



MINARET COLLEGE

36-38 Lewis Street Springvale, VIC 3171 Tel: 9574 0567

Newsletter: August 2004

Important Dates

| | | |
|-----------------|----------------------------|---|
| Tuesday | 24th August 2004 | Year 10 & 11 VCE Parents night |
| Friday | 27th August 2004 | Preps Visit to Royal Botanic Garden |
| Saturday | 28th August 2004 | Fundraising Dinner |
| Friday | 3rd September 2004 | Curriculum Day Students need not attend. |
| Sunday | 5th September 2004 | Open Day |
| Thursday | 9th September 2004 | Exams Start Year 6-10 |
| Friday | 10th September 2004 | Prep- Grandparents Day Years 5-7- OzSpell Years 5,6- IMAX and Melbourne Museum excursion |
| Tuesday | 14th September 2004 | Primary and Middle School Parent/ Teacher Interview |
| Thursday | 16th September 2004 | Last Day of Term 3 for students |
| Friday | 17th September 2004 | Term 3 ends for teachers |
| Monday | 4th October 2004 | Term 4 starts for teachers |
| Tuesday | 5th October 2004 | Term 4 starts For students |
| Wednesday | 13th October 2004 | Prep Orientation Day |
| Thursday | 14th October 2004 | Ramadan starts (To be confirmed) |

Director's Message

Dear Parent/Guardian

Assalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuh

I am pleased to inform you that the construction of the multi purpose hall is progressing fast and the project manager assured us that it will commence functioning in mid-September Inshaa Allah.

A fund raising dinner will take place on 28th of August, Inshaa Allah, please refer to the newsletter. This is a very important event and we seek your support. Other fundraising events including school Fete and Eid celebration, which will take place on Saturday 20th of November is underway. Any donation towards the building fund is tax deductible and also considered part of Zakat-El-Mal. Please encourage your family and friends to contribute towards such an important and worthwhile cause. Your support is very much appreciated

I am pleased to introduce to you Minaret College Board Members for the term July 2004-June 2006.

Br. Ahmed Shaker, Chairman
Dr. Robert Rice, Treasurer
Dr. Ahmed Hassan, Member
Br. Ian Calderwood, Member
Br. Salifu Baba, Member

Mr. Mohamed Hassan, Secretary
Br. Madkhul Mohammed Sani, Assistant Treasurer
Br. Kabir Azdazoi, Member
Dr. Samir Dorfumi, Member

I wish all the board members a happy term and look forward to their contribution for the progress of our college

We would like to invite you to the open day which to be held on Sunday 5th of September. Please bring your family and friends to see our students' work, presentations and the school's new facilities. For more detail please refer to the newsletter.

Mayor Clare O'Neil of the City of Greater Dandenong visited Minaret College on Wednesday 18th August 2004. She remarked at the great progress the college has made over the years and said that she considers Minaret College to be one of the best schools in the region. Mayor O'Neil was impressed with the programs available for students and has indicated her support for the College.

Minaret summer camp: Minaret staff and students are organising a summer camp for a week commencing 11 December 2004. Your views on this matter are very much appreciated. More details will be provided in the next newsletter.

The summer holidays for 2004/2005 are as follows:

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| Students Finish | 9 th December |
| Teachers Finish | 10 th December |
| Office Finishes | 17 th December |
| Office Starts | 17 th January 2005 |
| Teachers Start | 24 th January 2005 |
| Students Start | 27 th January 2005 |

May Allah (S.W.T.) guide us to help our children to prosper in this world and the here after.

Yours In Islam
Mohamed Hassan
Director

Information from the Office

Kinder News

Due to the popularity of our new location here at the Springvale campus, we have opened up a second session of Kinder to cater for our growing numbers. Times for the Kinder sessions are as follows:

For enrolments and information please contact Sr. Nehad in the administration office.

| Kinder Group A | Times | Kinder Group B | Times |
|-----------------------|--------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| Monday | 8:45-12:15 | Tuesday | 8:45-12:15 |
| Wednesday | 8:45-12:15 | Wednesday | 12:15-3:15 |
| Thursday | 8:45-12:15 | Friday | 8:45-12:15 |

Construction/Development news

As a part of our ongoing efforts to improve the facilities in our school, the primary toilet block will be re-built at the end of this year. Inshallah children will be able to use the brand new facilities from the beginning of the new school year.

School Fees

From the beginning of next term, families utilizing the school bus service will be issued with a separate monthly invoice for that account.

We trust that as valuable members of the Minaret College Islamic Community, it is your priority as a Muslim parent to honor the fee agreements you have with the school.

Please ensure that school fees account and your bus fees account are paid at the beginning of each term. If your accounts are currently in arrears, please contact the administration office to make arrangements to pay your fees before next term.

Road Safety

Road safety during school hours is of some concern due to the level high traffic and pedestrians before and after school. Drivers are reminded to observe school speed zones and pedestrian crossings at all times. Pedestrians should be aware to cross at the marked crossings and take the appropriate precautions when doing so. Traffic incidents should be brought to our attention immediately. **Please make safety a priority to avoid potentially dangerous situations.**

Primary Matters

Dear Parents/ Guardians

We're more than half way through term 3!

Children received the meningococcal immunization last week without much drama. The swimming program is taking place every Monday and Thursday for girls and boys respectively. Those who participated appears to have enjoyed the program.

Year 5 – 7 students competing in the Oz Spell are nervously excited about the coming district finals. All the very best to them.

The Olympics have begun and our children are learning about its history and some of the sports that are in the competitions. Classes made torches, the Olympic flags and discussed the importance of sportsmanship as well as the concept of working hard towards a goal.

An incursion that will happen this week features Kidz Bodz and all primary children will have the opportunity to participate in this program. Kidz Bodz is all about our bodies in relation to health and science.

We are looking forward to participating in the Book Week. Themed "Doorways", it will be from 21st August to 27th August 2004. Children will be involved in this event by bringing in their favourite books to read to their peers. There will be a day where upper primary students share stories and performances, and work with junior children. There is even a pyjamas reading afternoon planned.

On Friday 27th August: preps will go on their excursion to the Royal Botanical Garden to discover more about the topic they are learning – Plants.

We are concerned that there are a number of children who arrive late to school. These children are missing out on valuable learning time. When children come to school, please ensure that they are in full uniform including proper black school shoes.

Sincerely

Faridah McMMahon

for

Head of Primary School

Summer Uniform

A new girls uniform has been introduced for Summer. The stylish design will cater for primary girls in the summer months, terms 1&4. The uniform is made of a light cotton material which will be a lot more comfortable for the young ladies during the long hot days. Purchases and orders can be made next term from our **uniform shop located at 47 Whitworth Avenue Springvale. Trading hours are Wednesday 8:30am to 12:15pm and Friday 2:00pm to 4:00pm.** Uniform lists and order forms are also avail-



Message from the Middle School

Landscape project for year 9

The landscape project for year 9 is underway. Members of the City of Greater Dandenong council visited Minaret College to provide support to the project and invited students to visit the council reserve to learn about horticulture and techniques used for landscape design. The project integrates Mathematics, Science, SOSE, English, and Information and Communication Technology, and Commerce.

Boys' Education Lighthouse School (BELS) Project

Minaret College has always taken interest in different projects that would enhance the quality of the programmes offered at the school and promote its image as a proactive school in the field of research in Australia. Minaret College is participating in a special project for boys with different schools in cooperation with The University of Melbourne and the Australian Government Quality Teacher Programme. The project aims to improve the learning outcomes of boys by disseminating best practices and enhancing teacher skills and understanding.

English and Science University of New South Wales Competitions

Alhamdulillah our students performed well in both the Science and English New South Wales competition. Congratulations to year six students who performed exceptionally well.

OZ SPELL

Finalists for the "OZ SPELL" were selected from grade 5 to 9 to represent the school in the district finals which will be held early September 2004. Congratulations to the following finalists:

- Sumayya Amirudin Year 7
- Khalid Naushad Year 7
- Ahmed Terzic Year 6
- Nafeesa Buksh Year 5
- Nur Zafirah Ismail Year 5

Junior Debaters 2004

The first round of debates for year 7 will start end of August 2004. Minaret College is participating with two teams of five students each.

Fundraising Activities

Minaret College middle School students are excited about the multi-purpose hall that will open insha Allah in few weeks. For that purpose, they are organizing fundraising activities every week to support their school in raising funds, which shows walhamdulillah that students are proud of being at Minaret College and are ready to support the different projects initiated by the school.

Student and Family Support Services (SFSS)

Food for the Refugees Appeal.



Thank you to all parents and community members who swiftly and kindly donated to the food for refugee appeal. Approximately \$1000 worth of food and other grocery items were collected within 4 weeks. It was a fantastic effort. The collection for food and grocery items is continuing, so please begin to make it a part of your routine to buy one extra item to donate on a weekly basis. Our first effort was **fantastic**. Lets keep up the generous donations for a little bit longer.

Mother's Club Meetings

A meeting for mothers is regularly organised, with the next meeting being held next week on Monday 22nd August 2004 morning at 8:50am till 9:50am. All mothers are welcome to attend and become involved in the increasingly active mother's club. Come and be informed of what is going on in the school, upcoming events and find out where we desperately need your support.

I personally thank the mothers that attended the last meeting, as many valuable ideas were shared. Some good ideas have already been reviewed and implemented.

Fundraising Dinner

With the last remaining tickets, please join us in attending our fundraising dinner. We invite you to support the development of the Multi-purpose hall. We expect that the hall will provide our community with many long-term benefits, including a place for our youth to participate in sports activities.

We hope that the entire Muslim community, not just the Minaret College students, will benefit from our facilities, and we encourage you to become a part of our event. NOTE: DINNER TICKETS WILL NOT BE SOLD AFTER THIS WEDNESDAY 24TH AUGUST.

Monique Toohey
School Psychologist



Narrated Anas

Allah's Apostle said, "Help your brother whether he is an oppressor or an oppressed," A man said, "O Allah's Apostle! I will help him if he is oppressed, but if he is an oppressor, how shall I help him?" The Prophet said, "By preventing him from oppressing (others), for that is how to help him."

Sahih Bukhari

IF I HAD MY CHILD TO RAISE OVER AGAIN

*If I had my child to raise all over again,
I'd finger-paint more and point the finger less.
I would do less correcting and more connecting.
I'd take my eyes off my watch, and watch with my eyes.
I would care to know less and know to care more.
I'd take more hikes and fly more kites.
I'd stop playing serious, and seriously play.
I would run through more fields and gaze more at stars.
I'd do more hugging and less tugging.
I'd build self esteem first, and the house later.
I would be firm less often, and affirm much more.
I'd teach less about the love of power,
And more about the power of LOVE.*

Rather than evaluating how well our children have behaved this week, look in the mirror and evaluate how well we have parented this week. May ALLAH (SWT), guide us well and give us strength. For more parenting tips, please speak to our school counsellors. Confidentiality assured.

Narrated Abu Masud Al-Badri

The Prophet said, "A man's spending on his family is a deed of charity."

Sahih Bukhari

After school Qur'an Classes

Dear parents

We would like to inform you that Minaret College is organizing after school Qur'an reading and memorization classes every day after school from 3:30 pm to 4:15 pm Monday to Friday. If you are interested please sign this sheet and return it to the Head of School.

Transport

It will be parents' responsibility to pick up their children after school.

I would like my child _____,

Year _____ to attend the after school Qur'an class and I

will pick him/her up on time at 4:15 pm.

Parent Name: _____

Signature: _____

Qur'an News

Alhamdulillah, since the collective Qur'an sessions were introduced every morning from 8:25am to 8:45 am, we notice a great improvement in students' memorization and reading of the Qur'an. In view of the importance of the sessions, we have decided to extend it to VCE as well. The reason for introducing Qur'an sessions in Minaret is to create opportunities for students to revise and practice their Qur'an, especially for those who are weak and have no support to practice their lessons at home.

We encourage students and parents to use the AL QARI CD at home.