

J U N E 2 0 0 8

# the RISSALAH update

WWW.RISSALAH.NSW.EDU.AU | MAIL@RISSALAH.NSW.EDU.AU



## Indonesian Principals Visit - Teachers Report

Rissalah College was involved in the Indonesian Principals Professional Learning Program in May this year. On Friday 2nd May, Rissalah was extremely pleased to host two Indonesian principals at the school. The focus of the visit was to learn about the inclusion of Islamic elements into the curriculum and school environment in Australia. The two principals went to various classes, including Islamic Studies classes between 5 – 7th April. To conclude the Principal's visit the participating groups all attended dinner in the city. It was a great exchange of ideas. Insha-Allah, the teachers of Rissalah College will be involved in a teacher exchange program with Indonesian schools in the future.

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## Peace greetings

to all our readers and welcome to the first edition of the 2008 Rissalah College Newsletter.

We have commenced the year with exciting new initiatives and projects aimed at enhancing students learning and developments towards our vision of producing successful global citizens.



During 2007, the college was successful in obtaining a grant from the federal government to install an 11m x 19m curved full waterproof shade structure for the playground to ensure protection from UV Rays of the sun. As a result of this funding, the college was able to deliver a much needed service to our students to enjoy their day whilst getting the protection they need from the sun and the heat in accordance with the School's Sun Smart Policy. As such we wish to acknowledge the Federal Government's financial contribution, without which the College would not have been able to install this much needed structure.

2007 also saw the successful completion of our school curricular program as well as undertaking many initiatives aimed at promoting peace and harmony through community engagements, interactions and community dialogue between and across diverse cultural and faith communities. The College also spent considerable time responding to requests to host visitors from many South Eastern Asian, Middle Eastern and other countries keen to learn from our experience in education and interfaith dialogue and engagement.

The College has also reviewed its Islamic and Arabic Studies program to ensure that our school activities and educational program reflects the key Islamic values that govern the way we think and act and as reflected and

reinforced around key events around the Islamic calendar. As a result, 2008 will see a much more enriched Islamic program which reflects the significance of key events on the lives of Australian Muslims so that they can be Australian Muslims model citizens. An example of this is the successful celebrations and activities held by the college during the Month of Rabi' al Awal which focused on the Birth of our beloved Prophet Muhammad, Peace Be upon Him and our reflections on how his life and action are an example for us to live in accordance with his traditions.

This year the College also supported a number of projects by raising funds and through participation walkathons such as the SWALK day marathon at the Cook & Phillip Pool. 24 children, teachers and staff from the College were represented at the marathon and the College won the best school walk – Rissalah College, Lakemba. We also raised over \$2,500.00 and the proceeds will go towards the Black Dog Institute and Lower North Shore Sanctuary Movement for refugees.

The ongoing success of the College would not have been possible without the support of our staff, parents, students and the wider community. Thank you for your cooperation over the last six months.

*Ali Roude, OAM Principal*

There were many outstanding performances on the day some of which we'd like to commend here  
**Longest swim** | 300 laps – James Pittar, Balgowlah (James is blind) **Best team swim** | Peter Daley group from the Queenscliff Surf Club **Youngest best swim** | Derrick Byimira, Arncliffe **Best sponsorship swim** | Patrick D'Arcy, Maroubra **Best family walk** | Geoff & Trish Gemmell & daughters, Naremburn **Best fundraiser** | John Weyman, Glebe. SWALK organisers especially thank the owners of the Cook & Phillip Pool who made possible the facilities for this marathon day.

## HARMONY DAY

On Thursday 10th April thirty year 6 students attended a Harmony Day at Arncliffe Park with six other schools involved in the Harmony project.

Some of the schools involved were Athelstaine, AlZahra and Our Lady of Fatima. The day was organised to facilitate positive interaction amongst the students from various cultural and religious backgrounds. At the start of the day each school had one student representative who spoke about what harmony meant to them. Following this students were given a set of ribbons all one colour to pin to their shirts. When students were divided into mixed school groups they were encouraged to mix with students they didn't know and exchange coloured ribbons during their activities. The activities for the day were organised by the schools involved. Each school provided onesporting activity. Some activities included soccer, parachute games, tee ball and novelty games. These activities allowed students to interact in a fun and energetic environment.



## RISSALAH COLLEGE CROSS COUNTRY CARNIVAL

At the beginning of Term 2 Rissalah College students participated in the Rissalah College Cross Country Carnival held at Whiley Park. Students aged 8 to 10 years old were required to run 2000m while 11 to 13 year olds were required to run 3000m.

Congratulations to the below students:

**8 year old Girls:** Amal Al Mawas, Zehra Al Fahdawi, Zynab Hardani

**9 year old Girls:** Cecilia Ayoubi, Malake Karrajah, Ella Sabsabi

**10 year old Girls:** Linda Ghazzaoui, Zaineb Al Hassan, Zahraa Al Kahi

**11 year old Girls:** Shayma El Ahmad, Bisma Anwar, Hala Hallak

**12 year old girls:** Nadine Hayder, Fatima Yatim, Sarah Alwan

**8 year old Boys:** Yusuf Ashry, Bilal Omran, Hamzah Kamaledine

**9 year old Boys:** Zack Rustom, Hamza Amailef, Jihad Haidar

**10 year old boys:** Danny Derbas, Hasan El Asmar, Hasham Faytrouni

**11 year old boys:** Hassan Abdul Rhamen, Azzam Hawa, Abdulsalam Amailef

**12 year old boys:** Omar Arnaout, Mohamad Samour, Mauludy Anggidio

The top three students from each event were invited to attend the ASSISA Cross Country carnival where they competed against other Sydney and rural independent schools. Everyone who attended this event showed excellent sportsmanship and competed to their full potential on the day. Congratulations to Cecilia Ayoubi who placed 29th out of 114 in the 9 year old girls event and to Omar Arnaout who placed 25th out of 85 in the 12 year old boys event.



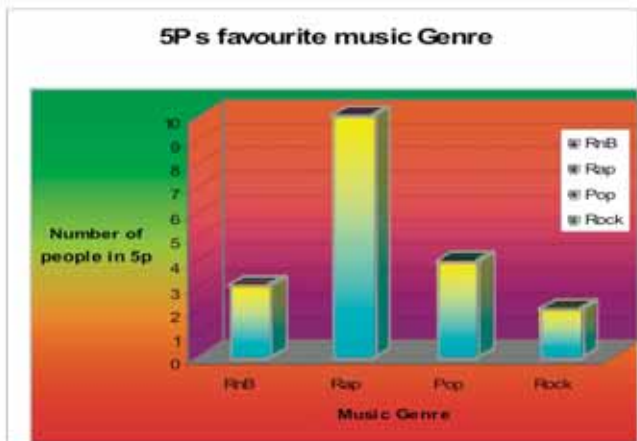
## KINDERGARTEN EXCURSION

On Friday, 28th March, 2008, Kindergarten attended an excursion to Fairfield City Farm as part of their Science and Technology unit, "Growing Up". The students were accompanied by their teachers, Miss Small, Miss Najdi, Miss Habbouche and some very helpful parent helpers. They traveled by bus and enjoyed a variety of exciting, engaging and educational farm shows and exhibits as well as a variety of hands-on activities. On arrival, each class had their recess and joined up with their allocated tour guides who were all quite knowledgeable and friendly. The children were given opportunities for active learning and were encouraged to observe with all of their senses and ask questions, which was exactly what the curious Kindergarteners did. They were able to get up close to a range of native and farmyard animals, which included milking the cow and watching live sheep-shearing, stock whip and working dog shows. The children also relished in a scenic tractor ride, which truly engaged all of their senses. After a long, tiring but very exciting day, all three classes boarded the bus and returned to school to share some amazing stories about their trip to the farm.



## YEAR 5 GRAPHS

5P have learnt about graphs, their importance in everyday life and their function in representing and analysing data. This mathematical knowledge was used to design a column graph on the computer using Excel. Here are some work samples by students in 5P.



By Azzam Hawa



By Sarah Abd El All

# Year 5 Poetry

5M have been learning about poetry over the last term. They have been concentrating on expression of emotions and feeling through the art of the written word. Children were asked to think deeply about different issues and how they perceived them in their own way. The following pieces of work were produced independently.

## Beauty Poetry by Bisma Anwar

A beautiful smile,  
Tears of joy,  
A cruise on a boat,  
"Land ahoy."  
The giggle of a baby,  
The big blue sky,  
The sun rising,  
From way up high.  
A kiss on the cheek,  
The beautiful sun,  
The big wide rainbow,  
A freshly cooked bun.  
Giving friends a wave goodbye,  
Giving your dad a hug,  
Giving your mum a kiss on the cheek,  
Before sleeping on my favorite rug.  
Watching the sunset,  
While the birds tweet,  
I love pancakes,  
They're so sweet!

## How Or Why by Hassan Osseili

Blue clear sky.  
Gravity pulls me down.  
The ocean flowing along lands.  
All planets orbiting the sun.  
The hawk's eyesight.  
Blurry glasses worn by humans.  
Sandy deserts.  
Sun flowers shaped like suns.  
The shape of a planet.  
The blood in our bodies.  
Fish communicating.  
Water in a swamp helping crocodiles.  
Tears in your eyes.  
Saliva in your mouth.  
Gazing at the stars.  
A dark sky with a golden moon.  
Clouds like Marge Simpson's hair.  
Ice cubes cracking.  
Burning hot sun.  
Rainbow shaped like a semi-circle.  
Dogs barking.

## YEAR 1 EXCURSION POWERHOUSE MUSEUM

It was a lovely day late in term 1 when year one embarked on their first excursion of the year. In HSIE lessons, we had been learning about 'days gone past' and were on our way to the Powerhouse Museum to see olden day items in real life. We were lucky enough to be selected as the 'trial run' of the Powerhouse Museum's latest school holiday show entitled Pixel and



Friends (normal child ticket \$15, our cost free). Students were excited to see the show and were thoroughly engaged throughout the professional performance that combined media, dance and music to tell the story of a red pixel who had lost her colour. For many students it was the first live production they had seen and most left with a new found appreciation of creative arts. After the show we broke for lunch in

the courtyard of the Powerhouse Museum where after students had eaten, they were permitted free play on the exciting play equipment (see photographs).

Following lunch, we ventured into the museum where students were broken up into small groups to explore the 'days gone past' exhibition which displayed many old artifacts no longer in use. These included items such as nonelectric irons, tin toys and black and white TV. As the day drew to a close, students were encouraged to reflect on their experience and although they were quite tired after such a busy day, all students seemed to take home with them a pleasant memory of their journey to discover the past.



Year 3 at the Sydney Observatory



## YEAR 3 EXCURSION

*Our excursion to the Observatory...*

*By Thamila Hossain and Areebah Rashid (3F)*

*On the 30th of May 2008, Year 3 went on an excursion to the Sydney Observatory in the city. When we first arrived, we were split into 3 groups and had to put our bags into a cupboard.*

*Next we went inside the Planetarium and saw the star Sirius, yellow stars, blue stars, red stars and the Southern Cross. The group of red stars we saw is called Beetle Juice.*

*Then we looked through the big telescope and we saw the Moon. We also saw Captain Cook's telescope and then looked through another small one where we saw everything upside down. After that we watched a 3D movie. We had to put special glasses on and everything looked like it was coming towards us! We watched two movies. The first was about aliens coming down to Earth. The other one was called 'Bigger Than Big' and it was about the size of the planets, we enjoyed it very much. Afterwards we ate lunch at the park behind the Observatory and spent some time sketching the view. We could see the Sydney Harbour and the Harbour Bridge, old houses, Luna Park and tall buildings.*

*The day flew and soon enough it was time to get back on the bus and go back to school. We had a great day at the Observatory and learnt so much about the Solar System.*



## ASSISA MEETINGS TEACHER REPORT

On Thursday 20th March an ASSISA meeting was held to organise a sporting program for some independent schools in the west. It was established that these schools would be involved in round robin team sport competitions in term 3. On Wednesday 21st May further development in the ASSISA West.

## YEAR 6 IMAX THEATRE EXCURSION

As part of the year 6 students' studies in science they learnt about natural phenomenon and disasters. To enhance student learning we went to the Imax in Darling Harbour on the 5th March 2008 to watch the



documentary 'Forces of Nature.' This big screen viewing took the students through the National Geographic's dramatic capture of earthquakes, volcanoes and severe storms through the eyes of scientists on a quest to understand what triggered these disasters. Watching this big screen event helped students understand the concepts they had been learning about in their classroom studies.

## YEAR 4S ASSEMBLY

In week 6 of Term 2, it was 4S' turn to host the assembly. The children were excited about the fact it was their turn ,

became even more excited when they found out they were going to perform one of the stories they had read in class: 'Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves'.

Children nominated themselves for the lead roles and the class voted. Jihad



was chosen as Ali Baba, Kanaan as the captain of the thieves, Cecilia as Morgiana, and Kabis and Ibrahim were chosen by Mrs Siswoyo as the narrators. Other roles were decided on and enthusiastically embraced by the students. Scripts were printed and props collected. Now it was time to practice, practice and practice! After a few bumpy rehearsals, Friday had finally arrived and the children could barely contain their excitement and nerves! Glittery head scarves, handsome hats and classic Arabic clothing made the characters come alive! And with the generous help of Mrs Rasidi and 4R, the hall was transformed into downtown Arabia.

The play was performed twice on Friday, once for primary classes and once for infants, and on both occasions, the students did a fantastic job. All students in 4S, whether they had a part in the play, helped with the props or played some other part in the assembly, should be very proud of their achievement!

While looking forward to their next assembly, everyone in 4S is glad that it is not for quite a while!

## YEAR 4 EXCURSION THE ROCKS

In the second week of Term 2, students from 4R and 4S went on an excursion to the Rocks. Mrs Rasidi and Mrs Siswoyo, as well as several parents came along. The aim of the excursion was to extend students' knowledge related to the British colonization of Australia, which Year Four had been learning about in HSIE studies. The excursion involved a tour of the Rocks area, including inside an original merchant's house, as well as a visit to the very 'hands on' Rocks

Discovery Museum. Along the way the students were lucky to see an Aboriginal man playing his didgeridoo, who was very friendly to our students, giving them a special talk and demonstration. The students were also excited about being given a demonstration and free candies from the friendly workers in the lolly shop located near the museum.

Overall, it was a fantastic day and surely helped the students understand better about early life in the Rocks settlement.

## EXCURSION

# RECOUNT

By Kabis Al-Hassan (4S)

*On Wednesday we had our excursion to the Sydney Rocks. It is located in the city. We left the school at nine thirty. It was quite noisy on the bus. We took an hour to get there, so the time was ten thirty in the morning. Once we got there, we got organised into our groups. We walked towards James and Alfonso. First, we went into the Merchants House. We went to the basement where the kitchen was. Alfonso showed us how his wife used the kitchen tools. It was wicked. He also showed us how his children played and made toys. We then drew pictures.*

## Our Australia-teachers report

Rissalah College had been involved in an Our Australia program with Mt Sinai. The program has been designed by the Year 6 teachers of both schools for all the year 6 students in both schools. The vision of the program is to foster the concept that we are all Australians living together with tolerance and harmony. The program has been designed over the year with one day a term for both schools to come together and participate in activities that foster the vision of Our Australia.



On the first meeting the students attended a problemsolving/team building day at the Police Community and Youth Centre in Marrickville. This day allowed the students from both schools the time to interact with each other and get to know 'buddies' from each other's school. With new found buddies the students participated in problem solving and team building activities. The day was a huge success. All students made new friends and shared common interests. Just recently, the Year 6 Mt Sinai teachers and students came to visit Rissalah College. It was a positive time for students to reacquaint themselves with their 'buddies' and to share something special they had brought from home. During this visit the students really focused on developing the notion that we are all Australians with our many similarities and differences.

It was also a great time for students to share notions of why they are proud of the country that we all share. These ideas and concepts were captured onto small squares of material that will be sown together to make one quilt. This will be an icon which will forever reflect the students' sentiments. The effort and quality put into the quilt was tremendous. The year 6 Rissalah students have really enjoyed getting the program so far and they are looking forward to the continuation of the program.



SCHOOL  
MEETING  
DATES

FEB 26  
PCYC  
MARRICKVILLE

MAY 27  
RISSALAH  
COLLEGE

AUG 19  
MT SINAI

NOV 1  
LUNA PARK

## SWALK; SWIM 'N WALK FOR CHARITY

On Saturday the 14th of June a group of teachers, students and parents from Rissalah College met in Sydney City to participate in the annual charity event, SWALK. SWALK (Swim 'n Walk for Charity) is a community event that supports the Sanctuary Movement and Black Dog Institute which aid refugee community groups and research into little known medical conditions such as Bipolar Disorder.

25 teachers, students and parents walked 3.8 kilometers from the Cook and Phillip Aquatic Center near Hyde Park, around Mrs Macquarie's Chair and back to raise much needed funds for these causes. Rissalah College was pleased to receive the award for the most kilometers walked by a school group as altogether the students and teachers who participated walked a large total of 95 kilometers.

Overall, it was a pleasant day in which teachers and students were not only provided with the opportunity to interact with each other outside the school grounds, but also raise money for a worthwhile cause.

