Welcome to the December newsletter – Merry Christmas and let's look forward to 2015!

It’s time to greet the summer holidays and say goodbye to 2014. We hope you enjoyed this year’s ICAS tests. We are sure that you did your best in a range of endeavours and made some great achievements over the whole range of learning activities. Congratulations to you for rising to your challenges and we look forward to starting a new journey with you in 2015.

**2014 ICAS Medal Presentation Ceremonies**

The ICAS Medal Presentation Ceremonies were held in November and December 2014 at a range of great locations in Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, Perth and Auckland. The ceremonies recognised the outstanding achievements of our medal winners. We have many smart students in our midst and EAA is delighted to play a continuing role in their education through ICAS.

In all 655 students were recognised, including 4 multiple medal winners and 29 dual medal winners. Many medal winners are returning candidates who continue to achieve great success in ICAS.

Students’ families, principals and teachers also enjoy the celebration and public acknowledgement of their own hard work in helping their students accomplish such wonderful results. The medals are given to the highest scoring students in each state (or in New Zealand) to celebrate their outstanding performance in ICAS. The medal recognises the efforts made by the students as well as their parents and teachers. We at ICAS are always delighted to hold these events to celebrate everyone involved.
As a parent and being heavily invested in helping your child achieve their best, you may like to plan early for 2015. Information about 2015 ICAS can be found here and remember, your child can hone their skills in preparation for ICAS by participating in Practice Online in Maths, English and Science or purchasing past papers. It is always helpful for parents to encourage their school to continue entering ICAS so your child can continue to strive for and achieve such wonderful results, with perhaps more medals to come.

We look forward to a continuing association through ICAS and hope to see you and your child at a future event.

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**High Achievers Reception**

A reception for High Achieving students in 2014 ICAS was held at UNSW on Friday 28th November, attracting over 400 students. This terrific turnout saw attendees addressed by the Vice President and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) Professor Iain Martin who acknowledged the achievements of the students and the encouragement afforded them by their principals, teachers and family.

This exciting event was held to recognise the top 1% of students in their year level for an ICAS subject. In all 1,411 High Achieving students were invited. Many of those recognised were returning recipients who had won ICAS medals throughout their schooling.

The event not only recognised the students, but also their families, principals and teachers who were invited to enjoy this celebration of their own hard work in helping their student accomplish such wonderful results. We at EAA understand great results are a joint effort and that a student’s success is an achievement by many. We are always delighted to celebrate everyone involved.

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**ICS Computer Skills renamed as ICAS Digital Technologies**

It seems everyone enjoys their portable electronic devices more than their computers—downloading various apps, recording videos, and developing programs. Digital skills have already extended from telephones to all kinds of devices, such as smart phones, tablets, smart televisions, and game consoles. The name of Computer Skills no longer reflects how students interact with current technology or what they are expected to do with these tools. Consequently we have changed the name of the Computer Skills assessment to Digital Technologies. This will allow broader areas of computational thinking, creation of information systems, use and management of mobile and interactive technologies, impact of social media etc, to be included in the papers.

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**Official Dates for 2015 ICAS**

Get ready for 2015 ICAS! Here are the official sitting dates for 2015 ICAS. These dates may be slightly different at your school so don't forget to confirm when your school is sitting ICAS with your teacher. If you have further questions, feel free to contact our Customer Service team on 61 2 8344 1010 or at info@eaa.unsw.edu.au

<table>
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<tr>
<th>ICAS Subject</th>
<th>ICAS Sitting Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Digital Technologies</td>
<td>Tue 19 May</td>
<td>Tue 21 April</td>
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<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Wed 3 June</td>
<td>Wed 6 May</td>
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<td>Writing</td>
<td>15 - 19 June*</td>
<td>Mon 18 May</td>
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<td>Spelling</td>
<td>Tue 16 June</td>
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**Five best children’s books of all time**

What are you going to do during this Christmas holiday? This holiday with the Telegraph pick of children’s classics. They could be the best Christmas gifts for the children.

**Watership Down**
Richard Adams (1972)
The full-scale novel about rabbits finding their promised land has the magic of prophecy, idyllic Hampshire locations and the structure of the Aeneid. Adams enjoys parading his scholarship, and this is a lively introduction to brainy books.

**The Hobbit**
J.R.R Tolkien (1937)
Here we meet the characters who will make The Lord of the Rings happen, and on a pre-Peter Jackson scale. If anything, Gollum is even more chilling here, because we see him through the eyes of a hobbit—seldom the calmest of travelers.

**The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe**
C.S. Lewis (1950)
Welcome to the magical land of Narnia, where the White Witch reigns over a snow-girl land peopled by fawns, talking beavers and people eager to put their trust in four kids from Finchley. This is pure narrative magic.

**Charlotte’s Web**
E.B. White (1952)
The New Yorker writer cherished for his elegance of style gives us an altruistic spider with exquisite manners, and a pig to make her proud. There are intimations of mortality, but a plot of fame and legacy thumbs its nose at the inevitable.

**The Little Prince**
Antoine de Saint-Exupéry (1943)
The Little Prince falls to Earth to meet the author, who has crashed his plane. His quizzical, wise stories of other planets (most of which are inhabited by solitary monomaniacs) lead to the daftest of all—our own.

Don’t waste time on your holiday and get ready for the new semester! Enjoy the reading and have fun. We look forward to seeing you again in the new year. Achieve your personal best with ICAS in 2015!

Happy holidays.

Neville Walter
Marketing Manager, International and Domestic
UNSW Global

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