



EAST PRESTON ISLAMIC COLLEGE

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As Salaamu Aalaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuhu

Re: Principal's Term 1 Letter

Dear Parents and Guardians

Please find an update on developments this term at East Preston Islamic College.

Learning

It was a pleasure to meet some of you during the Term 1 parent-teacher interview. As well as teachers finalising student achievements based on classroom assessments, students also completed NAPLAN tests in Years 3, 5, 7, and 9 as well as PAT testing in Years 1 to 10 this term. Students will receive a detailed Progress NAPLAN test report in August 2025 which can also be accessed through the ACARA official website. PAT assessments measure what students in Foundation to Year 10 know, understand and are capable of across different domains, and help monitor progress over time. Student PAT results are reported as a test raw score, a PAT scale score, the percentile rank and the stanine (1-9). Individual student achievement can be compared and monitored over time using scaled scores. Most students obtain a range of average marks located in Stanines 4 to 6. The 50th percentile or median is the mid-point of all scores, which is in Stanine 5. As you are aware, I used the PAT results to offer academic scholarships to fourteen students in Years 5 to 10 in 2025. Most of these students achieved scores in Stanines 8 and 9, which is at the 89th percentile or above. Congratulations to our EPIC scholarship students for 2025. Next year, there will be a formal scholarship exam to determine our academic scholarships. All students in year Foundation to year 10 also completed end of term tests in subjects or major learning areas and the results are saved on the school's Compass portal. Please review your student school report and encourage your son or daughter to continue to improve their academic outcomes in Term 2.

School Activities

The EPIC Eid Festival on the last day of term, 4 April, was a resounding success. Students, including ELC kindergarten students, staff, parents and vendors have commented on the wonderful atmosphere and quality of organisation. Activities provided by Murray Machines Arcade, Star Face Painting, Action Events Rides, Fly By Fun Petting Zoo, community engagements by Victoria Police and Fire Rescue Service and food services such as Creamy Crepes, George's Coffee Van, Ice Cream Truck, Crave N Go EPPING and the EPIC BBQ team were much appreciated. I have written to our external vendors and supporters to thank them for their services. I also wish to thank our volunteers who worked day and night to plan and deliver this Festival such as Ifrah Omar, Khadra Artan, Salwa Liban, Rania Mohamed and Mohamad Fachni (organising committee), Glen Williams and Aden Hagi (logistics), Faten Mohammed and Sanaa Youssef (decor), Heva Chakli (BBQ), Raj Kandasamy and Suleyman Maamari (cheese toasties) and Suad Khalif (ballons). We also thank our stall holders for their sales and trust that they made a financial return on the day. And, of course, students such as Saiffe Tribak, Omar Ahmed, Ibrahim Liban, Mohammed Hassan and Ail Alouche were great ambassadors as leaders, cooks and general support. Insha'Allah, next year, we shall open our gates to the local community for our next EPIC Community and Family EID Festival.

In the Primary School, our congratulations go to the Year 6 Girls Volleyball Team who were Champions in their District Summer Sports program, the Girls Tee Ball who were placed 4th and Mixed Volleyball who came in 5th. Well done to all teams who participated in the interschool Sports program and our thanks to HPE Coordinator Joshua Santillan for his leadership of the program. Year 2 students took part in a Hands-on Science incursion and the Year 3 Students attended an art exhibition at the National Gallery of Victoria. Harmony Day, with its support of a diverse and united community, and Pyjama Day were enjoyed by all participants. In the Secondary School we had the privilege of hosting Imam Faisal Latif, a young, American distinguished scholar, artist, and storyteller, who delivered an inspiring workshop on Muslim identity and Qur'anic poetry. Our thanks to [Islamic Relief Australia - Victoria](#) working in collaboration with [JBE events](#) for assisting with this visit. During Ramadan, both schools celebrated highly successful Iftar events and decorated their classrooms with great enthusiasm. Our Imams - Sheiks Aazib Ajaz, Abdul Qadir and Mohamed Fachni - continue to support the Islamic faith of our students by leading prayers in the Masjid, hosting lunchtime Quran recitation programs and liaising with families. Our Hifz program continues to grow and is now offered into Years 7 and 8. In Primary school, my congratulations to Uzair Uddin Mohamed, Ayesha Chilwan and Mohamed Merhi, all of whom can recite at least the first 15 Juz in the Quran. In the ELC, student numbers continue to increase with further expansion of the 3-year-old kindergarten program. ELC students also participated in Harmony Day and Pyjama Day as well as other activities such as fortnightly Masjid visits, Ramadan Pancake and Kelly Sports Program.

Student Wellbeing

The EPIC Wellbeing Team has overseen a busy engagement program focused on promoting student wellbeing, optimism and resilience, including the Breakfast Club, the Bright Buddies social skills program for Year 1, Positive Peers focused on friendship in Years 3 and 4, and for students in Years 5 and 6, an emotional regulation program called BOUNCE, a Victorian Police bullying workshop and a Self-compassion progra. In the secondary school, there were Happiness workshops, KOMODO Wellbeing sessions and a Secondary wellbeing assembly on Healthy Living and Physical Wellbeing by Omar Haniffa, from the Centre for Muslim Wellbeing (CMW). I also attended an excellent parent engagement workshop on wellbeing and digital citizenship by [Evolve Education](#).

School Business Notices

Camps, Sports & Excursion Fund (CSEF) – 2025

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card, you may be eligible for the Camps, Sports & Excursion Fund (CSEF), which provides financial support for your child participation in camps, sports, and excursions. The fund is paid directly to the school to be used for the benefit of eligible students. To apply, please collect a form from the school office. Applications will be accepted and processed by the school until 28th June 2025.

School Saving Bonus (SSB)

In 2024, the Victorian Government introduced the School Saving Bonus (SSB), which provides eligible families attending non-government schools with a one-off \$400 assistance. This funding can help cover various school-related expenses. To qualify for the School Saving Bonus, students must be receiving the means-tested CSEF in 2025. Please note that the School Saving Bonus is not a direct cash payment, and it can be used for the following expenses:

- School uniforms (purchased from approved suppliers only)
- Textbooks
- Graduation costs
- Camps, excursions, and incursions
- School swimming and sporting programs
- School outdoor education activities

If the full \$400 is not used in 2025, the remaining balance can be carried forward to the 2026 school year.

School Fees

To secure a place for your child at the college, each term's fees are payable in advance. The due dates for the upcoming terms are as follows:

Term 1: 28th February 2025

Term 2: 24th April 2025

Term 3: 24th July 2025

Term 4: 24th October 2025

If you have any outstanding balance from previous year or term 1 school fees, it is essential that all outstanding invoices must be finalized and paid in full as soon as possible. 10% discount will be applied to annual fees paid in advance by 30th April 2025. Additionally, a 10% direct debit discount will be applied to the final direct debit payment for the year, provided there have been no defaults in payments. Please be aware that overdue accounts and dishonored payments will incur late fees and administrative charges to cover the cost of managing such accounts.

If you have any questions on the School Business Notices, please contact the Executive Business Manager, Mr Usman Mir, or his Finance team.

Of course, no improvement is possible without the nurture, guidance and instruction that our teachers, Imams and all other school officers provide every day. My thanks to them for their commitment, loyalty, professionalism and care they have shown your son or daughter this term.

Please enjoy the Term 1 Parent Letter and newsletter (on the website) and the many advantages of an education at the East Preston Islamic College.

I look forward to seeing you and your son or daughter when classes resume on **Wednesday 23 April**.

Yours sincerely,



Andrew Taylor
Principal