people, so you can sneak in if you turn up late. You can teach people how to do things on the monkey bars.

Miguel: I like drawing stuff that I want to draw.



Hamish: I enjoyed going to Buoyed Up.

Simrah: I like meeting more teachers and people.

Eva: I like how we get two breaks and how we go to the garden and eat the food.

Kaartik: I like playing and writing.



Marcus: I like playing with my friends

Ben: I like reading in the library



Max: I like Monday's at the library because you can make books and I also love the big oval.

Ben: I like reading in the library



Renee: At IPECS I like playing with my friends.

## Library

Children have continued to enjoy coming to the library to borrow books, share reading with friends and listen to stories. They have been learning about how books in the library are organised and how books are written and published. Over the last few months, we have particularly been looking at different styles of illustration. They were fascinated by the work of Nizar Ali Badr, who creates illustrations using collections of small pebbles. Children enjoyed making their own pebble pictures, which we are currently collating into books for the library.

Borrowing has stopped for the year. We ask that all books you might have at home be returned to the school as soon as possible. Overdue notices are currently being sent out, if you are sure that any books showing up on these notices have been returned, then please return the notice with a quick note letting us know. Thank you for all your support for our library this year.

Sue



## Preschool

Preschool is busy as usual. We have been investigating bugs, participated in make believe play, had a go at writing and mark making, sung songs, read books, completed craft activities! The children have enjoyed continuing their fantastic Preschool learning journey and have been enjoying their transition visits to their new spaces for 2020. We have been discussing growth and change this term and it is amazing to see just how much growth each child has demonstrated this year in so many diverse and different ways. We have been busy completing our Art Show Pieces and were very excited to share these with you on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December. Please ensure if you haven't already done so you let the school know where your child will be attending in 2020 and if this has changed please ensure the information has been passed on. We loved seeing you at the Art Show and Mini Fete and thank you all for a wonderful Preschool year.

Mel, Tanya, Ellen, Claudia, Annette, Jacquie and Sarah

## Kindergarten News

It's hard to believe that we have come to the end of the kindergarten year. It has been so good to get to know these beautiful children and watch them grow into confident young learners. We have started transitioning to Year One with a visit to the classrooms and having shared eating time.

We have had a busy term of learning including our excursion to Tuggeranong Schoolhouse and Simpson's Hill, the firemen visit and the art show.

We hope you have a restful and enjoyable holiday and we wish the children well for Year One.

Priscilla, Meg, Leeanne, Bek, Lily and Kathryn





## 1/2 News

Wow! Is it really week 9? Time flies when you're having fun learning. In year ½ we have kept ourselves very busy this term. During writing we have been working hard to create narratives and information texts by hand and on the Chromebook (if we wanted to). We just cannot get enough of writing.

Year 2's have finished their Buoyed Up sailing program and learnt a lot of great skills and got to spend time out on Lake Burley Griffin tacking (turning) and even going right out onto the lake with Fergus for our last day. We learnt how to tie some sailing knots too!

We have also got to enjoy the fruits of our labour from the Sustainability garden. Louise gave each class a beautiful platter of fruit, vegetables and herbs from our garden for us to try during fruit break... not a crumb in sight! We tried things like chives, butter lettuce and sugar snap peas- yummy!

Have a safe and restful break and we wish all our students transitioning all the best at your new schools!

Wendy, Libby, Emma and Mands.

## Second Hand Uniform Shop

If you are leaving IPECS at the end of the year or your child has just outgrown their current uniform please consider donating their uniform to the second hand uniform shop. Donations can be left with reception anytime and are gratefully appreciated.

The second hand uniform shop is open on Wednesdays from 9 - 9.30am during school term. It is located in the small meeting room opposite reception at the front office. Please feel free to drop by and see what is available.

Dresses are \$10, jumpers are \$5 and T-shirts, polo shirts and long sleeve T-shirts are all \$2. We also have a selection of black shorts, skirts and pants for \$2 each. To access the second hand uniform shop outside the opening hours, please see reception.



## Two Sheds Workshop Woodwork for Kids Canberra

Pre Xmas holiday workshops for girls and boys ages 7 and up, Running from Monday 16th to Sunday 22nd we have heaps of different woodwork project workshops to choose from. Make a timber sword, a bug keeper, holiday decorations, funky critters or a present for someone special and more. Using tools and timber and the guidance of our inspired tradeswomen - fun fun fun.

Go to [www.twoshedsworkshop.com.au](http://www.twoshedsworkshop.com.au) to book. Our workshop is at 4/65 Sternberg Cres Wanniassa ACT.

## SNAKES ALIVE!

and frogs, turtles, crocodiles & lizards.  
Starring GOANNAS this year!

10 am - 4 pm 13-19 JANUARY 2020

Hold and touch some of the snakes and lizards!!  
Special feeding times: 11 am and 2 pm daily



\*Young Rosenberg's Monitor Photo: Nils G. Becker

*Did you know?* There are over 20 species of goannas (monitors) in Australia. They all have forked tongues! Come and see several of them, including the locals: Rosenberg's Monitor\* and Lace Monitor.

Australian National Botanic Gardens, Canberra  
Crosbie Morrison Building (air conditioned)

TICKETS: [actha.org.au/tickets](http://actha.org.au/tickets)

Adults \$6 Concession \$5 Children \$4

More info: 0427 788 304

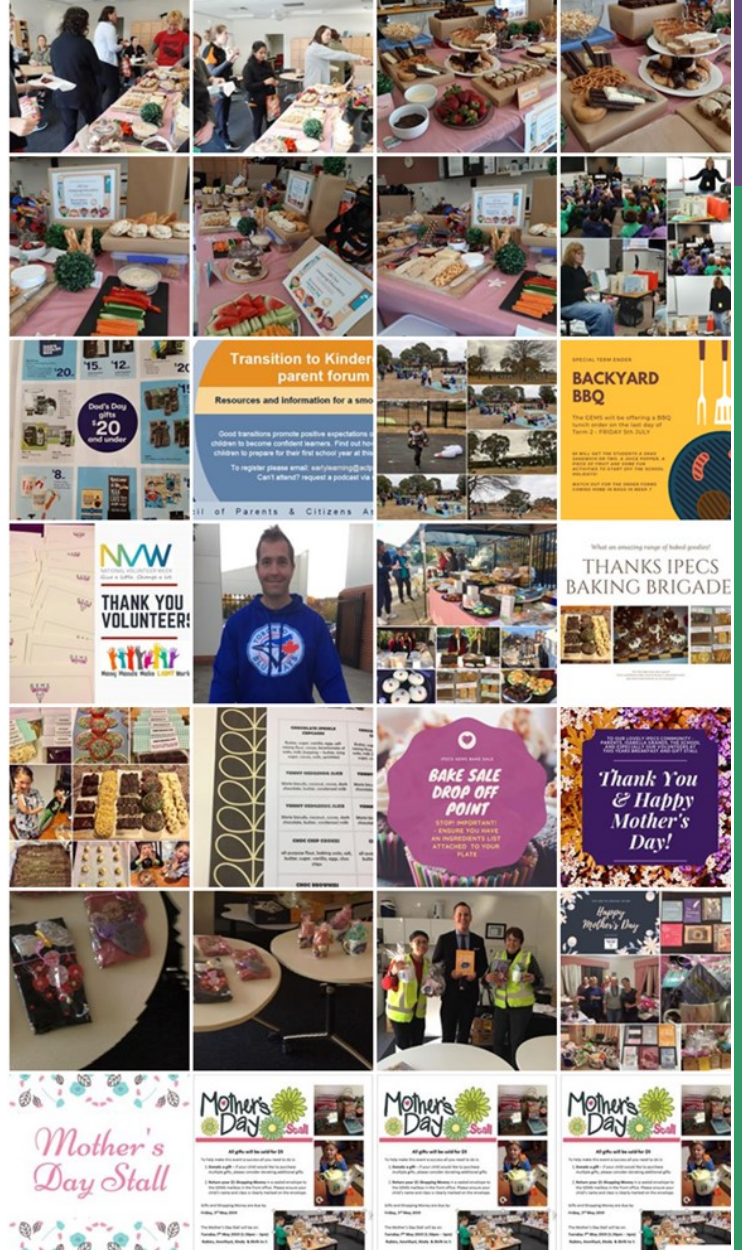


Organised by the ACT Herpetological Association Inc. (ACTHA)





And to end on a lively note,  
Fresh Funk will be visiting the school next week  
for a performance!  
(Followed by the year 2's mini dance class and  
their special graduation lunch)



# End of Year Rabble

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR WINNERS!

(Please come to the front office to collect your prize!)

PRIZE NUMBER	Business Name	Winner	Last 3 digits of Contact Number	Ticket Number
1	Questacon Family Pass	J Potts	543	A1105
2	iPlay Tuggeranong (1 of 2)	Katrina	592	A0166
3	iPlay Tuggeranong (2 of 2)	Carmel Collis	579	A1038
4	Perform Australia \$100 voucher	Logan	271	A0023
5	Laser Zone - Game for up to 10 players	McIntyre	173	A0216
6	The Markets Wanniasa \$50 voucher	Heather	189	A0020
7	Southern Canberra Gymnastics 1 - day pass	Anthony Jaison	106	A0133
8	Southern Canberra Gymnastics 2 - day pass	D Cheshire	081	A0728
9	Southern Canberra Gymnastics 3 - day pass	Simrah	911	A1145
10	Southern Canberra Gymnastics 4 - day pass	N Orel	502	A0049
11	Vapiano \$100 voucher	Stella Devassy	635	A0131
12	Kulture Break - 1 term of classes	K Dawe	851	A0622
13	Bloc Haus Family Pass	Leonie Ainsworth	579	A0255
14	Isabella Plains Takeaway - Pizza Voucher	Christelle	776	A1026
15	IGA Isabella Plains Hamper	Haines	225	A0339
16	Capital Chemist Isabella Hamper	Kate Graham	994	A0065
17	Kidzplore Family Pass	Matthew Sumna	512	A0111
18	Raiders Prize Pack 1	R Jenkins	986	A0147
19	Raiders Prize Pack 2	Phil Coote	799	A0059
20	Raiders Prize Pack 3	Ben Brown	266	I0202
21	Raiders Prize Pack 4	Namah Ranjith	241	A0661
22	Raiders Prize Pack 5	Kathryn Huynh	168	A1124
23	Dymocks Tuggeranong Book Pack	Malou Rivera	527	A0884
24	Vikings Group Dining Voucher	Julie McLean	719	A0373
25	Foosball Table	Marylin Davies (?)	106	A0135



# Thank you to our generous sponsors.

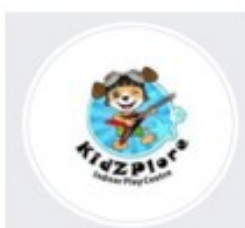


Raiders gift packs

2 x iPlay Australia Packs



Questacon Family Pass













# Could \$500 help you with school costs?

Join Saver Plus and we'll match your savings, dollar for dollar, up to \$500 for school costs.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
|  laptops & tablets  |  lessons & activities |
|  uniforms & shoes   |  books & supplies     |
|  sports fees & gear |  camps & excursions   |

To join Saver Plus, you must be at least 18 years or over, have a child at school or attend vocational education yourself, have regular income from paid employment (you or your partner), have a current Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card and be in receipt of an eligible Commonwealth social security benefit, allowance or payment\*



#### Contact

your local Saver Plus Coordinator

#### Phone or SMS

your name and postcode to 1300 610 355

#### Email

CanberraSP@thesmithfamily.com.au

#### Online

saverplus.org.au

Find us on Facebook 



\* many Centrelink payments are eligible, please contact your local Coordinator for more information.

Saver Plus is an initiative of the Brotherhood of St Laurence and ANZ, delivered in partnership with Berry Street, The Benevolent Society and The Smith Family and other local community agencies. The program is funded by ANZ and the Australian Government Department of Social Services. Go to [www.dss.gov.au](http://www.dss.gov.au) for more information.



# A garden for the young and the young at heart

Isabella Plains Early Childhood School (IPECS) is located in Canberra's south and offers educational programs for children from birth to Year 2 in partnership with Communities@work. Since its establishment in 2008, it has had a strong focus on sustainability and gained 5-Star accreditation in 2015 in the Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative.

A unique feature of the school's sustainability program is the intergenerational partnership with a local retirement village. Each week, the residents of Isabella Gardens Retirement Village meet with a group of children at a garden half-way between the school and the village to help each other plant, grow and harvest herbs and vegetables. A lead teacher helps them plan what to grow and who will be responsible for each task.

For both the children and residents, the gardening is a highlight of their week. It doesn't matter if the sun is shining or rain is bucketing down, the children and residents find a gardening activity they can share—whether it be indoors or out.

The program comes from IPECS' strong belief that children are competent and capable of looking after the environment they work and play in. The school aims to educate children about the impact they have on the land and what they can do to be responsible users. It understands this is an important lesson for children and hopes they will take the knowledge with them as they grow and move into new settings within the community.

And while these lessons are taking place, chickens and ducks from the school's small farm roam around the children, who are taking responsibility in caring for them—letting them out of their coop for the day and closing them in for the night.

The school's motto is: it is never too cold to garden and children are never too young to learn to care for their environment.

**Katie Brown**

Deputy Principal

Isabella Plains Early Childhood School (IPECS)



Photographs by Clair McDonald.