

26 May 2023

Dear Parents and carers,

Today is National Sorry Day; a day that we join with people from all over Australia to say sorry for the actions that robbed First Nations peoples of their life, culture, law and language. We fly our flags at half-mast, to remember and acknowledge the hurt and damage caused in the past by our governments when they forcibly removed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families, communities and cultures. We reflect on the sad and painful stories of the Stolen Generations, recognise the resilience of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and acknowledge the power and importance of saying we are sorry for causing hurt. It's also a day when we recognise that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people continue to suffer from the effects of these policies.

Following this significant day, we move into National Reconciliation Week (27th May- 3rd June), where students and staff will be involved in a range of activities to build an understanding of our shared histories, cultures and achievements. At Iona, we nurture young people who can make a difference by using their voices and actions in support of reconciliation. Our Assembly on Tuesday morning will be led by our FIRE Carriers and will include a Commissioning of staff FIRE Carriers. Students are reminded to wear their **formal uniform**, with the exception of the Year 7 students who are attending the Barwon Water excursion. Parents and Carers are invited to view the Assembly via the livestream link that will be shared prior to the gathering.

We recognise the tremendous talent of parent, Michelle Searle, a proud Awabakal woman, who designed and painted the Geelong Cats guernsey which will be worn during the Sir Doug Nicholls Round this weekend.



Our own teacher, FIRE Carrier and Geelong Cats VFL Captain, Angus Byrne, will proudly wear the guernsey on Sunday after hearing the story of its design while at training this week. We encourage you to share in our pride and [learn about the design elements of 'Strength Through Unity'](#). Congratulations, Michelle; we can't wait to see your story of Aboriginal culture at GMHBA Stadium this weekend.

Covid 19

As you may be aware, there appears to be a spike in the number of Covid-19 case reports nationally. We have noted there have been larger absence numbers at school along with some staff who have fallen victim to covid. Our advice has been that if your daughter/son/young person tests positive to Covid, then they stay home for five days. Please ensure that if your young person is displaying Covid like symptoms they remain at home. The spread of illness at school, where everybody is in close contact, can lead to much disruption to the continuity of the learning program. We continue once again with the challenge of staff absence and seeking class relief teachers and whilst not ideal, we are working hard to ensure that classes continue as normal. We have provided further information at the end of this newsletter regarding protocols to follow in relation to Covid-19.

Semester One exams – Unit 1 and Year 10 subjects

In Week 8 of Term Two, Year 10 students will sit semester-based exams in some of their subjects. The following subjects will hold exams:

- Unit 1 Business Management
- Unit 1 Health and Human Development
- Unit 1 Art – Making and Exhibiting
- Year 10 Maths (Core and Pre-Methods)
- Year 10 Science (Core, Physical Science and Biological & Environmental Science)

For Semester One the exams will be conducted during the students' class time.

The aim of holding exams at Year 10 is to practise sitting formal assessment that spans content and core skills drawn from a full semester. This will help develop some of the skills in students to prepare them for senior studies. Teachers will work with students to prepare them for this new experience.

It is advantageous in Year 10 to develop good study habits. Students need to balance study with their family and social and extra-curricular activities.

As students begin to encounter more complex problems and develop the core skills required for senior studies, they need to revise on a regular basis to develop confidence and master core skills.

Students at Year 10 should be completing the equivalent of 60 minutes of homework and/or study or 90 minutes if they are studying a VCE subject on each school night.

Exams for Year 9 students and further exams for Year 10 students will be held in Semester Two. Please feel free to get in touch with Mr. Steve Parker or Ms. Anthea Sholl if you have any questions about exams.

PSW Tracksuit Pants

The much-anticipated shipment of new Iona tracksuit pants has arrived at PSW. Although this has been a smaller shipment, another larger shipment is on its way. We recommend you call ahead to see if the size you are after is available in store.

Meet the Team Series



Meet Kate Every, our passionate new College Nurse.

Nursing is in Kate's blood with her coming from a long line of Nurses. She began her career working in a chemist in her country hometown of Warracknabeal.

Kate's favorite part of the job is meeting and supporting young people. Her caring nature and warm nature have instantly connected her to the Iona community. She brings fun by wearing colourful and crazy scrubs every Friday – we had no idea how many styles were out there!

Outside of work, Kate loves her role as a mother to three boys—Charlie, Jack, and George—and enjoys spending quality time with her family and friends. She enjoys outdoor activities like camping, running, and relaxing at the beach. She is part of a social Running Team. Her other favourite sport at the moment is watching her sons play Footy and Cricket.

Kate is an enthusiastic supporter of the OG Grubbers footy team. *Florence + the Machine* is her favourite band and *The Italian Job* is her favourite movie.

Kate chose to join the Iona Team because of the warm and welcoming atmosphere she experienced from both the staff and students. She really appreciates the support and collaboration at Iona 😊. Her words of wisdom for our students is "Find what makes you happy."

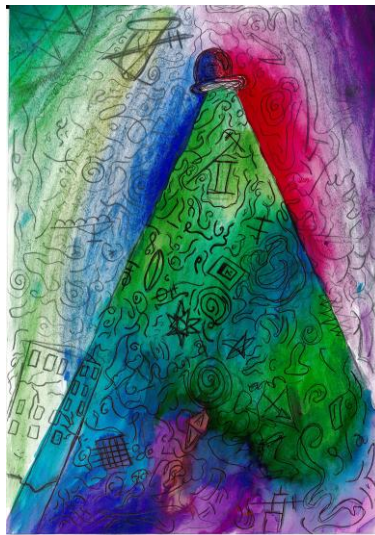
Kate, we are **delighted** that you decided to join the Iona Team!

Artists of the Week

Our artists of the week are Amelia Clarke, Oliver Stonehouse, River Lawson, Samara Spagnuolo, Sienna Farrugia and Zack Waterson. The Year 7's explored the Artist Wassily Kandinsky's artwork "The rational, geometric order of Composition VIII" as inspiration for their own artwork.



Amelia Clarke



Oliver Stonehouse



River Lawson



Samara Spagnuolo



Sienna Farrugia



Zack Waterson

Canteen News

A reminder to students when purchasing food over the counter at the canteen, students must use their student ID card/Wristband. Starting Monday 5th June, all students will be required to purchase food with their student ID card/Wristband. Next week will be a grace period where students will be reminded they must have a student ID/wristband to purchase food. Students & Families are reminded they can purchase a replacement ID card online via <https://shop.iona.vic.edu.au>

The reason we require students to use their ID card / wristband is to ensure the correct student is being charged for their purchase and it also reduces queue wait times. Manually searching a student's name causes long delays.

Thank you for your support.

Jamie Foot
Canteen Manager

Canteen Volunteers Wanted



We are still looking for volunteers to assist in our popular canteen. If you are willing to give some time to volunteer in our buzzing canteen, [complete this online form](#). Once you have completed the form, you will receive more information on how to become a volunteer. If you have already completed the form, no need to complete it again, please check your emails, including junk mail for further instructions from compliance@iona.vic.edu.au.

A current [Working With Children Check](#) (Volunteer) is required. **A big thanks to those who are already volunteering.**

COVIDSafe Measures Reminder

A reminder that COVIDSafe measures have changed but all Victorian Catholic schools are required to continue to implement important practices to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

The College continues to take important steps of ensuring air purifiers are in use, external ventilation is maximized, good personal hygiene is encouraged, and face masks continue to be made available for staff, students and visitors who wish to wear them.



It is recommended that rapid antigen tests (RATs) are used by students and staff:

- If you have symptoms of COVID-19 infection, no matter how mild;
- If you are a household or close contact of someone who has COVID-19; and
- If you are a social contact of someone who has COVID-19.

Please notify the college if your young person has returned a positive RAT result. Students and staff who report a positive result are recommended to isolate for a minimum of 5 days and not attend school until their symptoms have resolved. For more information, the college COVID Safe plan has been made available on our website.

Thanks for your support,

Damian and Kylie