



# Straight A's Ltd

**'Helping your child succeed in the 21<sup>st</sup> century'**

**Straight A's Education Centre**  
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Dear Parents

A warm welcome to new parents and caregivers who have enrolled students this term. As you are probably aware, the school terms have been changed slightly this year to cater for the Rugby World Cup later on in the year. This change could have quite a big impact on our senior secondary students sitting external exams at the end of the year. We intend running a comprehensive holiday programme for these students in October to ensure they are fully prepared. Details will be available during Term 3.

During the last set of school holidays I attended the *'Irlen Australasian'* conference in Rotorua. The Scotopic Sensitivity Syndrome (Irlen Syndrome) is a problem with the brain's ability to process visual information. It is not an optical problem. Research has shown that up to 12% of the population are affected by the Irlen Syndrome and 46% of students with learning difficulties display Irlen Symptoms. The Irlen Syndrome can run in families so parents often don't notice when their children have the same symptoms.

Light sensitivity, inefficient reading, slow reading rate, strain or fatigue, attention deficit, poor depth perception are all symptoms of Irlen Syndrome. Having just a few of these symptoms can mean the Irlen Syndrome is affecting you.

Once the Irlen Syndrome is diagnosed, it is easily treated with either coloured overlays or tinted Irlen Spectral Filters, worn as glasses.

For information on the Irlen Syndrome you can visit [www.irlen.com](http://www.irlen.com)

I am a certified Irlen Screener for anyone who would like to have either their child or themselves screened.

It is that time of the year again when students pay their entrance fee and prepare to sit the ICAS exams. For those parents who are unfamiliar with, or would like to know more about the ICAS we have included an informative article in this newsletter. For many primary students ICAS is the first chance they get to sit a national test paper in exam conditions and it is great practice for future exams. Controlling nerves, working under pressure in timed conditions are just some of the benefits gained from sitting these tests. We will be running specialist ICAS sessions during the school holidays. These classes will teach the students about time management, exam techniques and full revision of past ICAS papers. Good luck to all our students who enter!

Kind regards

Sally Clarke  
Director



## Holiday Classes

### ICAS MATHEMATICS AND ENGLISH

**Our programme for these coming holidays will concentrate on preparing our students (Years 4-8) for the ICAS English and Mathematics papers they will sit on August 2nd and 16<sup>th</sup> respectively if they have enrolled in them.**

We will revise past papers and look at test techniques, skills needed and test strategies.

Skills covered in each subject area will include:

#### ENGLISH

Reading and language skills in a range of texts. Locate, identify, interpret, infer and synthesize information in and about texts, focusing on the aspects of:

- reading for meaning in literacy texts
- reading for meaning in factual texts
- textual devices
- syntax/vocabulary

#### MATHEMATICS

Mathematical skills in a range of contexts from the following areas:

- Number
- Algebra and Patterns
- Measures and Units
- Space and Geometry
- Chance and Data

### ICAS HOLIDAY PROGRAMME TIMETABLE

<b>Monday 18<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>Year 4/5/6 Mathematics</b>	<b>12:30pm – 2:30pm</b>
<b>Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>Year 7/8 Mathematics</b>	<b>12:30pm – 2:30pm</b>
<b>Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>Year 4/5/6 English</b>	<b>12:30pm – 2:30pm</b>
<b>Thursday 21<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>Year 7/8 English</b>	<b>12:30pm – 2:30pm</b>

**COST:** \$80.00 per student for the 2 hour session.

*(Students will also take home past papers to revise.)*

We will also be running our **regular holiday classes** during the first week of the school holidays. The classes can be in either Mathematics or/and English and are not restricted to just Straight A's students. We are able to cover specific areas of weakness, extension work or revision in the student's learning. The cost per lesson is **\$43.00**.

#### Lesson Times:

Monday 18 July ó Friday 22 July  
9:30am ó 10:45am

## ICAS Tests

### WHAT IS ICAS?

International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) are conducted by Educational Assessment Australia. Educational Assessment Australia is wholly owned by the University of New South Wales.

Students from twenty countries now participate in ICAS with New Zealand being one of these twenty countries. ICAS papers are produced for Year 4 students and above in the following subject areas:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Computer Skills
- Writing
- Spelling



ICAS papers assess the skills students require to address the curriculum. Every student receives detailed diagnostic information in the form of a report that measures their progress from previous years and a certificate acknowledging their level of achievement. Schools receive comprehensive reports designed to validate and enhance other school based assessments. The results from these tests are becoming increasingly important for schools in attaining school wide assessment data.

### Holiday Hours

Straight Aø will close for the holidays with normal lessons finishing on **Saturday 16 July 2011** and recommencing on **Monday 1 August 2011**.

Straight Aø office will be closed from Friday 22 July until Monday 1 August.

### Term Three Bookings

We are currently booking your child in for the same time next term. If this doesn't suit please let us know as soon as possible.

### Missed Classes

Please make sure you notify the centre if a student is going to be absent. We are able to organise catch up classes for these missed lessons but a student can only accumulate a total of two catch up classes.

### Term Three 2011 Dates and Fees

#### Dates

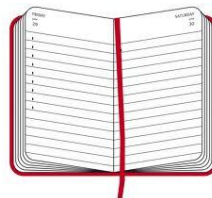
Monday 1 August 2011 to Saturday 8 October 2011

#### Term Fees

\$450.00 (10 weeks)

#### Weekly Fees

\$45.00



### Term Two 2011

### Straight A's Scholarship Winner

The scholarship is awarded on the following criteria:

- Commitment**
- Motivation**
- Integrity**
- Diligence**
- Attendance**

We are pleased to announce that the scholarship this term has been awarded to **Keenan Masina**. Keenan is a Year 11 student currently attending Straight Aø for English tuition. Congratulations Keenan!!

As a recipient of the scholarship, Keenan's tuition in Term 3 at Straight Aø will be free of charge.



