

18 August 2023

Dear Parents and carers,

A foundation of our Catholic tradition is the value that we place on life and the dignity of every person; we are all “made in the image and likeness of God” which challenges us to show others dignity and respect, despite differences or wrong-doing. We are a restorative practice school which means that when hurt occurs, we focus on healing and working together to repair relationships. Restorative practice takes time and courage, but it is worthwhile for its power to strengthen communities by allowing individuals to grow through reflection on themselves and their impact on others.



Throughout this term, Year 8 Religious Education classes have focused on being upstanders not bystanders. Aligned with the school motto of ‘Learning to Change the World’, students have been challenged to make a positive difference by safely standing up against racism, bullying, prejudice and wrong-doing. This week we welcomed the Courage to Care team, who spent time with our Year 8s, telling stories of courage from past genocides such as the Holocaust, to empower students and staff to be Upstanding. Courage To Care highlighted extraordinary acts of ordinary people who intervened to save others and they inspired our students to look for ways that they can make a positive difference.

Being upstanders leads us to feel uncomfortable when we notice things are wrong, and encourages us to safely call out or intervene to change the situation, which sometimes means seeking help to do so. It means responding to unkind, unjust and hurtful treatment, recognising when human dignity is compromised, and knowing that someone is being treated as being of less value. It takes more than one person to change the world; in reality, the small actions of insignificant people really matter, and when our Iona community keeps upstanding in mind, we can make a positive impact.



Today is 'National Day of Action Against Bullying'

Today, our Student Leaders took a proactive stance in raising awareness about bullying on the 'National Day of Action Against Bullying'. They crafted a striking 'Bullying No Way' banner and invited both Iona staff and students to unite in signing it, symbolizing our commitment to stand up against any form of bullying. This act of signing the banner sends a resolute message that bullying will not be tolerated.

We are proud of how our Student Leaders championed this important cause and how the whole community got behind them!



GISSA Basketball Tournament – Iona’s First Year 9 & 10 GISSA Trophy



Congratulations to the Iona Year 9 and 10 Basketball teams who won the GISSA tournament yesterday. Both teams went through the day undefeated against tough opposition. All players are to be congratulated on both how they played and how they conducted themselves on the day. The MVP winners were Ava de Been and Phillip Wickham- congratulations. A big thank you to Mr Wood and Mr Herbison who gave up their time to coach these teams. The trophies are now standing proudly in the Iona College Reception!

## Child Protection – everyone's business!

With **National Child Protection Week** coming up it is important to keep our community aware and updated. Today the focus is on Grooming. Police have highlighted that grooming behaviours online are increasing. If we are all aware of the signs of grooming we can take steps to better protect our young people from child sexual abuse.

### What is Grooming?

Grooming describes the preparatory stage of child sexual abuse and exploitation, often undertaken to gain the trust and/or compliance of the young person and to establish secrecy and silence to avoid disclosure. A young person's parents/carers or other significant adults may also be groomed by someone intending to harm a young person. Grooming may occur in person, but can often start online.

Grooming includes a range of behaviours and/or verbal or written communications, with the young person, or with significant adults, with the intention of facilitating sexual contact with the young person and preventing disclosure. Online grooming can take place through phones and on interactive platforms including chat and instant messaging apps, social media and gaming. Perpetrators use these platforms as a gateway to initiate contact with a young person.

### Grooming may take a number of forms:

- **Building the child's trust:** Using presents, special attention, treats, spending time together and playing games with non-sexual physical contact.
- **Favouritism:** The offender treats the child as an adult; treating them differently and making them feel like a unique friend, making the child feel more special than others.
- **Gaining the trust of the child's parents or carer/s:** Careful to be 'seen' as a close, caring and reliable relative or friend of the family.
- **Isolation (from family, friends):** To ensure secrecy and lessen chances of disclosure or belief.
- **Intimidation and secrecy:** The offender may use coercion e.g., threatening looks and body language, glares, stalking and rules of secrecy.
- **'Testing the waters' or boundary violation:** 'Innocent' touching, gradually developing into 'accidental' sexual contact.
- **Shaping the child's perceptions:** The child is often confused as to what is acceptable and can take on self-blame for the situation, as his/her viewpoint can become distorted.

It can be challenging to establish if a child is being groomed until after sexual abuse has occurred, as the perpetrator often displays similarities of genuine caring behaviour. If you have any concerns and wish to talk to one of our Child Protection Officers at the College, please contact reception. If you would prefer to talk to trained staff outside of Iona please contact the [Bravehearts Information and Support Line](#) on 1800 272 831.

Child Protection Officers  
*Kylie Power, Justine Fitzpatrick and Ashley Mills*

From the Wellbeing Team

### **Words Matter**

Earlier this week I spoke to our Year 9 cohort about the power of words – how they can support, and also how they can harm. Here at Iona, we are passionate about providing the safest and most inclusive environment - where all people feel valued, safe and are able to be the best versions of themselves. We aim for all of our students to be kind, and have a baseline of doing no harm to others. Students found to be engaging in behaviours that harm others or have an impact on our safe environment will receive consequences that involve education around the impact of words (including data and case studies), how to improve self-regulation, and some suggested ways to enhance empathy. As a restorative justice school, we are committed to working alongside our students to repair relationships that have been harmed and encourage students to reflect on how to bounce back from errors we all inevitably make.

### **Bikes, Scooters and Skateboards Policy**

Please note that we have updated our Bikes, Scooters and Skateboards policy and are now promoting it. As a school, we have a duty of care to ensure the safety of students travelling to and from school, and on college grounds. Bicycles, scooters and skateboards (including any other version of bike/scooter/skateboard) are popular means of transport for students, but their safe use requires regulation and management by parents/guardians/carers and the college.

Iona College will provide safe storage for bicycles, scooters, skateboards, etc. ridden to school.

Parents and students understand and support the following conditions:

- Students are expected to wear helmets.
- Bicycles, scooters and skateboards are to be in roadworthy condition.
- Students are not to bring electronically powered or motorised vehicles to school, specifically electric scooters.
- Students must dismount from their bicycles/scooters/skateboards at the college entrance. Riding is not permitted inside the college grounds at any time.
- Students are to ensure bikes/scooters and skateboards are stored appropriately, including being locked away where possible.
- Parents/Guardians/Carers and students understand that the school is not responsible for the safety of bicycles, scooters and skateboards at the college and/or student's safety when travelling to and from school.

Consequences for irresponsible and unsafe management of bicycles, scooters and/or skateboards may include:

- A flag is given to the student and during reflection sessions they can reflect on appropriate safety and management strategies. The Year Level Wellbeing Leader of the student will also call home to inform the parent/guardian of this breach of our school policy.
- The bicycle, scooter or skateboard will be removed from the student and stored at the office until collected by the parent and its use is withdrawn for a period determined by the Principal or their delegate.
- Electric scooters are not permitted and will be stored at the office until collected by the parent.

If you have any queries or concerns regarding this, please do not hesitate to contact me.

### Reflections from Student Progress Meetings

A big thanks to all parents/guardians who attended our Student Partnership Meetings last night. Engaging in conversations with families about the progress of your young person/people, about the successes and challenges of the semester thus far, is motivating for us as staff. It helps remind us of the sacredness of each child we have under our care here at Iona, and about the enormous responsibility and privilege of our job as educators. Thank you for taking the time to engage with us and we hope you found it beneficial.

### Podcast Recommendations

Extending on from the concept of the sacredness of all living things, I listened to [this podcast](#) earlier this week and found it to be an interesting reflection on sustainability, spirituality and the preciousness of life. Featuring famous Australian author Tim Winton, the podcast was beautiful and thought-provoking – you may enjoy it too.

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

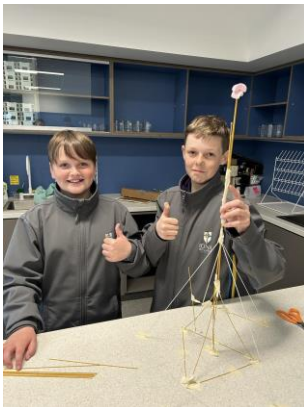
Mr. Ashley Mills (Head of Student Wellbeing/Acting Deputy Principal) on behalf of myself and the Student Wellbeing Leaders – Mrs. Justine Fitzpatrick, Mr. Greg Mellor, Mr. Nathan Pisani, Mrs. Belinda Dezdjek, Mr. Craig Durran, Mr. Andy Walsgott, Mrs. Lauren Flint, Mr. Luke Reynolds

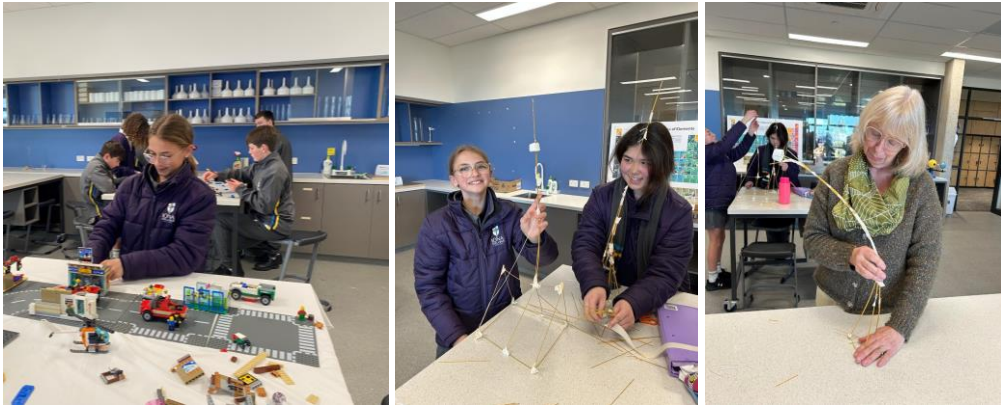
### Science Week

This week Iona College has been celebrating National Science Week. The theme for Science Week in 2023 is Innovation: Powering Future Industries. The theme incorporates the advancement in technology in all industries, especially using artificial intelligence (AI).

The week has been filled with daily science quizzes and lunchtime activities that many students and staff have got involved in. Water rockets, marshmallow catapults, spaghetti towers, Lego science and building a drinking fountain have been the highlights of the week.

Thanks to all the teachers who helped out and the students for making the week special. A special thanks to our wonderful lab techs Ms Yvonne Billows and Ms Regina Paganini for all they do in organising all our science pracs, managing the labs and making science fun (and safe)!





### PERAYAAN HARI KEMERDEKAAN (Indonesian Independence Day Celebration)

On Wednesday, Iona College celebrated Indonesia's 78th Hari Kemerdekaan (Independence Day). After an Indonesian-themed community group, our Year 7 and 8 students participated in an all-day incursion. Activities included pencak silat (martial arts), gamelan orchestra, anklung instrument playing, traditional village games, online language games, penjor tower building, Masterchef 'nasi kuning' contest, Indonesian sports, an 'eating race', traditional dancing, batik making and becak riding. What an amazing day we had and what a great opportunity for students to joyfully engage with Indonesian customs and traditions relating to this very important national holiday.



## Homework at Iona

Iona College understands that homework is a critical part of a student's secondary school education, benefitting them in a great variety of ways, as outlined in the dot points below.

Accordingly, failure to complete set homework can disadvantage a student greatly due to missed opportunities to reinforce concepts taught in class, to work independently and to develop important study habits that help to avert procrastination and avoidance.

To support those students who have been unable to complete assigned homework in their time outside of the classroom, Iona College has introduced Homework Redemption Sessions during Tuesday and Thursday lunchtimes. Students who have been unable to complete their homework on *three* occasions are required to attend a session. In these sessions, supportive teaching staff will assist students in the completion of overdue work and help identify the barriers preventing these students from meeting their homework obligations and offer strategies to overcome these barriers.

The parents/carers of students required to attend a Homework Redemption Session will be notified of this via PAM.

Iona College believes that regular homework benefits students in each of the following ways:

### Review and Practice:

- Reinforces concepts taught in class and newly acquired skills
- Provides practice to solidify understanding

### Skill Development:

- Enhances problem-solving skills
- Improves time management and organisation

### Independent Learning:

- Encourages self-directed learning
- Builds responsibility for one's education

### Preparation for Assessments:

- Helps prepare for exams, tests and quizzes
- Tests knowledge retention and understanding

### Critical Thinking:

- Encourages analysis and application of concepts
- Promotes deeper understanding

### Time Management:

- Teaches prioritisation and task scheduling
- Develops a valuable life skill

### Parental Involvement:

- Provides insight into student's academic progress
- Fosters parent-child discussions

Real-world Application:

- Connects classroom learning to practical situations
- Prepares students for challenges outside of the academic environment

Feedback and Improvement:

- Offers opportunities for learning from mistakes
- Allows teachers to recognise weaknesses and to provide constructive advice and feedback

Retaining Knowledge:

- Transfers information from short-term to long-term memory
- Aids future learning

Preparation for senior education:

- Develops the skills required for senior school success and tertiary study
- Readies students for independent study

Responsibility and Accountability:

- Cultivates accountability for completing tasks
- Prepares students for work expectations

Building Work Ethic:

- Instils a sense of diligence and discipline
- Prepares for challenges beyond the academic environment

Active Participation:

- Extends learning beyond classroom hours
- Engages students in continuous learning

Steve Parker

*Head of Learning and Innovation*

### Year 10 Active and Able

Last week we had Travis Zimmer join our Active and Able class once again.

We had the opportunity to participate in AFL Blind skills/drills and minor games along with Blind Cricket. Chris Dinneen from Deakin University has also been working with our Active and Able students. We have been researching Australian Paralympians and various Para-Sports.

Our students had the opportunity to participate in Silent Netball and challenge themselves in Totem Tennis by either using only one arm, standing on one leg, or using the vision-impaired simulation goggles. It is always interesting at the end of the lesson when we recap what we have discovered and identify some of the challenges that we had to overcome to be inclusive of all.



Here is some feedback comments from our Year 10 students:

- “I enjoyed Kicking the footy with blind goggles on. Seeing through the eyes of Travis. Those goggles were so narrow and so hard to see”.
- “I enjoyed doing the soccer because that gave a better example as to what it would feel like to play in a team while being blind and teammates being blind.”
- “Playing soccer with the glasses on was challenging for me because everything looked so different.”
- “I am interested in the technology behind blind sports like the buzzer inside the footy and how that works and helps the players. How the ball stays aerodynamic with the added speaker and modifications.”
- “I enjoyed playing the soccer the most because it was hard to see the ball but it was something different and a unique experience that I would never have come across if I weren't in this class.”
- “Blind AFL, the teamwork skills that we needed pushed me out of my comfort zone and helped me heighten my senses. I enjoyed putting boot to ball with the specially designed 'blind' glasses”



What was your take-home message from this session?

- That you can do whatever you want to do if you just put your mind to it.
- Being blind doesn't mean you can play your favourite sports or do what you're passionate about.
- That even with eyesight as minimal as 4% anyone can participate and be great at football.

- My take-home message from this experience is that when I'm playing a sport and it's not going well or I'm not enjoying it because it's hard, just remember that there are people out there who have a lot harder life and that I should just push on no matter what.

Gina Oliver and the students of the Active and Able class

### Daffodil Day Appeal

One of our Year 10 students, Christelle, has spent 2023 undertaking a Certificate II in Baking through the National Food Institute (Makenbake). Her training organisation is supporting cancer research by baking mouth-watering vanilla yo yos and shortbread iced image cookies. \$1 from each pack purchased goes towards the Daffodil Day Appeal. This is a great program for Christelle to be involved in as she learns baking skills and communicates with her community about important projects. To order the delicious treats that the trainees are baking, order online using the [following link](#) by the 31st of August. This is a wonderful initiative with the added benefit of easy lunchbox treats! Feel free to tell your friends and family about Christelle's baking project.



Makenbake are supporting cancer research by joining the Daffodil Day Appeal for 2023 and to show the love we have created a special Daffodil Day Gift Pack.

**Cancer Council Daffodil Day August 31st**

Our trainees at Dandenong, Geelong, Nunawading and Shepparton have produced 9 mouth watering vanilla Yo Yo's and a shortbread iced image cookie.

With every purchased gift pack Makenbake will donate \$1 to the Daffodil day Appeal, starting now and continuing through to the end of next month.

We are encouraging everyone to also visit our fundraising page on the Daffodil Day Appeal website and donate to an important cause <https://www.daffodilday.com.au/fundraisers/ianfriswell3974/makenbake-gre8>

To order gift packs scan the QR code or go online at <https://www.makenbake@gre8.com.au>

ENQUIRIES - [MAKENBAKE@GRE8.COM.AU](mailto:MAKENBAKE@GRE8.COM.AU)

**\$6.99**

Make n Bake  
ORDER NOW  
national food institute  
greg  
daffodil day  
Cancer Council

### Fifa World Cup Live Site

If you're looking for a spot to watch the upcoming match Geelong has a Live Site organised for Saturday!



**FIFA WOMEN'S WORLD CUP**  
**LIVE SITE**  
MATILDAS vs SWEDEN

**SATURDAY 19 AUGUST | 5.30PM**  
STEAMPACKET GARDENS, GEE LONG WATERFRONT

ALCOHOL FREE EVENT

Resource Centre News

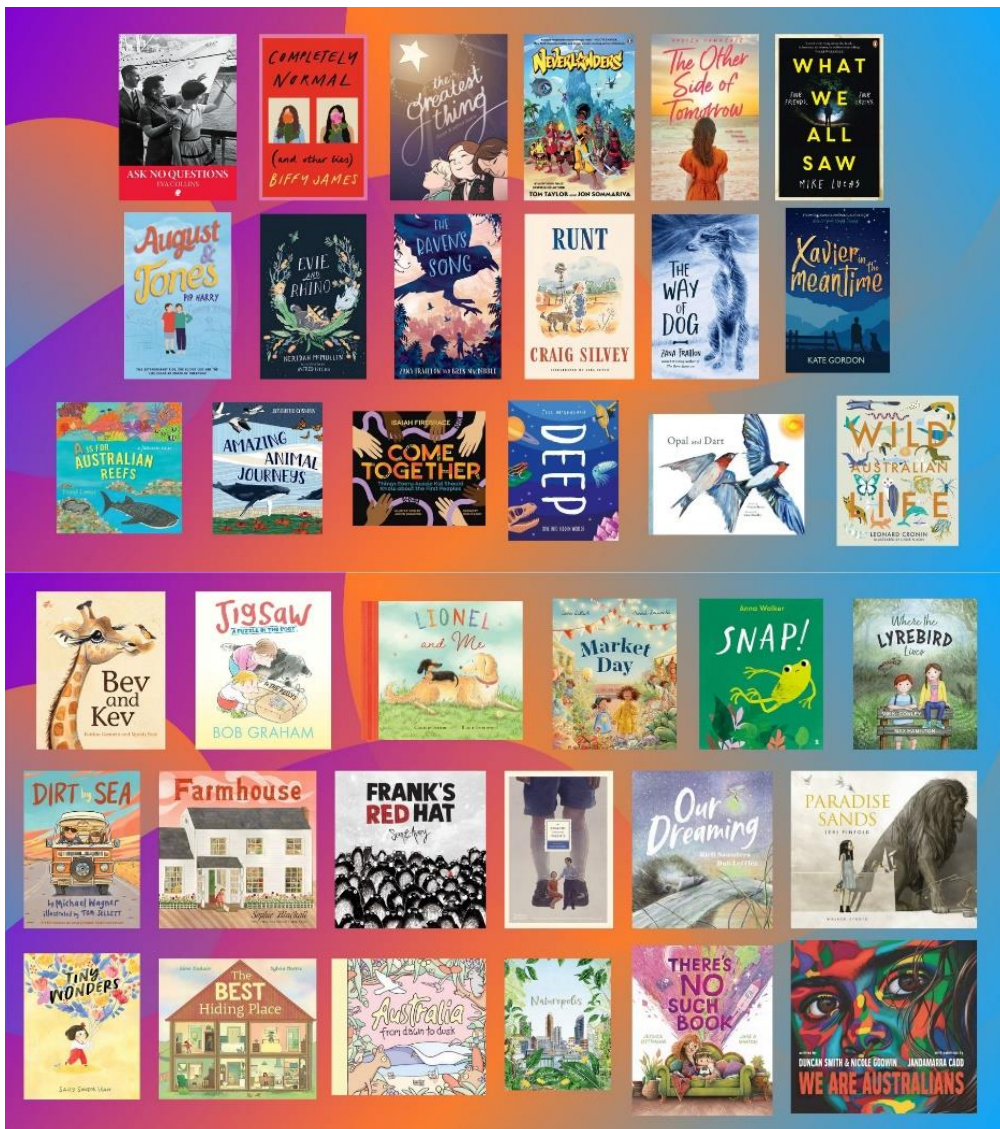


The Resource Centre will be celebrating Book Week next week with a variety of activities and a bunch of new books for our students to read!



We will have every book on the shortlist for the CBCA Book of the Year awards on display and available for loan and we will host a variety of book and story-telling themed activities during lunch times.

We will have a host of new books on the shelves including some very popular humor and manga series. We are also excited to launch our Library website which will give our students and staff access to our online catalogue so that they can search and reserve books among other things. They will also be able to access subscriptions that will allow them to borrow eBooks, use research databases and more via the website. Year 7's will learn about Book Week and this resource and how to use it during an English class over the course of the week.



We look forward to finding out which books win this year's awards and celebrating our first Book Week in the Resource Centre.

Look out for news of our celebrations on the Iona socials!

Sharon Cuthbertson  
Resource Assistant

### Canteen Over-The-Counter Orders From 1 pm on Fridays



Fridays at our Iona Canteen are bustling with orders. Because of this high volume of orders over-the-counter service won't be available until **1 pm**.

Students who have placed their orders online (before 9 am on the day of the order) will be able to line up at the start of lunch (12:35 pm) to receive their orders. All students with over-the-counter orders will then be able to line up for service from 1 pm.

### Next Friday Student Free Day

This a reminder that next week Friday the 25th of August is a Staff Professional Development Day and as such a student free day.

Thanks for your support,

Kylie and Ash