

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 Dates
Wed 21 Feb: GEMS meeting, 7.00pm
Tues 27 Feb: Whole school gathering 9.15am

Notes emailed home:
Aquasafe—yr 2
School photos
Gymnastics k-2

Notes due back :
Aquasafe—please complete and return via email

Wk 4	Monday 26/02 Voting for the school board opens at 11am.	Tuesday 27/02 9.15 Whole school gathering	Wednesday 28/02 Jets & Corals Preschool 8.30 Breakfast club	Thursday 01/03	Friday 02/03 School banking
Wk 5	Monday 05/03	Tuesday 06/03 School Photos	Wednesday 07/03 School Photos Amethysts & Rubies Preschool 8.30 Breakfast club	Thursday 08/03 School Photos	Friday 09/03 School banking
Wk 6	Monday 12/03 Voting for the school board closes at 11am.	Tuesday 13/03 Aquasafe—yr 2 only Constable Kenny-preschool	Wednesday 14/03 Jets & Corals Preschool 8.30 Breakfast club Aquasafe—yr 2 only	Thursday 15/03 Aquasafe—yr 2 only Constable Kenny-preschool	Friday 16/03 Aquasafe—yr 2 only K-2 Gymnastics Constable Kenny School banking

IPECS PRIDE

- P**lay
- R**esilience
- I**ntegrity
- D**iversity
- E**ffort

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, Alison Yialeloglou
GEMS President, Michelle Ayers

Like and follow us for regular updates
Facebook—Isabella Plains Early Childhood School
Webpage—www.ipecs.act.edu.au
Email—info@ipecs.act.edu.au

From our Principal



Dear Families,

The educators have enjoyed meeting all the K-2 families this week for the *Getting to Know you Interviews*. Many parents took up the opportunity to write a detailed letter of introduction to the class teacher or to fill in the template provided which gives educators important information on children's families, cultural backgrounds and ways of celebrating, interests, passions and challenges. We highly value this information as it allows staff to tailor their approach to individual children and ensure the learning environment is representative of the diversity within each class. If you haven't yet done this and would like to, you can simply email through your letter of introduction to the class teacher at firstname.lastname@ed.act.edu.au.

Each week I conduct learning walks through the classrooms. This can be done individually, with other IPECS staff members or with members of the Senior Executive team from the Education Directorate. On these learning walks we are looking to see whether the key improvement strategies are being implemented systematically across the school for maximum growth in children's outcomes. During 2017/2018 all staff participated in the Early Years Literacy Initiative. This series of professional learning for staff introduced the ten essential instructional practices for literacy and revisited evidence based research about the approaches that foster a love of reading and writing. As we conduct our learning walks, we are looking to see that these instructional practices are being implemented, and that children know what they are learning, why they are learning it, and are able to articulate the ways in which they know that they have been successful. The data collected on these walks provides valuable information to us on how we are progressing with our school improvement agenda, and also means that I am extremely connected to the children's academic, social, emotional and physical growth. I am pleased to report that the learning environments across the school consistently reflect the ten essential instructional practices and that children are engaged at levels that are appropriate to their individual level of attainment.

On Monday we held the first school board meeting for the year. At this meeting we discussed the new Strategic Plan, ratified the updated Birthday Policy and discussed the next policy to be updated, reviewed expenditure, and heard reports from key people. This year we have two parent positions available on the school board. We have received three nominations for these positions and as such will be running an election. Each nominee will introduce themselves to the school community prior to the election. We encourage all families to take the opportunity to vote.

There are ongoing upgrades occurring across the school as we work on school beautification and improvements. During the April school holidays, the preschool will be painted throughout and receive new flooring. A site survey has been completed which will allow us to begin the first stages of the outdoor learning environment upgrade. The area behind the library will be completed first using a grant that we received in 2017. The second stage will be the new playground structure in the Olive playground. We appreciate families patience as some of these works are completed. The Family Room is in the process of receiving an upgrade including new furniture and a kitchen prep bench to facilitate our breakfast club move and also provide a dining area for our Fresh Taste program.

Make sure you highlight the upcoming sessions that are relevant to you so that you can benefit from the information being provided to families. This includes the Year 2 Transition Information Session, the reading information session, the GEMS meeting, breakfast club and the first School Gathering for 2018. We love seeing you involved at all of our events. Thank you to the parents who joined us for the Information sessions and the whole school welcome picnic BBQ. It was lovely to catch up with you all again.

Have a fabulous Week 3 everybody!

Kate

Signing students in and out of school - procedure change

All ACT Public Schools are now using a new administrative online system which has incorporated the process of signing any student in or out of the school during school hours. ALL students need to be signed in if a late arrival and signed out if leaving early by an office staff member using this system. Thank you for your support and cooperation during this transition and ongoing process.

Diamonds



Recently, the Diamonds children have been exploring and engaging with nature, both inside and outside our classroom. Last week, we started exploring the question, 'What is Nature?' We recorded our ideas and enjoyed a Nature Walk around our neighbourhood, observing our local environments and collecting resources to enhance our play.

Through these experiences, children are supported in developing respect for nature and the natural environment. By engaging in regular walks, and visiting the same spaces, children will have the opportunity to build authentic connections with nature in our local area, and to experience changes that happen in nature throughout the year. This experience also encourages children to share their knowledge, develop new ideas and understandings, and have ownership over their learning as they determine the direction it takes.

Lauren



Kindergarten

Kindergarten has had a busy start to the term learning all about school! We have been taking walks, meeting new people and teachers and learning about all the areas we can explore! Kindergarten has begun talking about our school values and what it means to be respectful.

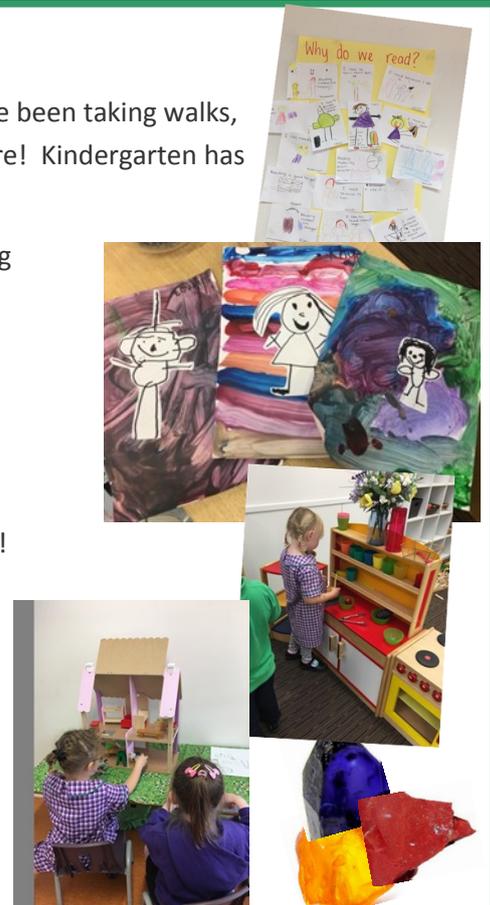
Over the last week we have started discussing reading and have started exploring questions such as:

- Why do we read?
- Where do you read?
- What do you read about?
- Who do you read with?

We recorded our ideas and have shared a lot of wonderful stories about reading!

Kindergarten students have also had the opportunity to share information about themselves and their families through our Inquiry time, focusing on our big question 'How are we the same and how are we different?' We have started exploring these ideas through play, discussions and art.

Hannah, Alyssa and Penny.



GEMS PARENT ASSOCIATION UPDATE



GEMS meetings are a formal part of our community but we run them as efficiently as possible. So come along and join in the discussions, usually the 3rd and 7th week of the term. Here we make plans, discuss issues within the school and meet some wonderful people.

We have to elect a new committee soon and if you want to become part of the committee then please let us know as we would love to have some new parents involved.

We will be continuing our Mother's Day and Father's Day stalls, a school disco in term 1 and also some 10 year anniversary activities! So plenty of opportunities to get involved.

Future Activities

We will be announcing our calendar of events soon so keep an eye on the newsletters and Facebook pages!

Stuck on You Fundraiser

Order personalised labels, drink bottles, school bags, bento boxes, calendars, Christmas sacks, decorations, clothing and so much more through Stuck on You. Perfect for school and every purchase helps our school upgrade our playgrounds. Please share this link and code with your friends and families – www.stuckonyou.com.au/affiliate/fundraiser/IPECS and use the code IPECS when you purchase your goodies. Think birthdays, Christmas or getting your family organised for the new school year!

GEMS Committee Roles:

There are several positions and they will all be open for nominations

- President
- Vice-President
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Delegates to ACT P&C
- Returning Officer

Rose's recipe for Mexican Beef, beans & corn with brown rice and sour cream.

Ingredients:

500 grams beef mince
300 grams cherry tomatoes, cut in half/quarters
4 cloves garlic, peeled and smashed
1 can refried beans
1 can red kidney beans, drained and rinsed
1 red onion, diced
3 teaspoons cumin
3 teaspoons paprika
300 grams frozen corn
1 bunch parsley, sliced
600 grams cooked brown rice
300 grams sour cream

Method:

1. Brown garlic and onion in a fry pan with a dash of olive oil. Add mince shortly after.
2. Once mince is almost cooked add tomatoes. Heat till they soften.
3. Add spices, refried beans and kidney beans to pan. Mix through thoroughly.
4. Stir in parsley and corn then cook for a few more minutes. Add hot water if you like a lighter mix.
5. Heat up brown rice and serve with hot mince mixture and the sour cream.



And the Class Connectors for 2018 are...



Preschool

Rubies - Shelly Owen, Caroline Kontny and Naznin Schwab

Corals - Pip McIntyre

Kindergarten

Sapphires - Carolina Wall

Year 1 – 2

Quartz - Alison Yialeloglou

Emeralds - Ronnie Pearce and Frances Stanton

Garnets – Elizabeth Lindbeck

Welcome and thank you for being IPECS Class Connectors.

This is how Class Connect works:

Each class at Isabella Plains Early Childhood School has a Class Connector who is a family member liaising between educators and families to form a parent network for that class.

As well as classroom events, the Class Connector helps to build an inclusive community through contact with other families in the class.

Some of the events may include:

- ◆ A coffee morning in the Family Room
- ◆ A class play date in the school's farm
- ◆ Parent dinner

All families will be sent an email asking them to join the parent network. Your email address will be provided to the class connector once you give your permission so that you can receive notices and invitations to events happening in your child's class community.

Please don't hesitate to speak with me or your child's educator if you wish to find out more information about this program.

Louise McCormick

Community Coordinator

louise.mccormick@ed.act.edu.au

Would you like to be a Class Connector for the Amethysts, Jets, Ambers or Jaspers class?

If you do please let your child's educator know.



Lost Property

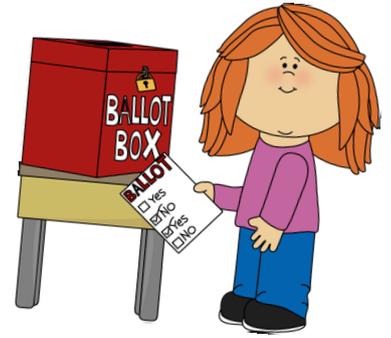
Please ensure you label ALL your child's belongings. There are lost property baskets located in each of the classroom buildings as well as preschool and the hall. Please check them regularly as they will be emptied at the end of every term. Any items of clothing without names will be donated to the second hand uniform shop.

Second hand uniform shop

We need a parent volunteer to man the second hand uniform shop once or twice a week. It will be for about half an hour at a time and you will not need to collect any money. Please contact reception if you can help.

We're having an election!

We received 3 nominations for the 2 parent positions available on our school board, so we are going to the polls. Voting opens 11am on Monday 26 February and will close at 11am on Monday 6 March. Ballot papers will be available at reception. Winners will be announced after votes have been counted and the returning officer makes the official appointments to the board.



Here's a little bit about the candidates;

Ewan Stewart

My Name is Ewan Stewart, My daughter Charlotte is in Kindergarten this year (Amber's). I live in Isabella Plains with my wife and our 4 daughters. I work in the public service (odd for Canberra I know). I have previous school board experience as both a parent representative and board chair, at a different school that my two older girls attended. I take great pride in participating in the work of a school board particularly developing relationships between the teacher and parent cohort and community organisations and would enjoy the opportunity to be involved at IPECS.

Thanks

Ewan

Alison Yialeloglou

Hello, I'm Alison

I am a keen and actively involved IPECS parent whose interests in becoming a participant in the IPECS community began 5 years ago after an initial desire to do more than make play dough and help out at sausage sizzles.

I want to do what I can to support the education of my children and all of their peers and am often seen around the school helping out where and when I am able.

Whilst I am often busy during normal working hours I see my role on the school board as an opportunity to be as involved as I can and to ensure that the voice of the IPECS parents and students is heard.

I fully support the early learning opportunities that are provided in a supportive community oriented school such as IPECS, and at all times I am promoting the values of the school, and I am always working to ensure that the community vibe that is a major attractant to families is maintained.

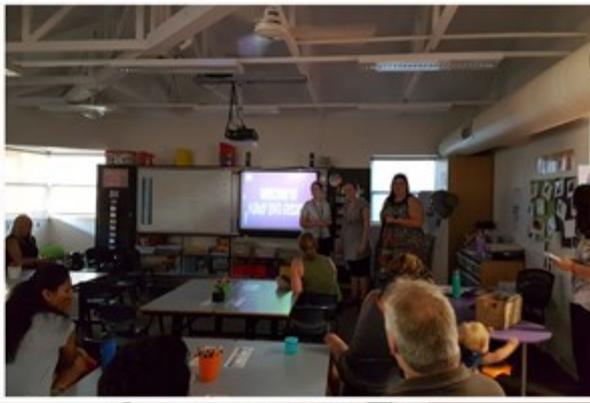
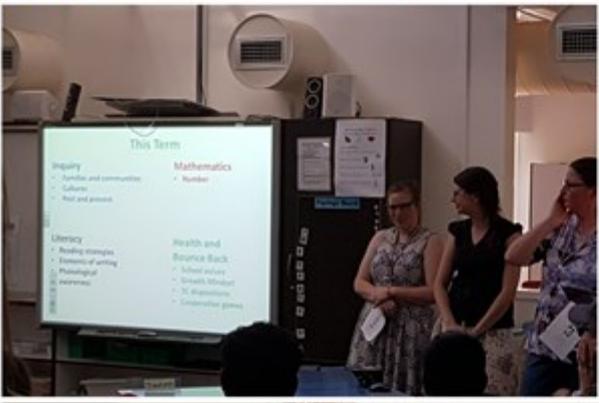
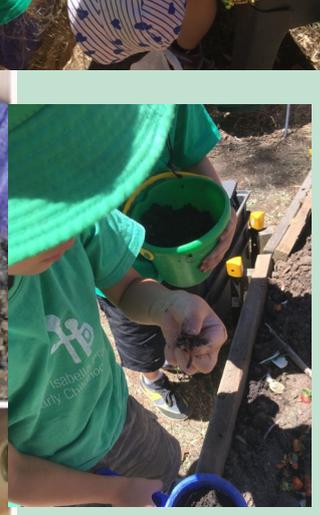
Ursula Hawkins

My name is Ursula Hawkins. I'm a mum to Ben (Garnets, yr 1) and Ellie (Corals); we've been an IPECS family since 2016. I work part time as a social worker for ACT Health and volunteer for the Australian Breastfeeding Association as a community educator.

I strongly believe in public schools and with limited time to give to the school community during the day I see being on the board as a way of giving back. Our teachers and staff need support and guidance and a board that understands the face of the classroom, and I would be honoured to serve as one of the parent representatives.



Celebrating learning and community



Think before you park...and keep our kids safe!

With school now back for the year we are encouraging all parents to make parking safety a priority!

This means:

- keep clear of 'no stopping' and 'no parking' zones
- don't park in bus zones on school crossings, across footpaths or driveways; and
- don't double (or triple) park!

Remember - it's okay to park a little further away from the school and walk the rest of the way!

Consider - having a pre-determined meeting spot agreed with your kids. That way if you are a little late, they know where to wait.

Think – visibility around schools and if your car may be blocking the view of crossings for other motorists. Also be mindful when entering or leaving parking spots – look twice!

Be kind – to other road users and pedestrians and also if you see any parking officers in the area – they are doing their job and working to keep our kids safe!

Note - licence Plate Recognition (or electronic chalking) vans are now actively monitoring schools. Penalties range from \$114 upwards to \$600. Details at www.act.gov.au/accessCBR

WHAT TO EXPECT ON **HOT DAYS**

Whilst your child is at school in our duty of care, please rest assured that their safety and wellbeing is our priority and we will make the necessary adjustments to their day to ensure they are comfortable whilst learning.

Schools are subject to the same rules as normal workplaces - which means that there is no maximum temperature. We simply have varying guidelines on how to deal with the heat.

Your child's school will ensure precautionary measures are taken to avoid heat related stress, such as:

- optimising ventilation, air movement and shade,
- additional use of fans or coolers,
- rotate classes around cooler areas on site,
- adjust educational programs to minimise potential for heat stress,
- limiting playground access to shaded areas, and more

Teachers are also aware of the vulnerability of children to heat-related stress and will make necessary adjustments to lesson plan's and break times to help avoiding any stress.

We want you to know, that schools will **not** close due to hot weather unless under extreme conditions. i.e. when there is an immediate or imminent threat to the physical health or safety of students, staff or community members.

If there is evidence that keeping the school open poses a risk to the safety of staff and students, the Director-General may authorise the principal to temporarily close the school. In this case, parents of each child will be notified. Your child will never be sent home without contact.

Should you have any specific concerns about whether your child should attend school on any specific day, please contact your school's front office.

Attention Kindergarten Parents!



Kindergarten Health Checks are happening this year!

All kindergarten students in the ACT are eligible to receive a FREE health check



VISION CHECK



HEARING CHECK



HEIGHT, WEIGHT AND
BODY MASS INDEX (BMI)



If you have not returned your child's Kindergarten Health Check Consent and Questionnaire



FIND — Information packs will be sent home early in Term 1



SIGN — Complete The Kindergarten Health Check Consent And Questionnaire



RETURN — To your school by 28th February 2018

Your school can provide you with the date of the health check.

Stressed about back to school costs? Make next year different.



Saver Plus will match your savings for school costs, dollar for dollar, up to \$500.

To join Saver Plus, you must have a Centrelink Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card, be at least 18 years old, have some regular income from work (you or your partner), and have a child at school or attend vocational education yourself.



laptops & tablets



camps & excursions



uniforms & shoes



lessons & activities



sports fees & gear



books & supplies

Contact

Kathleen Watson
your local Saver Plus
Coordinator

Phone

0448 730 305
02 6283 7606

Email

kathleen.watson@
thesmithfamily.com.au

Web

www.saverplus.org.au



everyone's family



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 for more information.