

28 July 2023

Dear Parents and carers,

Last week Catholic churches across the world celebrated World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. We recognise the enormous contribution that the older generations make to our society and thank them for their stories, guidance, protection and wisdom. Our youth can learn a lot from their elders and we encourage any opportunity for connection.

Excitement is building around our 'Together We Walk' event which is next Friday 4th August. On this day, National Children's Day, the fire will be lit and our First Nations students and FIRE Carriers will visit local sites to learn about culture in the Armstrong Creek and Mount Duneed areas. Lisa Couzens, our First Nations Liaison Officer, will lead this event and deepen our understanding of Wadawurrung culture through story.

Following our invitation to our community to partner with us in support of this event and the education of First Nations students, we have been overwhelmed by the generosity that sees Iona College currently sitting at the [top of the 'Together We Walk' Leaderboard](#). The gift of education is life-changing and this gift of education is priceless.



DONATE NOW

What an inspiring start we have had to Term 3 where we demonstrate our commitment to our Pillar of Leadership and honour the legacy of Saint Mary MacKillop who "never saw a need without doing something about it". Mary Mackillop died on the 8th of August 1909, and here we within days of this anniversary doing exactly what she asked, supporting the education of First Nations students. **We sincerely thank you for your support.**

We are excited to be in the planning stages for some additional opportunities for Year 10 and 11 students next year. Stay tuned to your emails for information regarding upcoming parent evenings for:

- Year 10, 2024 - Central Australia Experience in June
- Year 11, 2024 - Cape York Immersion in September

Newsletter Delivery Update

Starting next week, we're streamlining the way you access our Weekly Newsletter to make it even more convenient and user-friendly. Instead of sending the newsletter as a separate attachment, we will now include a direct link to the current edition as well as all previous newsletters in our regular Weekly News email. If you have any questions or feedback, feel free to reach out to us.

Iona Welcomes First Exchange Student



We are delighted to welcome Camill who has just arrived from France. Camill joins the Year 9 cohort from a town in France – Janze in the Brittany region. His inspiration to travel to Australia on an exchange was sparked by his siblings, one of whom spent five incredible months here back in 2019. While he is here, he plans to immerse himself in Australian culture and make the most of every opportunity that is offered to him.

On a personal level, he brings with him a love of swimming, badminton, basketball and tennis. He also enjoys playing the piano. We hope to see him pursuing these passions at Iona and proudly representing our College. He also hopes to learn how to surf while on exchange and we're sure that the Surf Coast will oblige with this dream!

Mr. McKew was delighted to meet Camill and welcome him to the Iona Community. He used the meeting as the perfect opportunity to trumpet the Hawk's successes and offer his team up as the 'ideal' footy team. We don't think it will be long before Camill finds himself donning the colours of an avid Hawks supporter.

ANZAC Day Letter Responses

In the lead-up to Anzac Day this year, our Year 7 cohort wrote letters to deployed Australian Defence Force personnel. This week, we received an email from Major Daniel Kennedy, the commander of Task Force Australia currently deployed in Iraq, who conveyed his appreciation to our Iona students, for their acts of kindness. Thank you to all students involved in this initiative.

Excerpts from Major Kennedy's email are included below:



Good Morning Iona, College, Geelong.

By way of introduction, my name is Major Daniel Kennedy. I am currently deployed on operations in Iraq with a small team assisting the Iraqi Government and its people.

We have received letters from Year 7 students at your Campus, written during the lead-up to ANZAC 2023. The team here has been able to read the letters and have thoroughly enjoyed hearing from the students of Iona College.

Firstly, I would like to commend the actions of these students. The letters were sincere and well written and have reminded the team out here that Australians are thinking about them, and support the work they are doing whilst deployed on operations, away from their families and friends. My team is very animated about providing a written response to these letters, however, due to mail system times, they will not arrive at Iona College for at least 6-8 weeks.

Due to the nature of the care package mail system, we received a portion of the letters that were sent out. Please let the other students know that their letters have likely been sent to other members deployed overseas in different locations to our team. Our team will respond to the letters we have received. Please pass on to the other students that we appreciate the efforts of the class, however, are unaware of where their letters have gone to. Our team wants to ensure the other members of the class are not disheartened if they have not received replies, as other deployed members are busy and may not have the time to reply as we are intending on doing.

Thank you again for your letters. They have provided a lot of morale to the team here. The students' support and care has reminded the team here why they are deployed in service to our country and our people!

Kindest Regards,

Daniel Kennedy
Major
Commander Task Force Australia, Iraq.

[eSmart Parent Online session – Parenting in the Digital World Reminder](#)

On Tuesday the 8th of August from 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm eSmart will be hosting an Online parenting session. This session is focused on Parenting in the Digital World and will provide insight into the online worlds of young people including the latest trends, risks, and research, and includes a strong focus on social media. It also offers advice parents can use to help manage a child's life online.

Please [RSVP via the following link](#), further details will be provided by the organiser at a later stage.

Lunchtime Concert Performance



Congratulations to all of our performers from Monday's Lunchtime Concert. It was wonderful to see so many students willing to share their musical journey with others. A big thank you goes to our very large and supportive audience. Keep a look out for performance opportunities that coming up this term.

Jodie Townsend

Teacher / Music / Innovation Leader (Pedagogy & Instruction)

Save the Date – Year 7 Orientation Day

Please note that the Year 7 2024 Orientation Day for Iona College will be held on Tuesday 12 December 2023. Details and times are to be advised at a later point.

Running Club

Next Wednesday 2nd August, the Iona Running Club will begin. Sessions will take place each week at 3:10 pm and will conclude by 4:00 pm. Students are required to be picked up from the school at the conclusion of the session. Each week, students will participate in High-Intensity Interval Training (HIIT) in order to improve their fitness. All abilities will be catered for from beginner runners to advanced athletes. Students who are interested should see Mr Henneman in the PE Office or send him an email at dean.henneman@iona.vic.edu.au. Parent permission must also be obtained through Operoo before participation. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at the College.

Mr Dean Henneman

Teacher / Sport Leader (Internal/House)

From the Wellbeing Team

Year 8 Boys Football Game Against Trinity Colac – Some Observations

Earlier this week I was lucky enough to coach our Year 8 boys football team in a game against Trinity College, Colac. In what was a thrilling encounter, our boys came away with a 7-point victory. With the sun shining, it was a magical morning where there were numerous behaviours to celebrate:

- Our boys won with humility, shaking the hands of all opponents
- They tried really hard for the entire game
- When we fell behind in the 2nd term, the boys showed resilience, poise and kindness to one another to help turn the tide of the game; clear instructions, listening, support of each other and no stressing about making mistakes
- All players wore the football uniform with pride– purple socks, purple shorts, and our jumper
- The presence of a number of parents/carers and grandparents cheering their loved one/s on was great to see and helped enhance the sense of connection and community

It was a wonderful reminder of the power of community and how lucky we are to be working alongside such fine students and families. Congrats to all involved in the game and a special well done to Mr. Justin Higgins and Mrs. Ally Lofts for their organisation of the day.

Uniform Reminders

Next week, we'll be giving all students a friendly reminder on how to wear our formal uniform 'properly.'. It is important to note that when wearing the formal uniform, students are required to wear formal leather school shoes, black skate shoes or runners are not allowed. Further to this, if students are wearing the school tie they are required to have their shirt tucked in.

A reminder regarding consequences for students out of uniform:

- 1st breach: non-flag given with email home to parent
- 2nd offence: Year Level Wellbeing Leader receives the 2nd non-flag and adjusts it to a FLAG
- 3rd offence: this is considered to be an act of defiance and will be escalated to an Out of School Hours Reflection Session (OSHRs)

Podcast Recommendation – Cyber Safety

In this series, *Empowering Leaders*, Luke Darcy is joined by iconic leaders to unpack learnings and life lessons from these game changers in their chosen field, whether it's sports, art, business or education. They look at the fundamentals of the new style of leadership, such as collaboration, integrity and innovation, through the stories of these iconic leaders.

The conversation below is with a truly incredible Australian, Susan McLean. She is Australia's foremost expert in the area of cyber safety and was a member of the Victoria Police for 27 years. Widely known as the 'cyber cop' she was the first Victoria Police Officer appointed to a position involving cyber safety and young people. In 2003 she was the Victoria Police Region Four Youth Officer of the Year. She has also been awarded The National Medal, the Victoria Police Service Medal and 2nd Clasp, and the National Police Medal. If you're looking to learn more about cyber safety be sure to [listen to this podcast](#).

We thank you all for your ongoing support and the privilege of working with your young person/people.

Mr. Ashley Mills (Head of Student Wellbeing) on behalf of myself and the Student Wellbeing Leaders –Mrs. Justine Fitzpatrick, Mr. Greg Mellor, Mr. Nathan Pisani, Mrs. Belinda Dezdjek, Mr. Craig Durran, Mr. Andy Walscott, Mrs. Lauren Flint, Mr. Luke Reynolds

Year 10 Active and Able

Last week our Active and Able class were involved in an Incursion for Blind Sport. Travis Zimmer, who works as a Sport4All Inclusion Coach for the Greater City of Geelong visited our school and shared his knowledge and experiences in sport. Travis was able to share some of his achievements with our students which included recently being named in the Victorian Squad and playing in the AFL Blind All Star Game last Saturday.

Born and raised in Geelong, Trav has always had a huge passion for sport. In his teens, Trav was diagnosed with Usher's Syndrome and unfortunately stopped playing sport for some time. Everything changed for him when he began to participate in disability sport. In 2019, Trav began playing AFL Blind with the St. Kilda Football Club and opportunities began to open up. In the summer 2019 / 20 cricket season, Trav represented Victoria at the National Cricket Inclusion Championships in Geelong and now plays an active role for the Victorian Blind Cricket Association. Travis currently sits on the AFL Blind Working Group in supporting the AFL to grow the League and grassroots participation. Travis has also been elected for Victoria for NCIC in Brisbane this year. All these experiences have driven Trav's passion to create awareness for inclusion in sport where he now works as a Sport4All Inclusion Coach for the City of Greater Geelong and he looks forward to working with the local clubs and schools to provide inclusive opportunities for people with disability to participate in sport. Working with Trav helps us to gain a better understanding and create more awareness of opportunities for inclusion.

Our Year 10 students had the opportunity to experience a taster of what it is like to have a vision impairment by wearing various simulation goggles. From there we were able to use specific blind sport equipment to have a small taste of Blind Tennis, Blind Soccer, and AFL blind and in the coming weeks will also have the opportunity to participate in some AFL Blind/Blind Cricket skills and drills working up to a game situation using simulation goggles. The Year 10 Active and Able students are currently working through online modules on Disability and Inclusion in Clubs to help build a culture of inclusivity at our school and then become Inclusion Coaches within their community sporting clubs. This partnership with Sport4All will help develop connections to the broader community with our Iona students assisting in 'learning to change the world'.

Gina Oliver and the Year 10 Active and Able Class
Teacher

GISSA Art and Craft Group

As part of our Arts and Crafts Group on Wednesday afternoon, our Year 7 and 8 groups have been working on creating the most streamlined paper plane design.

Gaining inspiration from viewing the film 'Paper Planes' which shares the story of a young Australian boy's passion for flight and his journey to compete in the world paper plane championships in Japan. Twelve-year-old Dylan meets the junior Japanese champion Kimi in the national paper plane championships in Sydney, Australia. They develop a close bond, challenging each other to create a plane that has never been seen before.

Our Iona students created their own version of what they thought would be the most streamlined paper plane design, and then they refined and decorated their design.



Congratulations to Ed Levy, Jimmy Benne and Owen Davies for winning the first round of the paper plane competition. But it was Chloe Furze who took out the second and final round of our paper plane competition.

Special mention to Brock Perrelle for an extra creative design.
Well done to all those that got involved and took up the opportunity to fly.

Gina Oliver
Teacher

Artists of the Week

Congratulations to the following artists of the week:



Ellen Kirley



Ewan Sullivan



Nora Murray



Nellie Bishop

Hooded Plover

Students created their own interpretation of a visual story, based on the theme of the Hooded Plover, an endangered species indigenous to this area.

You can see how varied the students' explorations are, we love seeing the final artworks showing the different perspectives, interpretations and materials used.



Condolences

We were deeply saddened to learn last weekend of the passing of Hendrik Koekemoer, Father of Cass in Year 7. Our deepest sympathy goes out to Cass, her Mother Annabel and family at this most difficult time. May Hendrik Rest in Peace

Principal Leave

At the conclusion of this week, I (Damian) will be taking some planned leave until the start of Term 4. This is a chance for me to complete an immersion experience, including a visit to the island of Iona, as well as a 'recharge' of the batteries before we embark further into the College's senior years program and commence the next scheduled building project. During my time away from the College, Kylie Power will assume the role of Acting Principal and Ash Mills has been appointed to the position of Acting Deputy Principal. I would like to wish both Kylie and Ash well as they undertake these roles over the next seven weeks.

Thanks for your support,

Damian and Kylie